

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.



Membership and Outreach

By Kay Gross, President GLQO

The impact and value of an organization – especially a volunteer organization – is reflected in the engagement and support of its members. We are delighted to see that so many past members have renewed for 2024 and that we are attracting new members. As of the end of February, 250 past members had renewed and we had 25 new members! We expect that this is due to our efforts to ‘get the word out’ to people who live on Gull Lake and Little Long Lake and to local businesses about what the GLQO does and why.

Among the renewals for 2024 were sixteen new Lifetime memberships. This was four times more than we had expected! We now have 39 Lifetime members, over half of whom have joined in the past two years. We take this as confirmation that people believe in what GLQO does and want to support our work through their memberships and donations. ***If you haven't renewed (or joined) the GLQO yet, it's not too late – just click on the JOIN link on our website (www.glqo.net).***

The Outreach and Communications Committee is continuing to work on ways to raise awareness about the GLQO. They have just completed a Welcome to the Lake packet and will be working with local builders and realtors to share this information with their clients. If you have a new neighbor, let us know and we will get you a packet you can share with them. We want people who move to the Gull Lake area to know about GLQO and to join our efforts to "Keep it Clean", now and into the future.

To all of you who have joined the GLQO for 2024, THANK YOU! If you're not sure about the status of your membership, check out the listing at the back of this newsletter. We try to keep it up to date; let us know if we have missed you!

Spring 2024 (revised)

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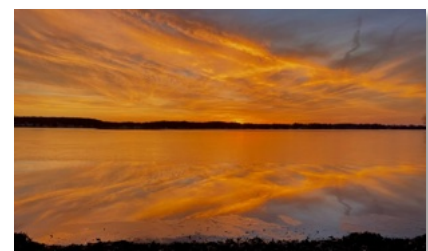
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The Gull Lake Quality Organization is an all-volunteer organization. Our mission is to protect water quality in Gull Lake and the surrounding Watershed.

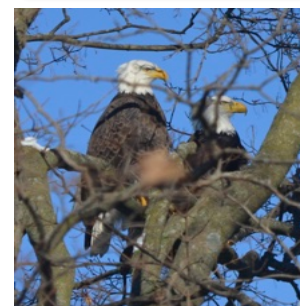
Reader Photo Corner

<https://glqo.net/portfolio-item/gallery>

Send yours to photos@glqo.net



Above: Courtesy James Kneen



Left: Courtesy Lifetime Member Mike Gallagher

Want to Know More About Gardening with Native Plants?

By Margo Rebar and Kay Gross

Lake shorelines change naturally over time because of bombardment by waves and ice movement – and though there was not ice on Gull or Little Long Lakes for long this winter, there was lots of damage to the shorelines when it went out. Both waves and ice can cause erosion of the shoreline and decrease water clarity and quality. The best way to prevent this type of damage to a shoreline is to remove seawalls and restore native vegetation to these areas. It's good for water quality, native aquatic plants and animals (especially fish) and looks great too!

Homeowners often ask, "How do I improve my shoreline?" Fortunately, there are lots of organizations in the area with expertise on how to enhance your shoreline and create gardens with more native plants. A great place to start is the resources available from the [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership](https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/erosion-at-the-shoreline.html) (<https://www.shorelinepartnership.org/erosion-at-the-shoreline.html>).

The Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones is a great local resource. Their website (<https://kalamazoo.wildones.org/>) has lots of information about opportunities for hands on learning about gardening with native plants. They also offer informational programs throughout the year; the [Pints and Native Plants](#) gathering looks like lots of fun! And don't forget to check out the GLQO website (www.glqo.net) for information. On our Resources for Lake Lovers page, we have posted links to organizations that can help you enhance your shoreline.

Or maybe you just want to see some examples to get inspired? If so, take a walk along the native shoreline demonstration plots at the WK Kellogg Biological Station (next to Windmill Island). You can also see examples of native gardens and landscaping at the KBS Bird Sanctuary, The Kalamazoo Nature Center, Richland Area Community Center, and Gilmore Car Museum.



Example of an eroded shoreline; Courtesy Board Member Margo Rebar



Example of a restored shoreline; Courtesy lakeshoreguys.com

A GLQO Program Note! Starting in 2024, the GLQO will focus on providing our newsletters to members **three** times per year, Spring, Summer and Fall. This will allow us to concentrate our efforts on getting out the information our members need, during the periods it's needed the most. We hope you enjoy this more targeted approach to the GLQO Watershed Journal. And, as always, we encourage our members to submit newsletter article ideas or articles themselves. Also, let us know if there are other types of content you would feel useful here!

GLQO Financial Summary

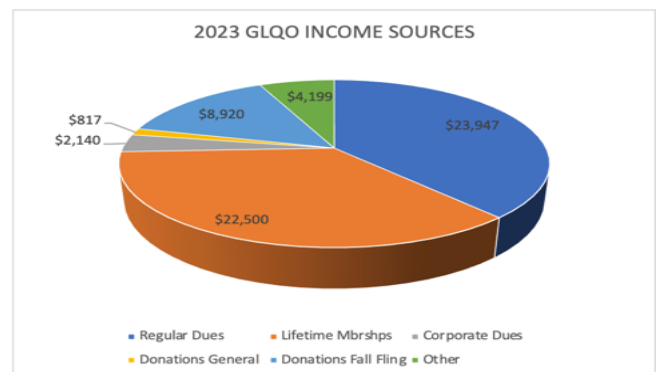
By Andy Widner and Treasurer Don Paulson

Generous support from our members, as well as significant donations for the Fall Fling, resulted in higher- than- expected income to the Gull Lake Quality in 2023. Memberships - Regular, Business and Lifetime - continue to be the primary income to the GLQO (78% in 2023). Income from memberships got a big boost from Lifetime Memberships this year – a total of 16, nine of which came in the last quarter. This is four times higher than we had expected! It is heartening to see that members make this level of commitment to the GLQO. We also had higher than expected donations this year, primarily in conjunction with the Fall Fling. A total of 21 businesses and organizations showed their support for the GLQO by contributing almost \$4500 in donations and gifts to this event.

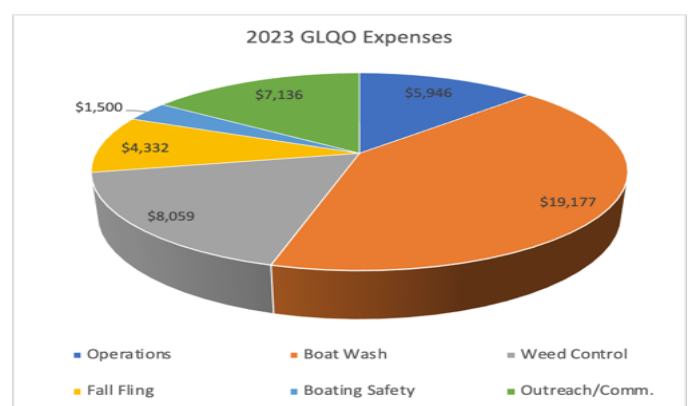
Expenditures for 2023 were primarily in support of our work to monitor and protect water quality in Gull Lake, including management of invasive aquatic plant species. Our efforts to control the spread of invasive species in Gull Lake has been successful, because we annually monitor the lake and treat areas where the invasive species are detected. We also work to limit the introduction of invasive species into (and from) Gull Lake by operating a boat wash at Prairieville Township Park. This past year we increased our expenditures on Outreach and Educational activities, with the aim of informing people of what we do and why. We are seeing an increase in the number of new memberships in 2024 which we expect reflects these efforts.

While we ended 2023 with a comfortable surplus, we are planning a more intensive full lake monitoring for invasive species in 2024 and to expand our outreach efforts, particularly to those who are new to Gull Lake and other lakes in our area. We appreciate input from our members as to any ideas you have for expanding our visibility to both residents and visitors to Gull Lake - Keeping it Clean is our goal!

INCOME SOURCES 2023			
Regular Dues	\$ 23,947	38%	
Lifetime Memberships	\$ 22,500	36%	
Corporate Dues	\$ 2,140	3%	<i>All Dues: 78%</i>
Donations General	\$ 817	1%	
Donations – Fall Fling	\$ 8,920	14%	
Other	\$ 4,199	7%	
Total	\$ 63,523	100%	



EXPENSES 2023		
Operations	\$ 5,946	13%
Boat Wash	\$ 19,177	42%
Weed Control	\$ 8,059	17%
Fall Fling	\$ 4,332	9%
Boating Safety	\$ 1,500	
Outreach/Communication	\$ 7,136	15%
Total	\$ 46,149	100%



What’s Happening to the Ice?

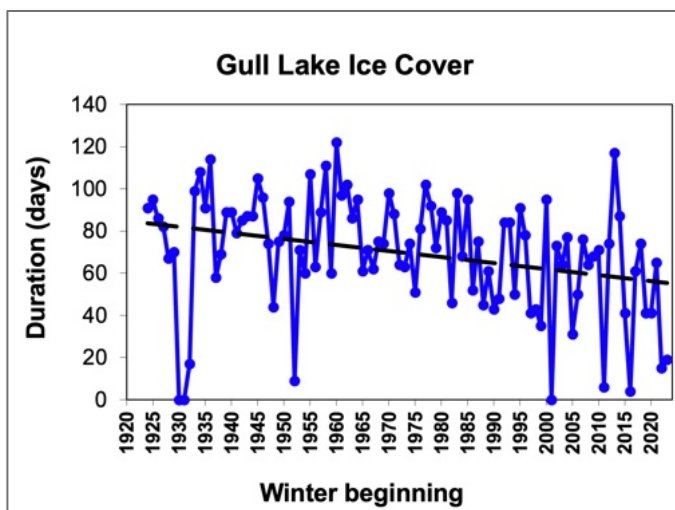
By Gary Mittelbach

For the second year in a row, ice cover on Gull Lake and other local lakes was minimal at best. Gone once again was the annual winter ritual of ice shanties and smelt fishing on the north end of Gull Lake. Even the south bay hosted ice fishing for only a short time. Looking at the 100+ year record of ice cover on Gull Lake (see graph), we can see that 2023-2024 was among the shortest periods of ice cover in the last century. This trend of declining ice cover on Gull Lake mirrors that seen in other lakes. For example, ice cover on the Great Lakes was extremely low this winter and, overall, the amount of ice on the Great Lakes has been declining about 5% per decade since 1970.

The cause of this long-term trend of declining ice duration is no mystery. Our warming planet is responsible (2023 was the Earth’s hottest year on record, by a long shot). What is less certain, however, are the consequences of less ice on our lakes. Obviously, it hurts ice fishing. For example, this was the first year ever that the lake sturgeon fishing season on Black Lake was cancelled due to unsafe ice (<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing/black-lake>). Skating, ice boating and other winter lake activities were also curtailed (we had only one good weekend of ice skating on Little Long Lake).

Other, perhaps more important, long-term consequences of less ice are unknown. Our Michigan weather is strongly affected by the Great Lakes and less ice cover on the Great Lakes can lead to more lake-effect snow (witness the record lake effect snows in Buffalo, NY over the last two years). Also, thick, stable ice protects the eggs of fish species such as Lake Whitefish that incubate over winter and increases their survival. “We know that lower Great Lakes ice cover will increase coastal erosion, the frequency of extreme weather, and resuspension of nutrients that may contribute to summer algal blooms, yet there is much uncertainty in terms of climate simulations,” said Dr. Mike McKay, director of University of Windsor’s [Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research](#). One positive effect of less ice cover on the Great Lakes, however, is an increase in the length of the shipping season.

As I look out my window at Little Long Lake this February morning with sunshine, green (yes, green) grass, and 40-degree temperatures, I’m inclined to smile at the prospect of an early spring. Things are changing, some for better and some for worse, and our Michigan winters are among them.



Swans on the Thin Ice on Gull Lake
 Courtesy: Member Valli McDougale

Score the Shore in 2024!

By Kay Gross and Mike Gallagher

Score the Shore is a habitat assessment program organized by the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) that provides a numerical score of shoreline habitat quality for inland lakes. The score is determined by surveying 1000' sections for shoreline vegetation, off-shore vegetation, evidence of erosion and erosion control practices.

In 2016, GLQO volunteers, led by Mike Gallagher, conducted *Score the Shore* surveys for Gull and Little Long Lake. The Gull Lake score was low (46 out of a possible 100) was well below the average score (70.5) of 42 lakes that participated in this program from 2015-2018. Little Long Lake scored a bit better overall (79) with all 16 sections scoring Fair or Good. On both lakes, the riparian (shoreline) zone was the weakest point (35 on Gull Lake, 63 on Little Long Lake).

We're planning a repeat *Score the Shore* survey of Gull this summer and we want to **Raise Our Score in 2024!!**

We expect that given the growing interest in native shorelines and information that has been provided at GLQO annual meetings, that we will see an improvement in our score, especially for riparian zones. And you can help! It's not too late to take some actions to improve the shoreline along your lake shore. You can start small. Just mark out a few areas along your shoreline with rocks, or other decorative objects, a few feet from the lake front, remove a bit of the grass and stop mowing. You'll be surprised at how quickly nature will take its course and native plants will start to emerge. You can enhance this by planting seeds or mature plants into the 'garden'. Encourage your neighbors to do the same; scoring encompasses 1000' sections which typically have 2 to 20 homes.

Check out the GLQO website at [Resources for Lake Lovers](#) for additional suggestions, particularly the [Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership!](#)



Gull Lake Natural Shoreline Examples
Courtesy: Lifetime Member Mike Gallagher

MLSA Annual Conference

The Michigan Lakes and Stream Association (MLSA) will be holding its 63rd annual conference at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center Muskegon, MI 26-27 April. The theme of the meeting is "**Restoration is Possible**" and will include talks, training and field trips that are likely of interest to our members.

The Keynote Speaker will be Dan Egan, author of *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes*, which, per Amazon review, is a "... compulsively readable portrait ...the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come."

There will also be free CLMP training, which will introduce you to the tools we use in monitoring lake quality. **GLQO will provide a \$100 'scholarship' to any member who attends this training AND volunteers to help with monitoring Gull or Little Long!** Drop a note to info@glqo.net if interested.

More information about the meeting and how to register can be found at <https://mymlsa.org/mlsa-events/annual-conference-2024/>.

2024 Members

We aim to keep our membership lists accurate; those listed here are members as of 15 March 2024.
Please contact us if you note an error or omission (info@glqo.net).

Note: We've revised the original version of this newsletter, after it was noted that several Silver Members were left off the list. We apologize for this omission, and hereby present our full Member List. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS!

Individual and Family Memberships

LIFETIME (\$1500)

Mac and Susan Behnke
Sherwood and
Sharon Boudeman
Jon and Susan Bowers
Roger C. Buddig
Janet and John Carrig
Alison and Rob Credit
Sally and Randy Crocket
Jerry and Sharon Cross
Jim and Barb DeKruyter
Bill and Betsi English
Mike and Kathy Gallagher
John and Sharon Garside
Steve and Elaine Ginsberg
Bonnie Gordon
Jim and Marsha Heath
Fred and Megan James
Si and Shirley Johnson
Todd Kingma and
Betsy Kingma
Betsy and Brandon Klerk
Chris and Laura Maloney
Ed and Nancy McCarty
Nick and Julia Miladore
Kate Miller
Kay Gross and Gary Mittelbach
Robert and Kay O'Boyle
Donald and Sue Paulson
Eric and Martha Reid
Rollin and Crystal Richman
Paul and Karen Ringemann
Wendy and Doug Robbins
Tom and Judy Schau
Mike and Julia Sharp
William D. Johnston and
Ronda E. Stryker
Mary L. Tyler Family
Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen
Sally Williams

PLATINUM (\$500/yr+)

Kappy Boudeman
Bill and Barbara Parfet

GOLD (\$250/yr+)

Robert and Dolores Boyle
John and Lynne Chipman
Ron and Nanette Elenbaas
Lori and Bjorn Green
Henry Hawk
Robert and Amy Isom
Kim and Valerie Nuyen
Don and Ann Parfet
Camille M. Riley
Isobel and Matt Tracy
Amy Upjohn and
Brad Vandenberg
James and Kathleen
Vander Kolk
Donna and Dan Weaver

SILVER (\$100/yr+)

Scott and Holly Allen
Rod Borton and Deb Ball
David Battjes
Rick and Kathy Beauregard
Tom and Lynn Belco
Kevin and Mary Beyer
Dick and Debbie Boris
David and Heidi Boutell
Joe and Jane Brogger
Nancy L. Brookins
Gar and Robin Chapel
David and Kathryn Christ
Todd and Ruth DeNooyer
Laurel and Mark Disney
Susan and John Doster
George and Lenore Elsener
Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald
Lloyd and Serena Fox
Alfred and Jean Gemrich
Sera Gesmundo
David Gruss
Bill and Julie Guzy
Jo and Pete Hawk
Rick and Shirley Hebert
Mal and Pat Hickok
Rick and Linda Hoffman

BRONZE (\$40/yr+)

Steve and Peggy Johnson
John and Kathy Keagle
Steve and
Michelena Keith
Ronald Kilgore
Fred and Pat Kinney
Garry and Claire Krouse
Scott Latt
John and Rita Light
Laura Maloney
Thomas Mansager
Linda Lou Markham
Valli and Tom McDougle
Russ and Connie McFee
JB and Alba McKay
Kevin and Elizabeth Miller
Susan and
Michael Murphy
James D. and
Nancy L. Nordlie
Sue Harrison and
Jeff Price
Alison Pruitt and
David Randell
Carol Renz
Dave and Shelly Reynolds
Mary Jo and Robert Rial
Brian Rice
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
Marilynn Simon
Peggy Staver
Peter Taft
Carol Tedrow
Gary and Karen Theisen
Todd Family LLC
Jeanne Turner
Doug and
Sandra VanderLugt
Dana A. Walters
Timothy and Molly Wang
Bruce and Jean Williams

Lou Ann Ambro
Bud and Judi Baldwin
Patti Colasanti and
Jack Bargo
Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow
Anthony and Valerie
Bartalone
Terry Berryman
Randy and Janet Bonzheim
Bob and Brenda Brenner
Cleve and Sue Brown
Judith and John Brown
Laurie Hanson and
Tracy Buck
Jack and Miki Budnick
Keith and Carole Buell
Rob and Amy Bulszewicz
Gary J. Cirulli
Bonnie Cleasby
Bruce and Donna Cohen
David Creguer
Philip and Terri Dawson
David and Margaret DeLano
Maxine DeVrou
Brent and Julie Dingman
Noel Dolan
Dob and Jeree Drake
Lisa Duffy
Dr. David G. Dvorak
John and Jan Etzcorn
Jim and Dottie Farwell
Jane and Gerry Feldman
Ron and Judy Flachs
Joni and Roger Ganger
Karen A. Geib
Judah Gesmundo
Mike Marcinek and
Vicki Gesmundo
Don and Janet Gladstone
Jim Glas
Gary Granger
Frank and Diane Guarisco

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George and Arla Hillebrand
 Dennis and Kathy Hoorn
 Bruce Hutchinson
 Mrs. Judy Jereck
 Susanne Johnston
 Mark and Toni Jones
 Ellen and Michael Keenan
 Richard and Joan Keilen
 John E. Kelly
 Sue Markus and Rick King
 Melinda Klerk
 Rolf and Judith Kletzien
 Dave and Kay Koldyke
 Jane E. Kuckel
 Jim and Linda Lass
 Phyllis LaVene
 Patricia L. Lawrence
 Chris and Jackie Light
 Eric and Charlene Longman
 Trudy and Jerry Luedeking
 Josh Mastenbrook
 Robert Millard
 William and Phoebe Moreo
 Christine Mueller
 Mike and Mari Mulholland

Craig and Deb Mumy
 Patrick H. Murphy
 Kathy Murray
 Stephen and
 Christine Murray
 Jim and Kristin Nolin
 Sean and Nicol O'Brien
 Jeff and Amy O'Brien
 Char and Tom O'Neill
 Jerold and Maxine Orum
 Craig and Sue Osborn
 Henry and
 Courtney Pender
 Dustin and Maegan Perrin
 Karol Peterson
 John Quertmus
 Martin and Carol Ranly
 Ann E. Ransford
 Jim Rawsky
 Bob and Margo Rebar
 Justin and
 Carolyn Ridderman
 Jon Rosenbaum
 Rob and Lori Rowe
 Bill and Jane Ryan

Howard E. Sanger
 Hal and Taffy Sanger III
 Bonnie and Scott Sawusch
 Steve and Gina Schau
 Jan Stoner and Rick
 Schmiede
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 Ken and Pat Schultz
 Dick Schwikert
 Tom and Lisa Shannon
 Rick and Johanna (Marjo)
 Shields
 Bobbi Drobny and
 Craig Shumaker
 Bob and Marilyn Simon
 Dr. Gregory and
 Michele Smith
 Joyce Snow
 Charles and Jan Stoddard
 Harry and Tineke Stolt
 Samuel and
 Tommy Sue Stone
 Peter Taft
 Ron and Edna Thompson

Alison Thor
 David and Carol Ticknor
 Bill and Carolyn Ticknor
 Michelle Tombro Tracy
 and Chris Tracy
 Jerry and Margaret
 Trepanier
 Robert and Claudia Vaccaro
 John and Olga Van Dis
 Jon G. and Courtenay
 VanderMolen
 Bonnie L. Visser
 Jay and Stephanie Walbridge
 Lee Weiss
 Jill and Jay Wesley
 Bob and Lori Wheelright
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- Athletic Mentors
- Callander Commercial
- Greer & Co Hair Salon
- Gull Lake Landscape Company
- Gull Lake Country Club
- Howland Floor Covering
- Keller Williams Real Estate
- Kellogg Biological Station
- Kellogg Community Credit Union
- NEDS - North End Deli
- Premier Building & Remodeling
- Richland Meat Center
- Team Clancy – Berkshire Hathaway
- United Country Real Estate

LIFETIME (\$1500)

- Hawks Hollow Builders
- Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority

GOLD (\$250/yr+)

- Boudeman Farms, LLC

SILVER (\$100/yr+)

- Koopers Marine LLC
- Michigan Lawn Services

The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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

Website: glqo.net

Contact: info@glqo.net



Upcoming Events

MLSA Annual Conference

April 26th and 27th

VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center
Muskegon, MI

GLQO Board Meeting

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

GLQO Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 11th 7:00PM-9:00PM
KBS Manor House

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.