



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 23!

With LPLA at a critical point in dealing with invasive aliens, it is more important than ever to attend our annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be on **Saturday, June 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22.**

This Year's Program

Last year we learned that we have invasive species on our lake, including a nasty one known as Eurasian Water Milfoil. In response we formed an Invasive Species Committee to be chaired by **Jerry Rupley**. After consulting with the Benzie Conservation District and several lake associations, Jerry and his Committee selected Restorative Lake Sciences, LLC to survey our lake and develop a plan of attack. **Michael Solomon** from that group will attend our meeting and talk about the treatment plan they have developed. He will answer questions about the herbicide treatment and such things as its timing and its effect on the lake and its fish and wildlife.

Restructuring our Dues

When we set up LPLA we followed the lead of the Platte Lake group and set up our dues structure for individual memberships—one membership and one vote for each member of a household wanting to belong. What happened at LPLA (as at Platte Lake) was that many couples joined through a single membership rather than both joining at individual rates as we had hoped. This has caused other lake associations to count members by households. **At our April meeting the LPLA Board agreed to go with household memberships, with the basic rate for membership being \$35 per household.** While we believe that this is a reasonable minimum for membership, we do not want to discourage anyone from paying less if \$35 is more than they can afford. And of course we will urge those who can afford it to contribute more.

Our Need for Funds

As we have reported by email and on our website, fighting invasives is neither inexpensive nor a one-time proposition. In 2017 we spent \$2,500 on a survey, and this year we anticipate spending \$9,000 in treatment. In 2019 we expect to spend less, but it could still be in the range of \$7,500. In future years the survey alone will run \$2,500, which would wipe out what we took in last year in dues from around 70 households.

Meeting our Needs

With frugality from the Board and generosity from our members we built up what seemed like a nice surplus of around \$16,000 in our checking account. While this will take care of our immediate needs, what about the future? First, we are seeking a grant from the **Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians** to pay for 50% of our project costs in 2018 and 2019. The application is being filed by the Township on our behalf and will be considered by the Tribe in its June cycle. Depending on the result of that application, we may seek other grants. But even if other funding becomes available, it will ultimately be up to us as LPLA members to cover the cost of our stewardship of Little Platte Lake. Conservatively we will need at least to double what we currently take in from members each year in dues and contributions.

Time to Renew!

LPLA membership dues run from June 1 through May 31. That means it's time to renew your membership. To accommodate the change in our dues structure, as well as our need for additional funds, we have revised the enclosed renewal envelope. Note that you need not select any of the stated contribution options, which are not intended to establish either minimums or maximums. Most members find the self-addressed renewal envelopes convenient to use, but if you'd prefer you can bring your payment and completed envelope to our annual meeting or pay by credit card through our website.

The Great Garlic Mustard Hunt of 2018

Milfoil is not the only undesirable alien in town. Last year **Mary Rupley** organized two days of garlic mustard pulling along Deadstream Road. This year Mary and Platte Lake chum **Lynn Collins** have organized a two-month effort in our area as described in the newsletter we recently circulated to all LPLA members. And more specifically they will be back on Deadstream Road the weekends of **May 12-13** and **May 19-20** for more garlic mustard pulling. Meet Mary and Lynn at the **Trading Post at 10:00 a.m.** with garden gloves and heavy black bags in hand (no experience required!)



Mary and Jerry Rupley

Wildlife Around the Lake



Although our loons failed to raise any chicks last year, Little Platte Lake continues to support lots of wildlife. Both Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans raised chicks, and animal life included not only raccoons and possums, but also bobcats, coyotes, otters, beavers and bears. Birders had plenty to choose from, although birds weren't the only creatures interested in sunflower seeds and suet, as well demonstrated by this morning visitor in late November .

Annual Meeting Agenda* **Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Michael Solomon, Restorative Lake Sciences, LLC
Secretary's Report	Diane Brown, Minutes of 2017 Annual Meeting
Watershed Report	Jerry Rupley, Invasive Species Committee Chair
Treasurer's Report	John Ester on Finances & Wildlife
Water Level Report	Lynn Walker
Old Business	Mary Rupley on Garlic Mustard Hunt
New Business	Election of Directors/Officers
2019 Meeting	Saturday, June 22, 2019 (Tentative date)

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

Highlights: June 24, 2017 Annual Meeting at Lake Township Hall

Our meeting began with Benzie County Drain Commissioner Ed Hoogterp describing how he maintains our lake levels in the summer and removes all boards from the dam in the fall. He welcomes contacts from lake residents and will work with us on adding boards in the spring.

Emily Cook of the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network reported on her group's survey of our lake, passing out copies of a map depicting where non-native species were found. Some invasive species were found—including Eurasian Water Milfoil—but our lake is generally in good shape. Emily will help us formulate a plan to get rid of the invasive aliens.

John gave the Treasurer's report and thanked members for their financial support. With regard to wildlife loons were on the lake but unsuccessful in their nesting efforts. On the other hand both bald eagles and trumpeter swans had chicks. Other wildlife around the lake included bobcats and bears.

Lynn Walker gave his water level report, noting how much rain we had received. He emphasized the importance of removing all boards from the dam in late October to facilitate the natural flow of silt.

Lou Glatzer gave his watershed report, which included data from the Benzie Conservation District. He would like to see LPLA do our own testing of water quality. Lou announced that due to health issues he will not be able to continue on the Board.

By way of old business Mary Rupley reported on the 1st Annual Garlic Mustard Eradication Event, thanking Steve at the Trading Post for his cooperation. The event will be repeated on a broader basis in 2018. Dick Dills also mentioned Steve's cooperation with respect to a free book exchange that he and his wife have established.

In terms of new business President Dave Van Hammen and Secretary Diana Brown were reelected for new terms of office, and Jerry Rupley was elected to replace Lou Glatzer as Trustee. Minutes of the meeting can be found in their entirety at www.littleplattlake.org.



Ed Hoogterp



Emily Cook



The 2017 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	620-4066	daud@maui.net
Secretary:	Diane Brown	325-2401	twinbirchresort@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	John Ester	325-2445	jester625@earthlink.net
Trustee:	Lynn Walker	616-560-9751	
Trustee:	Jerry Rupley	313-204-3840	jtrupley@gmail.com

Visit our web site at: www.littleplattelake.org

