



## Letter to Members from Lake Leelanau Lake Association's President

April 2020

I'm pleased to report that we are making substantial progress in the following areas in our fight to contain the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in Lake Leelanau.

- Under the leadership of Brian Price, LLLA's water biologist, we have been actively researching different strategies for controlling 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 in our Spring 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 \$75,000 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.
- 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