

Lewiston Lake Living

Twin Lakes Property Owners Association

“making a difference in the life of our lakes and our community”

February, 2020

President's Letter

I'd like to thank all of you that renewed your TLPOA memberships for 2020. With the suspension of requesting contributions to the EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) fund in 2020, there has been an increase in the number of folks choosing to become Lake Stewards. These additional dollars go into our General Fund and cover all our expenses except those for the Aeration and EWM Treatment Programs.

Any and all contributions are greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Ice thickness is more variable this year from as little as a few inches to more than ten inches. Temperatures in Northern Michigan have been above freezing many times which can create an unstable condition. On East Twin, a snowmobiler did break through the ice on New Year's Eve. He had to be rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and luckily is o.k. Please use sound judgement and plan accordingly to avoid an accident such as the one that brought in the new year.

Here's a brief overview of items worth noting:

The TLPOA Executive Board approved the 2020 budget at the January conference call. We increased the line item titled "lake monitoring" to \$7,500 and are including "water clarity" in its title. This was done in anticipation of efforts to combat the declining water clarity on East Twin.

The State of Michigan has not funded the CLMP lake monitoring program for 2020, meaning the water testing we perform for Secchi disk, chlorophyll, and phosphorus levels will not be analyzed unless we send the samples to a separate testing agency and foot the bill. Not sure yet how this is going to turn out. The good news is our state did fund the CLMP program for five years starting in 2021.

Karen Wilding and I met with the Township and County Health Department in December to discuss concerns failing septic systems may be having on our lakes. As such, Tim Brown, from the County Health Department is seeking to get grant monies expanded so we can implement a more comprehensive testing program for E-Coli. Currently, there is only one monthly test for E-Coli performed at the public beach on East Twin.

Thanks again for your generosity and support!

Dominic Manzi

TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Dominic Manzi
(248) 444-9973 (cell)

Vice President

OPEN

Treasurer

Pat Kish

Secretary

Tom Conquest

Board Members

John Jackson
Tim Manganello
Bill Siegrist
Judd Wellard
Karen Wilding

Consultants

Bonnie Page
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Website

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Join us on Facebook!

Twin Lakes POA, Lewiston MI

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If you have comments or suggestions, please contact us at

LewistonLakeLiving@gmail.com

Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue.

**Twin Lakes Property Owners Association Statement of Activities
Year Ended December 31, 2019**

	Total		General Fund		Aeration		Eurasian Watermilfoil	
	Annual Budget	Actual to Date	Annual Budget	Actual to Date	Annual Budget	Actual to Date	Annual Budget	Actual to Date
REVENUES								
Lake Stewardships	12,000	15,525	12,000	15,525				
Family Memberships	4,500	5,595	4,500	5,595				
Interest	950	1,373	950	1,373				
Other	-	1,025		1,025				
Aeration	5,000	8,510			5,000	8,510		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	20,000	13,260					20,000	13,260
Total Revenue	42,450	45,288	17,450	23,518	5,000	8,510	20,000	13,260
EXPENSES								
Education	1,000	-	1,000	-				
Memberships and Communication	1,500	1,834	1,500	1,834				
Insurance	1,200	959	1,200	959				
Advertising and Public Relations	500	-	500	-				
Postal Expense	1,500	1,031	1,500	1,031				
Membership Events	1,000	95	1,000	95				
Lake Monitoring & Water Clarity	5,000	223	5,000	223				
Contingency	100	-	100	-				
Organizational	2,000	1,285	2,000	1,285				
Community Donations	1,400	1,190	1,400	1,190				
Beach Party	3,000	1,513	3,000	1,513				
Aeration	9,000	16,601			9,000	16,601		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	12,000	7,667					12,000	7,667
Total Expenses	39,200	32,397	18,200	8,129	9,000	16,601	12,000	7,667
Total Net Income / (Deficit)	3,250	12,891	(750)	15,389	(4,000)	(8,091)	8,000	5,593
2019 Beginning Balance Cash and CD		149,576		18,604		24,763		106,210
Balance Cash and CD at December 31, 2019		162,468		33,993		16,672		111,803

IMPORTANT NOTE: TLPOA DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recent IRS regulations require 501 (c)(3) charitable organizations to acknowledge in writing any individual donation of \$250 or more, and state that funds were not used to provide goods and or services to the donor(s) in exchange for the donation.

In 2019, there were approximately 70 members who donated \$250 or more and as such were sent an email or letter, now required by the IRS.

Regardless of how much you may have donated, TLPOA is a 501 (c)(3), not-for-profit charitable organization and we remind everyone that ***your donation may be tax deductible depending on how you file your income tax.***

Questions regarding your donation should be directed to lewistonlakeliving@gmail.com.

SHOCKING! WAS IT AN ALIEN SPACECRAFT OR A BOATLOAD OF RECALCITRANTS POACHING?

Short answer, Neither! The photo below depicts nighttime electrofishing, a technique used by the DNR to survey and evaluate the success of a fish stocking program. The boat used by the DNR on our Twin Lakes has far more lights than the pic below. To the uninformed, it can raise a big question: WHAT THE HECK IS THAT!

Neal Godby, Senior Fisheries Biologist for the DNR conducted such a survey to check up on the 77,216 spring fingerling walleye stocked on East Twin on June 21, 2019. The average length of the fingerling was 1.3 inches at the time of stocking. The effort consisted of surveying 4.0 miles of shoreline over a two-plus hour period. They captured a total of 237 walleye sizes 4-24 inches in length, of which 219 were age-0, meaning 219 were of the fingerling group released in June.

According to Neal, this was an excellent catch rate and indicated a healthy survival rate. The Management Direction at DNR is to continue alternate-year stocking between our two lakes. LOOK OUT WEST TWIN!



PHOTO OBTAINED NEIL GODBY (DNR) – ELECTRO-SHOCKING ON MULLETT LAKE



Walleye are a member of the perch family (Percidae). The **walleye** is named for its pearlescent eye, which is caused by a reflective layer of pigment called the tapetum lucidum, that helps them see and feed at night or in murky water. **Walleye** can reach a maximum length of about 36" and weigh over 20 pounds.

FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

As we continue to make Lewiston and all of Albert Township a safer, more attractive place to live and visit one issue that has been a concern to the Albert Township Board is that of dumpsters on private property. The concerns are the locations and visibility of dumpsters, and the maintenance of dumpsters, including refuse overflow. Dumpsters that can be viewed from any public or private road need to be either moved or shielded by an opaque fence or an effective vegetation screen. Property owners must keep dumpster lids closed and not allow refuse to accumulate above the top rim of the dumpster or allow refuse to accumulate on the ground near the dumpster. The section of the Nuisance Ordinance that covers dumpster location and shielding enforcement will be extended to May 25, 2020. Copies of Nuisance Ordinance No. 51 can be picked up at the Township Office at 4360 Hanson Ave. Lewiston. (Around the corner from the State Police Station)

Residents and visitors will continue to have the option of using the Township Transfer Site located at 3661 County Road 491 to drop off household refuse, or contract for weekly pickup service privately. The Montmorency Solid Waste Landfill located off County Road 487 south of Atlanta is another option.

On another matter, on March 10, voting will take place to renew the 0.5 Albert Township Road millage. The 0.5 mill brings in about \$77,000 a year that is used for local road brining and special road projects. If you are eligible to vote, please do so.

Coming up in town this spring is the Mushroom Festival on May 9 and the Block Party on June 11.

Respectfully yours, Mike Dombrowski, Albert Township Supervisor

MICHIGAN'S AGING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The major bacterial pollutant in Michigan's water is E.coli. While E.coli levels are affected by several factors such as water fowl, a failed septic system around a body of water can be a major source. Unfortunately, Michigan is the only state that does not require regular inspection of septic systems. Yes, our "Great Lake State" has no legal requirements and the problem is not getting better.

Only eleven out of Michigan's 83 counties currently have established septic codes which are administered by county health departments. Most of these codes include inspections only at the point of sale. While point of sale ordinances are better than nothing, they aren't strong enough to protect our drinking water, ground water, or the lakes and rivers we so admire.

How old is your septic system? Do you know the last time your septic system was inspected, or at a minimum pumped out?

The TLPOA Board is pursuing an expanded E. coli testing program and is partnering with Albert Township and the County Health Department to determine the next steps to be taken.



GOOD AND BAD E. COLI

There are good and bad E.coli. The good kind inhabits the intestines of most warm-blooded animals, aiding in digestion. Bad E.coli will cause diarrhea, stomach cramps and vomiting and can lead to other health issues, especially in young and elderly.

Current testing for E.coli is limited to the public beach on East Twin during the summer months.

THE AMERICAN BALD EAGLE – A MAJESTIC WORK OF ART THAT WAS ALMOST LOST

This past November, just as the lakes began to freeze over, a group of as many as seven bald eagles were spotted on both East and West Twin on the freshly frozen lakes.



Bald Eagles were declared the American national bird in 1782, but their numbers steadily declined over the next two centuries owing to human activities. For example, Alaskan bounty hunters killed more than 100,000 eagles in the period 1917-52.

The U.S. Government made it illegal to kill bald eagles in 1940 (Alaska was exempt).

Numbers continued to decline, thanks in part to the usage of DDT pesticide until by the early 1960's, there were less than 450 nesting pairs in the U.S.

Finally, in 1972, the use of DDT was banned in the U.S., and in 1978, the government declared the bald eagle an endangered species.

By the late 80's, these measures helped replenish the numbers of nesting pairs, and the bald eagle was re-classified from endangered to threatened status in 1995. Current estimates today are that there are more than 7,000 nesting pairs in the U.S.

Around here, it's fairly common to spot a bald eagle. The eagle nest located on the south-east shore of East Twin has been active for several years now, although unfortunately, no young were born in this location in 2019.

EVER THINK ABOUT BEING A VOLUNTEER?

The TLPOA Board of Directors always needs help. Our current Board is short several members. It is a working Board, meaning that Board members take on specific tasks like organizing the Beach Party, website administration, EWM vendor liaison, the Aeration Program, coffee/donuts for the membership meetings, and yes, newsletter editor. We meet monthly, although our meetings are via conference call from November through March.

You do not have to join the Board to help, though. It might be that you are just interested in a specific issue to lend us a hand. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board, or if you would just like to lend help to an activity, please contact us at lewistonlakeliving@gmail.com.

A TRUE WINTER WONDERLAND – IN OR OUT OF TOWN – LEWISTON IS AN AWESOME PLACE!



This herd of elk was seen just two miles northwest of town as the crow flies.

A colorful poster for the Lewiston Beach Party. The background is yellow. At the top, there's a multi-colored umbrella. Below it, the text "Life is Always a BEACH PARTY" is written in a playful font. To the left is a cartoon girl in a swimsuit, and to the right is a cartoon boy in swim trunks. Below the main text, there are two blue shapes representing water. The left one says "Sponsored by Twin Lakes Property Owners' Association" and the right one says "FREE Admission Fun for all ages!". In the center, there's a green bucket with a shovel and the word "in" inside. Below that, a beach ball is shown next to the word "LEWISTON" in large, bold, blue letters. Underneath "LEWISTON" is "Saturday" and "July 11, 2020" in a blue, cursive font. At the bottom, it says "Music & Games begin at 5:00" in a red, italicized font. In the top right corner, it says "East Twin Lake Public Beach Park".

**Date Set for 2020
BEACH PARTY**

The TLPOA Annual Beach Party is scheduled for Saturday, July 11th at the Public Beach on East Twin. This event will feature live entertainment and games for children of all ages.

Pack your cooler, picnic basket, blanket and folding chairs and get down to the beach at 5:00pm.

It's FREE!

>>> Please check your newsletter mailing label for your current membership status. <<<

2020 TLPOA MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

New *Renewal*

Member Name(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Primary Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Lake Address _____

Telephone () _____ East Twin Lake West Twin Lake

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS		
	Membership Dues or Suggested Contribution Amounts	My Lake Contribution
Membership Dues All membership dues provide additional funding for special projects to study and maintain a healthy lake ecology and benefit the lake community.	\$150 Lake Stewardship or \$35 Basic Family Membership	\$
Aeration Suggested Contribution Your contribution will allow the TLPOA to maintain the aeration system on East Twin Lake, including replacing parts as needed, and paying for electricity. Suggested contribution rates based on lake frontage owned are shown at right. We welcome all levels of contribution!	Lakefront Owners Less than 75 ft. of lake frontage \$50 75 to 125 ft. of lake frontage \$75 More than 125 ft. of lake frontage \$100 Shared Access \$25	\$
Eurasian Water Milfoil Treatment Generous contributions from our membership, along with grants from Montmorency County have allowed the TLPOA to respond quickly to control EWM and have covered the anticipated costs of surveying and treating infested areas.	We are currently funded at a sufficient level to meet current needs and have suspended our requests for funding for 2020. Thank you!	
MY TOTAL LAKE CONTRIBUTION		\$

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT! PLEASE MAIL TODAY!

The TLPOA is a 501(c)(3) public charity and your contribution may be deductible if you itemize your deductions on your tax return. Consult your tax adviser for details.

**Please make your check payable to TLPOA and mail to
P.O. Box 807, Lewiston, MI 49756**

SAVE THE DATE: May 23, 2020 – TLPOA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 23, when TLPOA will have its annual membership meeting.



The meeting will be held at the Lewiston Elementary School and starts at 9:00am. Coffee and donuts begin at 8:30 a.m.

Will be voting on some suggested changes to our by-laws as well as conducting a brief business overview of those projects the Board is working on to help keep our lakes healthy and safe!

If you have never been to one of these meetings in the past, please consider coming in and joining us. We pledge to keep the meeting informative, yet brief!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION!

**Twin Lakes Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 807
Lewiston, MI 49756**

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR TLPOA MEMBERSHIP!