



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on June 22!

Once again there are compelling reasons to attend our annual membership meeting on **Saturday, June 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22**. Among other things we will learn where we stand with respect to aquatic invasive species, the results of last year's fish survey and whether our loons have returned and nested successfully.

Invasive Aquatic Species

Last year we reported that we had hired Restorative Lake Sciences, LLC to survey our lake and develop a plan of attack to rid the lake of nasty aquatic aliens. Michael Solomon, Senior Hydrologist for RLS, attended last year's meeting and described the treatment plan RLS developed for us. We all left the meeting thinking that herbicide would be applied as soon as the necessary permits were acquired.

What Happened to the Proposed Treatment?

After our meeting we obtained permission slips from riparian owners as required by the DEQ, but when RLS conducted a survey to confirm exact treatment locations, much of the milfoil had disappeared. Thus the treatment was cancelled and we agreed that RLS would survey the lake again this spring—which will occur on June 12. By the time of our meeting we should know how much milfoil remains in the lake and what we are going to do about it.

The Status of the Grant Application

Last year we reported that on our behalf Lake Township had filed an application with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a grant to cover 50% of our costs in fighting invasive aquatic species. The application was not granted by the Tribe.

New Boating Laws

Of course LPLA is not the only group concerned about the spread of aquatic invasives. The State has amended its Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act "to strengthen protection for Michigan waterways against the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species." Prior to the amendment the law prohibited only placing watercraft or trailers in Michigan waters with an aquatic plant attached. In addition to this prohibition, the new changes require all of the following prior to transporting any watercraft over land:

- Removing all drain plugs from bilges, ballast tanks, and live wells.
- Draining all water from any live wells and bilges.
- Ensuring that the watercraft, trailer and any other conveyance are free of any aquatic organisms, including plants.

The DNR says the changes can be summed up in three words: "Clean—Drain—Dry." A fourth requirement pertains to anglers: "Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash."

Time to Renew!

LPLA membership dues run from June 1 through May 31. That means that it is time to renew your membership. Most members find the enclosed 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. With no grant money in sight we still need your support!

The Loon Platform

Last year was an unqualified success in one respect—the loons not only used our nesting platform, they also produced a healthy chick! We built the floating structure more than ten years ago in accordance with Michigan Loon Preservation Society specs, but more often than not the loons have been unsuccessful in their breeding efforts. Last year we decided to try a new location . . . and it worked!



Needless to say, we are using the same location this year. Please do not attempt to check out the loon platform by kayak or other watercraft. From past experience we know that loons will abandon their nest and eggs if threatened by people or predators. **If you are close enough to see eggs on the nest, you are too close!**

Photo: 2019 loon platform team

Election of Officers

One of the purposes of our annual meeting is to elect officers. Under our Bylaws our officers and directors serve for two-year terms. The positions up this year are those of President (Dave Van Hammen), Secretary (Diane Brown) and Trustee (Jerry Rupley). While all three have agreed to serve for another term, members are free to nominate themselves or another candidate to run for any of these positions.

Annual Meeting Agenda* **Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Heather Hettinger on 2018 DNR Fish Survey
Secretary's Report	Diane Brown, Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting
Watershed Report	Jerry Rupley, Invasive Species Committee Chair
Treasurer's Report	John Ester on Finances & Wildlife
Water Level Report	Lynn Walker
President's Report	Dave Van Hammen on MLSA Annual Conference
Old Business	Mary Rupley on Garlic Mustard Pull
New Business	Election of Directors/Officers
2020 Meeting	Saturday, June 20, 2020 (Tentative date)

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

Highlights: June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting at Lake Township Hall

After introductions all the way around **Jerry Rupley** gave a quick summary on the status of our treatment of invasive species. He noted that we had applied for a 50% grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Jerry then introduced **Michael Solomon** of Restorative Lake Sciences, the company we have hired to attack invasive aquatic species on our lake. Michael said that the recommended treatment for our lake—the systematic application of granular herbicide—would kill only Eurasian Water Milfoil. He fielded numerous questions about the proposed treatment, which should occur after the necessary permits are obtained from the DEQ.

John Ester gave the Treasurer’s report, explaining why the Board had changed the minimum annual dues from \$15 per person to \$35 per household. He thanked members for the financial support that had resulted in a balance of \$21,207 as of May 31, 2018. With regard to wildlife he reported that one of the two pairs of loons on the lake had produced a healthy chick from their new nesting location!

Lynn Walker gave his water level report, stating how much rain and snow we had received. He also noted that beavers have been destroying trees on our lake. One suggestion from the membership was to protect trees with the use of chicken wire.

Dave Van Hammen reported that the DNR had completed their promised fish count in May and that we were awaiting a report. He also discussed the MLSA Annual Conference that he attended.

Mary Rupley said the “block party” she had in mind for the annual garlic mustard pull did not come off as she had anticipated. She urged everyone to participate next year.

In terms of new business John Ester was elected for another term as Treasurer and Lynn Walker for another term as Trustee.

Minutes of the meeting can be found in their entirety at www.littleplattelake.org.



Michael Solomon



The 2018 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

