

## Letter To Editor Draft - Montmorency Tribune

To The Editor,

This letter is from the Twin Lakes Property Owner's Association, T.L.P.O.A. We are a non-profit group organized by member volunteers who own property on or around the East & West Twin Lakes in Lewiston, Mi. The organization was formed over forty years ago and is dedicated to protecting the health of our two lakes for the benefit of property owners and the community.

By far the largest part of our mission is aimed at water quality monitoring of both lakes. Association volunteers are trained to be citizen scientists through the State of Michigan Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and test both lakes for water clarity, phosphorus levels, and chlorophyll on a periodic basis, throughout the season. With over 30 years of data on water quality we are able to detect negative trends and react quickly when problems arise.

One of the most successful projects in recent years is the control of Eurasian Water Milfoil that was first detected in West Twin Lake a few years ago. The threat of invasive species is constant to our lakes and the TLPOA monitors several of the most prevalent concerns and reacts to issues as they arise. There are many lakes in Michigan that are literally choked with invasive milfoil, but we have successfully prevented further spread of this nuisance species on West Twin by early detection, careful monitoring, and selective treatment campaigns over the last few years.

The aeration program on East Twin is another example of proactive monitoring and action taken by TLPOA volunteers. By introducing oxygen to the decaying matter on the lake bottom with 4 air compressors supplying oxygen to 24 diffusers along the shoreline of East Twin we have helped to reduce the muck and keep it to a more acceptable level.

Currently the Board is helping to fund a storm water assessment study for downtown Lewiston in partnership with Albert Township and the County Road Commission. There is concern over both the amount of storm water that drains from downtown into East Twin Lake and what it carries into the lake as a result of the direct flow and limited retention.

Membership to the TLPOA is completely voluntary for Lake residents and is only supported by approximately 60% of the deeded owners along both lakes. All of the Board Members and citizen volunteers that support the monitoring and maintain the various programs donate their time 100% but even with volunteers, these critical programs are costly, and we need all the support we can get to help keep your lakes clean and safe. If you are a Twin Lakes owner, we need your support. Please join the TLPO, it is only \$35 for a basic membership. Please see our website at [www.tlpoalewistonmi.com](http://www.tlpoalewistonmi.com) for details on membership. Thank you in advance for your support!