



# Lake Leelanau

## LAKE ASSOCIATION

Winter 2006 Newsletter

### *President's Letter*

**T**his is my first letter to members of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) since my election as President at the annual meeting in July and I will strive to make it short and instructive.

I want to thank Don Bruckman, our immediate past president, for his continuing support and guidance in the Lake Association's efforts to maintain/improve the quality of Lake Leelanau and the surrounding area. As past president, Don will remain on our Board for which I, as the new president, am grateful!! As many of you know, Don and Cathy are planning a permanent move to Grand Rapids in the near future and we wish them much happiness!



We are still embroiled in the effort to protect the Narrows from inappropriate dockage development and several people have asked me why the LLLA is so persistent. Many knowledgeable people, including marine safety officers and environmental experts believe strongly that this is an unsuitable place for a marina due to safety and aquatic environmental concerns. As well, many of our members use and view the Narrows as a special place. These are only part of the reasons your Association officers are spending so much personal time and LLLA money on this effort.

We are trying to prevent a precedent of permitting similar shoreline development in the Narrows (already proposed by the developer) and the rest of our lake. At the same time, we are creating a precedent of riparians and visitors willing to step up to protect the lake against unreasonable/irresponsible abuse. Township officials around the lake know their waterfront constituents are serious about these issues. Hopefully, we can encourage responsible waterfront use by all and preclude the need for future expensive legal actions.

Part of the effort must be directed towards zoning ordinances in each township. In this effort we have established township representatives for each township (except Centerville, where we are still looking for a representative) who are the focal points for these efforts. Most important are local citizen participation at planning commission meetings as proposed changes are reviewed. If you leave your contact information with your township representative, they will be glad to let you know when your involvement is needed.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see information regarding the annual meeting and the picnic which went well. Your participation in these activities is encouraged. Your comments are solicited and welcomed - be they critical or supportive - as are your questions on any issue affecting our lake.

My final comment. If you share our interest in preserving the quality of Lake Leelanau and as a result your investment, you need to help fund the past and present legal actions commensurate with your level of concern and ability to contribute. Please send your contribution to "The Lake Leelanau Lake Association at P.O. Box 123, Leland, Michigan 49653

Thanks much!! Any questions, please call any LLLA board member.



Hugh Farber  
President

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

**Hugh Farber**, Vice President

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**Tom Coulter**, Treasurer

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**Harold Martin, Sr.**, Water Safety

231-256-9785

**Gwen Rich**, Membership

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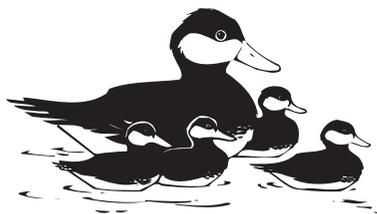
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[www.lakeleelanau.org](http://www.lakeleelanau.org)

## A LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

A colossal thank you to the Lake Leelanau Lake Association members who gave so generously of your time and money this past year. Obviously, you are conscientiously concerned about the preservation of the lake and shoreline as reflected in your giving. In 2007 we have many new and continuing projects on the agenda. It is exciting because we have so many people who truly care.

The past couple of years took a great deal of time and money in an effort that most of us supported...trying to preserve the beautiful Lake Leelanau Narrows and prevent the consequences of insensitive development. That issue is, to date, still unresolved. The expense didn't go away nor did our desire to prevail.

Property owners on Lake Leelanau want the lake to remain clean and safe for a variety of reasons. Some want their lake property to retain value. There are those that want future generations to enjoy what has been in the family. Others see the beauty of this area as something really special and don't want it compromised. Whatever your personal reasons, they are important. The Lake is yours as is the Lake Association. Your involvement will ensure the viability of both.

In order to continue the work of protecting the water and the shoreline, we need you and your dues. Starting in 2007 the dues will be \$45.00, still lower than most lakes in the area. With all of us working together and sharing the responsibility, it doesn't seem so overwhelming.

**The Lake Leelanau Legacy Circle (LLLC)** is a new opportunity for enhanced giving. This group will be comprised of members of our association who want to stretch beyond basic annual dues. The three levels of Legacy giving are \$100 Kayakers, \$250 Runabouts, and \$500 and up Cabin Cruisers. The Communications Committee is structuring a special recognition program for these donors.

We are grateful for your past generosity and we look forward to your continued assistance, at whatever level you can offer.

Most sincerely,

Your Board



### Join our E-mail List

The LLLA publishes the newsletter three times a year. However, if you would like to get up-to-the-minute news and information about LLLA activities, including current updates on the Narrows and other important issues, you need to be on our e-mail list. Just send an e-mail to [Gwen Rich at idlerich@chartermi.net](mailto:Gwen Rich at idlerich@chartermi.net) and she will add your name to the list. This is the best way to keep abreast of the latest happenings with the Lake Association.



# New Lake Association Board Members

**Tom Coulter, Treasurer**

Tom and his wife, Dorothy Jean (Jeannie), have lived permanently on Lake Leelanau since 1999. Jeannie moved with her parents to a house on Lake Leelanau in 1948 as one of the few permanent families living on the lake at that time. For the last 35 years Tom and Jeannie lived in Ohio and Kalamazoo, coming North every chance possible to stay in one of their two cottages they owned on the lake. Their children and grandchildren reside in South Carolina. Tom enjoys boating, fishing, woodworking, traveling and being with his family. He has done taxes for H&R Block for the past six years and agreed to serve as treasurer of the LLLA as a way to help preserve the most beautiful resource in Leelanau County - Lake Leelanau!



development around the lake. He explains *“in our lifetime we have seen unchecked growth ruin too many lovely places, so this seemed like a logical step to get involved with a group that is concerned about something very dear to both of us, our lake!”* He has a background as an executive (still owning one company) and board member of various groups including major corporations.

**Bob Miller, Elmwood Township Representative**

Bob Miller is married to Jane and they have one grown son who lives in Indianapolis. Bob has a BA and MBA degrees from MSU and has worked for almost 40 years in the field of human resources, labor relations, pensions, insurance and benefits and environmental remediation. Bob and Jane both live on Lake Leelanau full time, although they continue to work downstate. They have been around inland lakes most of their life and enjoy boating. They owned a cottage on Paw Paw Lake in Southwestern Michigan for twenty years before purchasing their home on Lake Leelanau. Bob writes *“I am especially interested in working with the LLLA due to our experience spending 20 years on Paw Paw Lake. Paw Paw Lake is about 900 acres in size, vs. 8,300 acres for Lake Leelanau, and is very crowded, with over 600 parcels having lake access rights and two DNR launch ramps. The local lake association took some aerial photographs on one week-end day, 136 boats were on the lake and active using those 900 water acres! Condos and marinas abound. On average, one person was killed in a boating accident every other year. Nutrients flowed into the lake from lawns, septic systems and farm runoff. The water was clear to a depth of only 4-8 feet, depending on boat traffic. Parts of the lake would, on occasion, become so choked with aquatic weeds that a boat could not be driven through the area. I DO NOT want to see Lake Leelanau become another Paw Paw Lake!”*



**John Popa, Bingham Township Representative**

John is a life long resident of Bingham Township, graduating from Suttons Bay High School in 1963. He has been married to his wife Gayle for 40 years and they have two children, both married, who live in Kalkaska. John has a BS in Mechanical engineering from Michigan Tech and is currently employed with Consumers Energy. He is a member of the Leelanau County Road Commission and served several years on the Bingham Planning Commission. John also served on the committee for rebuilding the dam in Leland. He enjoys hunting, fishing, trains and nature, as well as staying involved in the ‘happenings’ of the county.



Bob and Jane both live on Lake Leelanau full time, although they continue to work downstate. They have been around inland lakes most of their life and enjoy boating. They owned a cottage on Paw Paw Lake in Southwestern Michigan for twenty years before purchasing their home on Lake Leelanau. Bob writes *“I am especially interested in working with the LLLA due to our experience spending 20 years on Paw Paw Lake. Paw Paw Lake is about 900 acres in size, vs. 8,300 acres for Lake Leelanau, and is very crowded, with over 600 parcels having lake access rights and two DNR launch ramps. The local lake association took some aerial photographs on one week-end day, 136 boats were on the lake and active using those 900 water acres! Condos and marinas abound. On average, one person was killed in a boating accident every other year. Nutrients flowed into the lake from lawns, septic systems and farm runoff. The water was clear to a depth of only 4-8 feet, depending on boat traffic. Parts of the lake would, on occasion, become so choked with aquatic weeds that a boat could not be driven through the area. I DO NOT want to see Lake Leelanau become another Paw Paw Lake!”*

**Jim Miller, Vice President**

Jim and Pattie Miller bought their home on South Lake Leelanau in 1992 as a cooler summer retreat from their home in the Bahamas. Their home (which they are currently remodeling) had seven bedrooms and a guesthouse, large enough to accommodate their six adult children and several grandchildren, as well as a boathouse large enough to house one of Jim’s passions, his classic wooden boats. They found themselves staying later and later each year, enjoying the winter months and eventually moved to their lake house permanently. Jim and Pattie are both concerned about the impact of both planned and rapacious



LLLA Executive Committee from left to right: Tom Coulter, Treasurer, Don Bruckman, Past President, Colleen Moose, Secretary, Hugh Farber, President, and Jim Miller, Vice President





## '06 ANNUAL PICNIC

**A** sincere and grateful thanks to the following businesses who donated door prizes for the 7th annual Lake Leelanau Lake Association Picnic, held on August 20th, 2006. Please make every effort to support these businesses!

- The Bluebird Restaurant and Bar
- Boone's Prime Time Pub
- Boskydel
- Brown Lumber
- Carlson's of Fishtown
- Cedar Tavern
- Chateau Fontaine
- Countryside Gardens
- Covered Wagon
- Dick's Pour House
- Fish Hook
- Fifth/Third Bank
- Gordon Food Service
- Hansen Foods
- Happy Hour Tavern
- Huntington National Bank
- Jaffe's Resale & Consignment Shop
- Jon's Barber & Sport Shop
- King's Challenge
- Andy Kurzmann
- The Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms
- Leelanau Enterprise
- Leland Mercantile Company
- LeNaro Pub
- Manitou Marine
- Mawby L. Vineyards
- N.J.'s Grocery
- Northern Lumber Company
- Olesons Markets
- The Picture Hook
- Plamondon (Lk. Leelanau BP)
- Plant Master's of Suttons Bay
- Pleva's Meat
- Raftshol Vineyard
- Salon Chenneaux
- Sgt. Pepperoni's
- Sisson's Main Street Specialties
- Steak-Haus at King's Challenge
- Sugarfoot Saloon
- Van's Garage
- Village Inn

## Lake Leelanau Lake Association Raffle: SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**G**ene Rantz of Rantz Fine Art Gallery in Northport for donating a beautiful original painting of the Narrows and two fine art reproductions produced by Image Arts.

Keith Burnham of Lelandreport.com for donating a matted photo of the Narrows for the raffle drawing.

Stone House Bread, Kejara's Bridge, the Covered Wagon, and Rantz Fine Art Gallery for selling raffle tickets and your support and help in protecting a very beautiful part of our lake.



*Renown artist Gene Rantz presents the original oil painting valued at \$3500 to first prize winners, Jim and Pattie Miller of Lake Leelanau. Second prize, framed giclee reproduction on canvas went to Ron Sexton of Lake Leelanau and third prize (unframed giclee reproduction on canvas) went to Ken and Marie Shugart of Lake Leelanau and Traverse City. Cathy Bruckman had the lucky predetermined number and won the matted photo of the Narrows by Keith Burnham.*



Framed giclee reproductions of the Narrows painting on canvas can be purchased at the Rantz Fine Art Gallery in Northport. Cost \$400.00 Call Gene at 386-7628.



## Are you a member of the LLLA?

1258 Homeowners on Lake Leelanau - 756 members

**H**as your membership lapsed? We urge you to rejoin your Association. As you probably know, the basic goal of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association is to act responsibly to preserve and enhance the quality of our lake and the near shore environment. A simple sounding goal, but a very complex process. A large unified voice of riparian owners is invaluable when discussing riparian issues with state and local governments and other agencies affecting our lake. At times this effort requires significant expenditures of money and member involvement. That is why if you agree with the general goal, you need to participate by rejoining the LLLA.

Here are just a few of the things we've done in the past, are doing now, and will continue to do in the future:

- The fish committee regularly meets with and helps the Fisheries Division of the DNR on planting and management issues.
- The water quality committee has aided the Leelanau Conservancy in the process of gathering data on the physical and chemical properties of Lake Leelanau and its tributaries.
- Education - through various vehicles, such as this newsletter, meetings, picnics, the Lake Leelanau Landowner's Handbook, the association makes every effort to offer information concerning swimmer's itch, water safety, keyholing, septic system maintenance, shoreline stabilization, wetlands, and just general stewardship practices.
- No Wake The Association worked with the DNR and Leland and Suttons Bay townships to secure the necessary permits to officially designate no wake zones in the Leland River and the Narrows. Volunteers place the buoys in the Narrows and Leland River in the spring and remove them in the fall.

### Events of Importance to Lake Leelanau

#### Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative Update

The Leelanau Conservancy was recently awarded a second grant to protect more critical lands on Lake Leelanau. This second Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grant of \$447,500 will help protect an estimated additional 220 acres around the lake. The Lake Leelanau Watershed Initiative began with the first CMI grant of \$723,800 which was awarded in 2003. The grant, with its required matching donations, is part of Michigan's goal to maintain high water quality. The

goal of the grant project is to work with interested landowners to purchase permanent conservation easements over wetlands and their adjacent forested uplands in the Lake Leelanau Watershed. The 2003 CMI grant has been used to protect the lake with conservation easements on 321 acres of land around streams that flow into the lake and can impact water quality. CMI funds have also protected wetlands that buffer the lake from pollutants, such as the Narrows and the Solon Swamp. Matt Heiman, Land Protection Specialist with the Conservancy, notes that all of the eligible lands are identified as critical wetlands and included in the Lake Leelanau Watershed Management Plan written by the Conservancy in partnership with the Lake Leelanau Lake Association. According to Matt the tremendous success can be credited in part to a good science-based plan, but the real credit goes to caring landowners who wish to see their land preserved for future generations.

### Introducing the LLLA Communications Committee

Due to increasing pressures on our lake and the importance of communicating various issues in a timely manner, the board has appointed a communications chairperson and committee. Responsibilities of this group include producing the newsletter three times a year, keeping the web site up-to-date, developing an e-mail data base of members, updating members through e-mail, website, and letters, developing press releases to keep the public informed on important issues, and assisting with special events and fund raising.

**Members are:** Mary Taylor, Chair, Pattie Miller, E.J. Fitzpatrick, Susan Nichols and Colleen Moose





*Hugh Farber presents a matted photo print of the Narrows (by Keith Burnham) to outgoing President, Don Bruckman.*



*Don Bruckman escorts the Lake Leelanau float with grandchildren riding. Driver, Preston Moose.*

## The Stream Team

Since 1990 the Leelanau Conservancy has been sampling the major lakes of Leelanau County and their tributaries. As a result we have what is probably the best data base documenting public waters in the State of Michigan. From these data, we know the sources of weed promoting nutrients in each lake (fortunately now at moderate levels). As changes in population, waste disposal practices, agricultural activities, etc., take place, we confidently assess impact and act as needed.

Volunteers are needed to continue this invaluable monitoring program. A volunteer will be asked to wade across streams measuring water depth, water velocity, water temperature, and take water samples for laboratory analyses. A less adventuresome volunteer could stay at the stream bank and record the data called out by the wader. A volunteer could expect to be called upon for half day efforts 3 to 4 times per year.

Anyone interested should call Walt Nielsen (256-9725). This is an interesting job, give it some thought and call. Also anyone who has a serviceable pair of hip waders or chest waders to donate should call Walt.

## New Tax Law

There is a recent law enacted that covers some donations to 501c3 organizations. Basically the law allows people over 70.5 years of age to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA without having to pay the federal tax on this withdrawal. (This donation can serve as your Minimum required distribution and it is not counted as part of your Adjusted Gross Income which could favorably affect your taxes on Social Security Benefits) Anyone so doing cannot claim this donation as a deductible item on Schedule A. This could be a benefit, especially to those who don't itemize deductions. The amount of the benefit and process to accomplish it **SHOULD BE REVIEWED WITH YOUR TAX EXPERT**, as there are rules on documentation, etc., to be followed.

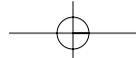
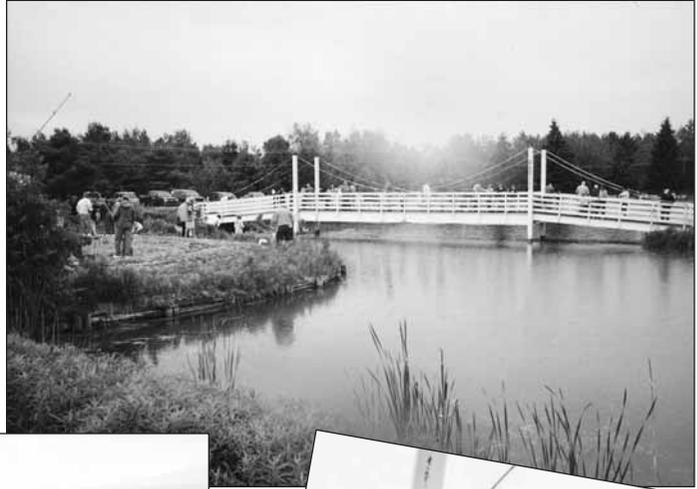
Please note the transfer of funds to the LLLA from the IRA Administrator must be direct. Individuals withdrawing funds from their IRA and donating to a charity (eg LLLA) will probably be taxed on the total withdrawal and the donation will be subject to itemized deduction rules. Consult your tax advisor with any questions before proceeding, and remember the transfer must be completed (money received by the charity) by December 31.

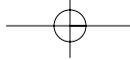


# 2nd Annual Kid's Fishing Day Great Fun

Dreary weather didn't keep kids and their families away from the second annual Kid's Fishing Day which was held on June 25th at the former Veronica Valley Golf Course. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocked ponds with 700 bluegill and 100 trout for the kids to catch. In addition there were

environmental displays where children could learn about aquatic insects, fish and plants. Hot dogs and pop were devoured by both the fisher kids and adults. Approximately 400 attended this event.





## The Perks of Membership

Your annual \$20 membership fee supports a variety of programs to preserve and champion our gorgeous lake. Join today to receive a full-year subscription to this newsletter and help sustain our efforts to monitor water quality, work with local governments, and provide up-to-date research on everything from swimmer's itch to boating safety. For an additional \$6, you'll receive a subscription to Riparian Magazine.

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Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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### YOUR INTERESTS (check all that apply)

Water Quality       Zebra Mussels  
 Swimmers Itch       Fishing  
 Keyholing       Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wetlands Project       Safety / Boating

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP (check all that apply)

\$20 Dues  
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 Donation  
 TOTAL

**Mail to: LLLA,  
P.O. Box 123, Leland, MI 49654**



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