



The GLQO Watershed Journal

The mission of the Gull Lake Quality Organization is to address concerns and provide education regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.

Volume 3, Issue 2

<http://www.glqo.net>

April-June, 2009

Upcoming Events

May, 2009

13th - Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
Hickory Builders

June, 2009

24th - Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
Check website for location

July, 2009

Mark Your Calendars!
22nd - Annual & Board Meeting,
7:00 PM, check website for location

Sept. 2009

2nd—Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
Check website for location

Oct. 2009

14th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Check website for location

Nov. 2009

18th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Check website for location

Dec. 2009

30th—Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Check website for location

Reminder: Don't forget your 2009 Membership Dues!!

We have included a membership application at the end of this newsletter and enclosed a pre-addressed return envelope for your convenience.

In This Issue

The GLQO is Blessed With Many Friends
by The Editor

Gull Lake Marine Patrol Activities
by Chris Tracy

Watershed Monitoring Project Update
by Mike Gallagher

Gull Lake Fisheries
by John Luchsinger

Membership and Fundraising Move to the Fore in 2009
by Martina Johnson

Historian's Corner
by Your Historian

Did You Know?

Did you know that Wintergreen Lake (on the grounds of the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary) has drained into Gull Lake for decades? The large number of waterfowl (both permanent and transient) on Wintergreen contribute to high levels of Phosphorus and other suspended nutrients in its water. Fortunately, this drainage makes up only about 1-2% of the total annual inflow into Gull Lake.

The GLQO Is Blessed With Many Friends

By *The Editor*

The Gull Lake Quality Organization is fortunate to work with, or have affiliations with, several local organizations. These and others are listed under the 'Friends' section of our website.

- **The Four Township Water Resources Council**
 - Mission: Protecting water quality in Barry, Prairieville, Ross and Richland Townships
 - Website: <http://www.ftwrc.org>
 - Making a Difference: Because of similar goals and overlap in areas-of-interest, GLQO and FTWRC have and continue to co-sponsor many efforts related to the Watershed
- **Michigan State University's W. K. Kellogg Biological Station on Gull Lake**
 - Mission: "Understanding Natural and Managed Ecosystems"
 - Website: <http://kbs.msu.edu>
 - Making a Difference: KBS has been a key partner since the formation of the GLQO, and today provides leadership in areas from 'lakescaping' to zebra mussel research
- **The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy**
 - Mission: "Helping People Protect the Local Wild and Scenic Places They Care Most About"
 - Website: <http://www.swmlc.org>
 - Making A Difference: SWMLC has been instrumental in the protection of critical Watershed land on and around Prairieville Creek (a primary inflow source for Gull Lake)

Reminder: The 2009 Lake and Stream Leaders Institute

Make Plans to Be a Part of This Year's Class!

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc. (MLSA) and Michigan State University (MSU), with generous support from the Paul H. Young Chapter of Trout Unlimited, are organizing the Lake and Stream Leaders Institute "Class of 2009". This will be the fourth session of this popular program, which is typically held every other year. The Institute provides an educational experience that improves participants' understanding of local water resource management planning and program implementation. **Past participants have included property owners, concerned citizens, drain commissioners, organization representatives and state and local government personnel.**

The Institute is conducted in five in-depth sessions that include classroom learning and field experience and practice. The first seminar session will be held at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The next three sessions are held on July 30, 31, and August 1, 2009 at Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) on Gull Lake. Meals and lodging at KBS are provided as part of the registration fee. The last session and graduation dinner will be held at the Bengel Wildlife Center in Bath, north of Lansing, on Friday, October 2, 2009.

If your application is accepted, the registration fee will be \$250 (\$150 for full-time students). Additionally, participants pay their own travel cost to attend the sessions and should anticipate some expenses for their chosen applied project.

Application forms and more information on the Institute, including a preliminary agenda, are available at Institute web site (<http://www.msue.msu.edu/waterqual/lakeleaders.html>) or the MLSA web site (<http://www.mlswa.org>). It is to the applicant's advantage to apply early, as participation is limited to a maximum of 30 individuals.

Questions? Contact Jo Latimore at latimor1@msu.edu, or 517-432-1491.

Gull Lake Marine Patrol Activities for 2008

By: *Chris Tracy*

Editor's Note: *Kalamazoo County Sheriff Richard Fuller (Sgt DeLaBarre's boss) paid a visit to the GLQO Board Meeting on 1 April. He reiterated his strong commitment to the marine patrol, and thanked the GLQO for its generous support.*



In advance on the 2009 Boating Season, Sgt. Jim DeLaBarre has been kind enough to provide an overview of Summer 2008 marine patrol activities on Gull Lake.

Sgt. DeLaBarre is in his 12th year as the Marine Administrator for Kalamazoo County and oversees the marine patrol on Gull Lake and other lakes in the county. Sgt. DeLaBarre reported that the marine patrol numbers on Gull Lake for 2008 as follows: 690.25 patrol hours (the reporting of hours on the State of Michigan forms changed from 2007 to 2008: in 2007 the patrol hours were 823.5 but those hours also included travel to and from the lake and in 2008 the patrol hours reported only include the actual hours spent by the marine patrol on the lake); 975 contacts (now called inspections on the State of Michigan forms); 162 warnings; and 25 citations or arrests. There was one death by drowning on Gull Lake near the Ross Township Park that occurred in 2008, which involved a diver.

The marine budget at the county level (and based on any monies provided from the State of Michigan) has decreased again by approximately 10% for 2009. GLQO will continue to provide funds for the patrol. GLQO has budgeted \$3,000 in 2009 to directly support the patrol. In addition, GLQO Board members contact local townships and others to assist with the effort. In the recent past, both Richland and Ross Townships have donated \$1,000 each per year to this effort. Sgt. DeLaBarre thanked GLQO, Richland and Ross Townships and others for their support. He further indicated that the costs (particularly gas, oil and maintenance) to conduct patrol activities continue to increase. The marine patrol hours on Gull Lake far exceed the patrol hours on any other lake in Kalamazoo County. That occurs in large part because of the financial support that GLQO members make to ensure the patrol is active on Gull Lake. The goal of the marine patrol is to enhance safety and to ensure that people are able to enjoy their boating, fishing and related recreational activities on Kalamazoo County lakes.

On behalf of the marine patrol, Sgt. DeLaBarre also appreciates receiving comments from lake residents and others about the patrol. Those comments can be made through GLQO, including through the GLQO website (<http://www.glqo.net>). The GLQO Board will make sure any comments (of course constructive comments are appreciated) are forwarded to Sgt. DeLaBarre and the marine patrol. Sgt. DeLaBarre or members of the marine patrol attend GLQO Board Meetings typically once annually to provide further details to the GLQO Board and GLQO members about the marine patrol and related issues. As is always the case, all GLQO members are welcome to attend any GLQO Board meeting. Sgt. DeLaBarre is working with GLQO and others with respect to boater safety classes to be held this spring. GLQO thanks Sgt. DeLaBarre and his officers for their efforts and dedication to ensure that Gull Lake and the entire Gull Lake watershed offers a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for all.

Watershed Monitoring Project Update

By: *Mike Gallagher*

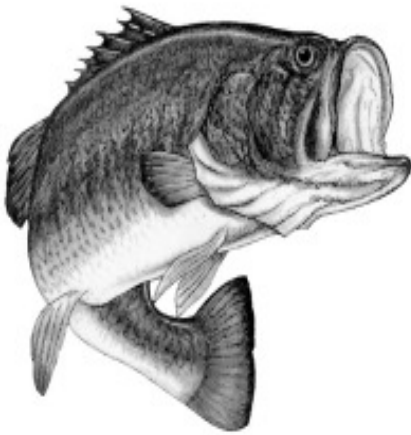
Progress continues on the GLQO Watershed Monitoring Project. The Board of Directors received an update on this progress recently from the firm of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber (aka Fishbeck). If you are interested in more information about this program, we refer you to Chris Tracy's overview in the January, 2009 *Watershed Journal*.

Phase 1 work continues more or less on schedule, with all existing, relevant water quality data having been collected. The next step is to create a master water quality database for use going forward. Some Phase 2 work has also commenced in parallel, including the creation of a base map of proposed water collection sites.

Look for additional updates on this project in the next *Watershed Journal*, as well as updates on Watershed E. Coli, phosphorus and nitrate testing. Also, don't hesitate to contact us with questions about any of these projects.

Gull Lake Fisheries

By: *John Luchsinger*



At the 1 April GLQO Board of Directors meeting, we were joined by fisheries biologist Gregg Smith of the Michigan DNR. Regular Fish Surveys of Gull Lake have been conducted every few years and the next survey report should be available in time for the next *Watershed Journal* this summer. The number of documented fish species in Gull Lake is always of interest which — this currently includes an increase in some species including lake trout and smelt. As the quality and clarity of Gull Lake improves, the number of largemouth bass continues to decline due to loss of habitat/structure while the number of smallmouth bass appear to be increasing. Gull Lake averages six angler-hours per acre of surface water over the course of a fishing season. This number is actually lower than most lakes in the region.

Because of the continued pressure on largemouth bass, we are considering cooperating with the DNR on a post catch and release mortality study in conjunction with tournament fishing. The study would involve jaw tagging fish, holding them for twenty-four hours and then releasing them. Tagged fish would be tracked to get an estimate of post catch and release mortality. Fishermen would be asked to report tagged fish to the DNR. The GLQO will also provide a link on the front page of the GLQO website (<http://www.glqo.net>) to assist with this reporting process.

Did You Know?

Because Gull Lake's size and accessibility, it continues to serve as a location for many bass tournaments. It is estimated that there are, on average, several fishing tournaments on Gull Lake every week during the fishing season

Membership and Fundraising Move to the Fore In 2009

By: *Martina Johnson*

Editor's Note: *Martina joined the GLQO Board in July of 2008, and has been instrumental in spearheading a number of creative fundraising and membership initiatives.*

The Gull Lake Quality Organization has numerous goals in 2009, centering around our primary focus areas:

- Communications and Public Relations
- Development and Access
- Fisheries
- Governmental Liaison
- Law Enforcement
- Water Quality (including the ongoing Watershed Monitoring program discussed on page 4, and our participation in the state's Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program).

We recognize these efforts require funding. We also recognize that today's economic times require even more creative ways to secure that funding. The GLQO has always depended on its membership for most of its funding — in other words, we could not have done this without you!

We look to 2009 and beyond to build upon this solid membership base, as well as to obtain monies via fundraising events, donation drives, and better and more widespread dissemination of our purpose and our messages. It certainly takes time, energy and resources to plan such initiatives, and I'll be writing more about our plans in upcoming newsletters. For now, I ask that anyone interested in volunteering to help with fundraising activities please contact me via the GLQO website (<http://www.glqo.net>) or via our Post Office box.

To whet your appetite, take a look at a couple ideas being pursued for this summer:

- Did you know that July is National Ice Cream Month? We plan to celebrate with an Ice Cream Social at local farmer Bas DeJong's dairy farm. Take a tour of this brand-new 1000+ head dairy operation, sample some very fresh dairy products (including ice cream!) and have all your questions answered.
- Take a 'progressive paddle' around Gull Lake, stopping at multiple beautiful lakeside homes for lunch. Discussion topics will include lakescaping and water quality. Good exercise, scenic views, wonderful food, and lively discussion!

Stay tuned for more information on these events and additional activities as summer approaches. In support of the extensive water quality monitoring project that we are embarking on this year, GLQO is planning an exciting year of educational and fundraising activities. We hope that you will spread the word and join us as we work to protect the Gull Lake Watershed!

Historian's Corner



By: *Eric Reid (historian@glqo.net)*

Your Historian is happy to report that, upon sticking his head out from the ground this February, he did not see his shadow. Let us then all look forward to Spring's imminent arrival!

Thanks to Mr. Joe Johnson, a long-time GLQO Director, we are now in possession of several boxes chocked full of GLQO and area history. Board minutes. Newsletters. Correspondences. Old copies of ***Michigan Riparian*** magazine. Studies. Photos of boats on Gull Lake. The construction of the GLQO Archives now begins in earnest.

Not only is the history of this area quite rich and colorful, but we would be wise to remember the words of George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."



Call to action: Share copies of your Gull Lake and Watershed history with Your Historian

Call to action: Let us know what history you'd like to see on our Website and/or Newsletter

With that, here are a few newly-excavated historical tidbits for your consideration:

- When the GLQO incorporated back in 1977, annual dues were \$2.00
- In 1974, over 625 million gallons of water poured out of Gull Lake and over the Dam; by 1995, that number grew to over 790 million gallons over the course of the year
- A drop of water in Gull Lake, on average, spends 4.3 years in the lake before leaving via evaporation or through Gull Creek and the Dam

Webmaster's Page

By: *Eric Reid (webmaster@glqo.net)*



What do you expect from a website?

Sounds like a straightforward question, but it often isn't. Websites (including ours) do a very good job at providing the latest news, calendars of events, and mission statements. Yet they can provide so much more. We stand ready this summer to improve www.glqo.net to provide more and easier access to data, better ways to communicate what we do, and easier ways to interact with the local community.

Email us at webmaster@glqo.net with your suggestions. Here are some of the requests we're hearing of late to start the discussion:

- Would you like to pay your dues or make donations via the website?
- Would you prefer to receive your newsletters electronically (especially those with winter addresses)?
- Should we provide discussion forum 'Bulletin boards' for ongoing discussions within the community?
- Would you rather receive GLQO communications via email?
- Shall we create image and video libraries on the website for Community or Member access?
- Would you like Board or Annual meetings recorded, with the videos available on demand?

Gull Lake Quality Organization

2009 Dues Request

The mission of the Gull Lake Quality Organization is to address concerns and provide education regarding the use of natural resources of the Gull Lake Watershed.

Please take a moment to provide your contact information below and ...

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

(Please print all information and provide your local mailing address)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

It is not our policy to share your home address information, phone numbers or E-mail address with any other individuals or organizations. However, we do normally publish the names (only) our members on our website.

Check here if you do not wish to have your name published on the GLQO website.

Check here if you would like to receive The GLQO Watershed Journal by email.

Individual/Family Membership

___ Regular (\$25) \$ _____

___ Supporting (\$50 to \$100) \$ _____

___ Sponsor (\$125 & Over) \$ _____

Corporate Membership

___ Silver (\$50) \$ _____

___ Gold (\$100 to \$200) \$ _____

___ Platinum (\$250 & Over) \$ _____

Additional Donations:

___ General Donation \$ _____

___ Sheriff's Patrol \$ _____

Additional Donations:

___ General Donation \$ _____

___ Sheriff's Patrol \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Check here if you wish to have your donation level kept confidential.

Please mail this form and your check to: GLQO, P.O. Box 34, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

If you have comments or suggestions we would like to hear from you!!

Please visit our website: <http://www.glqo.net>

Hickory Corners, MI 49060
P.O. Box 34
GLOO

The Gull Lake Quality Organization's Board of Directors

The Board Executive Committee:

President: Brian Winne (11-2)

Secretary: Eric Reid (11—1)
Communication/Public Relations

Vice President: Chris Tracy (11-2)
Law Enforcement

Treasurer: Gene McKay (10-1)

Board Members:

Woody Boudeman (09-2)

Anne Couture (11-1)
Development/Access

Bastiaan De Jong (11-1)

Martina Johnson (11-1)
Fundraising/Membership

Mike Gallagher (10-1)
Water Quality

Jay Garside (10-2)
Governmental Liaison

Todd Lennen (10-1)
Fisheries

John Luchsinger (10-1)
Fisheries

Denny Lyne (11-1)

Bo VanPeenan (11-1)