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 Fall Fling Fundraiser a Success!

By Rick Hebert

The Gull Lake Quality Organization would like to thank everyone who purchased tickets to our 2021 Fall Fling Fundraiser, held on September 26 at the Gull Lake Country Club. The event was a great success as a fund raiser and as an opportunity to get together socially. Attendees heard a short presentation from Jeff Price about the future impact the new Gull Lake Dam will have on our lake and surrounding property values. In addition, Kay Gross, president of the GLQO, provided a brief update on the activities of the GLQO over the past year and addressed the challenges and the opportunities facing the GLQO in the future. You can read more about some of these activities in the current newsletter.

This was our first opportunity to gather together socially since the advent of Covid-19 and it was wonderful to see so many friends and supporters of the GLQO. The turnout was excellent and we mixed good food, good drink and good friends to make a really good time together! Attendees were treated to several prize drawings that included gift certificates from local merchants including Gull Lake Country Club, Urban Nest, Hawks Hollow Builders, Serafino's, Bell Tower, Kitchen House, South Kitchen, Gull Lake View, Tujax and Noteworthy. Both Gull Lake Marine and Premier Builders & Remodelers were kind enough to donate money to support our event. We thank these local businesses for their support and everyone who contributed to making the GLQO Fall Fling Fundraiser a success!

We look forward to seeing you again in the Fall of 2022.

Note: Keep up to date with the Gull Lake Quality Organization by visiting us at www.glqo.net or by joining our Facebook Group.

Fall 2021

In This Issue:

GLQO Fall Fling Fundraiser a Success!	.1
The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: The Status of Invasive Plant Species in Gull Lake	.2
Fishing Tournament Information	.3
Allendale Park: A Salute to the Resort Era	.4
Gull Lake Boater Safety Report for Summer 2021	.5

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 Good, The Bad and The Ugly: The Status of Invasive Plant Species in Gull Lake

by John Etzcorn and Gary Mittelbach

Invasive aquatic plants threaten all Michigan lakes and over \$24 million dollars is spent annually in Michigan to control the spread of invasive aquatic plants. Three non-native plant species that are considered to be invasive (they can spread aggressively) occur in Gull Lake. Two species, Eurasian milfoil (*Myrophyllum spicatum*) and Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtuse*), grow below the water surface, the third, common reed (*Phragmites australis*), grows along the shoreline. The Gull Lake Quality Organization (GLQO) has monitored the status of these invasive plant species in Gull Lake since 2013. This past summer (August 2021) we contracted with Progressive AE to conduct a whole lake survey of Gull Lake using underwater hydro-acoustics to measure the abundance of both native and invasive plant species (see drone photo of survey boat). Mr. Paul Hausler presented the results of Progressive AE's 2021 Aquatic Vegetation Evaluation Report to the GLQO at the annual membership meeting on October 12th at the Kellogg Biological Station. A complete copy of the report is available at the GLQO website. Below is a brief summary of their findings, which can be broken down into the "Good", the "Bad" and the "Ugly".

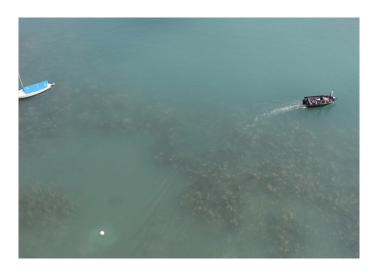
THE GOOD – "Study findings indicate that Gull Lake maintains a very good diversity of beneficial native aquatic plants. At the time of the survey, 23 submersed plant species, three floating-leaved, and seven emergent plant species were observed in the lake. Overall, Gull Lake contains a good diversity of beneficial native plants. At the time of the survey, the two native plants, Chara and variable-leaf milfoil were the dominant submersed species observed in the lake."

So, the good news is that the aquatic plants found in Gull Lake are predominantly beneficial, native species that are good for fish and other aquatic organisms. The presence of these species indicates a healthy lake environment.

THE BAD – "However, in addition to the native plants, small infestations of the exotic plants Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort were found."

Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort are bad actors. In some lakes, these species have completely taken over the lake, forming dense, nearly impenetrable stands that crowd out native plants and impede boating, swimming and fishing (see second photo of an example of a dense mat of starry stonewort). You can find out much more about these invasive species and how they affect lake quality on the Progressive AE website https://www.michiganlakeinfo.com/.

The GLQO has searched for, monitored, and treated the scattered infestations of starry stonewort and Eurasian milfoil in Gull Lake since 2013. Along with help from Progressive AE, we have obtained the necessary



permits to treat these localized infestations with selective herbicides to keep them from spreading. The 2021 whole lake survey showed that some sites that had been infested now seem clear of these invasive species. At other sites - the boat launch at the GL Country Club, the entrance to Gull Creek near Mosquito Island - these invasive species are still present but limited in extent. Continued spot treatment and monitoring is the watchword going forward.



THE UGLY — The most disturbing finding in the 2021 vegetation survey of Gull Lake was that both starry stonewort and Eurasian milfoil were found near the public boat landing at Prairieville Township Park. This is the first time that these invasive species have been detected at the north end of the lake. The fact that they are in shallow water where hundreds of boats go in and out of the lake each summer is worrisome. Unless treated, boats and trailers could pick up fragments of these plant species and carry them to other lakes (if boat owners don't use the boat wash before leaving Gull Lake). Boats entering the lake from the landing could also spread these species to other parts of Gull Lake if fragments get attached to the motor prop when the boat enters the lake.

The GLQO will work with Progressive AE this fall/winter to control these invasive species in Gull Lake. This will require obtaining the necessary owner permissions and permits to treat the new infestations of starry stonewort and Eurasian milfoil at the Prairieville Park boat launch so that treatment can begin as soon as possible in 2022 (both plant species need to be actively growing for herbicide treatment to be effective).

It is often said that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Similarly, the "price" of keeping Gull Lake free from the negative effects of invasive species is continued monitoring, boat washing (including draining bilges) and paying for treatment when necessary. We have a beautiful lake that is dominated by healthy, native plants. Keeping invasive species from becoming widespread is a shared responsibility of all those who live on and use Gull Lake now and into the future.

PS – The GLQO acknowledges with gratitude the many contributions of Mike Gallagher over the years in helping to detect and limit the spread of invasive species in Gull Lake.

Fishing Tournament Information

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages a website where they post information for all fishing tournaments across the state. Check online at http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishingtournaments/ to search specifically for tournaments on Gull Lake. While the fishing tournaments on Gull Lake have concluded for 2021, you can use the same site to look for upcoming tournaments in 2022 as they get planned and posted.

Allendale Park: A Salute to the Resort Era

The history of Gull Lake is rich in stories from its glacial beginnings to the Native American settlements, the creation of the Dam to the evolution of the lake as we know it today. At the turn of the 20th century, a particularly fun age was unfolding on the shores of the lake. The area boasted a steam train and steam powered excursion boat that coasted



between the north and south bays. Access to the lake became easier and cabins began to pop up along the shores. Gull Lake became a true summer destination for residents in nearby Kalamazoo, Augusta and Battle Creek with the popularity of the electric interurban, electric powered trains that connected smaller villages to the larger city centers. Thus grew the resort era – by 1905 Gull Lake boasted over 20 sub-divisions and resorts with Hawks Landing (La Belle), Midland Park, Willow Beach and Allendale Park the top destinations on the south end of the lake.

The true heart of the resort activities was found at Allendale Park. The interurban railroad brought beachgoers to Allendale beach, where they could spend the day on the beach or on the tennis courts, merrygo-round, ball diamond, and toboggan slides. With all that activity, the refreshment stand was always a popular stop. If water activities were the preference, you could find boating and canoeing at the public launch and a ride on "The Crystal", Gull Lake's first steamboat, or one of the other five steamboats that cruised the lake. Once evening hit, resort guests from all over the lake came to the Allendale Pavilion, the lake's dance hall. The hall stretched out over the waters of Gull Lake and entertained bands and orchestras from nearby Kalamazoo. At the end of the evening, partygoers could retire to one of the many hotels or their private cabins.

Today, we tip our hats to this nostalgic time and honor the heart of how the beautiful shores of Gull Lake have evolved into the destination it is today. The Allendale Park area; in particular, is evolving in exciting ways. The shores where the Pavilion once stood have changed many times since the early 1900s. In most recent years, it has housed two rental homes and 14 rental boat slips. Today, that historic area is undergoing a new era – with the development of three new custom home sites. The old will be swept away to make room for



a fresh, new take on lake house living. The three homes will be custom designed by Visbeen Architects and built by AVB with the uniqueness and quality deserving of the area. In fact, the development will be named Allendale Park, and while it may not have a dance hall, it will be a fun, family destination for those that will call it home.

Gull Lake Boater Safety Report for Summer 2021

by Joe Lukeman

The new no wake zone (NWZ) for Gull Lake had a lot of attention, as the Marine Patrol was able to secure a grant specifically for patrolling no wake zones. The summer began with educational contacts in an effort to help everyone understand the new no wake requirements for the bay area. Later in the summer the Marine Patrol intended to follow up with more citations. However, changes were made to the requirements for tickets by state officials, limiting the ability of the Marine Patrol to write tickets on the spot. There was a work around for those issues and the Marine Patrol was able to cite a few of the worst offenders. Next year, now that the boating public should be aware of the NWZ, they plan to issue more citations to those that disregard the NWZ.

Second, as you can see in the data below, the number of citations for marine violation was down from past years. The reduction was due to actions at the state level and new requirements for tickets. The state made changes to the format and information required for handwritten tickets but failed to provide the final acceptable version until late in the summer season. Again, some of the worst offenders were cited, as patrol deputies worked to assist the marine officers.

There was one court case regarding a noise violation on the sand bar and the person was found guilty.

Overall:	428.75 Patrol Hours	672 Contacts	450 Warnings	9 Citations
Slow/No Wake Zone:	94.25 Patrol Hours	167 Stops	37 Warning (for other 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

Upcoming Board Meetings

Tuesday, November 30th 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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We welcome you to volunteer for committee work (of your choice) and to participate in our board meetings.