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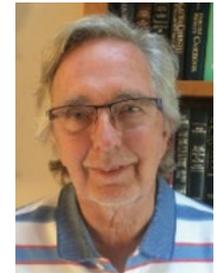
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You are always welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Grand View Lodge in the Board Room within the Norway Center.



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I have just completed my first quarter as GCOLA Chair and to say the least, it's been busy with lots of new things to learn. The Finance Committee successfully completed an audit for the years 2019 and 2020. I think the most significant activities surrounded our committee structure and chairmanships.

First, with Chuck Herrig leaving the board, we had to find a replacement for the Fisheries Committee. As we only have nine board members, we decided to look outside our organization for a chair. We wanted someone who is active in the Gull fishing community and that has a passion for the sport. We turned to our MN DNR Fisheries partner Marc Bacigalupi for possible recommendations, and he came through! We're very happy to announce that Matt Etzell has agreed to chair the Fisheries Committee. This committee will continue to focus on stocking possibilities in cooperation with Marc and topics related to keeping our lakes healthy for sustainable fishing.

Over the last year, the subject areas under the Environmental Committee have grown significantly and as a result we reorganized it into three separate committees.

- The Lake Steward Committee will focus on both Lake Steward and Shoreline Restoration programs plus include our annual Tree Giveaway. This committee will be chaired by Dorothy Whitmer who is the creator of the Lake Steward program which is now being adopted by other organizations within Minnesota
- The Loon Preservation Committee will coordinate our existing loon programs (loon surveys, "Get the Lead Out," Safe Boating, etc.). This will be chaired by Sheila

Johnston who will also be our representative for the MN Loon Restoration Project as well as several other state and national loon efforts. Loons have been her passion and we are delighted that she will be helping GCOLA in these efforts.

- The Environmental Committee will continue to be chaired by Robert Eliason. He will continue his committee's efforts on water quality such as the End of Dock and Citizen Lake Monitoring. In addition, he will add Light Pollution and Land Development projects as they relate to water quality and protecting our chain of lakes.

These new committees join the other current GCOLA committees to advance the goals of GCOLA and its members. Those committee chairs who are not board members will become advisory board members. Contact information for each of them is listed on the first page of the newsletter along with board members. They are always looking for volunteers to assist with these important efforts, so let them know if you'd like to help!

I hope you enjoy the remaining months of fall and had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. As this issue arrives winter (at least on the calendar) is knocking on our door. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and I hope you can get out to enjoy our lakes in the snow!

Finally, I want to thank you for your continued support. GCOLA enjoyed another successful year as we all move toward a more "normal" life. Best wishes as we close out 2021 and open the door to an even better 2022!

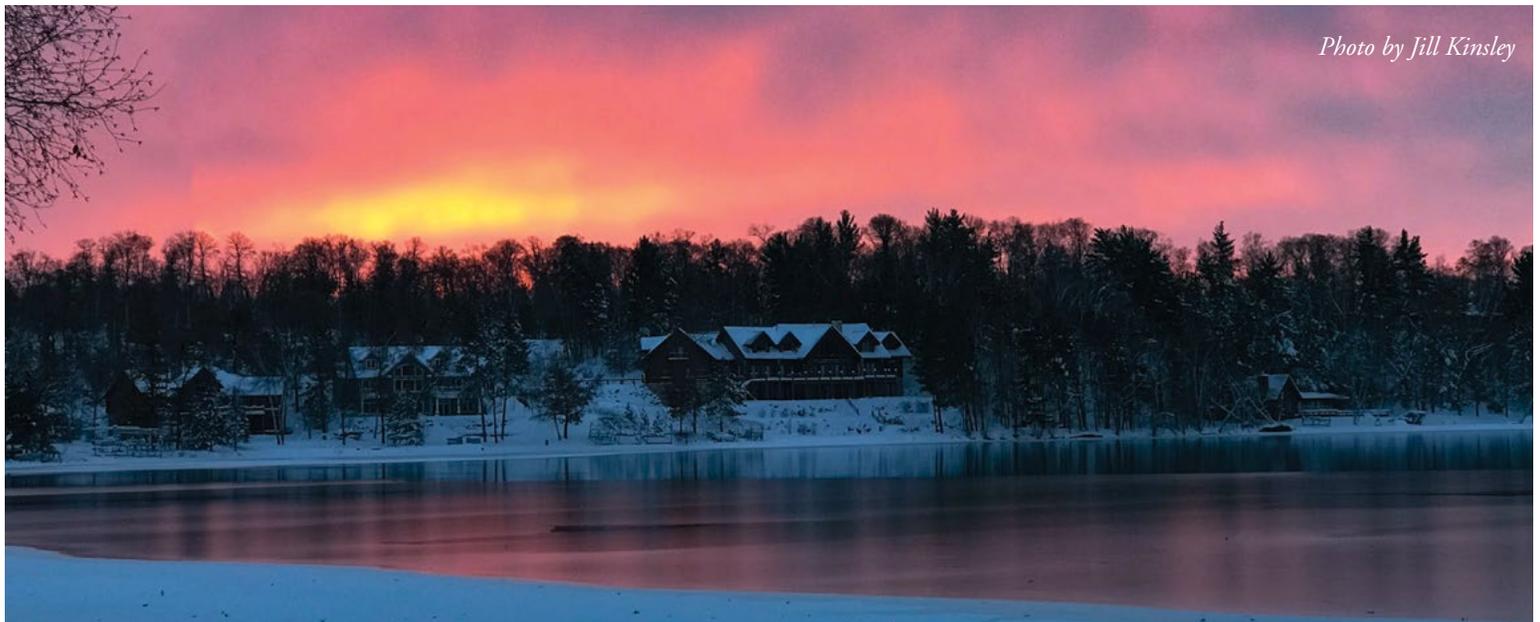


Photo by Jill Kinsley

CONGRATULATIONS LAKE STEWARDS

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR LAKES!



Jane and John Witmer



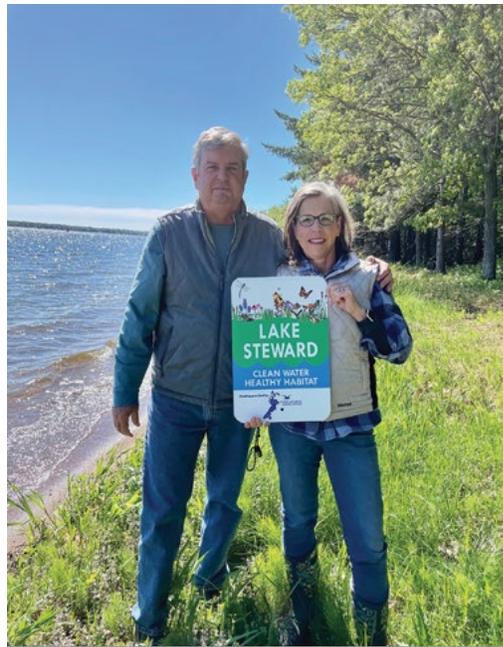
*Trish Van Pilsum
(Paul Rasmussen not pictured)*



*Jennifer Hagerty (Richard not pictured)
with Shannon and Caden, and canine
friend Moon Lake*



*Pearl Geiger, granddaughter of
Gary & Nancy Geiger, Niece of
Tom, and Cindy Geiger*



John and Cathy Spicola



*Left to right, Sarah Mader (Brian), Miles and Elizabeth Mader,
Mary and Dave Hennies, Soren, and Rachel Hennies (Michael).*

YOU CAN BE A LAKE STEWARD, TOO!

Go to gcola.org, click **Get Involved**, click **Lake Steward**, and click **Click Here** to Take the Quiz!
The lakes will thank you.

New ice is usually stronger than old ice.

Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly.

It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous.

This is especially true near streams, bridges, and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.

The extra weight also reduces how much weight the ice sheet can support. Also, ice near shore can be weaker than ice that is farther out.

Booming and cracking ice isn't necessarily dangerous.

It only means that the ice is expanding and contracting as the temperature changes.

Schools of fish or flocks of waterfowl can also adversely affect the relative safety of ice.

The movement of fish can bring warm water up from the bottom of the lake. In the past, this has opened holes in the ice causing snowmobiles and cars to break through.

For more information on ice safety contact the MN DNR and ask for free ice safety publications, which include the brochures, "Danger, Thin Ice" and "Cold Water Kills" and the wallet-sized reference card and 11X14 posters titled, "Minimum Recommended Ice Thicknesses." Metro (651) 296-6157 or toll free outside the metro area 1-888-646-6367 or email the Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Website (online). Accessed Nov. 16, 2021, at mndnr.gov/copyright
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155-4046



The infographic features a blue background with a white horizontal line representing the ice surface. Below the line, four blue rectangular blocks of increasing height represent different ice thickness levels. Above each block, an illustration shows a person in a red jacket kneeling, a person in an orange jacket using a snow machine, a purple snowmobile, a red sedan, and a black pickup truck. Below the blocks, the text '4" 5-7" 8-12" 12-15"' is written in large yellow font. Below that, 'MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE' is written in smaller yellow font. At the bottom, 'Ice is never 100% safe!' is written in large white font.

4" 5-7" 8-12" 12-15"
MINIMUM GUIDELINES FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE
Ice is never 100% safe!

2021 LOON REPORT



Photo by Sheila Farrell Johnston

*Juvenile loon on Upper Gull in November.
This is the only Upper Gull chick that survived the season.*

2021 proved to be another challenging season for loons on the Gull Lake Chain. Our loons are generally on the nest around May 1, and chicks typically hatch around June 1. As in 2020, black flies were again the problem. *Simulium annulus* are blood-sucking black flies that specifically attack common loons. Infestations are often worse when a cold spring is followed by a sudden warm up. They are problematic for loons for about three weeks. If a heavy infestation occurs during the incubation period, it can cause loons to abandon their nests. If the loons persist with incubation despite the relentless attacks of black flies, they face a serious threat from blood-borne parasites which could weaken them and shorten their lives.

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of volunteers, two loon surveys were conducted: the spring nest survey and the July adult and chick survey. Due to the impact of low water levels on boat access, we were unable to conduct the August/September survey of surviving chicks.



Photo by Sheila Farrell Johnston

Ole and Lena, a pair who has nested for many years on Upper Gull, feeding their newly hatched chicks

Because some loons had abandoned their nests before the nest survey dates, we extended the nest survey dates to account for second nestings that occurred after the black fly infestation had subsided. Fifteen active nests were counted. On Upper Gull, there were five mated pairs of loons. All five pairs abandoned their nests in May. Loons will often mate again after nest failure, but only three of the Upper Gull pairs mated again. One pair abandoned their second nest during the third week of incubation. The other two pairs hatched chicks around the Fourth of July, the most dangerous time for loon survival on the chain.

Ninety-three adults and 13 chicks were counted during the July survey. This is a significantly lower number of adults than were counted in the peak year of 2020, when 125 adult loons were counted. The ratio of chicks to nests was 1.1, which is consistent with the previous two years. However, this does not indicate the number of chicks that survived the season. On Upper Gull, two chicks were killed in mid-July, and an observer reported seeing them run over by a pontoon. An informal survey of surviving chicks was done in September on the northern lakes in the chain, and one chick survived on Lake Margaret, one chick on Upper Gull, and one chick on Roy Lake.

Death by watercraft is one of the leading causes of loon mortality and boating cautiously near both adults and chicks is imperative. Loon parents will not dive if they are protecting chicks, and heavy high-speed boat traffic puts both adults and chicks in frequent danger. Refraining from setting off fireworks over the water where there are loons in the area, using lead-free fishing tackle, picking up broken fishing line, and preserving and restoring natural shorelines are actions we can take to protect our loons. Let's give these actions our best effort so that loons can thrive on the Gull Lake Chain!



Photo by Sheila Farrell Johnston

*Ole yodeling a warning to a boat that has come too close.
Only male loons yodel.*

Lake	Counts	Year 2014	Year 2015	Year 2016	Year 2017	Year 2018	Year 2019	Year 2020	Year 2021
Nisswa									
Spring	Nests	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	1
Summer	Adults	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Summer	Chicks	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Fall	Juveniles						1	0	
Roy									
Spring	Nests	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Summer	Adults	7	6	4	9	4	10	6	2
Summer	Chicks	1	3	2	2	2	3	4	1
Fall	Juveniles						0	4	
Bass/Spider									
Spring	Nests	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	1
Summer	Adults	4	3	4	2	4	7	2	3
Summer	Chicks	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	0
Fall	Juveniles						0	1	
Upper Gull									
Spring	Nests	2	3	2	3	3	4	5	5
Summer	Adults	6	9	8	9	8	9	12	10
Summer	Chicks	1	6	2	2	5	2	2	1
Fall	Juveniles					2	2		
Margaret									
Spring	Nests	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	1
Summer	Adults	4	2	2	4	3	6	3	4
Summer	Chicks	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	1
Fall	Juveniles						0	0	
Gull									
Spring	Nests	7	6	5	4	3	8	6	5
Summer	Adults	29	54	49	81	49	73	98	68
Summer	Chicks	6	8	11	7	9	7	7	8
Fall	Juveniles						6	7	
Love									
Spring	Nests	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Summer	Adults	6	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Summer	Chicks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fall	Juveniles						0	0	
Green									
Spring	Nests				1	0	0	0	0
Summer	Adults					0		2	2
Summer	Chicks					0		2	2
Fall	Juveniles					0	0		
Totals									
	Nests	14	17	11	15	11	14	14	15
Summer	Adults	58	76	68	106	70	109	125	93
Summer	Chicks	9	18	17	13	21	15	16	13
Fall	Chicks/Nest	0.6	1.0	1.5	0.9	1.9	1.1	1.1	1.1
	Juveniles						12	14	

MATCHING VOLUNTEERS WITH PROJECTS

When joining GCOLA, many of our members have checked several areas of interest in which they may have the time and talents to engage on projects. The GCOLA communications committee is developing an on-line survey tool using Google Forms to understand your areas of most interest and to see how your talents can be best matched with projects we have underway throughout the year.

Once our survey is finalized, we will reach out to you over email and look for a good match in areas where you initially expressed interest . Once we have identified a match, one of the committee chairs may contact you to further describe a volunteer need.

It usually doesn't require a big-time commitment and working on a project to protect our Gull chain and surrounding habitat can be very rewarding. We look forward to connecting further and working together!

END-OF-DOCK ANNUAL REPORT

*Robert Eliason,
Environmental Committee Chair*

One measure of the health of our lakes is the concentration of phosphorus in the water. Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient that determines the amount of aquatic plant, especially algae, growth in the lake. Our members have been collecting samples to analyze for phosphorus for seven years. This year, sixty members participated in the program!

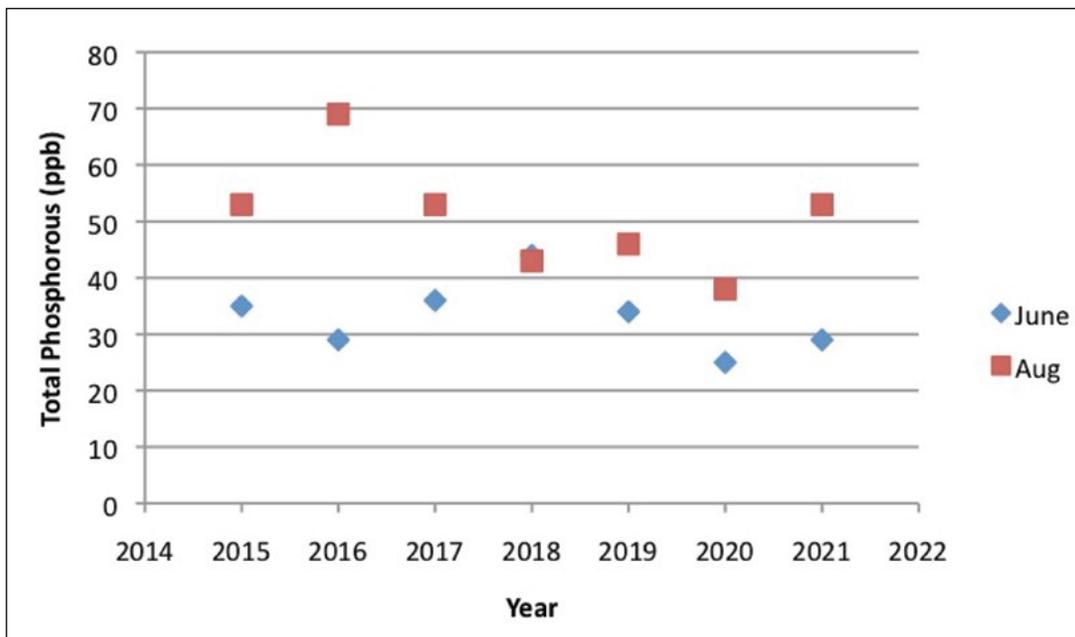
The results for Lake Margaret are shown in the graph. It appears that there is more phosphorus in the water in August than in June. A possible explanation is that boat traffic is stirring up the bottom sediment. When the sediment is re-suspended by prop-wash, phosphorus attached to the sediment particles

can dissolve in the water. This would increase the phosphorus concentration.

The graphs for the following lakes can be seen on our website (www.gcola.org): Bass, Gull, Nisswa, Roy, and Upper Gull. All the data is in an Excel file, and if you would like to see it, email me at: gcola.endofdock@gmail.com.

Samplers are always needed, especially for the smaller lakes. Please volunteer by contacting me at gcola.endofdock@gmail.com.

Lake Margaret



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*Claudia Allene,
Membership Committee Chair*

Communities play an important role in every aspect of our lives. Having a sense of community unites us and can give us opportunities to connect with people from our area. With so many isolated during COVID, many changes have prompted people to reconsider the significance of neighborhood, bringing the concept of ‘meaningful belonging’ back into the spotlight.

With this thought in mind, as chair of the membership committee, I will be implementing a new “Lake Ambassador Program” in the Spring of 2022. My goal is to one day have ALL lakeshore residents members of GCOLA so that we can continue to provide education, shoreline restoration, buoy safety, maintain water quality, and fight off invasive species. All of these goals and efforts undertaken by our association have a direct and immediate impact on our day to day use and enjoyment of the entire Gull Lake chain and your property value as a lake homeowner. The GCOLA board is willing to do the work if we have the financial support of the residents, but I need your help to develop this program.

As a “Lake Ambassador” you could serve as a friendly reminder to inspire and motivate your friends, neighbors, and local business owners to help support the efforts of GCOLA. Because our area has so many new families moving here, Lake

Ambassadors can provide useful information about our lake and GCOLA, plus it’s a great way to meet your neighbors! It’s easy! All that is required is that you become a proud supporter of the GCOLA effort and let your neighbors know. As we like to say, “Proud and Loud!”

I have been a part of the Gull Lake community all my life. It is dear to my heart, and I want to protect it from the environmental changes that could interfere with our enjoyment. Do you feel the same way? Luckily, there is a group of like-minded residents who feel passionate enough to invest their own time to meet the challenges we face. This dedicated group is GCOLA. With your support you can help strengthen our efforts towards our common goal to protect and keep the Gull Chain of Lakes safe and beautiful for generations to come. Help me spread the word and generate memberships in your neighborhood. I urge you to help develop this new program by joining me and become a Lake Ambassador today.

For more information and how to get involved, please contact me at (218) 513-8922 or ClaudiaAroundTheWorld@gmail.com

Photo by Mary Gibson





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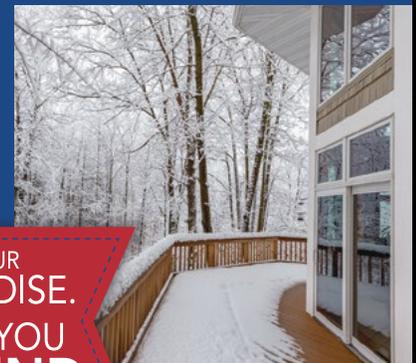
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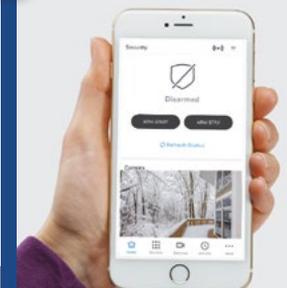
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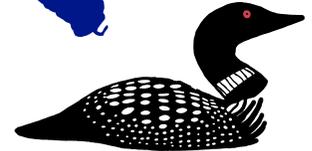
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Advocate for lake issues with state legislators
- Interface with county, city, and township governments
- Share with neighboring lake associations



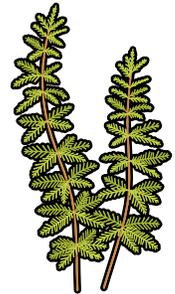
YOUR SAFETY & ENJOYMENT

- 110 navigational buoys across the Gull Lake Chain
- Boat Safety classes 75+ kids
- Partner with local sheriff departments



OUR ENVIRONMENT

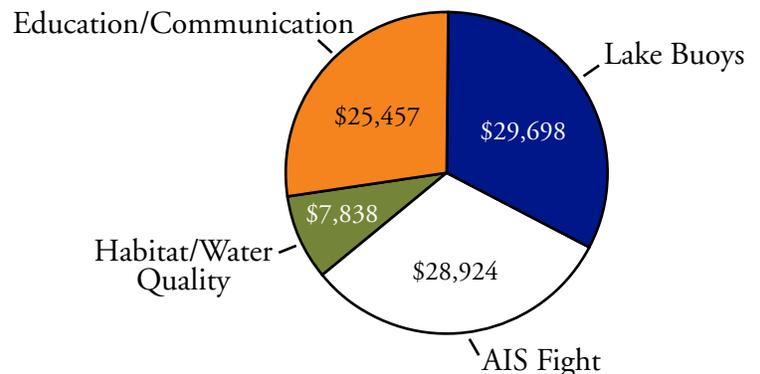
- Loon population surveys
- Shoreline protection and enhancement programs
- Water quality monitoring



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

- Monitor & treat AIS through lake surveys and spraying
- Augment funding for boat inspections/decontaminations
- Financially support the U of M AIS Research Center

WHAT IT COSTS ANNUALLY



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



Photo by MAISRC

In August of 2021, we held Starry Trek across the state of Minnesota (our fifth annual event!), and it was once again a huge success for early detection and monitoring efforts. On Saturday, August 21, 206 volunteers gathered at rendezvous sites throughout the state and searched a total of 281 public accesses on 222 water bodies for starry stonewort and other AIS.

No new starry stonewort discoveries were made during Starry Trek this year (yay!). Volunteers did manage to uncover a few other aquatic invasive species during the event. In Dakota County, volunteers found a new population of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in Thompson Lake. In Sherburne County, volunteers found live freshwater golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) in another inland Minnesota Lake, Big Lake. While dead, empty shells had previously been found in Big Lake. This is the first time we've been able to document a living clam in that water body (and the second documented occurrence of living *Corbicula* in an inland Minnesota lake). Last year, the first case of live *Corbicula* in an inland Minnesota lake was discovered by a young participant that has led to a MAISRC rapid response project. Starry Trek volunteers also reported numerous new observations of Chinese and banded mystery snails, further improving our knowledge of the distributions of these species.

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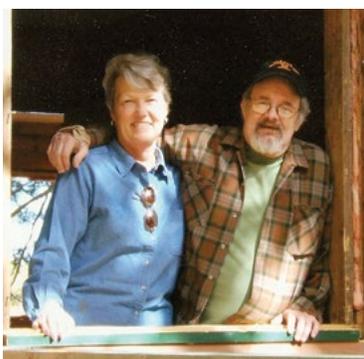
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Susan & Doug Arndt	Gull
Karen Barnes	Gull
Richard & Beth Barnett	Nisswa
Kathryn & James Bishop BS Gull Lake LLC	
Gregory & Kimberly Cameron.....	Nisswa
Craig & Laurie Campbell.....	Gull
Robert & Christine Cochran.....	Roy
Timothy Commers.....	Gull
DKPA Rental LLC.....	Gull
Daryl & Judith Durum	Gull
Jon & Michelle Engstrand.....	Gull
Dennis Gerber.....	Gull
Chad & Andrea Gossard	Roy
Green Valley Associates Cole Hanson and Zorbaz on Gull Lake Real Estate Inc	Upper Gull
Jennifer Hicks	
Todd & Lorri Jennings	
Jones Black Bear Lodge LLC	Gull
Scott & Ann Kennedy.....	Gull
Rich & Elizabeth Kleber and Starry Pines LLC ..	Margaret
David & Jen Kretsch	Gull
Ronald Lillestrand.....	Upper Gull
Steven & Gloria Long	Spider
David & Amy Lui	
Kris & Stacia Martin	Gull
Todd & Erin Milburn	Upper Gull
Virginia Mulcahy	Gull
William & Kathryn Murtha.....	Roy
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Pine Beach Lake Home Trustee LLC	Gull
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Michael & Lynn Smith	Gull
Keith Soderlund and Julie Brooks	
Brad & Jean Sorenson	Gull
Corey & Rhonda Topp.....	Upper Gull
Twin City Garage Door Company	
Heath & Amy Walker	Gull
Michelle Weber	Upper Gull
Pam Westman	Gull
Tad & Tracy Wikstrom.....	Roy
Craig & Kristy Wilfahrt	Gull
Robert & Jill Zimmer.....	Gull

GCOLA PROFILE



LINDA HARRIER, GCOLA CHAIR

What does it mean to be “living the dream”? To be honest, in the 1980’s I didn’t expect it to be the Brainerd Lakes Area, but that’s what it turned out to be and I couldn’t be happier. Fishing, golf, boating are my three favorite things, and they don’t get any better than here.

The first sixty years of my life were spent primarily in the Twin Cities area. My first introduction to the Lakes area was attending Camp Lake Hubert. After that I remember staying with my parents at Grand View and playing the Brainerd golf course that, as I remember, had sand greens! I grew up in and graduated from St. Louis Park in 1965. I married my husband Bruce Harrier in 1976 and it was his family that had the property on Bass Lake that we have been lucky enough to

inherit. It was then that I fell in love with the Gull Lake area, first doing the weekend migrations every Friday and then, thanks to the Internet, we were able to build the home of our dreams in 2007 while continuing my technology sales career. I have gained a true appreciation of the many resources we have here on the Gull Lake Chain and how they need to be protected.

In 2014 I joined the GCOLA board, but at the time I did not really appreciate all that they did. I was fortunate to participate in the 2015 Strategic Planning sessions where we formalized GCOLA’s objectives and created a plan with defined goals and implementation plans. This is when our committee structure began, and it has served us well over the years.

I am honored that I was asked to assume the position of Chair of the board on the resignation of Chuck Herrig. I’m hoping I can continue the positive impacts that GCOLA has had, in addition to making recommendations that address changes in our environment – both human and Mother Nature.

ADOPT-A-BUOY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Joel Meyer, Safety & Recreation Committee

If you are out of ideas for what to get loved ones for Christmas or you would like to adopt a buoy this can be a great conversation starter during the holidays.

Under the Adopt-a-Buoy program, buoys can be sponsored:

- As a memorial, or for a birthday or anniversary
- Adopted by a family,
- To advertise a business

The cost of adopting is \$500 for five years, which is the association's cost to purchase and maintain a buoy and its light. Maintenance includes installation, removal, and replacement of a buoy if hit or destroyed by a boater. The buoys are placed

as near as possible to the desired location of the sponsor. This is a great way of supporting GCOLA and our buoy program.

Please consider being part of the Adopt-a-Buoy program, discuss it around the holidays. Deadline to make sure your buoy is identified with a nameplate for the 2022 boating season is February 1, 2022. Any time after that, the nameplate may be attached once the buoy is installed for the season. All sponsorships are on a first come basis.

Contact:

Joel Meyer joel.meyer@mnpapamurphys.net

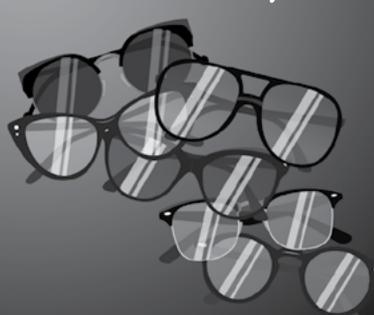
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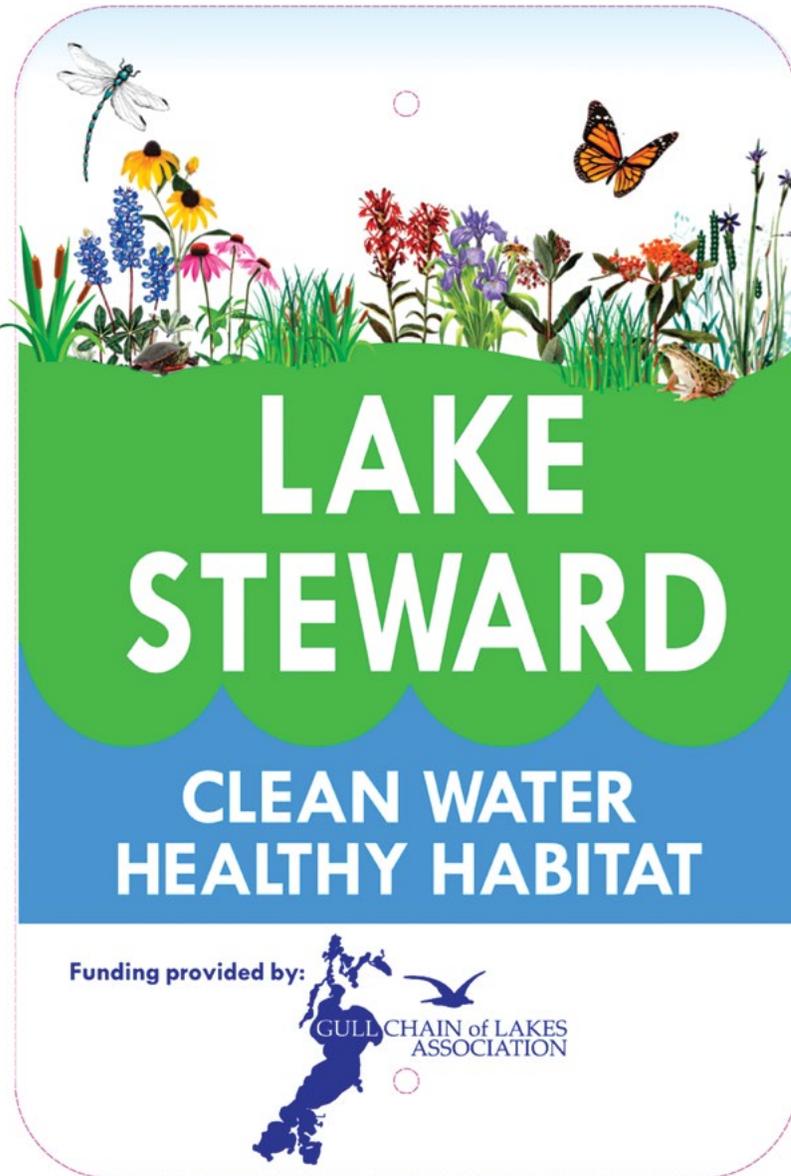
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LAKE STEWARD “TURNS 100”!

*Dorothy Whitmer,
Lake Steward Committee Chair*

Thank you, over 100 families who welcomed GCOLA Lake Steward for site visits on their property on the Gull Lake Chain! Congratulations to our 63 Lake Stewards (blue pointers), 27 of whom made changes such as removing invasive plants, growing buffer zones, and eliminating fertilizer and pesticides, to earn the GCOLA Lake Steward Award and protect two and a half miles of Gull Lake Chain lakeshore. And a special thanks to our 45 candidates (orange) who opened their properties to us and are also striving to become Lake Stewards to protect our lakes. MPCA 2020 data on runoff into the Gull Lake Chain shows that if we can make these changes together, we can ensure that our water quality is sustainable into the future, and more resistant to invasive species. Go to gcola.org, click **Get Involved**, click **Lake Steward** and click **Click Here** to take the Quiz to get started. You can't imagine the reward.



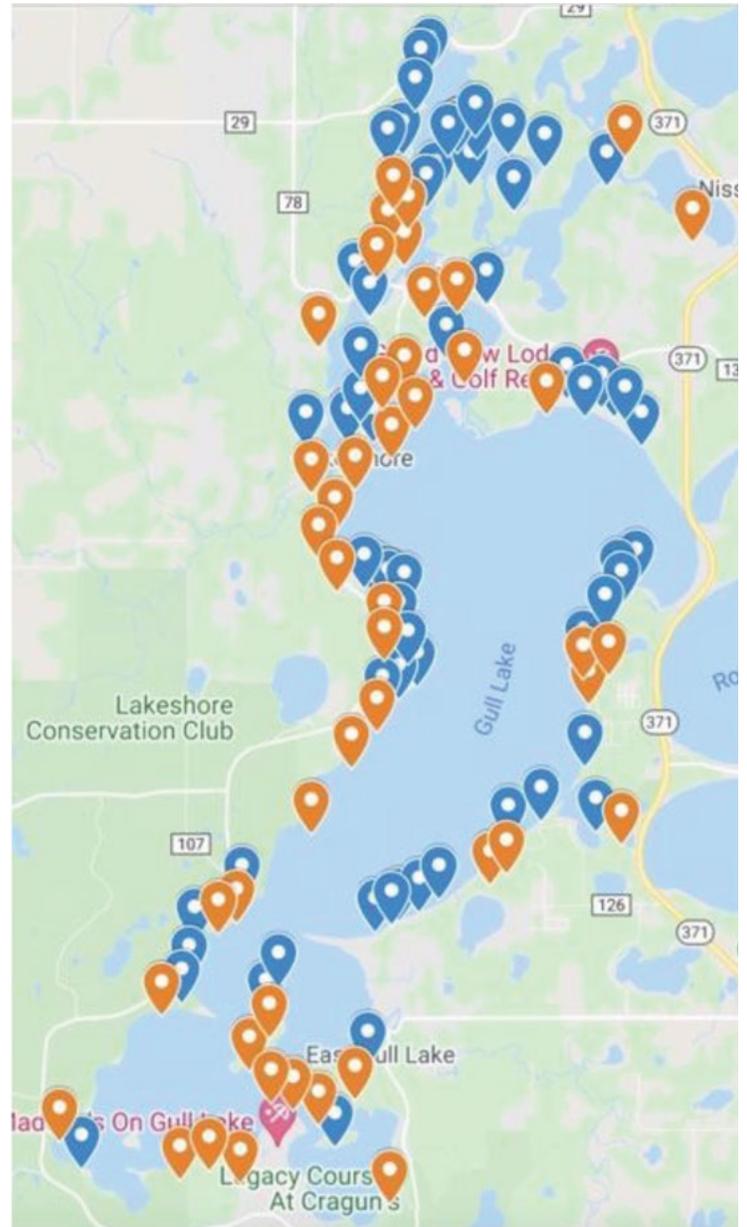
**LAKE
STEWARD**

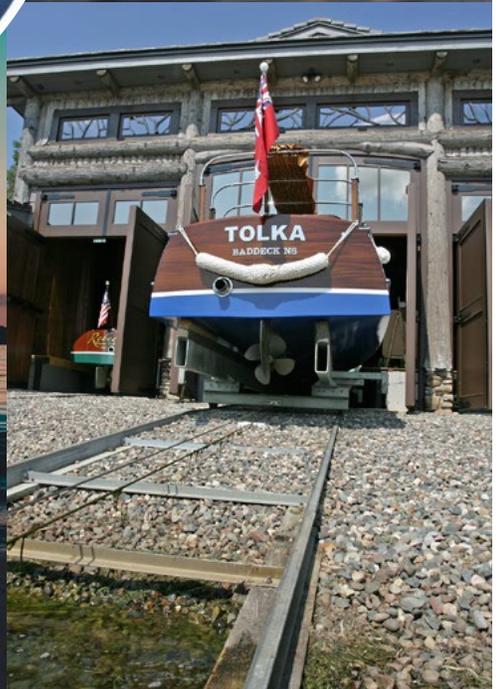
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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Steve Frawley,
Government Relations Committee Chair*

The government relations committee, chaired by Steve Frawley, is pleased to add new members.

The most recent additions are Tim Thoele and Lorraine Birskovich.

Tim Thoele and his wife Patricia have a cabin on Gull Lake. Tim currently works as a Financial Advisor for The Principal Group in the Twin Cities.

Lorraine Birskovich had her first visit to the north shore of Gull Lake in 1972 and moved there full time in 2008. She is a retired physician who loves nature and the outdoors.

Another member, Jon Mendel, was announced in the Fall 2021 issue of our newsmagazine and is also a new member of the GCOLA board.

One continuing member is Steve Katka. Steve joined the committee in October of 2020. He is CEO/General Manager of Albany Telephone Company located in Albany, MN where he resides with his wife Kathy. Steve and Kathy also enjoy being at their home on Gull Lake and hope to spend much more time there in the not-too-distant future.

Welcome to these volunteers and we appreciate their efforts in the outreach and advocacy they do on behalf of GCOLA.



Tim Thoele



Lorraine Birskovich



Steve Katka

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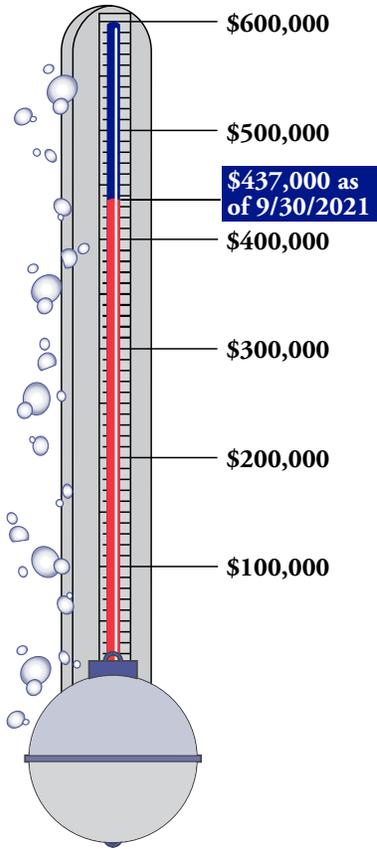
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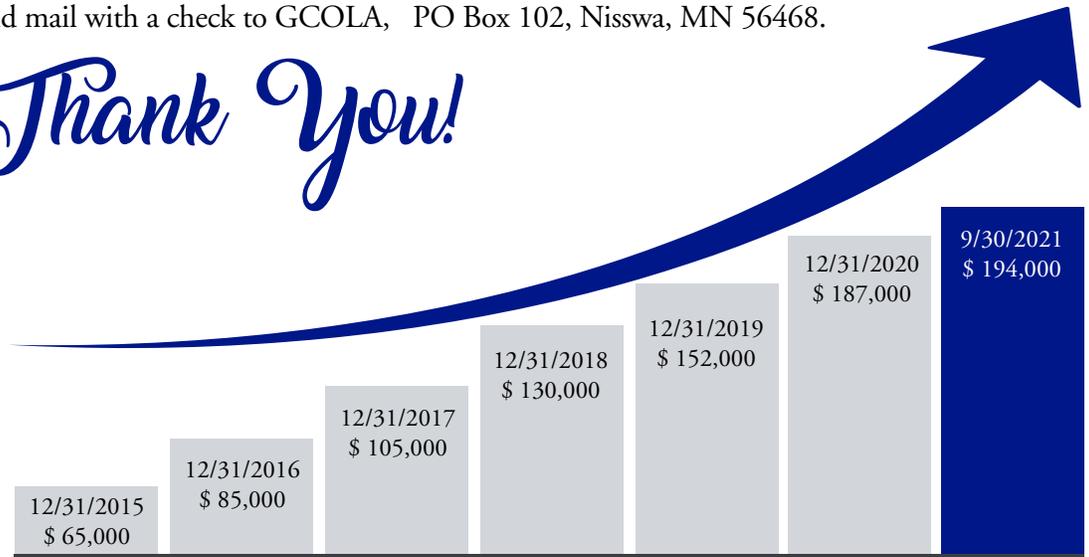


In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA established a perpetual Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund to provide long term funding to preserve and improve the ecosystem of the Gull Lake Chain. To donate, make checks payable to the Initiative Foundation, with Gull Chain Fund in the memo line, and mail to the Initiative Foundation, 405 First St SE, Little Falls, MN 56345.

AIS Contingency Fund

GCOLA maintains easy access to these funds in case of an AIS emergency on the Gull Lake Chain. To donate to this fund go to <https://www.gcola.org/shop>, download the donation form and mail with a check to GCOLA, PO Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468.

Thank You!



LOOKING FOR AIS VOLUNTEERS!

Rick Quackenbush, AIS Committee Chair

As the new chair of the AIS committee, I took the AIS Detector program which was very interesting and valuable in learning how to locate and identify different aquatic invasive species. The information about this course, which will be offered Spring of 2022, can be located at <https://maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors>. The website describes the course as “an introduction to aquatic invasive species science, identification, and surveillance. You will learn how to report invasive species, best practices for preventing the spread of AIS, relevant rules and regulations, and how to search for invasive species on your own.” Ideally GCOLA needs at least one AIS detector for each lake. If you are interested in taking the free class, please contact info@gcola.org.

I'm looking for additional volunteers to help with various AIS projects throughout the year or to become a member of GCOLA's AIS committee. Please contact me, Rick Quackenbush at rwq1946@gmail.com if you're interested in this important work.



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2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID #41-1272492. Dues are \$50 per year and any contributions above the dues are greatly appreciated.

Please use this form and mail your dues to GCOLA, PO Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468 -or- log in to our website at <https://www.gcola.org/shop> to pay with your credit or debit card.

If you are unsure if you are current with your dues, call Sue Friedrichs at 612-751-6156 or send an email to info@gcola.org to find out.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER

2022 Gull Chain of Lakes Association Dues (January 1 to December 31) \$50.00

Additional Donation (Optional)

\$_____Aquatic Invasive Species Expenses \$_____Endowment Fund \$_____Buoy Expenses \$_____Board Discretion

Please keep my additional donation(s) anonymous

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Please contact me/us via email regarding the following volunteer opportunities:

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Loon Programs: Get the Lead Out Event Nest and Population Surveys

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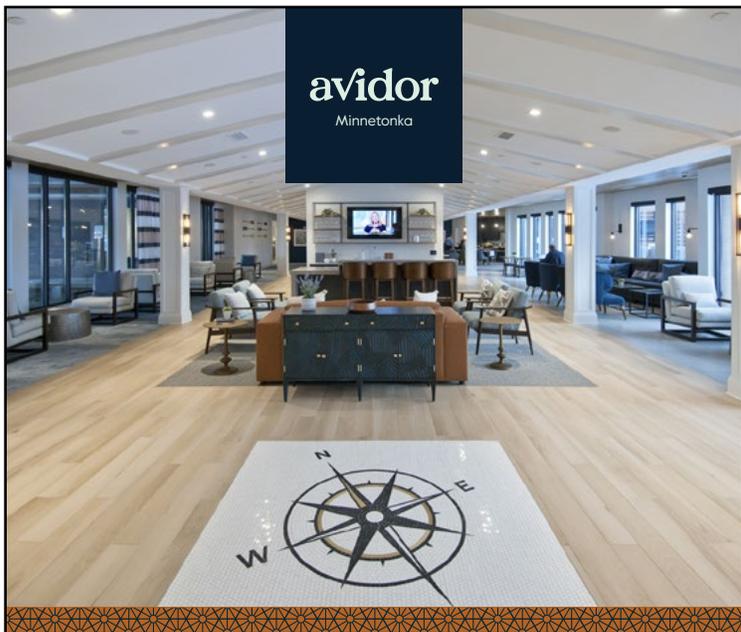


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FASTEST GROWING WASTE COLLECTION BUSINESS IN "THE LAKES AREA"

HELP! Our driveway is a bobsled run! The weather during the night was awful - a little freezing rain then a couple of inches of snow on top. Our driveway has a hill in it. We had an early appointment. As we started down the hill, we were suddenly in an enclosed bobsled. Out of control. Heading towards a car-swallowing snowbank. At the last moment, the car turned, and we were off to our appointment. We had survived another Minnesota adventure with an ice-coated driveway and sidewalk.

Our sidewalk, driveway, and turn-around area have all too frequently become a skating rink. I have a couple of methods to deal with this situation. My first choice is sand because it is the most environmentally friendly. Kitty litter is also good as it is just clay. On the hill, I usually just sand the tire tracks;

this keeps the amount of sand used low, but there have been times when sand fails me. The sun comes out and heats the sand, which melts a thin layer of ice causing the water to cover the sand. Next morning, the sand is encased in ice! Frustrating if this happens repeatedly.

This is now the time to call on my second choice - deicer! Deicers all work on the principle of lowering the temperature at which water freezes. If this temperature is lower than the outside temperature, the ice will melt. But which particular deicer would I use? There are so many choices, so it is label reading time for me.

There are three common deicer ingredients that are compounds of chloride. These three chloride compounds are environmentally unfriendly. They can kill grass, flowers, trees, and other plants. They can irritate paw pads of pets and they can turn freshwater lakes into saltwater ones, resulting in a die off of aquatic plants and animals. Once chloride is in a lake it is practically impossible to remove it.

The cheapest chloride deicer is sodium chloride also known as rock salt, water softener salt, table salt or just salt. This is the principal substance used to deice roads and to make homemade ice cream. It is slow to act if thrown on ice and works much better if there is a little water present. It will melt ice down to about 15° F. Sodium is also impossible to remove from a lake. Sodium chloride is a forever chemical.

Calcium chloride will act down to about -20° F. It works relatively fast. As the compound interacts with melted ice water, heat is produced which may help melt ice. Calcium chloride is slightly more environmentally friendly than sodium chloride because the calcium can be used by aquatic and terrestrial life.

Magnesium chloride melts ice down to about 10° F and works relatively fast. Like calcium chloride, it is slightly more environmentally friendly than sodium chloride. It also is used by aquatic and terrestrial life.

An environmentally friendly deicer is CMA, which is the compound calcium magnesium acetate. The acetate part of the compound is the active chemical in vinegar

and is biodegradable. A disadvantage with this deicer is that it works only when the temperature is above 20° F.

I minimize my use of a deicer and limit it to tire tracks for the following reason. In the spring, before the ground thaws, melt water can carry these deicers into the lake. Thus, if I used any of the chloride deicers, I would be salting the lake.

Lastly, if the label does not list the ingredient compounds, I will not buy the product. When I do an online search of these products, they inevitably contain one of the chloride compounds mentioned above. I prefer products that are upfront with the consumer.



Photo by Marian Anderson



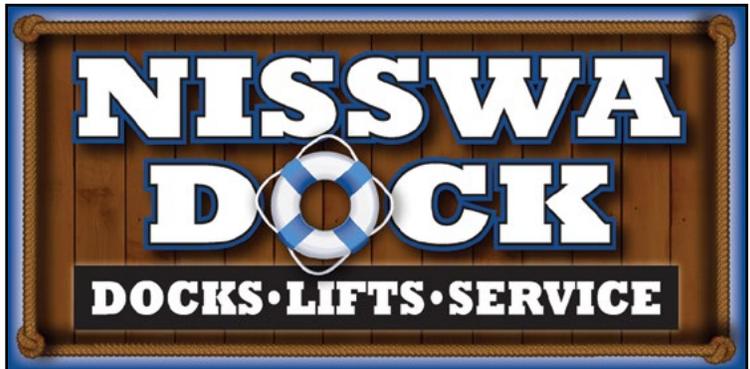
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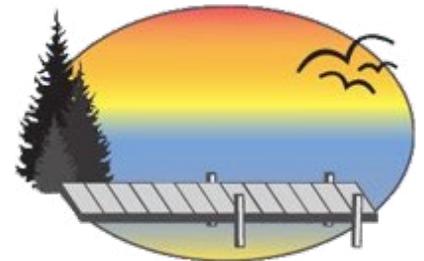
We have a strict policy of confidentiality. We will not sell, trade, swap or in any other way use your list for anything except mailing your newsletter. We understand fully that you are the owner of the list and we simply have an electronic copy on our system for your use. This policy is not just for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



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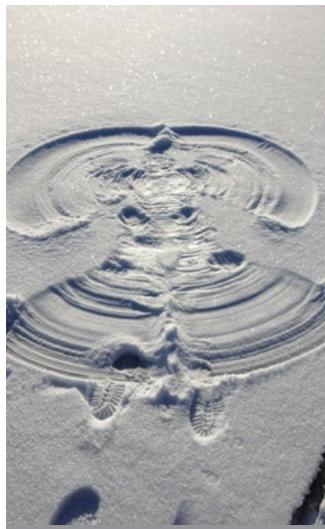


Photo by Joey Halvorson



Photo by Denise DeCarlo

Do you have photos taken around the Gull Lake Chain that you'd like to share? We always need pictures for the newsletter, website and social media. We especially have a shortage of fishing, boating and other fun activities on the lakes! You will be given credit for any photographs appearing in the newsletter and a description of the picture is helpful. Your snapshots can be sent at full size (minimum 300DPI) to Sue Friedrichs at info@gcola.org.

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- Coordinates with the City of Lake Shore Police Department to provide watercraft inspections for invasive species at the County Road 77 boat landing.
- Conducts two inspections at 24 locations to look for AIS.
- Donates annually to the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) for zebra mussel research.
- Fulfills AIS prevention needs including establishing a boat power wash station at the Gull Lake Recreation Area public access ramp managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Communications Committee

- Maintains a website (www.gcola.org), a member group email service and a Facebook page (@GullLakeChain) to provide timely communication.
- Issues four newsmagazines per year to keep members informed about association programs and important issues affecting the Gull Lake Chain.

Environmental Committee

- Monitors water quality of our lakes and stream inlets through quantitative chemical analysis. Samples are collected by GCOLA volunteers and analysis completed by a licensed environmental laboratory.
- Measures water quality during the summer by secchi disk readings taken by GCOLA volunteers.
- Promotes star gazing and northern lights viewing through educational initiatives on light pollution.

Finance/Audit Committee

- Oversees the Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund and AIS Contingency Fund which provides long term funding for stewardship activities.

Fisheries Committee

- Attends annual Avid Angler discussion led by DNR and local fishing guides and outdoor media.
- Stays informed on fishery-related research from the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center.
- Reports findings in GCOLA newsletter.

Gala Committee

- Plans and executes annual fundraising Gala, including silent auction, trip raffle, and event sponsorship.

Government Relations Committee

- Works with state legislators, the DNR, state agencies, and local government units on lake issues and concerns.

Lake Steward Committee

- Invites all lakeshore owners to Take The Quiz and receive the Lake Steward Award for managing shoreland to protect lake water quality.
- Provides funding for approved shoreland naturalization projects.
- Conducts a Tree Giveaway each spring to promote naturalization of shoreland to protect water quality.

Loon Preservation Committee

- Conducts a yearly loon count in the spring and late summer.
- Educates boaters on loon-safe boating practices.
- Promotes the Get The Lead Out loon safe-fishing program.
- Supports loon reproduction activities.

Membership Committee

- Conducts membership development programs to recruit and retain individual, family, and business memberships.

Safety & Recreation Committee

- Purchases, installs, and maintains one of the premier navigational buoy systems (90 buoys) in the State of Minnesota. We also install 20 no wake enforcement buoys for the sheriff's department.
- Provides free maps, with boating rules and regulation, at three public landings.
- Partners with Cass and Crow Wing County sheriffs to provide free boat safety training for approximately 75 youth per year.
- Works with county sheriffs on safety and enforcement issues including donations for night vision equipment, a range finder, and life jackets.

Photo by Joey Halvorson





Still playing with heart.

RHYTHM RESTORED

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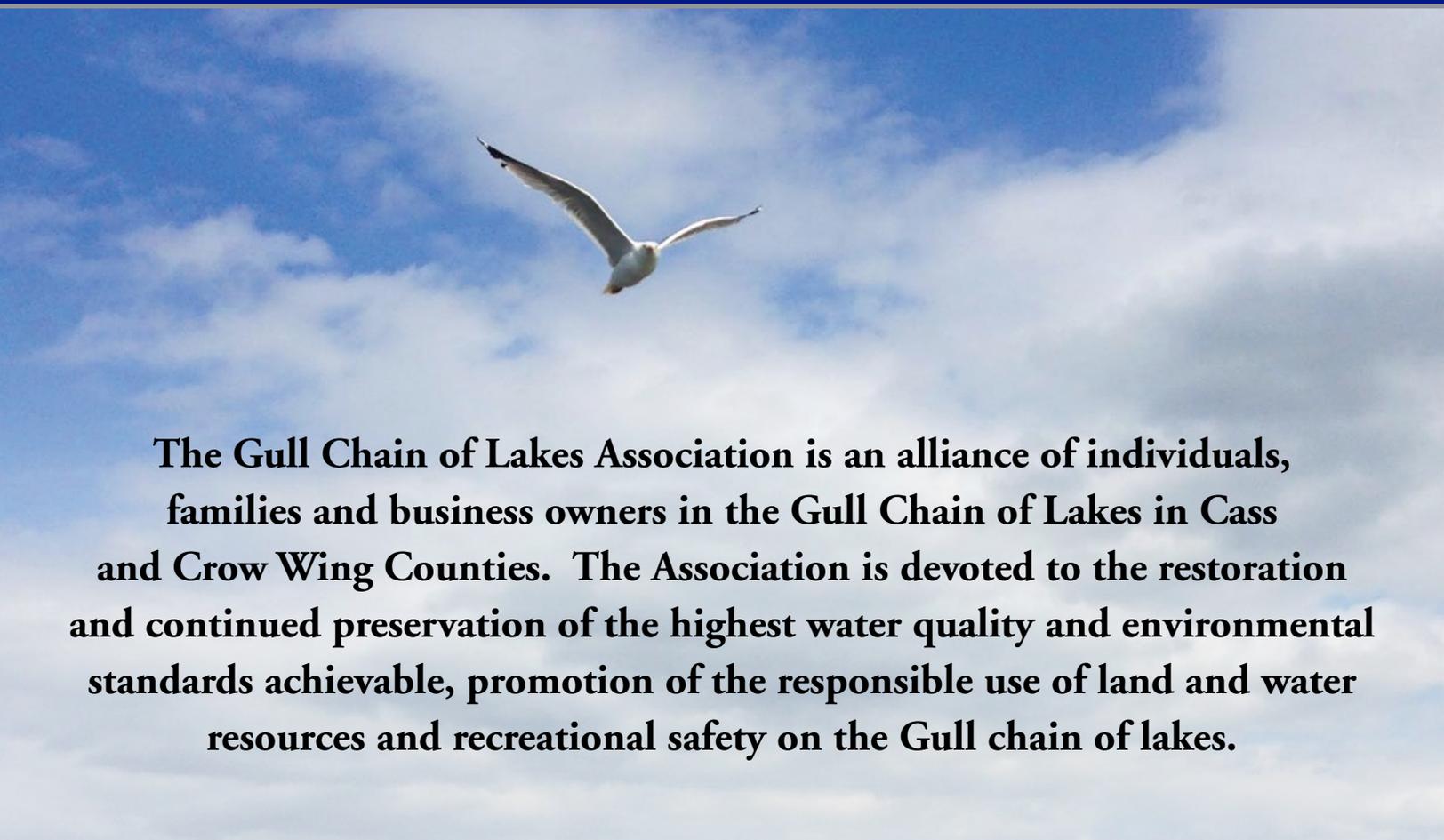


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The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is an alliance of individuals, families and business owners in the Gull Chain of Lakes in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The Association is devoted to the restoration and continued preservation of the highest water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