

Lewiston Lake Living

Twin Lakes Property Owners Association

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

May, 2024

President’s Letter

Last month, I was fortunate enough to attend the Michigan Lakes and Stream Conference in Muskegon. This annually held conference discusses all types of issues and helps attendees better understand causes that are detrimental to the quality of our Michigan lakes and streams along with potential solutions to these problems. Over 300 people attended this year’s conference (a new record), the majority of those representing lake associations similar to our TLPOA.

Many issues discussed at the conference apply to what we are currently experiencing on East and West Twin Lakes. Invasive species, increased phosphorus levels, and ‘short-term’ rentals were several issues discussed that our TLPOA currently deals with. So, it is helpful to listen both to experts studying these issues as well as the ability to collaborate with other lake association members on actions taken by their specific lake associations.

Two issues that drew notable attention at the conference and affect almost all Michigan lakes and streams are being tackled by our Michigan Legislature in the form of bills currently in the discussion and committee phase; that being 1) a statewide septic system code, and 2) restrictions on the use of wake boats. While many proposed bills for a statewide septic code have failed in the past, proposed bills regulating wake boat usage are relatively new.

1. Nearly all attendees seemed quite embarrassed that Michigan is the only state to not have a statewide septic code. State Representatives Phil Skaggs and Carrie Rheingans discussed their latest proposed bill that begins by identifying the oldest septic systems in existence and establishing inspection criteria for these older systems along with money to help fund inspections and system upgrades if required. Of note was the elimination of any type of ‘point of sale’ inspection requirement that has been a reason previously proposed bills have failed.
2. State Representative Julie Rogers discussed her recently proposed bill that would regulate both the distance from shore a wake boat operating in wake mode must abide by (500 ft) and lake water depth (20 ft) during operation. Her bill is modeled from a similar bill recently passed in the state of Vermont. She admitted that both parameters would most likely require some negotiation before any final vote can take place.

While I may be wrong after listening to the discussion of both bills, it is my opinion that neither bill will pass anytime soon. But I do believe there is enough interest in both these issues that some form of these two bills will emerge in the next several years. In the meantime, we will strive to keep our membership informed on these and other lake issues that directly affect our TLPOA membership.

Looking forward to our annual TLPOA Membership Meeting scheduled for May 25. Hope to see all of you there.

Tom Conquest

TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Twin Lakes POA, Lewiston MI

Mailing Address

TLPOA, P.O. Box 807,
Lewiston, MI 49756

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact us:
twinlakeslewiston@gmail.com

Thanks to all those who contributed to this issue.

Pat Kish, Editor

**Twin Lakes Property Owners Association
Statement of Activities for January 1 to March 31, 2024**

	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	19,000	11,665	19,000	11,665				
Family Memberships	5,500	2,555	5,500	2,555				
Interest	2,500	1,650	2,500	1,650				
Other	1,000	690	1,000	690				
Aeration	8,250	6,340			8,250	6,340		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	-	-					-	-
Total Revenue	36,250	22,900	28,000	16,560	8,250	6,340	-	-
EXPENSES								
Education	1,000		1,000	-				
Memberships and Communication	2,500	903	2,500	903				
Insurance	1,150		1,150	-				
Advertising and Public Relations	1,000	30	1,000	30				
Postal Expense	1,500	449	1,500	449				
Membership Events	1,000		1,000	-				
Lake Monitoring & Water Clarity	42,000		42,000	-				
Contingency	1,000		1,000	-				
Organizational	1,000	188	1,000	188				
Community Donations & Events	5,000		5,000	-				
Aeration	8,500	521			8,500	521		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	11,000	450					11,000	450
Total Expenses	76,650	2,541	57,150	1,570	8,500	521	11,000	450
Total Net Income / (Deficit)	(40,400)	20,359	(29,150)	14,990	(250)	5,819	(11,000)	(450)
2024 Beginning Balance Cash and CD		207,015		107,228		13,793		85,993
Balance Cash and CD at March 31, 2024		227,373		122,218		19,612		85,543

In and around the lakes...

- The **TLPOA May Membership Meeting** will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024 (Memorial Day Weekend) at the Lewiston Elementary School. Coffee and donuts will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Agenda items include social events, aeration, Eurasian watermilfoil, Spicer Group water testing, Goose Busters, Huron Pines stormwater study, DNR walleye monitoring, and an update on Camp Grayling. We'll try to keep the meeting to an hour or less so members can return to their families and lakes soon.
- **Donations for Independence Day fireworks are being collected at the Twin Lakes Marina.** Fireworks will soar again over East Twin Lake on July 3 (rain date of July 4). Let's keep this tradition booming by pitching in at the marina to help proprietors Bob and Mary Walter defray the costs of this event.
- **The TLPOA is looking for members to host 2024** the Heart of the Summer Party, held in June or July. If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to twinlakeslewiston@gmail.com. Hosts receive a stipend to defray expenses.

For more information regarding the activities of the TLPOA and its Board, please read the Board Minutes posted on the TLPOA website at <https://www.tlpoalewistonmi.com/meeting-minutes>. Board meetings are open to the public. If you would like to learn more about serving on the TLPOA Board or volunteer to work on specific projects such social events or water testing, please send an email to twinlakeslewiston@gmail.com.

Birds of Lewiston

As part of opening up your homes for the summer, make sure to look-up at the sky once in a while to see the native birds that also call Lewiston home. Besides the birds we all love and know, here are some others you might just see:

Black-capped Chickadee These small, energetic birds with their distinctive black caps and cheerful calls are common throughout Michigan.



American Goldfinch In the warmer months, the goldfinch can be spotted in Michigan by its bright yellow plumage.



Bald Eagle The Bald Eagle is a majestic bird of prey and a symbol of strength and freedom in the United States. While they were once endangered, conservation efforts have helped their populations recover, and can often be seen fishing the Twin Lakes.



Great Blue Heron These tall wading birds are often seen standing patiently along the shores of lakes, rivers, and marshes, waiting to catch fish, amphibians, and other small prey.



Common Loon Known for their haunting calls and striking black-and-white plumage, Loons are often found on both Twin Lakes.



Turkey Vulture While not as glamorous as eagles, these vultures play an important role in the ecosystem by scavenging carrion. You will see packs of them in the sky surveying for their next meal.



If you have pictures of any other interesting birds or eagles we'd love to feature them in our future newsletters. You can email us at TwinLakesLewiston@gmail.com

Lewiston's Timber Town Heritage Trail Update

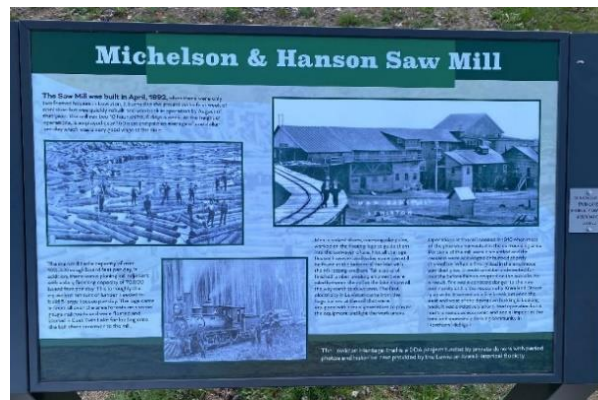
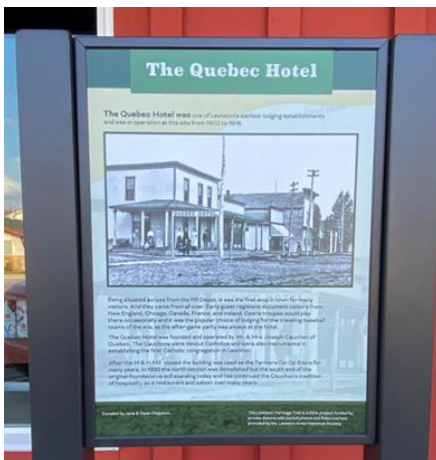
The first sign of the Timber Town Heritage Trail was generously donated two years ago by the TLPOA. At the end of last summer, there were eight signs in place at the Tom May Memorial Park at the East Twin Beach, the Lewiston Township Bingham Ball Park, and throughout town. The remaining 10 signs are currently finishing up at the sign maker in North Dakota and we hope to have them in place by the Father's Day Car Show event in downtown Lewiston.

The Timber Town Heritage Trail is a walking "story" trail with national park quality signs highlighting 17 historical sites that depict life in Lewiston at the height of the Big Timber era from 1890 to 1910. When the Heritage Trail is finished, a trail map will be available located outside the Chamber of Commerce Building that will show all 18 sites.

The trail starts with the sign donated by the TLPOA at the East Twin Beach, where the M & H Saw Mill once stood. It weaves its way through town and continues north on Kneeland highlighting the history of the Kneeland/Sachs House (Lewiston Area Historical Society Museum), the Congregational Church, and ending at the Masonic Hall which was one of the first schools in Lewiston. Other sites in town show the Old Band Stand where Tally's is now, and down that block, the M & H Company Store, the first town hall, and the telegraph office that shared space with *The Lewiston Gazette* for many years. It is approximately one mile in length each way and should make for a pleasant and informative stroll through town.

The Timber Town Heritage Trail is a Lewiston Downtown Development Association project funded by private donors, many of whom are TLPOA members, in partnership with the Lewiston Area Historical Society.

Here are photos of just some of the signs. Can you find them in town?



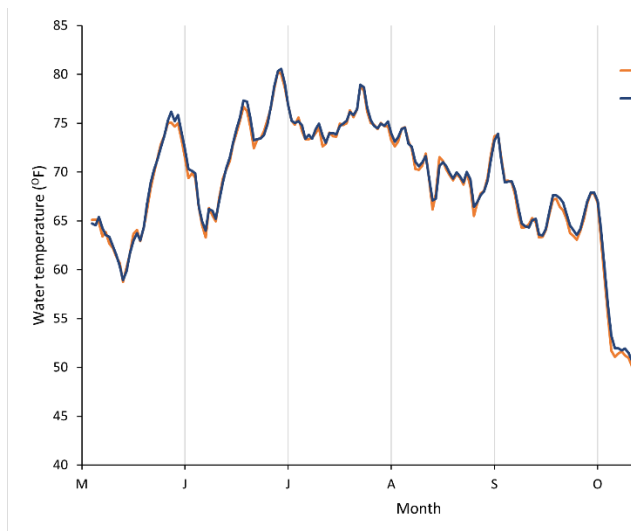
The first Heritage Trail sign (above) was donated by the TLPOA

DNR Walleye Study Update

As reported previously, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the early stages of a multi-year study of the walleye fishery in both East and West Twin Lakes. Every other year, the DNR stocks thousands of walleye fingerlings into our lakes to maintain a healthy fishery and to provide recreational fishing opportunities. In 2023, over 65,000 walleye were stocked into East Twin Lake with a similar amount planned to be stocked in West Twin Lake this coming season.



As part of the study, probes have been placed in both East and West Twin to measure the water temperature in both lakes over the course of the open water season. In addition, dissolved oxygen and water clarity measurements are taken in each lake in the months of May, August, and October. Below is a graph of the water temperatures measured on both lakes in 2023.



Water clarity measurements taken in 2023 were very similar to those measured by our TLPOA volunteers for the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Fall walleye index surveys were conducted on East Twin

in 2023 to count survival rates of walleye stocked during the year. A similar survey will be conducted on West Twin this coming Fall after the West Twin stocking.

Emily Martin is the DNR biologist leading this walleye study. We are tentatively planning to have Emily at our August TLPOA membership meeting to explain the program in more depth to our membership. Even if you are not a walleye fisherperson, I'm sure you will be interested in much of the lake data and overall observations of our lakes Emily will present. So, watch for more details on this visit by Emily over the next several months.

Is your membership current?

Your TLPOA continues to actively monitor and support the health of East and West Twin Lakes and their surrounding environments, providing benefits to the entire lake community. To be sure you are doing your part, please check your mailing label to ensure your dues are up-to-date. Instructions for paying your dues, including an option to pay online, are given on the membership form on Page 7.

We're recycling this article about recycling as a reminder to please recycle your boat covers.



by Lauren Denby, Project Coordinator for Michigan Recycling Coalition

The cold Michigan winter months require boaters to protect boats with covers that are often single-use, bulky, and difficult to manage during disposal. Disposing of these covers in a landfill has a huge environmental impact, as manufacturing with virgin materials requires more natural resource consumption. Recycling can make a big difference. For every bag of material recycled through the Recycle Run program, we save 115 kWh of energy, 13.5 gallons of oil, and 20 cubic feet of landfill space!

Before the Recycle Run program, throwing out boat covers was essentially the only option for most boat owners in Michigan. The Recycle Run program has connected a network of partners to make recycling boat covers easy, accessible, and efficient for anyone in the state. The Recycle Run program has been active for over 10 years, and we continue to work hard to grow and strengthen the program every year.

Boat covers collected through the Recycle Run program are recycled into roofing and decking materials, plastic bags, and even more boat covers.

As boaters, it is important that we do everything we can to keep our waters beautiful and plastic-free. In 2022, we recycled 95,500 pounds of boat covers, keeping those materials out of the waste stream and giving them a productive second life.

Article at left excerpted and reprinted with permission of The Michigan Riparian magazine from the Spring 2023 issue. Copywritten by the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association, Inc.

Our Lewiston lake community is fortunate to have a convenient local drop-off location for filled shrink wrap receptacle bags at the Twin Lakes Marina. If you need fewer than 5 receptacle bags, and would like to participate, here's how:

1. Call Dr. Shrink, manufacturer of the receptacle bags, at (800) 968-5147 to order your bags. Each bag comes with a zip tie to seal the bag, along with instructions on how to remove your boat covers. Bags are industrial-size and can hold covers from up to a 32-foot boat (1 large cover or 1 to 3 small covers). Each bag costs \$7 plus approximately \$10 for shipping via USPS.
2. Uncover your boat and place only the shrink wrap in the receptacle bag to keep it clean and dry. Cut off any buckles, straps, etc. Prepping the shrink wrap for recycling is easy. Here's a quick video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s71gbGkfnEk> and here's a printable document: <https://dr-shrink.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Preparation-Instructions.pdf>
3. Take the filled receptacle bag to the Twin Lakes Marina.
4. You're done! Thanks for recycling, saving landfill space, and providing materials for reuse.

For more information about the Recycle Run program, please visit <https://michiganrecycles.org/ag-plastics/>.

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

TLPOA MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS



New Member Renewal

Send my newsletters (except during November's membership drive) by email only.

Member(s) Name(s) _____

Email Address(es) _____

Primary Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Lake Address _____

Telephone () _____ East Twin Lake West Twin Lake

MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS

	<i>Membership Dues or Suggested Contribution Amounts</i>	<i>My Lake Contribution</i>
Membership Dues Lake Stewardship provides 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 Watermilfoil 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. Thank you!	
MY TOTAL LAKE CONTRIBUTION		\$

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT! PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW 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.

Now! Two ways to pay:

- with a check payable to TLPOA and mailed to P.O. Box 807, Lewiston, MI 49756 or
- online with a credit card at www.tlpoalewistonmi.com/.

Important Summer 2024 Dates on East and West Twin Lakes

Event	Date	Time	Location
TLPOA Membership Meeting	Saturday, May 25	8:30 a.m. Welcome with donuts and coffee 9:00 a.m. Meeting	Lewiston Elementary School
Fireworks Sponsored by Twin Lakes Marina	Wednesday, July 3	Dusk	East Twin Lake
<p>TLPOA Boat Parades Thursday, July 4 5:00 p.m. Decorate your boat in red, white, and blue stars and stripes for the TLPOA's Annual Fourth of July Boat Parades. All are welcome. Boat decorations are optional, but encouraged. The Raietta Ott East Twin Lake Boat Parade will meet just east of the island. The Pete Petoskey West Twin Lake Boat Parade will meet just north of Eagle Point.</p>			
Wine & Cheese Party	Friday, August 23	6:00 – 9:00 p.m.	Twin Lake Shore Resort West Twin Lake
TLPOA Membership Meeting	Saturday, August 24	8:30 a.m. Welcome with donuts and coffee 9:00 a.m. Meeting	Lewiston Elementary School

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

******* BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL. *******

DO YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR TLPOA MEMBERSHIP? RENEW TODAY!
PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR LAKES HEALTHY!