



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 11!

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on **Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22.**

The Fish of Little Platte Lake

Our featured speaker this year will be DNR Fisheries Biologist Heather Hettinger. A local resident, Heather is quite familiar with our lake and its fish. Do we have a healthy fish population? Are we still feeling the effects of the die-off a couple of years ago? When's our next census? Come to the meeting and find out!

Our Website Gets an Update

One of the suggestions the Board received last year was to update our website, which was set up more than a decade ago by Keith Farley. It served us well, but the Board concluded that it was time to take advantage of technological improvements that would make the site accessible across most electronic devices.

Fortunately Bob Kondek not only was familiar with the new website technology but also was willing to spend countless hours redesigning our site. We introduced the new version in October and already have heard from several members with comments or photos to post, including the nice winter scene on the right taken by Jackie Bossenberger. If you haven't already done so, check us out at littleplattelake.org.



Another Drain Commissioner on the Horizon

At our annual meeting in 2013 the featured speaker was Benzie County's new Drain Commissioner, Christy Andersen. Those who attended will recall how shell-shocked she looked when members started questioning her about how she intended to regulate our lake level. Since then she quickly learned the ropes and proved to be a fine public servant—easy to reach and willing to act promptly whenever action was required. But according to the *Record Patriot* she will not be running for reelection in August, the only candidate being one Edward Hoogterp. We thank Christy for her service and wish her well!

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.** If you'd like to save the cost of postage, bring your payment and completed envelope to our annual meeting. If you'd prefer paying by credit card, that option is now available through our website.

Wildlife on Little Platte Lake

As usual, we are fortunate to have all sorts of wildlife in and around the lake. Last summer we had a pair of loons on the lake, but their breeding efforts went for naught. This year we got the nesting platform on the lake earlier than ever, and in late April one of the loons was hanging out nearby. In the same area were Trumpeter Swans that now appear to be permanent residents.



At our 2014 meeting Katie Keen of the DNR talked about how bears in the spring are on the lookout for food, particularly at bird-feeders. But some of us are slow learners, as we proved this April when this young bear showed up on the deck in pursuit of two virtually empty window feeders. After being scared off the deck, he came to the front porch to check out the inside of the house. And the next night he was back!

Election of Directors

Under our Bylaws we have five directors, each one serving a two-year term. The directors whose terms are up this year are the Treasurer (John Ester) and one Trustee (Lynn Walker). While both are running for reelection, any member wishing to run for one of these positions is welcome to do so by submitting a written nomination to the Secretary (Judy Retallick) prior to the meeting or when nominations are invited from the floor at the meeting.

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday, June 11, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Lake Township Hall on M-22

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Heather Hettinger, DNR Fisheries Biologist
Secretary's Report	Gretchen Staub**, Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting
Treasurer's Report	John Ester on Finances & Website
Water Level Report	Lynn Walker
Watershed Report	Lou Glatzer

Old Business

New Business

- Election of Officers
- 2017 Meeting: Saturday, June 17, 2017 (Tentative date)

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

****Acting Secretary**

Highlights: June 13, 2015 Annual Meeting at Lake Township Hall

Our meeting began with a presentation from noted local forester (and LPLA member) Richard Cooper and his partner, Paul Gerhart. Richard and Paul discussed the problems facing the trees in our area, including diseases, invasive species and other natural stresses. They fielded questions on these topics, as well as the management of individual trees in back yards.

Continuing with the business part of our meeting President Dave Van Hammen noted the absence this year of our great friend and fisherman, Ronnie Brown. Everyone remembered Ronnie, all he brought to the group and how he had been missed since his untimely passing.

John gave the Treasurer's report and a budget that included a proposal to purchase insurance for the Board. Some members questioned the necessity and expense of such coverage. John said the Board would consider the input and do further research before proceeding.

Lynn Walker said that the lack of snow over the winter had caused low lake levels in the spring, but after all boards were put in the dam it rained and the lake reached 2.5 on our gauge. Lynn says the water cycle takes time as rain water has to work its way through the watershed.

Lou Glatzer reported that our lake is scheduled for another fish survey. We might consider stocking fish (as Long Lake has done) if the survey shows that our fish population is in decline. He also proposed that we start sampling for phosphorus.

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.littleplattelake.org.



Richard Cooper and Paul Gerhart



The 2015 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	daud@maui.net
Secretary:	Judy Retallick	325-0077	jmr.cer1@gmail.com
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	jester625@earthlink.net
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	325-6654	
Trustee:	Lou Glatzer	325-2397	louglatzer@bex.net

Visit our web site at: www.littleplattelake.org

