



# 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 4, Issue 2

<http://www.glqo.net>

April-May, 2010

## Upcoming Events

### April 2010

21st—GLQO Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Hickory Builders

22nd—Earth Day Celebration  
W.K.Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

24th—Lawn Soil Testing 9AM-1PM  
Richland True Value  
Darling's Hardware (Delton)  
Delton Floral and Greenhouse

26th—Four Townships Water Resources  
Council Annual Meeting 7PM  
KBS Academic Center Auditorium

27th—Dessert With Discussion 7:30PM  
*Harmful Algal Blooms*  
KBS Academic Center Auditorium

30th/1st—ML&SA Annual Conference  
Lansing

### May 2010

22nd—Kanoë the Kazoo  
Sponsored by the FTWRC  
Kalamazoo River

### June 2010

2nd—GLQO Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Check website for details

### July 2010

14th—GLQO Annual Meeting 7:00 PM  
*Guest Speaker: Sarah VanDelfzijl*  
*Michigan DNRE*  
Richland Area Community Center

### August 2010

25th—GLQO Board Meeting 6:30 PM  
Check website for details

## Your GLQO Is Now On Facebook!

You might have heard of Facebook. In simplest terms, Facebook is a website that many, many people use to share information about themselves, as well as keep tabs on people and organizations of interest. The Gull Lake Quality Organization now has its own Facebook page, and we'd love for those of you who are (or who know) Facebook members to 'add' us.



Just search for "Gull Lake Quality Organization" when logged into Facebook. It's another way to keep tabs on what we're doing and where we're going!

For those of you not on Facebook, don't worry! You're not missing out on anything—you can still get all your GLQO news from our newsletter and online from [www.glqo.net](http://www.glqo.net).

## Plan To Attend The 2010 GLQO Annual Meeting

The 2010 GLQO Annual Meeting will take place starting at 7:00PM on July 14th, and once again be hosted at the Richland Area Community Center on CD Ave. We're proud to announce our featured speaker for the evening:

**Sarah VanDelfzijl, Environmental Quality Analyst**  
**Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment**  
**Topic: *The DNRE and You***

Come hear about the DNRE, what the GLQO is doing, about our plans, and how **you** can get involved.

**Mark Those Calendars!!**

The GLQO Annual Meeting is July 14th at the Richland Area Community Center

---

## Gull Lake Marine Patrol Update for Summer, 2009

By Chris Tracy, Law Enforcement Committee Chair

---

Sergeant Jim DeLaBarre is 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 2009 as follows:

- **687.25 patrol hours** (nearly identical to the patrol hours reported in 2008 and the patrol hours reported only include the actual hours spent by the marine patrol on the lake and do not include travel time to and from Gull Lake or administration time)
- **1079 contacts** made with boaters (now called “inspections” on the State of Michigan forms)
- **386 warnings** (nearly triple the number issued in 2008)
- **14 citations or arrests**



In addition, the marine patrol officers spent:

- 36 hours performing boat livery inspections
- 14 hours on search and rescue operations
- 37 hours related to criminal complaint investigation
- 12 hours related to court appearances.

The marine budget at the County level (and based on any monies provided from the State of Michigan and/or federal government) is likely to decrease again for 2010. GLQO will continue to provide funds for the patrol — currently, \$3,000 is budgeted in 2010 to directly support the patrol. In addition, GLQO Board members have contacted local townships and others to assist with the effort. Both Richland and Ross Townships have donated \$1,000 each per year to this effort. Sgt. DeLaBarre wants to thank 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 ([www.glqo.net](http://www.glqo.net)). The GLQO Board will make sure any constructive comments are forwarded to Sgt. DeLaBarre and the marine patrol. Sgt. DeLaBarre or members of the marine patrol attend GLQO Board Meetings typically once per year 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. 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.

### From the Desk of the GLQO Treasurer

Marine Patrol is possible only because of support from the Gull Lake Quality Organization, which means **member donations**. Please consider a special donation earmarked specifically for Marine Patrol activities.

---

## News and Notes From Around the Watershed

---

### **Free Lawn Soil Testing April 24th 9:00AM—1:00PM**

Watershed property owners, come take advantage of this **FREE** service!

Now is the time when property owners long to get out and enjoy warmer temperatures, and get that grass growing green. While nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and other nutrients are necessary for a healthy lawn, misapplication of fertilizers wastes money, harms plants, and pollutes water (including the Gull Lake Watershed).

Soil testing is a first step in determining what your lawn needs for optimum health and growth. It's easy! Just follow these directions:

1. Using a clean trowel and a pail, collect ten representative soil samples from your lawn.
2. For each sample, remove a trowel-full of soil that extends seven inches below the surface. (*Do not include roots, thatch, plant materials, rocks or gravel in the sample.*) Mix the ten soil samples together in the pail.
3. Place 1 cup of the well-mixed soil in a clean plastic bag or container. Dry or damp soil is okay, but soggy soil should be allowed to air dry.
4. Take your soil to one of these sites within the Watershed:
  - Richland: Richland Hardware True Value
  - Delton: Delton Floral and Greenhouse
  - Delton: Darling's Hardware

### **Gull Lake Quality Organization sponsors KBS Dessert With Discussion April 27th @ KBS**

Once again, the GLQO proud to announce that it is sponsoring a 'Dessert With Discussion' talk presented at MSU's Kellogg Biological Station.

On April 27th at 7:30PM, Dr Elena Litchman of MSU's Department of Zoology will present a talk entitled "Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)" in the KBS Academic Center Auditorium.

Algal blooms harmful to humans and animals can occur at times in our lakes—blooms have been seen on Gull Lake, for example, in late summer in certain years. Come learn more about this phenomena, meet like-minded Watershed residents, and enjoy dessert to boot!

See the KBS website at <http://www.kbs.msu.edu> for more information, or call (269) 671-2263.

### **Michigan Lakes and Streams Association 49th Annual Conference April 30th & May 1st Radisson Hotel, Downtown Lansing**

The ML&SA 49th Annual Conference will be held in Lansing this year, and will celebrate and explore Michigan's most valuable resources — its inland lakes and streams. Whether you are a riparian property owner, a lake and stream manager, natural resources educator, or an avid outdoor sports enthusiast, this conference offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about our freshwater resources.

For more information, see the ML&SA website at <http://www.mlswa.org/>, or call (989) 831-5100.

### **Four Townships Water Resources Council sponsors 7th Annual "Kanoë the Kazoo" Paddle Event May 22nd on the Kalamazoo River**

*The FTWRC will partner with the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council to sponsor a guided tour on the Kalamazoo River on Saturday morning, May 22, 2010.*

*Naturalists and representatives from both organizations will provide guidance to natural features and wild inhabitants on the paddle. We hope to traverse portions of the River as it crosses through the southeast corner of the Four Townships and to view the mouths of 2 of the main streams in the Four Townships, Augusta and Gull Creeks, as they join the Kalamazoo River. It is important to connect land uses and potential pollution inputs from tributaries into the larger watershed.*

*The paddle will begin at the Shady Bend Campground, 15320 East Augusta Drive, east of Augusta, around 8:00 AM and conclude at the Time Out Lounge, 400 East Michigan Avenue, Galesburg around noon. Participants will be expected to provide their own canoes or kayaks, but rentals may be available from the Campground (269-731-4503) or Lickity Split Canoe Rental, in Augusta, (269-731-5216.) For more information contact Ken Kornheiser of the FTWRC ([ftwrc@aol.com](mailto:ftwrc@aol.com)) or Jeff Spoelstra of the KRWC ([krwc@kalamazooringer.org](mailto:krwc@kalamazooringer.org)). Registration info will be available soon.*

---

## Partner Spotlight—SW Michigan Land Conservancy Features Woody Boudeman

---

**Editor's Note:** *Woody Boudeman is a past GLQO Board Member and riparian who is extremely active in Watershed quality issues. Our friends over at the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy recently wrote about some of Woody's good work within the Watershed.*

### More Than “Just” A Natural Beauty Road

Sherwood “Woody” Boudeman wants to make sure that BC Avenue in Kalamazoo County — a Natural Beauty Road — will remain naturally beautiful forever. So this past December, Woody and his family donated two conservation easements to SWMLC along the south side of BC Avenue. These two new easements, along with 478 acres on the north side of BC Avenue that already have easements, protect an astonishing 632 acres, almost a full square mile of land on the west side of Gull Lake.



*Photo by Nate Fuller.*

BC Avenue is one of three state-designated Natural Beauty Roads in Kalamazoo County that protect the rural character and beauty along the roads. This designation prohibits extensive vegetation management on the roadside but does not prohibit development and other activities that could impact the road's scenic quality. Protecting both sides of BC Avenue with conservation easements creates a higher level of protection, restricting residential development and ensuring that the scenic beauty of this entryway to the Gull Lake area will remain undeveloped forever.



*Photo by Emily Wilke.*

But Woody recognized that there were other conservation benefits when he started protecting his land with SWMLC. He was concerned about the disappearance of farmland in the area, the quality of water that flows into Gull Lake, and the loss of wildlife habitat and rural character.

The Boudeman conservation easements just west of Gull Lake guarantee that the prime farmland on the edge of the ever-expanding Village of Richland will always be available for agricultural use. In addition, the lake frontage and wetlands along Grassy Lake and Miller Lake will remain undeveloped, and the soil will not be altered and will continue to provide groundwater recharge that is critical for protecting the water supply into Gull Lake.

“The members of the Boudeman family are people of exceptional character, concerned about the preservation of the natural beauty of the Gull Lake area,” states Brian Winne, president of the Gull Lake Quality Organization, the citizens'-based group concerned with protecting water quality in the watershed. “Their conservation work will provide for a better quality of life for residents for generations to come. We are all blessed by their generosity.”

A founding board member of the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, Woody demonstrated his commitment to conservation and leadership by enlisting fellow conservationists to the cause and promoting the merits of working with a land conservancy to protect land for future generations. During the decade that followed his early involvement with SWMLC, Woody promoted collaboration between SWMLC and other conservation organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited, the Gull Lake Quality Organization, and MSU's Kellogg Biological Station. Woody's willingness to donate a conservation easement on 60 acres that he owns with his sister, Martha Vander Molen, between M-43 and Mud Lake.

---

## Partner Spotlight—Thanks for a Legacy of Conservation at the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary

By Kara Hass, Environmental Education Coordinator, KBS

---

As we celebrate W.K. Kellogg's 150th birthday I am thankful that he was a member of our community. His legacy of good works and organizations thrive and contribute today. One of these organizations is the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (Sanctuary), a part of Michigan State University W.K. Kellogg Biological. Thanks to the generosity and foresight of Mr. Kellogg, the Sanctuary that was created to provide breeding habitat for native bird species and environmental education for people of all ages continues to thrive today.

In the 1900s wildlife conservation was not common. Many still believed that nature would heal itself from the impact of humans. But not Mr. Kellogg, he understood the need for conservation and habitat restoration. Canada Geese were disappearing due to over hunting and loss of breeding habitat (wetlands and freshwater lakes). Mr. Kellogg was inspired to help by Jack Miner, a pioneer of conservation in Canada, and a visit to his "Goose Sanctuary". Mr. Kellogg decided to create a sanctuary for Canada Geese in Southwest Michigan and later scientific study determined that he had chosen a perfect spot. The Sanctuary is located at the crossing of three migratory flyways.

In 1927 Mr. Kellogg purchased 40-acre Wintergreen Lake and the surrounding degraded agricultural land. He fenced a 180 acre parcel and hired a manager named George Corsan. With Corsan's guidance the property was restored with plantings of native and non-native trees, shrubs and grasses and with the purchase of swan, goose and pheasant species from all over the world.

After beginning habitat restoration and stocking the lake with bird life, Mr. Kellogg deeded the property and its contents to Michigan State College of Agriculture (Michigan State University) in 1928. His hope was that the property would help students to learn about animal care and wildlife management. Would you believe that these goals are still being met today? Thanks to the philanthropy of W.K. Kellogg thousands of birds find food, rest and shelter when migrating through Michigan, student interns gain knowledge of bird care and wildlife management, and visitors from all over can view birds up close, learn techniques for creating wildlife habitat on their property and enjoy the peace of nature. Thanks W.K. Kellogg for creating a legacy of conservation. Come and celebrate with a visit!

*W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, 12685 East C. Ave., Augusta, MI 49012, [www.kbs.msu.edu/birdsanctuary](http://www.kbs.msu.edu/birdsanctuary)*

---

## Pilot Study on Microbial Source Tracking in Local Streams

By Steve Hamilton, Kellogg Biological Station, MSU

---

**Editor's Note:** *After elevated levels of E. coli bacteria were noted last summer in a couple local streams, more in-depth testing for potential fecal contamination was conducted. The goal was to determine, if possible, which type of animal (or human) feces was to blame for those elevated levels of bacteria. A pilot study to examine microbial indicators of fecal pollution from humans and cattle was conducted last summer by Marc Verhoughstraete and Dr. Joan Rose of MSU, and the results were recently provided as a technical report to the Four Townships Water Resources Council. Here Dr Hamilton provides a brief summary of his interpretation of the results.*

Sampling was conducted on Prairieville and Augusta Creeks over two time periods. The July sampling represented relatively dry conditions and stable summer flow whereas a later sampling in October represented a period of higher and variable flow. A suite of indicators was examined, each with its advantages and disadvantages.

Culture-based assays provided estimates of the abundance of E. coli, Enterococci, Clostridium perfringens, and Coliphage (viruses that grow on bacteria). Both creeks carried concentrations of fecal bacteria that are high by public health standards. Notably, concentrations were high even in July when there had been no recent rain and runoff, and the Coliphage data suggested that this contamination had occurred in the recent past. Molecular analyses that provide highly sensitive markers for fecal bacteria originating from either humans or cattle showed no evidence for contamination from those sources.

Taken together, these preliminary results suggest that warm-blooded wildlife were the likely source of fecal bacteria in these streams. Deer, raccoons, geese, and other wildlife frequent the wetlands and riparian areas and they are much more likely to be the source of contamination in times when there is no runoff from more distant upland areas. These results, however, must be considered preliminary, given that the limited amount of sampling did not cover late winter and early spring, the most likely time for microbial contamination from upland sources to reach streams by surface runoff.

---

## Watershed Gallery

By: *The GLQO Librarian (librarian@glqo.net)*

---

The lakes in the Gull Lake Watershed saw a good number of ice days this winter, with some solid cold spells. When the warm-up came in March, though, the ice eventually retreated. Some Gull Lake residents report docks put in before April 1st!

This season saw a partial melt, followed by strong North winds, which pushed the remaining ice in each lake towards the South. In the case of Gull, the resultant mishmash of ice yielded the sunrise view in this picture.

Later in that day, as the strong winds pushed the ice flow towards shore, and a mature bald eagle stood at the ice/water line where it found a plentiful supply of fish.



*Sunrise Over Receding Ice—Gull Lake © Eric Reid 2010*

---

## Historian's Corner

By: *The GLQO Historian (historian@glqo.net)*

---

When you live in a scenic area with a strong recreational and tourist draw, you find lots of postcards, new and old, which provide snapshots into the area's history. For your consideration, then, a sampling of postcards from around our Watershed:



*Aerial view of Wintergreen Lake, with Duck Lake in the background. Mid-20th Century.*



*Two lads with their day's catch from Gull Lake. Circa 1910.*



*Gull Lake's Pavilion at Allendale Beach. Early 20th Century.*



*Midland Park on Gull Lake. Early 20th Century.*

# Gull Lake Quality Organization

## 2010 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) of 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

### Corporate Membership

\_\_\_ Regular (\$35) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Silver (\$50) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Supporting (\$50 to \$100) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Gold (\$100 to \$200) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$125 & Over) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Platinum (\$250 & Over) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Additional Donations:*

#### *Additional Donations:*

\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sheriff's Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sheriff's Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Water Quality Testing \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Water Quality Testing \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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>



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

## The Gull Lake Quality Organization's Board of Directors

### 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:

Anne Couture (11-1)  
*Development/Access*

Bastiaan De Jong (11-1)

Mike Gallagher (10-1)  
*Water Quality*

Jay Garside (10-2)  
*Governmental Liaison*

Susan Houseman (12-1)  
*Water Quality*

Martina Johnson (11-1)  
*Financial Development/  
Membership*

Todd Lennen (10-1)  
*Fisheries*

John Luchsinger (10-1)  
*Fisheries*

Denny Lyne (11-1)

Bo VanPeenan (11-1)