

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.



GLQO Helps Fund Research on the Impact of Wake Boats

By Gary Mittelbach

Wake Boats. Some love ‘em, some hate ‘em. The growing presence of wake boats on many Michigan lakes is a source of much controversy (to put it mildly). Wake boats (also called bladder boats or wave boats) are designed to produce large wakes that a surfer can ride without needing a tow rope (see photo). They travel relatively slowly compared to normal ski-boats and the energy produced by their wakes can pound shorelines with as much force as the waves produced by a strong thunderstorm. Wake boats are relative new comers to lakes and they are hugely popular. Their popularity, coupled with a big price tag (wake boats typically start at \$50,000-\$90,000 and go up from there), has done much to revitalize the boating industry.

The conflict between wake boat enthusiasts and lake residents concerned about shoreline erosion, safety, and the disruption of their life on the lake has led to calls for greater regulation of their use, particularly how close wake boats should be allowed to operate near shore. State legislatures, however, have been reluctant to pass such legislation, often citing a lack of hard data on the effects of wake boats on lake shorelines. In 2020, the GLQO helped fund research conducted by the University of Minnesota’s College of Science and Engineering to measure the size, power and impact of waves generated by wake boats. Our financial contribution was modest (\$500), but combined with others it has allowed researchers to collect data on the maximum wave height, total wave energy and total wave power produced by four different brands of wake boats under various operating conditions and at multiple distances from data sensors. In addition, researchers measured the propeller wash produced by each test boat to determine its impact on the lake bottom.

Summer 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.



We received a letter in June 2021 from Jeff Marr (Assoc. Director of Engineering and Facilities) updating us on the progress of the U. of Minnesota wake boat study. Bottom line – their 2020 summer field research “was very successful in terms of the quality of data obtained from the four boats tested” and their plan is to publish the results of their study “within six to nine months from now”. Dr. Marr’s letter also notes that, “Given the importance of our research to all stakeholders, we are taking extra care in the steps leading to publication”. I (Gary) think you can read that as saying, this is a hot-button topic and we need to be extra careful in making sure we get our facts right and that our interpretation of these facts is scientifically sound and defensible.

We (GLQO) will share the results from the U. of Minnesota wake boat study with our members through our newsletter and on our website as soon as they become available. In the meantime, you can find much good information about wake boat concerns in articles published in the Michigan Riparian Magazine (www.mriparian.org) and on the website of the Michigan Waterfront Alliance (www.mval.org).

The Gull Lake Boat Wash – In Its Fifth Summer of Operation

Although designed to wash boats (helping prevent the spread of invasive species), occasionally a car gets washed as well. This vintage **Amphicar Model 770**, pictured below, went for a spin on Gull Lake in early August.

The Gull Lake Boat Wash at Prairieville Park was made possible, in part, by **your** membership dues and donations. The continued testing and monitoring of invasives over the years show no significant changes. This is in part due to the boat wash.

The boat wash was constructed in 2017, and has been maintained and staffed by your GLQO. We thank you for your support.



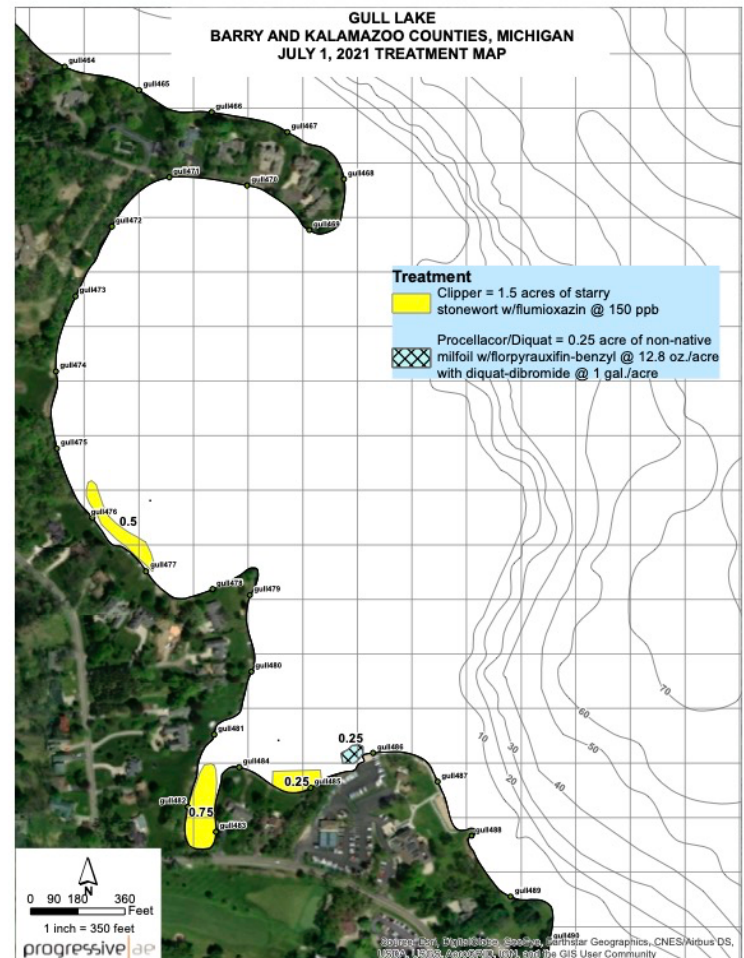
Gull Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Update

by John Etzcorn

The Gull Lake Quality Organization has been monitoring and treating the aquatic invasive plant “Starry Stonewort” in Gull Lake for the past several years in the general area of the Gull Lake County Club (see illustration). We have also treated a small area of non-native Milfoil near the Country Club beginning in 2021 based on the recommendation of our consultant, Progressive AE. The treatments are typically applied twice during growth phases in June through August and have been very successful in limiting the growth and spread of these aquatic plants.

There are numerous native aquatic plant species in Gull Lake that are essential to the overall health of the lake. Native aquatic plants provide necessary nutrients, oxygen and habitat for the fish and wildlife that live in Gull Lake. The GLQO provides funding for periodic aquatic plant surveys of the lake, the most recent of which was conducted in August of this year. And five years ago we helped establish the boat wash at Prairieville Park (see article page 2) for boats entering and exiting Gull Lake from the public landing. The boat wash has provided a measure of protection for preventing new invasive species from entering Gull Lake, while increasing awareness of the issue with boaters that use our lake.

There have been some reports of residents self-treating aquatic plants in our watershed. Please be aware that any chemical treatments of aquatic plants requires a permit from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and



Energy (EGLE). These treatments generally need to be conducted by licensed contractors. Also, even physical removal methods can sometimes create unintended problems. For instance, Starry Stonewort and some other invasive species can be spread through fragmentation. Please don't hesitate to contact us at info@glqo.net with questions or for more information!

Don't Miss the GLQO's 2021 Fall Fling!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!!

THE GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION IS HOPING YOU WILL JOIN US AT THIS YEAR'S "FLING"! OUR CELEBRATION HAS BEEN MOVED TO THE FALL, AND WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE GULL LAKE COUNTRY CLUB (LAKEVIEW ROOM) ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th FROM 6PM-8PM. A BUFFET TAQUERIA BAR AND SALAD WILL BE FEATURED ON THE MENU AND YOU WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT THE GLQO IS DOING TO ENSURE GULL LAKE WATER QUALITY NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM SARA MILLER ((239) 398-9387, CALL OR TEXT) FOR \$40.00 EACH. PRIZES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM A DRAWING AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MEETING.

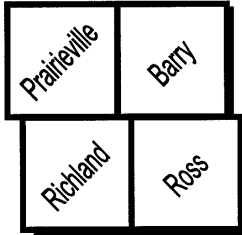
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



<https://www.glqo.net>



President's Message – Help the Four-Township Water Resources Council



The GLQO is supporting the efforts of the Four Township Water Resources Council (FTWRC) to determine the concerns of individuals in the Four Townships they support (Richland, Ross, Prairieville and Barry Townships) about water quality.

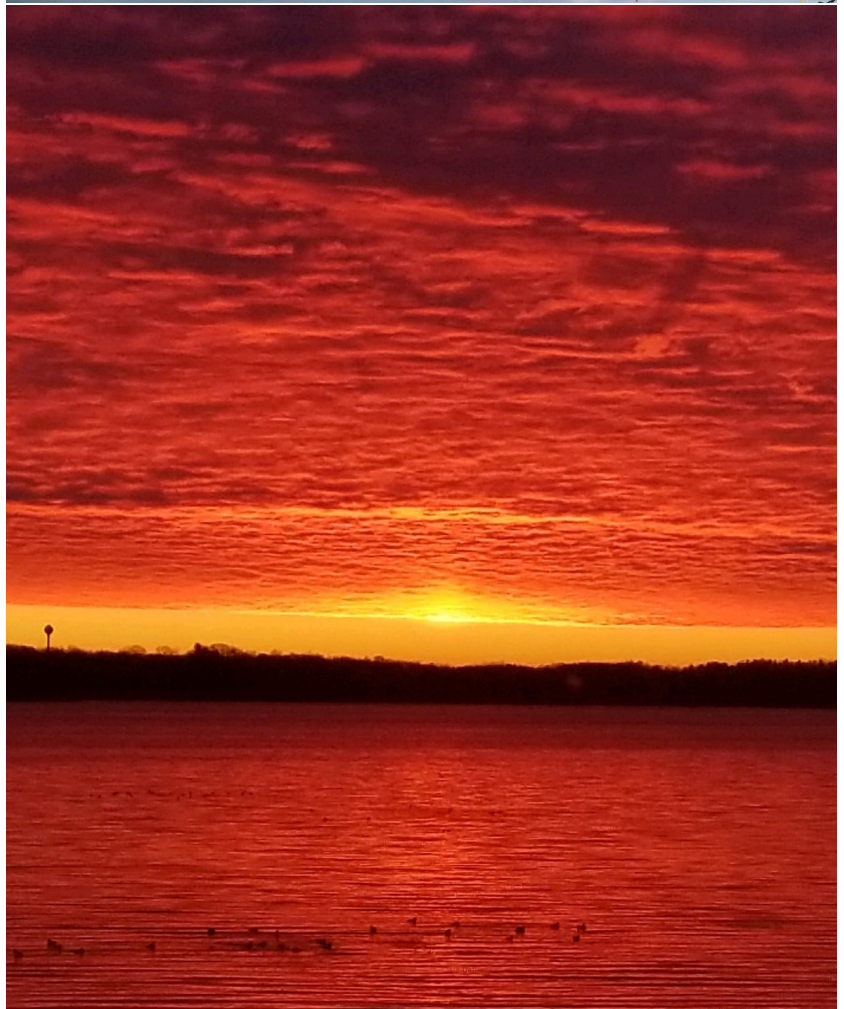
The FTWRC has developed a Citizen Survey to assess these interests and the GLQO has agreed to post it on our website, you can access the survey at <http://ftwrc.org/2021-citizen-survey/>. More information about the FTWRC can be found on their website: <http://ftwrc.org/>

Thank you to the 2021 GLQO Corporate Members

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The Return of the GLQO Photo Gallery!

Send us your best pics of Gull Lake, and we might include them in future issues!



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The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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

Website: glqo.net

Contact: info@glqo.net



Upcoming Events

Fall Fling Fundraiser

*Sunday, September 26th 6PM-8PM
GLCC Lakeview Room*

Upcoming Board Meetings

*Tuesday, October 12th
Tuesday, November 9th
Carriage House Classroom
W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
3700 East Gull Lake Drive
Hickory Corners, MI*

*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.*

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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.