

# 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.*

## Inform, Educate, Protect, Preserve

*By Kathy Gallagher*

### **Who we are.**

The Gull Lake Quality Organization is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of water quality throughout the Gull Lake Watershed. Growing out of existing environmental groups, the GLQO incorporated in 1977 to spearhead the creation of the Gull Lake sewer system to reduce nutrient input into the lake. Since then, GLQO has expanded its mission and grown its membership.

### **What we do.**

GLQO has four core priorities: Water Quality, Boater Safety, Fisheries, and Communication. We work closely with organizations such as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Environment Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) to provide up to date information on issues of importance regarding water quality in inland lakes. For over two decades we have participated in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) monitoring and reporting data on water quality in Gull Lake and Little Long Lake. MSU faculty and staff affiliated with the Kellogg Biological Station and Extension work with us to share information on how to protect lake water quality. We support the work of Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol and Ross Township Police Department to keep Gull Lake safe for boating and related activities. We also work with the four surrounding townships, particularly Prairieville, to keep lake residents and visitors informed about water quality issues and changes in regulations that affect inland lake users.

### **We want you to join us.**

By joining the GLQO you make it possible for us to continue work that keeps water quality high in Gull Lake and nearby Little Long Lake. A major focus of our work now is to map, monitor and treat aquatic invasive plants to prevent their spread in Gull Lake. Additionally, nearly \$20,000 is invested annually to operate and maintain the boat wash at Prairieville Township Park on Gull Lake. Boat washes have been shown to be effective in removing aquatic invasive species from boats, trailers and other equipment and preventing their spread across lakes. We also offer workshops to promote the installation of natural shorelines

## Spring 2025

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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.*

along lakes and streams and are working with Prairieville Township to improve the stream and lake shorelines at the park on Gull Lake.

Membership in the GLQO is open to everyone! Demonstrate your commitment to keeping these beautiful resources pristine by joining GLQO today. You can find membership information at [www.glqo.net/join](http://www.glqo.net/join), and more about what we do at [www.glqo.net](http://www.glqo.net).

### HOW CAN YOU HELP GLQO PROTECT WATER QUALITY?

**Join  
Serve  
Volunteer  
Spread The Word**

**CONTACT US AT INFO@GLQO.NET**



### Save The Date!

*Lunch and Learn: Lake-scaping Workshop  
Thursday, July 10th, 10:00AM-3:00PM*

*KBS Carriage House Classroom and Grounds of KBS*

*More details to follow on our website ([glqo.net](http://glqo.net)) and Facebook page*



## Gull Lake Ice Fishing

*By Jay Wesley*

Wow! We finally had a normal winter, and it made for some great winter activities on Gull Lake, including ice fishing.

The ice-fishing season started on the South Bay of the lake and anglers caught decent bluegills, large black crappie, and plenty of smaller northern pike. Even a few smelt were caught there. As winter (and the ice) progressed, ice-fishing expanded to the north and smelt were being caught in over 60 ft of water. By mid-January there was decent ice over the entire lake and the ice-fishing continued to be good. Anglers found bluegills and northern pike near Gull Lake Ministries and perch were being caught around the lake. In February, the smelt action got better – fish were being caught in over 70 ft of water off Baseline Road and Prairieville Township Park.

I did not hear any reports of monster fish – but if you did get one, send us a picture and we will post on the GLQO Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/gulllakequality>) and on the GLQO website’s Photo Gallery (<https://glqo.net/portfolio-item/gallery/>).

There had been reports in past years of lots of trash being left behind by ice-fisherman so this year the GLQO Fisheries Committee placed trash containers at key access points to remind ice anglers and others enjoying the lake to – “Keep It Clean”. The containers were emptied weekly, and there were no major signs of trash being left on the ice. Thank you!

For those of you looking forward to summer fishing, a reminder that the MDNR slot limit on northern pike will go into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Age data from angler caught northern pike in 2018 indicated an abundance of younger (less than 4 years old) northern pike and few older fish, suggesting that larger, older fish were being over-harvested. After an extensive review, the DNR proposed a protective slot limit between 24 and 34 inches for northern pike that was approved by the Natural Resources Commission last fall. Gull Lake is one of 12 lakes in Michigan with a northern pike protective slot limit. The 2025 Michigan Fishing Regulations book includes this regulation for these lakes: “Waters with 24” – 34” protected slot limit on northern pike and daily possession limit of two (2) northern pike”. So be sure to have your tape measure ready if you plan to harvest a pike.



A good catch!



The Corstange family enjoyed a day of ice-fishing on Gull Lake



Trash can placed by GLQO at South end of Gull Lake

## Prairieville Township Shoreline Project

By Susan Harrison and Margo Rebar

Keeping to its motto to “Keep it Clean”, GLQO has developed a partnership with Prairieville Township Park on Gull Lake to enhance the native plantings in the Park. The goal of this is stabilizing and enhancing native plants along the stream and lake shores at the Park. The Park is managed by the Township Parks Commission and includes land owned by the Township and MDNR. A Memorandum of Understanding between GLQO and the Township, signed in 2024, encourages collaboration on projects like this at the Park.

Over the past six months, a small group from GLQO and the Parks Commission has met to develop a plan to enhance the beauty of the Park and better protect water quality in Gull Lake. Major concerns are the erosion along the stream bank that runs along the east side of the park, runoff from the parking lot into the lake, and the increase in non-native and invasive plant species along the lake shoreline. Also of concern is how to do this while maintaining access to the lake for different types of users from the Park.

With advice from MDNR, EGLE, and the Barry County Conservation District, a three-phase plan has been developed to enhance and stabilize the stream and lake shorelines of the Park. The first phase of the project will begin this summer by planting shrubs and trees in a six-foot buffer from the stream into the Park. The goal with this is to stabilize the stream edge in the Park that is eroding and undercutting trees. A wood chip lined path from the parking lot to the stream edge will also be installed, allowing children (and curious adults) to explore the stream. Prairieville Creek is breeding ground for the smelt and so important for maintaining this fishery in the lake.

This initial phase of the project will begin this spring, funded by the GLQO and supported with donations of plant material, wood chips and labor from Kalamazoo Wild Ones, MDNR, KBS and others. Later phases of the project will include installation of native gardens, a rain garden, increasing the native plants along the Gull Lake shoreline and bio-engineering of the stream and shoreline to prevent further erosion. GLQO is currently pursuing funding for these later phases from MDNR, local conservation groups and its members.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates on this project and how you can help. A workday is planned for mid-summer!

A recent article in The Michigan Riparian provides information on the importance of installing native vegetation around lakes to project water quality. You can access the article at <https://mymlsa.org/living-on-michigans-inland-lakes/> Also, if you'd like to learn how you can enhance your own lakeshore, make plans to attend the GLQO Lunch and Learn program at KBS on July 10. More information on this will be forthcoming.



Digital image of the Prairieville Township Park on Gull Lake indicating the property boundaries for the MDNR (blue) and Township (yellow) and red (boatwash station). The GLQO has a signed agreement to manage the boatwash at the park and improve natural features of the Park.



### DNR suspects bird flu in recent Lower Michigan waterfowl die-offs

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has recently sampled dead wild birds suspected of being positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (commonly know as Bird Flu) at multiple locations across Lower Michigan. The DNR’s ongoing disease surveillance indicates that HPAI is widespread in wild bird populations throughout the state.

For more information, check out this posting on the DNR website: [https://bit.ly/glqo\\_avian\\_influenza](https://bit.ly/glqo_avian_influenza)

## GLQO Financial Summary for 2024

By Don Paulson and Andy Widner

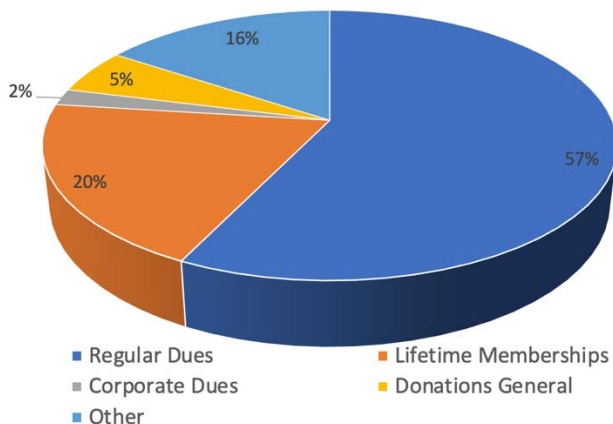
The major source of income to the GLQO continues to be memberships – in 2024 memberships made up 80% of our income. This was less than in 2023, in part because we had fewer Lifetime memberships in 2024 (5) than in 2023 (15) which resulted in \$15,000 reduction in income. Income from Regular memberships was also lower in 2024 compared to 2023, and lower than the 3-year average. Some of this is due to the timing of renewals at year-end (2023 had a large wave of renewals just before the end of the year). Discontinuing the Fall Fling also contributed to lower income, this was partially offset by not having expenses for the fall fling. Donations from local businesses and organization were an important source of income that we hope will continue in 2025.

Expenditures for 2024 were primarily in support of our work to monitor and protect water quality in Gull Lake, including management of invasive aquatic plant species. Support for the boat wash at Prairieville Township Park, a full survey for invasive plants and treatment to control these species comprised 71% of expenses. Our efforts to control the spread of invasive plant species in Gull Lake has been successful, as we are not seeing any spread of these species in Gull Lake, and they appear to have been removed from areas that had past infestations. Despite increased monitoring activities our expenses in 2024 were only slightly higher than in 2023.

We ended 2024 with deficit, we were able to cover this with reserves from past years. We are going to continue to monitor and treat invasive species in 2025 and will be expanding our outreach efforts, including a collaboration with Prairieville Township to protect the shorelines at the Park at the north end of the lake. We hope that this will increase the visibility of what we do to those who access the lake through the Park. We are also increasing our outreach efforts to lake residents particularly to those who are new to Gull Lake to make them aware of what we do and the importance of membership in the GLQO to preserving the water quality of the lake. 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!

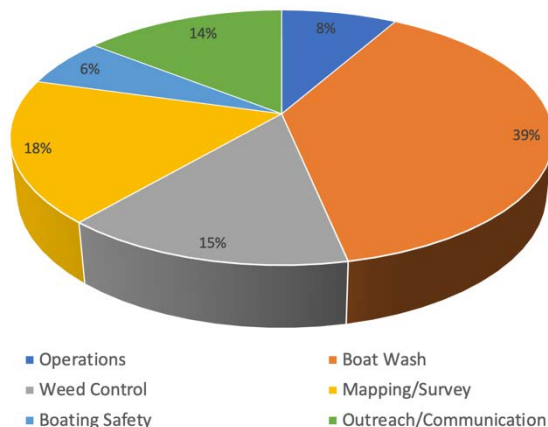
**2024 GLQO INCOME SOURCES**

Total Income \$37,952



**2024 GLQO EXPENSES**

Total Expenses \$48,246



**A Note from GLQO President Kay Gross:** At a recent GLQO Board meeting, we thought it would be a good idea to highlight the Businesses and Organizations who are members of the GLQO as a way of thanking them for their support. We are kicking things off with an article about Mac's Garage below. Mac's has been a long-time member of the GLQO and supports not only our work, but many other organizations in the Gull Lake Community. Thank you, Doug, Mike... and others!

## Thank you, Mac's Garage!

*By Gary Mittelbach*

Mac's Garage has been an institution in the Gull Lake area since 1938 and we are happy to say that they are a Gold Level Business member of the GLQO. We are grateful to Doug Bogema, the current owner of Mac's, for his strong and continued support of the GLQO.



In talking with Doug the other day, I learned that Mac's Garage has a long history of caring for Gull Lake. Turns out that Clayton (Mac) McDonald (the first owner of Mac's Garage) was also the first caretaker of the Gull Lake Dam. Maybe this isn't too surprising, given that the garage is located a stone's throw from Gull Creek in Yorkville. The original key to the Gull Lake Dam site is hanging there on the office wall at Mac's (pictured behind Doug Bogema).

Mac McDonald was also instrumental in founding the Ross Township Fire Department and he became the first Ross Township Fire Chief. Mike Waldorf, who took over ownership of Mac's Garage in 1975 and Doug Bogema (who became the owner in 2011) have each in turn served as Ross Township Fire Chief (Doug is the current Chief). Mike and Doug both started volunteering with the Ross Township Fire Department soon after graduating from high school, their service stretching on for 50 years!

I suspect that many/most of you reading this can recall a time when Mac's Garage came to your rescue. I once found my 80+ year old mother-in-law in the Harding's parking lot with a completely flat front tire and a bent rim. She said, "Gary, I don't know what happened, I must have hit something". Hit something, indeed! But a call to Mac's quickly brought Doug and the wrecker. It took Doug a lot of effort to find a replacement rim for that old Mercury, but he stuck with it and eventually mom was back on the road again. The other incident I vividly remember was when our daughter-in-law somehow managed to lock the keys inside her minivan, with our twin two year old granddaughters strapped securely in back in their car seats. "Call Mac's!", my wife hollered. In no time at all, Doug was in our driveway, pried open the window and rescued the girls. Whew, crisis averted!

There are many wonderful things about living in a small community that touch our lives every day and that we need to be thankful for. The institution that is Mac's Garage and the guys that run it is one of those things. Thank you, Mac's Garage, for all that you do!



Mac's Garage owner Doug Bogema  
Picture courtesy Gary Mittelbach

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

- April 15 GLQO Board Meeting, KBS Carriage House classroom (7-9 pm)**  
 This regular business meeting will include a presentation by Paul Hausler and Carrie Rivette from Progressive Lake Management (PLM), entitled: “*Stormwater Runoff and Lakes Water Quality*”. Q&A to follow.
- April 25-26 Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, Annual Conference; *The Future of Michigan’s Water*.  
 VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center, Muskegon, MI**  
 This is an informative and fun opportunity to learn about important issues related to water quality in Michigan. More information about the meeting, presentations and registration, go to: [https://bit.ly/glqo\\_mlsa\\_25](https://bit.ly/glqo_mlsa_25)
- May 16 GLQO Boat Wash at Prairieville Township Park opens**  
 It will be staffed weekends and holidays – Summer officially begins on Gull Lake!
- June 10 GLQO Annual Meeting, Terrace Room, Academic Building, KBS, Kellogg Biological Station.**  
 The meeting will include a presentation by Cliff Bloom, an expert in Riparian Law. Cliff is the General Counsel for the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and writes a regular column for *The Michigan Riparian*. More information about Cliff Bloom can be found here: [https://bit.ly/glqo\\_bloom](https://bit.ly/glqo_bloom) FREE – Registration encouraged, but not required.
- July 10 *Lunch and Learn: Lake-scaping Workshop (10am-3pm), Carriage House Classroom and Grounds of Kellogg Biological Station***  
 GLQO will again partner with KBS Outreach, MSU Extension and Michigan EGLE to provide an informative and hands-on workshop to show participants how they can increase the native plant composition of lake front property to better protect water quality. The workshop will include presentations by experts, a walking tour of the KBS Lake-scaping demonstration, lunch and an opportunity develop a plan for your property in collaboration with other attendees and EGLE and Extension staff. Cost \$25 for GLQO members; \$35 for KBS members; \$50 for non-members.

## 2025 Members

We aim to keep our membership lists accurate; those listed here are members as of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025.  
 Please contact us if you note an error or omission ([info@glqo.net](mailto: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  
 Ron and Nanette Elenbaas  
 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  
 Joe and Madison Lukeman  
 Chris and Laura Maloney  
 Ed and Nancy McCarty  
 Nick and Julia Miladore  
 Kate Miller  
 Kay Gross and Gary Mittelbach  
 Robert and Kay O’Boyle  
 Barbara J. Parish  
 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  
 Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen  
 Sally Williams

### GOLD (\$250/yr+)

Lori and Bjorn Green  
 Henry Hawk  
 Curtis Hall and Susan Houseman  
 Amy Isom  
 Kim and Valerie Nuyen  
 Russel Family  
 Amy Upjohn and Brad Vandenberg  
 Donna and Dan Weaver

### SILVER (\$100/yr+)

Scott and Holly Allen  
 Rod Borton and Deb Ball  
 Rick and Kathy Beauregard  
 Tom and Lynn Belco  
 Dick and Debbie Boris  
 David and Heidi Boutell  
 Nancy Brookins  
 Michael and Sara Brundage  
 John and Lynne Chipman  
 Bob and Paula Cook  
 Amy and Jim Cronin  
 Susan and John Doster  
 George Elsener Family  
 Jim and Dottie Farwell  
 Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald  
 Lloyd and Serena Fox  
 Ann and John Gallagher  
 Tom and Claire Geil

Sera Gesmundo	Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow	Wes and Susie Kolb	Alison Thor
Bryan and Shelly Gildea Knight	Anthony and Valerie Bartalone	Dave and Kay Koldyke	Carol Ticknor
David Gruss	Jim and Lesley Bodary	Jane Kuckel	Bill and Carolyn Ticknor
Patricia Heilenbach	Randy and Janet Bonzheim	Jim and Linda Lass	Michelle and Chris Tracy
Mal and Pat Hickok	Sherwood and Kathryn Boudeman	Phyllis LaVene	Isobel and Matt Tracy
Rick and Linda Hoffman	Robert and Brenda Brenner	Patricia L. Lawrence	Jerry and Margaret Trepanier
Steve and Peggy Johnson	Joe Brogger	Wendy and Allan Levy	Gail M. Turlock
John E. Kelly	Cleve and Sue Brown	Chris and Jackie Light	Jeanne Turner
Richard Krebsler	Laurie Hanson and Tracy Buck	Longman Family	James and Kathleen Vander Kolk
Garry and Claire Krouse	Fred and Sharon Buckley	Liz Lukeman	Dan and Becky Vander Meulen
Rob and Beth Lundahl	John and Mary Budnick	Raymond and Carolyn Maly	John and Cathy VanderSalm
Valli and Tom McDougle	Richard and Joanne Chamberlin	Linda Markham	Edwin Vandersalm
Russ and Connie McFee	Gary J. Cirulli	Robert Millard	Tom and Bonnie Visser
Susan and Michael Murphy	Bruce and Donna Cohen	Robert and Kathy Miller	Carol Vogt
James D. and Nancy L. Nordlie	Brett and Jeanne Comar	Kevin and Betty Miller	Barbara Walker
Jeff and Amy O'Brien	David Creguer	Kathryn Miller	Dana Walters
Karol Peterson	James A. Cupper	Ron Mochizuki and Shelly Halper	Lee Weiss
Jeff Price and Sue Harrison	Dwight (Randy) Curtenius	William and Phoebe Moreo	Jill and Jay Wesley
Dan and Kay Rackiewicz	Philip and Terri Dawson	Susan Morrow	Bob and Lori Wheelright
Alison Pruitt and David Randell	David and Margaret DeLano	John A. Mulholland	Andrew and Kathleen Widner
Jim Rawsky	Larry and Diane Dopp	Craig and Deb Mumy	Brook and Emily Wilke
Ronald and Sue Ellen Reisman	Dob and Jeree Drake	Patrick H. Murphy	Tim and Tonia Williams
Dave and Shelly Reynolds	Lisa Duffy	Stephen and Christine Murray	Stephen and Linda Winquist
Mary Jo and Robert Rial	Dr. David G. Dvorak	Markley Noel	Jerry and Kathleen Wojtala
Rob and Lori Rowe	James Elsener	James and Kristin Nolin	Jennifer Wright
TR and Kathy Shaw	John and Jan Etzcorn	Char and Tom O'Neill	Jesse and Katie Zamora
Christina Shepard	Jerry and Lisa Falk	Jerold and Maxine Orum	
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz	Jack and Patti Fleming	Dustin & Maegan Perrin	
Marilynn and Bob Simon	Karen A. Geib	Martin and Carol Ranly	
Jon and Courtenay Vander Molen	Judah Gesmundo	Ann E. Ransford	
Doug and Sandra VanderLugt	Mike Marcinek and Vicki Gesmundo	Bob and Margo Rebar	
Tim Wang and Molly Herndon	Janet and Don Gladstone	Bill and Jane Ryan	
Joseph and Mary White	Gary Granger	Brad and Rene Saar	
David and Cindy Wiedemer	Heidi Gjersoe and Francis Grubelich	Hal and Taffy Sanger III	
Bruce and Jean Williams	Frank and Diane Guarisco	Bonnie and Scott Sawusch	
David Wilson	Gull Hills Tract Spring Channel	Steve and Gina Schau	
	David and Michelle Halley	Rick Schmiege and Jan Stoner	
	Peter and Margaret Hamlett	Ken and Pat Schultz	
	George and Arla Hillebrand	Jim and Deborah Scott	
	Bruce Hutchinson and Betsy Bastien	Tim and Judy Shank	
	Judy Jereck	Tom and Lisa Shannon	
	Fischer Jex	Julie Shaw	
	Susanne Johnston	Linda Shierlaw	
	Mark and Toni Jones	Craig and Bobbi Shumaker	
	Steve Keith	Peter S. and Diane M. Czuk Smith	
	Sue Markus and Rick King	Steve and Vicki Smith	
	Melinda Klerk	Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Smith	
	Suzanne Stimson Leech and Jamie Kneen	Joyce Snow	
		Harry and Tineke Stolt	
		Samuel and Tommy Sue Stone	
		Peter Taft	
		Chris and Susan Tague	
		Gary and Karen Theisen	
		Ron and Edna Thompson	

### Business and Corporate Memberships

#### LIFETIME (\$1500)

Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority  
Hawks Hollow Builders  
Kellogg Biological Station  
Prairieville Parks Commission

#### GOLD (\$250/yr+)

Jaqua Realtors  
Mac's Garage, LLC

#### SILVER (\$100/yr+)

Koopers Marine LLC  
Gull Lake Ministries

#### BRONZE (\$40/yr+)

Gull Lake Country Club  
Serafino's

#### BRONZE (\$40/yr+)

John and Amy Abbott  
LouAnn Ambro  
Charlotte Ashton  
James and Leslie Babel  
Bud and Judi Baldwin  
Patti Colasanti and Jack Bargo



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# The Gull Lake Quality Organization

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P.O. Box 144 / Richland, Michigan / 49083  
Website: [glqo.net](http://glqo.net)  
Contact: [info@glqo.net](mailto:info@glqo.net)



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## Upcoming Events

### **GLQO Board Meetings**

Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

KBS Carriage House Classroom

### **GLQO Boat Wash Opens**

Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

Prairieville Township Park

### **GLQO Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Terrace Room, Academic Building KBS

### **Lunch and Learn: Lake-scaping Workshop**

Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM-3:00PM

Carriage House Classroom and Grounds of KBS

*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

Kay Gross (26-2) **President**

Ellen Keenan (26-1) **Vice President**

Trudy Luedecking (26-1) **Secretary**

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

Tom Belco (25-1)

Kathy Gallagher (27-1)

Sera Gesmundo (25-2)

Susan Harrison (26-1)

Peter Hawk (25-1)

Joe Lukeman (27-1)

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.*

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**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.**