



FRIENDS OF

*Lake Leelandu*

A Public Foundation



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



---

# Contents

---

03	Dedication, Mission and Acknowledgements
04	Letter from the Board of Directors
05	Campaign Committee
06	Summer “Friend Raising” Events
07	Campaign Progress Report
08	Honor Roll of Donors
16	Update on Invasive Species
19	Friends of Lake Leelanau and Lake Leelanau Lake Association
20	Financial Report
22	What’s Next?
23	Visit Friends Online Store

---

# Dedication

This annual report is dedicated to the donors and volunteers who have breathed life into Friends of Lake Leelanau.

We thank you for your extraordinarily enthusiastic and generous response to the idea of establishing an independent public foundation to safeguard the health and beauty of Lake Leelanau far into the future.

---

# Mission

The mission of Friends of Lake Leelanau, an independent public foundation, is to protect the waters of Lake Leelanau in perpetuity. Friends accomplishes this goal through an endowment, the income from which is distributed to tax-exempt organizations focused on improving the aquatic health of Lake Leelanau.



# Acknowledgements

Last year Friends was remiss in neglecting to express its appreciation in these pages to the very talented **Laura Obus**, who was responsible for the design and distribution of last year's handsome annual report. The content of this year's report was largely written by **Tom Hiatt**. **Carol Rademacher** generated the lists of donors. **Bill Grogan** skillfully managed the lay-out. Members of the **Campaign Committee**, **Ron Reimink** and many others contributed photographs. **Jennie Keller**, **Jim Grogan**, **Carol Rademacher** and **Nora Hiatt** all proofread the report and provided invaluable suggestions.



---

# Letter from the Board of Directors

Friends of Lake Leelanau was established in the fall of 2021 with one goal: to provide a recurring stream of funding to protect Lake Leelanau from invasive species and other threats in perpetuity. Friends is organized as a public nonprofit foundation. In practice, Friends will function as an endowment, using a significant portion of its income each year to make grants to qualified nonprofits which have the capability to help keep Lake Leelanau pristine. The balance of the annual income will be invested to continue to build Friends' investment portfolio, so that the resources of the foundation will, over time, keep pace with or exceed the rate of inflation.

Friends' Campaign Committee adopted a goal of raising an \$8,000,000 endowment. The members of the Campaign Committee met for the first time in January 2022 via Zoom and have worked together closely since.

Friends made phenomenal progress toward its fundraising goal during the past two years.

We started the year with \$5.9 million in total gifts and pledges from 168 donors. Of the total amount pledged, Friends had received \$3.1 million in contributions as of December 31, 2022. We ended 2023 with an estimated \$7.2 million in total gifts and pledges from 351 donors. In addition, by the end of 2023, Friends had earned around \$450,000 in returns on its investment portfolio since inception.

We could not have made this extraordinary progress without the leadership and dedication of the members of the Campaign Committee, the Founders who provided leadership gifts and/or organized fundraising events, the seventeen families who opened their homes to host "friend raising" events in 2022 and 2023 and the members of the Lake Leelanau community who have responded to the idea of establishing Friends with extraordinary enthusiasm and generosity.

*Jennie*  
Jennie Keller  
President

*Jim*  
Jim Grogan  
Vice President

*Tom*  
Tom Hiatt  
Vice President





# A Special Thanks to Members of the Campaign Committee

From the outset, Friends has sought to build awareness in the community about the need for an organization with Friends’ goals. In addition, Friends has sought to engage members of the community to help breathe life into the new organization and coordinate a campaign to raise funds for Friends. During 2022 and 2023, Committee members have planned and hosted events in their homes, enlisted friends and neighbors, staffed booths, developed a social media campaign, written newspaper articles and helped build—and staff—floats for the July Fourth parades. Since Friends has no paid staff, all of the Campaign’s work has been undertaken by volunteers.

The members of the Campaign Committee include:

Andrew Bradford	Jennie, Darren and Madi Keller	Jack and Janice Purse
Charlie Boesel	Dawn and Chris Lund	Carol and Lonnie Rademacher
Tony and Cathy Borden	Steve Martineau	Andy Rademacher
Hayward and Kathy Draper	Tad and Wendy McKay	Cory Rademacher
Sue and Michael Downs	Laura Reahard Obus	Tom and Cathy Reahard
Bill and Leanne Grogan	Elizabeth Reahard Oviedo	Bo and Stanley Reahard
Jim and Mary Jo Grogan	Laura Paine	Ron Reimink
Tom and Nora Hiatt	Diane and Tom Pelak	Ashley and Logan Suttman
Annie and Bill Hostetler	Nancy and Thad Popa	Andy and Elizabeth Walters
Andy and Robin Jamieson	Annalise Povolo	Laurie and Jim Wilkins
Amy Grogan Jui	Brian and Susan Price	

**Friends’ Board of Directors would like to recognize and offer a huge bouquet of thanks to Carol Rademacher, Friends’ Campaign Coordinator.** Thanks to the leadership, dedication and attention to detail provided by Carol and her son, Andy, a CPA, each campaign gift and pledge received has been carefully recorded and promptly acknowledged. In addition, in November 2023, Carol worked closely with Bo Reahard and a team of volunteers to assemble and organize a mailing which was sent to all lake front property owners who had not yet made a gift or pledge to the campaign. It brought in more than 100 new donors and had generated more than \$120,000 in pledges by December 31, 2023. As this Annual Report goes to print in the first quarter of 2024, contributions from the mailing have continued to come in and total approximately \$180,000.



# Summer "Friend Raising" Events

The Campaign Committee recognized from the outset that there is a need to educate community members about the gravity of the threat presented by aquatic invasive species. For this reason, the central component of the Campaign Committee's strategy during the summers of 2022 and 2023 was a series of educational "friend raising" events held in families' homes. The individuals listed below hosted or co-hosted these events in 2022 and 2023.

Jack and Betsy Biggs with  
co-hosts George and Molly Barbee  
Tony and Cathy Borden  
Gary and Terri Coyle  
Sue and Mike Downs  
Hayward and Kathy Draper  
Tim and Sarah Fogarty  
Annie and Bill Hostetler  
Rob Kurnick  
Debbie and Bill Lipner  
Dawn and Chris Lund

Cindy and George Meeker  
Christine and Adam Mouch  
Lisa and Ted Neild  
Diane and Tom Pelak with  
co-hosts Liz and Linus Laskey and  
Ken and Pam Reid  
Nancy and Thad Popa  
Bo and Stanley Reahard with  
co-hosts Tom and Sue Trumbull  
Ashley and Logan Suttman  
Paula and Michael Todd

**Annie Hostetler, Robin Jamieson, Laura Paine, Nancy Popa, Cathy Borden, Carol Rademacher and Nora Hiatt** helped coordinate these events and ensured they were informative and fun. The Campaign Committee also recognizes and thanks **Brian Price, Ron Reimink, and Annalise Povolito** for participating in the summer "friend raising" events and for sharing both their expertise and their passion for Lake Leelanau.

In addition, the Campaign Committee organized a float for the July 4th parade, launched a social media campaign, and met in person in June and August at gatherings hosted by **Nora and Tom Hiatt** and **Jim and Mary Jo Grogan**. The July Campaign Committee meeting, which was to be hosted by **Jennie and Darren Keller**, was held via Zoom due to bad weather.

A group of volunteers including **Paula Todd, Leanne Grogan, Ashley Suttman, and Bo Reahard** organized the first family-oriented Poker Float event to raise awareness about the need to protect Lake Leelanau. **Nick Jakary** donated the proceeds from the sale of refreshments from his food truck. The after party was hosted by **Mary Jo and Jim Grogan** with **Michael Todd** stepping in as emcee.





# Campaign Progress Report

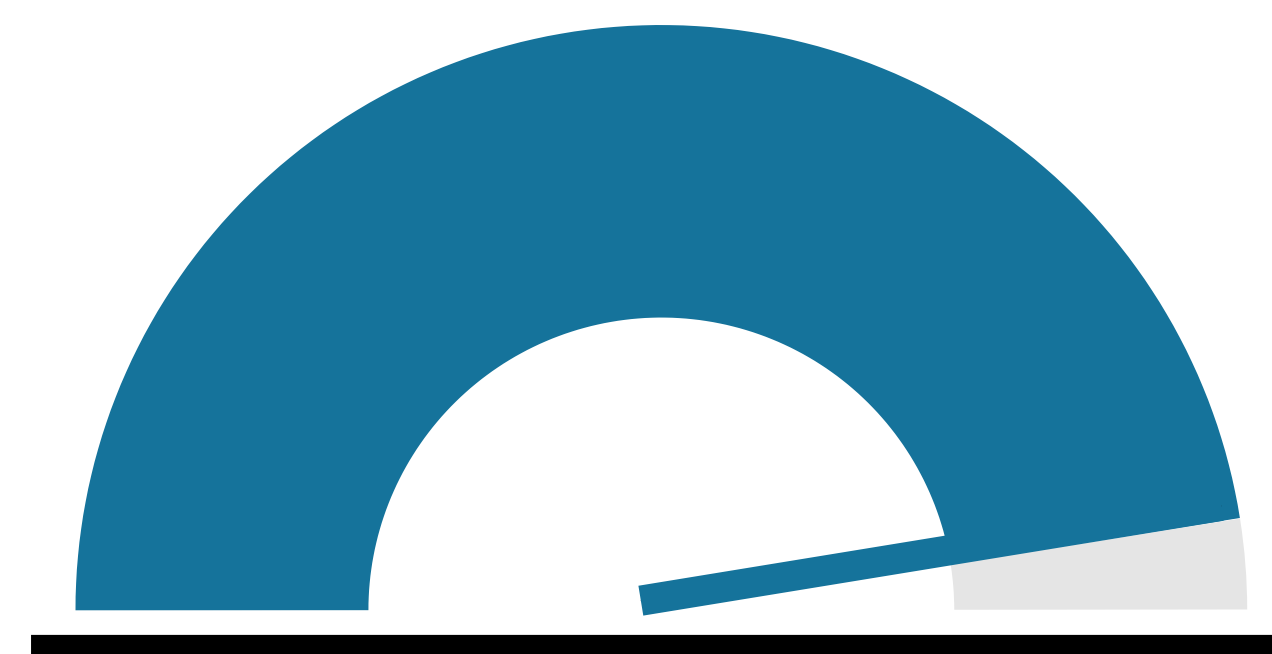
## 2023 At A Glance

The Campaign's second summer of events and activities continued to raise awareness in the community about the need for an organization with adequate resources to protect the waters of Lake Leelanau long term. As Campaign spokespeople observed at several fundraising gatherings during the year, "The Leelanau Conservancy does an incredible job protecting and stewarding Leelanau County's lands and forests, but there is no comparable organization with sufficient assets to provide long term protection to Lake Leelanau—the largest inland lake in the County and the 15th largest lake in Michigan."

By the end of the summer, approximately 260 families had attended fundraising events organized by Friends in 2022 and 2023.

By the end of 2023, Friends had received cumulative gifts and pledges from 351 donors totaling \$7.2 million. In addition, Friends had earned approximately \$450,000 on its investment portfolio since inception. The balance of the commitments was in the form of pledges. As of December 31, 2023, all but one of Friends' donors were current on their pledge payments.

For additional details, please see the Financial Report on page 20.



**\$7.6M**

IN TOTAL ASSETS, INCLUDING GIFTS,  
PLEDGES AND INVESTMENT RETURNS

**351**

**DONORS**

in 2022 and 2023

**260**

**FAMILIES ATTENDED  
FUNDRAISING EVENTS  
IN 2022 AND 2023**







# Honor Roll of Donors

---

## *Founders*

Thirty-four individuals, families and institutions have donated, pledged and/or raised \$100,000 or more for the Campaign, earning these supporters the distinction of being named Founders of Friends of Lake Leelanau.

The Campaign Committee would particularly like to thank **Rob Kurnick** who hosted a lovely dinner for the Founders at his home overlooking Lake Leelanau in August.

If you would like to join this list of community leaders, please send a note to any one of the board members or to Carol Rademacher, Campaign Coordinator (and a Founder, along with her husband Lonnie) at [crademac55@gmail.com](mailto:crademac55@gmail.com).

Anonymous  
Joe and Judy Aristeo  
Ashken Family  
Jack and Betsy Biggs  
George and Molly Barbee and Family  
Tony and Cathy Borden  
Emil and Maureen Brolick and Family  
Gary and Terri Coyle  
Hayward and Kathy Draper  
Tim and Sarah Fogarty  
Jim and Mary Jo Grogan and Family  
Matt and Amelia Hayden and Family  
Tom and Nora Hiatt and Family  
Terry and Heather Howe  
Annie and Bill Hostetler and Family  
Howard Charitable Foundation  
Jennie and Darren Keller and Family

Rob Kurnick Family  
William and Deborah Lipner and Family  
Tad and Wendy McKay and Family  
George and Cindy Meeker and Family  
Adam and Christine Mouch  
Jack and Janice Purse  
Carol and Lonnie Rademacher  
Tom and Cathy Reahard and Family  
Bo and Stanley Reahard and Family  
The Riverside Inn  
Shawn and Morgan Stephenson  
Shelby Stephenson  
Three Cords Foundation  
Paula and Michael Todd and Family  
Tom and Sue Trumbull  
Ashley and Logan Suttman and Family  
Mark and Anne Woolsey



# Honor Roll

Friends of Lake Leelanau recognizes with great gratitude those individuals, families and institutions who made contributions in 2022 and 2023. The Honor Roll below includes total contributions Friends has received from donors from the campaign’s inception through December 31, 2023. Please note that many of the commitments to Friends are in the form of multi-year pledges. The Honor Roll only includes funds received through December 31, 2023; it does not include future pledge payments. It does also not include payments received in the first quarter of 2024, which will be included in 2024’s Annual Report.

## *Contributions of \$100,000 or More*

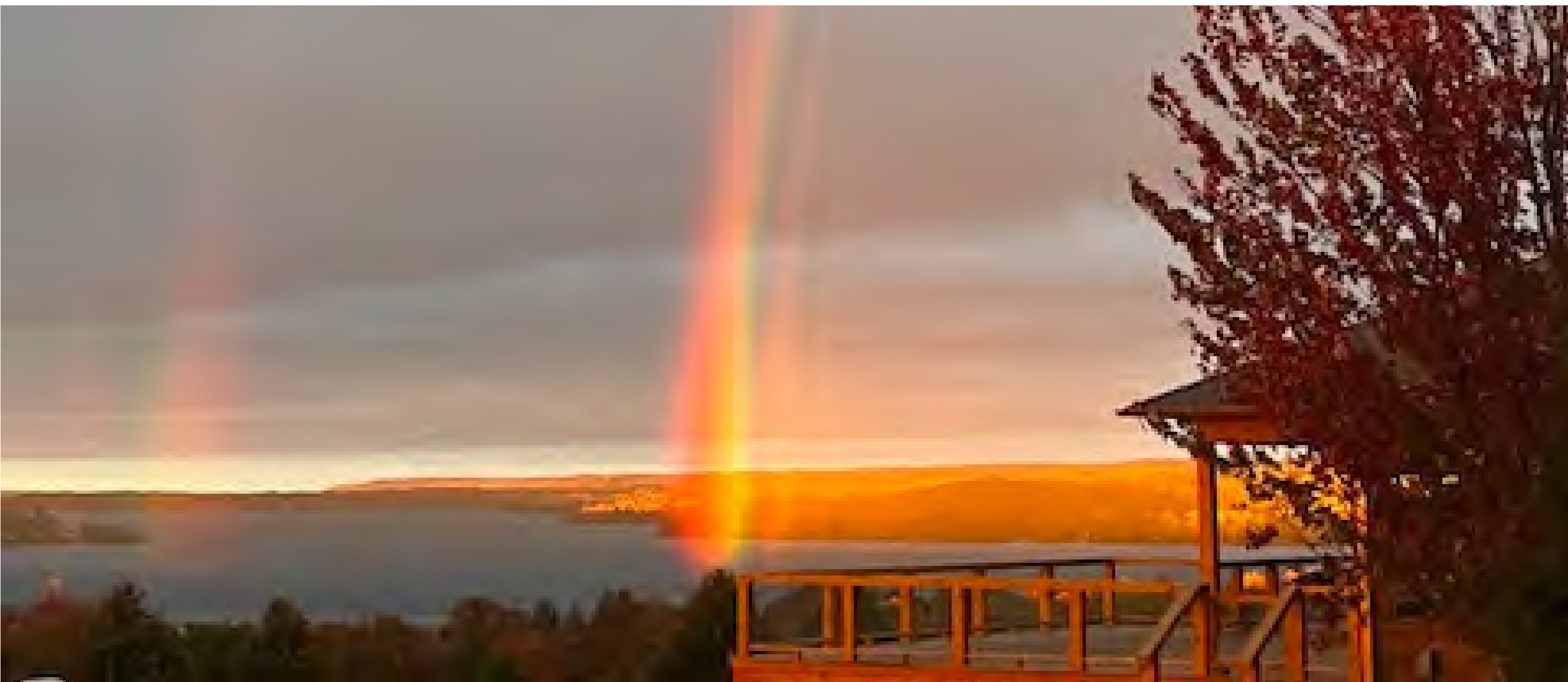
- Anonymous
- Joe and Judy Aristeo
- Ashken Family Charitable Foundation
- Emil and Maureen Brolick
- Hayward and Kathy Draper
- Matthew and Amelia Hayden
- Bill and Annie Hostetler
- Howard Charitable Foundation
- Jennie and Darren Keller
- Rob Kurnick Family
- Tom and Cathy Reahard
- Shawn and Morgan Stephenson
- Shelby Stephenson
- Three Cords Foundation

## *Contributions of \$50,000 to \$99,999*

- Tom and Nora Hiatt
- GTRCF Wilfred and Joan Larson Endowment
- Bill and Lynda Leugers
- Steve and Deb Martineau
- Rick and Marlee Snowdon
- Ann Stack

## *Contributions of \$20,000 to \$49,999*

- Anonymous
- George and Molly Barbee
- Bob and Sally Biggs
- Tag and Marta Birge
- George and Barb Cochran
- Judy Frederick
- Jim and Mary Jo Grogan
- Terry and Heather Howe
- Tom and Diane Leugers
- Debbie and Bill Lipner
- Bruce and Kim Olson
- Laura Paine
- Bo and Stanley Reahard III
- David and Anne Shane
- Paula and Michael Todd
- Andy and Elizabeth Walters
- Harold and Jane Wiese
- Laurie and Jim Wilkins
- Mark and Anne Woolsey





# Honor Roll

## *Contributions of \$10,000 to \$19,999*

Adams Legacy Foundation  
Kate and Dan Appel  
Larry Mawby and Lois Bahle  
Joan and Chuck Bennison and Family  
Bill Encherman and Martha Leugers-Encherman  
Laurence and Cathy Fallon  
Pam Fortune\*  
John and Lynn Heekin  
Jeremy Jakary  
Jim and Laurie Kletzien  
Tad and Wendy McKay  
Josh and Taylor Mick  
Ted and Lisa Neild  
Diane and Tom Pelak  
Carol and Lonnie Rademacher  
Ralph and Taylor Reahard IV  
Richard and Gwen Schwabauer  
Ben and Louise Scott  
Joel and Linda Zylstra

## *Contributions of \$5,000 to \$9,999*

Pete and Nancy Baker  
Anne and Eric Blanchard  
John and Sarah Carter  
Tim and Susan Collins Charitable Fund  
Bruce and Lynn Dunn  
Georgiana Fenton\*  
To a Friend from Henry Holt and Carol Vittert  
Andy and Robin Jamieson  
Greg and Mary Kuntz  
Craig and Lisa McConnell  
Nancy and Thad Popa  
John and and Karen Schaffer  
Don and Debra Stricoff  
Tom and Sue Trumbull  
Ann and Warren Watkins  
Mark and Lisa Weadick  
Bruce and Libby Wilkinson Foundation  
Randy and Joan Woods  
Jim and Kit Wysor





# Honor Roll

---

## *Contributions of \$1,000 to \$4,999*

Anonymous  
Lawrence and Kathleen Acker  
Ed Arlin and Deborah Greenman Arlin  
Kim and Laurie Baird  
Jack and Betsy Biggs  
Kipp and Ellen Bingham and Family  
Judy and Jon Birge  
Turner and Anne-Sophie Booth  
Tony and Cathy Borden  
In memory of Gene and Rita Bulkowski  
    from Doug and Jane Bouwman  
Andrew and Lauren Bozzelli  
William and Margee Bracken  
Alexander and Sally Bracken Family Fund  
Andrew Bradford  
David and Sally Buchanan  
Cathy and John Burns  
Bill and Mary Butler  
Capital Power's Generosity Program  
Scott Carroll and Erin O'Grady  
Betty Clarke  
Dorothy Jean Coulter  
Krupp-Courtade  
Scott Craig  
Lori and Dean Crutchfield  
George and Maryellen Daston  
William Fortune Butz and Richard Jock Davis  
Darlene Doorlag  
Sue and Mike Downs  
Tom and Cheryl Drumm  
Dave and Jen Dumoulin  
John and Gina Erb  
Hoensheid Family Fund  
Nancy and Jeff Fisher

## *Contributions of \$1000 to \$4,999 (continued)*

Steve and Ann Fisher  
Mike and Dawn Fisher  
James and Sally Friend  
Patrick and Christy Gaughan  
Norbert Gits  
Nancy Rixey Gottschalk  
Stewart and Nancy Greenlee  
Chuck and Mollie Hall  
Edith Mead Holway  
Nancy and David Hunter  
Michael and Linnea Keen  
Tom and Sally Kimpel  
Alan Kirby and Theresa Pleasants  
Thomas and Maryann Knowles II  
Rick and Sandy Koehler  
Richard Korndorfer  
Lucy Lambert  
Linus and Liz Laskey  
Carol LeGray  
In honor of Martha Leugers Encherman  
    from Matthew and Maureen Leugers  
John and Robin Ling  
Robert and Maria Mackenzie  
In honor of Tom Hiatt  
    from Kate Ecker and John Mackie Jr.  
Patrick and Kristi Martin  
Dan and Susan McDavid  
Margaret McKinley  
Allan and Mary McKisson  
Frank and Penny Mead  
George and Cindy Meeker  
Richard and Sally Meese  
Martin and Jane Meulendyke  
James and Patricia Miller  
Nick and Jeannine Minnick



# Honor Roll

## *Contributions of \$1000 to \$4,999 (continued)*

Christine and Adam Mouch  
Carter and Tania Neild  
Rita and Jerry Palmer  
David and Ann Podeszwa  
Poker Float Fundraising Event  
Brian and Susan Price  
John and Angie Puetz  
Cory and Sarah Rademacher  
Andy and Kathryn Rademacher  
Stephen Redding  
Ken and Pam Reid  
Ron and Linda Reimink  
Dewey and Jane Renneker  
Robert and Bonny Risbridger  
Eppa and Buffie Rixey  
Richard and Stacey Roberts  
Doug and Sharon Rudy  
Chris Rutkowski  
Zach and Leah Sakas  
Joe and Kelly Sarafa  
Tim and Lucy Schaub  
Renee Schroll  
Linda and Jim Shad  
Mike and Gina Sheldon  
John Shoaff and Julie Donnell  
Caroline Spencer  
Kate and Coenraad Stassen  
William and Adwoa Steel  
John and Marjorie Stoller

## *Contributions of \$1000 to \$4,999 (continued)*

Noah and Chelsea Suttmann  
Dan and Nancy Sweeney  
Skip and Lynn Telgard  
Winifred J. Tharp  
D'Vera G. Topol  
Doug and Judy VanDyke  
Darby Vermeulen Family  
Greg Vogt and Claire Eberwein  
Tasso Teftsis and Margaret Weertz  
Gil Wheeler

## *Contributions of \$500 to \$999*

Anonymous  
Kristine Ball  
Don and Anne Baty  
Drew Berlin  
Jim and Ann Bingham  
Warren and Sherry Blazy  
Denise and Stuart Butterfield  
Paul and Patricia Cobb  
Gary and Terri Coyle  
Pete and Anne Eardley  
Gary and Kathy Engelhardt  
Susan Fehrenbach  
Lawrence and Jacqueline Fleis  
Dave and Kim Furbush  
In Memory of John Gauthier from Ruth Gauthier  
Bill and Leanne Grogan  
Sara Harding





# Honor Roll

## *Contributions of \$500 to \$499 (continued)*

Susan and Kelly Haun  
Paul and Meredith Henley  
Rudolph and Mary Jo Hirt Jr.  
Donovan and Jan Kiessel  
Barb and Jim Kobberstad  
Scott and Jane Larigan  
Scott and Lisa Martin  
Thomas Muszynski  
Alice Neild  
Bob and Catherine Noonan  
Steven and Cabrina Owsley  
Frank and Angela Petty  
David and Suzy Reese  
Tom and Margaret Rohs  
Tom and Sherry Sajkowski  
Bob and Sandra Sinnaeve  
Mary Jo Sleder and Rick Meyer  
Michael and Teri Steichen  
Don and Betsy Stephanic  
Steve and Cindi Strong  
Daniel and Stephanie Tresemer  
In honor of Katherine Hall Wheeler  
    from Dr. Katherine Vestal  
James Weigand and Tawnya Rowden  
Dan and Kay White  
Stuart and Suzanne White  
Joe and Michelle Will  
Stuart and Nancy Winston

## *Contributions up to \$499*

Anonymous  
Phyllis Babel  
In Memory of Ralph and Louise Bingham  
    from Jim and Ann Bingham  
Dan and Laurie Birchmeier  
Tom and Gwen Bischoff  
Ken Blaze  
Amy Bolmer  
Paul and Sara Borzcik  
Meg Meurer Brossy  
James and Nancy Buckhout  
William Buckhout  
Beth and John Cafaro  
Alan and Deb Campbell  
Judy and Michael Carmean  
James and Sara Cavanaugh  
Karen Chase  
Ted and Karen Cimafranca  
Robert and Patricia Coffaro  
Karl and Tracy Cooper  
Bruce and Brenda Cornell  
David and Dorothy Couturier  
Suzanne Crompton  
Jeff and Tamara Cutler  
In Memory of Bette and Bob Damm  
    from Jamie Damm  
Howard Davis  
Laurie Gerdes and David DeGraat  
KuiECK Deming Family LLC





---

# Honor Roll

---

***Contributions up to \$499 (continued)***

William and Nancy Dockter  
Richard and Kathy Ehrenberger II  
Rotary Endowment  
Claire Ernst  
Deb and Neal Fellows  
James Flaggert  
Gary and Lou Anne Ford  
George France  
Paul and Marianne Gard  
Lloyd and Kay Girbach  
Victoria Gits Trust  
Thomas and Elizabeth Griffith Fund  
Robert and Carolyn Grigereit  
Lynn and Diane Hedeman  
Tim and Carol Hinckley  
Diane and Tom Hoban  
Kelly Holcomb  
Sarah Krupp Horness  
Kathy and John Jahoda  
Chris and Sarah Johnson  
Jason Joseph  
David Kabaker and Brooke Nash  
Jim and Cindy Kacin  
Charles and Karen Kaufman  
Casey Keller  
Patrick and Annette Kendziorski  
Fred and Sandra Koehler  
John and Ruth Koelzer  
Pamela Leonard and Stephen Kozelko  
Glenn and Judith LaCross  
Rose Laing  
Bob and Lynne LaSarge  
Dan and Heidi Leugers  
Dawn and Chris Lund

***Contributions up to \$499 (continued)***

Cobe Lund  
Gene and Susan Mapes  
John and Nannie Maxwell  
Steve and Susan Maybriar  
David and Christina Michelmore  
Carol Miller  
Preston and Colleen Moose  
In honor of Martha Leugers Encherman  
from Andrea Mosbaugh  
Susan Mosier  
Michael Mott  
North Lakes Estates Association  
Slater and Katie Nalley  
In Memory of Paula Gits  
from Tim and Mary O'Callaghan  
In Honor of Paul and Michael Todd  
from David and Sara Osborn  
Susan Pandorf and David Noling  
Christine Pfennig  
John and Gail Popa  
Andrew and Jennifer Powell  
James and Toni Pratt  
Sarah and Jeff Ragains  
Lindsley Raines  
Phyllis Richard  
Leonard and Karen Rinke  
Gary and Anita Risbridger  
Robert and Katie Roberts  
Alexandra Robson  
Michael and Laura Rothermel  
Marcia Banker and Jeffrey Schloemer  
William Slater  
Don and Jane Smit  
Nell Revel and Powell Smith



# Honor Roll

## *Contributions up to \$499 (continued)*

Becky Stacy

Ken and Lisa Stann

Marsha Stratton and David Lautner

Mark Stuhldreher

Martha Topol and David Kirby

Steve and Susan Trillet

Robert and Anna Tucker Jr.

Amy Tumblin

Dave and Cris Verhougstraete

Richard Voss

Blair and Anne Wangman

Jennifer Weaver

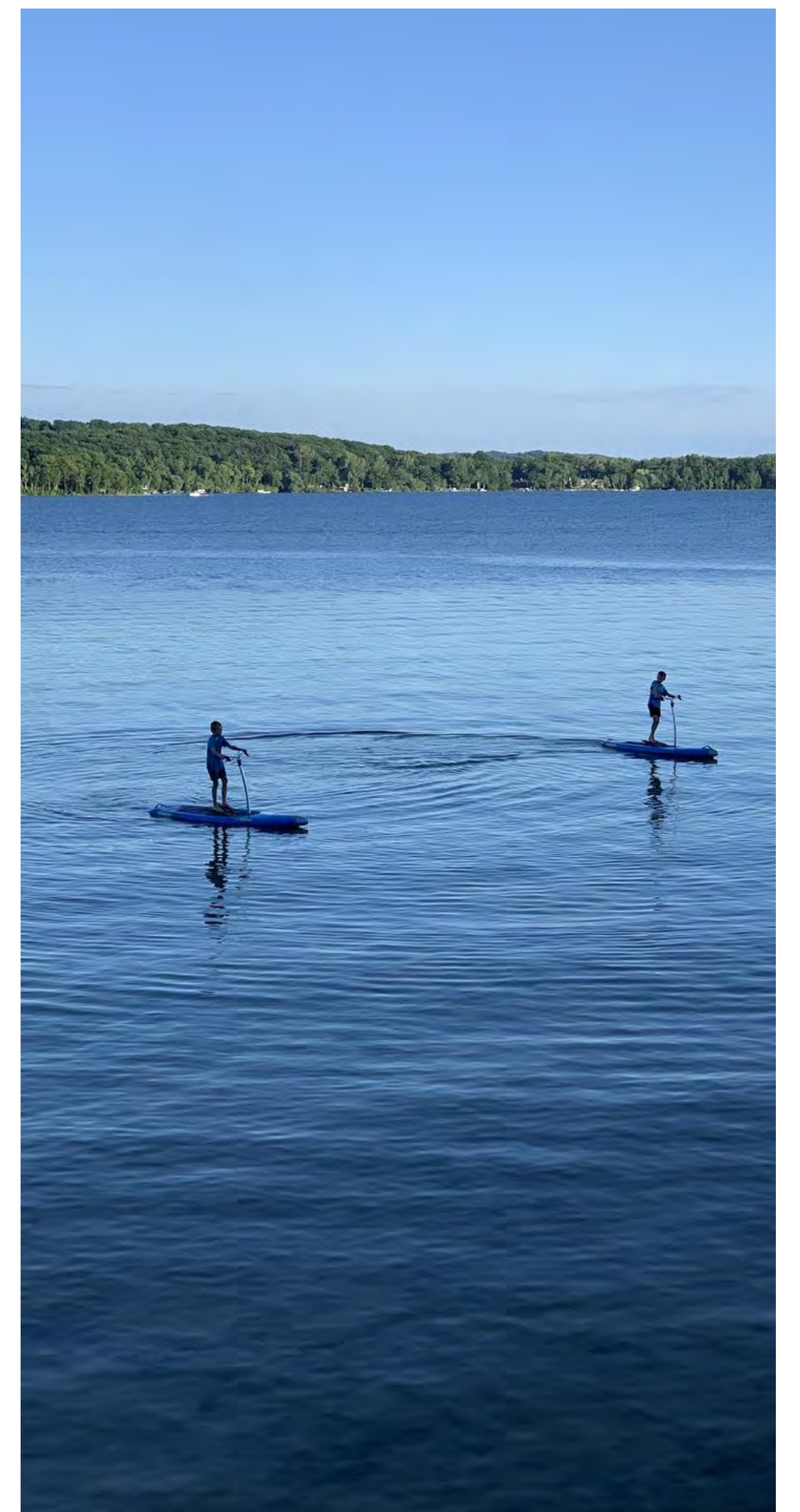
Sara and George Wellman

Jim Wenstrup

Steve and Donna Witmer

Michael and Sharon Yeiser

David Zelner





## An Update: Addressing the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species in Lake Leelanau

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association (LLLA), in conjunction with its partner, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB), continued to lead the fight against aquatic invasive species in Lake Leelanau for the fourth year in 2023. Although the Association has received no financial support from Friends of Lake Leelanau to date, the principal reason Friends was established was to create a public foundation which will have the financial capacity to protect Lake Leelanau by funding qualified nonprofits like the Lake Association in the future. To give time for Friends to become established and gather assets before Friends begins to make grants in early 2025, Jennie and Darren Keller have generously covered most of LLLA's expenses to monitor and control aquatic invasive species in Lake Leelanau in 2022 and 2023. They have kindly agreed to continue to provide this support in 2024.

Friends encourages readers of this report to support both Friends and the Lake Association, since the missions of the two nonprofits are complementary. Friends is the only organization which has the financial resources to protect Lake Leelanau far into the future. LLLA is currently the only organization qualified to do the critical and challenging day-to-day field work absolutely essential to managing the grave threat invasive species present to Lake Leelanau. Together, Friends and LLLA have the ability to address and manage the threat of invasive species. More detailed information about both organizations, including how to support them, is available at their respective websites: [www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org](http://www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org) and [www.lakeleelanau.org](http://www.lakeleelanau.org)

The Lake Association's comprehensive science-based program to address aquatic invasive species in Lake Leelanau encompasses three distinct operations: prevention, monitoring and control. The program initially focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on controlling Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), which scientists agree is the most invasive aquatic plant in North America.



Biodegradable  
burlap blankets  
control the  
spread of EWM

### ***Prevention***

Without effective prevention measures, the expensive and labor-intensive programs to control invasive species in Lake Leelanau are destined to be repeated in an endless cycle, because re-infestation of invasive plants will almost certainly recur from boats which are not carefully cleaned before they are placed in Lake Leelanau.

Acknowledging this reality, LLLA and GTB have financed, installed and are currently maintaining four boat cleaning stations on Lake Leelanau. The stations are located at the busiest boat launch sites and are fairly evenly distributed around the lake. Beginning in the summer of 2024, all four boat stations will be staffed by part-time employees to encourage greater compliance. Boaters who use Lake Leelanau are encouraged to comply, and urge others to comply, with this simple motto:

**Clean, Drain and Dry!**



## Monitoring and Early Detection

LLLA has experimented with several methods of monitoring the presence of aquatic plants in the South and North Lakes in the past four years: (i) visual inspection from boats; (ii) sampling plant populations from boats using the “rake toss” method; (iii) surveying with underwater and aerial drones; and (iv) using highly accurate (sub-meter) GPS geo-locating devices. The team continues to evaluate the latest technologies and employ state-of-the-art monitoring equipment in its work. Accurate monitoring is critical to the field work because effective control programs are predicated on identifying and monitoring target sites with pinpoint precision. This data also helps the EWM team identify and treat infestations while they are still small and also place burlap barriers with greater accuracy. Finally, and equally importantly, monitoring enables the field team to evaluate the success of its control and eradication programs over a period of months and years.



## Control and Eradication

As Ron Reimink, the Lake Association’s Lake Biologist, points out in the leadership team’s detailed *2023 Field Report* (a copy of which is available on the Association’s website) the 2023 field season brought both surprises and new insights. This new information required the field team to adapt its work plan and revise its strategies to adjust to these new realities during the season.

The first great surprise was that several beds of EWM increased exponentially in size between the time they were measured in the fall of 2022 and the spring of 2023. The team conjectured that this expansion may have been due to the mild winter weather in 2022-2023 which enabled some established beds of EWM to grow substantially, or that perhaps aerial drones were unsuccessful identifying populations of shorter plants. The second great surprise was that, by the end of the summer of 2023, a number of EWM beds which had previously been mapped and were targeted for remediation simply disappeared, a development which still puzzles the field research team (although this phenomenon has been recorded on other lakes, both in Michigan and elsewhere in the U.S.).

Despite these surprises, the team was able to further improve its ability to place very large biodegradable burlap “blankets” efficiently and cover more than four acres of EWM—more than twice the amount of area covered in any previous year. At the end of the 2023 season, the team believed it had only one more very large infestation left to tackle in South Lake Leelanau, along with many smaller infestations which the team simply did not have the bandwidth to address in 2023. To date, apart from a few small infestations in the Narrows, no EWM has been found in North Lake Leelanau. The entire lake is monitored every year to identify and map infested sites.



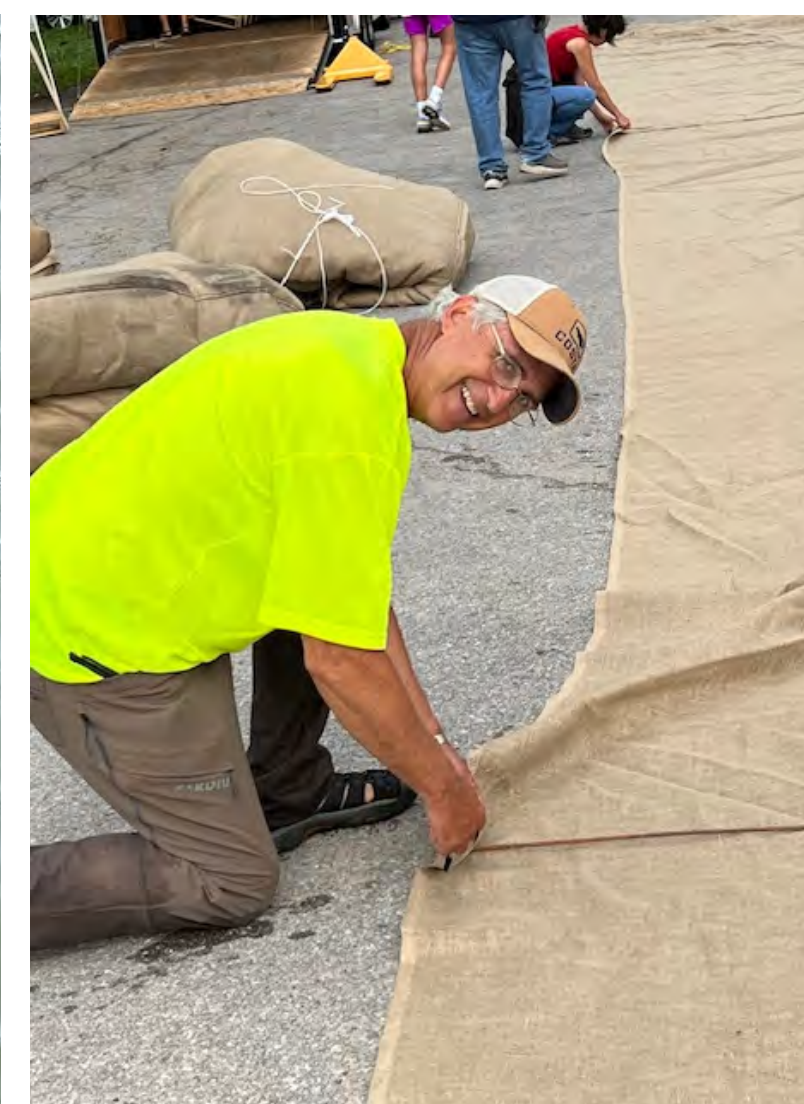
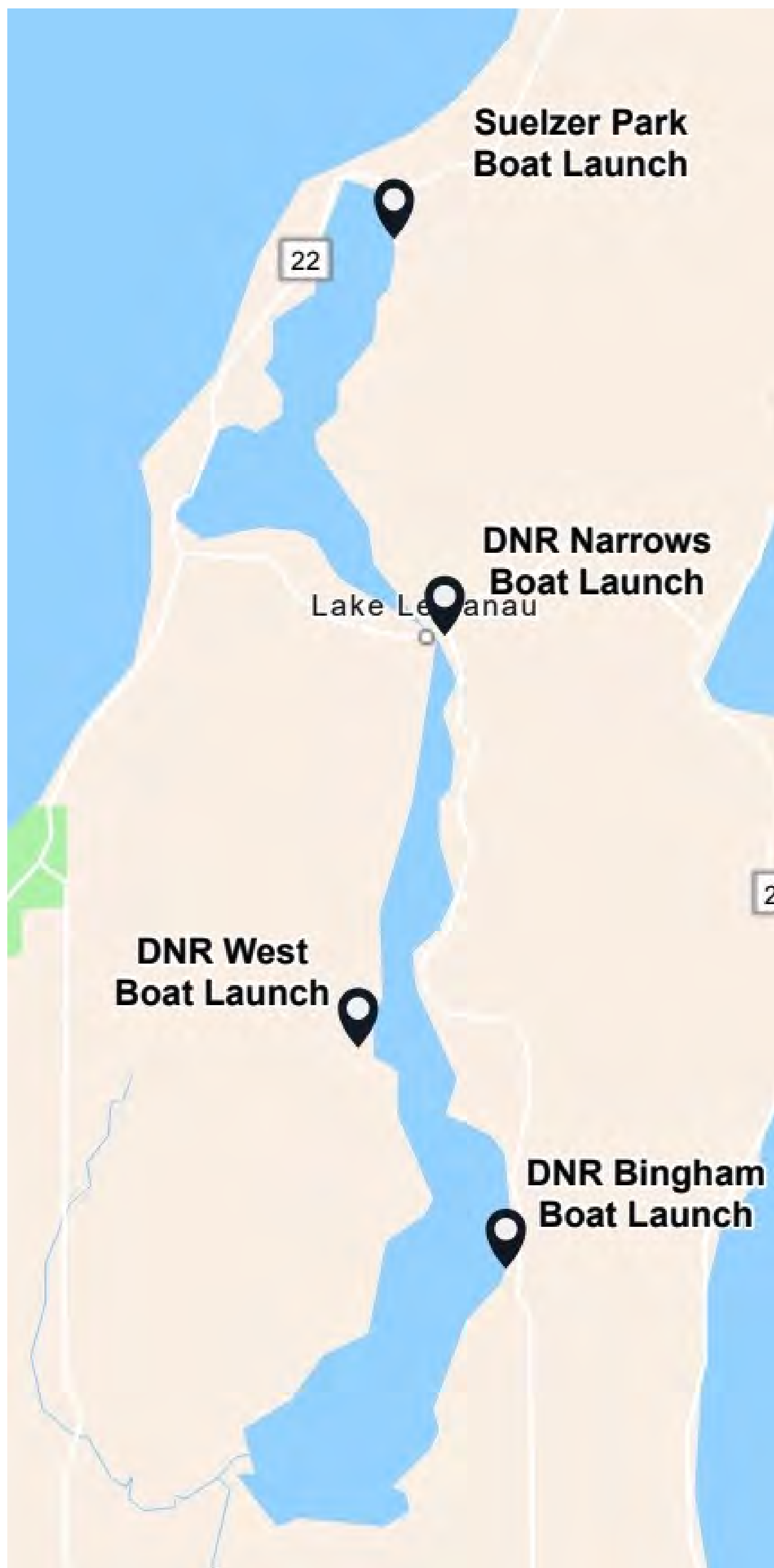


## Control and Eradication (continued)

It's important to stress that, to LLLA's knowledge, no other lake in North America has sought to control EWM using burlap barriers as large or as extensively and effectively as Lake Leelanau's research team. After four years of trying several different methods of controlling EWM, Lake Leelanau's team believes it has developed the most effective and environmentally friendly way to kill and quite possibly eradicate this extraordinarily fast growing and highly invasive aquatic plant.

The field team is already planning and ordering supplies for the 2024 field season, which will be one of the busiest yet. Next year the team will expand to include two teams of divers who will be working on the lake each day. Based on recent progress, the leadership team has concluded that 2024 may be the tipping point in the battle to control EWM. With more divers, the members of the team hope that within the next couple of years, they will be able to transition from seeking to halt the spread of EWM to focusing primarily on monitoring and maintenance.








Friends of Lake Leelanau salutes the Lake Association and the Grand Traverse Band for orchestrating and implementing this complex undertaking, and congratulates and thanks the entire team—particularly leaders **Ron Reimink, Annalise Povolo, Lonnie Rademacher and Dan Mays**—for their innovative strategies, their extraordinary dedication and their hours of hard work. Friends also recognizes and thanks **Nancy and Thad Popa** for planning, obtaining permits for and overseeing the construction of the four boat wash stations, as well as **Dan Mays** and the **Grand Traverse Band** for providing a significant portion of the financing for these units.





# Friends of Lake Leelanau & Lake Leelanau Lake Association

/ Two Independent Organizations

	 <i>Friends</i>	 <i>Lake Association</i>
 Inception	<h2>August 2021</h2> <p>The mission of Friends of Lake Leelanau is to protect the waters of Lake Leelanau in perpetuity. Friends accomplishes this goal through an endowment, the income which is distributed to tax-exempt organizations focused on improving the aquatic health of Lake Leelanau.</p>	<h2>1980</h2> <p>The Association, a 44-year-old organization with 571 members, is leading the charge to coordinate and implement comprehensive, science-based programs necessary to protect Lake Leelanau.</p>
 Type of Nonprofit	<h2>Foundation</h2> <p>The Foundation's priority is to develop a long-term mechanism to finance the prevention, monitoring, and control of invasive species and other threats to Lake Leelanau. Gifts to the Foundation will be placed in an endowment fund.</p>	<h2>Association</h2> <p>Donations and membership dues help fund the Association's current programs to prevent, monitor, and remove aquatic invasive species, construct boat cleaning stations, monitor water quality, protect the shoreline, and educate individuals on boating safety and lake stewardship.</p>
 Finances	<h2>\$8,000,000</h2> <p>At a 4.5% spend rate, an \$8 million endowment is expected to generate approximately \$360,000 in annual income. Starting in January 2025, Friends' board of directors will invite grant requests from qualified nonprofit organizations which have a demonstrated capability to prevent, monitor and control invasive species or address other threats to the health of Lake Leelanau.</p>	<h2>\$500,000</h2> <p>The Association's annual budget funds the nonprofit's lake stewardship activities. Approximately two-thirds of the Association's annual budget, or more than \$300,000, is spent on preventing, monitoring and controlling aquatic invasive species in Lake Leelanau.</p>
 Governance	<p>The Foundation is currently governed by three board members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Jennie Keller</b>, President</li><li>• <b>Jim Grogan</b>, Vice President and Treasurer</li><li>• <b>Tom Hiatt</b>, Vice President and Secretary</li></ul> <p>Tom, the immediate past president of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association, is acting as a liaison between the organizations. <b>Carol Rademacher</b> is serving as the Campaign Coordinator for Friends and also attends all board meetings.</p>	<p>The Lake Association is governed by a 21-member board of directors and guided by four officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nancy Popa</b>, President</li><li>• <b>Kathy Birney</b>, Vice President and Treasurer</li><li>• <b>Diane Pelak</b>, Vice President</li><li>• <b>Greg Vogt</b>, Secretary</li></ul> <p>In addition, a number of other individuals with experience in finance, lake ecology, law, government, communications and business serve on the Association's committees and task forces.</p>
 Supporting Lake Leelanau for the <i>long-term</i>	<p><b>Friends</b> was formed to solve a long-term problem. No existing organization, including the <b>Association</b>, has the capacity to raise the funds needed to protect Lake Leelanau year after year. The Foundation seeks to address this critical need.</p>	



---

# 2023 Financial Report

---

2023 was the second year in Friends' three-year campaign to raise **\$8 million in assets**. These funds will be used to establish an endowment fund, from which Friends will make grants to other nonprofit organizations with the experience and capacity to protect Lake Leelanau from invasive species and other threats. To enable Friends to reach this goal efficiently, the board of directors of Friends will not make any grants until January 1, 2025. Between now and then, Friends' board plans to continue to build the organization's investment portfolio by raising funds through December 31, 2024 while reinvesting the dividends and interest earned in the interim.

As of December 31, 2023, 351 donors had given or pledged \$7.2 million. This compares to gifts and pledges of \$5.7 million Friends' had received from 168 donors at the end of 2022. In addition, Friends' investment portfolio has earned approximately \$450,000 from inception through December 31, 2023, bringing the total results of Friends' campaign to \$7.6 million—an amount which includes both paid and unpaid pledges as well as investment returns. At the end of 2023, Friends' assets included an estimated \$5.8 million in donations and pledge payments received as well as gains on investments in its portfolio. This number compares to Friends' assets of \$3.2 million at the end of 2022.

Friends' unpaid pledges totaled approximately \$1.8 million at the end of 2023. Many of the remaining pledges will be paid out over the next two or three years, although a few of the pledges have a longer payment period. At the end of 2023, all donors except one were current on their pledge payments.

Friends' fundraising expenses have been minimal. Friends does not maintain a physical office. Friends' board members receive no compensation and Friends has no paid staff. Friends' largest expenses are for its annual audit, which cost approximately \$5,000 in 2022, and for investment management fees, which are provided at a discounted rate. Total investment management fees were approximately 0.88% of the investment portfolio in 2023. The gains on Friends' investment portfolio reported above are net of investment management fees. Friends had no outstanding liabilities at the end of 2023.

Please note that the above numbers for 2023 are preliminary and unaudited. Gabridge & Company of Traverse City, MI, will audit Friends' financials in the first quarter of 2024. Once completed, the 2023 audit will be posted to Friends' website, [www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org](http://www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org).





# 2023 Financial Report (continued)

## *Investment Committee and Investment Management*

In 2022 Friends' board of directors established an Investment Committee which met quarterly in 2023. The members of the Committee are Jim Grogan, Tom Hiatt, Jennie Keller, Darren Keller and Tom Reahard.

The Investment Committee, in turn, engaged an independent investment management firm, Sapient Capital, to manage the nonprofit's assets. Sapient is a privately owned, independent advisory firm with more than \$9 billion in assets under management. Sapient's clients include a number of nonprofit organizations, as well as families, individuals, foundations and other institutions. Sapient is headquartered in Indianapolis with offices in Los Angeles, Miami and New York. Friends' account manager at Sapient is Michael Hall, Partner. Mike's background, as well as additional information about Sapient, is available at [www.sapientcapital.com](http://www.sapientcapital.com)





# WHAT'S NEXT

---

Friends plans to conclude its three-year fundraising campaign on December 31, 2024, although Friends will continue to welcome contributions after that date.

To enable the assets in the foundation to continue to grow, Friends does not plan to make any grants until January 2025. At that time, Friends' board of directors will solicit grant applications from qualified nonprofit organizations with the capability and experience to protect Lake Leelanau from invasive species and other threats.

Friends' Investment Committee and board of directors have adopted a target annual "spend rate" of 4.5%. At this rate, an endowment of \$8,000,000 will generate approximately \$360,000 in annual "spendable" income. This means Friends may make annual grants up to this amount and still be reasonably confident that the endowment's investment returns will outpace the spend rate, enabling Friends' endowment to continue to grow over time.

For additional information about Friends, please see the website, [www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org](http://www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org)

Should you wish to make a donation to Friends, or if you have any questions about the organization, please contact any of the four individuals below.

**Jennie Keller**

President

[Jennie.Keller@brown-legacy.com](mailto:Jennie.Keller@brown-legacy.com)

**Jim Grogan**

Vice President

[jimg21@gmail.com](mailto:jimg21@gmail.com)

**Tom Hiatt**

Vice President

[tom@thomashiatt.com](mailto:tom@thomashiatt.com)

**Carol Rademacher**

Campaign Coordinator

[crademac55@gmail.com](mailto:crademac55@gmail.com)







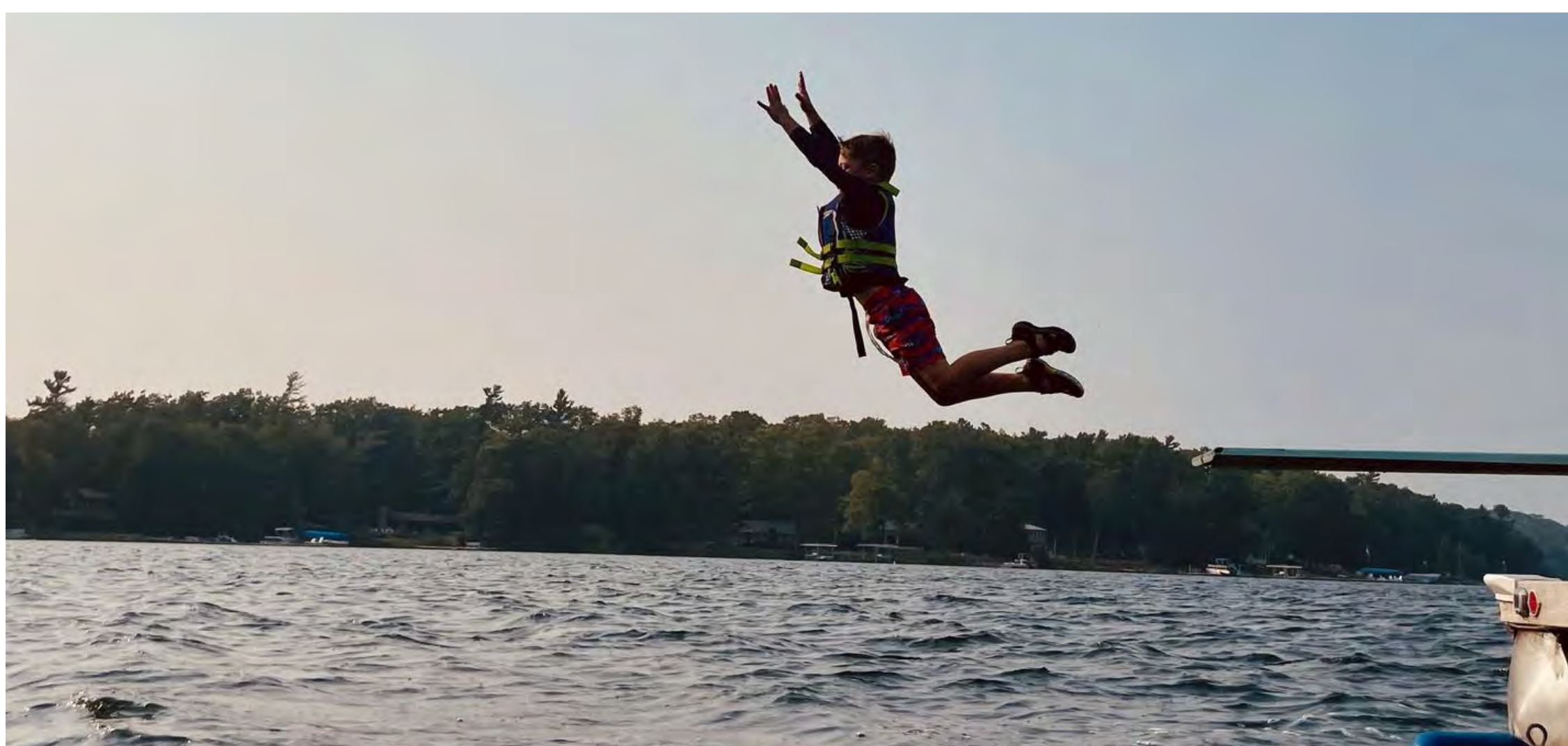
**Don't Forget to Visit Friends' Online Store!**

Friends' website includes a link to Friends' online store:

[www.gologoit.com/friends\\_lake\\_lee/shop/home](http://www.gologoit.com/friends_lake_lee/shop/home)

Please check out our handsome tee shirts, cozy hoodies, smart visors, handy backpacks and a number of other useful items, many of which are available in Friends' signature summer colors: lake turquoise and sunset orange.

These items make great gifts for your family members and friends, or convenient additions to your boat and your home.







FRIENDS OF

Lake Leelanau

A Public Foundation

GET INVOLVED



[www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org](http://www.friendsoflakeleelanau.org)

