

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.



Another Great Summer...

By Kay Gross, President GLQO

Summer 2024 was a great for those who enjoy lake living. Lots of warm, sunny days, just enough rain to keep the gardens growing and no/few mosquitoes (at least not on Little Long Lake).

Gull Lake was busy! Lots of boating, sailing and fishing... beautiful sunsets, sun and moon rises. There were over 82 sail boat races on Gull Lake this summer... including eight regattas hosted by the Gull Lake Yacht Club that included sailors from across the country. Gull Lake also attracts people who love to fish and there were some great fish caught this year! There were also over 60 bass tournaments held on the lake.

The high quality of Gull Lake water continues benefits us all. GLQO supported efforts to help keep it that way by monitoring and treating areas for aquatic invasive species. An article by Gary Mittelbach in this newsletter gives a summary of those activities. GLQO also sponsored a workshop this summer on how to enhance shorelines with native plants – a *Lunch and Learn* activity that we plan to continue.

There are lots of opportunities to continue to safely enjoy Gull Lake this fall and winter. Maybe this year we'll have more ice – and for longer – so those who enjoy ice boating and fishing can have some winter adventures!

And.. remember to renew your membership in the GLQO for 2025! Our work depends on your support and contributions!

Fall 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.



Courtesy Walter Cooper
Permission by Vintage Gold Cup Regatta



Courtesy Board Member
Andy Widner



Courtesy Walter Cooper
Permission by Vintage Gold Cup Regatta

Lunch and Learn – A hands-on workshop on how to enhance lake shorelines!

By Kay Gross and Margo Rebar

This year the GLQO partnered with the Michigan State University's Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) to offer a hands-on workshop appropriately called "Lunch and Learn: Enhancing Shorelines with Native Plants". The program was organized by KBS Outreach Coordinator, Misty Klotz, in collaboration with the GLQO Outreach Committee, led by Sera Gesmundo and Ellen Keenan. The workshop included presentations by Erick Elgin (MSU Extension) and Julia Kirkwood (Michigan EGLE) who shared information about and examples of the advantages of natural shorelines. The talks were followed by a walk along the KBS shoreline on Gull Lake so participants could see different shoreline plantings and design. After lunch - a delicious salad with chicken, soup and tasty desserts - the group reconvened in the Carriage House classroom to learn how to apply what they had learned to designing the shoreline at their home. Participants were asked to bring pictures, sketches and other information about their shoreline and had the opportunity to work on a plan specific to their shoreline with the advice of Eric, Julia and others in the workshop.

The 22 attendees included 11 GLQO members, several people who live on nearby lakes, and a trio of women who had traveled from SE Michigan. Participants also included a professional landscaper, Bruce Snyder, who wanted to learn more about natural landscapes with clients. GLQO members received a 50% discount on the cost of the workshop.

All agreed that the 'hands on' component of the workshop was a real benefit and the group even composed a poem to celebrate their experience! Margo Rebar, a GLQO Board Member and active member of the [Kalamazoo Area Wild Ones](#) brought plants of 14 native plants species* that participants could (and did) take with them to get their native landscape started. Favorites included Blue Flag, Joe Pye Weed, Golden Ragwort and Rose Mallow/Swamp Hibiscus.

Keep an eye out for the opportunity to participate in a second offering of this workshop and other learning opportunities sponsored by GLQO in 2025.



Courtesy Misty Klotz

*Plants distributed at the workshop included: Blue flag (*Iris versicolor*), Boneset (*Eupatorium altissimum*), Day Flower/spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), Blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), Marsh Buttercup (*Ranunculus septentrionalis*), Rose (swamp) milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), Golden ragwort (*Packera aurea*), Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*), Ostrich fern (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium fistulosum*), Pale Indian Plantain (*Cacalia atriplicifolia*), Nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*), Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Rose Mallow/Swamp Hibiscus (*Hibiscus palustris*)

Water Quality Update 2024

By Gary Mittelbach

An important mission of the GLQO is to monitor and protect the water quality of Gull Lake and nearby Little Long Lake. We do this through three main efforts: 1) surveying and treating invasive plant species in Gull Lake, 2) sampling water quality throughout the summer in Gull and Little Long Lakes, and 3) operating and maintaining the Boat Wash at the public landing on the North End of Gull Lake in cooperation with Prairieville Township Parks.

Monitoring and treating invasive plant species in Gull Lake -

We contract with Progressive Lake Management (PLM) to survey Gull Lake for invasive plant species and to apply treatments where needed to control their spread. Areas known to be infested with invasive plants (primarily starry stonewort and non-native milfoil) are checked and treated annually. Every three years PLM conducts a survey of all of Gull Lake to look for any new infestations - that was done this year. The findings of the whole lake survey were very encouraging. As Haille Lamorandier (field scientist for PLM) reports, *"I am following up with you about the full lake survey done on Wednesday (August 7). We found a variety of different native plants throughout the lake both offshore and near the docks. We did not find any additional areas with (invasive) starry stonewort or non-native milfoil. No non-native milfoil was found in the locations that it has been found during previous surveys. That is reassuring that the treatments have worked. We found some starry stonewort near the country club in the same location it was found and treated following the July survey. Though there was some still growing we feel it is not worth another treatment at this time because it is low growing and mixed in with native plants. The starry near the ministry and in the southern part of the lake near the creek both were brown and dying back"*.

In 2024, GLQO spent over \$10,000 to monitor and control the spread of invasive plants in Gull Lake. We are grateful to our members whose dues and donations fund these efforts. Many nearby lake associations spend much more than we do to treat invasive species and their efforts are not as successful. We are fortunate that our vigilance and attention to this problem is paying off. If you have friends or neighbors who enjoy the beautiful, clear, clean water of Gull Lake and are not members of the GLQO, please let them know of all the good work we do to protect Gull Lake and encourage them to join!

Water quality sampling through the CLMP program -

The GLQO has been monitoring water quality annually in Gull and Little Long Lakes for more than 15 years. Initially this was done by scientists at the Kellogg Biological Station and for the past 10+ years GLQO has done this monitoring as part of the Michigan Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Volunteers collect data on water clarity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, algal abundance (chlorophyll) and nutrient levels throughout the summer. These data are reported to the CLMP program (part of MSU Extension), who analyzes and summarize the samples and enters the data into a state-wide database which is shared with all participating CLMP lakes. We will be reporting the results from the 2024 CLMP sampling in Gull and Little Long Lakes in our winter-spring 2025 newsletter.

We expect both lakes to continue to exhibit excellent water quality. However, things can change. That's why it is critical that we sample water quality regularly and throughout the summer annually and maintain a long-term record to document any changes that may occur over time.

The GLQO is fortunate to have two dedicated members who have given of their time to do the lion's share of water quality sampling for many years: Mike Gallagher (10+ years in Gull Lake) and John Etzcorn (8+ years in Little Long Lake). When you next see Mike or John, please thank them for all they do to "Keep it Clean" for today and future generations to enjoy.

Gull Lake Boat Wash –

GLQO continues to maintain, staff and operate the Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park on Gull Lake. This is a long-term collaboration with the Township and we are delighted that they are full partners with us in our efforts to "Keep it Clean". This year GLQO budgeted over \$20,000 to maintain and operate the boat wash and the team that works there is important to our efforts to reduce the abundance of aquatic invasive species in Gull Lake.

See following article for update on the boat wash from Fischer Jex.



The Gull Lake Boat Wash Station
Courtesy Fischer Jex

Another great summer at the GLQO Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park

By Fischer Jex, GLQO Boat Wash Coordinator

I'm proud to share that we had another successful season of the GLQO Boat Wash Station at Prairieville Township Park. We had a staff of 5 this year: 4 returning crew-members, Jacob Gherardi, Alex Perez, Blake Wesley and myself (Fischer Jex). In June we welcomed our newest staff member, Charlie Wilke. Boat traffic was steady into the park and very busy on holiday weekends. Our guests were very friendly, frequent and most of the anglers that came through reported success. Many boaters who were new to Gull Lake are excited and impressed with our set-up, the friendliness of our staff and, of course, the water itself.

The goal of the boat wash is to reduce the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into Gull Lake and our efforts seem to be working. Eurasian Milfoil was almost completely absent from outgoing boats and it seems to me there are fewer zebra mussel shells littering the park shoreline than in previous years.

A favorite part of this job is answering questions from boaters like: "What is the point of washing our boats? Gull Lake already seems pretty clean to me."

"Well, folks," I say, "that's because we are all doing our part to maintain this gem of Southern Michigan. Thanks for the compliment."

New to our booth this year was a large lake-and-stream map of Michigan that we mounted on a corkboard and displayed at the boat wash. We encouraged boaters to pin on our map the places they've been boating. This seems to be a great conversation starter with people who are new to the area. We also participated in EGLE's Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species week-long "Landing Blitz" during the week of the 4th of July. We handed out laminated info sheets about common Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and pamphlets about the importance of protecting inland lakes from AIS. Thanks to our permanent boat wash station, our vigilant staff and the GLQO supporters, our battle against aquatic invasive species in Gull Lake isn't restricted to one week.

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is the Earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."

GLQO's 2025 Membership Drive

By Kathy Gallagher

As **GLQO** launches its **2025 Membership Drive**, we sincerely thank our members who support our mission. **With nearly 1000 homes in the Gull Lake Watershed, the goal of this year's membership drive is to reach 75% membership.** Please talk to your friends and neighbors to encourage their membership! **Everyone who loves our lakes should join the Gull Lake Quality Organization! Watch your mail for an invitation to renew your membership... invite others to join too!**

What is a Watershed?

The land surrounding a lake that drains to the lake is called a watershed or drainage basin.

What lakes are in the Gull Lake Watershed?

Gull Lake, Little Long Lake and Miller Lake are the most populated lakes. However, the watershed also includes Backus Lake, Bullhead Lake, Dake Lake, Duck Lake, Ellison Lake, Grassy Lake, Little Gull Lake, Mud Lake, Wintergreen Lake, and Prairieville Creek. The watershed includes four townships and two counties.

What is the Gull Lake Quality Organization - GLQO?

The GLQO is an all-volunteer organization. Our mission is to address concerns and provide information regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.

What did GLQO do in 2024?

- ✓ Completed our 16th year of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) on Gull and Little Long Lakes! By diligent monitoring of the lakes we can identify threats and trends that help us to manage the lake quality. We measure clarity, phosphorous, chlorophyll, dissolved oxygen and temperature on a weekly or monthly basis over the summer (April - October) and report results to CLMP to compare to other lakes.
- ✓ Conducted the second "Score the Shore" evaluation on Gull Lake.
- ✓ Hosted the GLQO Annual meeting in June to continue our efforts to inform and educate the community about PFAS monitoring around Gull Lake.
- ✓ Hosted a *Lunch and Learn* program with KBS to educate riparians on how to improve shorelines and protect lakes.
- ✓ Hired Progressive AE services to spot check past problem areas and conduct a whole lake survey of Gull Lake for aquatic invasive species.
- ✓ Treated several areas in Gull Lake to control starry stonewort - a very troublesome aquatic invasive plant species.
- ✓ Continued funding for staffing and maintaining the boat wash at Prairieville Township Park to help keep invasive species out of Gull Lake.

2024 Ross Township Marine Patrol

By Pete Hawk

The GLQO again provided support for the Ross Township and the Kalamazoo Sheriff's department to have a marine patrol on Gull Lake. Ross Township Chief Brown reported to the GLQO board a summary of the patrol's activities in 2024, and expressed his pleasure with the support they are getting from many Gull Lake residents. A 30-year resident of La Belle beach said, "Living near the sand bar has never been as quiet and people in this neighborhood can once again enjoy the lake." Chief Brown stressed that while he want boaters to enjoy themselves while on Gull Lake and he reminded them that the Ross Township noise ordinance **will** be enforced!

During the months of May through August, the patrol boat was on the lake **126 hours** and issued the following warnings or violations; **(1) noise violation, (1) warning for towing a floatation device without a spotter, (1) arrest domestic violence, (22) wake zone warnings, (3) warnings standing up in boat while in operation. They also towed two stranded boats to safety.**

The Ross Township marine patrol is still in its infancy, so if you see Chief Brown, please take a moment to introduce yourself. He welcomes all feedback. You can also contribute individually to the Ross Township Marine Patrol; funds should be directed to the Ross Township Police department in support of the marine boat would be graciously accepted. Your contribution goes directly to assuring safe boating for our lake community.

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We aim to keep our membership lists accurate; those listed here are members as of November 1st 2024.
Please contact us if you note an error or omission (info@glqo.net).

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 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
Deidre and Doug Smith
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
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
Loyal A. and Bonnie B. Eldridge
George and Lenore Elsener
Lisa and Jerry Falk
Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald
Lloyd and Serena Fox
Dan and Mary Beth Gallagher
Tom and Clair Geil
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David and Michelle Halley
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Bryna Gildea Knight
Garry and Claire Krouse
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Joe & Madison Lukeman
Laura Maloney
Thomas Mansager
Linda Lou Markham
Valli and Tom McDougale
Russ and Connie McFee
JB and Alba McKay
Kevin and Elizabeth Miller
Susan & Michael Murphy
Kris and Laura Nelson
Martha Nolin
James D. and
Nancy L. Nordlie
Carla and Jerry Orwin
Edward Overbeck
Sue Harrison & Jeff Price
Alison Pruitt and
David Randell
Ronald and Sue Ellen
Reisman
Carol Renz
Dave and Shelly Reynolds
Mary Jo and Robert Rial
Mark and MaryMarie Rice
Brian Rice
T.R. and Kathy Shaw
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
Marilynn Simon
Peggy Staver
Peter Taft
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Gary and Karen Theisen
Todd Family LLC
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Doug & Sandra VanderLugt
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Timothy and Molly Wang
Karen and Mark Weishaar
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Bud and Judi Baldwin
Patti Colasanti & Jack Bargo
Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow
Anthony and Valerie
Bartalone
Barbara and Bill Barton, Jr.
Margie and Bob Berres
Terry Berryman
Randy and Janet Bonzheim
Bob and Brenda Brenner
Cleve and Sue Brown
Judith and John Brown
Michael and Sara Brundage
Laurie Hanson & Tracy Buck
Jack and Miki Budnick
Keith and Carole Buell
Robert and Linda Bullard
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Richard and Joanne
Chamberlin
Gary J. Cirulli
Bonnie Cleasby
Bruce and Donna Cohen
Linda Cohen
Robert and Paula Cook
David Creguer
Dwight (Randy) Curtanius
Diann and Jim Danhoff
Philip and Terri Dawson
David and Margaret DeLano

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	Bill and Jane Ryan		
	Bob and Judy Sackett		

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LIFETIME (\$1500)

Hawks Hollow Builders
Gull Lake Sewer and
Water Authority

GOLD (\$250/yr+)

Mac's Garage
Boudeman Farms, LLC

SILVER (\$100/yr+)

Gull Lake Ministries
Kellogg Biological Station
Koopers Marine LLC
Michigan Lawn Services

BRONZE (\$40/yr+)

Athletic Mentors
Callander Commercial
Changes Hair & Nail Salon
Greer & Co Hair Salon
Gull Lake Landscape Company
Gull Lake Country Club
Howland Floor Covering
Keller Williams Real Estate
Kellogg Community Credit Union
NEDS - North End Deli
Premier Building & Remodeling
Richland Meat Center
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Team Clancy – Berkshire Hathaway
United Country Real Estate

The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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

Website: glqo.net

Contact: info@glqo.net



Upcoming Events

GLQO Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 11th, 7:00PM
KBS Carriage House Classroom

GLQO Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 11th, 7:00PM
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.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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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.