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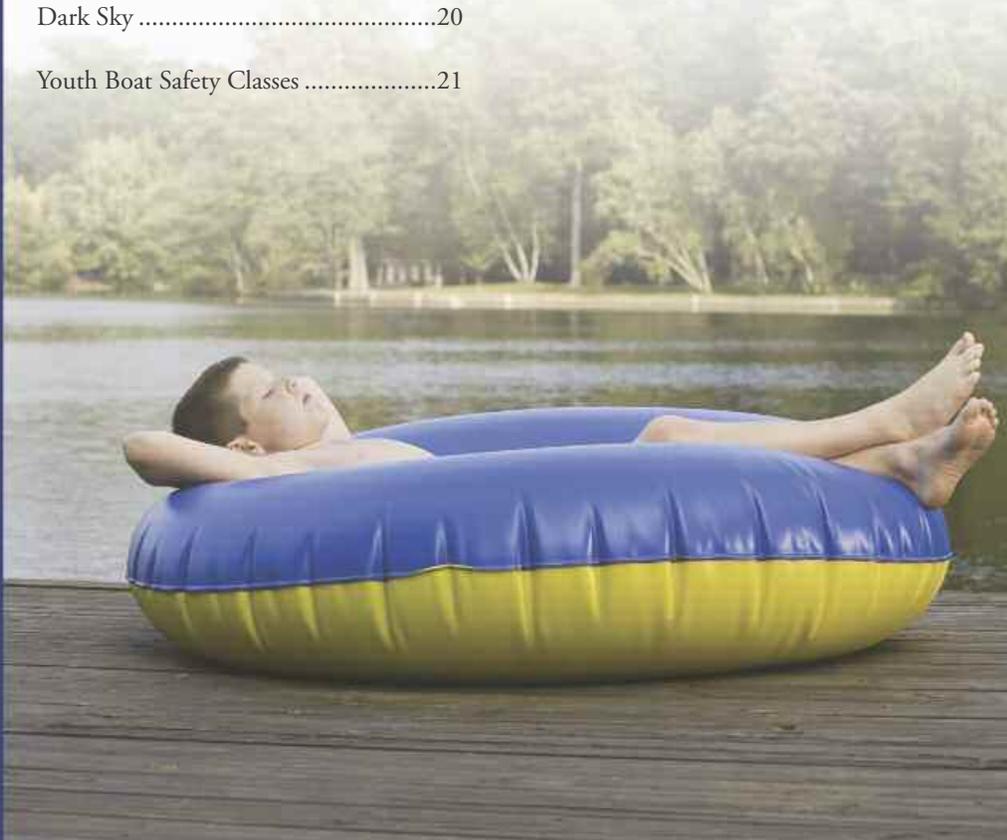
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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

As I write this message, it is an early Saturday beautiful morning, the sun just rising on the horizon on a cloudless light blue sky, a gentle southerly breeze causing ripples on the lake, two loons quietly interacting and diving for breakfast, a gull soaring and squawking, and neighbors on both sides of us have guests for the weekend just the same as we do. A great time to be at the lake.

As they say, change is always good so this year we tried something different for the Annual Meeting and the Gala. We moved the Annual Meeting to a different date from the Gala. The attendance was less, but those attending got a chance to interact on more subjects and find out more about what GCOLA has been doing. Read more about the Annual Meeting and the financial summary later in this issue.

With that annual meeting, Ron Faust, who has been a GCOLA board member for 9 years, is leaving the Board. Ron was instrumental in initiating the idea of a Gala and was the first Gala Chairman. Ron also was responsible for

providing the beautiful natural plant centerpieces for the Gala. He also did and will continue to coordinate the shoreline restoration program for GCOLA. We all extend a sincere THANK YOU TO RON for his dedicated service to GCOLA. Our new Board member, who was voted in at the annual meeting is Sheila Johnston. Sheila recently completed Master Naturalist training, and is looking forward to being part of the Environmental Committee. Welcome aboard Sheila!

The 5th annual Gala event was again a rousing success. The event was a sell-out. Don Shelby, our guest speaker, said he counted the audience and said that there was at least one person more than attended the sold-out Gala last year when Paul Douglas was the speaker (Don and Paul continue to be close friends after leaving WCCO-TV). Thank you to all who attended. We were truly honored to have Don Shelby as our guest speaker. What knowledge he has, and he used no notes or no viewgraphs – just speaking to you and I, eye to eye. Thank you to the Gala Chair, Steve Alex and his Gala Committee for the

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

excellent planning and smooth operation with no panics. Thank you also to Chuck Herrig for doing double duty as Silent Auction Chair and Raffle Chair. Read about the Gala in Steve Alex's article and look at the great photos by Mary Gibson.

As just about everyone knows, the DNR made the announcement, on the day of the Gala, they would be stocking muskies in the Gull Chain starting this fall. There is no argument that biologically, the Gull Chain is a good fit for muskies, as it is for a lot of other fish species. But it is sociologically that DNR Fisheries and many people disagree. Local public support for muskie stocking of Gull Lake is minimal at best. GCOLA and the Gull Chain lake shore property owners are strongly opposed (70%), the majority of the local units of government are opposed (two against, one neutral and one in favor), and the majority of local legislators are opposed (three opposed and one in favor) as is the Cass County Commissioner for the Gull Lake district. The question frequently asked is why the DNR wants to expand stocking to the Gull Chain. The response from the DNR is the need for additional opportunities for muskie fisherman, which

Don Pereira, DNR Fisheries Chief, says is the "fastest growing fishing segment in MN." Yet, in the 2015 Schroeder Survey funded by the MNDNR, muskie fishing has dropped from 6th to 13th place in fisherman's preference in Minnesota. Muskie fishing is a passionate and elite segment of fishing and will never be for the masses. The percentage of muskie fisherman ranges from 14% to 8.5% to 5% or less, depending on whose figures you use. Needless to say, it is a small segment of the total fishing population. There are 4 muskie lakes, including Mille Lacs and the Mississippi River within 30 miles of the Brainerd area. And there are 61 muskie lakes within 80 miles of Brainerd, plenty of opportunity for muskie fisherman. If the DNR does proceed with the muskie stocking of the Gull Chain, DNR Fisheries must be held accountable for its claims that the muskie stocking will be "ecologically benign" to the Gull Chain and its fishery.

Please enjoy the serenity and beauty of our Gull Chain of Lakes the rest of the summer and into the peaceful, colorful early fall. Yet, I know that Bob Toborg is marking his calendar counting down the days till the buoys have to be removed.



2016 GALA ⁴



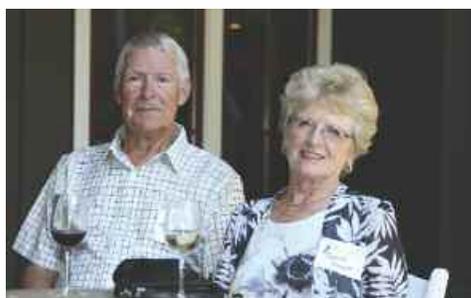
On July 25, the Gull Lake Room at the Grand View Lodge was filled with almost 400 GCOLA guests who had a great time celebrating the Love of Our Lakes with friends and neighbors. As always, the food and drink were great, the silent auction offered a variety of items to bid on and the conversation among friends was superb.

a resounding success. Silent auctions are key to the financial success of an event like our Gala and they are also a great deal of work. Thanks to the entire silent auction team.

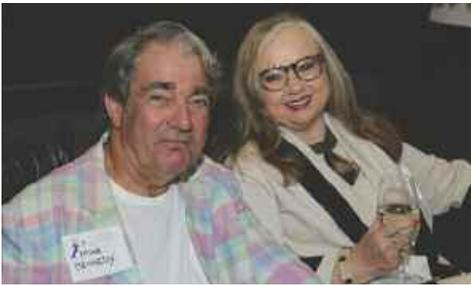
Our guest speaker, Don Shelby, provided interesting stories from his years as an investigative reporter and offered commentary on the importance of a free press. He also talked about his love of the outdoors and stressed the need to get young people away from electronics and enjoying the outdoors and nature.

Next summer the Gala will be held on July 24. Plan on joining us once again.

Special thanks to Steve Alex who chaired this year's event and Chuck Herrig who worked to make our silent auction



2016 GALA



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We want to give a big thanks to all of the sponsors who made our annual Gala silent auction another big success. The many wonderful silent auction items generated over \$14,000 in sales.

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GCOLA 2016 ANNUAL MEETING AND FINANCIAL SUMMARY

By Uldis Birznieks, Chair



This is the first year since we started having the Gala that the GCOLA Annual Meeting was held on a different day than the Gala. The GCOLA Board wanted to give our members additional time at the annual meeting to get information on various association topics, have discussions and ask questions rather than squeezing all of this into a rushed 30 minute meeting. We had good representation at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 16 at Lutheran Church of the Cross and had coffee, water and lots of cookies for everyone. Four current Board members, Bob Toborg, Robert Eliason, Marv Meyer and Uldis Birznieks were re-elected for three-year terms. Sheila Johnston was elected for a three-year term to replace Ron Faust. (See the Gull Lake Profiles article on Sheila). Committee chairs communicated reports on committee activities for AIS, Gala, Membership, Environment, and Safety & Recreation. Kevin Egan communicated status on the Birch Bay RV Park development and Uldis Birznieks

communicated status regarding the DNR muskie stocking proposal. Mary Kay Larson of the Corp of Engineers and Sgt. Travis Collette discussed high water issues and responded to questions.



A financial summary for the first half of 2016, the 2016 budget and 2015 actuals were also presented as shown in the figure. For the first half of 2016, on the income side, dues are looking good with donations a little behind norm and all other categories near norm. On the expense side for the first half, all categories are running near norm except "Other", which included a \$5K donation to the Agate Lake Association to help pay for legal fees to contest the RV Park development. Note that almost 60% (over \$100K) of the Expense budget is for Environmental/AIS projects. These include AIS boat inspections, AIS plant surveys, AIS plant eradication, MN AIS Research Center donation, AIS contingency fund, shoreline restoration, and water quality monitoring. We expect to close 2016 with a slightly positive net income. For the Endowment Fund, we will have our year-end donations appeal. The Endowment Fund has had good performance increasing from \$184K year-end 2015 to \$192K mid-term 2016.

GCOLA FINANCIAL SUMMARY – THRU JUNE 2016

	2016 ACTUALS		2016 BUDGET		2015 ACTUALS	
	THRU	JUNE				
	\$ (K)	% of Budget	\$ (K)	% of Total	\$ (K)	% of Total
INCOME						
DUES	44.1	93%	47.5	27%	45.5	30%
DONATIONS	22.6	83%	27.2	15%	32.4	21%
GALA	7.2	17%	42.3	24%	41.4	27%
GRANTS*	3.6	6%	55.5	31%	25.2	16%
OTHER	2.3	59%	3.9	2%	9.5	6%
TOTALS	79.8		176.4		154.0	
ENDOWMENT IN	2.0				18.9	
ENDOWMENT TOTAL	192.1				184	
EXPENSES						
ENVIRONMENTAL/AIS**	8.3	8%	101.3	59%	69.9	54%
BUOY SYSTEM	15.8	67%	23.6	14%	14.6	11%
GALA	7.3	43%	17.1	10%	17.2	13%
ADMINISTRATION	8.3	51%	16.2	10%	16.0	12%
COMMUNICATIONS	0.4	7%	5.8	3%	6.1	5%
OTHER	10.4	146%	7.1	4%	5.5	4%
TOTALS	50.5		171.1		129.3	

*Note 1 - Includes In-Kind Watercraft Inspections paid by counties and DNR - In 2015 worth \$15.3K and in 2016 Budget for \$28.7K

**Note 2 - Also includes DNR Shoreline restoration grants (in/out) of \$8.9K in 2015

** Note 3 - Includes In-Kind Watercraft Inspection Expenses paid by counties & DNR - In 2015 worth \$12.8K & in 2016 Budget worth \$22.7K

** Note 4 - Also includes DNR Shoreline restoration expenditures (in/out) of \$8.9K in 2015

THE WINNER!



Pictured is Rob Johnson receiving congratulations from GCOLA Board Chuck Herring after winning the \$4,000 raffle trip at the July 25 Gala event. Rob is a long time Gull Lake resident and former GCOLA board member. He is a wind farm and solar energy developer across the Midwest as well as a licensed real estate broker in both Minnesota and South Dakota. "I really appreciate winning this trip as we have not taken a real vacation (other than spending most of our free time at Gull Lake) in several years." Rob and his wife, Pat, are meeting with the travel agent before deciding where their winning trip will take them. "Wherever we go it will certainly be a memorable trip."



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THE CENTERPIECES

By Ron Faust



A group of friends in GCOLA helped again with the centerpieces for this year's Gala. Annie and Cal Brager and Linda Saeks, a longtime Lake Shore resident, joined Claire and Ron Faust in arranging 40 centerpieces made from 160 plugs of native species. The native plants are grown at Minnesota Native Landscapes in Foley, MN. They are the type of plants used in shoreline projects. Any GCOLA members interested in a shoreline restoration project are welcome to contact Ron (218-961-1617): matching grant money is available.

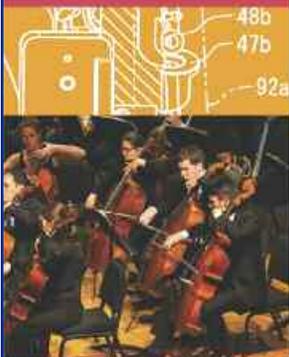
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2016 LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP

The 2016 legislative session was what is referred to as “the short session”, just 11 weeks whose main focus is to be a bonding bill. The session was not only short but unproductive. A number of important pieces of legislation simply died, including the bonding bill, because the clock ran out. Governor Dayton vetoed the Tax Bill because there was an error in the bill which would have cost the state millions of dollars.

A few items of interest to lake owners that did pass include:

* An exception was removed from the ban on possessing prohibited invasive species for those who had lawfully acquired them when they were dead. This change makes it clear that it's unlawful to transport aquatic invasive species whether dead or alive.

* A commercial garbage vehicle is now allowed to transport aquatic plants from riparian property (property adjacent to waterways) to a legal disposal site that is at least 100 feet from any surface water, ditch or land that seasonally floods without a permit.

* Requirements to drain water from boats and related equipment prior to transporting do not apply to transporting the boat within the immediate area required for loading and preparing the boat for transport. This applies to service providers transporting watercraft for repair.

* Civil citations are established and may be issued for: failing to comply with decontamination order when the decontamination unit is on site (\$250); failure to complete decontamination or remove invasive species by the date required (\$250); or failure to complete AIS offender training (\$25).

* In order to combat the introduction of even more aquatic invasive species into Minnesota lakes \$151,000 was given to the University of Minnesota for the development of a membrane filtration to treat Lake Superior ballast water and \$368,000 to the University of Minnesota-Duluth to advance microbial invasive species monitoring from ballast discharge in the Duluth Harbor.

* The addition of “micro algae” to the list of designated aquatic invasive species which is important because of the

state's first infestation of starry stonewort in Lake Koronis near Paynesville, MN. Starry stone wort is a nasty AIS that creates dense mats of a grass-like algae on the water's surface.

* A two year Lake Minnetonka Pilot Study, allowing the commissioner to issue an additional permit to service providers to remove and then return to Lake Minnetonka water-related equipment with zebra mussels attached after the equipment has been seasonally stored, serviced, or repaired. This should create efficiencies for marina owners, and savings for boat owners without increasing the risk of AIS spread.

* Carbon monoxide detectors are now required in new motorboats 19 feet and longer that have an enclosed compartment and also requires warning stickers on certain other boats.

Items that did not pass include:

* The blocking of the stocking of muskies in four new lakes, including Gull. Bills passed in both the House and Senate but session ended before the proposals could go to conference committee to reconcile the differences.

* The vetoed Tax Bill contained State General Tax relief for cabins and relief from the state sales tax on products purchased by Lake Associations to control invasive aquatic plants.

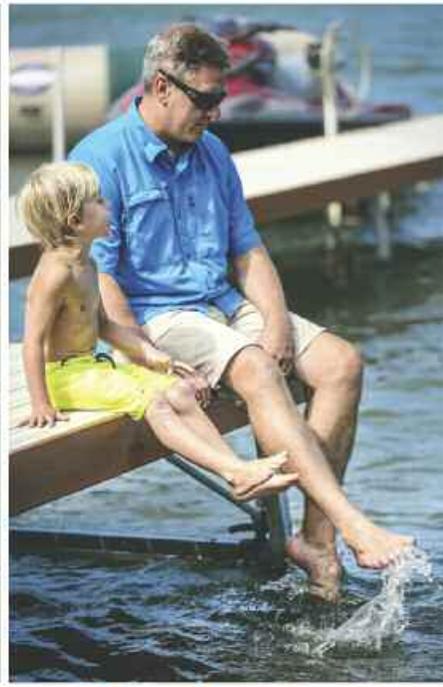
* The proposed bonding bill contained \$156.2 million for clean water projects.



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Bob Toborg, Chair
Safety and Recreation Committee

THE 2016 GULL CHAIN BUOY PROGRAM

In April of this year, when the ice finally melted completely off the lakes, the guys at Gull Lake Marina started placing the buoys in the upper channels and on the main lake. It's very important to wait until all the ice is off the lake before installing the buoys. If we do it the right way, they tend to stay in the correct position. After installation, the next job is to maintain and adjust to keep them in the proper place.

Of course, we have the usual problem of chains breaking, or high winds blowing and moving them off of points and rock piles. If you should happen to see a buoy floating out of place, PLEASE call the Sheriffs Department at the number listed on the buoy, or you can contact the Gull Lake Marina at 218-865-7515 or GCOLA at 218-963-3542.

The last thing I would like to address is the ongoing problem we have with vandalism. It seems that some folks like to drive over different color navigation buoys, or perhaps maybe an enforcement buoy. When this happens the lake association and its membership get the privilege of paying for the replacement.

If you should happen to see someone damaging a buoy or a light, please notify the sheriff's department so we can stop this vandalism. Buoys cost \$139.00, buoy lights are \$145.00, plus the costs of weights and chain and links. When you figure we have 120 or so buoys in the system, it can become quite expensive. And finally, the sheriff's department is in total control of the placement of all of the buoys!!

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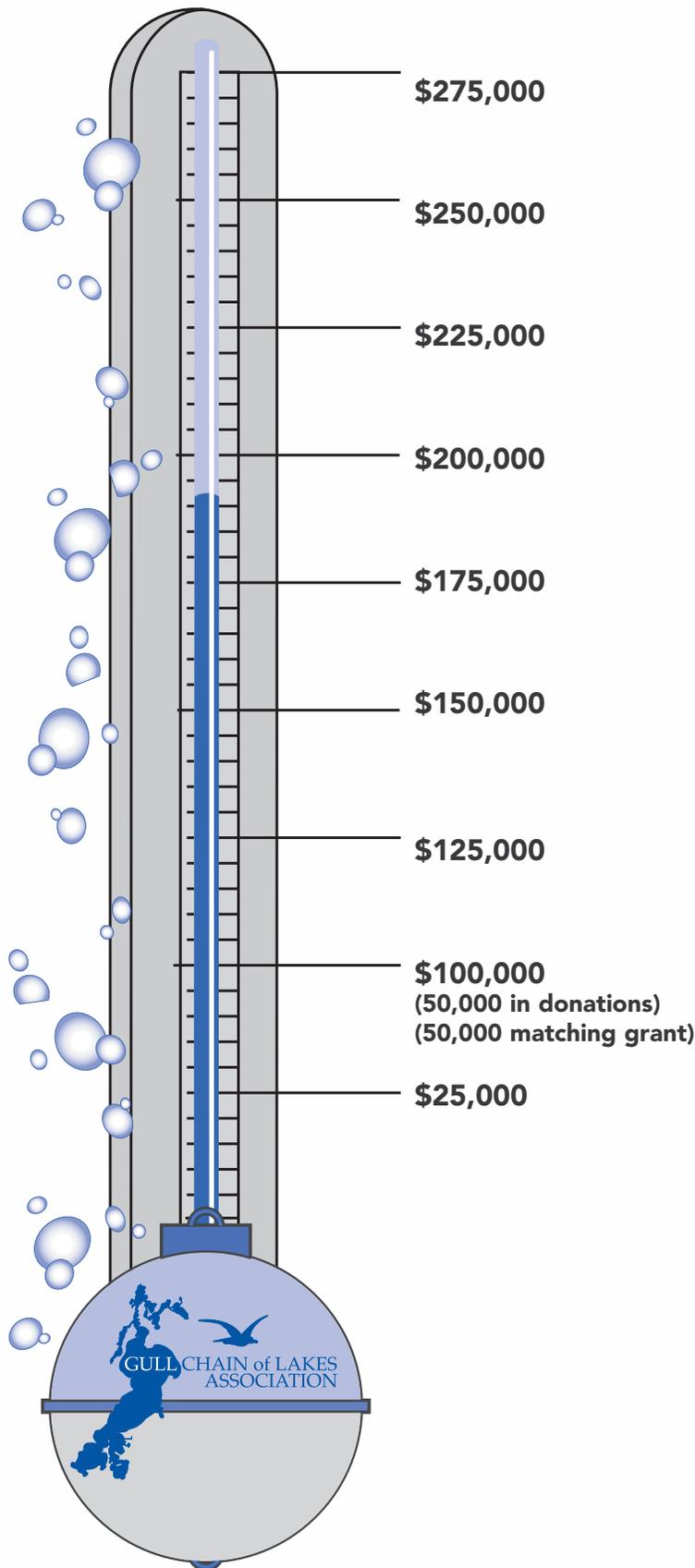
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ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE



In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA established a perpetual Endowment Fund. The fund is intended to provide long-term funding to support the stewardship activities of GCOLA to preserve and improve the ecosystem of the Gull Chain of Lakes. It's also a wonderful opportunity to leave a legacy for those who will enjoy this area for years to come.

We currently have just over \$192,100 in the fund, which includes a \$50,000 matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. It is great to know that there is a long-term base of financial resources through the endowment to be able to carry out projects designed to enhance and protect our beautiful chain of lakes.

The board again wants to thank all the many members and friends of GCOLA for the generous support of our endowment fund.

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WILD PARSNIP

The Minnesota Pollution Control recently warned the public about a nasty poisonous plant known as Wild Parsnip which is rapidly spreading into open habitats and roadsides. When the sap of the plant, from broken stems and leaves, touches the skin and is exposed to ultra-violet light, the affected area will become red, and in most cases blister which can be very painful and can take weeks to heal. Unlike Poison Ivy, Wild Parsnip sap is not an allergic reaction. Toxin in the sap is absorbed by the skin and energized by sun light. It flowers during the month of July. *The following information was provided by the MN Department of Transportation.*

BE AWARE OF WILD PARSNIP. (*Pastinaca sativa*)



Because of its harmful characteristics and concern over its increased spreading over the countryside, Wild Parsnip has been in the news recently. The plant has become a weed of special concern along roadsides and in abandoned fields. Like many other introduced plants it is very aggressive and spreading rapidly.

Why the special concern about this plant?

Wild parsnip causes “phyto-photodermatitis”, which happens when the sap of the plant, from broken stems and



leaves, touches the skin and is exposed to ultraviolet light (whether cloudy or sunny). Within 24 to 48 hours, the affected area will first redden and in most cases be followed by blisters that can be painful for a couple of days. In many cases, the blisters will lead to brownish pigmentation that can last for years. Unlike Poison Ivy, the reaction caused by contact with Wild Parsnip sap is not an allergic reaction. Toxin in the sap is absorbed by the skin and energized by ultraviolet light.

Moisture from perspiration speeds absorption. Burning is inevitable if skin comes in contact with juice from cut or broken stalks, leaves or flowers. The juices are most potent while in flower. No one is exempt. Symptoms usually take

24-48 hours to develop, but could take longer. Mild exposure is similar to sunburn. Severe exposure causes skin to blister.



Treatment

Once the toxin is absorbed into the skin and is exposed to sunlight, some reaction is inevitable. Immediately cover exposed skin until it can be washed with soap and water.

To relieve symptoms:

- Cover affected area with a cool, wet cloth.
- If blisters appear, try not to rupture blisters as long as possible.
- To avoid infection, keep area clean and apply antiseptic cream.

Concern:

More people are coming into contact with wild parsnip due to its rapid spread into open habitats and roadsides. Individuals who will be working, hiking, or involved in other activities around it can reduce the risk of exposure by wearing long-sleeved shirts, gloves, and long pants.

During much of July, wild parsnip is one of the dominant yellow-flowered weeds in many roadsides and other right-of-ways, fence rows, prairie restorations, CRP sites and poorly managed pastures.

Botanical basics



Life history: Wild parsnip typically lives for two years. The first year, as a spindly rosette of leaves, it keeps fairly low to the ground while the plant's carrot-like taproot develops. It may live two or more years this way until conditions are right for

flowering. The second year, a hollow, grooved flower stalk rises 2-5 feet high, first holding clusters of yellow flowers and later dozens of flat, oval seeds. Leaves: Pinnately compound, with a main stem and 5 to 15 leaflets. Flowers: Yellow, in flattopped umbrella-like clusters at the top of the plant. Season: Wild parsnip rosettes are among the first plants to become green in spring, and its flowers turn a prominent yellow in midsummer. After flowering and going to seed, plants die and turn brown in fall, but first year rosettes remain green until frost. Habitat: Roadsides, abandoned fields, unmowed pastures, edges of woods, prairie restorations.



This population is too large to hand-cut or pull, a power mower should be used before the seeds set. Plants may re-sprout when cut above the ground, and should be cut again or sprayed, a few weeks later to

prevent flowering. Cutting done after seed set will greatly reduce the likelihood that the plants will be able to re-sprout and flower, but will increase the risk of spreading the seeds and creating new problems. Plants cut at this time must all be gathered and destroyed to prevent mature seed from developing and falling to the ground. Another effective way to eliminate reseeding is to hand-collect all seeds after they have set. If control of flowering or seeding plants is carried out over several years, the population will decrease as the seed bank is depleted. If mowing Wild Parsnip, be careful cleaning the equipment as the sap will still be present. It's suggested to clean the mower deck, if

mowing while seeds are present and before traveling to the next area or the equipment storage area.

The best defense is to be able to identify the plant and be aware of what you need to do when working around or near it. Below you will find photos of various stages of development of Wild Parsnip. Sap will be present in all these stages, but increasing potency from spring to summer and decreasing potency after seed set to end of plant life. The photos are for the cycle of a second year plant.



Early Spring



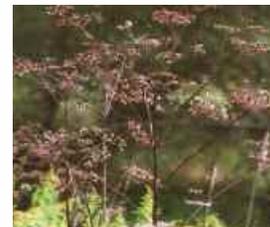
Late Spring or Fall



Early Summer



Flowers, Summer



Fall



Seedling, Late Summer-Fall

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Mary Kay Larson,
Park Ranger

NEWS FROM THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS



Gull Lake Recreation Area, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and its campground are running at full operation after having been closed from July 12th, 2015 to mid-May of this summer. As we all remember, a strong summer storm with 100 mph winds swept through the Brainerd lakes area just over a year ago, toppling thousands of trees and causing millions of dollars in damage. Gull Lake Recreation Area was hit hard, losing close to 2,000 trees. Thankfully, we and our campers were injury-free. While things may not look the same, with space between campsites being more open and a clear reduction in tree density, things have returned to normal thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteers and local agencies.

After the storm, help began right away. Sentenced to Serve crews were brought out to begin what would be an incredibly lengthy process, cutting up fallen trees, and mulching debris. Work continued on throughout the winter with the aid of government contractors working on the bulk of timber removal. Then spring came, and we hosted our 10th Annual Spring Clean-up, in which 75 volunteers contributed 600 hours removing debris, picking up branches, and spreading gravel. We were gifted once again when 52 Public Works engineers volunteered a cumulative 104 hours of their time while at a local convention to repair fencing around the Aboriginal Burial Mounds trail and campground perimeter.

On May 22nd, a volunteer group of 31 people led by local, Matt Karlgaard, contributed 80 hours to planting 1,200 seedlings of chokecherry, crabapple, red pine, silver maple, and a few others. It will take some time for those trees to mature and for the forest to return to its prior density, but in the meantime, the understory is enjoying the spotlight. The plant life in the understory has filled the void which was left by the Norway Pines, birch, and maple, rejuvenating the forest with new life. The Cass County Master Gardeners awarded us a \$300 grant to plant wildflower seedlings and repair our rock beds which was done beautifully by volunteers Carol Curby and Mike Belisle who dedicated 400 hours of service. If it were not for the good-will and dedication of so many volunteers, we would certainly still be buried under piles and piles of sticks and leaves and may have remained closed longer into the season. We are forever thankful for all that they do and are a vital part of the work that we do here at Gull Lake Recreation Area.



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DARK SKY

When I was about 7 years old, my mother put glow-in-the-dark stars on the ceiling of the bedroom that my brother and I shared. I just loved going to bed under the stars. I grew up in Richfield, on the very edge of town, with farm fields stretching to the south. At night, my neighborhood seemed almost dark. There were very few street lights, and those few were not very bright - just able to illuminate a street intersection. We loved playing hide-and-seek at night, and I loved looking at the stars. During the winter, after Scout meetings, I would intentionally walk slowly home. I was amazed at all the stars and the beauty of the Milky Way. With all the star light and snow, the night didn't seem dark. Even during the summer when camping as a Scout, I felt that moonless nights were not really dark because of all the stars. My old neighborhood isn't dark now. It has many more street lights that illuminate not only the street intersections but also everything else all around. And, the lights are so much brighter. One can hardly see constellations let alone the Milky Way there today.

Fifty years ago on cloudless, moonless nights at our cabin, we would lay on the dock, braving mosquitoes, to look at the Milky Way or to see a shooting star during a meteor shower or to enjoy the wonder of the northern lights. The experience was enhanced by a dark shoreline, which gave the lake a wild feel. Today, some stars have disappeared; the Milky Way isn't as milky. The occasional northern lights seem harder to discern. The lake doesn't feel as wild because the shoreline is punctuated with the bright spots of night lights. There has been a proliferation of outdoor/exterior lighting along the shore.

Shoreline lighting can lead to three problems. a) Stray light is what we see from a point of light on the opposite shore. This point of light comes from the bulb itself rather than from reflected light from the area that the lighting intended to illuminate. The brightness of stray light is enhanced by the ability of water to reflect light, as can be observed when the moon rises over the water. When stray light is very, very bright, it is called glare. b) When a light on one property falls on another property, this can be described as light trespass. Trespass lighting impacts others. They may feel such light invades their privacy in their own home. They may wish to keep their windows open to night breezes without using shades. They may wish to sit outside to look at the stars without a night light

shining into their eyes. They may want to experience darkness on their own property. c) The third lighting problem is sky glow. Much of the exterior lighting shines upward filling the sky with background light. This background light dims light from the heavens. The Milky Way becomes less spectacular; northern lights lose their wonder. Background light can be so bright that all but the brightest stars are obscured, and the Milky Way is gone. Satellite photographs show the extent of the problem.

(www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/NPP/news/earth-at-night.html#.V5joQo4pOt8. Enlarge image; Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Little Falls, Brainerd, Duluth, the outline of Lake Mille Lacs, and the Iron Range cities are easily discernible.) If you think of the light as being produced by burning electricity, large portions of our country and our state are on fire every night.

These problems can be mitigated by using appropriate light fixtures and by planning. Ordinary outdoor/exterior lighting normally uses unshielded fixtures that are responsible for stray light, light trespass, and sky glow. A full cut-off shielded light fixture emits no light above the horizontal, and these three are minimized. (Type "unshielded shielded fixture" in your browser to see images of both fixture types and the effects of glare.) In addition, shoreline lighting should be just bright enough to provide adequate illumination without being so bright that it lights up the whole neighborhood. When lighting is installed on lake shore property to give a sense of security, a motion detector light may be a better choice than a dusk to dawn light. The sudden illumination has a startling effect and is more noticeable to neighbors.

We can reclaim some of the dark sky around our lakes, but it will require action by individuals, businesses, and governments.

YOUTH BOAT SAFETY CLASSES

Over 50 youth took advantage of boat safety classes offered earlier this summer. The classes are sponsored by the Cass and Crow Wing County Sheriff's Departments, the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Corps of Engineers. The participants were not only given classroom instructions in boat safety but had the opportunity to get some "hands on" training in a boat. A special thanks to

the Gull Lake Yacht Club for offering their facilities for the training and to Zorbaz on Gull for providing a noon lunch of pizzas. The Gull Chain of Lakes Association provided a new life jacket to each participant. The spring 2017 newsletter will have the dates for the 2017 classes for youth between the ages of 12 and 17.



Pictured is Crow Wing County Sheriff's Deputy Tony Marks with two boat safety participants

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MEET YOUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

SHEILA JOHNSTON



I applied for a position on the Board of Directors because I love Gull Lake. I have loved Gull Lake for as long as I can remember.

My experience on Gull Lake first began when I was a baby, and my family spent our summer vacations at Grand View Lodge. In the mid 1960s, my parents purchased our first cabin. It was originally one of the Almquist Bay Resort cabins, as were many of the cabins on our beach. For me, those were the golden days on Gull Lake. In our bay almost every cabin was filled with kids, and we were all friends. Our mothers spent the entire summer with the kids at the lake, and our fathers came up on weekends. For my siblings, friends, and me, it was a summer of freedom. We lived in our swimming suits, and when the sun was shining, we spent the entire day on or in the water...fishing, swimming, putting around in our old wooden rowboat with 5.5 horsepower Johnson, waterskiing and sailing. It was heaven!

In the mid 70's my parents sold the cabin and bought our home on Rocky Point. Sadly, my parents eventually sold the lake home, but I was fortunate to be able to continue to come to Gull Lake many times each summer to stay with my friend at her Rocky Point cabin, and I was able

to pass on the Gull Lake experience to my children. In 2014 my husband Doug and I purchased our home on Upper Gull, and when I retired last year, we became year round residents.

The Gull Chain of Lakes is facing many environmental challenges, and I would like to be part of the Board of Directors so that I can help address these challenges. I recently completed Master Naturalist training, and I am looking forward to being part of the Environmental Committee. I am already participating in the loon monitoring program. I am a kayaker, and I love checking on the loons on Upper Gull, Bass, and Spider Lakes when I am out for my daily paddle.

I am a retired gifted education teacher, and I have coached Future Problem Solving for over 25 years. Coaching Future Problem Solving is my passion, and in my retirement I have started the Future Problem Solving program at Nisswa Elementary and Forest View Middle School in Brainerd. I am excited about taking my problem solving skills out of the classroom and applying the problem solving process in my work with the GCOLA Board of Directors.

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TRANSPORT aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species (*e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil*).

DUMP live bait into state waters, on the shore, or on the ground.

LAUNCH or attempt to place, watercraft or trailers with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any waters of the state.

IT'S THE LAW!

CLEAN visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species off of watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.

DRAIN water from the boat's bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.

KEEP drain plug and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

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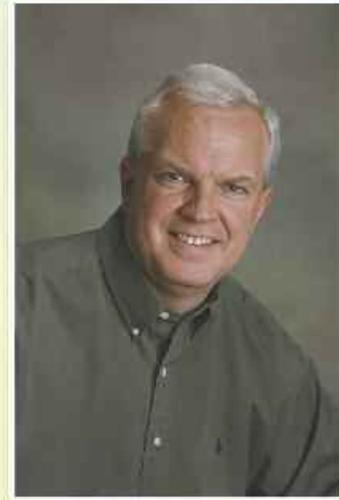
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ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS



You are all welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors meetings. We meet at Grand View Lodge on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Upcoming meeting dates are: September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14. We usually adjourn around 10:00 a.m.

BACK ROW, L-R: Jay Chaney, John Ingleman, Chuck Herrig, Steve Alex, Bob Toborg, Uldis Birznieks, Kevin Egan, Marv Meyer. **FRONT ROW, L-R:** Arla Johnson, Rosemary Goff, Linda Harrier and Sheila Johnson.

NOTPICTURED: Robert Eliason

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NEW SUITE OF RESEARCH ON AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS KICKS OFF

Starting this summer, MAISRC researcher Dr. Dan Larkin is launching new research on four invasive plants of great concern in Minnesota: hydrilla, starry stonewort, curly-leaf pondweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil.

The research needed for these plants varies depending on their stages of invasion in Minnesota and what is already known about the species. Therefore, research will include:

- Hydrilla, a very harmful aquatic invasive species that is present in the U.S. but not yet in Minnesota. Because we don't know if it can survive in Minnesota's climate, our research team will perform ecological modeling and conduct laboratory growth experiments to test its limits.
- Starry stonewort, Minnesota's newest invader, shows preference for some lake environmental conditions over others. Researchers will apply this knowledge to predict which Minnesota lakes are most at risk of this invasive algae surviving and expanding should it be introduced. In the lab, we will test how long this species' fragments and reproductive structures can remain viable out of water to understand risk of overland spread by boaters. Finally, we will test the efficacy and selectivity of different herbicides to control starry stonewort where it has invaded.
- Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil, two of Minnesota's most established and long-researched invasive plants. Our ability to effectively control these species and to support the recovery of native plants is still limited. In partnership with MAISRC's citizen-science program, this research will conduct new field work and analyze existing

datasets to improve our understanding of factors that drive invasion of these species and influence the effectiveness of management efforts. Additionally, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, researchers will conduct lab work, research on phenology, and testing of growth rates and competitive interactions between native, Eurasian, and hybrid milfoils.

As part of this program, Dr. Larkin recently convened a group of international experts at the University of Minnesota to identify knowledge gaps and research priorities for preventing and managing invasion by starry stonewort. The group included scientists and resource managers from the New York Botanical Garden, Central Michigan University, UW-Stevens Point, the Minnesota DNR, and the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

"A lot is still unknown about this invasive algae," said Larkin. "In order for MAISRC to support sound, science-based management, it was critical that we synthesize what is and is not known about this new invader." If you missed it, you can watch a recording of the webinar here.

Aquatic invasive plants can form dense mats on the surface of lakes and rivers, reducing space and light available to other plant species. This can lower native plant diversity, reduce habitat quality for fish and other animals, and change the way lakes function. They can also interfere with boating, recreation, and other human uses. Learn more about these plants and our research here.

<http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/new-plantsresearch>

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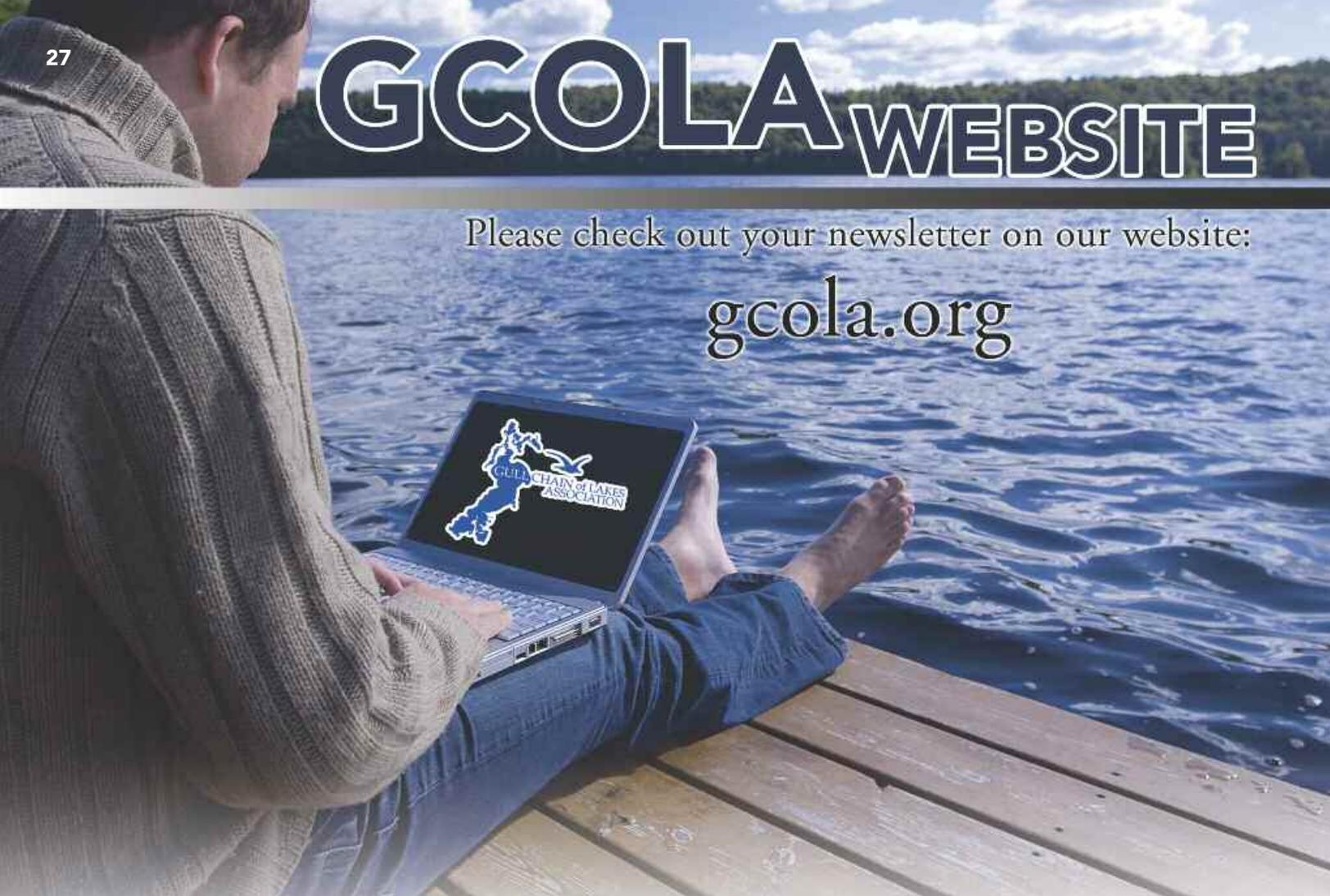
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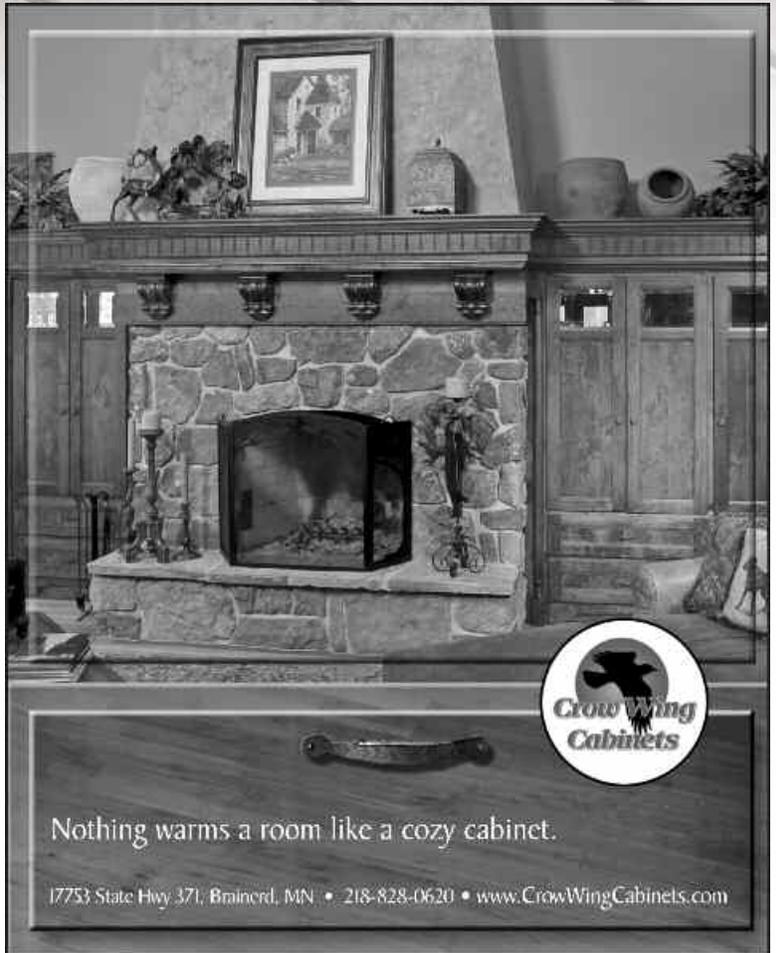
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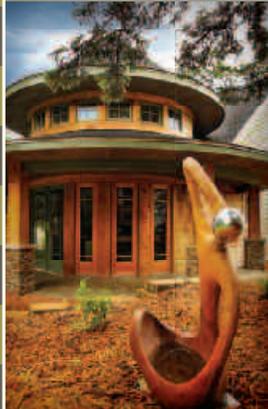
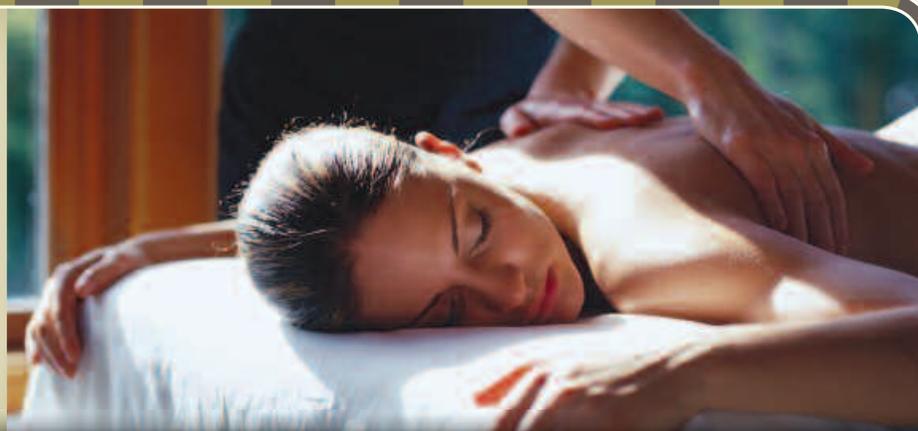
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EMAILS WANTED

GCOLA periodically e-mails to members information about news or events of interest regarding the Gull Chain or lakes and rivers issues. If you want to be on that list contact Rosemary Goff at togogt@charter.net. Also, the list contains e-mails that are no longer valid so please update if you are no longer receiving e-mails.



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John & Debra Hillstrom, Gull

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is an alliance of individuals, families and business owners in the Gull Chain of Lakes in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The Association is devoted to the restoration and continued preservation of the highest water quality and environmental standards achievable, promotion of the responsible use of land and water resources and recreational safety on the Gull chain of lakes.



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GULL LAKE PROFILES

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PLM has locations in four states including North Carolina, South Carolina, Minnesota and Michigan. PLM offers the highest educated team of experts in the aquatic plant management industry. We employ degreed personnel in Business Management, Natural Resource Management, Fisheries Management, Biology and Communication. Our shared resources allow PLM to offer the most advanced expertise available. We are members of the Better Business Bureau, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation, the Midwest Aquatic Plant Management Society and the National Aquatic Plant Management Society.

Looking closer to home, PLM has been servicing the state of Minnesota for nearly 11 years. PLM Minnesota works with Individual Homeowners, Lake Associations, Lake Improvement Districts, Municipalities and Government Agencies. PLM has three major sections in our season which typically begins in April. We begin with Curly Leaf Pondweed which is also maintained on Margaret Lake by PLM, Eurasian Watermilfoil control follows closely and lastly Individual Homeowner programs. PLM Minnesota has also partnered with the Gull Chain of Lakes Association to do both public and private access site monitoring. These types of surveys allow GCOLA and PLM to monitor for any new Aquatic Invasive Species as access sites may often times be the host for new AIS to arrive.

PLM is excited to see the growth not only in our location but nationwide. We are looking forward to another great season servicing our nation's most valuable resource.

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GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which means that all money donated by you over and above the \$50 dues amount is tax deductible. If you have not sent in your dues for this year, now is a great time to do so. Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated. You can get membership forms on our website at: gcola.org. Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

PLEASE USE THIS FORM: Please provide the information requested below and send with your 2016 dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

2016 dues: \$50.00

Additional donation designated to:

+ Invasive Species Fund _____ + Endowment Fund _____ + Buoy Fund _____ + Board Discretion

= Total Contribution: _____

**PLEASE JOIN THE
GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION**

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Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

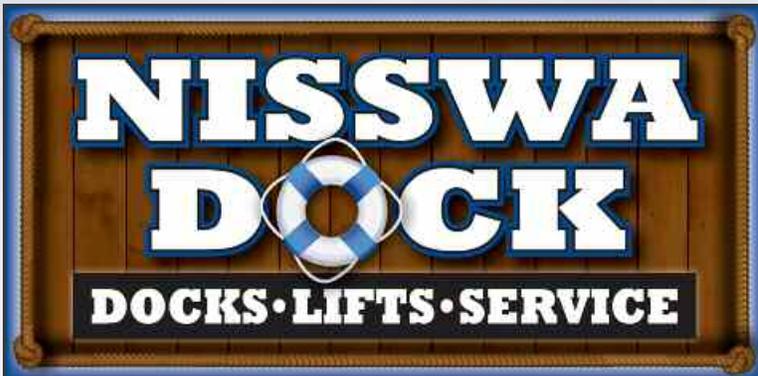
LAKE PRINTING CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Lakes Printing in Brainerd is the only business that is allowed access to our Association member list and only for the purpose of mailing our newsletter. They have issued the following confidentiality policy.

We have a strict policy of confidentiality. We will not sell, trade, swap or in any other way use your list for anything except mailing your newsletter. We understand fully that you are the owner of the list and we simply have an electronic copy on our system for your use. This policy is not just for the Gull Chain of Lakes Association, it is applied to all customers.



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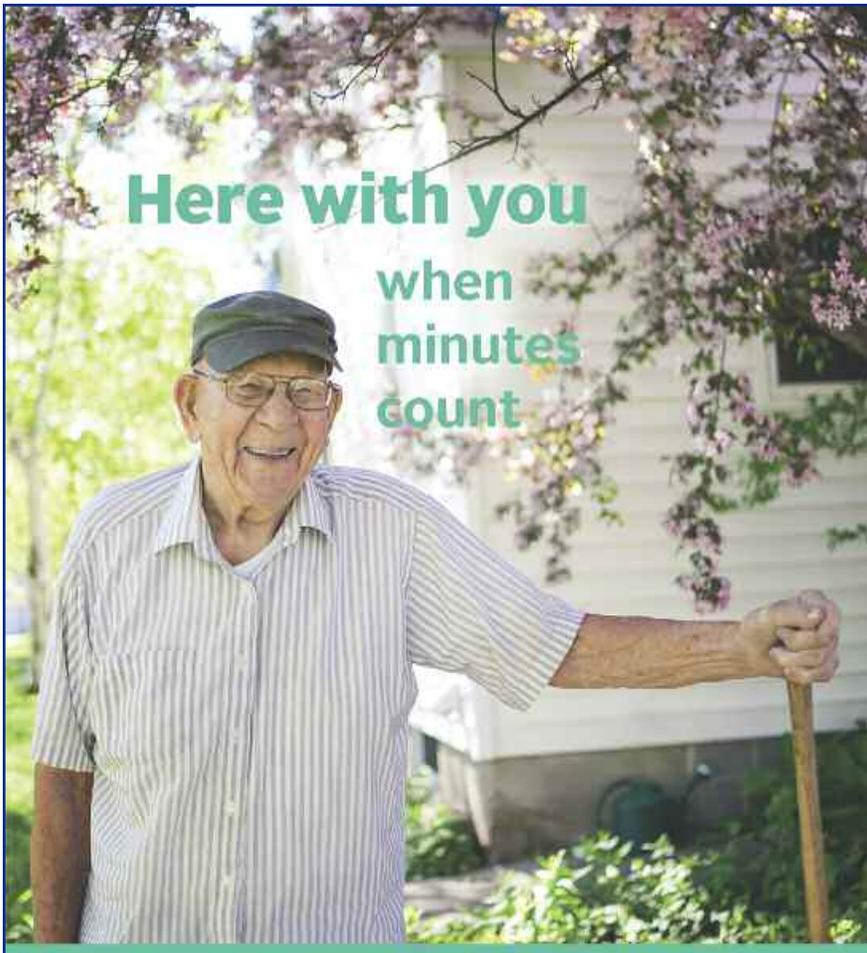
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