

# THE GLQO WATERSHED JOURNAL



*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.*

## **BOAT WASH REPORT - 2017**

*By: Mike Gallagher, Water Quality Committee*

Over 3,500 boats made use of the Prairieville Township Park at Gull Lake this summer and they made use of the new boat wash. Volunteers and paid staff spent the first half of the summer inspecting and washing boats while educating boaters and gathering data. By the end of the summer, boaters were washing their own boats and passing the word on to other boaters. The data we gathered showed that less than 10% of boats arrived at the park and needed to be washed before launching because they carried weeds or bilge water from the lake they had last visited. All boats were washed as they left when we were staffing the boat wash station. We were surprised that although about half the boaters were returning to Gull Lake, the other half had visited 125 different lakes prior to boating in Gull. There is a huge risk that aquatic invasive species from those 125 lakes could have hitchhiked a ride on the boats visiting Gull. The boat wash reduced that risk. Lake Michigan, Gun, Austin, Goguac, Long and Pine Lakes were the top lakes from which boaters came. It cost a little over \$63,000 to install the boat wash and about \$5,000 for the labor to educate all the boaters and wash their boats. Prairieville Township contributed \$10,000 and created a new ordinance making boat washing a requirement at the park. Prairieville Township's support is greatly appreciated. The efforts of the four high school student employees and the GLQO volunteers helped make the boat wash station a success that is envied by many lake associations in Michigan.

***"Did some time at the Gull Lake Launch Site last Sunday and was absolutely amazed that 100% of the outgoing watercraft owners voluntarily washed their boats! Congratulations! You managed to change the culture" in just a matter of weeks! Again, AMAZING!"***

John Hoek, Chairperson  
Prairieville Township Parks Commission

## **AUTUMN 2017**

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*The Gull Lake Quality Organization is an all-volunteer organization. Our mission is to address concerns and provide education regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.*

***We've Moved!***  
***Our new address is:***  
***PO Box 144***  
***Richland, MI 49083***



## LAKE STURGEON – FRESHWATER GIANTS

*By Bryan Beck, Fisheries Committee*

If you see a freshwater fish that looks like it is from the age of dinosaurs, it may be a lake sturgeon. They are not native to Gull Lake and (to the author's knowledge) are not currently in Gull Lake. The lake sturgeon is a member of the cartilaginous (non-bony) fishes. It has no scales, but is covered with five rows of plates on its back, sides, and stomach. Interestingly, sturgeon are the longest lived of Michigan's fish species and can attain ages of up to 100 years old. In terms of size, they've been known to grow up to eight feet in length and up to 800 pounds in weight. The lake sturgeon was once abundant in the Great Lakes region, however, populations plummeted due to unsustainable catch rates and environmental challenges such as pollution and the construction of dams. The fish were once killed as a nuisance because they were so big that they would damage fishing gear. Also, in the late 1800's and early 1900's their meat and eggs became prized, thus causing commercial fisherman to target them. The blocked tributaries resulting from the construction of dams caused great turmoil to populations as it interfered with their spawning activities. Once females mature at about 20-25 years of age, they spawn, on average, every four years, a characteristic that has prevented the recovery of the lake sturgeon. They are currently listed as a state threatened species. Within the United States, Michigan and Wisconsin hold the last major populations of these fish.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (the "DNR") views the lake sturgeon as an important part of Michigan's biodiversity, and, as a result, has implemented a comprehensive Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Program that outlines management goals, objectives, and actions that can be taken to help recover this important species. Last month, under this program, the DNR announced the stocking of 193 lake sturgeon in the Tittabawassee River (Midland County). Lake sturgeon could likely survive in Gull Lake, however, they could probably not reproduce. Also, Gull Lake will likely not be a candidate for stocking under the DNR's program. Given production capacity limits and cost, the DNR cannot stock all areas and prioritizes populations based on size and trajectory. Their focus is on achieving self-sufficiency of populations and protecting the genetic integrity of the species as a whole. The priority ranking for stocking efforts is as follows:

1. Small-declining populations which are above the minimum viable population (80 adults)
2. Small-stable populations and medium-declining populations
3. Medium-stable populations
4. Populations below the minimum viable population
5. Extinct or new populations

Sturgeon are not native to Gull Lake, therefore, they would be considered a new population (i.e., priority #5). Also, it is unclear how they would interact with the other native fish species currently in the lake, though there would likely not be a major adverse impact as they use their protruding mouth to suction up bottom dwelling organisms like crayfish and other crustaceans as well as insect larvae.

If you are interested in learning more about this freshwater giant and the Lake Sturgeon Rehabilitation Program, please check out the DNR website.



*Source: This article is based upon information provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.*

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## ***STARRY STONEWORT MANAGEMENT***

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This summer, the GLQO assisted the residents living north of the country club in treating the spread of starry stonewort. This aquatic invasive species is an algae and was first noticed in Gull Lake in 2015. That year, treatment of the algae with herbicides, kept it from spreading until this year. The area and cost of the treatment required the GLQO to gather the affected residents to discuss the situation, offer suggestions and garner authorization to treat signatures. After receiving the support of all the residents, and also some funds for treatment; the GLQO hired PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation to apply for the permit and provide the treatment service. The first treatment was applied in August, followed by a second treatment in early September. The treatments helped to stunt the growth and spread of the starry stonewort. It cannot be eradicated and other lake organizations have found that it can only be managed once it invades. Treatment costs totaled \$2,562 plus \$400 for the permit. The GLQO and contributions from the directly affected 20-25 residents paid PLM. This problem will not go away, but can be managed. The GLQO has formed a committee to research and develop a way to raise funds for future weed management. It is very common for lake associations to work with their townships to for a special assessment district (SAD) to collect funds from residents in the district for the sole purpose of managing aquatic weeds. Sharing the cost of weed control can make it affordable and protect the value of all our lakefront properties. Most lakes around Gull and Little Long lakes have been doing this for years. We are two unique lakes that have not had to deal with this issue yet.

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## ***CURRENT EVENTS AFFECTING LAKES AND LAKE PROPERTIES***

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### **SHORT TERM RENTALS:**

Identical legislation (House Bill 4503 and Senate Bill 329) has been introduced that will take away local zoning and ordinance control over short term rentals. According to a *Riparian Magazine* article, "Short-Term Rentals, Long-Term Consequences" by Clifford H. Bloom, Esq., "Why should any of this matter to riparian property owners? If legislation taking away local control of short term rentals (STR) is enacted into law, STR's could flourish in many lake neighborhoods. That could have a negative impact upon area property values, traffic, the intensity of use of waterfront dwellings and even noise levels. If you have any concerns about the proposed preemption legislation, you should contact your local Michigan senator or representative."

### **MICHIGAN WATERFRONT ALLIANCE:**

The MWA is calling on lake associations, its members and friends to speak out about the growing spread of aquatic invasive species and the Public Land Management Strategy released by the DNR. On page 16 of the Division of Parks and Recreation long-term plan it reads:

"Metric for access to the water

With partners, provide 100 new access sites on inland lakes, rivers, the Great Lakes and connecting waters.

Measurable objectives for access to water

- Working with local governments, provide public access on all priority lakes over 100 acres. (New Objective)
- Provide access to 25 percent of smaller lakes (less than 100 acres in size) that have a publicly important recreational opportunity. (New Objective)"

The MWA supports recreational boating and recommends:

- Representation of inland lake owners on the Michigan Waterways Commission
- Redirection of a portion of existing state funding from various sources such as boat sticker fees and the
- Marine Fuel tax for lake and water preservation
- Creation of a cost-sharing grant system for AIS management
- Evaluation of current launch sites state-wide before funds are spent on expansion.

To download the MWA draft letter for your signature and to send, please visit [glqo.net](http://glqo.net).

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## GLQO Board Notes and Updates

At the GLQO annual meeting, members and guests learned more about creating native shorelines from our guest speaker, Anna Kornoelje, Ecological Services Director from the Kalamazoo Nature Center. (pictured right) Anna spoke about the benefits



that natural shorelines provide: protects lakes from erosion, water pollution from run-off and shorelines from wave action. Natural shorelines support a healthy environment for fish and wildlife and also serve as a deterrent for geese settling on your lawn. Anna identified many native plant species that thrive along the shore. Gull Lake Landscape brought many native plants to the meeting for members and guests to see first-hand.



Jim Collier, president, (pictured left) introduced board members who gave brief committee updates: boater safety (Pete Hawk), communications (Kathy Gallagher), fisheries (Bryan Beck), membership (Vicki Gesmundo) and water quality (Mike Gallagher). Board members who are retiring from the board this year are (pictured below) Tim Richardson, Jane Bruns and Ed McCarty. We thank them for their leadership, expertise, and commitment!

Water quality chairperson, Mike Gallagher, spoke about the “Score the Shore” program. His presentation included many pictures of shorelines that have been restored throughout this past year. This program helps to identify shoreline areas that should be preserved because they benefit the lake and also those areas that with some modifications could also help the quality of the lake. A buffer zone between the mowed yard and the lake is the *easiest change that can be made. Just stop mowing all the way to the lake’s shoreline.* Leave a buffer zone. We wish to acknowledge and thank the many riparians who have stopped mowing and those who are planting native plants along the shoreline on their lakes. There are many plants to choose from but some suggested native shoreline plants (by common name) are: Blue Flag Iris, Cardinal Flower, Great Blue Lobelia, Black Eyed Susan, Marsh Milkweed, Little Blue Stem, Ironweed and Purple Cone Flower.



## GLQO WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



*Pictured left to right are: Joe Lukeman, Steve Keith, Gary Mittelbach, Gregg Pierce, Tom Gallagher and Brooke Wilke. We thank these committed volunteers for serving on the board for the 2017-2020 term of office.*

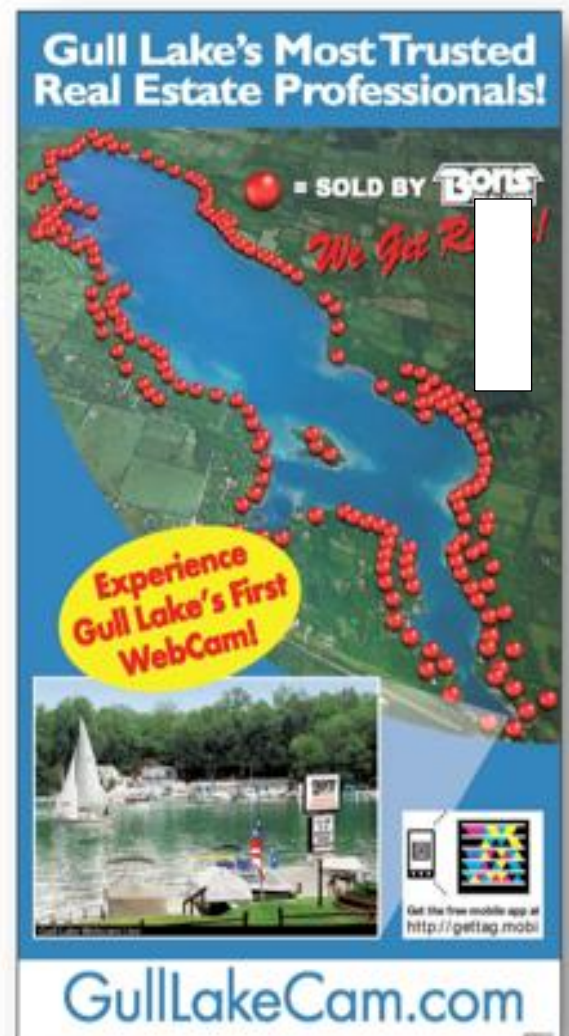


*GLQO gratefully acknowledges Gull Lake Ministries for inviting us to hold our regular board meetings there and for their support for the newsletter printing!*

## ALGAL BLOOM HITS GULL LAKE

*By Mike Gallagher and Gary Mittelbach*

A quick storm delivering ¼" of rain during the hot third week of September contributed to the algal bloom many of us noticed. An increase in nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) washing into the warm lake along with very calm waters and hot weather for several days following, provided a good recipe for the algal bloom. Although the surface temperature of the water at the deepest location on of the lake was 75.5F with no visible algae, the green/yellow algae was pretty obvious at the shoreline and shallow areas where the temperature was much warmer. We could not see the bottom at the end of the dock but recorded a clarity depth of 17 feet in the deepest location on the lake. Next time, if you go swimming, don't drink the water and wash off with soap and water soon after you swim.





*We thank the  
2017 GLQO  
Corporate Members*

Abigail Hayden Interior Design, LLC	Banner Beachfront Equipment	Beer and Skittles
Boris Realtors	Don Wood Company	Hawks Hollow Builders
Gull Lake Country Club	Gull Lake Marine	Ice House, LLC
Mac's Garage, LLC	Gull Lake Ministries	Serafino's

*We thank the 2017 GLQO Individual and Family Members*

Ann and Gregg Agens	Dan and Kathy Case	Kris and Claire Eager	Bill Guzy
Mike and Lou Ann Ambro	Richard and Joanne Chamberlin	Susan and Fred Einspahr	Jan Hahn
Anonymous (20)	Lynne and John Chipman	Trey and Becky Eldridge	David and Michelle Halley
Bob and Janice Baker	Kathryn Christ	Bonnie and Loyal Eldridge	Stephen Hamilton
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Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow	James Clark	Dennis Elmer and Jessica Reiser	Mike and Tala Hardiman
Anthony Bartalone	Jack Clark	James Elsener	Carole L. Harding
Bryan and Courtney Beck	Dorne J. Clark	George Elsener Family	Pamela Harrington
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Brandon and Betsy Klerk	John A. Mulholland	Robert and Mary Lou Ringemann	Carol Tedrow
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Wes and Susan Kolb	Michael and Susan Murphy	Rob and Lori Rowe	Ron and Edna Thompson
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Jack and Ashleigh Kosin	Markley Noel	Julia Sanger	Michelle and Chris Tracy
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Shirley Kruger	Kim Nuyen and Valerie Nuyen	Tom and Judy Schau	Elizabeth Travis
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Jim and Linda Lass	Jeff and Amy O'Brien	Charlene Schofield	Jeanne and Roger Turner
Charles and Phyllis Lavene	Tom and Charlene O'Neill	Robert Schuder	George and Gail Turner, Jr.
Jack and Camille Lawrence	Jerry and Max Orum	Louis Schultz	The Tyler Family
Patricia Lawrence	Jerry and Carla Orwin	Ken and Pat Schultz	Christopher Uggen
Barbara and Rafael Ledesma	Craig and Sue Osborn	Jon and Carolyn Schutte	William Uggen
Carol Lesiow	Edward Overbeck	Jim and Deb Scott	Tom and Olga Van Dis
Chris and Margo Light	Nick and Barbara Owings	Sam and Susan Sefton	Bo Van Peenan
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Lang Family Properties, LLC	Don and Ann Parfet	Julie Shaw	Jack and Jane Wallner
Ron and Karen Logan	Martha Parfet	Charles and Mary Shaw	Dana Walters
Pat Long	Preston and Barbara Parish	Esther M. Shaw	Mike Ward
Eric and Charlene Longman	Donald and Sue Paulson	T.R. and Kathy Shaw	Donna and Dan Weaver
John Luchsinger	Michael and Frances Peikert	Shepherd Family, LLC	Weckler-Farwell
Joe Lukeman	Karol Peterson	Richard and Johanna Shields	Karen and Mark Weishaar
Judy Maier	Stephen E. Pew and	Linda Shierlaw	David and Lee Weiss
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Bob Millard	Ronald Reisman	Harry and Tineke Stolt	Doug and Jackie Wunderly
Kevin Miller	Dave and Carol Renz	Jim Stoneburner	Harold and Bonnie Zeigler
Sara Miller	Robert D. and Mary Jo Rial	Bill Johnston and	Marilyn Zheutlin Family
Dave Mitchell	Mark and Marymarie Rice	Ronda Stryker	Marsha and Bob Zick
Kay Gross and Gary Mittelbach	Brian and Jackie Rice		

**Every effort is being made to report members' names as you have requested.**

**Some members have requested to remain anonymous. If you see an error, please e-mail [info@glqo.net](mailto:info@glqo.net).**

We appreciate the support that GLQO receives from the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations. If you don't already receive the Riparian Magazine – subscribe at [MYLSA.org](http://MYLSA.org).



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## The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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P.O. Box 144 / Richland, Michigan / 49083

Website: [glqo.net](http://glqo.net)

Contact: [info@glqo.net](mailto:info@glqo.net)



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### Upcoming Events

***Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.***

***GLQO Board Meeting***

***Gull Lake Ministries***

***1800 Burlington Drive***

***Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.***

***GLQO Board Meeting***

***Gull Lake Ministries***

***1800 Burlington Drive***

***Michigan Lake and Stream Associations***

***Annual Conference***

***Crystal Mountain Resort***

***April 20 & 21, 2018***

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### 2017-2018 Board of Directors

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Joe Lukeman (20-1)

Steve Keith (20-1)

Robert Phillips (19-1)

Gregg Pierce (20-1)

Linda Shierlaw (19-1)

Brook Wilke (20-1)

*GLQO by-laws allow volunteers to serve as directors for two consecutive three-year terms. After each Director's name are two numbers: the **year** their current term expires, and the **number** of the current term.*

*We welcome you to volunteer for committee work (of your choice) and to participate in our board meetings.*

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