

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.



Join Us at the GLQO Annual Meeting!

By Kay Gross, GLQO President

Start your summer off right by joining us at the GLQO Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, June 13 at the Kellogg Manor House, 6:30-9:00PM**. This is your opportunity to learn about what GLQO does ... and you can do...to preserve and protect the beauty of Gull Lake and its watershed.

As part of the meeting we will have a presentation by Brandon Reid, a toxicologist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHSS). Brandon will be sharing information about the accumulation of chemicals in fish such as PFAS, mercury and PCBs and the work MSHHS is doing in this regard. As many of you are aware, MDHSS recently put out a warning about consumption of smelt in Gull Lake due to the PFAS levels. You can read about this in our Winter 2023 Newsletter (http://bit.ly/glqo_winter_2023).

We also will be confirming recommendations of the GLQO Nominating Committee for new Board members and thanking retiring members for their service.

So join us.... beer, wine and light refreshments will be provided. To help us plan the food and beverages for the meeting, please register at <http://bit.ly/glqoannual> or email info@glqo.net and let us know how many in your family/group will be attending.

6:30-7:30 Happy Hour... light snacks, beer and wine provided!

7:30 Business meeting

Welcome by Kay Gross, GLQO President
Introduction of current GLQO Board members
Election of new Board Members
What's ahead for Summer 2023.. and beyond.

8:00 Presentation

"Michigan's Eat Safe Fish Program: Helping Michiganders Choose and Eat Safer Fish"
Brandon Reid, Toxicologist MDHSS

8:15-9:00 Q&A and more mingling..

Spring/Summer 2023

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The Gull Lake Quality Organization is an all-volunteer organization. Our mission is to protect water quality in Gull Lake and the surrounding Watershed.



When Good Lakes Go Bad

By Gary Mittelbach

A recent MLive article (<http://bit.ly/goodlakes>) shows just how much it can cost to control invasive plants once they invade and take hold in a lake. Residents of Austin Lake in Portage (MI) are going to spend \$117,445 in 2023 and up to \$450,000 over the next five years in efforts to reduce the abundance of invasive plant species (including Eurasian Milfoil and Starry Stonewort) and other nuisance weeds in their lake. The volunteer organization the Austin Lake Riparians worked with the Portage City Council to form a special lake assessment district with the power to assess Austin Lake property owners the cost of treatment (herbicide treatment for invasive species, mechanical harvesting of nuisance levels of native plants). With 438 parcel holders around the lake, the average Austin Lake property owner will pay about \$200/yr.



There are some parallels and some important differences between Austin Lake and Gull Lake. Both are relatively large lakes (Austin Lake is 1,133 acres while Gull Lake is just over 2,000 acres). However, Austin Lake is much shallower than Gull Lake, with an average depth of 5ft and a max. depth of only 11ft (Gull Lake's max. depth is 110 ft). The deep, cold waters of Gull Lake and its low nutrient status (see <https://glqo.net/portfolio-item/water-quality-committee/>) help protect Gull Lake from the nuisance level of plant growth found in Austin Lake. However, Gull Lake does have three of the nasty invasive species found in Austin Lake (Eurasian Milfoil, Starry Stonewort, and non-native Phragmites), albeit at low abundance. The Gull Lake Quality Organization (a non-profit, volunteer organization funded by member dues and donations) contracts with Progressive AE, the same firm handling the invasive species treatments in Austin Lake, to monitor and treat with herbicides the invasive species in Gull Lake.

The GLQO currently spends about \$12,000 per year for monitoring and treating invasive plant species and another \$17,000 per year staffing and maintaining the boat wash at Prairieville Park public landing. The boat wash is an important tool to help keep invasive plant species from spreading into and out of Gull Lake. So far, these treatments have kept the invasive plants in Gull Lake “under control”. But the clear message from Austin Lake and other lakes in our area is this – “Be vigilant and don’t let invasive species get the upper hand, for if you do it’ll cost you – big time”!

You can read about the GLQO efforts to control invasive species in Gull Lake in our Summer 2022 Newsletter and on the GLQO website.

SAVE THE DATE!

THE GLQO FALL FLING RETURNS AGAIN THIS YEAR!
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th 4:00PM-7:00PM
GULL LAKE COUNTRY CLUB



Wake-surf Boats – Best Practices for Habitat Protection, Safety and Courtesy

Best practices for the safe and courteous operation of wake-surf boats are a topic of much discussion these days. Wave-surf boats produce wakes that are much larger and stronger than those produced by “normal” ski boats. A study by the University of Minnesota showed that the wake produced by a wake-surf boat must travel about 400 ft before it declines to the size and strength of the wake produced by a “normal” ski boat. Wake-surf boats also produce significantly greater propeller wash than “normal” ski boats. This propeller wash is directed downward and can have harmful effects in shallow water on fish spawning habitat, as well as generating increased turbidity. These results, as well as respect for those living on the lake shore, have led some lake associations to recommend that wake-surf boats be operated further from shore than required by current Michigan law, which states that a person shall maintain a distance of 100 ft. from any dock, boat, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing area while driving at other than slow no wake speed. Also recommended is the operation of wake-surf boats in waters deeper than 30 ft. For your information, the map shows in green the areas of Gull Lake that are both greater than 30 feet in depth and further than 500 ft from shore. The red line and arrows serve as a reminder that boats should travel in a counter-clockwise fashion around the lake.



Boat Wash News

By Dustin Perrin, GLQO Boat Wash Coordinator

The Gull Lake boat wash is up and running at the Prairieville Township boat launch, and will be staffed on weekends and during large events such as fishing tournaments and sailing/boating clubs. The boat wash is managed and operated by the GLQO in partnership with the Prairieville Township to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into and from Gull Lake. Invasive species can be transferred between lakes as “hitchhikers” on boats or trailers. Once a boat has been pulled out of a lake, water from that lake remains in the watercraft – in the hull, within the motor’s cooling system, and inside of live wells.

If you have operated your boat in a lake infested with AIS (and there are several in the area!), these pests can be transferred to the next lake you visit. Washing your boat before you enter any lake (or when you leave) is the best way to ensure that you don't inadvertently transfer AIS between lakes. It's important that your boat, trailer and other contents that have been in the water are clean before you enter Gull Lake. Our boat wash is easy to operate and is the most effective way for boaters to help protect Gull Lake from invasive species and "keep it clean".





New this year at the boat wash is a DNR fishing line tube, attached to the fence/railing in front of the trash cans just south of the bathroom. If you find any discarded fishing line, we encourage you to pick it up and recycle it in the tube found at our boat wash station. This will not only keep Gull Lake clean but offers a variety of other benefits. If left in the water or onshore, monofilament fishing line (which can last up to **600 years** in freshwater) can harm wildlife that becomes tangled in or ingests it. Line in the water can also endanger swimmers and divers and can become tangled in boat propellers.

Thank you for doing your part to protect our beautiful Gull Lake.

Historian's Corner

Editor's Note: The following was originally published in the GLQO Newsletter back in September, 2008, and much is still applicable today.

To find out about the history of Gull Lake and the Watershed, one needn't look far. Your humble Historian was reminded of this fact this summer as I discovered several wonderful local historical resources.

1) The History Room at the Richland Community Library in Richland. Thanks to the tireless work of folks like Ed Schaadt, there is a wealth of information available to the public on the local area, including Gull Lake and significant portions of the Watershed. A recent visit to the lower level of the Library proved a real 'eye-opener', thanks to the very welcoming and patient Archivist Martha Strumpher. There is so much interesting information on the area's past, much of it not even categorized as of this writing. For example, from a wonderful book by the name of 'Richland - From Its Prairie Beginnings':

"The legend still persists that a fortune in walnut trees lies below Gull [Lake]'s waters. Old-timers say that the walnut trees grew on the peninsula flooded when Island Park was born. Stumps which were just below the water between the island and the west shore were dynamited in 1904."

"In the 1890s, large quantities of ice were cut on Gull Lake and shipped out of Yorkville on the Cincinnati, Jackson and Mackinac railroad. In March of 1890, an order was received from Cincinnati for 200 carloads of ice."

2) So much of the area's history is carried in its residents, past and present. Last Spring, the GLQO received a lovely note from Mrs. Betty Jastrey, from her winter home in Florida. She relates:

"While scuba diving several years ago my son and grandson (Don and Robert DeLong) discovered a sunken boat they thought was E.L. Hawk's 'The Crystal' in about 60 feet of water in the Bay area. Could this have been the old steamboat?"

3) Local Riparian Jack Lawrence recently shared with your Historian a copy of his 'Gulls and Buoys – A History of the Gull Lake Yacht Club 1926-1987'. We hope to get this booklet scanned into our Archives soon, and when we do, it will be available on our website, <http://www.glqo.net>. To whet the appetite, here is a small Did You Know:

"There was obviously a great deal of enthusiasm for power boat racing in those early years... By the 1930 season though motor boat racing was all over, likely terminated by an unfortunate accident in which a powerboat hit and seriously injured a swimmer."

Do **you** have some Gull Lake or Watershed history to share? If so, drop us a line at [P.O. Box 144, Richland, MI, 49083](mailto:historian@glqo.net), or email us at historian@glqo.net.

Updated for 2023!

Michigan DNR says fish kills may be common during spring/early summer

A reminder from the Department of Natural Resources that fish kills may commonly occur in spring and early summer. As the season changes, fish die offs can be particularly common in shallow lakes, ponds, streams and canals. These kills are generally localized, natural occurrences that do not affect the overall health of the fish populations or fishing quality said Gary Whelan, DNR Fisheries Division Research manager.

Fish can become easily stressed in winter due to low energy reserves because feeding is at a minimum in winter. They are then less able to handle low oxygen and temperatures swings.

For more information on fish kills in Michigan, visit Michigan.gov/Fishing. The public is welcome to report fish kills at Michigan.gov/EyesInTheField; such reports are valuable to the DNR’s ability to manage the state’s aquatic resources. If you suspect a fish kill is due to non-natural causes, call the nearest DNR office or Michigan's Pollution Emergency Alert System at 800-292-4706.



The GLQO on Facebook!

This newsletter, published approximately quarterly, is an important way for the GLQO to keep members informed about the work we do and to provide information about important issues affecting water quality and the ecology of Gull Lake and its watershed. Issues and items of interest arise throughout the year and so to stay better connected and informed about this, we invite you to [Follow us on Facebook](#) – search for ‘gulllakequality’.

We post information on the GLQO Facebook page (and website) about upcoming events, links to articles of interest to Gull Lake residents and visitors, and upcoming activities. For example, we will post here information on when the lake will be surveyed for invasive aquatic plants and our plans to treat these – when and where.

If you are not already on Facebook, consider joining. It’s easy!! Go to facebook.com and click Create New Account. Enter your name, email or mobile phone number, password, date of birth and gender. You don’t have to post anything!!

Share Your Photos!

Do you have a stunning photo of Gull Lake that you’d like to share with our members and the public? If so, please email it to photos@glqo.net, and we’ll add it to our [Photo Gallery](#)! We'd especially like to see pictures of beautiful lakescapes!



2023 Individual/Family Members

Donald and Becky Adamski
 Scott and Holly Allen
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 Gull Lake Marine
 Gull Lake View Golf Course
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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

***Progressive AE survey of aquatic invasive plants
in Gull Lake (weather permitting)***

Thursday, June 1st

GLQO Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 13th 6:30PM-9:00PM

Kellogg Manor House

***Treatment of Aquatic Invasive Plants in Gull Lake
(check Facebook for updates)***

Throughout the month of July

GLQO Fall Fling

Sunday, September 24th 4:00PM-7:00PM

Gull Lake Country Club

*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.*

2022-2023 Board of Directors

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Joe Lukeman (23-2)

Dustin Perrin (25-2)

Margo Rebar (25-2)

Doug Smith (22-1)

Jay Wesly (25-1)

Andy Widner (25-1)

Brook Wilke (23-2)

*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.