



Attend the LPLA Annual Meeting on July 22nd!

The Board has scheduled our Annual Meeting for **Saturday, July 22nd 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. Since this is the 20th anniversary of LPLA, it is a good time to consider what we have accomplished as an association.

Protecting our Lake

From the beginning LPLA has been concerned with the quality of Little Platte Lake and its environs. At an early date we joined the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, and more recently the Benzie Watersheds Coalition. We have done water testing, plant mapping and had the lake surveyed for invasive aquatic species. In 2018 we hired Restorative Lake Sciences and embarked on a program to rid the lake of Eurasian Water Milfoil and phragmites. So far, so good!

Maintaining the Lake Level

With a shallow lake like ours the water level is always of paramount importance. While maintaining the court-ordered level is the legal responsibility of the Benzie County Drain Commissioner, we have played an important role in the process. In the early years the placement of boards in the dam seemed rather arbitrary. To address the absence of an objective standard, in 2006 we arranged for a survey of the lake and the placement of a gauge by the Deadstream Dam. In addition LPLA has monitored the lake level and has maintained a relationship with the Drain Commissioner.

Housing Help for the Loons

Loons have been spending summers on Little Platte Lake for as long as anyone can remember. But for many years the loons nested without breeding success. In 2007 we followed the advice of the Michigan Loon Preservation Association and built a nesting platform for the loons. Initially we placed the floating platform near the mouth of the Dead Stream, but that didn't work.

We have had much better luck since 2014, when we moved the platform to a quiet spot at the other end of the lake. Since then loons have used the platform every year, but their breeding efforts have sometimes been negated by predators. In recent years the loon picture has been improved by the nesting efforts of an additional pair of loons at the eastern end of the lake. (Pictured are Dan and Connie Daigger with the 2023 platform in the background.)



Fishing on Little Platte Lake

For many, fishing is the main draw of our lake. In 2008 we arranged for a Fish Count conducted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians at no cost to the Association. In 2018 we received a Fish Survey from the DNR, followed by a presentation from DNR Fisheries Biologist Heather Hettinger. At our annual meetings fishing stories are always told, some of which may be true!

Miscellaneous Efforts

From time to time LPLA gets involved with other issues of interest to members, such as the removal of abandoned duck-hunting blinds and the 2012 removal of a beaver dam across the Dead Stream. In 2013 when a small plane was making way too many landings and take-offs from the lake, we chased down the culprit (who was training student pilots) and restored tranquility. We also found the owner of a dock section that was blown across the lake and facilitated the removal of an object posing a danger to navigation.

Time to Renew!

In 2018 we restructured our dues, mostly in recognition of the high cost of removing aquatic invasive species from the lake. The response of the membership has been great, for which you have our heart-felt thanks.

Memberships run from June 1 through May 31, meaning that it is time to renew. 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!

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). While all three are willing to serve another term, members are free to nominate themselves or other members to run for any of these positions.

Annual Meeting Agenda **Saturday, July 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** **Lake Township Hall on M-22**

Call to Order	Dave Van Hammen
Program	Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
Secretary's Report	Diane Brown, Minutes of 2022 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
2024 Meeting	Tentative date

Highlights: July 9, 2022 Annual Meeting

After self-introductions President Dave Van Hammen introduced our speakers from the DNR: Conservation Officers Dan Bigger, Richard Stowe and Logan Turner. After describing the DNR's responsibility to protect wildlife, citizens and natural resources, the officers answered a myriad of questions. The subjects covered included **bears** (numbers on the rise), **marine situations** (requiring a variety of boats), **AIS** (Aquatic Invasive Species), **poaching** (Report All Poaching), **night fishing** (yes, it's legal), **harassment of wildlife** (hard to prove), **jet skis** (also legal), **bluegill population** (ask Heather Hettinger), **trash at the Homestead Dam**, and **beavers** (trapping permits may be available). Before departing the officers received a hearty round of applause from an attentive and appreciative audience.



Jerry Rupley reported that Restorative Lake Sciences had surveyed the lake again and had found only .3 acres of Eurasian Milfoil, meaning no need to treat for Milfoil this year. There are some Phragmites at the east end of the lake that will be treated. Jerry has been looking into boat washing equipment but it is very expensive. He reminded everyone that garlic mustard is still in need of pulling.

John Ester gave the Treasurer's Report, reflecting a balance of \$29,736.35 as of May 31, 2022. He also reported that our Common Loons, Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans were mostly successful in their breeding efforts.

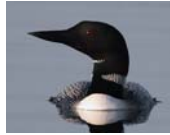
Jim Dodge provided a detailed water level report, depicting water levels from 3/5/21 to 7/8/22. Jim said the past winter was only the second time since the mid 60's that we experienced less than 100 inches of snow. The lack of snow and a dry spring led to low water levels despite the adding of boards at the dam.

Jim also reported that a new culvert was completed at Saffron Creek. Spillways were dug on each side of the culvert and grass was planted in an attempt to hold back runoff.

In terms of new business Treasurer John Ester and Trustee Jim Dodge were reelected for new two-year terms.

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

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

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Visit our web site at: www.littleplattelake.org

