Twin Lakes Association

TLA Annual Meeting

August 8, 2026

Annual Meeting Agenda

- Welcome 05 minutes
- TLA Happenings 10 minutes
- Recognitions 10 minutes
- Board Elections 15 minutes
- Governance Documents 35 minutes
  - Bylaws
  - Lake Preservation Fund (LPF) Charter
- 2027 TLA Budget 10 minutes
- Other Business 20minutes
  - **Adjourn/Picnic/Twin Lakes Day**

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The 2026 season is progressing well!

TLA Updates

- **Hydrilla: As of July 31, no hydrilla plants have been found in the lake system!**
  - We are assessing whether we need one more treatment for this season
  - We anticipate cutting back on treatments next season but NOT eliminating them
  - *We can never declare victory. Hydrilla can return at any time. Prevention is key!*
- Data collection for the watershed study will wrap up in the fall. Next year will focus on findings and action plan
- It is anticipated that Miles Mountain will be transferred to SALT stewardship as part of the Cooper Hill preserve by September. Hiking trails to follow
- The TLA is exploring purchasing a high-pressure hot water decontamination system, which is portable and captures the run-off, for augmenting the monitoring program for the 2027 season

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West Twin Tape Grass Control Initiative

West Twin Tape Grass Control Initiative Gaining Momentum!

- Harvesting work began in July and early results are encouraging
- Three TSS teachers are learning to drive the new equipment, with guidance from Russ Conklin
- The process of unloading the debris is being refined
- Docking of the equipment has been finalized
- The TLA and TSS are working collaboratively to manage the program in a cost-effective manner

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Lake Health Initiatives require collective action

- **Let's all remember that we can make meaningful changes in lake ecology if we act together....**

  - **Turn off the Lights**: Many animals and insects depend upon the dark nights to thrive. Lights can be harmful to these species and interrupt the natural daily rituals of life
  - **Remove invasives and Expand Natural Shoreline Vegetative Buffers**: Invasive plants negatively impact the natural environment. Removing and replacing invasive species with native cultivars is important for enhancing animal habitat while filtering harmful pollutants. **Eliminating manicured lawns to the water's edge, stopping the use of fertilizer and returning a sizeable portion of lake front to a more natural state is critical for lake health**
  - **Pump Your Septic**: Well-maintained, functioning septic systems are fundamental to maintaining water quality. **Septic systems should be pumped at least every other year by a qualified contractor**
  - ***Using Nature's Action Guide as a resource, determine what you are going to do to help protect Twin Lakes!***

Each of us can do our part!

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Thank you for your service!

The following TLA board members are stepping down:

- Bill Barton
- Jeff Cox
- Jack Mahoney
- Blake Morrison
- Eric Stoer

- Your Years of Service to the TLA is GREATLY APPRECIATED!

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Board Elections

Four TLA members are standing for election to 3-year board terms…Let's Vote!

The candidates are:

- Cathy Durning*
- Kim Gilman*
- Cam McClearn
- Dag Skattum**

*membership co-chairs

**Dag to run for Senior VP

- Will Webb will join the board as the ex-officio director representing TSS

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TLA Bylaw Revisions

These revisions were initiated to bring the TLA Bylaws into compliance with CT corporate law and IRS regulations

Changes Include:

- Staggered 3-year board terms
- Approval of Annual TLA Budget by membership
- The American School for the Deaf, the Twin Lakes Beach Club, The Salisbury School and O'Hara's Landing will have automatic representation on the board
- Provide a mechanism for members to remove directors
- Establish a quorum for membership votes of at least 25 members present
- Elevate the position of Vice President of Lake Management to Officer
- Allow for membership vote by written ballot in lieu of a meeting
- Clearly delineating the duties of each Officer

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The Twin Lakes Preservation Fund (LPF)

- **Purpose:** ”the LPF is to provide financial support for projects and initiatives that enhance the mission of the TLA to preserve and protect the Twin Lakes watershed and lake system.”
- **This is a long-term initiative, and the focus going forward will be on planned giving to the LPF**
  - Yearly withdrawals are not required nor likely for many years
  - With time, this fund will grow and hopefully, provide meaningful operating support to the TLA
  - Funds will be managed in a conservative manner for growth and preservation of capital
  - The fund will be managed by an investment committee composed of select board members and qualified TLA members at large
  - The **Purpose** and the **Spending Policy** provisions in the LPF charter can **ONLY** be amended by vote of the membership

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The TLA is in a solid financial position as we look to the 2027 season

- YTD July 2026, the TLA has received $120,303 in donations and $97,232 in grants/other income for a **total income of $217,535 for current operations**
  - Separately, the LPF received $336,338 in donations

- Total Expenses YTD July are $$223,339 of which 84% are for lake management expenses

- Bank balances as of August 5:

Gen. Checking:	$ 401,074*
Earmarked:	$ 110,953**
Money Market	$ 236,276
CD's:	$ 203,761

*Includes LPF funds of $336,338 until new accounts set up at Bank of Millbrook. **West Twin Harvesting and Biomass Removal

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Projected 2027 TLA Budget is ~25K less than 2026 projection

Estimated TLA Budget for 2027

- TLA Projected Expenses
  - Solitude: $ 150,000
  - NEAR: $ 150,000
  - Admin/Other: $ 20,000
  - Monitors: $ 50,000*
  - Watershed Study: $ 20,000**
  - WT Harvesting: $ 35,000***
  - Biomass Removal: $ 25,000***
  - **Total: $ 450,000**
- Projected Income:
  - Dues & Donations: $ 275,000
  - Town of Salisbury: $ 75,000
  - Grants: $ 100,000
  - **Total: $ 450,000**

*Paid from town budget TL allocation

**Paid from Bates Grant

***Paid from W Twin Earmarked Account

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Things to remember:

- Thank you to Jeff, Linda and Wes of ASD for use of Camp IB for all our activities today!
- Please join us for the picnic immediately following the meeting today
  - Thank you Matt Elliot and family for cooking!
- Twin Lakes Day games begin at 1 pm
- TLA merch and copies of Nature's Action Guide are available for sale in the back
- Remember…the TLA depends upon your generous support for operating expenses. We are short of our goal for 2026.

Please ask a new neighbor to join the TLA and donate if you haven't already given!

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Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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2026 Photo Contest Winner:
Neil Schechter
Congratulations!