

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.

Please! Don't dump your leaves into the lake!

By Gary Mittelbach

Hanging on the wall of my German grandmother's house was an embroidered plaque that read, "Keine Rose ohne Dornen" (no roses without thorns). This marvelous little saying applies to so many things in life, including autumn leaves - so beautiful to look at on the tree, and such a pain to deal with when they are on the ground. What can you do with all those pesky leaves? If you live on a lake, there are two things you definitely should not do with your leaves.

1) **Do not rake or blow your leaves into the lake.** Leaves contain nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous that promote the growth of algae. Also, as the leaves decay over time, their decomposition consumes oxygen. Both are bad for the lake in large amounts. The few leaves that naturally land in the lake aren't a problem; a small amount of nutrient input is actually good for the lake. But, dumping lots of leaves into the lake can have serious, negative effects on water quality. Likewise, 2) **do not burn your leaves near the lake.** Burning releases nutrients into the ground and if this occurs too close to the water, these nutrients will find their way into the lake. If you do burn leaves (and there are better options, see below), please make sure your bonfire is at least 100 ft away from the shoreline.

The best thing to do with your leaves of course is to compost them – that way the nutrients and organic matter go back into your yard or garden. Mulching mowers are also a good option for moderate amounts of leaves. But, if you have a small lakeside lot and a lot of leaves, composting and mulching may not handle the load. In that case, the "thorn in your side" could be the bill you get from your yard service to haul those pesky leaves away. But, in any case, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that by keeping leaves and their nutrients out of the lake, you been a good steward to the environment and a friend to the lake.

More on leaves on Page 2

FALL 2019

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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.



Remember....Don't rake or blow your leaves into the lake and don't burn your leaves near the lake. The best way to dispose of them is to compost them.

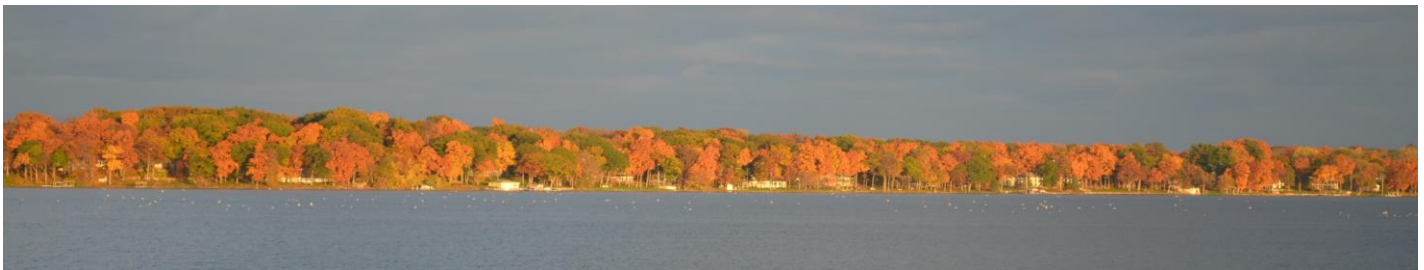
EGLE communication regarding leaves and yard waste

Continued from Page 1

GLQO recently heard from an environmental quality analyst with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). He provided a MDEQ notice entitled **Yard Waste Littering Notice**.

Excerpts are:

- Disposing yard waste, including grass clippings and leaves, into our rivers, lakes and streams is bad for the water.
- The practice violates Michigan's Littering Law (Michigan Compiled Law 324.8902).
- For information regarding proper waste disposal and options for responsible yard waste management please refer to www.mi.gov/deqwaste (Select "Solid Waste," "Recycling" then "How Do I Handle this Waste") or call the DEQ Assistance Center at 800-622-9278.
- To report littering, call your local police department; or in environmental emergencies, the Pollution Emergency Alerting System at 800-292-4706.



GLDA Dam Reconstruction Project – An Update

As the leaves begin to change color and we store our boats for the winter, the Gull Lake Dam Association (GLDA) is pushing hard to complete their fund-raising efforts to rebuild the Gull Lake Dam. As of October 6th, \$611,018 had been raised, which is 87.2% of the \$700,000 goal.

On Friday, October 4, the MDNR Wildlife Habitat & Fisheries Habitat Grant Program manager informed the GLDA that their grant application was NOT APPROVED for further review. Most of the available grant funds will be used to remove dams, not rebuild them. As such, the project will need everyone's support in order to rebuild the dam. To date, 72.5% of lakefront property owners have contributed to this project.

The GLDA will continue fund-raising efforts and, as needed, will delay the dam construction start date until all the required funds are raised.

The Gull Lake Dam Reconstruction committee members have begun going door-to-door to invite undecided donors to contribute to the project. Information can be obtained, and donations can be made through the GLDA website at GullLakeDam.org.

Love Your Lake. Build the Dam!

GLQO . . . A Membership Update

First off...thanks to all of you who are lifetime, supporting or corporate members of GLQO.

Some folks are generally confused about membership in our organization versus the Gull Lake Dam Association. We are two separate identities. The major fund drive to build the replacement dam this year gave a better understanding to their association.

GLQO, in the other hand, concentrates on monitoring and reporting water quality data, tracking and managing invasive aquatic species, educating and promoting understanding about fisheries, maintaining and overseeing the boat wash on Gull Lake, as well as educating boaters about boater safety and laws pertaining to boater safety.

We have historically sent out annual dues reminders each fall. Some of the GLQO members are snowbirds and miss this annual mailing. Others seem unsure if they have paid for the current year or for the last year.

The GLQO Board voted to send annual dues reminders each January for the upcoming year. We hope that this change and continued reminders through the membership listing in the newsletter will encourage regular renewals and potentially bring new members to our organization.

GLQO is an all-volunteer board and we welcome interested members to consider joining our board. It continues to baffle me that we attract less than 40% of our riparians in support of our efforts. Please be an advocate and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us!

Gregg

Gregg Pierce, Membership Chair

Boater Safety Update

Each year, the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's office shares statistics related to their patrol on Gull Lake. This season, the marine patrol logged 815 hours of patrol time. This is down from 2018 when they logged 1285 hours.

2019 Sheriff's marine patrol statistics are as follows:

- Careless Warnings (229)
- Navigational Warnings (6)
- Personal Flotation Device Warnings (31)
- Reckless Citations (2)
- Registration Violations Warnings (46)
- Safety Compliance Checks (333)

Start today to plan your natural shoreline!

Is it a Goose or Lawn Problem?

If you have ever complained about Canada geese on your lakefront property you just might have a lawn problem not a goose problem. The reason? Canada geese are grazers and that means lawns are perfect for them because lawns offer an all you can eat buffet! When you turn your healthy lakefront property into an expansive lawn, you are putting out an invitation for Canada geese to come to your property. Big lawns are even better because there are no places for predators to hide which means these areas are safer for geese to raise their young. Maintaining natural vegetation at the lakeshore helps to discourage geese and other waterfowl from your property. They might still go through the taller vegetation to find some lawn, but they will typically choose the property that has easy access to lawn.



Thanks to Julia Kirkwood, Environmental Quality Analyst with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality for the photo and article. Visit Michigan Shoreline Partnership at mishorelinepartnership.org for lots of information about the benefits of a natural shoreline and resources for you to plan your natural shoreline.

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GLQO gratefully acknowledges Gull Lake Ministries for inviting us to hold our regular board meetings at their facilities.

GLQO New Members and Committees

GLQO welcomes its new members who will serve from 2019-2022. All have stepped in ready to serve!

Sera Gesmundo has lived on Gull Lake and around the watershed her entire life. She will serve as vice president and on the communications / membership committee.

Joe Mauro has lived on Gull Lake since 2013. Joe will assist Don Paulson with the duties of treasurer in preparation to serve as treasurer once Don’s term is over.

Dustin Perrin has lived in the Crescent Beach area of Gull Lake for two years. Dustin will serve on the Fisheries Committee. Dustin also has an interest in water quality monitoring.

Margo Rebar has lived on Little Long Lake since 2015. Margo will serve on the membership committee.

Doug Smith has lived on Gull Lake since 2003. Doug volunteered to serve on the water quality committee and will assist with water quality monitoring.

Other committee members are:
 Boater Safety Committee: Joe Lukeman (co-chair) and Tom Gallagher (co-chair)

Communications/Membership Committee: Kathy Gallagher (chair communications), Gregg Pierce (chair membership), Vicki Gesmundo, Gary Mittelbach and Linda Shierlaw

Fisheries Committee: Bryan Beck (co-chair), Brook Wilke (co-chair) and Steve Keith

Water Quality Committee: Mike Gallagher (chair), John Etcorn, Tom Gallagher, Joe Lukeman and Brook Wilke



Pictured left to right (seated): Margo Rebar, Joe Mauro and Sera Gesmundo (standing): Dustin Perrin and Doug Smith

Mark Your Calendars . . . The 59th Michigan Lakes and Streams Annual Conference is April 30th - May 2nd at Crystal Mountain Resort. The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program will be offered along with great breakout sessions and many opportunities to network with lake lovers like you!



We thank the 2019 GLQO Corporate Members

**Abigail Hayden Interior Design, LLC
 Bell Tower Lake House Living, LLC
 Boris Realtors
 Franklin Beach, LLC**

**Gull Lake Country Club
 Gull Lake Marine
 Gull Lake Ministries
 Hawks Hollow Builders**

**Ice House, LLC
 Mac’s Garage, LLC
 Michigan Lawn Services
 Serafino’s**

We thank the 2019 GLQO Individual and Family Members

Heather Adams	Janet and John Carrig	Carol Fetterolf	Pamela Harrington
Scott and Holly Allen	Dan and Kathy Casey	Allison Field	Fred and Nan Harrison
Mike and Lou Ann Ambro	Richard and	Wendy Field	Jeff Price and Sue Harrison
Anonymous (14)	Joanne Chamberlin	Alice Fish	Curt and Beth Hartman
Charlotte Ashton	Gar and Robin Chapel	John and Lorelee Fisher	Henry B. Hawk
Bud and Judi Baldwin	Lynne and John Chipman	Michael and Karen Fisher	Pete and Jo Hawk
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Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow	David and Kathryn Christ	Kurt Ford	Rick and Shirley Hebert
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Anthony Bartalone	Dorne Clark	Lloyd Fox	Patricia Heilenbach
David Battjes	Jack Clark	James Gorka and	Mal and Pat Hickok
Jim and Mila Beck	Wanda G. Clawson	Dr. Deborah Frett	George and Arla Hillebrand
Bryan and Courtney Beck	Linda Cohen	John and Ann Gallagher	Janeth Hinchman
Mac and Susan Behnke	Bruce and Donna Cohen	Pat and Deb Gallagher	Byron and Carol Hodgson
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Karl and Pamela Beysiegel	Alison and Rob Credit	Joni and Roger Ganger	Susan Houseman and
Gordon and Sally Birdsall	David Creguer	Chip and Miranda Garside	Curtis Hall
Jeffrey Bither	Larry and Judith Crittenden	John and Sharon Garside	Robert and Helen Hughes
Randy Bonzheim	Sally and Randy Crockett	Judy and Jamie Geary	Bruce Hutchinson
Dick and Debbie Boris	Jerry and Sharon Cross	Andrew and Kendra Geeslin	Ed Ihling
Deb Ball and Rod Borton	James A. Cupper	Karen Geib	Annette Isom
Kristen Boss	Randy And Brenda Curtenius	Alfred and Jean Gemrich	Phil and Carey Isom
Sherwood and	Diann and Jim Danhoff	Michele Libbrecht and	Robert and Amy Isom
Kathryn Boudeman	Ken and Teri Davis	Jay Gesmundo	Nikki and Todd Jacobs
Sherwood and	Philip and Terri Dawson	Jack S. Gesmundo	Fred and Megan James
Sharon Boudeman	Jim and Barb DeKruyter	Vicki Gesmundo and	William and Joanne Jellison
Kappy Boudeman	David and Marge DeLano	Mike Marcinek	John and Judith Jereck
Greg Bouhanna	Malinda and Greg Deleeuw	Sera Gesmundo	Si and Shirley Johnson
David and Heide Boutell	Al and Lisa DeLucia	Shahriar Ghoddousi	Diane and Brooke Johnson
Richard and Ronda Boven	Jim and Lindsey DeMaagd	Susan C. Gilmore	Ryan and Martina Johnson
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Joe and Jane Brogger	Sid Durham	Susan Grimm	Bob and Val Karam
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John and Judi Brown	Kris and Claire Eager	David Gruss	Mike Kasten
Cleve and Sue Brown	Trey and Becky Eldridge	Frank and Diane Guarisco	John and Kathy Keagle
Michael and Sara Brundage	Ron Elenbaas	Gull Hills Tract Spring	Michael Keenan
Nick and Jane Bruns	Dennis Elmer	Creek Channel Dock Assoc	Richard and Joan Keilen
Laurie Hanson and	James Elsener	Bill Gust	Steve and Michalina Keith
Tracy Buck	George M. Elsener Family	William Guzy	Brad and Lauren Keller
Fred and Sharon Buckley	T.P. Emerson	David and Michelle Halley	John E. Kelly
Roger Buddig	Bill and Betsi English	Stephen Hamilton	Dave and Karen Kempe
John Budnick	Thomas English	Pete and Margaret Hamlett	Sue Markus and Rick King
Keith Buell	John and Janis Etcorn	Bill and Marge Hannapel	Todd Kingma and
Randy and Karen Byrd	Gerald and Jane Feldman	Carole L. Harding	Betsy Kingma

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Jason and Laurie Klein	John A. Mulholland	Robert and Mary Ringemann	David and Carol Ticknor
Brandon and Betsy Klerk	Craig and Debra Mumy	James C Ritz	Isobel and Matt Tracy
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Shirley Kruger	Nancy L. and James D. Nordlie	Shawn Johnson and Jennifer Santos	Roger and Jeanne Turner
John and Martha Kuch	Kim and Valerie Nuyen	Tom and Judy Schau	Mary L. Tyler
Richard J. Laninga	Robert and Kay O'Boyle	Steve and Gina Schau	Christopher Uggen
Phyllis Lavene	Sean and Nicol O'Brien	Dick and Jean Schmitt	Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen
Camille Lawrence	Amy and Jeff O'Brien	Greg and Charlene Schofield	Brad Vandenberg and Amy Upjohn
Patricia Lawrence	Billy and Amanda Ogden	Louis and Margie Schultz	Tom and Olga Van Dis
Suzanne Stimson Leech	Tom and Charlene O'Neill	Ken and Pat Schultz	Bo and Mel Van Peenan
Wendy and Allen Levy	Jerry and Max Orum	Ron and Nancy Schultz	Richard Van Werden
John and Rita Light	Jerry and Carla Orwin	Jim and Deb Scott	Michelle and Peter Van Wormer
Christopher Light	Craig and Sue Osborn	Sam and Susan Sefton	Tom Vander Molen
Howard D. Linders	William and Barbara Parfet	Tim and Judy Shank	Doug and Sandra VanderLugt
Ron and Karen Logan	Don and Ann Parfet	Tom and Lisa Shannon	Jim and Sarah Vandermolten
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Faye Luscombe	Michael and Frances Peikert	Esther M. Shaw	Dan and Carol Vogt
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Linda Markham	Robert Phillips	Richard and Johanna Shields	Bill and Nancy Weckler
Joe and Kristine Mauro	Laura and Gregg Pierce	Linda Shierlaw	Karen and Mark Weishaar
Christine McCarthy	Perry and Jennifer Pinto	David Shufelt	David and Lee Weiss
Betty McCarty	Todd and Tami Polmanteer	Bruce and Kathy Shurtz	James Westcott
Ed and Nancy McCarty	Martin and Carol Ranly	Robert Simon	Bob and Lori Wheelright
Jim and Mary McCarty	Ann E. Ransford	Doug and Deidre Smith	David and Cindy Wiedemer
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Russ and Connie McFee	Jack and Gwen Raseman	Drs. Peter C. Smith / Diane M. Czuk Smith	Tim and Tonia Williams
JB and Alba McKay	Ann and Jim Rawsky	Joyce Snow	David P. Wilson
Joni Melges Green	Judah Gesmundo and Paul Raynes	Carl and Cherie Spinden	Brian and Teri Winne
Amy and James Melvin	Robert and Margo Rebar	Edward Sternaman	Stephen and Linda Winquist
Nick and Julia Miladore	Bob and Bina Reed	Spencer and Carolyn Stiles	Jerry Wojtala
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Kate Miller	Eric and Martha Reid	Harry and Tineke Stolt	Tammy Woodhams
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Sara Miller	Dave and Shelly Reynolds	Peter and Mary Taft	Doug and Jackie Wunderly
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William and Phoebe Moreo			Marsha and Bob Zick
Charlie and Toni Mueller			

Not Yet A Member? Join GLQO on-line at GLQO.net

Every effort is made to report member's names as you have requested. If you see an error, please email infor@glqo.net.

The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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

Website: glqo.net

Contact: info@glqo.net



Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.
Fall Migration Celebration
WK Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
GLQO Board Meeting
Location: Gull Lake Ministries

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
GLQO Board Meeting
Location: Gull Lake Ministries

Welcome to Summer Party
Sunday, June 7, 2020

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Vicki Gesmundo Marcinek (20-2)

President

Sera Gesmundo (22-1)

Vice President

Gary Mittelbach (20-1)

Secretary

Don Paulson (20-2)

Treasurer

Bryan Beck (21-1)

John Etzcorn (19-1)

Kathy Gallagher (20-2)

Mike Gallagher (20-2)

Tom Gallagher (20-1)

Joe Lukeman (20-1)

Steve Keith (20-1)

Joe Mauro (22-1)

Dustin Perrin (22-1)

Gregg Pierce (20-1)

Margo Rebar (22-1)

Linda Shierlaw (22-2)

Doug Smith (23-1)

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.

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.