

# 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.*

## What is the Gull Lake Watershed?

*By Gary Mittelbach*

Did you ever wonder what the term “Gull Lake Watershed” means and how its defined”? Very simply, a watershed describes an area of land from which the streams and rivers all drain into a single larger body of water. Below is a map of the Gull Lake watershed. Theoretically, any drop of rain (or snow flake) that falls within this area will eventually make its way to Gull Lake. The path might be via one of the inflowing streams, the largest of which is Prairieville Creek on the north end, or the smaller stream inflows from Little Long Lake, Wintergreen Lake or Miller Lake. More likely still, the path might be underground. Like many of the lakes in our area, Gull Lake receives much of its inflow from the ground water. Scientists at the Kellogg Biological Station estimate that 40% of the annual supply of water to Gull Lake comes from ground water, 35% from streams, and 25% from direct precipitation.

Water leaves Gull Lake via Gull Creek at the south end of the lake (75%), via evaporation (20%) and the rest via groundwater outflow. Water flowing out of Gull Lake drains to the Kalamazoo River and eventually Lake Michigan. Thus, the Gull Lake Watershed is part of the larger Kalamazoo River watershed and the Kalamazoo River watershed is part of the Lake Michigan watershed. Smaller watersheds are encompassed by larger watersheds. Gull Lake has a comparatively small watershed (27 sq miles) relative to its surface area (3 sq miles). The largest watershed of any lake relative to its surface area is Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba with a watershed area of almost 400,000 sq miles or 40 times its surface area.

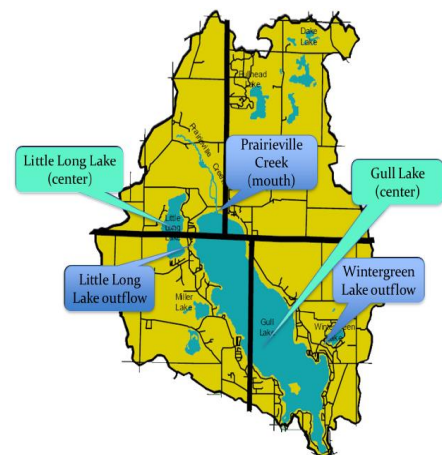
Recognizing that Gull Lake is part of a larger, interconnected landscape helps us to better protect the sparkling waters of Gull Lake now and into the future.

## Spring 2021

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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.*



## The New Dam at Gull Lake

By Jeff Price (GLDA VP)

It was May 2018 when the Gull Lake Dam Association's contracted engineering group (Prein & Newhof) informed us that our 135 year old dam was at the end of its usable life. Three years later we now have a new dam controlling lake levels (images at right). Those three years were a wild (and productive) ride for the Gull Lake Dam Association! Thanks to the generosity of Gull Lake residents, local businesses and friends of the Lake, the dam became operational in April 2021.

As of May 9, 2021 the actions items to be completed are:

- Constructing fences and gates around the spillway
- Constructing the Gull Lake Dam Legacy Wall
- Restoring the site (sowing grass & native wildflower seeds)

Our new dam will be dedicated to the memory of Roger Turner, Jr. Roger (Roddy) was a lifelong resident at the lake. He served on the Gull Lake Dam Association Board of Directors for many years and played a significant role in the success of the new dam construction project. His family has a long history with the Association with his mother (Fran) having previously served as Treasurer. Roger passed away in April 2020 (see image below).

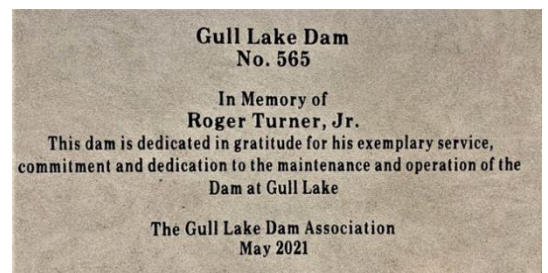
The Gull Lake Dam Legacy wall, currently under construction, will display engraved bricks for those who contributed \$1000 or greater to the dam construction project. There are about 300 bricks in the wall. The wall will be approximately 21 feet wide and 4 feet tall. It will be affixed to the top of the sheet pile on the east side of the dam. The engraved side of the bricks will face toward the creek, so they can be seen by boat. We will announce by e-mail and via the Gulllakedam.org website once the wall is completed.



*The new concrete spillway*



*New dam gates*



## 2021 Kanoe the Kazoo Excursion to the New Gull Lake Dam

When: Saturday May 22, 2021

Where: Gull Lake Island parking lot to the Gull Lake Dam via Gull Creek.

Float details: We will launch onto Gull Lake at 9:30am from the private parking area used by residents of the Gull Lake Island. Parking is limited and **pre-registration is required** with the Kanoe the Kazoo coordinating web site: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14UP-MCt8-xowW9AGlpdpQi4htMjAuW4tkduu1T8hDTs/edit> . The trip will take about 1.5 hours with a destination of the new dam structure at the south end of the channel exiting Gull Lake. Float up participation by riparians of Gull Lake in non-motorized vessels is welcome.

Why: Enjoy a late spring float on southern Gull Lake and learn more about the replacement activities that are being completed to the dam structure that controls water levels on Gull Lake. Jim Price, instrumental in the effort that has added another 100 years to the dam structure will provide background and summary of this effort.

Natural history education will be provided by local experts Dr. Ken Kornheiser and Mr. Steve Allen.

### **2021 ROSS TOWNSHIP PARK SPECIAL EVENTS**

*Communicated by Joe Lukeman*

**Saturday, July 3rd** “Light Up The Park” Picnic and play in the sun, then watch fireworks over Gull Lake Country Club at dusk.

**Sunday July 25th** “Special Veterans’ Appreciation Day” A special tribute to the military.

**Sunday, August 1st, 2021** Athletic Mentors Triathlon Race Athletic Mentors will be using Park space for their annual Tri Camp Triathlon on for members of their six-week Tri Camp for adults and youth, 9 to 18. USAT certified coaches and elite athletes will teach participants everything needed to complete a sprint triathlon. These camps will culminate in an Athletic Mentors triathlon on Sunday, August 1st, from 7:45 am to 11:00 am, racers will compete and enjoy the thrill through open water swimming, road biking, and running.

**Monday, September 6th**, Labor Day Food truck will be on site all day for the last official park day! Come celebrate the end of summer outdoors.

## Gull Lake Boat Wash Update and a Call for Help in Staffing

By Linda Shierlaw

GLQO took the lead in funding and installing the boat wash at the Prairieville Township Park launch site on Gull Lake in the spring of 2017 and has staffed and maintained it since. Significant damage occurred to the boat wash last fall and repairs are currently in process so that it will be fully operational for the 2021 boating season. On an annual basis approximately 3500 watercraft enter Gull Lake through Prairieville Township Park and on holiday weekends the number of boats launched can be 300 to 500.

The purpose of the boat wash is to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species which are a major threat to Gull Lake and other lakes in our area.

There is a state law declaring it illegal to transport watercraft with bilge plugs in place over roadways, however, boaters are often unaware of this requirement. Thus, it is essential to have staff at the wash station on weekends to inspect and inform incoming boaters of this and to inspect bilges not arriving at the park already open.

Prairieville Township has an ordinance that requires washing all watercraft leaving the lake, emptying their bilges, and flushing their live wells. Wash station staff aids and direction with these activities.

For this coming season we will be staffing Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays from 8 AM till 5PM. Historically GLQO has paid for all related Boat Wash costs through the generous dues and donations received. GLQO has applied for a grant to offset some of these costs but at this point no determination has been made.

### Summer Fun in the Sun

**The GLQO (Gull Lake Quality Organization) invites you to consider an opportunity to work at the Prairieville Township Park Boat Wash**

**You will help protect beautiful GULL LAKE and make money too!!**

**Schedule includes weekends and holidays and pays \$ 11.00/ hour**

**Email**

**[linda@gulllakemi.com](mailto:linda@gulllakemi.com)**

**for a complete job description and application**

## Free Fishing Weekend, Bass Tournaments and Jumbo Perch *By Brook Wilke, Chair*

Twice per year, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides opportunities for two days of fishing without having to purchase a license. In 2021, these dates fall on the weekends of February 13-14 and June 12-13. If you are new to fishing – this is a great time to get out on the water as many species in Gull Lake are possible to catch, including bluegill, crappie, perch, large and smallmouth bass, pike and maybe even a lake trout. During the remainder of the year, all individuals 17 and older must purchase a license, which is \$26 annually for Michigan residents and \$76 for non-residents. Minors under 17 do not need a license, but any adult actively assisting a minor must possess a license.

Gull Lake is a popular location for bass fishing tournaments; and often ranks as the number one most popular lake in the state for these tournaments. If you are interested in finding out when these tournaments are taking place, the DNR publishes all of the planned tournaments on the internet at: <http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishingtournaments/>. Just type in Gull Lake (Barry County) in the search bar, and you will quickly get a list of the dates, times and expected boat counts. Currently, there are 63 registered tournaments between May-October.

It's not uncommon to find Gull Lake listed as the location for master angler catches of northern pike, rock bass, and crappie among other species. In 2019, a total of 10 fish caught from Gull Lake were registered as Master Angler fish. If you happen to catch a really large fish, you can apply for a master angler award from the DNR using the guidelines on the following website: [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119\\_79146\\_82441\\_82447---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79119_79146_82441_82447---,00.html). Keep in mind that the fish do not need to be kept as long as you get a photo to document the length of the fish. To get you excited, check out the picture below of a huge 15 ¾ inch yellow perch caught by **Mason Manuszak** from Gull Lake this spring in April. Yellow perch need to be 14 inches in length to qualify for a Master Angler award, which this fish easily exceeded and will likely be recorded as one of the top ten largest yellow perch caught in the state this year. This female perch had not yet spawned, and so it was safely measured and returned to the water to reproduce and potentially be caught again.



**Thank you to the 2021  
GLQO Corporate Members**

- Abigail Hayden Interior Design, LLC
- Bell Tower Lake House Living Co
- Dan Wood Company
- Gull Hills Tract Spring Channel
- Gull Lake Country Club
- Gull Lake Ministries
- Michigan Lawn Services, Inc.
- Serafino's
- Shepherd Family, LLC
- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- The Lang Family Properties, LLC

**Thank you to the 2021  
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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

*GLQO Board Meeting  
Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
Location: Virtual*

*GLQO Summer/Fall Party and  
Annual Meeting (Look for Updates  
Soon!)*

*If there are ideas or issues that  
you think GLQO should address  
please contact any of the board  
members or communicate  
through our Facebook  
page or website.*

## 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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*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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