

# Little Platte Lake Association

## May 2015 Newsletter

### Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 13!

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on **Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22.**

#### Our Trees

We will kick off our meeting with a presentation by noted local forester (and LPLA member) Richard Cooper on the trees of our area: What trees do we have, how healthy are they, and is anything threatening them?

#### The Passing of an Icon

Last year failing health prompted Ronnie Brown to step down as LPLA President, a position he had held since 2005. Despite looking frail, Ronnie was in good spirits at our June meeting. (After several members outlined the steps they were taking to fight the record mosquito crop, Ronnie produced his own bug-fighting weapon as pictured on the right.)



On September 15th Ronnie died peacefully while fishing for salmon at the mouth of the Platte River. Virtually everyone on Little Platte Lake knew Ronnie and his love for fishing and for the lake. But he was hardly a one-trick pony: Prior to his retirement Ronnie had been—among other things—a high school teacher, realtor, horse farm owner and auctioneer.

Those of us who served on the Board with Ronnie knew how seriously he took his role, how hard he worked on any issues involving the lake, and yet how easy he was to get along with. He set a wonderful example for us all, and he will be missed.

#### A New Appointment to the Board

On December 9th the Board appointed former Board member Lou Glatzer to serve out the remainder of Ronnie's term as Trustee, which ends in June. The Board also has nominated Lou for election to a new two-year term as Trustee and Gretchen Staub for reelection as Secretary. Additional nominations may be made by any member before or at the Annual Meeting.

#### 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.**



### **Changes in Our Area**

Last year one of our members inquired whether Deadstream Road might be repaved with safety lanes for bikers and pedestrians. This led to a lively discussion at our meeting, but since the subject did not directly fall within LPLA's mission to protect the lake and its environs, the matter was left in the hands of individuals to pursue. Not long after our meeting Rep. Ray Frantz announced that 2.41 miles of Deadstream Road would be improved with the help of \$1 million in state funding. This announcement was welcomed by some living along Deadstream but vehemently opposed by others. Despite such opposition the project was approved by the County, and by the end of April trees had been cleared, the road widened and the first layer of pavement laid.

### **No Further Question**

A less controversial County project has been the removal of the "Question Mark" building in Honor. For many years viewed as a blight on our area, the building was acquired by the County Land Bank and is slated for demolition in early May (as of the end of April the infamous Question Mark was gone!). The Land Bank also acquired the former site of Bud's and is looking for a developer of that property. Schmuckal Oil, owner of the Shell station in Honor, is said to be interested.

### **Wildlife on Little Platte Lake**

Last year was a banner year for LPLA in one respect: The loons on our lake raised a chick with the aid of our nesting platform! We have put in (and taken out) the floating platform every year since 2007, but 2014 was the first year it was used with success. Let's hope for a back-to-back!

### **Annual Meeting Agenda\*** **Saturday June 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Richard Cooper
Secretary's Report	Gretchen Staub, Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report	John Ester, Membership and Finances
Water Level/Dam Report	Lynn Walker
Water Quality Report	Dave Van Hammen
Wildlife Report	John Ester

#### Old Business

- Deadstream Road

#### New Business

- Election of Officers
- 2016 Meeting: Saturday, June 18, 2016 (Tentative date)

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

## Highlights: June 21, 2014 Annual Meeting at Lake Township Hall

Our meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation from Katie Keen, Outreach Technician from the DNR office in Cadillac. Noting that bears are here whether we see them or not, Katie talked about the need for balancing bear and human activity. After her talk Katie fielded many questions (including what one should do if confronted by a bear!).

Noting that Ronnie Brown was stepping down as President, Dave Van Hammen thanked Ronnie for his hard work and leadership for the last nine years, and the thank-you was endorsed by all in attendance.

Lynn Walker advised of the Association's efforts to monitor lake levels—a challenge with the year's heavy snow and rainfall (not to mention the beaver dam). Drain Commissioner Christy Andersen has been easy to reach and responsive to our calls.

Dave noted that we had experienced a heavy fish die-off. Heather Hettinger of the DNR said that this was typical for shallow lakes and that the lake would be fine in the long run. Dave discussed the possibility of blocking the fish ladder at the dam in the dry season.

John was happy to report that after many years of rejection, the loons nested on our floating platform and produced a healthy chick. He thanked those who helped decorate and install the platform, as well as Dave Packer for the use of the Miller's Hideway access point and boat.

The meeting concluded with the election of directors to serve for the next year. Minutes of the meeting can be found in their entirety at [www.littleplattlake.org](http://www.littleplattlake.org).

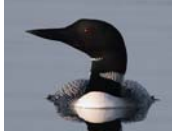


Speaker Katie Keen



The 2014 LPLA Board

**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	<a href="mailto:daud@maui.net">daud@maui.net</a>
Secretary:	Gretchen Staub	325-0077	<a href="mailto:gretstaub@gmail.com">gretstaub@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	<a href="mailto:jester625@earthlink.net">jester625@earthlink.net</a>
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	325-6654	
Trustee:	Lou Glatzer	325-2397	<a href="mailto:louglatzer@bex.net">louglatzer@bex.net</a>

**Visit our web site at: [www.littleplattelake.org](http://www.littleplattelake.org)**

