



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on July 11th!

With the ongoing pandemic nothing is certain, but the Board has scheduled our Annual Meeting for **Saturday, July 11th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22**. Assuming we are able to meet, we will learn where we stand with respect to aquatic invasive species and the status of our fish population and wildlife. We also need to elect a new Board member to replace retiring Trustee Lynn Walker.

Invasive Aquatic Species

Following last year's annual meeting we used herbicides to attack the 5.5 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil on our lake. In October Restorative Lake Sciences surveyed the lake and concluded that the Eurasian Watermilfoil "was effectively killed." The results of the October survey (as well as much information about our healthy native species) can be found on our website in the organization's 2020 Annual Assessment of Aquatic Vegetation in Little Platte Lake.

Restorative Lake Sciences will take another survey this spring to determine whether the milfoil has made an unwelcome comeback. At our meeting Jerry Rupley will report on the results of that survey, as well as changes we have made in our action plan due to budgetary constraints.

A Good Year for Eagles

At last year's meeting we reported that the bald eagles had abandoned their nest east of Sylvan Point. Shortly after the meeting a new nest was discovered near the mouth of the Dead Stream with two healthy eagle chicks in residence. A few days later a third chick was observed!

Eagle excitement continued this winter when Beth Miller discovered a white eagle at the southeast corner of the lake. The bird—not an albino but a "leucistic" bald eagle—caused quite a stir on the lake.



The Passing of a Founder

For those who might not have heard, Chuck "Crusty" Retallick passed away on November 16. Chuck was a founding member of LPLA and a member of the board for several years. As noted in the obituary on the Bennett-Barz Funeral Home website, a gathering to celebrate Chuck has been postponed until later in the year. Those of us who knew Chuck know the love he felt for Little Platte Lake and appreciate what he did for our Association. Rest in peace Chuck!

--Dave Van Hammen

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 you can also pay by credit card through the website. Fighting invasive species is an expensive undertaking, so be generous if you can!

The Loons on Little Platte Lake

Each year loons return to our lake, but they are not always successful in reproducing. At the time of last year's meeting the situation did not look good: A pair of loons had used our nesting platform but had no luck producing a chick. In the meantime another pair had set up a nest in the grasses on the eastern end of the lake, but they seemed to be several weeks late. Nevertheless on July 17th at the eastern end of the lake one of our members spotted a loon chick with its parents!



The Status of our Beavers

Last year after homeowners around the lake complained of their trees being downed by beavers, the Board concluded that there was an overpopulation of beavers and hired a man to trap up to ten of the animals. But in the fall when he came to trap them, he could not find evidence of recent beaver activity. This spring it appears that the beavers have ramped up their efforts, and we have asked the beaver guy to pay us another visit. Stay tuned!

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 Treasurer (John Ester) and Trustee (Lynn Walker). John has expressed a desire to serve another term, while Lynn has decided that it is time for him to retire. LPLA is grateful to Lynn for his many years of service overseeing the water level of the lake. We are pleased that fellow Sylvan Point resident Jim Dodge has agreed to run for Lynn's position on the Board. Of course members are free to nominate themselves or other members to run for either of these positions.

Will there be an Annual Meeting?

LPLA is one of many local groups trying to figure out how to handle events scheduled for the summer. At this point all we can say for sure is that if there is any change from our July 11th date, we will promptly advise the membership through our website and by email.

Annual Meeting Agenda* Saturday, July 11, 2020 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 2019 Annual Meeting
Watershed Report	Jerry Rupley, Invasive Species Committee Chair
Treasurer's Report	John Ester on Finances & Wildlife
Water Level Report	Jim Dodge
Old Business	
New Business	Election of Directors/Officers
2021 Meeting	Saturday, June 26, 2021(Tentative date)

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

Highlights: June 22, 2019 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, noting that our emphasis is still on milfoil and phragmites.

Michael Solomon of Restorative Lake Sciences reported that after its disappearance last year milfoil returned to about 5.5 acres of our lake. The large area will be treated with a granular herbicide to kill the root system. He said the cost would be similar to the previous year's estimate, and the membership approved a budget of \$10,500 for the project, which will include the treatment of 2.5 acres of phragmites.

John Ester gave the Treasurer's report, thanking members for their generous support, resulting in a balance of \$23,609.74 as of May 31, 2019. He noted that the proposed budget—which was approved by the membership—included \$1,098 for insurance and \$500 for beaver removal. With regard to wildlife he reported that loons had utilized the artificial nesting platform without success. [Editor's note: After our meeting another pair of loons produced a healthy check on the eastern side of the lake!]

Lynn Walker gave his water level report, noting how little snow we had received over the winter. Every effort is made to keep the lake at its prescribed level of 1.8 on the survey marker at the dam, although it is an inexact science.

Dave Van Hammen reported on the DNR's LPL 2018 Fisheries Survey, a copy of which will be posted on the LPLA website. The report reflects most species on our lake except Yellow Perch were above the Mean Growth Index in comparison to the state average.

Mary Rupley reported on the annual garlic mustard pull—lightly attended this year—and John Ester reminded members of the library book exchange in front of the Trading Post.

In terms of new business Dave Van Hammen, Diane Brown and Jerry Rupley were elected for two-year terms as President, Secretary and Trustee, respectively.

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



Michael Solomon



The 2019 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

