

Lewiston Lake Living

Twin Lakes Property Owners Association

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

August, 2024

President's Letter

Every year it just seems our summers fly by. Hopefully, you have been able to spend some quality time on our fabulous lakes. I know I am prejudiced. But having visited many other lakes in the southern part of our state over the years, there is nothing like a northern Michigan lake.

That being said, maintaining the high quality of our two lakes is something your TLPOA Board takes very seriously. All lakes evolve continuously. Some for the better, some worse. Most changes to lakes are not easily obvious due to the long time over which these changes occur. But it is important to understand what these changes are so we can best implement actions that will maintain the highest quality of our lakes for the benefit of all.

Our longtime involvement with the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) sponsored by the State of Michigan is one of several tools used to track water quality. To further enhance the understanding of our water quality beyond what the CLMP provides, your TLPOA Board contracted an engineering firm to conduct more detailed water quality testing this season on both East and West Twin. We will also be conducting a detailed vegetation survey later this summer on both lakes to determine trends in the amounts and the locations of aquatic vegetation as well as looking for any new invasive species that may have entered our lakes. We are also working with Albert Township to begin implementation of several recommendations by Huron Pines detailed in their stormwater assessment study which was completed this past year.

Recent actions, in addition to our longstanding Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) treatments on West Twin and our aeration program on East Twin, include hiring an organization called Goose Busters to help reduce the number of geese on our lakes that contribute to higher lake phosphorus levels. Our Board also remains involved with Albert Township officials concerning any zoning ordinance changes and variances they may be considering which we believe threaten the quality of our lakes.

Upcoming events include our annual TLPOA Wine & Cheese Party hosted by Pete and Susan Stephens on August 23. The following morning will be our annual TLPOA Membership Meeting where we will bring you up to date on recent activities, present some awards, give you a chance to ask questions and/or voice concerns, and finally formally elect your Board of Directors for 2025. Hope to see all of you there.

Tom Conquest

TWIN LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Tom Conquest

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Website

www.tlpoalewistonmi.com

Join us on Facebook!

Twin Lakes POA, Lewiston MI

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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 June 30, 2024**

2024 Statement of Activities								
	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	16,765	19,000	16,765				
Family Memberships	5,500	3,885	5,500	3,885				
Interest	2,500	3,487	2,500	3,487				
Other	1,000	1,045	1,000	1,045				
Aeration	8,250	8,540			8,250	8,540		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	-	-					-	-
Total Revenue	36,250	33,722	28,000	25,182	8,250	8,540	-	-
EXPENSES								
Education	1,000		1,000	-				
Memberships and Communication	2,500	1,754	2,500	1,754				
Insurance	1,150	1,151	1,150	1,151				
Advertising and Public Relations	1,000	30	1,000	30				
Postal Expense	1,500	803	1,500	803				
Membership Events	1,000	497	1,000	497				
Lake Monitoring & Water Clarity	42,000	10,760	42,000	10,760				
Contingency	1,000		1,000	-				
Organizational	1,000	652	1,000	652				
Community Donations & Events	5,000	2,850	5,000	2,850				
Aeration	8,500	1,368			8,500	1,368		
Eurasian Watermilfoil	11,000	450					11,000	450
Total Expenses	76,650	20,314	57,150	18,496	8,500	1,368	11,000	450
Total Net Income / (Deficit)	(40,400)	13,408	(29,150)	6,686	(250)	7,172	(11,000)	(450)
2024 Beginning Balance Cash and CD		207,015		107,228		13,793		85,993
Balance Cash and CD at January 31, 2024		220,422		113,914		20,965		85,543

In and around the lakes...

- The **May Membership Meeting** was attended by approximately 60 people. Water testing and quality, aeration, walleye monitoring, social events, Camp Grayling, and other topics were discussed. To view a summary presentation, please go to <https://www.tlpoalewistonmi.com/various-items/>.
- The **aeration** diffuser cleaning on East Twin Lake was completed mid-July.
- The **application of Eurasian watermilfoil herbicide** on West Twin Lake was delayed until late June due to the stocking of walleye by the DNR.
- The Albert Township Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 24, 2024, to discuss **decreasing the Greenbelt setback for buildings** from 75 feet to 55 feet from the highwater mark. The change would have to be approved by the Albert Township Board of Supervisors. The township's website can be found at <https://www.alberttownship.com/>.

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 contact one of our Board members or send an email to twinlakeslewiston@gmail.com.

2024 Boat Parade Photos

Celebrating Independence Day! Fun for those on the water and on the shore!



Lining up at Eagle Point to start the parade.



Not exactly Washington crossing the Delaware, but another patriot circling West Twin Lake.



A brightly festooned pontoon.



The boat parade was fun for all ages.



Pete's Pachyderm participating in the Pete Petoskey Parade.



It's a dog's life out on the lake.

Goose Busters

This spring, the TLPOA hired a firm called Goose Busters to conduct a Canada goose population control program on both East and West Twin Lakes. This is a Michigan DNR permitted program with the approval of both Albert and Charlton Townships. The program consists of locating Canada Goose nests during their spring nesting season and destroying both the eggs and the nests. This is most likely a multi-year program with the goal of convincing the geese that our two lakes are not a friendly nesting environment and they should move to different lakes.

The Canada goose feces being dropped in the lake and on the ground can contain pathogenic protozoa and bacteria, posing a serious health hazard, especially to young children. Also, the feces increase the amount of phosphorus in the lake which accelerates unwanted plant growth and algae blooms, adversely affecting the clarity and quality of the lake water. Canada goose defecate up to 2 pounds of feces every day.

This year, our inaugural year, Goose Busters found 8 nests on East Twin and destroyed 39 eggs. On West Twin they found 2 nests and destroyed 11 eggs. Reports from both lakes indicate that the 2024 Canada goose population has been substantially reduced from the previous few years.

Loading the Barges with Independence Day Fireworks

Many thanks to Bob and Mary Walter at Twin Lakes Marina for their hard work and their generous financial support of the annual Independence Day fireworks spectacle.



A behind-the-scenes peek at some of the tremendous effort that makes the magic happen. Here the team is loading the barges for the Twin Lakes Marina fireworks show.

TLPOA Wine and Cheese Party



The annual TLPOA **Wine and Cheese Party** will be held at **Twin Lakes Shore Resort, 3255 Hyek Drive, on Friday, August 23, starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending at approximately 9:00 p.m.** The event will be held outdoors if the weather cooperates.

Each couple should **bring two bottles of the same wine** for everyone to sample before voting for their favorites. Wines chosen should be kept under \$25 per bottle to give everyone a fair chance in the contest. Sometimes there is a surprise bargain priced winner, you never know!

Cheese, fruit, and charcuterie appetizers will be served throughout the event. Later in the evening pizzas will be brought in to help digest the wine before everyone heads out.

No need to bring any food. There will be an abundance of food and we'll need all the space available for the guests of honor...the wine!

Plenty of parking will be available at the resort.

Courtesy of **Susan Stephens** at Smith Realty, the **Kufflinks** duo of Warren on the bass and Nikko on the banjo will be providing some fun background music during the event. For a sneak preview of their music, the Kufflinks full band will be playing at the new Albert Township Pavilion on Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 6 p.m., courtesy of Smith Realty and Twin Lakes Shore Resort. Bring a lawn chair and your favorite beverage. The Kufflinks will also be playing on the deck of the Lewiston Lodge from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 24.

TLPOA Membership Meeting

The August **TLPOA Membership Meeting** will be held on **Saturday, August 24**, at the Lewiston Elementary School. Coffee and donuts will be provided at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will start at 9:00 a.m.

Our featured speaker will be **Emily Martin** from the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources** to discuss the DNR's multi-year walleye stocking program. East and West Twin Lakes are two of the seven northern Michigan lakes Emily and her team are studying to better manage the program.



Other items on the agenda will include

- Financial report
- Membership report
- Greenbelt Award winner
- Chickadee Award winner
- Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) report
- TLPOA Board Nominations
- Open Forum (Q & A)

We hope you will join your lake neighbors and attend this informative meeting. See you there!

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE WATERFOWL!

Feeding birds near our lakes might seem like a harmless and even enjoyable activity, but it can actually cause several problems for the birds and their environment. While tossing bread crumbs or other snacks to ducks, geese, and swans can be a delightful way to connect with nature, there are compelling reasons to refrain from this practice.

Bird Droppings and Water Quality

Feeding birds near water bodies has significant environmental consequences. Specifically, the critical issue is the impact of bird droppings on lakes and the environment. When large numbers of birds gather in one place to feed, their droppings can significantly affect water quality. Bird droppings are rich in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. While these nutrients are essential in small amounts, an excess can lead to eutrophication, a process that causes excessive growth of algae in water bodies. This algal bloom can deplete oxygen in the water, leading to dead zones where aquatic life cannot survive. Additionally, bird droppings can introduce harmful bacteria and pathogens into the water, making it unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities for our loved ones.

Health Issues for Birds

Feeding birds human food, especially bread, is not healthy for them. Bread lacks the essential nutrients that birds need to stay healthy and can lead to malnutrition. Over time, birds that rely on human handouts may suffer from a condition known as "angel wing," which deforms their wings and impairs their ability to fly. This condition is caused by a high-carbohydrate diet, which includes bread and other processed foods.

Disrupting Natural Behavior

When birds become accustomed to being fed by humans, it alters their natural foraging behaviors. They become dependent on easy food sources, which can lead to overcrowding in small areas. This dependency reduces their natural ability to find food, making them more vulnerable if the human-provided food supply suddenly stops. Additionally, it can disrupt their migratory patterns, as birds may choose to stay in one place instead of moving to their natural habitats during different seasons.

What You Can Do Instead

Instead of feeding birds, consider enjoying their presence from a distance. Observe their natural behaviors and appreciate their beauty without intervening. If you want to help birds, support local conservation efforts or create a bird-friendly environment in your backyard with native plants and clean water sources.

In conclusion, while feeding birds near water might seem like a kind and fun activity, it can cause more harm than good. By understanding the negative impacts and choosing to enjoy birds in more sustainable ways, we can ensure their health and the health of our ecosystems. So next time you're tempted to share your snack with a duck or a swan, remember: the best way to show you care is to let them find their own food.



Pelicans on West Twin Lake

Photo by Dustin LaPointe

>>> 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
Wine & Cheese Party (see article for more details)	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

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.

**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!**