



# The GLQO Watershed Journal

The mission of the Gull Lake Quality Organization is to address concerns and provide education regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.

Volume 3, Issue 3

<http://www.glqo.net>

July-August, 2009

## Upcoming Events

### July, 2009

#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

**22nd - Annual & Board Meeting,  
7:00 PM, Richland Area  
Community Center**

### August, 2009

19th—KBS Pasture Dairy Grand  
Opening 1:00PM-4:00PM  
Pasture Dairy Farm

22nd—First Annual GLQO Ice Cream  
Social, Noon-4:00PM  
Hickory Gables Dairy

### Sept. 2009

2nd—Board Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Hickory Builders

### Oct. 2009

14th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Check website for location

### Nov. 2009

18th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Check website for location

### Dec. 2009

30th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Check website for location

## **Reminder: Don't forget your 2009 Membership Dues!!**

**We have included a membership application at the end of this newsletter and enclosed a pre-addressed return envelope for your convenience.**

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## **Notice of GLQO Annual Meeting**

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### **Gull Lake Quality Organization Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 22, 2009, 7:00PM  
Richland Area Community Center  
9400 East CD Ave, Richland**

#### **Featured Speakers:**

***Jane Herbert, MSU Extension District Water Quality Educator—  
Lakescaping***

***Wendy Ogilvie , Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber—  
Update on Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Project***

**Come to the GLQO Annual Meeting. Find out what the GLQO has been doing for you, the residents of the Gull Lake Watershed, over the past year... find out what the GLQO has planned for the coming year to preserve and protect the natural resources of the Gull Lake**

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## **The Inaugural GLQO Ice Cream Social!**

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**What: Ice Cream Social/Fund Raiser for GLQO  
When: Saturday, August 22, 2009 Noon-4:00PM  
Where: Hickory Gables Dairy, Cressey Road  
Check [www.glqo.net](http://www.glqo.net) for more details**



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## Making Sense of Local Lake-related Organizations

By *Eric Reid*

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'Tis once again the time of year when all our thoughts turn to... Membership Dues!

Gadzooks, it seems as if there are more and more local organizations all the time asking for your membership or your donations, and it's just getting harder and harder to keep them all straight! We here at the GLQO are asked about this kind of thing regularly, so we thought it a good time to try and help alleviate some of the confusion we encounter.

Specifically, there are (at least) three local organizations involved with quality of life issues on Gull Lake. Those are:

- **The Gull Lake Quality Organization** (<http://www.glqo.net>)  
Mission: To provide education and information need to help preserve and protect the water quality in the Gull Lake Watershed  
Provides: Watershed Quality Monitoring; "harmonization" of local Township Ordinances; Gull Lake Marine Patrol  
Membership: Open to any local resident within the Watershed
- **The Gull Lake Association** (<http://gulllakedam.org>)  
Mission: Ownership and upkeep of Gull Creek Dam, which controls the level of Gull Lake  
Membership: Any property owner on Gull Lake or Gull Creek
- **The Four Townships Water Resources Council** (<http://www.ftwrc.org>)  
Mission:: Land usage strategy development across Ross, Richland, Prairieville, Barry Townships  
Provides: Annual Paddle (this year— Sherman Lake), Clean Water Signs (Prairieville Creek, Augusta Creek, Gull Creek)  
Membership: Open to any local resident within the four townships



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## Summer Dairy Happenings

By *The Editor*

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If you have an interest in dairies or that most flavorful of dairy products, ice cream, read on!

Our friends over at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station are proud to announce the Grand Opening of their brand new Pasture Dairy Farm. KBS will host a Dairy Grand Opening and Open House to showcase the new facility on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2009 from 1 to 4 p.m. This will be open to the public and will include a tour of the new facility. The new dairy facility will continue to be open for tours after this date. To learn more about the Open House, visit the web at [www.kbs.msu.edu/farm/dairy/pastureresearch.php](http://www.kbs.msu.edu/farm/dairy/pastureresearch.php).

Three days later, the GLQO is proud to host the first annual GLQO Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser at Hickory Gables Dairy. Come by for a tour of a state-of-the-art dairy farm, learn more about how GLQO is working to preserve the quality of the Gull Lake Watershed, and enjoy some cold delicious ice cream! There will also be chances to feed calves as well as hayride tours of the farm. There will also be raffle prizes!! Look for a postcard in the mail soon, or check the GLQO website at [www.glqo.net](http://www.glqo.net) for more details.

See you in August!

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## Webmaster's Page

By: *GLQO Webmaster (webmaster@glqo.net)*



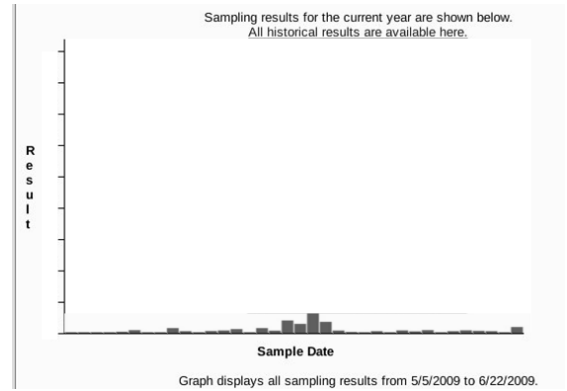
The State of Michigan now places the results of its water quality testing program online for anyone to study. One key sampling location for the past several years has been Gull Lake itself, where weekly tests are done each summer for E. Coli bacteria. This testing is conducted off Ross Township Park.

Website: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/beach/BeachDetail.aspx?BeachID=1066>

At the right is the current set of testing results so far this summer. It's worth noting that, although there was a spike in E Coli levels a few weeks back, the high of 19 comes nowhere close to the maximum acceptable level of 300 established by the state.

Translation: Bacteria levels in Gull Lake remain very low this summer!

The GLQO supplements the State's E Coli testing program with one that is co-sponsored by the Four Townships Water Resources Council. These tests are conducted, certified and maintained by the Kalamazoo County Department of Health and Community Services. The water quality testing sites include Prairieville Creek (which accounts for a significant amount of Gull Lake's incoming water), Little Long Lake inlet to Gull Lake, as well as Augusta Creek.



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## Update: Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program

By: *Eric Reid*

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The proposed plan for watershed-wide water quality monitoring continues to move forward. This program is funded by the GLQO, and is being developed by the local environmental consulting firm Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber. At the most recent GLQO Board Meeting, Jim Brode, project lead for the effort, provided an update of the ongoing work, which is right now concentrated on defining a comprehensive surface water and ground water monitoring program for the Gull Lake Watershed. Once Fishbeck completes the overall water quality testing strategy, the GLQO Board will vote on how to proceed based on several factors including available funding, effort required to conduct regular testing procedures, and the presence of — or potential for — real threats to the watershed water quality. Important criteria yet to be determined in this process include:

1. Can both surface water and ground water be monitored effectively across the entire watershed?
2. Where can surface water and ground water be monitored in a way that provides the best 'early warning' of threats and the best use of resources?
3. What, in priority order, should be the chemical or biological substances tested for?

Wendy Ogilvie from Fishbeck will be speaking at the July 22 Annual Meeting on this effort. We encourage interested parties to attend and ask questions!



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## Local Schools Visit State of the Art Farm

By: *Bastiaan De Jong*

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Hickory Gables Dairy Farm hosted several groups of students from Galesburg-Augusta and Gull Lake School Districts this Spring. The children were able to see the farm's operations "up close", learn about milk production, and get a better understanding about how agricultural operations can successfully co-exist within the Watershed and along side Watershed residents.

The kids had a great time, and several wrote to us afterwards expressing their appreciation in ways unique to children:

Dear Farmer De Jong...

...you guys have to milk  
1200 cows that's hard...

...this was the best field trip  
I've been on this year...

...Oh and by the way thanks  
for the chocolate milk...

...every cow produces 8 to 9 gallons  
that's a lot. The cow's body is 101  
degrees F WOW THAT'S HOT!!!



Join us at the Farm for the first annual GLQO Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser on August 22nd and see for yourself what the students are raving about!

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## A Fisheries Perspective From The Anglers Themselves

By: "The Anonymous Angler"

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**Editor's Note:** We have begun to receive anonymous, though quite credible reports on fishing on and around Gull Lake this year from a source who wishes to remain nameless. Herewith the first of what we hope are regular reports:

The cold, snowy winter made it a little harder to get out on the ice this season. Those fishing for smelt had good luck in the Bay but the activity on the northeast side of the Lake was down. There was not a significant run of smelt at Prairieville Creek. Lots of Northern Pike were caught through the ice and the keepers were mostly in the 24 to 28 inch range. A nice 38-incher was caught down in the Bay but there were no 20 pounders caught this year (at least that I heard about). Somebody usually gets a 20 pounder every winter but I guess we will have to catch him this summer.



The summer season is off to the best start in many, many years. So far this year I have caught more fish than in the last 10 years combined. It's that good. Smallmouth Bass are more abundant and bigger than ever. One skilled angler caught a 21" 4-pound 12 oz smallie at the annual Wildwood Beach neighborhood tournament. A couple other lucky guys caught skinnier 21 inchers and a good number of big Largemouth took some winners up to the "pay window." Fish were attracted to crawlers, big shiners and artificials, including a nice big Black Crappie. Those aren't too common in Gull. Since Memorial Day I have landed several 5 pound bass and it has been common to limit out frequently and in just a couple hours. One day last week I got 4 Pike and 10 16" plus Bass in three hours. Did you ever wonder how much your monster fish weighed before you threw him back? Try this. Length times length times girth divided by 1200. The fat smallie I lost last week, when he jumped 5 feet out of the lake, looked to be 23 inches long and had a belly that was at least 18 inches. So I lost a  $(23 \times 23 \times 18) / 1200 = 7.9$  pounder. He's still out there just south of the Prairieville Creek but a little north of the island.

Bluegills are looking good too. 50 nice ones were brought in by a couple of neighbors and they were 8-9 inches. One of those lucky guys in Wildwood caught 41 right off his dock in mid-June.

Some of those wart-nose minnows have been spotted this year too. Years ago we could easily trap more than we needed but then they disappeared. It's nice to see them back and hopefully their population will grow. The Bass love 'em.

Until the next time, enjoy the Lake and go wet a line.

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### Did You Know? Law Enforcement Edition

By: *The Editor*

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Michigan Boating Laws state that **Slow—no wake speed** must be maintained within 100 feet of the shoreline, any watercraft, pier, person, raft, swimming area and swimmers.



From the May 2, 1984 *Kalamazoo Gazette*, a nice article on the origins of the GLQO:

## Grass roots effort was driving force in sewer project

GULL LAKE - If Gull Lake once again becomes the crystal clear body of water it once was, a big share of the credit will belong to the 270-member Gull Lake Quality Organization.

The group, molded by a handful of women in the 1960s, has been the driving force in winning public support for the Gull Lake sewer project as well as educating lake residents about the hazards of contaminating the lake water with phosphorous.

Clare Vanderploeg, the organization's secretary, said the group became active at a time when environmental issues were being spotlighted nationally. Locally, lake residents heard a disturbing assessment of Gull Lake's future during a meeting publicizing data obtained by a Kellogg Biological Station student. Then an established area women's group known as the Ladies of the Lake began circulating an article concerning the phosphorus content of laundry detergents of the time.

That information caught the interest of Marion Longman, a summer resident from Jackson, Vanderploeg said. Longman spearheaded an informal group of women dedicated to limiting the amount of phosphorus getting into Gull Lake, so that the lake might flourish again. A few years later, the group became the Gull Lake Quality Organization, and in 1977, the GLQO incorporated.

Drawing upon the Biological Station and the Kalamazoo Nature Center for support, the GLQO became an increasingly important force in educating people about the dangers of phosphorus and the need for a sewer system looping the lake. Members sought donations to fund what needed to be done. Other groups and individuals also became active during the same time, creating a community of hardworking people striving to upgrade the lake they loved and enjoyed.

Fred Buckley, a past organization president, said the push for a sewer was mounted in 1973. "That was 10 years ago before we actually broke ground," he noted. He said the two main hurdles to earlier construction were convincing people a sewer was needed and finding funding for it. Part of the local money needed, about \$67,000, came from private donations, he said.

Backers of a sewer system eventually triumphed, but the effort was an uphill battle. Success meant a substantial cost to taxpayers and meshing together lake residents, four townships and two cities for a major construction project.

"I think anybody who's been around the lake as long as I have really realizes the lake in the late 1940s was certainly much clearer and cleaner," Buckley said. "Those were pretty astute ladies who became involved." The Biological Station's involvement began in the mid-1960s when Michigan State University established a resident research facility on the lake at its Hickory Corners campus. George Lauff, KBS director for education and biological sciences, said that as more concrete data about the lake appeared, people around the lake became active.

"So I'm really pleased about the tie between the research and the relationship with the community," Lauff said. "If we weren't there, I think the GLQO would still have gotten involved. They spearheaded; we helped. Residents on other lakes should do the same."



# Gull Lake Quality Organization

## 2009 Dues Request

***The mission of the Gull Lake Quality Organization is to address concerns and provide education regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.***

Please take a moment to provide your contact information below and ...

**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!**

(Please print all information and provide your local mailing address)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

It is not our policy to share your home address information, phone numbers or E-mail address with any other individuals or organizations. However, we do normally publish the names (only) our members on our website.

- Check here if you do not wish to have your name published on the GLQO website.
- Check here if you would like to receive The GLQO Watershed Journal by email.

### Individual/Family Membership

\_\_\_ Regular (\$25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Supporting (\$50 to \$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$125 & Over) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Corporate Membership

\_\_\_ Silver (\$50) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Gold (\$100 to \$200) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Platinum (\$250 & Over) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Additional Donations:*

\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sheriff's Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Additional Donations:*

\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sheriff's Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- Check here if you wish to have your donation level kept confidential.

**Please mail this form and your check to: GLQO, P.O. Box 34, Hickory Corners, MI 49060**

**If you have comments or suggestions we would like to hear from you!!  
Please visit our website: <http://www.glqo.net>**

Hickory Corners, MI 49060  
P.O. Box 34  
GLOO

## The Gull Lake Quality Organization's Board of Directors

### The Board Executive Committee:

President: Brian Winne (11-2)

Secretary: Eric Reid (11—1)  
*Communication/Public Relations*

Vice President: Chris Tracy (11-2)  
*Law Enforcement*

Treasurer: Gene McKay (10-1)

### Board Members:

Woody Boudeman (09-2)

Anne Couture (11-1)  
*Development/Access*

Bastiaan De Jong (11-1)

Martina Johnson (11-1)  
*Fundraising/Membership*

Mike Gallagher (10-1)  
*Water Quality*

Jay Garside (10-2)  
*Governmental Liaison*

Todd Lennen (10-1)  
*Fisheries*

John Luchsinger (10-1)  
*Fisheries*

Denny Lyne (11-1)

Bo VanPeenan (11-1)