



Lake Leelanau

L A K E A S S O C I A T I O N

Winter / Spring 2020

News & Views from the Watershed



Lake Leelanau Ice
Photo Credit: Cathy Fisher

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Mark Your Calendar

Kids' Fishing Day

Sun. June 28, 2020 • 11:00am - 3:00pm
at Veronica Valley Park

Annual Meeting

Thur. July 23, 2020 • 6:30pm
at Leland Lodge

Legacy Event / Details TBD

Lake Leelanau Street Fair

Sat. Sept. 19, 2020 • 11:00am-8:00pm
in the village of Lake Leelanau



Board Directory

OFFICERS

Tom Hiatt, President
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Kathy Birney, Vice President / Treasurer
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Lori Oberson, Secretary
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George Prewitt, Past President
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TOWNSHIP REPRESENTATIVES

John Popa, Bingham
231-947-1088 jjpopa@charter.net
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Wayne Wunderlich, Leland
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Brian Price, Lake Biologist
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Bonnie Gotshall, Water Safety
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Barb Kobberstad, Membership
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Patrice Korson, Newsletter
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Steve Lindo, Marketing & Fundraising
612-865-6647 steve.lindo@gmail.com
David Baty, Website & Social Media
david@lakeleelanau.org

BOARD MEMBERS / AT LARGE

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419-656-3615 jwysor@aol.com
Cindy Kacin
231-256-8873 cakacin@charter.net

A Letter from the President by Tom Hiatt, President



Dear Fellow Association Members,

Spring is not far away. Your board of volunteer members has been working together closely during the fall and winter months to prepare for a number of projects which we will be undertaking this

year.

We are pleased to report that we are making substantial progress in the following areas:

- Under the leadership of Brian Price, LLLA's water biologist, we have been actively researching different strategies for controlling Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The more we have spoken with other researchers across the country and the more reading we have done, we believe that the best control strategy is one which (i) does not use harmful chemicals; and (ii) uses a combination of hand removal of weeds and the installation of barriers over the largest weed beds to kill the weeds by inhibiting photosynthesis. Please see Brian's report on pages 4-5 of this newsletter for more information.
- We have entered into a contract with a reputable firm, Restorative Lake Sciences, to conduct a thorough study of both North and South Lake Leelanau in early spring 2020 to make sure we have identified all known EWM beds before we begin control work.
- Thanks again to the leadership of Brian Price and his counterpart, Dan Mays, LLLA has entered into a partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians to work together to tackle EWM in Lake Leelanau. The Band has submitted a substantial three-year grant to the Bureau of Indian Affairs which, if approved, will provide a significant boost to our joint efforts. We hope to hear a decision about the grant in late summer or early fall 2020.
- Thanks to your support, we have raised approximately \$80,000 from members and supporters for the EWM control initiative for the coming year. It is a great start, but it is not enough to fund all that we want to accomplish in 2020.

- The scope and scale of this project are significantly greater than anything your Association has attempted in the past. We will only succeed if we work together—and with other interested parties—to tackle what most scientists agree is the most invasive aquatic weed in North America.

- At our January 2020 board meeting, LLLA’s board approved a list of key operating goals to guide our work in calendar 2020. To provide an overview of the Association’s priorities in the coming year, a summary of these goals appears on page 10 of this newsletter.

- I am pleased to welcome two new board members to LLLA’s board: Lori Oberson and Jim Wysor. Lori has agreed to serve as the Association’s Secretary, replacing Cindy Kacin, who has served as Secretary for many years. Cindy will continue to serve on LLLA’s board as an “at large” member.

- We appreciate your interest and support. If you have not already contributed to help fund our battle against the weed which threatens to radically change Lake Leelanau if left unchecked, we urge you join your neighbors and friends in taking this step. Contributions are tax-deductible. Checks may be made out the Lake Leelanau Lake Association and designated for EWM control. Please send contributions to Kathy Birney, Treasurer, LLLA, PO Box 123, Leland, MI 49654. Alternatively, contributions may be made on the Association’s website, www.lakeleelanau.org



Membership Report by Barb Kobberstad

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you for all of our 378 current members. Your financial support is invaluable as we strive to effectively maintain and improve the quality of our lake. Please update your information with any changes in contact information. Help us by encouraging your neighbors and friends to join or renew their membership.

VOLUNTEERING

I would like to extend an invitation to you to pitch in and help our volunteer board members. Please look over the list below and see if there is a place for you to “give us a hand”! Reach out to the contact person listed, if you can help out with any of these tasks.

Handbook Distribution

One time, door-to-door distribution scheduled for this summer
Barb Kobberstad / 231-218-1033 / bkobberstad@gmail.com

Township Representatives Needed

The Board is in need of reps for Suttons Bay and Solon Townships
Tom Hiatt / 317-590-7376 / tom@thomashiatt.com

Legacy Event Planning Committee

The committee meets several times in the summer to plan the Event
Barb Kobberstad / 231-218-1033 / bkobberstad@gmail.com

Merganser Duck Spotters

Needed from May thru August, spotters are people who spend a lot of time on the lake and are able to identify these birds.



Photo Credit: Cathy Fisher

Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil to Resume in the Spring



Water Biologist Report by Brian Price, Lake/Watershed Biologist

The Association's Newsletter last fall (2019) was devoted to a thorough examination of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Lake Leelanau: How the weed got in our lake; how we discovered it; why we believe that this new infestation represents an existential threat to the lake and our enjoyment of it; and what the Lake Leelanau Lake Association plans to do to bring this invasive weed under control.

Acting quickly to respond to this invasion, the Association identified Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) as a key tool we would employ to attack EWM. We hired an experienced firm to begin mapping the EWM beds, applied for permits to begin work, and after receiving the necessary permits, had divers in the water early in October of 2019. Although our contractor had to stop working after a week due to high winds and changing weather, our response was commensurate with the threat: from the time the weed was discovered to the onset of control work took less than four months!

As cold weather set in, however, we expanded our research to include a search of relevant scientific literature in addition to our conversations with State officials. We also interviewed other lake managers who have confronted EWM in Michigan and other lakes across the country. We reached out to the natural resource biologists at the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB), located just a few miles from the Lake Leelanau watershed. Working closely with the GTB's biologists, we developed a more detailed and nuanced plan to employ methods of EWM control using information and strategies that have been developed and published in the last three or four years. In effect, while still employing only physical (non-

chemical, non-biological) control methods we hope to replicate the success of managers who have brought EWM under control in other lakes using these more recently developed techniques.

Together GTB and the Lake Association plan to use a method that follows a simple process:

- Assess each discrete infestation and create a "recipe" for killing off all of the EWM in that area over a two-year period of intensive control. To do this, we will begin work soon after ice-out in the Spring of 2020 with careful mapping of the dimensions of each bed of EWM, followed closely by deployment of underwater drones and/or divers to determine the volume and shape of the weed bed, and its composition in terms of major plant species.
- Use a combination of "benthic barriers," DASH harvesting, and simple hand pulling that will most efficiently kill off EWM while minimizing impact to native plants and other native species. The use of the "benthic barriers" is a new and important mechanism for control. In situations where weed beds are composed almost exclusively of EWM, these barriers—which are typically composed of either reusable synthetic materials or biodegradable burlap—are placed over the weeds and weighted down with steel re-rod or sandbags. Once in place, the barriers prevent the weeds from receiving sunlight. Deprived of the ability to photosynthesize, the covered weeds die completely in one year. These barriers or "lake bottom blankets" are among the most effective and least invasive means to kill EWM. The Association plans to begin deploying these barriers in selected spots in Lake Leelanau beginning in May 2020.



Learn to identify Eurasian Water Milfoil. EWM has 4 'leaves' in each whorl with about 16 leaflets on each side of the stem as shown here.

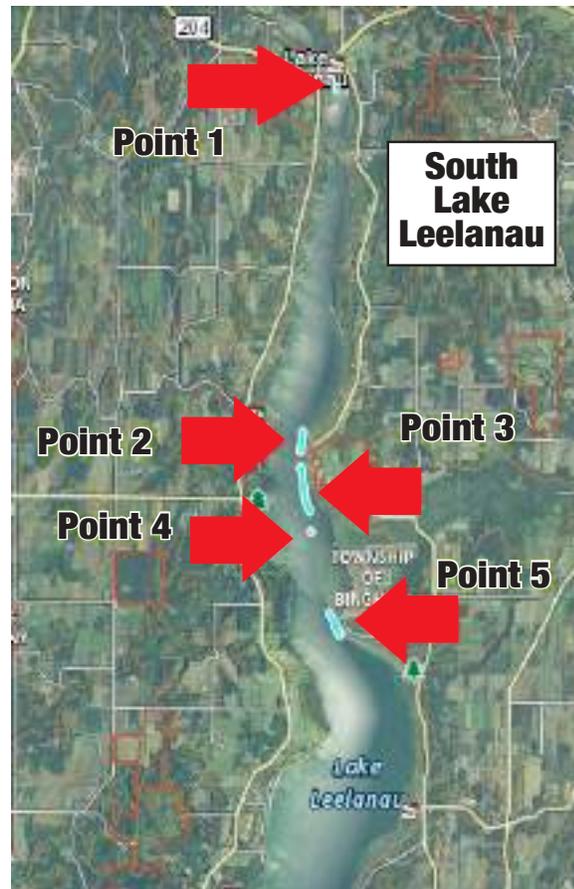
Follow-up maintenance of initial intensive treatment over several years with hand pulling of EWM and/or DASH treatments, as the situation warrants. No matter how effective the barriers may be, positioning them to kill all of the EWM while avoiding nearly all of the nearby native plants will be very challenging if not impossible. Hand pulling will be necessary to remove EWM growing beyond the edges of the barriers. Our plan is to follow up in late summer or fall, as well as in the following season, to make sure that we eradicate 100% of EWM at each location.

The addition of benthic barriers to our arsenal of control strategies offers the benefit of being able to tackle more of the EWM in the first two years of our control program. We also anticipate that using this strategy will be less costly in the long run than using DASH only.

Critical to our success will be our ability to craft an effective “recipe” for treating each EWM bed in Lake Leelanau, employing the most appropriate control measures and then following these first-year treatments with monitoring and maintenance work in subsequent years. In addition, we will need to be vigilant in our search for any new infestations.

Over the next several months we will be acquiring permits, lining up contractors, buying materials and equipment, and raising money—all of which are essential to our long-term success. Our partners at GTB have applied for a grant to fund not only their participation but to cover the cost of materials and labor that would otherwise fall entirely to the Lake Association.

In summary: Working together, we can and will control EWM in Lake Leelanau. But this undertaking will take a level of organization, partnership, and effort on a scale that the Association has not previously attempted. We encourage you to stay tuned and to help in any way you can, including financially. Contributions may be sent to Kathy Birney, Treasurer, Lake Leelanau Lake Association, PO Box 123, Leland, MI 49654.



Clockwise from top right: 1. Map showing the locations of identified EWM infestations in the South Lake. 2. Photographic example of healthy EWM. 3. Boat motor completely stopped by EWM. 4. Swimmer in EWM infestation.

YOU Can Help Address EWM

As riparians, we must work together to address the threat Eurasian Water Milfoil presents to the Lake's ecosystem. Here's how you can help.

Contribute. The initiative to combat EWM will be the costliest project ever undertaken by the Association. Remediation costs will be extensive for 2020, and we will be operating a continual maintenance program for the indefinite future.

Join. Of the approximately 1400 property owners on North and South Lake Leelanau, currently 370 of us are active members. We're very grateful for your membership. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join.

Learn to Identify and Report EWM. EWM is easily identified but can be confused with native milfoil or even native coontail. Study the photos on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, and if you find this plant in the southern half of South Lake Leelanau or anywhere in North Lake Leelanau (areas currently not believed to be infested) please report your findings to Brian Price at brprice11@gmail.com.

Don't Spread Aquatic Weeds. If you pick up aquatic weeds on your boat or prop, remove the weeds immediately. Put them in your boat for disposal on land. Never throw them back in the lake!

Wash Your Boat if Coming from Another Watershed. The State of Michigan requires you to wash your boat after leaving one watershed before placing it in another, to help prevent the spread of EWM and other invasive species.

Support Establishing Permanent Boat Washing Stations. There are nine public boat launches on Lake Leelanau. None have boat washing stations. Speak with any local public officials you know and advocate for the installation of boat washing stations to make it easier for boat owners to clean their boats before entering the Lake.

Volunteer. The Association needs volunteers to help mobilize the community to tackle this threat. In order to treat larger infestations in the Lake, volunteers will be needed to help secure written permission for treatment from owners of properties adjacent to areas to be treated. Grant writers are also needed, as are individuals skilled in the use of social media and communications. Thank You!



Newsletter Update by Patrice Korson

Happy Chilly Michigan Winter! It's a joy to see folks out and about, enjoying the crisp winter days here in the county.

Below is a photo of a snow kiting event held on South Lake Leelanau on February 9, 2020. The event, which drew competitors from all over the midwest, took place at the Bingham boat launch. While the wind wasn't super cooperative, the event was a success for participants and spectators alike. Similarly, if you know of an upcoming event that takes place on the water, let me know and I will do my best to cover it. Lake Leelanau is such a precious resource, and it's worth sharing these great events with our readers.

I wanted to give a quick Thank You to Cathy Fisher for sending me photos for publication in this newsletter. I'm extremely grateful that she is willing to share her beautiful view of Lake Leelanau with our readers.

If YOU have any photos of life on the lake from any season, and are willing to share, please send them to my email... KorsonCreative@gmail.com.



Photo Credit: Patrice Korson

Ask the Biologist...

by Heather Hettinger
DNR Fish Biologist

On behalf of the fish committee, "Ask the Biologist" is a regular column in our newsletter. Readers may submit questions and Heather Hettinger, the D.N.R. biologist for Lake Leelanau, will answer them. Please direct questions to Lonnie Rademacher (radema43@gmail.com).

A lot of 15-inch walleye seem to be the norm lately in catches. Is that a good or bad thing? That's a good thing! Since North and South Lake Leelanau are naturally reproducing lakes, we expect to see a lot of fish in the 13-15-inch category. Those fish are typically representing about three-year classes (or age groups) of fish; Age 2, Age 3, and Age 4 fish. It's important to have an abundance of younger age fish to ensure good numbers of fish spawn successfully. Most male walleye first mature at Ages 2 and 3 while most female walleye first mature at Ages 4 and 5. It's a good thing to have some of those younger age spawning fish mixed in with older age fish for diversity and spawning success.

Walleye growth is slow on both lakes, typically about an inch below the State average length at age. This has been the case for as long as we have had a good walleye population in Lake Leelanau. It's a puzzling statistic for me, as when we do any netting or shocking on either the North or South Lake, we capture or observe abundant minnow and shiner populations all across the lake. However, when Lake Leelanau as a whole is compared to other large lakes across the state containing walleye, the size structure is right on par with those lakes.

In our most recent survey of South Lake Leelanau, we collected walleye from 6 to 20 inches in length, and from Ages 1-12, Age 17, and Age 20.

In our most recent survey of North Lake Leelanau, we collected walleye from 7 to 27 inches in length, and from Ages 1-10 and Ages 12-14. We have tagged walleye returned to us as recently as 3 years ago (the tagging study on this lake was conducted in 2002!), and that fish ended

up being a 21-year-old male.

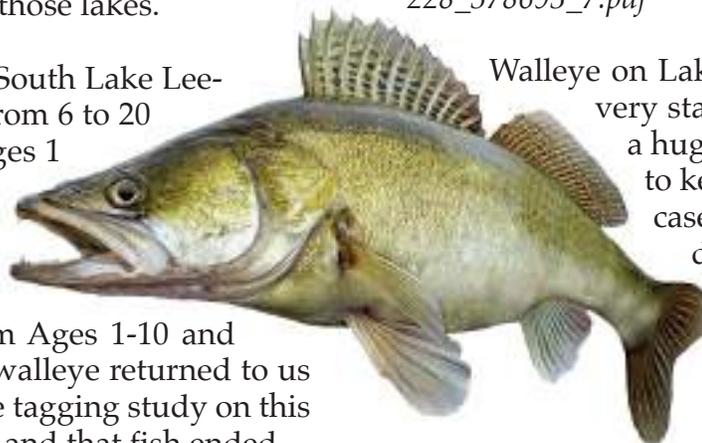
Despite growth being slow here, we

have good year-class representation, meaning that we have good numbers of walleye across many ages. This bodes well for spawning success within both lakes. Fluxes in the sizes of fish caught by anglers are to be expected each year as a naturally reproducing fishery is dependent upon angling pressure, year class success, and environmental factors- not just how many fish come off the stocking truck each year.

There are a lot of details about the walleye population in Lake Leelanau that can be learned from looking at some of our most recent reports. While some people may see a report from 2007 and think its outdated, remember that we have walleye in this system that live into their 20's- and much of the findings in that earlier work is still supported by our data from 2015 (South Lake Leelanau) and 2016 (North Lake Leelanau). Below are the URL's to our Large Lake Report from 2007 and the Status Report on the South Lake from 2015. A similar document for North Lake Leelanau is currently in the review stages, and should be published this spring;

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/SR42_20692_9_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/SFR2016-228_578693_7.pdf



Walleye on Lake Leelanau have remained very stable over time, but since it's a hugely popular fishery, we like to keep an eye on things- just in case. Expect to see us out conducting Fall electrofishing surveys to assess the natural reproduction of walleye either in the Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

Thanks for your questions.

FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW... *A Tribute to Pete Taylor*

There are some people who are born leaders. They can organize people around a cause, a problem, or an event and get the job done. They know how to use resources, find funds, and find the right talented people to contribute their best efforts. One such person is Pete Taylor: a resident, a leader, and a founder and organizer of Kids Fishing Day at Veronica Valley.

Pete and his wife, Mary, moved to Leelanau County in 1989. He had spent his career in the Lansing area as the owner of a graphic design business. They had traveled around a lot, but found the Leelanau area to be desirable. He had two sisters in the area who were also urging him to move to this area. So they bought some property and built a house on Lake Leelanau. Soon after moving here, Pete and Mary became involved with the Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLA). Mary was the first woman on the Board and subsequently did a term as President. Pete became the chairman of the Fishing Committee. As part of this role, he became good friends with the DNR fisheries biologist of this area, Todd Kalish. The two of them worked together to get blue gills stocked in Lake Leelanau. It was actually Todd's idea to have a Kids Fishing Day, but it was Pete who put it together.

The first event was at Joe Vlack Pond near Cedar. It proved to be a disaster. Fisherman heard of the fish planting and fished out the pond prior to the event. There was little parking adjacent to the pond for the visitors, and a ton of mosquitoes also showed up. However, the disappointing outcome did not dampen Pete and Todd's enthusiasm for such an event.

Hugh Farber told Pete that Bill and Diane Grant (who owned the Veronica Valley golf course) wanted to sell the property for use as a nature park. Pete saw the property as a perfect location for the fishing event. He set out to approach the Grants with the idea. The Grants were willing as long as there was liability

insurance in place for the event. In 2005, the dream was beginning to manifest! The DNR offered their help. Both the fisheries division and the enforcement division lead by then CO and now Sheriff, Mike Borkovich, contributed time and labor. Used fishing tackle was donated for use by kids who didn't have their own. The LLA paid for the entire cost for this. The first Kids Fishing Day included hot dogs, chips, and pop which was given away free to participants. The idea was that everything would be free and there would be no contests; just a pleasant day of fishing and learning for children and their families. They expected 50-100 people. 200 people showed up. Someone had to go out and get more bait and hot dogs. It was such a great day that Pete remembers 3 people approached him willing to sponsor the next year's event. Kids Fishing Day was born!



Into the third year, the Leelanau County Parks and Recreation Commission purchased the property from the Grants. Fishing license purchases were down, so the DNR viewed Kids Fishing Day as a way of getting young people interested in fishing. In the early days of the event, families came and used the free equipment provided. Now, many more kids are coming with their own equipment. The DNR has continued to be a strong supporter of Kids Fishing Day. The Grants were very happy that their beloved property would be used as a nature park. The LLA continued to be a strong sponsor and supporter of the event.

Through all these years, Pete has managed the details of this event. He has volunteers who handle the food, volunteers who handle the fishing tackle, volunteers who handle the parking, and volunteers who handle other aspects of the day. Currently, the event also includes fish painting, fly fishing demonstrations, fish cleaning instruction, and an amphibian/reptile/fish display by Jim Kacin.

Pete has never heard any complaints about the event. He attributes its success to the enthusiasm of the many sponsors and volunteers who make it happen.

The location is perfect for the event. Best of all, everything at the event is free! This event has been called the best of its kind in Michigan, possibly in the nation.

Year after year, Pete has managed this event. His leadership has caused the event to be bigger and better every year. The process of getting it done works like a well-oiled machine. Pete holds one meeting in the spring to review last year's event and talk about any changes that should be considered for the next year. Pete says that it is a short meeting because it's hard to change perfection! He has a second meeting closer to the date to make sure everything is on target. It is a testimony to Pete's management and enthusiasm that the same volunteers and sponsors come back year after year to make this event a success. Still, Pete's greatest joy is to see the kids catch fish. Their smiles are a joy to behold!

Last summer, the event celebrated 15 years of providing a free family event in Leelanau County. More than 1,000 people attended. Many of the participants were families who look forward to the event every year. Others are families on vacation who stumble onto the event while they are here for a week or two. A frequent question to Pete is "When will this happen next year?" because the family wants to plan their next vacation around it. Pete recently had people approach him to tell him that they came to Kids Fishing Day as a kid and are now bringing their own children to the event.

To Pete Taylor: on behalf of the LLLA and the Leelanau community- we can't thank you enough for your enthusiasm, your leadership, and your talents that you have tirelessly put into this event. This event truly benefits our community and beyond. As an association, the LLLA is proud to be a part of this super event that you have started, grown, and kept going all these years. You truly are an outstanding individual that **NOBODY CAN DENY!**

by Cindy Kacin

Water Quality Update by Hugh Farber, Water Quality



Based on observations in November, the visual quality of Lake Leelanau continues to be good. A few reports of the presence of small areas of blue green algae suggest watching for such next summer.

Based on early results of the shoreline drone surveys there are a few weed hot spots that may be indicative of excess nutrient loading which could be natural or related to over fertilizing and/or septic system failure. Follow up will be discussed in the next newsletter which is sent to all riparian owners in June. It is worth emphasizing that fertilizer use can be reduced by using lake water for lawn watering. It is also worth mentioning that most septic issues can be reduced by judicious use and proper maintenance. Even physical repair can be relatively low cost and increase property value at the time of transfer or sale.

The **Michigan Lakes and Streams** magazine is strongly suggested for the excellent articles on water quality concerns and legal reviews of various issues faced by riparian property owners. When you order be sure to mention you are an LLLA member and entitled to a \$14 charge v. \$25 for non-members.

The address is MLSA, 300 N. State St. Suite A, Stanton, MI 48888. Our contact is Sharon Wagner, 989-831-5100. swagner@mlswa.org.

Please continue following the water efforts of Leelanau Clean Water on their website. www.leelanau.cc/lcw.asp



Photo Credit: Cathy Fisher

LLA Key Operating Goals for 2020 *Approved January 23, 2020*

I. Improve Water Quality

Coordinator: Brian Price

Collaborators: Dan Mays, Jim Wysor, Hugh Farber, Yarrow Brown, Bob Bosch, Jeff Green

Top Priorities:

- i. General: Develop and approve water quality improvement plan for 2020
- ii. General: Submit grant request for development of updated Watershed Management Plan
- iii. EWM: Identify research and financial partners, obtain permits, obtain equipment and materials, contractors and volunteers to begin comprehensive control program
- iv. EWM: Quantify, map, and visually inspect aquatic vegetation beds with a focus on EWM in Lake Leelanau
- v. EWM: Initiate first year of comprehensive control program
- vi. Swimmer's Itch: Continue merganser removal. Prepare to alter remediation activities if research data suggests other mitigation strategies may be more effective

Secondary Priorities:

- i. EWM: Conduct planning and identify possible funding sources for boat washing facilities
- ii. Enteric Bacteria: Consider work on remediation of enteric bacteria if time and resources permit
- iii. Swimmer's Itch: Test effectiveness of physical barriers to reduce incidences of SI at one or two public beaches

II. Expand Community Engagement by Increasing Membership, Recruiting Volunteers and Increasing Quality and Frequency of Communications to Current and Prospective Members

Coordinators: Steve Lindo and Lonnie Rademacher

Collaborators: Barb Kobberstad, Patrice Korson, Bonnie Gotshall, Cindy Kacin, Kathy Birney

Top Priorities:

- i. Increase revenue from membership dues by 20% over 2019; review both membership categories and dues and consider modifications to increase revenue
- ii. Increase timeliness and delivery of digital and print communications, specifically website and Facebook posts, newsletters, handbook and annual report
- iii. Increase contact and engagement with current and prospective members by recruiting volunteers and highlighting LLLA's achievements at Fish Day, Annual Meeting, Legacy Event, Fourth of July Parade, September Street Fair, etc.
- iv. Fully implement membership software and database

Secondary Priorities:

- i. If resources are available, engage a part-time individual to manage and increase LLLA's outreach via social media
- ii. Evaluate website and consider modifications
- iii. Recruit volunteers to help address key operating objectives
- iv. Work with organization and governance task force to identify prospective board members

III. Raise Additional Funds in Grants and Contributions

Coordinators: Brian Price, Tom Hiatt

Collaborators: TBD

Top Priorities:

- i. Raise additional funds to finance EWM assessment and control activities
- ii. Acknowledge all gifts promptly
- iii. Communicate consistently with major donors

Secondary Priorities:

- i. Raise funds to pay for website improvements
- ii. Raise funds to engage social media manager

IV. Strengthen Organization and Governance

Coordinators: Tom Hiatt, Kathy Birney

Collaborators: George Prewitt, Jeff Green, Brian Price (consultant)

Top Priorities:

- i. Draft, discuss and approve new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws
- ii. Evaluate and consider revising board committee structure
- iii. Establish nominating and governance committee to recruit and vet new board members

Secondary Priorities:

- i. Evaluate feasibility of establishing LLLA Foundation
- ii. Explore feasibility of establishing means of assessing riparians for major maintenance and improvement projects (i.e., boat washing stations)
- iii. Evaluate feasibility of hiring part time Executive Director/Volunteer Coordinator

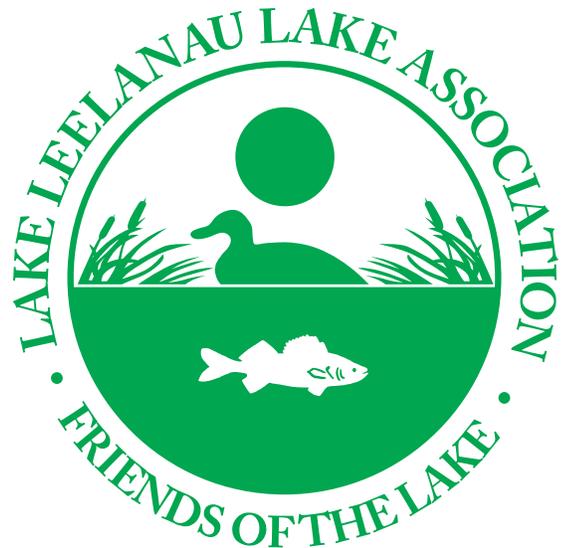
V. Maintain Sound Financial Oversight and Controls

Coordinator: Kathy Birney

Collaborator: Tom Hiatt

Top Priorities:

- i. Prepare and approve 2020 budget and monthly financial statements
- ii. Carefully monitor both revenue and expenses to make sure that the organization's revenue always exceeds expenses
- iii. Ensure legal, federal, state and insurance compliance





Dam Good News!

by John J. Popa, PE

Lake Leelanau property owners are aware by now, that the dam between Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan is in need of several repairs. There have been serious discussions about whether this burden should fall on the land owners.

On January 21st the Leland Dam Authority passed a motion rejecting the idea of a special assessment to repair and maintain the Dam. This was passed on to the County Commissioners at their Executive meeting on February 11th ...and they agreed. However, it was not unanimous...4-3 vote. (Many thanks to those of you who wrote, spoke and/or stated your position to both the Dam Authority and to the Commissioners).

It was clearly brought forth that the County owns the dam, and the dam is the County's responsibility...not the responsibility of the riparians. The County has the ability to fund the dam within its normal budget process, just like it does with all its other properties. For many years the County has paid for dam expenditures by spending the leftover monies after the dam construction, but the County has not added to the fund in preparation for future expenses.

During the last several months, a lot of research was

done to help identify what work may be necessary. Estimates looked like there would be about \$450,000 needed over the next 10 years, and that's when the buzz went around about a special assessment. The Dam Authority looked at all the numbers, the hassle of an assessment, and also the considerable extra costs associated with gathering the tax information... plus contingencies. The bottom line is that the work can, and should, be spread out within the normal budget process.

The dam was re-built in 2004-2005 for just under \$1 million. It is in fine shape and the engineer stated at the time of construction that the structure should last 75+ years. But some components may need attention. Briefly listed below are some items:

Control room floor flooding.....	fixed last month
Safety brace to permit work on dam gate.....	\$31,000
Piston / Hydraulic maintenance and repair.....	\$40,000
Dewater / Power wash the gate upstream.....	\$52,000
Blast and paint gate.....	\$56,000
Replace rubber gate edge seals.....	\$17,000
Total \$196,000	

The numbers show that, along with yearly maintenance of about \$10,000, the County should be able to operate and maintain the dam for about \$30,000 per year, which is not all that bad...therefore no special assessment on riparians.

Call if you wish 231-384-5364.





Lake Leelanau Lake Association
P.O. Box 123
Leland, MI 49654-0123



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on Facebook!**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the quality and beauty of Lake Leelanau and its surrounding watershed for current and future generations.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Lake Leelanau Lake Association accepts monetary gifts made in someone's honor or memory. If you or a loved one chooses the LLLA as the recipient of donations, we will gladly provide envelopes for the memorial services at your request.
Thanks for your consideration.

Thank You!

We salute the following businesses who show their love of the lake through membership

- Amber Sands Resort
- Bluebird of Leland
- Boathouse Vineyards
- Break'n Waves Boat Rentals
- Cedar Haven Cottages
- DeWeese Hardware
- First Choice Industrial
- Hansen Foods
- Korson Creative
- Lake Leelanau Narrows Yacht Club
- Lake Leelanau RV Park
- Leelanau Conservancy
- Leelanau Enterprise
- Riverside Inn
- Stander Marine
- Timberlee Property Owners
- Whaleback Inn

If you are a member of the LLLA and your business isn't listed here, please let us know so we can recognize you in future newsletters!

If you're NOT a member but would like to be, visit lakeleelanau.org or contact Barb at bkobberstad@gmail.com