

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.



It's That Time Again...

By Andy Widner and Margo Rebar, Membership Committee

The leaves are turning, the temperatures are dropping, docks are coming out of the water and you know it is ...**TIME to RENEW your MEMBERSHIP in GLQO!**

We currently have almost **400** members in GLQO; this includes **30** Lifetime members (9 who joined this year), **20+** Business members, and over **300** Family/Individual memberships (10 new).

We are delighted to see the membership of GLQO growing and hope that we continue to be seen as the organization that is committed to protecting the waters of Gull Lake and the surrounding watershed. Remember, our motto is: *Keep it Clean!*

Joining or renewing GLQO memberships is easy. You can complete the membership form at <https://glqo.net/join/> and send it to us with your payment at Box 144, Richland MI 49083. Or pay on-line.

This year we are returning to a system of having categories of annual membership for individuals, households, or businesses:

- **Bronze \$40/year (the base membership)**
- **Silver \$100/year**
- **Gold \$250/year**
- **Platinum \$500/year**
- **Lifetime \$1500**

Members can opt to add a subscription to *The Michigan Riparian* for a reduced rate of \$14 if they join/renew before March.

We will be sending out a formal request to renew in early December with our brochure. If you renew before then you will still get this letter, so share the brochure with a friend or neighbor!

Fall 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.



The Annual Meeting Was Informative and Fun!

By Kay Gross, GLQO President

The annual meeting of the GLQO was held on 13 June 2023 at the Manor House of the WK Kellogg Biological Station. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting, including representatives from Ross and Prairieville Townships and the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority. It was a fun and informative evening and provided the opportunity for members to interact socially and learn more about what GLQO is doing to protect water quality in the Gull Lake watershed,

An important order of business at the meeting was the formal election of new members to the GLQO Board. Each of these individuals will serve a three-year term on the Board and all have a strong interest in preserving the water quality of Gull Lake. Two of the new members, Mike Gallagher and Vicki Gesmundo, have previously served in leadership roles on the Board. Vicki is recently retired from American Village Builders and has lots of connections to the Gull Lake community as her family has had a home on the lake for years. Mike, also a Gull Lake resident, has been involved in monitoring water quality of Gull Lake for over a decade and currently serves as treasurer of the Michigan Lake and Streams Association (MLSA), which publishes *The Michigan Riparian*.

New to the Board are Ellen Keenan and Trudy Luedeking. Ellen is a realtor and recently moved to Gull Lake with her family. She got involved with the GLQO by helping organize the annual Fall Fling and will be co-chairing



New GLQO Board Members Mike Gallagher, Vicki Gesmundo, Ellen Keenan and Trudy Luedeking

the Outreach and Communications committee. Trudy is a lawyer and long-term resident of Richland who has enjoyed recreating on Gull Lake for decades. She became involved with the GLQO after attending the Fall Fling in 2022. She will be serving as secretary on the Board and helping with membership.

The meeting also included presentations by speakers from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) on work being done to monitor PFAS levels in Michigan. Brandon Armstrong (surface waters) and Geoff Rhodes (fish) summarized research and monitoring being done throughout the state and highlighted implications for Gull Lake. A [handout](#) summarizing their presentation was distributed at the meeting and can be found on the GLQO website (<https://glqo.net/2023/06/glqos-2023-annual-meeting/>). A lively discussion followed the presentation. Three graduate students from the MSU Center for PFAS Research (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/pfas-research/>) who attended the meeting provided additional information about what resources the Center could provide citizens concerned about PFAS levels in lakes, streams and ground water and its effects.

PFAS is a Concern for Gull Lake Residents

By Kay Gross and Eric Reid

A public forum was held on 30 October 2023 at the WK Kellogg Biological Station to provide area residents with an update on what is being done to monitor PFAS in the area, particularly in relation to contamination from a former plastics plant located on North 34th Street in Richland. The meeting was hosted by the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) and organized by Ross and Richland Townships, with support from the GLQO and the Kellogg Biological Station.

Erica Bays, from the Remediation and Redevelopment Division of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), provided a detailed summary of the contamination associated with the Production Plated Plastics (PPP) plant on 34th Street in Richland. Heavy metal contamination was first detected at the PPP site in 1977. The company went bankrupt in 1991 and since then the state of Michigan has been treating contamination at the site and monitoring wells in the surrounding area. In 2018, the Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority (GLSWA) reported that PFAS was detected in wells in the area surrounding the site. EGLE then expanded the cleanup system at PPP to remove PFAS and established a monitoring system to measure PFAS in ground water in wells surrounding the plant. They initially focused their attention on the area to the SE of the PPP plant in Richland Township as this was the direction of the plume of contamination from the site. The initial sampling (2018, 2019) indicated PFAS levels that exceeded the recommended levels for safe drinking water at the periphery of the sampling area and so over the past five years they have expanded the area and number of wells they are monitoring (currently 169).

In 2023, significant levels of PFAS compounds were detected in wells located in the in the Gull Vista plat (in Ross Township, south and east of Idlewild beach) as part of an expanded sampling. ***The preliminary data suggest that the PFAS in these wells may not be directly associated with the plume of contamination from the PPP site.*** As noted by the presenters at the public forum, there are many sources of PFAS, but the detection of levels exceeding the current safe water drinking levels in any well is of concern. Therefore, while there is no evidence that there is a risk to Gull Lake water, the proximity of these residential wells to Gull Lake is motivating EGLE to expand its sampling of ground and surface waters in this area. EGLE will also have funds available to sample surface waters in 2024 and the GLQO has applied to have Gull Lake included in this monitoring.

Please note that EGLE works closely with state and local health department staff to provide filters to residents whose homes exceed criteria. These filters are not, however, considered a long-term solution. As a result, Jim Baker, from the Kalamazoo Regional Water System, provided information at the public forum on how Kalamazoo water has been brought into some of the affected areas of Richland Township and their plans to expand this, including the Gull Vista plat. Mr. Baker stated that the City of Kalamazoo intends to apply for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) for installation of this system. The DWSRF, which is administered by EGLE, prioritizes applications to support the installation of water systems to address PFAS contamination. The city of Kalamazoo's plan will be developed over the next 6 months, public presentations are planned in April/May 2024, and if funding is approved, construction would be done in 2024-2025. ***The***



PFAS is an acronym for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a large group of human-made substances used in manufacturing, firefighting, and consumer products. It has been detected in ground water throughout Michigan and recent reports have documented its occurrence in fish collected in several area lakes.

funding request will include funds to pay for the construction of the system and for homeowners to hook up to the system for no cost.

Community members had the opportunity to ask questions after the presentations and to find out how to get their wells tested for PFAS and stay informed about PFAS levels in wells being monitored by EGLE. All of the data from past monitoring is available from the [MPART website](#) including detailed maps showing the location of the monitoring wells that are coded to indicate if PFAS exceeds or is below the recommended levels for drinking water. [MPART's main website](#) has lots of information about PFAS sampling, monitoring, and risks to the environment and human health.

If you are interested in sampling your own residential drinking water well, the [MPART website](#) has a list of certified laboratories that can do this. The site also has a lot of great information about PFAS in general and the work that is being done in our area and around the state.

The slides from this public forum can be found at on the GLQO website at <https://glqo.net/two/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-10-30-MPART-Town-Hall-FINAL.pdf>.

Another Great Year at the Boat Wash!

By Dustin Perrin and Fischer Jex



We have successfully capped off another successful season at the boat wash at Prairieville Township Park! The boat wash is staffed on weekends and holidays from mid-May to mid-September and with three new employees we were able to expand the hours the boat wash was staffed. This year's team included 3 returning staff members, Fischer Jex (supervisor), Alex Perez, and Jacob Gherardi, and three new people, Maya Kirkwood, Blake Wesley and Andrew King. Jacob is a 4-yr veteran of the boat wash crew! We also installed new signs at the boat wash to let boaters know about GLQO and the work we do to "Keep it Clean"!

The team did a great job assisting boaters in cleaning their boats and enjoyed sharing information with them about lake ecosystems and the species that occur in them. Thanks to donations from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, we were able to expand the "Wildlife Viewing Station" at the boat wash. This included a better microscope, information about macro-invertebrates found in lakes and streams and dip-nets. This made it easier for kids (and others) to collect and examine the interesting aquatic life found along the Gull Lake shoreline and in Prairieville Creek.

This year we asked boaters using the boat wash, what other lakes they had visited this summer. The vast majority of recreational boaters only use Gull Lake, always putting in at the Township Park. Gull Lake is known for its great fishing and it is the most popular lake in Barry County for bass tournaments. Participants in these tournaments travel throughout the State – one we talked to had just come from Galveston Bay. These boaters

are impressed that the GLQO maintains and staffs a boat wash on the lake as they understand the importance of this for maintaining great water quality.

The staff agree: it was a great year and we look forward to serving Gull Lake boaters again next year!

Gull Lake Quality Organization's Fall Fling 2023: A Resounding Success!

By Sera Gesmundo, Outreach & Education Committee

The Gull Lake Quality Organization (GLQO) hosted another successful Fall Fling at the Gull Lake Country Club on Sunday, September 24th. With close to 100 attendees, the evening was a perfect blend of social and educational interactions. It was heartening to host an event that provides the opportunity for our community to come together to champion the cause of preserving and enhancing the beauty of Gull Lake.

Kay Gross, president of the GLQO, updated attendees on the organization's activities throughout the past year. From addressing invasive species through monitoring and treatment to the maintenance of the boat wash at Prairieville's public launch, the GLQO has been supported efforts to protect Gull Lake from the threat of aquatic invasive plant species.

Erick Elgin from Michigan State University Extension was the keynote speaker. His talk on creative shoreline landscaping provided insights on how to enhance the aesthetic appeal of waterfronts and emphasized its significant role in preserving the health of the lake's ecosystem.

Central to the success of the Fall Fling was the strong support of local businesses. Their contributions, both in door prizes and financial contributions, showed their support for GLQO goals. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our partners, including Keller Williams, Gull Lake Ministries, Gull Lake Country Club, Athletic Mentors, Gull Lake View Golf Resort, Noteworthy, Team Clancy - Berkshire Hathaway, United Country Real Estate - Ryan Johnson, Gull Lake Landscaping, Kellogg Community Credit Union, Bell Tower, Premier Building & Remodeling, Hawks Hollow Builders, Mac's Garage, Richland Meat Market, Kitchen House / South Kitchen, Callander Commercial, Howland Flooring, Serafino's Party Store, NEDS, and Greer & Co Hair Salon. A fun video capturing highlights of the evening can be found at <https://glqo.net/2023/10/our-thanks-for-a-very-successful-fall-fling/>.

To all who participated, we want to extend our warmest thanks. We look forward to continuing our joint efforts to safeguard the waters of Gull Lake.

2023 Members

We aim to keep our membership lists accurate; those listed here are members as of 1 November 2023.
Please contact us if you note an error or omission (info@glqo.net).

Lifetime Members

Mac and Susan Behnke
Sherwood and
Sharon Boudeman
Jon and Susan Bowers
Janet and John Carrig
Alison and Rob Credit
Sally and Randy Crocket
Jerry and Sharon Cross
Bill and Betsi English

Mike and Kathy Gallagher
Bonnie Gordon
Gull Lake Sewer and
Water Authority
Sera Gesmundo,
Hawks Hollow Builders
Jim and Marsha Heath
Fred and Megan James
Si and Shirley Johnson

Todd & Betsy Kingma
Betsy & Brandon Klerk
Chris and Laura Maloney
Ed and Nancy McCarty
Ike (Ivan) Mellema
Nick and Julia Miladore
Kay Gross and
Gary Mittelbach
Robert and Kay O'Boyle

Rollin and Crystal Richman
Paul and Karen Ringemann
Mike and Julia Sharp
William D. Johnston and
Ronda E. Stryker
Mary L. Tyler and Family
Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen
Sally Williams

Individual and Family Members

John W. Abbott	Philip and Terri Dawson	David Gruss	Linda Spicketts and Jim Lass
Donald and Becky Adamski	Jim and Barb DeKruyter	Frank and Diane Guarisco	Phyllis LaVene
Scott and Holly Allen	David and Margaret DeLano	Michael and Arlene Bryant	Patricia L. Lawrence
Lou Ann Ambro	Todd and Ruth DeNooyer	Gull Hills Tract Spring Channel	Suzanne Stimson Leech
Charlotte Ashton	Maxine DeVrou	Bill Gust	Wendy and Allan Levy
Bud and Judi Baldwin	Brent and Julie Dingman	Julie and William Guzy	Michelle & Jay
Patti Colasanti and Jack Bargo	Laurel and Mark Disney	David and Michelle Halley	Liebart/Gesmundo
Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow	Larry and Diane Dopp	Margaret and Pete Hamlett	Christopher & Jacquelyn Light
Anthony and Valerie Bartalone	Susan and John Doster	Bill and Marge Hannapel	John and Rita Light
Barbara Brundage & Bill Barton, Jr.	Dob and Jeree Drake	Tracy Buck & Laurie Hanson	Eric and Charlene Longman
David Battjes	Lisa Duffy	Henry Hawk	Joe and Madison Lukeman
Rick and Kathy Beauregard	Dr. David G. Dvorak	Jo and Pete Hawk	Rob and Beth Lundahl
Bryan and Courtney Beck	Kris and Claire Eager	Rick and Shirley Hebert	Judy Maier
Tom and Lynn Belco	Loyal A. & Bonnie B. Eldridge	James & Patricia Heilenbach	Tom and Pam Mansager
Margie and Bob Berres	Ron and Nanette Elenbaas	Joe and Diane Hemker	Vicki Gesmundo &
Gordon and Sally Birdsall	Dennis Elmer	Mal and Pat Hickok	Mark Marcinek
Jim and Lesley Bodary	George and Lenore Elsener	George and Arla Hillebrand	Josh Mastenbrook
Randy and Janet Bonzheim	James & Patricia Elsener	Ferdinand Hintze	Joe and Kristine Mauro
Dick and Debbie Boris	Theodore P. & Helen Jo Emerson	Fred Holt	Valli and Tom McDougale
Deb Ball and Rod Borton	Eric Eshuis	Dennis and Kathy Hoorn	Russ and Connie McFee
Sherwood & Kathryn Boudeman	John and Jan Etcorn	Curtis Hall &	JB and Alba McKay
David and Heide Boutell	Jim and Dottie Farwell	Susan Houseman	Mary & Bob Mellema
Robert and Dolores Boyle	Jim and JoAnn Farwell	Helen Hughes	Bill and Joyce Melvin
Bob and Brenda Brenner	Gerry and Jane Feldman	Bruce Hutchinson	Bob Millard
Stevie and Rob Brinkerhoff	Carol Leet Fetterolf	Robert and Amy Isom	Kate Miller
Bob and Susan Britigan	John and Lorelee Fisher	Teresa Kuoechel &	Kevin and Elizabeth Miller
Joe and Jane Brogger	Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald	Mark Jackson	Robert and Kathy Miller
Nancy L. Brookins	Ron and Judy Flachs	John and Judy Jereck	Shelly Halder & Ron Mochizuki
Cleve and Sue Brown	Jack and Patti Fleming	Shawn & Jennifer Johnson	William and Phoebe Moreo
Judith and John Brown	Pam and Rick Foster	Steven and Peggy Johnson	Christine L. Mueller
Michael and Sara Brundage	Lloyd and Serena Fox	Susanne Johnston	Mike and Mari Mulholland
Fred and Sharon Buckley	Pat and Deb Gallagher	Mark and Toni Jones	John Mulholland
Roger C. Buddig	Dan & Mary Beth Gallagher	John and Kathy Keagle	Craig & Deb Mumy
Jack and Miki Budnick	Joni and Roger Ganger	Ellen and Michael Keenan	Michael and Susan Murphy
Keith and Carole Buell	James Garside	Richard and Joan Keilen	Patrick H. Murphy
Rob and Amy Bulszewicz	John and Sharon Garside	Steve and Michelena Keith	Stephen and Christine Murray
Randy and Karen Byrd	John & Miranda Garside, Jr	Brad and Lauren Keller	Kris and Laura Nelson
Kathy, Dan and Brendan Casey	Karen A. Geib	John E. and Jack L. Kelly	Brady and Barb Nitchman
Richard and Joanne Chamberlin	Tom and Claire Geil	Dave and Karen Kempe	Markley Noel
Gar and Robin Chapel	Alfred and Jean Gemrich	David Kiel	Jim and Kristin Nolin
John and Lynne Chipman	Jack S. Gesmundo	Sue Markus & Rick King	Martha Nolin
John and Susan Chrisman	Sera Gesmundo	Fred Kinney	Peter and Jennifer Nolin
David and Kathryn Christ	Judah Gesmundo	Melinda Klerk	James D. and Nancy L. Nordlie
Gary J. Cirulli	Jim and Barbara Gilbert	Rolf and Judith Kletzien	Paul and Sonia Norman
Dorne J. and Connie Clark	Susan C. Gilmore	Joni and Timothy Knapper	Kim and Valerie Nuyen
Greg and Linda Clarkin	Steve and Elaine Ginsberg	Wes and Susan Kolb	Sean and Nicol O'Brien
Bonnie Cleasby	Don and Janet Gladstone	Dave and Kay Koldyke	Jeff and Amy O'Brien
Bruce and Donna Cohen	James & Deborah Frett Gorka	Garry and Claire Krouse	Char and Tom O'Neill
Linda A. Cohen	Peter & Clare Grady	Jane E. Kuckel	Amanda Todd and Billy Ogden
Bob and Paula Cook	Gary Granger	Cara Lalumia-Barnes	Jerold and Maxine Orum
James A. Cupper	Joan Melges Green	Lang Family Properties	Jerry and Carla Orwin
Dwight Curtenius	Bjorn and Lori Green	Richard J. Laninga	Craig and Sue Osborn
Diann and Jim Danhoff	Paul and Joanne Gregory	Stephanie Larsen	Edward Overbeck

Christine McCarthy & Bob Paksi	Camille M. Riley	Doug and Deidre Smith	Dan Vander Meulen
Don and Ann Parfet	Jim Ritz	Michele and Greg Smith	Doug and Sandra VanderLugt
William & Barbara Parfet	Wendy and Doug Robbins	Peter and Diane Czuk Smith	Jon G. & Courtenay VanderMolen
Barbara J. Parish	Jon Rosenbaum	Joyce Snow	John and Cathy VanderSalm
Donald and Sue Paulson	Liz Rosenberger	Carl and Cherie Spinden	Jim Collier & Stuart Verseman
Michael & Frances Peikert	Rob and Lori Rowe	Jack Steen	Carol Vogt
Michael Peikert	Bill and Jane Ryan	Charles and Janet Stoddard	Jay and Stephanie Walbridge
Henry & Courtney Pender	Brad and Rene Saar	Harry and Tineke Stolt	Dana A. Walters
Dustin & Maegan Perrin	Bob and Judy Sackett	Samuel & Tommy Sue Stone	Timothy and Molly Wang
Karol Peterson	Hal and Taffy Sanger III	Bill and Stevie Symons	Beverly Warner
Kathy Keelan Pew	Bonnie & Scott Sawusch	Peter Taft	Dan and Donna Weaver
Robert Phillips	Steve and Gina Schau	Carol Tedrow	David and Lee Weiss
Laura and Gregg Pierce	Tom and Judy Schau	Gary and Karen Theisen	Jill and Jay Wesley
René and Chris Poch	Jan Stoner & Rick Schmiede	Ron and Edna Thompson	Bob and Lori Wheelright
Shelly Gildea Knight & Matthew Pottenger	Charlene & Gregory Schofield	Alison Thor	Brian and Leisa White
Sue Harrison & Jeff Price	Bill and Margie Schultz	David and Carol Ticknor	Andrew and Kathleen Widner
John & Susan Quertermus	Ken and Pat Schultz	Bill & Carolyn Ticknor	David and Cindy Wiedemer
Daniel C. Rackiewicz	Ron and Nancy Schultz	Matt and Izzy Tracy	Brook and Emily Wilke
Alison Pruitt & David Randell	Sam Sefton	Michelle Tombro & Chris Tracy	Bruce and Jean Williams
Martin and Carol Ranly	Mary E. Seyka	Steve W. Allen & Andrea M. Trautman	Tim & Tonia Williams
Ann E. Ransford	Tim and Judy Shank	Jerry and Margaret Trepanier	Stephen and Linda Winquist
James Rawsy	Tom and Lisa Shannon	Gail Turluck	Jerry and Kathleen Wojtala
Bob and Margo Rebar	Esther M. & Tom Shaw	Jeanne Turner	Tom and Carol Woolworth
Barbara & William Reichard	Julie Shaw	Linda Uggen	Juli Wright
Eric and Martha Reid	T.R. and Kathy Shaw	Bo and Mel Van Peenan	Jen Wright
Carol Renz	Christina Shepard	James & Kathleen Vander Kolk	Doug and Jackie Wunderly
Dave and Shelly Reynolds	Shepherd Family, LLC		Ron and Sonya Young
Robert D. & Mary Jo Rial	Rick & Johanna (Marjo) Shields		Jesse & Kathryn Zamora
Brian and Jackie Rice	Linda Shierlaw		
Nancy Richardson	Bruce and Kathy Shurtz		
Justin & Carolyn Ridderman	Bill & Nora Sikkema		
	Bob and Marilyn Simon		

Business Members

- Bell Tower Lake House Living
- Boudeman Farms, LLC
- Gull Lake Country Club
- Gull Lake Marine
- Gull Lake Ministries
- Gull Lake View Golf Course
- Kellogg Biological Station
- Mac's Garage, LLC
- Michigan Lawn Services, Inc.
- Noteworthy by Design
- Premier Building and Remodeling
- Serafino's
- South Kitchen and Kitchen House
- Urban Nest

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

Website: glqo.net

Contact: info@glqo.net



Upcoming Events

GLQO Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 14th 7:00PM-9:00PM
KBS Carriage House Classroom

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.

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Kay Gross (26-2) **President**
Sera Gesmundo (25-2) **Vice President**
Tracy Luedeking (26-1) **Secretary**
Don Paulson (25-2) **Treasurer**

Tom Belco (25-1)
Mike Gallagher (26-1)
Vicki Gesmundo (26-1)
Peter Hawk (25-1)
Ellen Keenan (26-1)
Dustin Perrin (25-2)
Margo Rebar (25-2)
Jay Wesly (25-1)
Andy Widner (25-1)

*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.