

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.



Upcoming Lunch and Learn: Enhancing Your Shoreline for a Healthier Lake

By Sera Gesmundo, Vice President GLQO

The Gull Lake Quality Organization (GLQO) is thrilled to announce our upcoming "Natural Shoreline Workshop," a Lunch and Learn event scheduled for July 11, 2024. The workshop will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Kellogg Biological Station's Carriage House classroom.

The program is designed for lakefront property owners who are interested in enhancing their shoreline in ways that will protect the lake. It was prompted by interests from our members in how to improve their shoreline following presentations by speakers at past Fall Fling events. It is designed to provide a better understanding of shoreline landscaping options and how to implement it at your property.

Participants in this workshop will learn about various shoreline planting options through detailed presentations and live demonstrations. Following this, attendees will enjoy a networking lunch at the McClary Dining Hall, offering an excellent opportunity to connect with neighbors and program speakers.

After lunch, the focus will shift to hands-on learning. Our expert instructors will guide participants in creating personalized shoreline landscaping designs tailored to their property's unique characteristics and personal preferences. Bring a drawing of your property to get help on your specific property!

Presenters:

- Erick Elgin is an educator with MSU Extension whose work includes lake management, natural shorelines, and invasive species. He spoke at the 2023 GLQO Fall Fling.
- Julia Kirkwood is with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). She collaborates with various organizations to restore and protect inland lakes and rivers and chairs the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. She spoke at the 2022 GLQO Fall Fling.

Summer 2024

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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.

This event is presented in partnership between the GLQO, MSU Extension, Michigan Dept of EGLE, and the Kellogg Biological Station. Representatives from local natural plant groups will also be in attendance

Cost: (Includes Lunch)

- \$20 for GLQO Members
- \$30 for KBS or Manor House Members
- \$40 for Non-Members

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your shoreline knowledge and network with other lakefront property owners. We look forward to seeing you there!

Score the Shore Has Begun!

By Kay Gross and Mike Gallagher

Mike Gallagher has organized a team of eight GLQO members to score the 68 parcels (each 1000 ft) of Gull Lake shoreline starting June 15. They expect to be able to do 2-4 parcels each time they are out so if all goes well, they should be done by the end of July! Keep an eye out for Mike's pontoon boat – they will have a Gull Lake Quality Organization banner displayed. Give a wave when you see them! Another team will be surveying Little Long Lake later in the summer.

So what's involved? The team will take three passes by each parcel and measure specific characteristics on each pass. Data they collect includes the number of buildings and docks/lifts, characteristics of the shoreline (the "riparian zone"), vegetation and other features of the waters off the shoreline (the "littoral zone"), and shoreline erosion control practices. Depending on the complexity of the shoreline and clarity of the water, this can take 20-40 minutes per parcel. So, don't be concerned if you see a boat floating along your shoreline and people with clipboards on board!

Data from the three passes will be compiled to give a score for each parcel and from this a total score developed for the lake. Because the same parcels that were surveyed in 2016 are being rescored in 2024 (we use GPS to locate the parcels) scores can be compared to see which areas have improved. We expect given the growing interest in making shorelines more natural that we will see an improvement in the score for Gull Lake!

The overall score for Gull and Little Long Lakes will be reported to the Michigan Cooperative Lakes Management Program (MiCorps). You can find more information about the Score the Shore and other programs supported by MiCorps from their website (www.MiCorps.net).



2024 Day One!!; Courtesy Kathy Gallagher



Example of a restored shoreline; Courtesy Mike Gallagher

🚤 🚤 Another Season at the Prairieville Park Boat Wash! 🚤 🚤

The boat wash station at Prairieville Township Park opened the weekend of May 18th, and is available to assist you in cleaning your boats before and after enjoying our beautiful Gull Lake. Why is this important? This effort, managed by the Gull Lake Quality Organization, is crucial in protecting our lake from invasive species and keeping the water clean. By ensuring boats are properly cleaned, we prevent the spread of harmful species that can damage our lake's ecosystem. Join us in this vital initiative to preserve the natural beauty and health of Gull Lake for everyone to enjoy. Thank you for your cooperation and support!

Gull Lake Fishing – Is It Good?

By Jay Wesley, Fisheries Chairperson

How is the fishing in Gull Lake? It depends on who you ask and when. Some say that fishing is great now because the ice anglers did not take them all. Others say that it is down because the DNR stopped stocking. We all know that the fish bite is variable throughout the day, week, and season and that perceptions of the fishery can change over-time.

So how do we know how good the fishery is?

The best way to evaluate a fishery is to have the DNR conduct a survey using a variety of nets and other sampling gear to get an understanding of fish diversity and population density. But this type of survey is labor and time intensive. Gull Lake has not been surveyed since 2002. In 2002, ang over 30 species of fish were observed with only the trout species requiring regular stocking. The rest of the fish species reproduce naturally. Fish need the right habitat for reproduction and survival and Gull Lake provides excellent habitat with shallow vegetation areas, rock and gravel shorelines, and deep drop offs. When will there be another full fish survey in Gull Lake? Probably not soon, as low staffing and budget levels have popular lakes on an every 30-year survey rotation and the average lake on a 90-year rotation.

An alternative way to track fisheries is through voluntary data. A 2018 voluntary winter creel survey showed that most anglers targeted Rainbow Smelt, Bluegill, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, and Northern Pike. Anglers reported 1,414 fish caught with 83% of those being Rainbow Smelt. Some anglers also collected length and aging structures throughout the year from Northern Pike in 2018 under the direction of the DNR. These data indicated an abundance of younger (less than 4 years old) Northern Pike, and a lack of older Northern Pike. This could be an indication of high harvest on the larger pike. After an extensive review of the data, the DNR is proposing a protective slot limit between 24 and 34 inches for Northern Pike, which is currently under public review.

Another source of voluntary information is the DNR's Master Angler Award Program that recognizes record sized fish caught in Michigan. Gull Lake has numerous Master Angler records. These include 34 awards for large Black Crappie (some over 16 inches in length!). Other notable Master Angler awards include 18 Rock Bass, 5 Yellow Perch (one over 15 inches!), 3 Northern Pike, and a 32-inch Brown Trout.

Based on angler reports, there are still a few Brown Trout and Lake Trout in Gull Lake. Stocking of Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout was discontinued due to poor survival. Prairieville Creek, however, is a source of naturally reproduced Brown Trout. Occasionally, adult broodstock Lake Trout are also stocked into Gull Lake when they are available.

Although the fish bite on Gull Lake may be slow at times, all available information suggests that the fishery continues to be in very good shape.

For more information on the Master Angler Program, follow this link:
<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/fishing/master-angler>.



This Year's GLQO Annual Meeting: An informative evening!

By Kay Gross, President GLQO

Over 60 members of the GLQO gathered at the Kellogg Manor House on June 11 for the Annual Meeting. Information shared at the meeting included updates on the GLQO finances and membership, ongoing efforts to survey and manage aquatic invasive species, and new activities sponsored by the Outreach and Communications Team. The success of these outreach activities is reflected in the growing number of new and Lifetime memberships in the GLQO!

The membership was asked to confirm the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to add Kathy Gallagher and Joe Lukeman to the Board. The motion to accept was made by Sera Gesmundo and seconded by Tom Belco; the motion passed unanimously. Both Joe and Kathy will begin 3-year terms on the Board starting in September 2024. The early retirement of Mike Gallagher from the Board was also announced; Gary Mittelbach will fulfill his term. Also, Vicki Gesmundo will be retiring from the Board in August 2024; Susan Harrison has agreed to fulfill her term starting in September. The officers for the coming year were also announced: Kay Gross, President, Ellen Keenan (Vice President), Don Paulson (Treasurer) and Trudy Leudecking (Secretary). These officers will be confirmed at the September board meeting.

The contributions of several members who volunteer to support the GLQO was also noted. Special thanks and appreciation to Eric Reid for coordinating the Newsletter, website and Facebook page for GLQO. He plays a critical role in keeping the membership (and others) informed about the work GLQO is doing. Also, Kathy Gallagher for her assistance with membership monitoring and Mike Gallagher and John Etcorn for continuing efforts to monitor water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake, respectively. Mike has also put together a team of 8 volunteers to assist with the *Score the Shore* monitoring in Gull Lake. The team have begun their surveys on Gull Lake and as of this meeting had completed 7 (of the 68 sections) to be scored. (More information about *Score the Shore* is described on Page 2).

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Erica Bays, from Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy on the work they are doing to monitor PFAS levels in the ground water around Gull Lake. She provided a number of very detailed maps and charts that demonstrated where PFAS levels are above detection limits in and around the area to the south and east of Gull Lake; most of this associated with contamination from the former plastics plating plant in Richland. The source of PFAS contamination in the Idlewild neighborhood is not clear but given the data from the test wells is not likely to be from the old Production Plated Plastics plant. Confusion regarding the high PFAS levels that have been detected in smelt, in Gull Lake and other lakes, was discussed. This may be the result of an interaction between the process for testing and bile in smelt; EGLE is developing new protocols for this test that will be implemented in 2024 or 2025 and hopefully will resolve this anomaly. A summary of information Erica Bays shared is posted at <https://glqo.net/2024/06/annual-meeting-pfas-presentation>, and her presentation can also be found at https://glqo.net/two/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Gull-Lake-Quality-Organization-Annual-Meeting-Handout_FINAL.pdf.

Left: President
Kay Gross

Center: Speaker
Erica Bays

Right: Some of
night's turnout



Boating Safely - It's Every Body's Business!

By Joe Lukeman and Pete Hawk

The clean water, size and depth of Gull Lake make it an ideal for a variety of aquatic recreational activities, including sailing, skiing, motoring, canoeing, kayaking and fishing. And, in the summer, the lake can be a busy place!

The State of Michigan has laws to ensure safe boating and to protect people and property on or around a lake. It is the responsibility of the boat operator to know these laws, as they can change. While there are specifics about boating speed, direction, distance from shore that a boat should be operated, common sense and respect for others using the lake is a good guide! A summary of these laws and other useful information about boating safety can be found on the GLQO website under the Boating Safety tab.

Both the Kalamazoo County Sheriff Department and Ross Township Police Department patrol Gull Lake to ensure that it is safe for all users. And while these units can (and do) issue tickets to violators, most of their interactions with boaters result in warnings. Of the over 1100 'contacts' between Sheriff's Patrol and boaters over the past two years (2021, 2022), only 11 (< 1%) resulted in citations. And they have also assisted boaters who are stranded! While lake patrols are primarily on weekends and holidays, they are available to assist boaters and/or respond to concerns about safe boating at any time: Dial 911 if you have a concern.

In addition, officers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources patrol Gull Lake to ensure that boaters are following the state laws for operating a boat (registration, training etc.) and the location of buoys near shore. However, most of their attention is focused on fishing regulations (licenses, limits, etc.).

It is important to note that Kalamazoo County, Ross and Richland Townships have anti-noise ordinances that apply to the operation of boats. Both Ross Township and Kalamazoo County have successfully prosecuted boaters for noise violations in the past two years. Ross Township recently updated (effective 16 May 2024) its anti-noise ordinance to make it clearer what constitutes unreasonable noise; you can read the details on their website (search Anti-Noise Ordinance). The new ordinance also outlines a permitting process that can be used to apply for an exemption to this ordinance for specials events.

So, enjoy the summer... the water is great out there!



Left: A photo of Ross Township Police Chief Martin, supported by Assistant Fire Chief Jake Leatherman during search & rescue. They took to the lake as a boater was not only mechanically stranded in a storm, he was also ill. Boat photo whited out to protect identities.

2024 Members

We aim to keep our membership lists accurate;
those listed here are members as of June 19th 2024.

Individual and Family Memberships

LIFETIME (\$1500)

Mac and Susan Behnke
Sherwood and
Sharon Boudeman
Jon and Susan Bowers
Roger C. Buddig
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

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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
Deidre and Doug Smith
William D. Johnston and
Ronda E. Stryker
Mary L. Tyler Family
Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen
Sally Williams
Barbara J. Parish
Janet and John Carrig

PLATINUM (\$500/yr+)

Kappy Boudeman
Bill and Barbara Parfet

GOLD (\$250/yr+)

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John and Lynne Chipman
Ron and Nanette Elenbaas
Lori and Bjorn Green
Henry Hawk
Robert and Amy Isom
Suzanne Leech and James Keen
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
Jim and Lesley Bodary
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
Dan and Mary Beth Gallagher
Tom and Claire Geil
Alfred and Jean Gemrich
Sera Gesmundo
Jack S. Gesmundo
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Bill and Julie Guzy
David and Michelle Halley
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Linda Lou Markham
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JB and Alba McKay
Kevin and Elizabeth Miller
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Kris and Laura Nelson
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Nordlie
Carla and Jerry Orwin
Edward Overbeck
Sue Harrison and Jeff Price
Alison Pruitt and
David Randell
Carol Renz

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T.R. and Kathy Shaw
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
Marilynn and Bob Simon
Peggy Staver
Peter Taft
Carol Tedrow
Gary and Karen Theisen
Todd Family LLC
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Dana A. Walters
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Karen and Mark Weishaar
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Randy and Janet Bonzheim
Bob and Brenda Brenner
Cleve and Sue Brown
Judith and John Brown
Michael and Sara Brundage
Laurie Hanson and
Tracy Buck
Jack and Miki Budnick
Keith and Carole Buell
Robert and Belinda Bullard
Rob and Amy Bulszewicz
Richard and Joanne
Chamberlin
Gary J. Cirulli
Bonnie Cleasby
Bruce and Donna Cohen
Linda Cohen

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Dwight (Randy) Curtenius
Diann and Jim Danhoff
Philip and Terri Dawson
David and Margaret DeLano
Maxine DeVrou
Brent and Julie Dingman
Noel Dolan
Larry and Diane Dopp
Dob and Jeree Drake
Lisa Duffy
Dr. David G. Dvorak
James and Patricia Elsener
Theodore and Helen Jo Emerson
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Joni and Roger Ganger
James and Judith Geary
Karen A. Geib
Michelle Leibert and
Jay Gesmundo
Judah Gesmundo
Mike Marcinek and
Vicki Gesmundo
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Francis Grubelich and
Heidi Gjersoe
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Melissa Hartridge
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Susanne Johnston
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Richard and Joan Keilen
Steve and Michelena Keith
John E. Kelly
Dave and Karen Kempe
David Kiel
Sue Markus and Rick King

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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

Lunch and Learn – Natural Shoreline Workshop

July 11th, 10:30AM-3:00PM

KBS Carriage House Classroom

GLQO Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 10th, 7:00PM-9:00PM

KBS Carriage House Classroom

GLQO Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 12th, 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 Luedecking (26-1) **Secretary**

Don Paulson (25-2) **Treasurer**

Tom Belco (25-1)

Vicki Gesmundo (26-1)

Peter Hawk (25-1)

Ellen Keenan (26-1)

Gary Mittelbach (26-1)

Dustin Perrin (25-2)

Margo Rebar (25-2)

Jay Wesley (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.