



PRESERVE PROTECT EDUCATE

Lime Lake Association

Leelanau County, Michigan

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights

From the Board • P. 2

A Landmark Moment for Lime Lake • P. 3

2026 Budget Projection • P. 4

Lime Lake News • P. 5

2025 Donor List • P. 6

Our Mission

To preserve and protect the environmental purity and beauty of Lime Lake.

Our Vision

The Lime Lake Association is dedicated to the preservation of Lime Lake and its shores and streams. To support this mission, we promote environmental education, conduct scientific research and testing to safeguard water quality, and collaborate with public and private partners.

Lime Lake Association Board

Dean Manikas - *President*

Mark Fisher - *Vice President*

Jeff Kane - *Treasurer*

Ron Reimink - *Secretary*

Lisa Genesen - *Fundraising*

Molly O'Toole - *Membership*

Owen Lorenz - *Merchandise*

Cathy Stocker - *Communications*

Julie Doherty - *Board Member*



FROM THE BOARD

Welcome to the 2025 annual report of the Lime Lake Association. We are an all-volunteer board guided by our mission to preserve, protect, and educate in support of the long-term health of our lake. Each year, we align our work plan and budget to focus on water quality, invasive species monitoring, and community engagement.

Led by our biologist, in collaboration with the Leelanau Conservancy and dedicated riparian volunteers, we are making strong progress. Our efforts to eradicate Yellow Flag Iris and the recently identified invasive species, Forget-me-not, are well underway. The great news is that our progress has been outstanding, and we continue to see meaningful improvements across the lake.

The Lake Association Board has welcomed two new members, Julie Doherty and Owen Lorenz. Julie moved to Lime Lake in 2022 and spends half the year here. She has been actively involved in Yellow Flag Iris removal and proudly considers herself a “science nerd.” Owen has spent the past two summers on Sugar Bay Lane and lives in Grand Rapids during the winter. With a background in consumer products, he will be helping lead our merchandise efforts. We are grateful for the energy and perspective they bring.

At the same time, we extend our sincere thanks to Mary Barss, who is stepping down after many years of dedicated service. Mary played a key role in launching our discovery boat project and led the development and success of our merchandise program. Her contributions have been invaluable, and we thank her for her lasting impact on Lime Lake.

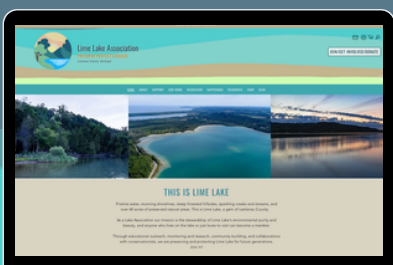
As we look ahead, we remain committed to building on this momentum. The strength of this Association comes from the collective efforts of our members, whose support allows us to continue protecting this extraordinary resource. Together, we are protecting something truly special.

Save
the
date

Lime Lake Association 2026 Annual Meeting

July 25, 2026 at 9am
Cleveland Township Hall

PRESERVE PROTECT EDUCATE



STAY CONNECTED AND SUPPORT LIME LAKE

LimeLake.org is your resource for events, lost & found, water quality updates, donation opportunities, volunteer openings, shoreline management, and more. You can also find our newsletters, merchandise, and stay connected with everything Lime Lake. Check it out—we’re always looking for new volunteers! And please share it with your family, friends and guests.

A LANDMARK MOMENT FOR LIME LAKE



The Leelanau Conservancy and the Lime Lake Association have long worked side by side—monitoring water quality, addressing invasive species, and protecting the natural systems that support the health of our lake.

Last year marked one of the most significant moments in that partnership—and for the future of Lime Lake.

The Conservancy was gifted ownership of the former Sugar Loaf Resort property—one of the most prominent and ecologically important landscapes in our region. This property encompasses a substantial portion of the Lime Lake and Good Harbor watershed, meaning its future directly influences the quality of the water flowing into our lake.

With conservation now guiding its future, this land will serve as a powerful buffer and filter for Lime Lake. The restoration and preservation of wetlands and streams will enhance water quality, support native plant and wildlife habitats, and strengthen the long-term resilience of the lake ecosystem.

Equally important is what will remain unchanged. The scenic views that define Lime Lake—anchored by the highest point in Leelanau County—will be protected. There will be no significant increase in traffic, no light pollution from large-scale development, and the airstrip will remain quiet.

This is a rare and lasting gift—not only to the Township, but to everyone who values the natural beauty and environmental integrity of Lime Lake.

SHORELINE PRESERVATION

Greenbelt creation is a simple, effective way to reduce erosion, filter runoff, and protect water quality. We are proud that 43% of Lime Lake properties are now designated as greenbelt or natural shoreline—an important milestone for our lake.

We encourage more riparians to take advantage of a free greenbelt consultation (\$100 value) with our biologist, Kelsey Froelich. For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact Kelsey at kelsey.froelich@gmail.com. Every shoreline effort helps protect the lake we all share.



2026 BUDGET PROJECTION

We budget carefully to meet all obligations, and with an annual budget of approximately \$15,000, we rely on membership contributions from riparians to support our work.

Thank you for your generous support, which we use thoughtfully to further the mission of the Lime Lake Association. In 2025, we came in slightly under budget, and for 2026, our budget remains largely unchanged as outlined below.

ANNUAL SERVICE	FISCAL YEAR 2025
Merchandise	\$500
Shetland Creek Maintenance	\$800
Contributions to Leelanau Conservancy	\$500
Lake Biologist	\$6,500
eDNA study and other water testing	\$4,030
Printing, Postage, PO Box and Miscellaneous	\$1,620
Website Hosting & Domain Provider	\$250
TOTAL	\$14,200



Become a Member!

Visit LimeLake.org to join our online mailing list and renew your membership. Our annual operating costs, currently averaging \$15,000, are funded by membership dues and we depend on renewals to keep up with our work.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2026, please do so as soon as possible. If you prefer paying by check, a mail-in form is provided with this report. Please Note: Our membership year runs January through December, and your donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.



Discovery Boat Tour

Interested in learning more about Lime Lake?

We will be offering a Discovery Boat Tour this summer. A family-friendly lake tour led by our Lake Biologist. You'll learn about our lake, shoreline ecosystems, and the work being done to protect them.

If you're interested, please email Molly at molly@mollyotoole.com to be added to the list. Space is limited, and additional details, including available dates and times, will be shared as the season approaches.

LIME LAKE IS SPECIAL

Lime Lake remains one of the healthiest lakes in the region - not by accident, but through consistent monitoring, early detection, and a strong culture of stewardship.

Everything we do - from shoreline protection to invasive species surveillance - is designed to protect the water before problems begin.

HELP US KEEP LIME LAKE EWM-FREE

Community-based monitoring for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) remains one of our most effective tools for protecting Lime Lake from this harmful invasive species. EWM can disrupt native aquatic plant communities and harm lake ecosystems if not detected early. We have been monitoring for several years, and in 2025 we expanded our efforts with a shoreline surveillance program.

Thanks to the efforts of 23 volunteers last season, we had no confirmed detections of EWM—either through shoreline monitoring or our aquatic plant surveys.

This is an important result and reflects the strength of early detection and community involvement.

Our goal for 2026 is to expand the program to 30 volunteers, with at least one volunteer for every 1,000 feet of shoreline. Participation is simple—just walk your shoreline twice a week while you are at the lake. Each volunteer monitors their own shoreline, creating effective lake-wide coverage.

To participate, contact kelsey.froelich@gmail.com or visit LimeLake.org to learn more.



IT'S ALL CONNECTED

Lime Lake is part of the Good Harbor Bay watershed, where land, water, and shoreline practices all influence water quality. What happens beyond the shoreline—across forests, wetlands, and streams—ultimately flows into the lake.

Protecting Lime Lake means protecting everything within this connected system. Thoughtful stewardship, both on the water and across the watershed, is essential to preserving the clarity and health of the lake for years to come.

FORGET-ME-NOT ALERT & 2026 PLAN

In the summer of 2025, during a Yellow Flag Iris removal effort, an invasive Forget-me-not (FMN) population was identified on Conservancy property at the south end of Lime Lake. The Leelanau Conservancy quickly organized a removal effort, with several Lime Lake members assisting. The infestation was larger than anticipated and will require continued work over the coming years.

In summer 2026, we will build on this effort by mapping Forget-me-not around the lake. Lake Biologist Kelsey Froelich will walk the shoreline, focusing on the nearshore (10–20 feet), to identify and document affected areas. This work will be done efficiently to minimize any disruption.

An email notification will be sent the week of the survey so residents are aware that shoreline monitoring is taking place.



2025 DONORS

IN THE LIMELIGHT: THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROTECT LIME LAKE!

We are proud to recognize the many individuals, families, and organizations that helped drive our success in 2025. Without your memberships and contributions, we couldn't support our essential water quality monitoring and educational programs. As we look ahead, please consider donating and renewing your membership.

Many companies match employee contributions—please check with your employer. Some use platforms such as Benevity, where the Lime Lake Association is already registered. If your company uses another matching program, please let us know so we can register.

2025 Total Giving:

\$700 – \$1,000

Amy & Ryan Devore
Geri Lynn & Karlis Mateus

\$500 – \$699

Julie Doherty
Karen Douma
Betsy & Mark Fisher
Wayne Ramsey & Mary Forster
Kristen & Michael Janowicz
Robin & Dale Johnson
Cindy & Jeff Kane
Rob Kurtz & Molly O'Toole
Marcia & Jeffrey Lee
Donald Martines
Gretchen & Timothy Mizerowski
Laura Ramus
Cathy & Richard Stocker
Julie & Warren Veltman
Maribeth Malecki & David Walker

\$300 – \$499

Cheryl & Steven Grossmann
Tracy & David Stachnik

\$200 – \$299

Mary & Robert Barss
Elizabeth & Tony DeLyria
Erika & Dennis Ferguson
Scott & Jean Frank
William & Pamela Frank
Susan & Robert Guenthardt
Melissa & Gregg Hannah
Gerd Anton Hornung
David Kleiner

\$200 – \$299 Cont.

Mark Kleiner
Jill & Bill Lora
Susan Cocciairelli & Dean Manikas
Darlene & Bob Martin
Susan & Robert McCubbrey
Don & Beth McIntosh
Monna Meyer
Jeanne & Jim Montie
Meridith & Patrick Mulcahy
Dan & Kellie O'Toole
Rebecca & Jerry Risser
Victoria & Michael Ross
Julie Doherty & Terrence Wearsch
Ryan Wheeler
Krista & John Zientek

\$100 – \$199

Kathy Marciniak & Bruce Barnes
Elaine & Box Chauvin
Laura & Chip Clark
Lynn & Ken Clark
Kelsey & Chris Froelich
Victoria & Gary Gallup
Maribeth Heffron
Ann Reed & Bruce Knapp
Mike & Pat Lora
Joy & David Mahon
Eric Maloney
Diana Briedis & Dennis Miller
Dennis & Ken Nisch
Linda & Bob Norris
Patricia Heffron Robinson
Elizabeth Rogers

\$100 – \$199 Cont.

Magdalen Skiver
Anne & Russell Steinman
Kathi & Rob Thoreson
Jeannine & Thomas Villing
John & Sharon Woods

Up To \$99

Janna & Eric Blakely
Marilyn Flaska
Nancy & Jeffrey Forrest
Lori & Mike Goryl
Leigh Anne Herd
John Imboden
Clifford Jacobs
Linda & Kevin Kehrwecker
Geri Lynn & Jeff Klein
Karel Engstrom & Scott Lankton
Owen & Kori Lorenz
Margaret O'Toole
Mark & Gregory Pilbeam
Scott & Mary Raymer
Karen & Charles Sharkey
Denise & Ronald Strong
Cheryl & Rodney Sturgeon
Geri & Nello Valentine

We strive to acknowledge all our supporters accurately and apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us at info@limelake.org to update our records.