



November 2020

Dear Friend,

What are your most enduring memories of Lake Leelanau?

Is it a memory of your children and grandchildren gathered around your table? Or perhaps teaching a child to steer a boat, bait a hook or learn to water ski? Or sipping a cup of coffee on your porch as you watch the sun rise?

Many of us love Leelanau County for the lake's clear waters and for the unspoiled beauty of the surrounding countryside. The ties which bind us to this landscape are not only the achingly beautiful vistas of land and water but also the many rich experiences—often with friends, family and loved ones—which remain with us year after year.

Protecting the beauty and clean clear waters of Lake Leelanau is the primary work of only one organization: The Lake Leelanau Lake Association. The Leelanau Conservancy, an organization which is an extraordinary asset to our community, focuses principally on conserving land in Leelanau County, while the Lake Association focuses exclusively on protecting the lake itself—a lake often ranked among the cleanest and clearest in North America.

This year alone, your Association has initiated a long-term plan to identify and remove from Lake Leelanau a threat scientists have identified as the most invasive aquatic weed in North America: Eurasian water milfoil. If left unchecked, this invasive plant, estimated to infest approximately ten acres in our lake, would form a dense carpet of unsightly weeds, significantly impairing fishing, swimming and boating. One independent study indicates that property values drop an average of 10% in lakes with substantial milfoil infestations. Working closely with naturalists from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Association has hired scientists and divers and mobilized volunteers to tackle this problem—and made substantial progress. We will need to continue this work for several more years.

As you consider year-end contributions to your favorite charities, we gently request that you also consider a year-end contribution to the Lake Leelanau Lake Association—the only organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the clear waters of Lake Leelanau for generations to come.

With appreciation and warm regards,

Tom Hiatt  
for the Board of Directors  
Lake Leelanau Lake Association