



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 21!

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on **Saturday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22.**

Slide Show on Bears

We will kick off our meeting with a presentation by DNR Wildlife Outreach Technician Katie Keen. Katie was the DNR bear expert recently quoted in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

Change at the Top

Saying that health issues had made it difficult for him to manage the responsibilities of President, on May 14 Ronnie Brown stepped down from the position he has held since 2005. On that day the Board appointed Dave Van Hammen to fill out the remainder of Ronnie's term (ending in June of 2015), subject to membership approval. The good news is that Ronnie has agreed to serve out Dave's term as Trustee and to run for election to Dave's Trustee position.

Thus at the Annual Meeting the membership will be asked to approve Dave as President and to elect the Treasurer and one Trustee for two-year terms. The Board has nominated John Ester for Treasurer and Ronnie Brown for Trustee, but additional nominations may be made by any Member at the Annual Meeting.

The Drain Commissioner Comes Through

Following last year's annual meeting we asked new Drain Commissioner Christy Andersen to remove the bottom board of the Dead Stream dam in the fall. We argued that such removal was contemplated in the 1961 court order establishing the lake level and that failure to remove the board had led to the build-up of silt at the dam and in the lake.

We are pleased to report that Drain Commissioner Andersen granted our request. Thus in October Christy and her assistant met LPLA Board members Lynn and Dave to remove the board. According to Dave, it was cold and rainy, and the boards were heavy and slippery, but they got the job done. And when they did, silt immediately started moving downstream!

Time to Renew!

LPLA membership dues run from June 1 through May 31. That means it's time to renew your membership. **For your convenience we have enclosed with this newsletter a self-addressed return envelope that also serves as a renewal form. Just complete the form, enclose your check, stamp and mail the envelope.**



Fish Kill: A Reason for Concern?

On March 28 the DNR issued a press release in which Fish Production Manager Gary Whelan predicted that winter-kill—the most common kind of fish kill—would be prevalent this year, particularly in “shallow lakes with excess vegetation and muddy bottoms.” In mid-April when Little Platte Lake began to break up, the DNR prediction proved true. The dead fish floating to the surface were a welcome sight to the eagles that had congregated on the ice (including the immature bird pictured on the right), but how will this affect our fish population?



According to Gary Whelan, these kills “typically do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality.” Similarly, Heather Hettinger, a DNR Fisheries Biologist familiar with our lake, told Dave Van Hammen that our fish population would recover despite the big die-off. She did say that it could take 2-3 years for our pan fish population and up to 5 years for our bass and game fish population to fully recover.

The good news? Little Platte fishermen who come home empty now have a ready excuse for their failure!

Annual Meeting Agenda* **Saturday June 21, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Katie Keen, DNR Wildlife Outreach Technician
Secretary’s Report	Gretchen Staub, Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting
Treasurer’s Report	John Ester, Membership and Finances
Water Level/Dam Report	Lynn Walker
Fish Die Off Report	Dave Van Hammen
Wildlife Report	John Ester

Old Business

- Deadstream Dam

New Business

- Election of Officers 2014-15
- 2015 LPLA Annual Membership Meeting
(Tentative Date: Saturday, June 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. Lake Township Hall M-22)

***Any member wishing to add an Agenda item should advise any Board member.**

Highlights: June 22, 2013 Annual Meeting at Lake Township Hall (Minutes are posted in their entirety on the LPLA website.)

Since the level of Little Platte Lake is always of concern to LPLA members, it was only appropriate for new Benzie County Drain Commissioner Christy Andersen to address the meeting. A surveyor by profession, Christy described the procedure in place for weekly measurements of the lake level and the subsequent adding or removing of boards on the Dead Stream dam. In the spirited discussion that followed Christy received many questions and suggestions from Association members.



Noting that the original plan was for the bottom board at the dam to be removed in the fall and replaced in the spring, it was agreed that the Board would approach Christy with such a request (and, if necessary, assist in the cost of removal).

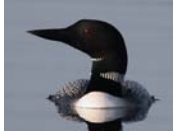
Members learned that the previous summer the lake level was affected by an unexpected force when beavers constructed a 35' dam across the Dead Stream. This caused the water level to rise on the lake but to drop at the man-made dam at Deadstream Road where measurements are taken. After obtaining permission from the DNR, the LPLA Board hired two men who needed several hours to dismantle the beaver dam.

Another topic receiving attention was one member's inquiry as to whether Deadstream Road might be repaved with safety lanes for bikers and pedestrians. Since this does not directly fall within LPLA's mission to protect the lake and its environs, it was agreed that those interested in seeing Deadstream Road included on the Road Commission's 5-year plan should make their views heard when the issue is considered by the Commission at its open meeting in December.

Members learned that loons were back on the lake and using the LPLA nesting platform. Bald eagles also were back on their nest with two new chicks. Under recent legislation property owners on the lake will be able to pass down their homes and cottages to family members without causing them a financial hardship. Lake Township has adopted a new lighting ordinance.

The meeting concluded with the election of directors to serve for the next year. Minutes of the meeting and further information about LPLA can be found at www.littleplattelake.org.

LPLA
PO Box 284
Honor, MI 49640



Little Platte Lake Association

LPLA is a voluntary association of owners of property surrounding Little Platte Lake. We are a charitable organization formed to preserve and protect Little Platte Lake and its environs.

Board Members

President:	Dave Van Hammen	325-2170	daud@maui.net
Secretary:	Gretchen Staub	325-0077	gretstaub@centurytel.net
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	jester625@earthlink.net
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	325-6654	walkerlonnie2003@yahoo.com
Trustee:	Ronnie Brown	325-2401	twinbirchresort@yahoo.com

Visit our web site at: www.littleplattelake.org

