



Lake Leelanau

LAKE ASSOCIATION

Annual Report

Summer
2020



*Are you
a member?*

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Board Directory

OFFICERS

Tom Hiatt, President

317-590-7376 tom@thomashiatt.com

Kathy Birney, Vice President / Treasurer

248-930-5231 kbirney@leelanauconservancy.org

Lori Oberson, Secretary

989-430-3977 obe3@chartermi.net

George Prewitt, Past President

231-499-4470 g.prewitt2912@gmail.com

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Robert Bosch

231-421-1676 rbosch10@yahoo.com

Hugh Farber

231-256-7187 hughnbetty@gmail.com

Bonnie Gotshall

231-929-2177 gotshall2002@hotmail.com

Jeff Green

231-866-1105 green@indiana.edu

Cindy Kacin

231-256-8873 cakacin@charter.net

Barb Kobberstad

231-218-1033 bkobberstad@gmail.com

Patrice Korson

231-994-2000 korsoncreative@gmail.com

Steve Lindo

612-865-6647 steve.lindo@gmail.com

John Popa

231-947-1088 jjpopa@charter.net

Brian Price

231-409-9080 brprice11@gmail.com

Lonnie Rademacher

517-303-9616 radema43@gmail.com

Wayne Wunderlich

231-256-9294 cedarhavencot@hotmail.com

Jim Wysor

419-656-3615 jwysor@aol.com

Covid-19 Pandemic Cancels Most Lake Leelanau Lake Association Events for 2020

The Covid-19 situation has put a real damper on events scheduled all over the globe. Leelanau County is no exception. After much consideration, the Lake Leelanau Lake Association has canceled or made changes to the previously scheduled events for summer and fall 2020. It is disappointing that this has to happen, but the LLLA places a priority on the health and safety of our community. Here is a quick update.

Kids' Fishing Day

Previously scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2020. This popular event was canceled for this year. The organizers would like the community to know that the pond HAS been stocked for your fishing enjoyment. See article on page 8.

Annual Meeting

Scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020. There will not be a physical gathering for the Annual Meeting as usual, but the Board of Directors is planning to hold this event virtually, so the organization's usual "business" can still happen. Read about the details and how you can participate on page 9.

Legacy Event

The Legacy Event, where we recognize those who have made contributions to our organization, is normally held in August, but will not happen this year. While we love giving back to our donors, safety is our first priority. The Legacy Committee is currently brainstorming alternative ways to recognize our generous donors.

Lake Leelanau Street Fair

The Lake Leelanau Street Fair planning committee has announced that their event, at which we would normally have a membership booth (*previously scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020*) has been canceled until 2021.



A Letter from the President *by Tom Hiatt, President* *Lake Leelanau Lake Association*

Dear Friends,

It has been a busy and productive year for the Lake Leelanau Lake Association. Thanks to your engagement and your support of our work, your Association has accomplished a great deal during the past twelve months. Let me briefly describe what the Association has done for you and to protect our beloved lake.

We have devised and are implementing a comprehensive plan to combat Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), the most invasive and noxious aquatic weed in North America. It is imperative that those of us who use Lake Leelanau gain control over this weed before we lose the opportunity. For a good overview of what could happen to Lake Leelanau if we fail to win this battle, take a look at several of the many videos on YouTube which document the experience of other lakes. A good place to start is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fnp7CmKCPd8>. We are devoting several pages in this report to describing in detail the steps we have taken and the work currently in progress to address this threat. The map on page 3 of this report indicates the locations we have already tackled. Please take a few minutes to read and educate yourself.

- We have raised more money in the past twelve months than at any other time in the Association's 40-year history. These funds have been used to hire an outside consulting firm, Restorative Lake Sciences, to conduct a thorough survey of aquatic vegetation in Lake Leelanau, to make sure we know where all beds of invasive weeds are located and to map them so that we can monitor our progress as we address this threat. We have used your contributions to purchase and equip a used pontoon boat to enable the Association's Lake Biologist, Brian Price, to work with another outside firm, MTT Dash Divers, to install large lake bottom barriers made of plastic and burlap over weed beds to "smother" and kill the weeds before they can develop this year. This control

mechanism, which uses no chemicals, has been found to be particularly effective in other lakes.

- We have entered into a strategic partnership with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Recognizing our shared stewardship of Lake Leelanau, the Association and the Band are working shoulder to shoulder to address the EWM threat. This partnership is best personified by the strong working relationship between Brian Price, the Association's Lake Biologist and Dan Mays, Inland Policy Biologist for the Grand Traverse Band. The Band has received a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to fund EWM control in Lake Leelanau and is providing a boat and several staff members to work alongside Brian and the Association's contractors and volunteers to install the lake bottom blankets this month. See the article written by Dan Mays on page 4 of this newsletter.

- We are continuing to fund research to understand the causes of and ways to reduce the incidence of swimmer's itch. As we detail elsewhere in this newsletter, we have learned from our previous research that the common merganser ducks are not the only host to the organism which produces the itch. It appears that several other waterfowl are also hosts, causing researchers to suggest that it is neither economical or practical to continue to trap and relocate mergansers. Accordingly, along with Glen Lake, we are suspending the relocation of mergansers this year and focusing our efforts on educational initiatives designed to prevent swimmer's itch as well as understand what other species of waterfowl are involved in its transmission.

- We are improving communication to our members. If we have your email address, you have received several brief newsletters from us via email in the past several months keeping you abreast of our activities. Instead of printing and mailing three newsletters each year (not all of which reach their intended recipients because of seasonal or outdated addresses) we are migrating to a model where most of our communications with members will be via email. In addition, we plan to continue to publish and mail a summer newsletter like this one to all

continued on page 12

Eurasian Water Milfoil Progress Report

by Brian Price, Lake/Watershed Biologist



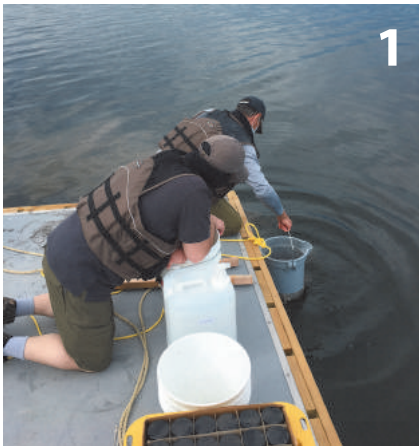
After a long winter of planning a Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) control program for Lake Leelanau, then acquiring and outfitting a pontoon boat, acquiring equipment, and finally dealing with Covid 19 restrictions, we began to attack EWM in earnest in our lake in mid-May.

Our partner in this project is the Natural Resources Department of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The remediation plan devised by the Association and the Band replicates and expands upon a strategy which has been successfully used in several other lakes to control EWM. We are placing large barriers—essentially specialized

"tarps"—on the lake bottom to cover the weed beds. After that initial step divers pull by hand any remaining plants that may lie between or outside of the barriers. The strategy combines the use of barriers and hand pulling to eradicate the invasive weeds completely from each site.

Operations began in May with the deployment of seven synthetic benthic barriers or lake bottom blankets on a site just south of the Lake Leelanau Narrows. (See maps on pg. 6.) In the following days we deployed ten more of these barriers. Between June 8-23 we put 22 more synthetic barriers in the lake and then laid down another 60,000 square feet of burlap barriers. Altogether, we used synthetic and burlap blankets to cover more than 1.6 acres of EWM beds.

Benthic barriers have been used successfully on Lake Tahoe and other lakes, but generally on a much smaller scale. They work by "shading out" the milfoil,



1. Prior to control work, sediment samples were taken at Eurasian Water Milfoil sites. Sediment "grabs" were screened for small bottom-dwelling critters like mayfly and midge larvae and samples preserved in alcohol. We expect to be able to compare the diversity and numbers of "benthic organisms" before and after placement of the EWM-killing barriers. In this photo, Dan Mays and Nate Campbell, biologists for the Grand Traverse Band, collect and screen sediment samples.

2. Burlap barriers weigh about 1100 lbs. It takes several hands to move from truck to ground to boat.

3. Burlap barriers, 40 ft. wide by 400 ft. long, make a pretty big pile! A crew of 5, including members of the MTT DASH diving crew and GTB biologists, loaded the LLLA's work pontoon boat with a burlap barrier. The boat was loaded at Centerville Township Park at the end of Hohnke Road.

4. On the way out. Each barrier is spread and held fast with 14 small trap net anchors, similar but smaller than the ones used for commercial fishing gear on the Great Lakes.

Special thanks to Joe VanderMeulen for his assistance with drone photography (seen in photos numbered 7 & 8).

depriving it of sunlight and effectively killing the plants in about eight weeks.

Our approach, in which we deploy the barriers in much the same way that commercial fishermen set trap nets on the Great Lakes, allows all of the work to be done from boats, using anchors to spread the barriers and hold them in place. Careful scouting of sites, with visual confirmation of large and continuous beds of EWM, guarantees that we are covering the invasive species with minimal damage to native plants.

The Grand Traverse Band and our hired divers will continue to monitor the barriers that are in place over the course of the summer. The synthetic barriers set in May will be removed in late July, after killing the EWM at their original locations. They will then be re-deployed or retired for the season. The burlap barriers, together with the burlap sandbags which hold them in place, will biodegrade over the course of the summer. We will inspect all barriers on a bi-weekly basis. Our contracted team from MTT DASH Divers will remove infestations that are either too small or too mixed with native plants to receive

the barrier treatment.

This work is expected to continue for the next several years. The Grand Traverse Band has applied for and received a three-year grant totaling \$132,000 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to address EWM in Lake Leelanau. The Band and the Association share the same interests and a common strategy with regard to EWM eradication, so these grant funds will complement the funds the Association has raised from its members and increase our probabilities of successfully controlling EWM. GTB Inland Policy Biologist Dan Mays and his crew are not only full partners with the Association in placing the barriers and evaluating their effectiveness, they will also be assessing any impacts to non-target species and devising ways of restoring native plant communities on the former EWM sites.

This is a truly pioneering effort, mobilizing resources to quickly tackle a new invader and using the best available science paired with local know-how and resources. This is only the first year of a multi-year effort, but there are plenty of reasons to think we can bring EWM under control in Lake Leelanau.



5. Beginning deployment of barrier. The yellow line to the left is 600 feet long and runs over the center of the EWM bed. It is attached to a large anchor. As we pull on this line, the barrier runs off the boat, pausing at intervals to set side anchors.



6. Burlap barrier being deployed from the pontoon boat. A single "head line" is run along the length of the EWM bed between two large trap net anchors. The head line keeps the boat on target over the EWM. The boat is winched along the line, replacing line with barrier. The barrier stays at the surface for a minute or so before sinking to the bottom. Side anchors hold it in place and spread it to its 40 ft width. Later, anchors will be pulled as sandbags hold the barrier in place. Everything is biodegradable, and will stay in the lake, disintegrating over the course of the summer.



7. Drone shot of barrier being deployed off the shoal adjacent the Mebert Creek Natural Area in Bingham Township. In all, 1,400 feet of barriers now cover continuous Eurasian Water Milfoil that has been established on the drop-off north of Gordon's Point.



8. Direct overhead shot. One pontoon boat is being used to pull out the anchors, and in between that assignment is tied up adjacent to the LLLA pontoon boat that is deploying the barrier. This boat is nearly covered by the barrier and anchors. Crew holds the edges of the barrier clear to assist spread, paying out the barrier slowly to tighten the set.



Barrier Site Maps

These maps indicate the areas of South Lake Leelanau where the benthic barriers have been placed, thus far. While these barriers will not have an impact on boaters or swimmers, it is recommend that those out fishing, do their best to avoid dropping lines in these areas. Fishing hooks can snag on the burlap barriers and cause trouble for both the fisherman and the barriers.

LLLA and GT Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Work in Partnership to Combat Invasive Aquatic Weeds

by Dan Mays, Inland Policy Biologist, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

In late 2019 and early 2020, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) began discussions with Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA) regarding how the two organizations might work together to control the immediate threat of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) in Lake Leelanau. In partnership, GTB and LLLA drafted a management plan with the primary goal of moving quickly to control the spread of EWM. Subsequently, GTB submitted a grant to the Bureau of Indians Affairs to request funding for work which would complement that being undertaken by LLLA with funding it has raised from its members and from other sources. The grant received excellent support from other agencies and organizations.

The Band recently received word that the grant has been fully funded at \$132,000 under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The grant covers three years of work for milfoil control efforts, which include hand removal of weeds by divers, the installation of lake bottom barriers to kill the weeds during the growing season and periodic evaluations and monitoring. This work is currently underway on Lake Leelanau and will continue through the summer.

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. Future questions can be sent to Lonnie Rademacher (radema43@gmail.com), who will direct them to Heather.

How does Eurasian Water Milfoil affect fish?

Eurasian Water Milfoil (or EWM for short), can affect fish in a multitude of ways. When EWM first makes its presence known in a lake, fish may initially appreciate the cover edges that these large plants produce, especially if the lake has historically been void of large aquatic plants. However, the characteristics of EWM's overabundant growth rates will negate any short-term benefits it may provide fish, rather quickly. When EWM becomes dense, which it does very rapidly, its whorled foliage supports a lower abundance and diversity



Photo Credit: Jane Korson



of invertebrates- or bugs- that fish

rely on for food. The insects that the dense mats of vegetation do attach, such as mosquito larvae, are a much lower quality food source for fish. The dense cover does offer good protection for young fish; however, larger predator fish lose foraging abilities and are less efficient at obtaining their prey in these thick weed beds.

The increase in dense vegetation in a lake can also wreak havoc in the winter months once the plant has died back for the season. We all know Michigan winters can sometimes be long, and so is our ice cover. The longer ice stays on a lake, the more oxygen the critters living on the lake go through, and without interaction with the atmosphere there is a limited supply of oxygen in the water. Now add on the fact that all of this newly dead plant material is on the lake bottom and using up oxygen while it decays, and suddenly you run the risk of increased winter kills in lakes with heavy EWM infestations, where they may not have had fish kills before.

EWM also affects other species such as waterfowl and herptiles. While abundant, EWM has less value as a food source for waterfowl than the native plants that it outcompetes, as its stems are not as nutritiously dense. EWM is known for its ability to branch out and form a dense canopy over the water's surface, which in turn will shade out the native vegetation, eventually taking over as the most abundant plant in the lake. Its prevalence for growing in thick, dense mats also creates habitat loss issues. Ducks can get tangled in the plants once they reach the surface, and below the surface the mats are often too thick for critters like turtles, muskrats, and mudpuppies to swim through or get out of once they are within the plants roots.

Thank you for your questions!



Kids' Fishing Day Update

*by Lonnie Rademacher,
Member, Board of Directors*

Kids' Fishing Day Committee and Leelanau County Parks and Rec Work Together

Even though the popular Kids' Fishing Day (KFD) event that the Lake Leelanau Lake Association helps sponsor was canceled this year, that doesn't mean that kids won't be fishing in beautiful Veronica Park, the host of the event.

After many discussions, and after deciding to cancel the event, KFD reps and county reps both felt the need to stock the ponds for kids. At the county's May meeting, they decided to once again buy the share of fish that they annually contribute to Kids' Fishing Day. The KFD committee also donated money. Once again the ponds are now stocked with fish for the kids to enjoy through out the summer.



Photo Credit: Patrice Korson

The KFD committee thanks the Leelanau County Parks and Recs committee for their continued support of this popular event. Many families with young kids are grateful, as well. We hope to see everyone in 2021!

Boat Washing Update

With the arrival of EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) into Lake Leelanau, a large amount of research, planning, and effort has taken place under the guidance of our lake biologist, Brian Price. Brian and his crew have been working diligently locating and taking action against this invasive species.

While dealing with the establishment of the weed, it would only make sense for us to start looking at preventive measures. As with most of the lakes in Michigan that have EWM, choices have to be made about what steps are going to be taken. Some lakes decide to do nothing, others spray chemicals, and others take more aggressive approaches. Our neighbors at Glen Lake, Higgins Lake, and others in Michigan have decided that boat washing for now is their best preventive option.

Not only does boat washing help with EWM, it can prevent an assortment of other AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) that are now in our great state's waters. AIS unfortunately are going to be a part of our lake. How we deal with them is up to us.

In the coming months, Lake Leelanau Lake Association plans to evaluate the alternatives to understand how boat washing stations may be best deployed to prevent the introduction of other invasive species into Lake Leelanau. We will keep you posted as we learn more. In the meantime, should you wish to learn more about boat washing, please see Glen Lake's website: <http://www.glenlakeassociation.org/boat-wash/>



Annual Meeting Report

*by Jeff Greene,
Member, Board of Directors*

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Association's Annual Meeting will be held online using Zoom. The meeting will begin at 5:30 PM on July 23 and last approximately 45 minutes.

The agenda includes...

- LLLA's President Tom Hiatt will give a brief report on the Association's recent activities and future goals.
- Kathy Birney, Vice President and Treasurer, will give the Treasurer's report.
- Results of elections for new board members and officers with terms ending in 2020 to be announced.
- Brian Price, Lake Biologist, will report to the members on the State of the Lake, particularly on the Association's efforts to battle Eurasian Water Milfoil and on continuing research work to understand and mitigate the causes of Swimmer's Itch.
- The meeting will include a Q and A session. *For the sake of efficiency, members are encouraged to submit questions beforehand.*

Approximately two weeks prior to the meeting an email will be sent to all members for whom the Association has email addresses. This email will provide the Zoom meeting link and instructions on how to send a question to be addressed at the meeting. In addition, we will send those of you who are riparian property owners instructions on how to cast your vote for board members and officers. If you are uncertain about whether we have your current email address, please log onto lakeleelanau.org and enter your email address in the box by Subscribe in the lower right-hand corner of the page and click Subscribe. Don't worry if you've already subscribed. *If we do not have your email address, please sign up now, so you don't miss the email invitation!*

Please note: *You will need to sign up with Zoom on your computer or tablet to participate in the Annual Meeting.*

Please take a minute to sign up before the meeting at <https://zoom.us> or download the Zoom app.

Governance Committee Update

Last winter Tom Hiatt appointed a task force composed of board members Kathy Birney, George Prewitt, Jeff Green, Tom Hiatt, and a community member, Steve Martineau, to review the bylaws of the Association in order to organize the work of the Association to better address continuing challenges to Lake Leelanau, including Swimmer's Itch, control of Eurasian water milfoil and the broadening of community participation on LLLA's board of directors. One of the most significant change recommended by the Task Force and subsequently adopted by the board consolidates the many former smaller board committees into four larger ones: Lake Stewardship; Membership, Community Outreach and Fundraising; Finance; and Governance. The updated bylaws were adopted at the May Board Meeting and can be found at www.lakeleelanau.org.

LLLA's board designated the members of the task force and Bonnie Gotshall as members of the new Governance Committee at the May meeting. The Committee is currently working on identifying and recruiting new members to the board.

Due to the pandemic, the Governance Committee is arranging for LLLA's annual meeting, scheduled for July 23 at 5:30 PM, to be held via Zoom. Members of the Association for whom we have current email addresses will be emailed instructions for participating in the meeting a week or so ahead of the meeting.



Photo Credit: Cathy Fisher



Swimmer's Itch in Lake Leelanau / Charting a Course for the Future

by Brian Price,
Lake/Watershed Biologist

Swimmer's itch is caused by several different species of native parasites. The type of parasite, and its life cycle in Northern Michigan lakes was first described in the 1930's, so it is a naturally occurring component of the life of our lake. But to us, much like black flies or mosquitoes, swimmer's itch is a major annoyance.

For years, lake associations in Leelanau County have pioneered new methods of controlling the parasites that cause swimmer's itch, and new technologies have allowed us to more fully understand the environmental factors that put swimmer's in harms way, and most importantly, how all of us can learn to avoid getting a severe case of "the itch."

Some Historical Perspective

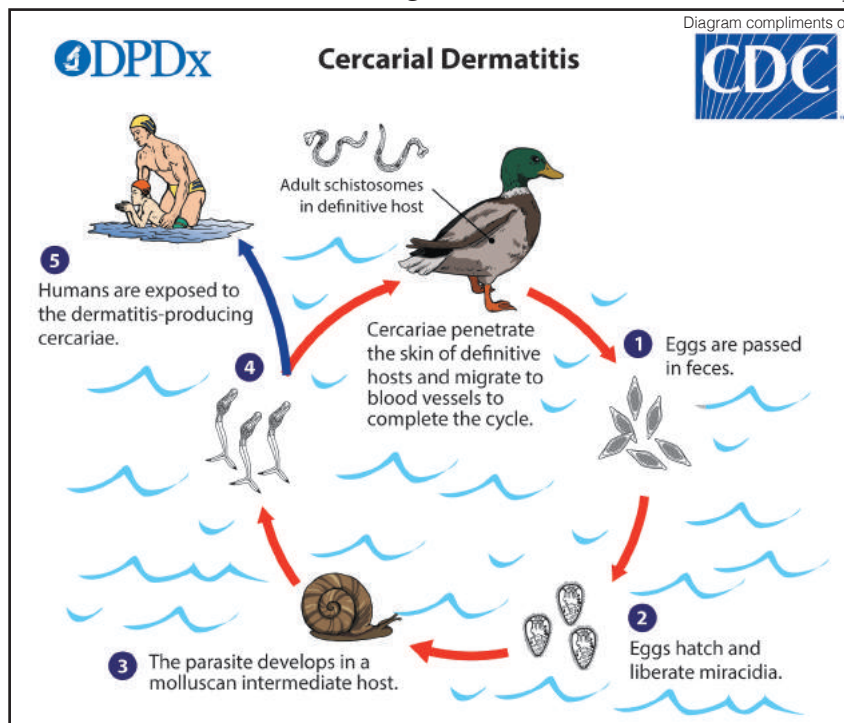
Swimmer's itch is caused by a family of Schistosome parasites with a complex life cycle that has two host stages: an intermediate host snail, and a final host bird. Each species of parasite that is capable of causing swimmers itch has its own characteristic hosts. Swimmer's itch happens when the free-swimming "cercarial" stage of the parasite penetrates a human body rather than a duck, and causes the nasty set of itchy bumps that can ruin a vacation.

Research conducted in the 1980's and 1990's on Glen Lake and Lake Leelanau determined that the majority of swimmer's itch cases at that time were caused by a parasite that cycled between two hosts: a common merganser duck and a snail species (*Stagnicola Emarginata*)

common to sandy-bottomed lakes in northern Michigan. If both hosts were present on a given lake it was virtually certain that swimmer's itch would be a problem (see life cycle diagram below).

The discovery of the host species of the itch-causing parasites offered the possibility of intervening in the life cycle by eliminating from the lake one or the other of the hosts - either the snail or the duck. For years, snails had been poisoned by use of copper sulfate, a process that released large amounts of toxins into the lake, often with limited and fleeting success at reducing rates of swimmer's itch. Researchers reasoned that removing the common merganser from lakes could offer a far more effective and less ecologically disruptive way of breaking the parasite's life cycle.

Once researchers learned to live-trap common mergansers and remove the host birds from lakes, swimmer's itch cases plummeted within three years. This was the experience on Lake Leelanau in the period 1999-2002. When reported cases again ramped up ten years later, the same method of removing the common mergansers was employed on North Lake Leelanau beginning in 2017. But this time, results were not conclusive. After removing all common mergansers for two years in a row, researchers were surprised to learn that reported cases of swimmer's itch did not drop significantly.



Fortunately new technologies have become available that could directly measure the amount of DNA in the water from the actual cercaria that cause swimmer's itch. This qPCR (quantitative polymerase chain reaction) method allowed researchers to directly study exactly what parasites were present in the water, and their concentration under different environmental conditions (time of day, wind, water depth etc.).

Over a 20 week period in 2019 Lake Leelanau, Glen Lake, and Walloon Lake participated in a landmark study that involved weekly water sample collections at ten locations on each of the three lakes in the study, followed by qPCR analysis of each sample. This study made two major findings: 1) spring and fall migrant common mergansers (rather than summer residents) were a very significant source of parasite transmission; and 2) a new species of swimmer's itch causing parasite is responsible for a significant portion of swimmer's itch cases on North Lake Leelanau, and it is the dominant player on the South lake.

A Change in Course

What does this all mean? First, we need to recognize that our efforts to institute "lake-wide" swimmer's itch control, which largely worked several decades ago, are no longer getting the same results. We can't continue if the data shows that it's not working.

Again, we need to do more research to confirm results and to see if the newly-discovered parasite, which cycles through Canada geese and a tiny snail never thought to host such parasites, can be effectively controlled. The good news is that our ability to directly measure the concentration of itch-causing parasites in the water offers an opportunity for swimmers to learn to avoid coming in contact with the itch. As researcher Ron Reimink has pointed out: we don't try to kill all the mosquitoes as we did in the 1960's, now we find effective ways to protect ourselves individually by avoiding mosquitoes, and by using protective gear to greatly reduce our exposure.

We could call this avoidance "smart swimming" techniques. We already know enough to offer the following firm suggestions:

1. Avoid swimming when the wind is blowing on-shore. The cercaria ("worms") drift with wind and currents, and are concentrated in shallow waters when the wind blows in. When it is blowing away from the land, worms are blown out to deeper water and dispersed.
2. Swim later in the day. The cercaria are released early in the morning by snails, but they live less than a day. If you swim in the afternoon, the concentration of cercaria is almost always much lower than early in the morning.
3. If you must swim and suspect that conditions are not perfect, or if you are exceptionally susceptible to swimmer's itch, consider wearing a

"rash guard." These commercially available suits prevent direct water/skin contact, making it nearly impossible for the cercaria to penetrate your skin.

A Final Word: Lake Leelanau Lake Association has been one of the leaders in Michigan in understanding this complex problem. As research points us in new directions, we are shifting focus to dealing with the problem by spearheading new studies and by working to educate swimmers.

Please report all cases of swimmer's itch to the hotline at lakeleelanau.org. By visiting the website you will be able to see where current "hot-spots" for the itch may be, and find the latest advice on prevention strategies.



Water Quality Report by Hugh Farber, Member, Board of Directors

As this is written on 5/29 the water is still cold and there is little to report.

It is safe to say the water levels are high. The potential for shoreline flooding could result in future localized impact from erosion and septic system release. Time will tell.

All folks living on the lake shore and/or using the lake for recreation can be sentinels for noting potential issues like excessive cladophora growth, blue green algae, or near shore vegetation proliferation. Some such can be naturally occurring but may need to be assessed to learn of any invasive species proliferation.

The Michigan Lakes and Streams Association publishes a magazine called The Michigan Riparian. It is strongly suggested for excellent articles on water quality concerns and legal reviews of issues faced by riparian property owners. This is published quarterly and if you are a paid LLLA member, you are entitled to a subscription at a \$14 charge (vs. the \$25 charge for non-members).

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



As always, I encourage you to follow the efforts of Leelanau Clean Water online at www.leelanau.cc/lcw.asp

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riparians, which is a hybrid of a summer newsletter and an annual report.

- We have updated the Association's governance structure. In an effort to streamline our work, the Board of the Association has reviewed and updated its bylaws, revised its committee structure and positioned itself to attract new board members and engage more volunteers. This review was greatly facilitated by Steve Martineau, a local attorney experienced in nonprofit governance. Steve is the immediate past chair of the board of the Leelanau Conservancy.

- We have accomplished all of this with extraordinary financial efficiency. The Association's board comprised entirely of volunteers. We have no employees. We have one part-time consultant, Brian Price, the Association's dedicated and talented Lake Biologist, and we pay one of our board members, Patrice Korson, to proofread and publish the Association's publications, including this newsletter and our Handbook. The Association is a lean entrepreneurial organization and, as a result, your financial contributions to the Association go a very long way.

We simply could not do this without you. We are pleased to recognize the Association's supporters and members in this newsletter. We are grateful to each of you for the confidence you place in the Association and for your continuing support.

We wish you and your families a wonderful summer.

Tom Hiatt
 President,
 Lake Leelanau Lake Association
tom@thomashiatt.com

New Board Member Introductions

Lori Oberson

Lori Oberson has lake-living in her blood, as she was raised on Wixom Lake in Midland County. She and her husband, Randy purchased their Lake Leelanau cottage in 2002, and moved here permanently in 2008. They have three children and four grandchildren. Lori enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and she loves animals. She's also into gardening and is past president of the By-The-Bay Garden Club of Suttons Bay.



Lori and Randy Oberson

Lori spent 20 years as a financial advisor with A.G. Edwards in Midland. She is the newest officer for the Lake Leelanau Lake Association, volunteering her time as our Secretary, saying "I'm very happy to be involved in the lake association to help preserve the lake for future generations".

Jim Wysor

Jim Wysor is a retired family physician from Sandusky, Ohio who recently joined us as an active volunteer and member of the Lake Stewardship Committee.

Jim has been visiting the north lake each summer since 1981, and bought his own cottage in Leland in 2005. Just last year, he and his wife Kit, finished building their retirement home near the mouth of the Leland River, and have lived here full time since then. They have two married children and two grandchildren who visit frequently.

Jim loves hiking, biking, snowshoeing and kayaking. Last year

he began helping Brian Price by water sampling and surveying bird populations, and has been very active as a volunteer since that time. Jim will be standing for election as Vice President of the Association at the upcoming Annual Meeting in July.



Jim Wysor



Water Safety

*by Bonnie Gotshall,
Member, Board of Directors*

2020 Summer is here!!! And what a beginning it has been. It started like the Norwegian sailing boat, "Rollo".. Rollo sailed boldly, steadily, and forward bound.

The Big News for the summer is our new Marine Sheriffs on the lake: Cmdr. Paul Rebori; Dep. Wayne Edington; Dep. Josh Hamilton. After talking to Paul he stated that he was very excited for the summer with his team. He pointed out to me that they will be portaging from lake to lake this summer. It is faster to get to problems by trailering the boats to each lake. They will be making sure each boat has proper Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) on board. The primary cause of drowning is the failure to have the appropriate number of PFDs on board and in use. Another issue they will focus on is boaters having a proper observer on the boat while pulling skiers/tubers. When boating in buoy areas observe the signs. Those areas are for SLOW NO WAKE. They are designated for the protection of people, boat props, wildlife and shoreline. With that said, here are the duties of the Marine sheriff's on the inland lakes, including Lake Leelanau (<https://www.leelanau.cc/somarinepatrol.asp>)

Responsibilities of Marine Safety Deputies

- Enforce State of Michigan Boating Laws as well as Special Local Watercraft Controls.
- Patrol the Lake Michigan shoreline from Empire to Traverse City, including both Manitou Islands and both Fox Islands.
Offshore County waters: 2,154.74 sq. mi.
- Patrol of the 5 inland lakes of Leelanau County.
- Patrol Sanctioned Marine Events – numbering from 18 to 20 per year.
- Investigate marine-related incidents.
- Recover lost and/or abandoned watercraft.
- Remove navigation obstructions.
- Assist distressed boaters and tow when necessary.
- Investigate boating accidents and complete

- reports for the Sheriff's Office and the State of MI.
- Perform Basic First Aid.
- Conduct vessel safety checks.
- Teach Boater Safety Classes and award Boater Safety Certificates.
- Conduct boat livery Inspections of rental boats at a minimum of 24 boat livery locations.
- Responsible for maintenance and storage of 5 vessels and 2 vehicles.
- Assist the United States Coast Guard with Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue Operations.
- Assist local Fire and Rescue Units with Search and Rescue Operations.
- Assist the Northern Michigan Mutual Aid Dive Team in Underwater Recovery operations.
- Provide transportation for LCSO Maritime Security Team.
- Assist the DNR and neighboring law enforcement agencies with Marine Law Enforcement Activities.
- Support the National Park Service with offshore Search and Rescue Operation.

The Marine Patrol Office can be reached at 231-256-8650 / or by email at marine@co.leelanau.mi.us

Who May Operate a Boat?

Those born on or after July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally only if they have been issued a Boating Safety Certificate and have it on board the boat.

Who May Operate a Personal Watercraft?

Persons at least 16 years of age and those born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a Boating Safety Certificate and have it on board the PWC.

If you have misplaced your Boating Safety Certificate, you may request a duplicate at: www2.dnr.state.mi.us/DupCertRequest

Life Jackets Save Lives!

Whether on a boat, PWC or Stand Up Paddle Board... your chances of surviving a fall into the water are much greater with a Life Jacket.

Please be a smart boater and WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

**Boater Safety
Certificates may be
obtained by taking an
online class at
[www.boat-ed.com/
michigan](http://www.boat-ed.com/michigan)**



Membership Notes

*by Barb Kobberstad,
Member, Board of Directors*

One of last year's goals was to migrate our membership records to a secure software platform that allows us to easily search and communicate electronically with our members. I'm happy to say that we accomplished this goal. One big benefit has been our ability to communicate with our members on a regular, electronic basis via monthly e-bulletins and occasional, time-sensitive notices. This was exemplified in February when a notice was sent out, urging members to communicate their opinions to the County Commissioners about funding for the Leland dam's maintenance and repairs. The announcement was heard and the response was great.

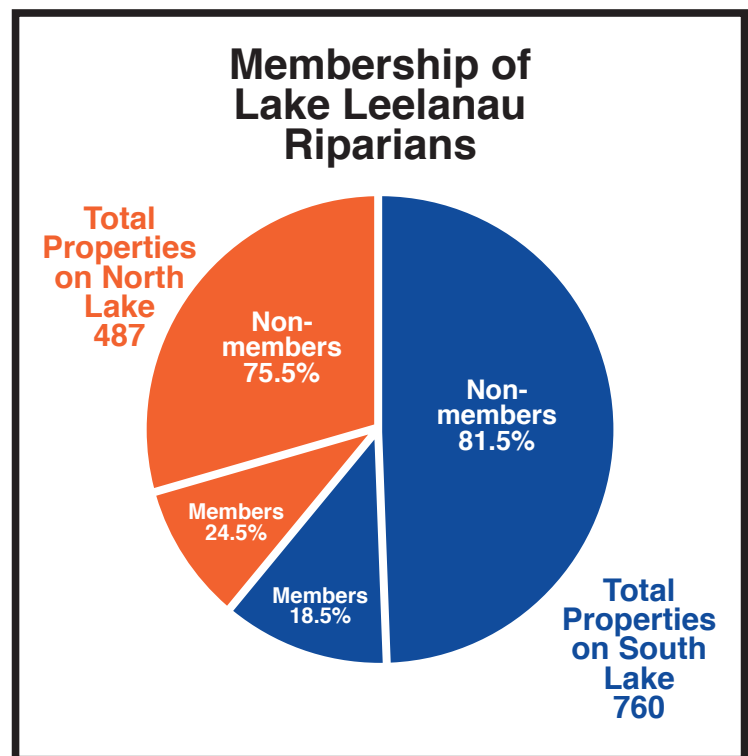
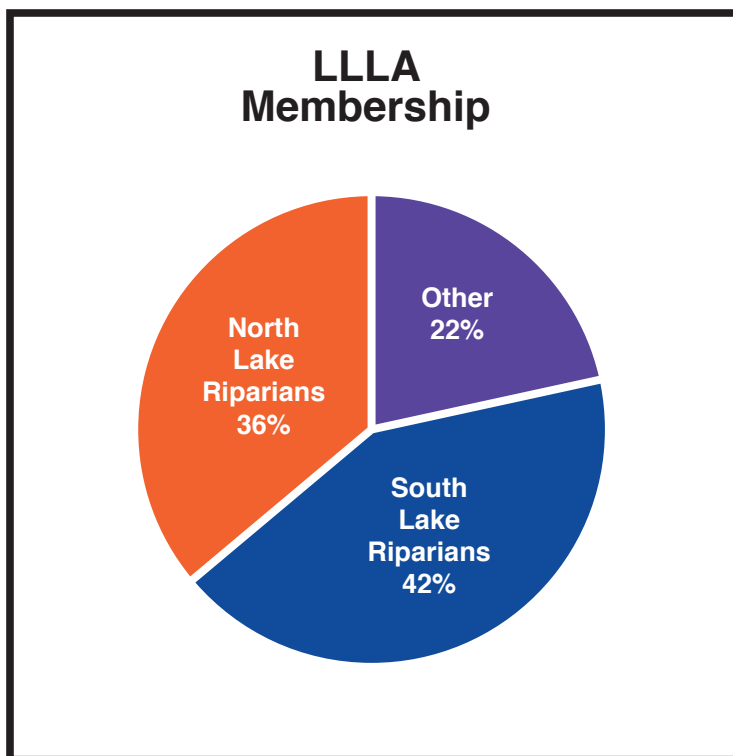
Thanks to this software, we also now have the improved ability to understand the composition of our membership. Below are two charts that show the current make-up of our membership. In particular, the second chart highlights how much importance we attach to increasing our roster of Lake Leelanau riparian property owner members during the coming year.

New Membership Dues Structure for 2020

In our continuing effort to facilitate membership among Lake Leelanau's many riparians and supporters, we recently updated our membership dues structure. We now have a \$25 entry membership level, aimed at young people and seasonal visitors for whom the previous \$45 entry level was too high. We also have a \$1,000 level for members willing and able to support our mission with such a generous amount, and a custom amount, for members wishing to donate an amount different from the new dues structure, which is:

\$25	\$50	\$100
\$250	\$500	\$1,000

Lastly, a business membership level is now available for businesses wishing to support our Association. The suggested contribution amount is between \$100 and \$1,000.





Member Communications

by *Steve Lindo,*
Member, Board of Directors

This combined Summer Newsletter and Annual Report caps a year of evolution in our member communications.

Through our monthly ebulletins we now provide timely information about our activities and topics of importance to the Lake Leelanau watershed. These topics include Eurasian Water Milfoil, Swimmer's Itch, the Leland Dam, boater safety, boat washing, fishing and LLLA programs and events.

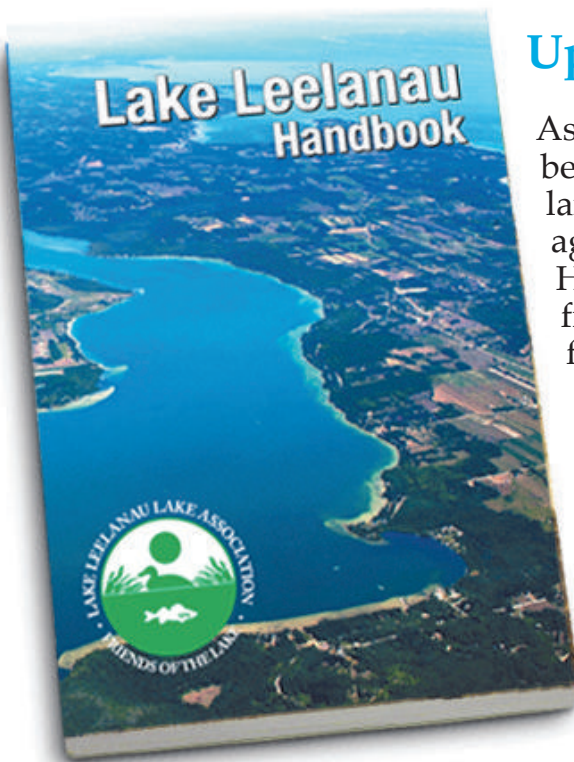
Coming soon will be the distribution of our 2020 Handbook and a facelift to our website, which we'll announce in our ebulletin when it's ready. Lastly, we've decided to discontinue our Spring and Fall printed newsletters, which only reach a limited, off-season audience.

Fundraising Update

Our President, Tom Hiatt, already described in his letter (page 3 of this newsletter) the unprecedented level of financial support which we've received during the past year from riparian members to fund our fight to contain the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil in Lake Leelanau. In addition to seeking donations for this vital effort, we're also working to obtain grants that are available for this and other lake preservation activities. The third component of our plans is to increase membership contributions from Lake Leelanau riparians and local businesses, through active communications, revised dues structure and, when health conditions allow, in-person gatherings.

Volunteer Recruitment

During the past few months, we've welcomed a number of talented volunteers to assist with our Board and program activities. We're always looking for more, so please tell us of your interest by sending a message to info@lakeleelanau.org or responding to our monthly ebulletins.

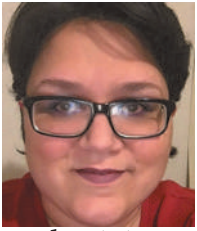


Updated Handbook Available Soon

As has been reported previously, a committee of the LLLA has been working diligently to revise and update the Lake Leelanau Riparian Handbook, which was published over 20 years ago. The process has faced many unforeseen roadblocks. However, we have worked through these issues and have a final handbook which will be going to print within the next few weeks.

We are very excited to get this resource to our members and other riparians. We believe you will be referring to it often. In it you will find information about invasive species, other threats to the quality of our lake, water safety, boating safety, and the history of our area.

Stay tuned for details on how to receive your copy.



Lake Stewardship

by *Patrice Korson*
Member, Board of Directors

Many people will agree that living on Lake Leelanau is a dream come true, as the lake provides a great place for water sports, fishing and entertaining. Some are blessed to be able to enjoy this paradise on a permanent basis, while many others join us only seasonally. No matter the situation, shoreline land ownership brings a huge responsibility. As a riparian, you have the ability to directly affect the health and quality of the lake... positively or negatively.

Studies have shown that the single largest threat to inland lake water quality nationwide, including in Michigan, is the loss of natural lakeshore. The native vegetation of natural shorelines provides vital protection by reducing runoff, preventing shoreline erosion, and absorbing harmful nutrients and other potential water contaminants. Since nearly two-thirds of threatened or endangered birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians in Michigan spend all or part of their lives in shoreland areas, when humans alter the shoreline there can be unfortunate consequences.

Alteration of shoreline happens in two ways.

1. By the removal of something... native plants, trees, logs and rocks.
2. By the addition of something... retaining walls, beach sand, chemicals (runoff of pesticides / herbicides) or nutrients (from lawn fertilizers and faulty septic systems)

Sadly, many of us are guilty of these practices.

Here are some ways you, as the land owner, can be a good steward to our lake.

- Consider a “natural shoreline”. If you have existing trees and plants at your shore, leave them. Stop mowing within a few feet of the shore and see what native plants emerge. You can also add plants or trees to create a lovely, natural shoreline that will help prevent erosion, protect water quality, and provide habitat for wildlife.



Natural Shoreline
 Photo Credit: Marie Korson

- Refrain from adding commercially-available beach sand to your shore. It will leave your property vulnerable to erosion, and encourages algae growth and invasive plants such as Eurasian Watermilfoil.

- Maintain your septic system properly and have it inspected on regular intervals. A malfunctioning septic system can not only leach excessive nutrients into the lake contributing to Cladophora and other algae growth, but can also be responsible for harmful viruses and bacteria that can make people sick.

- Use a buffer zone in your yard. The vegetation of the buffer zone slows down water moving over and through the soil preventing erosion and giving plant roots the chance to absorb fertilizers and other toxins before they can make their way into the waters of Lake Leelanau. Visit the Michigan Shoreland Stewards website mishorelandstewards.org to read all about landscaping your property in a manner that will benefit our lake.

- Wash your boat! If you’ve had your boat (or any other equipment like waders or gear) in any other lake, wash them before you put them back into Lake Leelanau. Wash on land, far from where runoff water can roll into the lake. Invasive species can hitchhike on your boat from other lakes, and we don’t want them in ours.

A brief note about erosion.

If you are noticing erosion, consider bio-engineering as a beautiful lake-friendly way to help absorb wave and ice forces on your shore. Bio-engineering can solve shoreline erosion in a way that supports the lake ecosystem. It works through an evaluation of your land, and selection of the most appropriate means of erosion control. This may include plants (specifically with deep roots) and rocks but also may require erosion control blankets or logs, which are made of coconut fiber and wood, and are completely natural. Remember, permits are required before making any alterations to your shore. Contact the Leelanau Conservation District for more information. You can find the application at leelanaucd.org

Lake stewardship isn’t someone else’s responsibility.... it is yours and mine. Please do what you can to help preserve the beauty and health of our lake. If you have any questions, let me know. I may not be able to answer them myself, but I will happily get you an answer. korsoncreative@gmail.com



Leland Dam Report

*by John J. Popa, PE,
Member, Board of Directors*

Lake Leelanau property owners are aware by now, that the dam between Lake Leelanau and Lake Michigan is in need of several repairs. For the past six months there have been serious discussions about where this burden should fall.

On Jan. 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 Feb. 11th ...and they agreed. However, it ended in a 4-3 vote. Many of you wrote, spoke and/or stated your position to both the Dam Authority and to the Commissioners. These voices made a difference, and we thank you.

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 started 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 do need attention. Below is a brief list of some of the more urgent repairs.

Control room floor flooding.....	repaired earlier this year
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 within their means. Therefore no special assessment will happen for riparians.



Photo Courtesy of Leelanau Historical Society

Fish Habitat Structures

We are working on obtaining approval for installing several fish habitat structures throughout the lake. The DNR is in favor of this, which has been done in the past on our lake and other lakes. These fish structures promote the protection and production of many aquatic species, and also provide cover for all types of fish. What makes these wonderful, is that where there is fish...there is fishing...especially for kids!

The plan is to obtain a permit (valid for a few years). The structures will have to be built within certain guidelines, as well as meet installation criteria including depth, location, permission and documentation.

I cannot get into all the details at this time, but I need names. By the time you read this, I will have met with the DEQ / DNR to review the permit application. If it is anything like the last time, many riparians will be interested in having a fish structure (or structures) in front of their property.

Please e-mail me if you are interested. This way I can create a file that is easier to retrieve than a whole bunch of hand written notes. I will need your name, address, and phone number.

You may call if you wish, but I will still need an e-mail.

John Popa PE
jjpopa@charter.net
 231-384-5364





Treasurer's Report

by Kathy Birney, Treasurer
Lake Leelanau Lake Association

Revenues for the twelve months ending June 30, 2019 and the six months ending December 31, 2019 were \$52,000 and \$105,000, respectively. Please note that the Board of Directors changed the Association's fiscal year end to December 31 in 2019. Revenues for December 31, 2019 were significantly higher than the twelve-month ending June 30, 2019 as a result of approximately \$68,000 received in donations to fund the Association's fight against the Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), North America's most invasive aquatic weed. Expenses for the twelve months ending June 30, 2019 and the six months ending December 31, 2019 were \$66,000 and \$57,000, respectively.

Our twelve-month budget for the year ending December 31, 2020 anticipates \$202,000 in revenue, including \$135,000 in donations and grants for the fight against EWM, \$50,000 from membership dues and \$10,000 in donations for the annual Kid's Fish Day. The budget also includes \$192,000 of expenses, with \$135,000 budgeted for our fight against EWM, \$11,000 for Kid's Fish Day, \$10,000 for swimmer's itch research, \$10,000 for work in the area of improving general water quality and \$19,000 for management and general expenses, which includes \$6,000 for the publication and distribution of our long awaited Lake Leelanau Lake Association Handbook.

As of December 31, 2019, we have a healthy balance sheet including cash and CD's of \$157k: \$96k in unrestricted funds; \$58,000 in EWM Funds and \$2,000 in the Kid's Fish Day Fund. Since Kid's Fish Day in 2020 has been cancelled, monies in this Fund will be carried over until next year.

A copy of the Association's audited financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2019 prepared by the Association's independent auditors, Gabridge & Company, PLC, along with a copy of the Association's Form 990, are available on the Association's website. To view these documents, please go to www.lakeleelanau.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Birney, CPA
Vice President/Treasurer,
Lake Leelanau Lake Association

	ACTUAL 12 months	ACTUAL 6 months	BUDGET 12 months
	Jul '18 - Jun 19	Jul '19 - Dec 19	Jan '20 - Dec 20
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	30,717	26,511	50,000
Unrestricted Donations	2,290	9,015	2,300
Outreach Donations	11,976	162	9,700
Swimmer's Itch Donations	6,320	44	4,000
Swimmer's Itch Grants	0	325	0
Eurasian Water Milfoil Donations	0	68,048	70,000
Eurasian Water Milfoil Grants	0	0	65,000
Interest Income	945	696	1,000
TOTAL REVENUE	52,247	104,801	202,000
EXPENSES			
Water Safety Expenses	125	284	1,000
Fundraising Expenses	5,377	2,182	5,500
Outreach Expenses	11,263	371	11,500
Swimmer's Itch Expenses	24,438	25,636	10,000
Eurasian Water Milfoil Expenses	0	10,320	134,800
Enteric Bacteria Research	0	6,022	0
Water Quality General Expenses	9,824	6,353	9,950
Management & General Expenses	15,340	6,099	18,950
TOTAL EXPENSES	66,367	57,267	191,700
NET INCOME (LOSS)	-14,120	47,534	10,300

Honor Roll of Donors*

\$20,000 and above

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\$10,000 to \$19,999

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**The Honor Roll includes donations and memberships the Lake Leelanau Lake Association received between January 1, 2019 and June 15, 2020. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, misspelled it, or if you would like to modify the way we record your gift in our records, we would like to know. Please email Barb Kobberstad at bkobberstad@gmail.com.*

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Thank You!



**The Honor Roll includes donations and memberships the Lake Leelanau Lake Association received between January 1, 2019 and June 15, 2020. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, misspelled it, or if you would like to modify the way we record your gift in our records, we would like to know. Please email Barb Kobberstad at bkobberstad@gmail.com.*

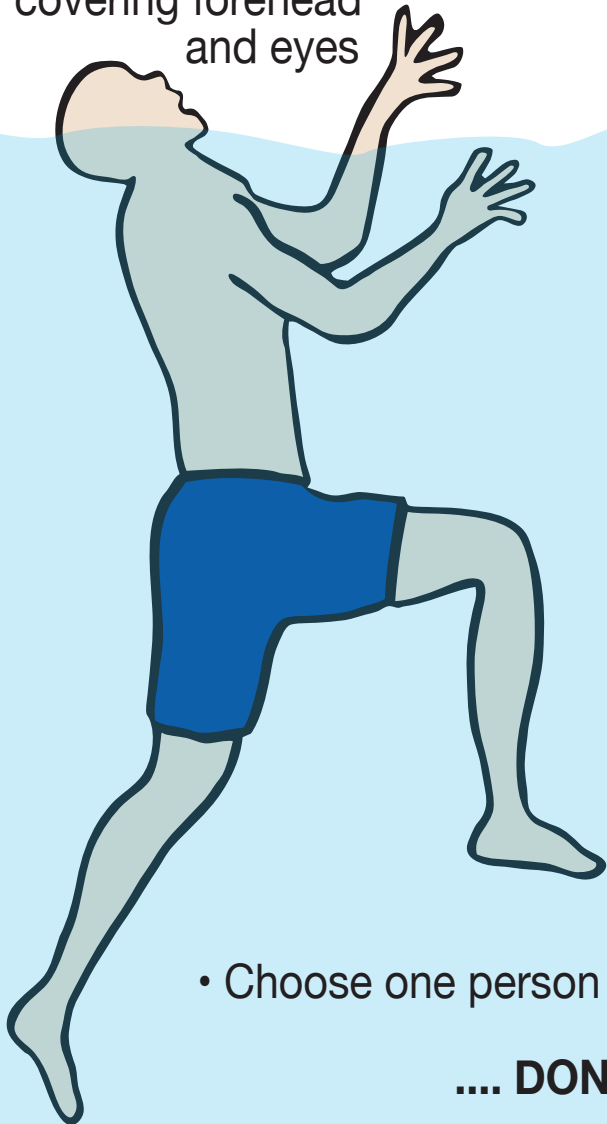
We salute the following businesses that support us through membership and/or donations.

**Boathouse Vineyards • Break'n Waves Boat Rentals • Hansen's Grocery
 Leelanau Conservancy • Stander Marine**

DROWNING... It Can Happen To Even the Strongest Swimmer

Know the Signs of Drowning!

- Person is facing shore
- Person cannot yell or wave
- Head is tilted back
- Mouth is at water level or below
- Body is vertical
- Legs are moving in a 'climbing ladder' motion
- Arms are pushing down against the water
- Eyes may be glassy or closed
- Hair covering forehead and eyes



Small Children

are top heavy, and can fall over with no warning. **Small children are safest within arm's reach!** Children playing in the water make noise... **if a child becomes quiet, get to them quickly to find out why!**

How Can You Help?

Don't become a victim yourself. Throw a flotation device or any floating item to the victim (life jacket, paddleboard, cooler, soccer ball... anything that floats). And don't go out to help them without having a flotation device yourself. Have someone call 911 to get help on the way.

PLAN for SAFETY to Avoid the Risk of Drowning

- Have your address properly marked at your driveway so help can find you
 - Check the weather forecast for dangerous waves & currents and stay dry when waves are high
 - When in doubt, don't go out
- Stay away from deep water & piers
 - Use the BUDDY SYSTEM
- Choose one person to be your Designated Swimmer Watcher and if you're the designated person
.... DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE WATER!

*Please clip this page and post at your lake property.
Knowledge is power and can help you STAY SAFE on the water.*



To become a member or renew your membership,
please fill out this sheet and mail with your check to
Lake Leelanau Lake Association, PO Box 123, Leland, MI 49654
or pay by credit card at www.lakeleelanau.org

Name(s) _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS (Address label encouraged)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email* _____

**Please help us to keep you informed of LLLA events by providing your email address.
We will NOT share your email address with third parties.*

LOCAL ADDRESS (if applicable) ☐ Mail ☐ No Mail

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Annual Membership Levels

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100

☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000

☐ Custom ☐ Business (\$100 to \$1,000)

I wish to make an
additional
donation of \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Would you like to volunteer? If so, please note area of interest _____

An Association Volunteer will contact you by email or phone.

Comments, questions, suggestions: _____

Lake Leelanau Lake Association is a non-profit 501c3 organization.





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

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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.



Photo Credit: Cathy Fisher