



## **Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on July 9th!**

The Board has scheduled our Annual Meeting for **Saturday, July 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Township Hall on M-22**. At the meeting we will learn where we stand with respect to our aquatic invasive species, fish population and wildlife. We also will elect officers.

### **Amendment of the LPLA Bylaws**

Among the matters considered at last year's annual meeting was the Board's motion to amend the Bylaws to allow an association like the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to become a member of LPLA. This was after GTRLC acquired the 65 acres of undeveloped land between Little Platte Lake and Deadstream Road known as Mount Minnie. The membership overwhelmingly approved the Board's motion, and the Conservancy promptly joined LPLA.

### **Mt. Minnie Nature Preserve**

This summer GTRLC will work with volunteers to build a new, roughly quarter-mile trail at the preserve. Over the last year the Conservancy has observed that preserve users often leave the existing trails to get to Little Platte Lake. Given the sensitivity of the shoreline and nearby nesting loons, GTRLC has located a suitable and sustainable place for folks to view the lake. The planned trail will start at the existing parking lot, meander through the woods and end near the shore. There will not be facilitated access to the lake. An additional trail is planned for 2023.

### **Invasive Aquatic Species**

At last year's annual meeting we learned that the Eurasian Water Milfoil on our lake had been reduced to a small patch near the American Resort. An attempt to pull the plants by hand was unsuccessful, and the plants were left untreated. In June Restorative Lake Sciences will take another survey to determine whether milfoil remains on our lake that should be treated. At our meeting Jerry Rupley will report on the results of the survey, as well as the possibility of acquiring boat-cleaning equipment for our lake.

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

Milfoil is not the only undesirable alien in town. Mary Rupley urges fellow members to survey their property for signs of garlic mustard plants. Garlic mustard is one of the earliest plants to grow and get tall. It also is very early blooming, with white blooms at the top of the plant. It pulls very easily at this stage, and usually the entire root comes out as it is pulled. There will be no organized pull this year; any day any time will be fine.

### **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!

### **Safely Feeding the Birds**

One reason many of us choose to live on Little Platte Lake is the abundant wildlife with whom we share the lake. This includes a wide variety of birds, as well as an exploding population of black bears. How can one feed the birds without attracting the bears?



If you feed birds and leave your feeders out 24/7, you are almost certain to have bears as recurrent visitors to your yard. On the other hand there are steps you can take to try to keep the bears at bay:

- Keep a tidy yard and tidy bird feeding station.
- Fill feeders with only as much seed as you think will be eaten in a single day.
- Clean up under your feeder.
- Bring in your feeders no later than dusk.
- Keep your supply of seed and other pet food inside your garage or shed (and not on your screened-in porch, unless you want to be awakened in the night by a bear on your porch!).
- Consider using hot pepper bird foods, particularly in early spring.

(Tips courtesy Wild Birds Unlimited, photo courtesy Connie Daigger)

### **Status of our loons**

We are fortunate to have Common Loons on our lake every year. In recent years the loons have had breeding success with LPLA's nesting platform, but this year the cold weather precluded us from getting the platform on the lake until early May. We hope the loons have breeding success this spring, whether it is on the platform or otherwise.

### **Election of Officers**

One of the purposes of our annual meeting is to elect officers. The positions up this year are those of Treasurer (John Ester) and Trustee (Jim Dodge). While both are willing to serve another term, members are free to nominate themselves or other members to run for either job.

### **Annual Meeting Agenda Saturday, July 9, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Dan Bigger, DNR Law Enforcement Agent*
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	Election of Directors/Officers
2023 Meeting	Saturday, June 24, 2023 (Tentative date)

\*Tentative

## Highlights: August 7, 2021 Annual Meeting

After self-introductions of all in attendance our first speaker was Jane Perrino from the Benzie Conservation District. She described the District's survey of Little Platte Lake that found no invasive milfoil but ample bladderwort—a healthy native plant. An official survey report should be posted on line by the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

Our next speaker was Laura Rigan from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. She reported on GTRLC's Mount Minnie Nature Preserve. GTRLC plans to have a mile of hiking trails on this 65-acre parcel of land. Volunteers to help build trails are welcome!

Jerry Rupley reported that Restorative Lake Sciences had surveyed the lake again and had found only a very small patch of Eurasian Milfoil in an area near American Resort. Jerry has spoken with a few experts and believes that the plants may be pulled by hand.

John Ester gave the Treasurer's report, thanking members for their generous support, resulting in a balance of \$28,088.90 as of May 31, 2021. The Treasurer's report and proposed budget were approved. With regard to wildlife John reported that loons had successfully utilized the LPLA nesting platform, with one healthy chick surviving. The Bald Eagles were also successful, producing three chicks at their nest along the Dead Stream.

Jim Dodge provided a detailed water level report, showing water levels from 4/20/2020 to 8/6/2021 and indicating when boards were added or removed from the dam.

In terms of old business Mary Rupley again encouraged everyone to pull garlic mustard. With respect to new business John reported that an overwhelming majority of members had voted in favor of the Board's motion to amend the Bylaws to allow an association like GTRLC to become a member of LPLA.

President Dave Van Hammen, Secretary Diane Brown and Trustee Jerry Rupley were re-elected for new two-year terms.

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



*2021 LPLA Board*



*Jane Perrino*



*Laura Rigan*

**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	daud@maui.net
Secretary: Diane Brown	231-325-2401	twinbirchresort@yahoo.com
Treasurer: John Ester	231-325-2445	jester625@earthlink.net
Trustee: Jim Dodge	231-499-5591	jgdodge49640@yahoo.com
Trustee: Jerry Rupley	313-204-3840	jtrupley@gmail.com

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

