



## Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on August 7th!

The Board has scheduled our Annual Meeting for **Saturday, August 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22**. We have set it later than normal in the hope of having an actual meeting at the Hall rather than a virtual one. In that regard the Board is considering an outdoor alternative for our meeting. If there is any change in the venue, we will let you know by email and through an announcement on our website. Whatever we do, it will be in accordance with CDC guidelines for meetings.

### Proposed Bylaw Amendment

As we previously advised, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy is acquiring a large parcel of undeveloped land on our lake known as Mt. Minnie. We will learn more about that project from a speaker at our Annual Meeting. In the meantime the Conservancy has inquired about joining LPLA as a member. This is not possible under our existing Bylaws, under which a member must be a “person” who owns property within the LPLA area or a spouse of such person.

Because the Board supports allowing an organization such as GTRLC to become an LPLA member, we have agreed to amend the Bylaws to indicate that an LPLA member can be an individual or an organization. Everyone is urged to review the specific wording of the amendment in the LPLA website and then to vote on the proposed amendment at the Annual Meeting or by proxy using the form within the renewal envelope.

### Invasive Aquatic Species

At last year’s annual meeting we learned that the 5.5 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil on our lake had been reduced to a couple of plants. On June 28 Restorative Lake Sciences will take another survey 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 the status of the grant we sought from the state for \$5,625 for invasive species testing and treatment.

### 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! This past August LPLA members Richard Cooper and wife Jean Tennant set a fine example for the rest of us by donating \$5,000 to the Association.



### **The Loons on Little Platte Lake**

In 2007 we followed the advice of the Michigan Loon Preservation Association and built a floating platform for our visiting loons. Each spring we would place the platform near the loons' traditional nesting spot near the mouth of the Deadstream. In the years that followed the loons were rarely successful in their breeding efforts. In 2018 we tried a quieter location at the other end of the lake, and it worked. This year our loon team got the platform decorated and in the water early, and by April 29 a loon was on the nest! Let's keep our fingers crossed and give wide berth to the loons and their nest.



### **Another Run at Garlic Mustard**

Milfoil is not the only undesirable alien in town. Once again LPLA member Mary Rupley and Platte Lake friend Lynn Collins have organized an effort to pull garlic mustard plants—mainly along Deadstream Road. Garlic mustard is vulnerable from mid-May to the 4th of July, and two “Garlic Mustard Only” dumpsters will be available for disposal. Contact Mary with any questions.

### **Election of Officers**

One of the purposes of our annual meeting is to elect officers. The positions up this year are those of President (Dave Van Hammen), Secretary (Diane Brown) and Trustee (Jerry Rupley). All three are willing to serve another term, although members are free to nominate themselves or other members to run for any of these positions.



### **Enjoy —But Don't Feed—Our Wildlife**

We are fortunate enough to have Trumpeter Swans as permanent residents on our lake. These birds were wiped out in Michigan but reintroduced by the Tribe a dozen or so years ago. These graceful birds are not shy, but they are wild creatures not to be fed by us.

### **Annual Meeting Agenda\*** **Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	GTRLC on Mt. Minnie
Secretary's Report	Diane Brown, Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting
Watershed Report	Jerry Rupley on Invasive Species
Treasurer's Report	John Ester on Finances & Wildlife
Water Level Report	Jim Dodge
New Business	Amendment of Bylaws
	Election of Directors/Officers
2022 Meeting	Saturday, June 25, 2022 (Tentative date)

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

## Highlights: July 11, 2020 Annual Meeting via Zoom

After introductions all the way around **Dave Van Hammen** introduced our guest speaker, DNR Fisheries Biologist **Heather Hettinger**. In her slide show Heather described the fish population at Little Platte Lake over the years and as reflected in the DNR's favorable 2018 fish survey. Among other things she mentioned that the Conservation Resource Alliance is looking to replace the existing culvert on Saffron Creek.

**Jerry Rupley** also had good news: Shortly before our meeting Restorative Lake Sciences surveyed the lake and found that the 2019 treatment for Eurasian milfoil in the lake had killed off all but two milfoil plants. Phragmites were still on the lake in a small number which will be addressed when funding through the Conservation District is available again.

**John Ester** gave the Treasurer's report, thanking members for their generous support, resulting in a balance of \$21,070.61 as of May 31, 2020. Membership contributions are our only way for paying the high cost of surveys and treatments. With regard to wildlife John reported that loons had successfully utilized the LPLA nesting platform, producing one healthy chick. The Bald Eagles were also successful, producing three chicks at their new nest along the Dead-stream.

**Jim Dodge** gave the water level report, sharing data compiled by his predecessor, **LynnWalker**, and updated with Jim's own findings. Jim monitors the gauge at the dam twice a week and feels that Drain Commissioner **Ed Hoogterp** is doing a good job.

**Dave Van Hammen** recognized Lynn Walker, thanking him for doing a great job keeping track of the lake level while serving as a Trustee on the Board. He also noted the passing of one of the founding members of LPLA, **Chuck Retallick**.

In terms of new business John Ester was elected for a new two-year term as Treasurer, while Jim Dodge was elected to a two-year term as Trustee to replace the retiring Lynn Walker.

Minutes of the meeting can be found in their entirety at [www.littleplattelake.org](http://www.littleplattelake.org).



*Heather and Colleague*



**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	231-620-4066	<a href="mailto:daud@maui.net">daud@maui.net</a>
Secretary: Diane Brown	231-325-2401	<a href="mailto:twinbirchresort@yahoo.com">twinbirchresort@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer: John Ester	231-325-2445	<a href="mailto:jester625@earthlink.net">jester625@earthlink.net</a>
Trustee: Jim Dodge	231-499-5591	<a href="mailto:jgdodge49640@yahoo.com">jgdodge49640@yahoo.com</a>
Trustee: Jerry Rupley	313-204-3840	<a href="mailto:jtrupley@gmail.com">jtrupley@gmail.com</a>

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

