

**PLATTE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
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Greetings from Platte Lake:

I hope all are well and of good cheer! Please find a comfortable chair and let me bring you up to speed as to what has been going on with Platte Lake and your Lake Association.

2007 marked a major milestone in the progress of the March 2000 Settlement Agreement between the Michigan DNR and the PLIA. Hatchery renovation and the “three year test period” have ended as of June 30, 2007 and the hatchery has entered into the final “five year compliance phase” where they must comply with all the requirements of the Settlement Agreement for five continuous years while at the same time continuing to pay for 98% of the ongoing Lake and River Water Sampling Program i.e. approx. \$200+ thousand per year.

Total Hatchery discharge for 2007 was 131.6 lb of phosphorus vs. a 175 lb yearly discharge limit. Things were going really well until October 2007 when the DNR violated the 55 lb three month phosphorus limit by discharging 70.62 lb of phosphorus and 62.56 lb of phosphorus November 2007. The fines total \$11,000 and will be paid to the “Penalty Fund” which will be used for watershed improvement projects that are mutually agreed upon by the DNR and PLIA. To date DNR fines have helped fund a 2007 interactive land use model for the entire Platte River Watershed and the Deadstream Fish ladder. These 2007 violations, per the Settlement Agreement, will also restart the five year “Compliance Period” clock i.e. the five year Compliance Period will now expire November 30, 2011. Details are in the process of being worked out with the DNR.

Additionally, we continue to have bi-weekly phone conferences and meetings with the DNR on Lake and River sampling, data analysis, as well as Hatchery Operation, monitoring and potential Hatchery modifications in an effort to reduce phosphorus discharge. It is my opinion that the direct efforts of the many PLIA members involved and Dr. Canale have been extremely value-added to the goals of both the DNR and the PLIA. I must say that the DNR has been extremely receptive to implementing engineering suggestions, operational changes, etc. We continue to have a very good working relationship that has been a big plus for Platte Lake. I can state that this is in no small part a direct result of the efforts of Gary Whelan, MDNR Fish Production Manager.

2007 Water clarity was very good with a maximum Secchi depth of 25 ft. Water clarity tended to fall in the last part of the season as the lake became extremely warm. Please see the attached Secchi Disk Readings. The median in-lake phosphorus concentration for 2007 was approx. 7.18 micro-grams per liter and the lake phosphorus concentration was below 8.0 microgram per liter 70% of the time. The Court Order calls for the 8.0 micro-gram per liter standard to be achieved 95% of the time. We still have some work to do to maintain compliance with the standard, but we feel if the hatchery can stay in compliance and we can enlist other individuals and activities to reduce phosphorus loading from sources other than the hatchery, we will be on target.

Speaking of other sources, those sources are you and I. I have said this many times and I will say it again, **“STOP ALL LAWN FERTILIZATION”**. We have approx. 500 lake side residences. If 20% or 100 people fertilize and each lot owner uses one 20 lb bag of 10-10-20 fertilizer, that bag contains 2 lbs of phosphorus. 100 bags for 100 people equal 200 lbs of phosphorus! And that is with 80% of the lakeside residents not fertilizing. That is greater than the yearly discharge from the hatchery! If you are fertilizing, please stop. Tell your lawn service to stop. If your neighbor fertilizes, tell him to stop. If you don't want to speak with your neighbor, contact me and I or someone from the PLIA will speak with him. Please!

If you live in Lake Township. It is against the township zoning ordinance to fertilize within 25 feet of the lake and fertilization anywhere else must be with phosphate free fertilizer. This has been in effect since August 2005. If you use a lawn service make sure they know about it. I am sure they want to do their part to maintain a clean Platte Lake.

Other things that can be done are to periodically clean the beach and deposit any collected organic material away from the lake such that when it decays it cannot re-enter the lake. If you mow the vegetation within 25 feet of the lake, ensure the mowing height is high enough so the root structure is not destroyed. Pick up any clippings and deposit them away from the lake so they cannot decay and re-enter. If you have shoreline erosion taking place, do what you have to do to stop it. As a first step contact the Benzie County Soil and Erosion control activity and get their direct input as to recommended erosion control methods to employ and determine if any permits are required.

We have a great lake and it is getting better. We need to continue our participation in the Settlement Agreement and do everything we can to reduce our individual phosphorus contribution.

Additionally, we still need money. In less than five years the DNR will no longer be required to pay for 98% of the Lake and River Sampling Plan. It will then be up to us to fund an affordable plan to continue lake monitoring. How much we will be able to do will be a function of the money contributed. Please send in your dues and any contributions you may be able to afford.

Thank You,

Wilfred Swiecki  
President PLIA

**SECCHI DISK READINGS IN FEET - PLATTE LAKE, BENZIE COUNTY**

WEEK OF	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
3-May	--	--	--	--	11.0	8.0	--	10.5	9.0	14.0	11.0	--	--	--	--	12.0	--	--	--	11.0	16.0	13.5	17.0	--	20.0	14.5	--	16.0
10-May	8.0	7.5	9.5	--	9.0	8.0	10.5	10.0	7.0	12.0	11.0	15.0	12.0	12.0	9.5	10.0	15.0	--	9.0	10.5	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.0	22.0	14.0	11.0	22.0
17-May	8.5	7.5	9.0	10.0	11.5	6.0	8.5	8.5	7.0	12.0	11.0	13.5	10.0	12.0	11.0	9.0	11.0	13.0	5.5	8.5	13.0	13.0	16.0	15.0	22.0	14.0	11.5	19.0
24-May	--	5.5	7.5	10.0	9.0	6.0	7.5	9.0	5.0	8.0	10.5	13.0	9.0	10.0	8.0	9.0	13.5	11.0	4.0	10.0	11.0	12.5	14.0	14.0	21.0	12.0	12.0	20.0
31-May	3.5	4.0	7.0	8.5	8.5	7.0	6.0	9.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	13.5	12.0	13.0	6.0	7.0	10.0	10.0	3.0	9.5	10.0	14.0	16.0	12.5	22.0	12.0	11.0	18.0
7-Jun	3.5	3.0	5.0	9.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	8.0	4.0	6.0	5.5	10.0	8.0	10.0	6.5	5.0	7.0	9.0	4.0	8.0	7.0	14.5	15.0	14.0	21.0	8.0	13.0	19.0
14-Jun	3.75	3.0	3.5	7.5	11.0	8.5	4.0	10.5	6.0	3.0	5.0	16.0	3.5	12.0	5.0	3.0	12.0	8.5	7.0	9.5	8.0	12.5	12.0	14.0	22.0	11.0	13.0	25.0
21-Jun	3.75	3.5	3.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	7.0	7.0	4.5	7.0	16.0	5.0	13.0	6.0	2.5	11.0	7.5	8.0	13.0	7.0	12.0	5.0	14.0	22.0	18.0	12.5	14.0
28-Jun	5.75	3.5	4.0	3.5	10.5	8.5	5.0	13.0	10.0	6.0	11.5	17.0	4.0	13.5	9.0	4.5	11.0	7.0	12.0	14.5	6.0	7.0	4.0	16.0	26.0	20.0	14.0	19.0
5-Jul	5.5	3.0	5.5	4.5	10.0	7.0	6.0	14.0	17.0	8.0	16.0	21.0	5.0	19.0	14.0	7.5	10.5	9.5	13.5	19.0	5.5	6.0	8.0	16.0	22.0	21.0	8.0	14.5
12-Jul	5.0	4.0	5.5	6.0	13.0	8.0	8.0	12.5	14.0	11.0	16.0	20.0	6.0	21.0	14.5	9.0	11.0	8.0	12.0	21.0	7.0	4.5	12.0	15.0	20.0	10.0	10.0	12.0
19-Jul	5.5	4.5	4.0	7.0	11.0	8.0	10.0	13.5	16.0	15.0	22.0	14.0	9.0	18.5	13.0	9.0	14.0	7.0	10.0	14.0	10.0	4.0	12.0	23.0	21.0	9.0	13.0	13.0
26-Jul	6.75	5.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	12.5	14.5	16.0	12.0	20.0	12.0	10.0	17.0	14.5	9.0	12.0	11.0	10.0	12.0	9.0	6.5	16.0	17.0	15.0	9.5	11.0	10.0
2-Aug	7.0	5.0	5.5	9.0	12.5	12.5	11.0	9.0	12.0	12.0	18.5	12.0	11.0	18.0	14.0	14.0	17.0	12.0	12.0	14.5	11.0	10.0	16.5	17.0	10.5	8.0	11.0	10.0
9-Aug	10.0	5.5	6.5	9.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	9.0	13.0	11.0	19.0	12.0	13.0	14.0	17.0	14.0	15.5	11.0	12.0	15.5	13.0	13.0	14.0	11.0	14.0	11.0	9.0	11.5
16-Aug	9.0	5.5	6.5	10.0	10.0	12.0	14.5	10.5	12.0	11.0	15.0	13.0	15.5	11.0	15.0	15.0	16.0	11.0	16.0	14.5	12.0	14.0	11.0	9.0	14.0	11.0	10.0	10.0
23-Aug	8.5	5.5	6.5	9.0	11.0	13.0	13.0	11.5	13.0	10.0	15.0	15.0	16.0	10.5	14.0	15.5	16.5	10.0	16.0	10.0	13.0	15.0	16.0	9.0	16.0	13.0	10.0	12.0
30-Aug	7.5	6.0	7.5	9.5	12.5	14.5	13.0	12.0	12.0	9.5	11.0	15.0	15.5	13.0	16.5	15.0	13.0	10.5	12.0	8.0	12.0	14.0	17.0	10.0	16.0	13.0	10.0	11.0
6-Sep	7.75	8.0	8.0	9.0	11.5	10.0	11.0	10.5	15.0	10.0	11.0	15.0	15.0	11.5	18.0	13.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	13.5	17.0	10.0	16.5	13.0	11.0	11.0
13-Sep	--	8.0	8.0	11.0	16.0	14.0	13.5	9.0	13.0	--	12.0	12.5	13.5	15.0	16.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	15.0	14.0	15.0	18.0	16.0	10.0	15.0	14.5	12.5	14.0
20-Sep	--	--	--	--	--	--	14.0	9.0	16.0	--	14.0	--	14.5	14.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	15.0	17.5	14.0	17.0	16.0	16.0
27-Sep	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	16.0	18.0	--	--	--	18.0