



Bulletin from the Gull Lake Quality Organization

Important information for residents of Gull Lake and surrounding lakes

The Gull Lake Watershed includes Gull Lake, Little Long Lake, Grassy Lake, Little Gull Lake, Miller Lake, Bullhead Lake, Duck Lake, Backus Lake, Dake Lake, Elliston Lake, Mud Lake, Wintergreen Lake, and Prairieville Creek.

The **Gull Lake Quality Organization** wants to alert you that a highly invasive aquatic species, **Starry Stonewort**, was discovered in Gull Lake in late summer 2014. Like the zebra mussel, this invader comes to us from Eurasia and has the potential to be a serious problem in Gull Lake and other surrounding lakes. This flyer provides information to lake residents of the threat posed by starry stonewort and how to take steps to limit its spread and potential negative impacts.

Starry stonewort is a serious threat. It can cover the lake bottom with a dense mat and may grow up to 7 feet tall. In Gull Lake, most starry stonewort has been found at depths of 30 feet. But, it also has been discovered at two shallow shoreline locations at the country club and nearby bay and may spread in the future. By crowding out native aquatic plants, starry stonewort can destroy fish habitats and decimate fish populations. In some lakes, starry stonewort has grown so thick in shallow areas that swimming and boating are impossible.

Starry stonewort looks like some of our harmless, native plant species. However, the small white stars are distinctive. The white stars are the reproductive part of the plant and tend to show up in the late summer.

Do not rake or pull it up if you see it. It can reproduce from fragments when broken apart. So, it is important not to transfer it to other parts of Gull Lake and not to transfer it to other lakes.



The Gull Lake Quality Organization responds. We are in contact with starry stonewort experts who have confirmed its presence in Gull Lake and who are advising us on strategies to mitigate its impact. As stated by Scott Brown, Executive Director of Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, *“Early detection and management of the rapidly growing species is critical to sparing your inland lake or favorite fishing spot from the ecological ravages of this unprecedented biological invasion.”*



What can you do?

- Take care not to transport aquatic plants on your boat, prop, trailer, or in your live well.
- If you pull up plants on your anchor, remove them and let them drop at the same location.
- Always inspect your boat for weeds when trailering it. Don't let starry stonewort get into other lakes! Utilize boat washes where provided.
- Wash your boat and waders thoroughly after pulling your dock. Also, request that your dock company clean their equipment, before and after removing or installing your dock.
- Contact the Gull Lake Quality Organization if you have questions or need information. Visit our website at glqo.net or e-mail info@glqo.net.



About the Gull Lake Quality Organization

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. GLQO is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(4) organization largely funded by membership dues.

Our activities include

- **Invasive species watch:** Aquatic invasive species pose perhaps the greatest immediate threat to the health and recreational value of our lakes. GLQO works to identify and map invasive species and to educate residents on how to limit their spread and adverse impacts.
- **Water quality monitoring:** GLQO supports a comprehensive program to monitor water quality in Gull Lake, Little Long Lake and the streams that feed Gull Lake.
- **Fisheries:** GLQO monitors and takes steps to enhance the health of Gull Lake fisheries.
- **Community education and outreach:** GLQO alerts area residents to pertinent issues through our quarterly newsletter, website, Facebook page and special bulletins.

Support the continued vigilance of the Gull Lake Quality Organization by becoming a member. Join on-line at glqo.net or mail in this form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Individual/Family Membership

___ Regular (\$35) \$ _____
___ Supporting (\$50 to \$100) \$ _____
___ Sponsor (\$125 & Over) \$ _____

Corporate Membership

___ Silver (\$50) \$ _____
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Mail to: GLQO, PO Box 34, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

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