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.

GLQO Board Update

By Kay Gross, Secretary

At the GLQO Annual Meeting in June, three people were elected to the Board of Directors; they will each serve a three-year term that began in September 2025. By way of introduction, the new members are:

Steve Keith – Steve is the Facilities Manager at Gull Lake Ministries and was previously on the GLQO Board. Steve enjoys fishing on Gull Lake with friends and family year-round, particularly his children. He will be supporting GLQO by serving on the Fisheries and Water Quality committees; this will include helping to maintain the Boat Wash at the Prairieville Township Park, along with Mike Gallagher (a previous GLQO Board member). Steve also will serve as a liaison between GLQO and the Gull Lake Ministries, helping to coordinate our efforts to control aquatic invasive plant species in Gull Lake.

Jim Nolin – Jim, whose family has resided on Gull Lake since 1898, recently returned to the area after living in Spain for nine years. Upon their return, Jim and his wife, Kristin, decided to renovate their family cottage, built in 1890, to enhance its comfort for year-round living. Jim, an avid swimmer and boater on Gull Lake, will serve on the Water Quality Committee and participate with the CLMP water quality monitoring. He also will be involved in Outreach and Communications - watch for an article in the Spring Newsletter.

Hank Pender – Hank has lived and worked in an around Gull Lake most of his life and recently returned to the area (from California). He and his family now live on Gull Lake and are kept very busy with activities with their four children. When he returned to Gull Lake he re-opened Pender Boat Works where he can combine work and pleasure by restoring and repairing boats, especially old boats. Hank will be chairing the Boating Safety committee and helping raise awareness about – and membership in - the GLQO to new people in the community.

New officers were elected to the GLQO Board at the September Board Meeting, serving until August, 2026. These new officers are:

Joe Lukeman – President
Ellen Keenan – Vice President
Kay Gross – Secretary
Andy Widner – Treasurer

The complete list of 2025-2026 GLQO Board members, and their terms, can be found on the last page of this newsletter, as well as on the GLQO Website (www.glqo.net). You can contact the GLQO board by emailing info@glqo.net.

Fall 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.

Thank You to Kooper's Marine

By Gary Mittelbach

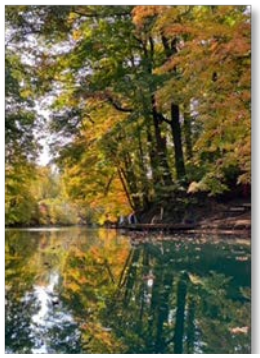
Kooper's Marine is a Silver Level Business member of the Gull Lake Quality Organization and we are pleased to acknowledge their continuing support of the GLQO. When I talked to Brett Houtkooper the other day, he told me that their family has always been a "lake and boating family". So, when Brett and his wife moved back to the Richland area from California in 2008, it seemed only natural for Brett and his father, Jack, to expand Jack's car dealership to include selling boats. The picture to the right shows Jack and Brett breaking ground for their new business together, Kooper's Marine, which is located just east of Richland on M89.

But while it might have seemed "natural" for father and son to expand their business, doing so at the start of the economic downturn of 2008-2009 wasn't exactly perfect timing. Things were challenging at the start. But they succeeded with lots of work and "sweat equity" from family members and employees. Today, Kooper's Marine employees 11 full-time people in sales and service, and carries a lineup of outboard motors by Yamaha, Honda and Tohatsu and boats by Bennington, Qwest and others.

At this time of year, it is very easy to spot Kooper's Marine along the highway as there are hundreds of blue shrink-wrapped pontoon boats festooned across the property. Kooper's stores about 400 boats over winter and getting them in and out of the water in the spring and fall is a big job and a logistical challenge. But, they do it well! To Brett, pontoon boats and fishing boats embody the joys of family fun and memories made on the water and for that reason they are the focus of their business. The GLQO is pleased to have Kooper's Marine as a Silver level Business member....and as a GLQO supporter!

Speaking of Fall and Trees…

Modified from article in The Riparian 61:4 (Fall 2025), by Kay Gross, Secretary



Courtesy Member
Valli Thayer McDougle

For a waterfront property preparing for colder seasons, critical tasks include managing leaves and other organic debris in yards and along the lake front. Allowing leaves to wash into the water introduces excess nutrients like phosphorus, which can contribute to algae blooms and poor water quality. Disposing of leaves can be challenging (and expensive) but **be aware that it is illegal in Michigan to dispose of leaves and other yard waste in rivers, lakes, and streams.**

Also, be careful that leaves don't collect on driveways, streets, or near storm drains, where rainfall may wash them directly into the water. **Never rake leaves into waterways**.

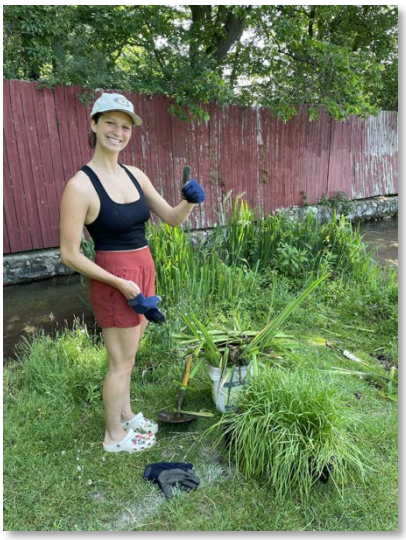
Wondering what to do with all those leaves? You can "leave them be" or shred them with a mulching lawn mower. If you have more leaves than your lawn can handle, add them to a compost pile to create a nutrient-rich soil amendment for next spring.

And remember, Fall is a great time for planting! You can enhance your shoreline and also protect the water from erosion by creating a 10–15-foot "no-mow" zone of native plants, grasses, shrubs, and trees along the shoreline. The deep root system of perennials - especially that of trees and shrubs - stabilizes the soil and filter runoff before it reaches the water.

If you are interested in learning more about including trees and shrubs in your shoreline plantings, you can view the slide deck from a very informative presentation about this given at a recent MLSA sponsored workshop. See our post on the GLQO website for more information (https://glqo.net/2025/11/planting-trees-for-).

Summer 2025 Boat Wash Recap

By Amber Widner, Outgoing GLQO Boat Wash Coordinator



Labor Day weekend marked the end of having staff at the GLQO Boat Wash, culminating another busy summer assist boaters with getting their boats cleaned before and after boating on Gull Lake! This year we had five attendants working at the Boat Wash: three were former employees (two of whom had worked there for five years) and three new employees, including me, the Coordinator. I was hired as the Coordinator in mid-May, soon after I graduated from University of Michigan. I quickly learned that this was a very interesting summer job and I learned a lot – about lakes, invasive aquatic species and how to inform the public about what they can do to enhance and protect water quality on Gull Lake, and other inland lakes.

At the beginning of the summer, Mike Gallagher gave the team an overview of the history and benefits of the boat wash station. He encouraged us to share this information with all park patrons. The new employees also got trained on the operation of the boat wash and who to call if anything went wrong (it rarely did!). In total the crew worked 525 hours this summer and washed about 60 boats each weekend. During the week the Boat Wash was open for self-serve washing.

In addition to washing boats and communicating with boaters about the importance of keeping aquatic invasive plants out of the lake, we also provided boaters with information about GLQO and the work they do. This year, we distributed maps printed on waterproof paper to share with boaters that showed them the depth of the lake, some important 'landmarks', and the recommended path for boats to follow for safe boating and to protect the lake ecosystem.

The attendants and I also helped with the GLQO efforts to enhance the shorelines at the Prairieville Township Park. This included planting several hundred native plants along the Prairieville Creek shoreline and removing invasive species from where the creek entered the lake. This enhanced the beauty of these shorelines, improved stream flow and provided food resources for pollinators and birds. We also installed a chipped bark path from the parking lot so children could easily access the creek to look for frogs and other creatures and added signs there to explain the importance and value of adding native plants to shorelines.

A memorial tree to honor the work of the late Fischer Jex, former Coordinator, was planted adjacent to the Boat Wash building in July. The hope is to expand the native plants in this and other areas of the park, to raise awareness about native plants can enhance a lake shore.

A big thank you goes out to all the GLQO members for support of the boat wash and new shoreline projects. Your support is important to ensure that Gull Lake a clean, safe, and vibrant place for everyone to enjoy.

Boating Safety on Gull Lake

By Joe Lukeman, President and Hank Pender, Boating Committee Chair

As part of our mission to promote safe boating on Gull Lake, the GLQO makes small financial contributions to the Ross Township and Kalamazoo County Marine Patrols. This year, Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol did not have funding to support patrols on Gull Lake or other lakes throughout in the county. Ross Township provided a total of 140 hours of

patrolling on Gull Lake over the summer (see below). It is hoped that next year funding to support the Kalamazoo County Marine Patrol will resume, and patrol hours will increase.

Statistics provided by Ross Township show that most of their activities were to promote safety. They primarily gave out warnings, and these were down from past years; only two citations given. As usual, the Patrol also rescued several stranded boaters.

Summer 2025 Statistics		
Month	**Patrol (Chief) Hours**	**Marine (Reserve Officers) Hours**
May	5 hours	
June	37 hours	20 hours
July	32 hours	10 hours
August	42 hours	23 hours

Summer 2025 Activities		
Activity	**Type**	**Number**
Warning	Wake Zone	12
Assistance	Stranded boaters towed	4
Violation	Noise ordinance	1
Violation	Registration	1
Warning	Reckless operation	1
Warning	Standing up in Boat	1
Assistance	Sailboat capsized	1

Winter Is Here! It's GLQO Membership Renewal Time!

By Kathy Gallagher, GLQO Board Member

Did you beat the snow? Don't worry, there's still time to put away the boats and docks, rake the leaves (but not into the lake!) and… RENEW your membership in the Gull Lake Quality Organization! A personal appeal letter will be coming to you soon that includes an updated brochure and form for renewing – you can also renew on-line from our website, where you can pay dues electronically.

Dues for the base membership in GLQO have been raised to $50. This is the first increase in dues we've done in over ten years, and is needed to help us cover our costs. It helps if people join at higher levels too… or make an additional donation.

The work of the GLQO assures that a major challenge to water quality in inland lakes – the spread of invasive plant species – is controlled. Your support helps to assure that waters of Gull Lake, Little Long Lake and the surrounding watershed are protected now and into the future. Please renew – or join – today!

And with that, and with Winter's early "hello", a challenge… the GLQO would love to see more Riparian* residents on our lakes, ponds, channels and streams as GLQO members in 2026. Please consider us when you take in your Riparian view, and help us get the word out by sharing this newsletter with neighbors and friends.

* (*adj*: derived from Latin ***ripa***, meaning "river bank"; a riparian area is the transition from the aquatic area to the upland area)

Photo Story: Gull Lake's 2025 Vintage Gold Cup

Courtesy: The Gull Lake Yacht Club and Gull Lake Country Club, via Board Members Tom Belco and Hank Pender

The 2025 Vintage Gold Cup was a resounding success this year for Gull Lake Yacht Club sailors. While they didn't finish in the top three for the regatta, in individual races, the Gull Lake sailors shone.

In the seven previous Vintage Gold Cup regattas, no Gull Lake sailors had ever won a race, but this year was different...

Greg Smith & Kelly Belco ***won two*** *of the four scheduled races against several world and national champions!*

In the final race, Don Parfet and Craig Lockerbie took second place in a field of thirty boats!

The crew of Jon and Libby VanderMolen finished third and fourth in two races and sixth overall in the regatta!

TC Belco placed fifth and sixth in two races!

The Vintage Gold Cup is a premier event for the Star Class, attracting the best talent in the sailing world. If you haven't yet spectated a race or attended any of the regatta festivities, we highly encourage you to check it out next year. This is a one-of-a-kind event that you don't want to miss!

Share Your Photos!

Do you have a stunning photo of Gull Lake that you'd like to share with our members and the public? If so, please email it to photos@glqo.net, and we'll add it to our website's Photo Gallery! We'd especially like to see pictures of beautiful lakescapes!

2025 GLQO Members

We aim to keep our membership lists accurate; those listed here are members as of November 1st, 2025. 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
Claire Eager
Ron and Nanette Elenbaas
Bill and Betsi English
Mike and Kathy Gallagher
John and Sharon Garside
Jim and Barbara Gilbert
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
Mary L. Tyler Family
Bill and Ruth Ann Uggen
Sally Williams

GOLD ($250/yr+)

Nancy Brookins
Shari and Dohky Ghoddousi
Lori and Bjorn Green
Henry Hawk
Curtis Hall and Susan Houseman
Amy Isom
John and Rita Light
Kim and Valerie Nuyen
Bill and Barbara Parfet
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
Bryan and Courtney Beck
Tom and Lynn Belco
Kevin and Mary Beyer
Dick and Debbie Boris
David and Heidi Boutell
Judith and John Brown
Michael and Sara Brundage
John and Lynne Chipman
David and Kathryn Christ
Bob and Paula Cook
Amy and Jim Cronin
Todd and Ruth DeNooyer
Laurel and Mark Disney
Susan and John Doster
George Elsener Family
Jim and Dottie Farwell
Ed and Nancy Fitzgerald
Lloyd and Serena Fox
Ann and John Gallagher
Dan and Mary Beth Gallagher
Tom and Claire Geil
Jean Gemrich
Sera Gesmundo
Bryan and Shelly Gildea Knight
David Gruss
Emily Shaw Haite
Pete and Jo Hawk
Rick and Shirley Hebert
Patricia Heilenbach
Mal and Pat Hickok
Rick and Linda Hoffman
Steve and Peggy Johnson
Ellen and Michael Keenan
John E. Kelly
Mark Kerschner
Richard Krebser
Garry and Claire Krouse
Rob and Beth Lundahl
Valli and Tom McDougle
Russ and Connie McFee
Susan and Michael Murphy
Kris and Laura Nelson
James D. and Nancy L. Nordlie
Jeff and Amy O'Brien
Edward Overbeck
Karol Peterson
Jeff Price and Sue Harrison
Dan and Kay Rackiewicz
Alison Pruitt and David Randell
Jim Rawsky
Ronald and Sue Ellen Reisman
Dave and Shelly Reynolds
Mary Jo and Robert Rial
Rob and Lori Rowe
TR and Kathy Shaw
Christina Shepard
Bruce and Kathy Shurtz
Marilynn and Bob Simon
Carol Tedrow
Jon and Courtenay Vander Molen
Tom and Marty Vander Molen
Doug and Sandra VanderLugt
Tim Wang and Molly Herndon
Karen and Mark Weishaar
Joseph and Mary White
David and Cindy Wiedemer
Bruce and Jean Williams
David Wilson

BRONZE ($40/yr+)

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

Jennifer and Rebecca Barlow
Anthony and Valerie Bartalone
Robert Berres
Jim and Lesley Bodary
Randy and Janet Bonzheim
Sherwood and Kathryn Boudeman
Robert and Brenda Brenner
Joe Brogger
Cleve and Sue Brown
Laurie Hanson and Tracy Buck
Fred and Sharon Buckley
John and Mary Budnick
Rob and Amy Bulszewicz
Keith and Carole Buell
Richard and Joanne Chamberlin
Gary J. Cirulli
Bonnie Cleasby
Bruce and Donna Cohen
Linda Cohen
Brett and Jeanne Comar
David Creguer
James A. Cupper
Dwight (Randy) Curtenius
Philip and Terri Dawson
David and Margaret DeLano
Brent and Julie Dingman
Larry and Diane Dopp
Dob and Jeree Drake
Lisa Duffy
Dr. David G. Dvorak
Dennis Elmer
James Elsener
John and Jan Etzcorn
Jerry and Lisa Falk
Gerry Feldman
Carol Leet Fetterolf
Ron and Judy Flachs
Jack and Patti Fleming
James H. Geary
Karen A. Geib
Judah Gesmundo
Mike Marcinek and Vicki Gesmundo
Michele Libbrecht and Jay Gesmundo
Janet and Don Gladstone
Gary Granger
Heidi Gjersoe and Francis Grubelich
Frank and Diane Guarisco
Gull Hills Tract Spring Channel
David and Michelle Halley
Peter and Margaret Hamlett
Bill and Marge Hannapel
Melissa Hartridge
George and Arla Hillebrand
Doug Homnick
Dennis and Kathy Hoorn
Bruce Hutchinson and Betsy Bastien
Judy Jereck
Susanne Johnston
Mark and Toni Jones
Richard and Joan Keilen
Steve Keith
Dave and Karen Kempe
David Kiel
Sue Markus and Rick King
Melinda Klerk
Joni and Tim Knapper
Suzanne Stimson Leech and Jamie Kneen
Wes and Susie Kolb
Dave and Kay Koldyke
Jane Kuckel
Jim and Linda Lass
Phyllis LaVene
Patricia L. Lawrence
Wendy and Allan Levy
Chris and Jackie Light
Longman Family
Liz Lukeman
Raymond and Carolyn Maly
Linda Markham
Robert Millard
Robert and Kathy Miller
Kevin and Betty Miller
Kathryn Miller
Ron Mochizuki and Shelly Halper
William and Phoebe Moreo
Susan Morrow
Christine Mueller
John A. Mulholland
Mike and Mari Mulholland
Craig and Deb Mumy
Patrick H. Murphy
Stephen and Christine Murray
Markley Noel
James and Kristin Nolin
Sean and Nicol O'Brien
Char and Tom O'Neill
Jerold and Maxine Orum
Christine McCarthy and Bob Paksi
Michael and Frances Peikert
Dustin & Maegan Perrin
Kathy Keelan Pew
John and Susan Quertermus
Martin and Carol Ranly
Ann E. Ransford
Bob and Margo Rebar
Brian Rice
Mark and MaryMarie Rice
Justin and Carolyn Ridderman
Cheri Rose-Jones
Joe and Elizabeth Rosenberger
Bill and Jane Ryan
Brad and Rene Saar
Bob and Judy Sackett
Hal and Taffy Sanger III
Bonnie and Scott Sawusch
Steve and Gina Schau
Gregory and Charlene Schofield
Rick Schmiege and Jan Stoner
Ken and Pat Schultz
Jim and Deborah Scott
Tim and Judy Shank
Tom and Lisa Shannon
Julie Shaw
Rick and Marjo Shields
Linda Shierlaw
Craig and Bobbi Shumaker
Bill and Nora Sikkema
Peter S. and Diane M. Czuk Smith
Steve and Vicki Smith
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Smith
Joyce Snow
Jack Steen
Carolyn and Spencer Stiles
Charles and Jan Stoddard
Harry and Tineke Stolt
Samuel and Tommy Sue Stone
Bill and Stevie Symons
Peter Taft
Chris and Susan Tague
Gary and Karen Theisen
Ron and Edna Thompson
Alison Thor
Carol Ticknor
Bill and Carolyn Ticknor
Michelle and Chris Tracy
Isobel and Matt Tracy
Jerry and Margaret Trepanier
Gail M. Turlock
Jeanne Turner
James and Kathleen Vander Kolk
Bob and Claudia Vaccaro
Dan and Becky Vander Meulen
John and Cathy VanderSalm
Edwin Vandersalm
Jim Collier and Stuart Verseman
Tom and Bonnie Visser
Carol Vogt
Barbara Walker
Dana Walters
Lee Weiss
Jill and Jay Wesley
Bob and Lori Wheelright
Andrew and Kathleen Widner
Brook and Emily Wilke
Tim and Tonia Williams
Stephen and Linda Winquist
Jerry and Kathleen Wojtala
Jennifer Wright
Doug and Jackie Wunderly
Jesse and Katie Zamora

Business and Organizational Memberships

LIFETIME ($1500)

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

GOLD ($250/yr+)

Callander Commercial
Jaqua Realtors
Mac's Garage, LLC

SILVER ($100/yr+)

Gull Lake Ministries
Howland Floor Covering
Koopers Marine LLC
Pender Boat Works

BRONZE ($40/yr+)

Gull Lake Country Club
Serafino's

The Gull Lake Quality Organization

P.O. Box 144 / Richland, Michigan / 49083
Website: glqo.net
Contact: info@glqo.net

Upcoming Events

GLQO Board Meetings
February 10 or March 10, 2026
KBS Carriage House Classroom

April 14, 2026
KBS Carriage House Classroom

May 12, 2026
KBS Carriage House Classroom

Annual Meeting *June 9, 2026*
Location TBD

2025-2026 Board of Directors

Joe Lukeman (27-1) ***President***
Ellen Keenan (26-1) ***Vice President***
Kay Gross (26-2) ***Secretary***
Andy Widner (28-2) ***Treasurer***

Tom Belco (28-2)
Kathy Gallagher (27-1)
Susan Harrison (26-1)
Steve Keith (28-1)
Trudy Luedecking (26-1)
Gary Mittelbach (26-1)
Jim Nolin (28-1)
Hank Pender (28-1)
Jay Wesley (28-2)

*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.

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.

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.