

SUMMER 2021



Love Our Lakes

9TH ANNUAL GALA Sunday, July 18 - Grand View Lodge

EVENING CASUAL "COME-AND-GO" EVENT*

- 5:00pm - Social, Silent Auction, & Cash Bar begin
- 5:30-7pm - Small Plates Service
- 7:00pm - Raffle Drawing
- 7:15pm - Entertainment

\$55 PER PERSON

E-BICYCLE RAFFLE

A pair of Trek Verve 2+ electric hybrid bikes, value \$5,300. *Tickets only \$20.*

ENTERTAINMENT



DEUCES WILD
DUELING PIANOS

*Event designed with safe COVID-19 practices.

For more information and to purchase tickets - Go to gcola.org



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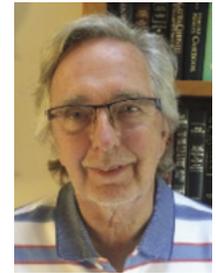
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You are always welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. We usually adjourn around 10 a.m. Due to COVID we are currently conducting our meetings online. Contact Sue Friedrichs at info@gcola.org for the login instructions.

EMAIL: info@gcola.org | **ADDRESS:** PO Box 102, Nisswa MN 56468
WEBSITE: gcola.org | **FACEBOOK:** [Facebook.com/GullLakeChain](https://www.facebook.com/GullLakeChain)



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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Chuck Herrig, GCOLA Chair

Summer is finally here and hopefully we can slowly ease back to a degree of normalcy in our lives! The GCOLA Board is looking forward to moving our monthly meetings back to an in-person setting. It will be nice to see each other in the flesh rather than on a computer screen!

This Summer issue is being distributed to all Gull Lake Chain residents rather than just GCOLA members. One goal for this broader distribution is to encourage all lake residents to become members of GCOLA. Currently, less than fifty percent of all Gull Lake Chain residents are members of GCOLA, and we would love to see that increase to one hundred percent. For just \$50 annual dues, you support the lake association's mission to ensure the highest water quality possible and promote recreational water safety on our lake chain. It seems to me ensuring placement, maintenance, and removal of the 100 navigational buoys alone (which is funded by GCOLA) is worth the price of membership, isn't it? If you are not yet a member of GCOLA we would appreciate your consideration to become a member. This newsletter gives a great overview to the many programs GCOLA oversees.

Another purpose for the broader circulation of this newsletter is to promote our annual Gala coming up on Sunday, July 18 at Grand View Lodge. Like many events in Lake Country, we were forced to cancel our Gala in 2020 but we are back on this year, albeit with a slightly scaled back event in accordance with CDC guidelines. Please read details on the Gala in this

issue. A huge thank you to Jane Edwards, our Gala Chair, and a record number of volunteers who are coordinating our event. The Annual Gala is our single fund-raising event of the year and we are grateful for your support to make the Gala a success again this year.

If you are unable to attend the Gala this year and appreciate the programs GCOLA oversees, we would love your support by considering a donation to GCOLA. Any donation to GCOLA is tax deductible.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, August 4th. We will conduct the meeting virtually using Zoom, which enables a broader audience to tune in and participate from home, whether here on the Gull Lake Chain or from a second primary home residence. One question that came up from last year's Annual Meeting was how to deal with swimmer's itch. We have included an article on that topic in this issue. We allow ample time for Q & A at the end of the Annual Meeting, so here is your chance to share feedback or ask questions with our board of directors.

Have a great summer everyone and I look forward to seeing you at our Gala on July 18 and hearing from you at our Annual Meeting on August 4.



Photo by Patrick Clancy

9TH ANNUAL GALA

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! GATHER YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS! BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
2021'S GCOLA GALA WILL BE A GALA LIKE NONE BEFORE!

\$55 per person



Love Our Lakes

9th Annual Gala - Sunday, July 18 - Grand View Lodge

E-Bicycle Raffle

A pair of Trek Verve 2+ electric hybrid bikes, value \$5,300. *Tickets only \$20.*



DEUCES WILD
DUELING PIANOS

Evening Casual "Come-and-Go" Event*

- 5:00pm - Social, Silent Auction, & Cash Bar begin
- 5:30-7pm - Small Plates Service
- 7:00pm - Raffle Drawing
- 7:15pm - Entertainment

*Event designed with safe Covid-19 practices.

For more information and to purchase tickets - Go to gcola.org

We will again celebrate the beautiful Gull Chain of Lakes with our 9th annual GALA, Sunday, July 18th, at Grand View Lodge in the Gull Lake Center. The event will start at 5:00pm with the popular social hour and reception, followed by a delicious, casual "come-and-go" style small plates service 5:30-7pm. At 7:15 clap and sing along with Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos. An evening of fun, friends, and great food, GCOLA's Gala 2021 is this summer's must-see event!

Designed to be a more casual event than previous Galas, this event was developed with your safety and enjoyment in mind. The "come-n-go" atmosphere will encourage guests to move freely through the spacious ballroom, main lobby, adjacent activity rooms, and outdoors onto the veranda. Many thanks go to Grand View Lodge for generously making the Gull Lake Center available to us again.

The GCOLA Annual Gala has two aims: to bring the community together and to fundraise to support the goals of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association. 2021 came with many changes on how we socialize and fundraise. The Gala committee spent many hours tirelessly planning this summer's Gala while monitoring social distancing guidelines, keeping your safety in mind. As a result, our newly designed event will

be THE stand-out, must-attend, you-gotta-be-there event of the Brainerd Lakes summer!

Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos



We are excited to announce Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos will perform their wildly entertaining show again for us. They were a smash hit at our 2019 Gala and are back by popular demand. Dave Eichholz and Ted Manderfeld are **Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos**. For over 18 years they have traveled coast to coast in the USA, Canada, Panama and

Mexico as one of the most sought after dueling piano acts in the country. Their high energy mix of comedy, music and extensive audience participation makes this a show unlike any other! Clap along, laugh along and sing along with Dave & Ted, Deuces Wild!

2021 Trek Electric Hybrid Bike Raffle

Buy a ticket for a chance to win a pair of Trek Verve 2+ electric hybrid bikes, value \$5,300



Verve+ 2 is an electric hybrid bike that will help you get out and ride more. Your daily cruises, commutes, and workouts will all get a boost from the reliable Bosch pedal-assist system. Plus, this e-bike is equipped with parts

that put your comfort and safety first, like a road-smoothing suspension seatpost, wide, stable tires, and front and rear lights.

Purchase raffle tickets

- Contact a Board member - contact info found on page 1 of this newsletter.
- Call Jennie at 507-317-8539
- Send your check made out to **GCOLA 2021 Raffle** to:
GCOLA 2021 Bike Raffle
PO Box 102
Nisswa, MN 56468

Please include the following required information:

- o Name
- o Address
- o City
- o State/Zip
- o Phone #

Drawing is on Sunday, July 18 at 7:00 pm at Grand View Lodge, 23521 Nokomis Ave, Nisswa MN 56468. Sponsored by Gull Chain of Lakes Association License # X-93369-21-008. Need not be present to win. Must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket or win a prize. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes and delivery expenses.

Note: Our popular trip raffle has been postponed this year due to COVID-19 but we hope to bring it back in 2022.

Buy your event tickets today!

Event tickets are \$55 each and can be purchased through the GCOLA website at www.gcola.org or from a Board member. Board member names and contact info can be found on page 1 of this newsletter. Ticket sales will be limited and based on safe social distancing guidelines. We recommend you purchase your tickets today before they run out. **You do not need to be a GCOLA member to attend.**

The GALA promises to be a fun-filled and entertaining evening for all who attend so make plans to join us! **For further details and “how-to” tips see the website at GCOLA.org.**

Seeking Volunteers who want to have FUN!

Do you like to be involved? Volunteer 30 minutes of your time during the GCOLA Gala and help us serve up the fun! Volunteers are needed to help at the welcome tables and at the E-bike raffle. No experience is necessary! Seeking volunteers for 30-minute slots between 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Email Jane today and be a part of something important and FUN! jedwards3718@gmail.com

The ever-popular Silent Auction will again be a major player in the 9th Annual Gala. This is a fun and easy way to get amazing items, services, themed gift baskets and more, while helping a great cause. All net proceeds from the silent auction proudly benefit GCOLA and the important work the Association does for the Gull chain of lakes and our community.

View our Silent Auction Items and Bid Online

Our silent auction begins on-line on Monday, July 5, 2021, two weeks prior to the Gala event and ends the evening of the event at 7:45pm. This gives those who will not be able to attend the Gala the opportunity to participate in the bidding and support the Association. Those in attendance at the Gala will be able to view the actual items in the Silent Auction display room and place their bids right up to the closing bell.

Information on how to register and bid is below. In addition, on the night of the Gala volunteers will be ready to assist and register attendees who have not previously registered for the silent auction. Winning bidders will be announced on-line and the items can be picked up at the conclusion of the GALA by 8:30pm. Winning bidders who are not in attendance can either make arrangements to have someone pick up their prize(s) the night of the auction or have them held (see website for further details).

9TH ANNUAL GALA

How to set up your smart phone or computer, become a registered GiveSmart user, and start viewing and bidding:

Smart Phone:

- Text **GCOLA21** to **76278**.
- Reply to the text message you receive. This will set you up as a registered user.
- Once complete, click on the blue link within the Welcome text message you receive. You can now access the Silent Auction!

Desktop Computer or Tablet:

- Go to the silent auction website GCOLA21.givesmart.com
- Click “Register to Participate”
- Follow the instructions to “Create an Account.”
- Check the “Terms and Conditions” box.
- Click “Create my GiveSmart Account.”
- Click “ok” with the All Set Message.
- Once complete you will be a registered user. Now you can access the Silent Auction, view and bid on items!

We are Seeking Auction Donations

Interested in donating? We welcome your generosity! Some examples of past donations are gift baskets, beautiful framed photographs, artwork, beach and boat toys, a BBQ grill, paddle boards, kayaks, and certificates to experience some of the incredible services our area businesses have to offer.

When you donate, along with a tax deduction, you will be benefiting the Association. Businesses and individuals who donate also benefit by receiving recognition on our website, a mention in our fall newsletter, event program and Facebook, your name on signage at the event, and more. Donating is easy! From gift baskets to fabulous items and services, the GCOLA Silent Auction offers something for everyone!

If you would like to donate an item, service, or gift basket; volunteer for the event, or if you have a question, please email Jane at jedwards3718@gmail.com.

For questions or technical assistance see the GCOLA website gcola.org.



Photo by Mary Gibson

HELP BREAK THE NEW MEMBERSHIP RECORD!

136 NEW MEMBERS! JOIN YOUR LAKE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

See page 31 for details

Jeremy Abbs	Gull	PLM Lake and		Daniel Pahl	Gull
Tammy & Kent Anderson		Land Management Corp		Edward & Marie Peterson	
and KETA Holdings CLC	Round	Daniel & Lori Hodgman	Gull	Paul & Lisa Peterson	Gull
Steven & Tara Arrell	Upper Gull	Michael & Dana Hoffmann	Upper Gull	Chad Piepho & Counselor	
Julie Austin	Gull	Heath & Mercedes Hoglund	Gull	Realty Brainerd Lakes	Round
Thomas Barrett	Gull	Thomas Hollenhorst		Leslie & Sharon Putikka	Upper Gull
Donald & Beth Bentz	Gull	Jeffrey & Lorie Iverson	Upper Gull	Christopher & Sara Raimann	
Brian & Laura Beuning	Gull	Aron & Angela Jacobson	Gull	Mike & Heather Rasmussen	
Timothy & Kristin Bianchi	Gull	Leann Janochoski	Love	Nathan Reilley	
Christopher & Jennifer Boelter	Gull	Gary & Elaine Jarrett	Gull	Joan & Jim Roberts	Roy
Paul & Sarah Borchert	Gull	Eugene & Margaret Jaster	Gull	Richard & Candace Ruckdashel	Upper Gull
Beverly Brostrom	Gull	Michael Johnson and Sherwood		Ryan & Bridget Ruckdashel	Upper Gull
Ronald & Amy Burski	Upper Gull	Forest Properties LLC	Margaret	Schane & Alisa Rudlang	
Craig & Laurie Campbell	Gull	James & Gwyneth Johnson	Gull	Kathleen & Michael Ruhland	Margaret
Scott & Kristine Carlston		Patrick Justin & Pamela Kennedy		Todd Russell	Gull
Daniel & Anita Cassidy	Upper Gull	Tracy & Jacqueline Karlson	Roy	Scott & Sandy Sadusky	Gull
Colsonberg Holdings	Upper Gull	Penelope Elizabeth Keifenheim	Gull	Michael & Allison Schiff	Gull
CPS Holdings LLC	Gull	Christopher & Jean Kelly	Gull	Thomas & Brittany Schiffler	Margaret
Robert & Laura Cook	Gull	George & Lauri Klaus	Gull	Joel & Susan Schneider	Gull
Merrill Cragun	Gull	Jayne & Michelle Klecker	Love	Paul & Tricia Sickmann	Gull
Daniel & April Cranston	Roy	Darrell & Jane Kolden		Christopher & Kellee Smith	Margaret
Bob & Mary Cunningham		and Koldens On Gull LLC	Gull	Michael & Lynn Smith	Gull
& Camp 1938 LLC	Round	Ron & Tammy Kosel	Gull	Aaron & Jody Smith	
Randall Derauf	Gull	John Kosnitch	Gull	James, Michelle & Sandy Smith	Gull
Douglas & Kristina Dick	Gull	Michael & Ada Larson		Brad & Jean Sorenson	Gull
East Pointe Association Inc	Gull	Ty & Michelle Lehmann	Love	Steven Soyka & Natalie Battin	Gull
Scott & Steven Ebinger		Tori & Glenn Leitch		Starry Pines LLC	
& Heidi Tollefsrud	Round	Jesse & Angela Lind	Love	Allan & Lindsey Stevens	Gull
Sharon & Mark Erickson	Love	Gary & Carolyn Lindstam	Gull	Rick & Michelle Stier	Margaret
Kurt & Sarah Erickson	Gull	Lost Lake Lodge Resort	Upper Gull	Aaron Stritesky &	
Douglas & Marie Falls	Round	Eric & Karie Luoma	Gull	Sarah Foss-Stritesky	Upper Gull
Joel & Karen Feigum	Margaret	Terrance & Susan Lutz	Roy	Annette & Brandon Svendsen	Upper Gull
Mark & Sharla Fillhouer	Roy	Kurt & Jennifer Martinson	Gull	Michael & Nancy Szczepanski	Gull
Shannon & Nicole Finnegan	Gull	Allen McClintick		Timothy & Patricia Thoele	Gull
Daniel & Melissa Folsom	Roy	Jeff & Susan McCormick		Justin & Katherine Trafton	Gull
John Fox	Gull	Al & Renette McParland		Ashley & Johnathan Valesano	Gull
Kenneth Fricke	Gull	Christopher & Janene Meyer	Roy	John & Tammy Virnig	Gull
James Garvey		Heather & Mark Mullane	Love	Matthew & Heather Warzala	Round
Vance & Sherry Goldammer	Gull	Connie & Michael Nahan	Gull	Scott & Teresa Watland	Gull
Sunset Bluff Homeowners		Eric & Melinda Nelson	Gull	James & Linda Wetschka	Gull
Association Inc	Margaret	James & Marie Nelson	Margaret	Karen & Patrick Wiederaenders	Margaret
Jay Gorton	Margaret	William Nix & Gull		Mark & Nancy Wilberts	Gull
Kenneth & Kathleen Griffiths	Gull	Lake Realty Partners LLC	Gull	Martha Winsky & Molly Fortney	Gull
Michael & Elizabeth Grossman	Spider	Terry Nokken	Gull	John & Jean Witczek	Gull
Nicholas & Amy Hagen	Margaret	Leroy & Linda Nouis	Gull	Sally Wold	
John & Julie Haider	Upper Gull	Chuck & Carolyn		Maureen Young	Upper Gull
Steven & Nancy Hanousek	Margaret	Novotny and Novotny		Elsie Zapffe-Verdeja	
Jane Harper & Doug Ollila	Roy	Development LLC	Gull	Stuart & Jeanine Zook	Gull
Kim Henke Bradley		Kara & Donn Olson	Gull		
& Marcia Hildebrand	Upper Gull	Bruce & Ginger Olson			

STEWARDS FOR THE GULL LAKE CHAIN

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GET INVOLVED

- 950+ family & business members strong
- Exciting volunteer opportunities
- FUN! Annual Summer Gala Event



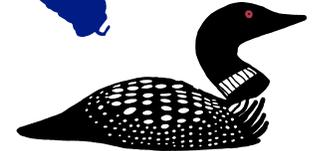
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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



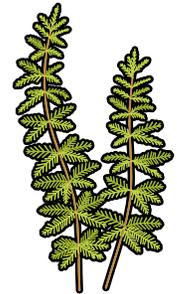
YOUR SAFETY & ENJOYMENT

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



OUR ENVIRONMENT

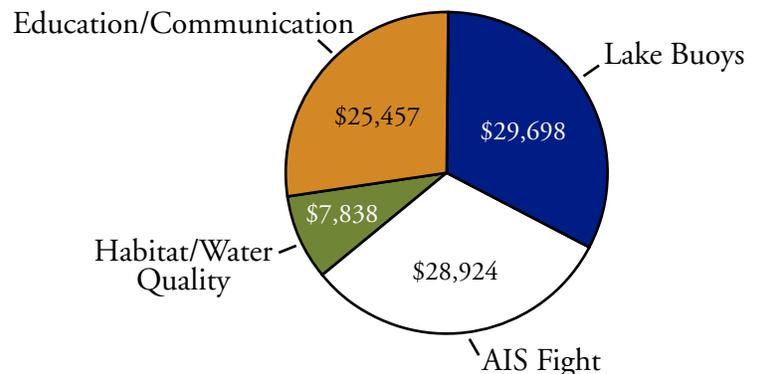
- Loon population surveys
- Shoreline protection and enhancement programs
- Water quality monitoring



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

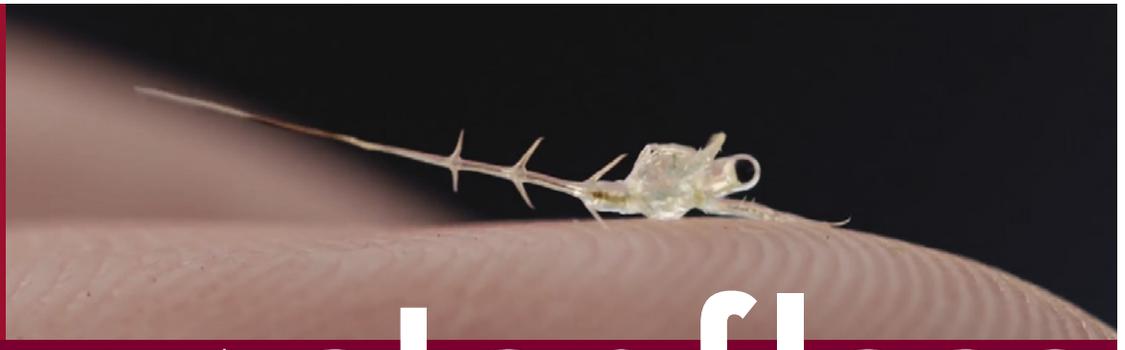
WHAT IT COSTS ANNUALLY



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 MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

What are spiny water fleas

Spiny water fleas (*Bythotrephes longimanus*) are an invasive freshwater zooplankton. Spiny water fleas grow to roughly one centimeter in length and have a long tail spine with multiple barbs near the base. The barbs are prone to tangling on fishing lines and cables. As anglers reel in, groups of spiny water fleas collect and form gelatinous globs that can clog the eyelets of fishing rods.

Once introduced, spiny water fleas can take over the bottom of a lake's food web. They are aggressive predators of native zooplankton, resulting in decreased food sources for fish and an increase in algal blooms. Due to their sharp, barbed tail spine, young native fish can't consume spiny water fleas.

How they spread

Spiny water fleas were first introduced to the Great Lakes through ballast water. Today, recreational boaters and anglers inadvertently move them or their eggs on fishing line, bait buckets, live wells, or fishing nets.

Lifecycle

Part of spiny water fleas' success is due to their ability to reproduce rapidly - they can mature and reproduce within about one week. They can reproduce both asexually and sexually. Females can produce up to 10 young every two weeks without mating. In the fall, males and females reproduce sexually and produce resting eggs that settle in lake sediment and overwinter in a dormant state. These resting eggs are resistant to short-term drying (up to 4 hours) when out of the water and can establish a new infestation in a different lake.

Where they're found

Spiny water flea are native to Europe and Asia. They were first found in Lake Superior in 1987 and first discovered in inland Minnesota lakes in Island Lake Reservoir north of Duluth in 1990. As of 2020, the DNR lists about 60 water bodies as infested with spiny water flea, including Lake Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Vermilion.

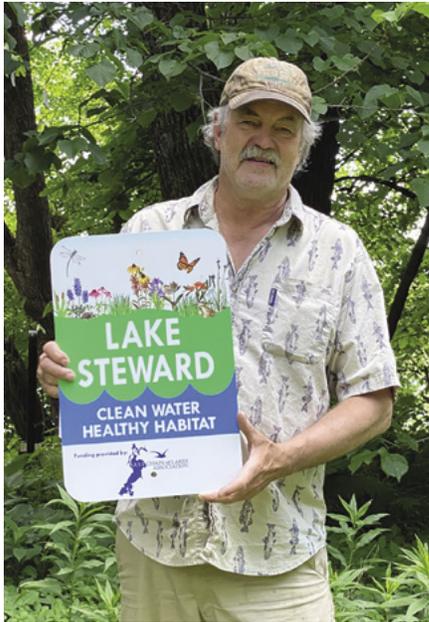
Research at MAISRC

MAISRC researchers are expanding a study examining how zebra mussels and spiny water fleas interrupt an infested lake's natural food web. Our researchers have also identified fishing line and residual water in bait buckets/livewells to be two of the highest risk factors for spreading spiny water fleas.

1/2021

SHARED WATERS

AN UPPER GULL LAKE STEWARD PROFILE



Mark Swenson has stood on the end of his dock on Upper Gull for 60 summers. When his grandparents purchased the property, they were told bootleggers owned it during Prohibition. Mark makes the one-acre property his permanent home now. He is an artist and an environmentalist, and his love and respect for the natural world are woven into his art and his stewardship of land and lake. As we walked the

property, Mark pointed out the “volunteers,” tree seedlings that have sprouted naturally, that he nurtures. He observed that in the cities everything is ordered and manicured and people tend to bring that mindset here. But Mark appreciates the beauty of randomness.

A pair of red winged blackbirds trilled from high in an oak tree, and two purple finches perched delicately on windblown branches as Mark commented, “I’ve let the woods come and do their own thing. I’ve let the woodland creep back in, and the edges are good habitat for everything. The edge effect occurs on a smaller scale in the yard than it does on a larger scale in the woodlands. It’s a micro-version that benefits insects, pollinators, and wildlife. It’s amazing when you leave a patch alone what native woodland plants will come in!”



The property is studded with native trees: ash, bur oak, red and white pines, white spruce, balsam, red maples, sugar maples, huge clusters of bass wood, white cedar, and a river birch that stretches over the lake. Along with the red osier dog wood, gray dogwood, and raspberry bushes, the native trees provide food and habitat for wildlife. Woodpeckers feast on insects in a snag, a dead red pine allowed to remain standing, and chickadees overnight in the holes created by the woodpeckers. Wrens nest in birdhouses and brush piles,



Photos by Sheila Farrell Johnston

while blue jays, robins, nuthatches, and hummingbirds nest in the tree-filled yard. Wild turkeys peck in the grass beneath the birdfeeder. Juncos, warblers, scarlet tanagers, and indigo buntings stop by on their way north each spring. An extended family of chipmunks is in residence, and a fox is a regular visitor. Willows, blue flag iris, and swamp milkweed grow along the shoreline. Swamp milkweed is a particular favorite of Monarch butterflies, and Mark protects it. Otters dine on crayfish on the shore, and wood ducks and mergansers share the water. All are welcome here!

In the backyard, an open grassy area provides space for games of fetch with Mark's yellow lab. No lawn chemicals or pesticides are used. Insects are bird food and must be preserved. Mark "leaves the leaves" and said they act as a natural mulch which holds more moisture for the yard and trees. No watering is necessary.

Walleye and brook trout carved by Mark from white cedar adorn the exterior walls and doors of the house and boathouse. It is clear an artist lives here! As we toured his studio, his painting Shared Waters was stunning in its beauty.

Green stripes of the treelined shore and milky pink clouds are reflected in sky blue waters as the sleek body of a loon torpedoes beneath the surface. These are the waters of Upper Gull, and the painting is a reminder that we are sharing these waters. As we looked out at a mated pair of loons fishing off the end of his dock, Mark remembered the days when there were only two speed boats on Upper Gull and lily pads stretched around the lake. "It's like people are boating in a swimming pool now. They've forgotten that water is a living thing. But these are shared waters, and we must give them the respect they deserve."

GCOLA invites ALL property owners on the Gull Chain of Lakes to become Lake Stewards. To learn more about the Lake Steward Program, go to GCOLA.org and click on Get Involved and find Lake Steward Program in the dropdown menu. You will find a link to the Score Your Shore Mini Assessment, which will take just two minutes to complete. Entering the following link in your browser will take you directly to the mini assessment: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V9JKJGX>



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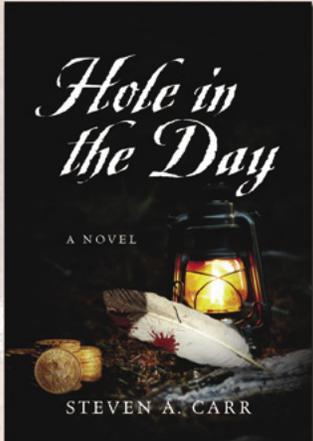
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YOUTH BOAT SAFETY CLASSES ARE ON!

*Jay Chaney,
Safety & Recreation Committee Chair*



Photo by Crow Wing County

Great news! Once again, this summer, GCOLA, in conjunction with the Crow Wing and Cass County Sheriff's Departments will be offering Youth Boat Safety Classes for ages 12-17 at the Gull Lake Yacht Club. Due to high demand, the plan is to host three classes this summer. In past years, we have offered two classes. Additionally, the classes last summer were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, so there will likely be more demand this summer.

The three class dates are as follows: Wednesday June 9th at 9 am, Thursday June 10th at 9 am, and Wednesday July 14th at noon. The classes are generally four hours in length. To register for the class of your choice, please contact Mary Kay Larson at 218-831-5656.

Our "in-person" class is unique in that it allows attendees to get "hands-on" experience, while operating a boat with a Sheriff's deputy. In addition, all attendees will receive a lifejacket to take home, courtesy of Gull Chain of Lakes Association. Upon completion of the class, students will receive a Minnesota Watercraft Operator's Permit. This permit is required for any person 12-17 years of age to operate a motorized boat over 25 horsepower.

The class is free, and students will receive a pizza lunch, courtesy of Zorbaz on Gull. Class size is limited to 25 students per class so sign up early. In the event that our classes are full, or you prefer a class that isn't in person, it can be taken online. You can find a link to the course on the GCOLA site (<https://www.gcola.org/boating-safety>). Minnesota does charge a fee for the online class, however.

Please consult local safety protocols at the time of your chosen date as to the need for masks or additional Covid-19 related safety protocols.

Boating is a lifelong passion for many of us, and this is your chance to start the youth in your family down the same path. Safety and good habits start early, and the in-person, hands-on course provides a great foundation. My own daughters attended the classes and the lessons learned there have become engrained for life.

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Releasing live bait threatens our environment. Minnows and bait water can harbor fish diseases and aquatic invasive species.

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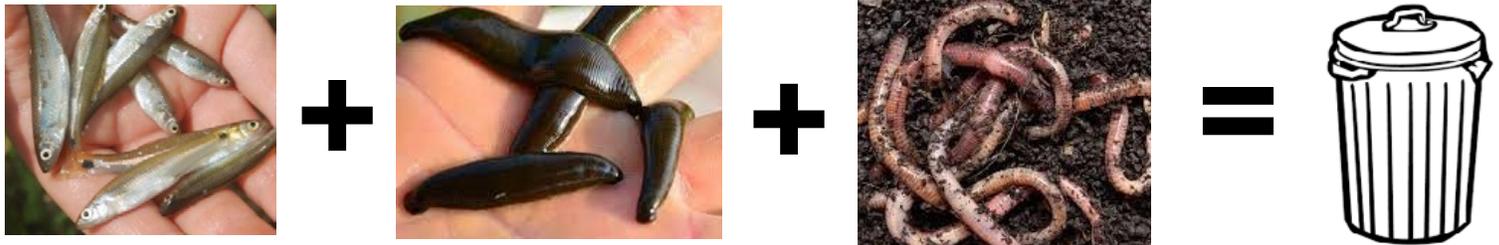
From Page 9 of the 2021 MN Fishing Regulations:

Required Actions—It's the Law!

Most anglers and boaters follow Minnesota's Clean, Drain, Dispose laws to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:



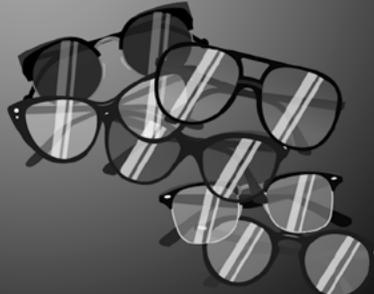
- ✓ **Clean** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers and other water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
 - It is illegal to transport prohibited invasive species—including zebra mussels—whether dead or alive.
 - You can find a complete list of prohibited invasive species by visiting dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html#prohibited
- ✓ **Drain water-related equipment** (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving any water access or shoreland property.
 - Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- ✓ **Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms, in the trash.**
 - It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another.
 - It is illegal to release worms in the state; worms are not native to Minnesota.
 - If you want to keep your live bait, you must drain all lake or river water and refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.



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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

As you read this article, the “regular” session of the Minnesota legislature will have completed on May 17. As in 2020, this has not been a normal legislative session. The COVID -19 restrictions and concerns continued to force the legislative committee meetings and most legislative work to be performed via Zoom. Your Government Relations Committee was busy working the four legislative/government relations priority issues (shown below) both at the local and state level. The top three issues were also high priorities for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) and MN COLA. MLR’s Jeff Forester (Exec Director) and Henry Erdman (lobbyist) have their feet on the ground every day at the Capitol and have provided excellent feedback on the most effective actions to be taken on lake-related issues. Current status on our four priority legislative issues late in this legislative cycle is as follows:

1. Consider regulations (distance from shore, depth, etc.) for watercraft creating enhanced wakes that are a safety issue, cause shoreline erosion and sub-surface ecological damage

House Bill HF 1606 and Senate Bill SF 1639 were introduced establishing a 200-foot no-wake offset from shore, dock, rafts, etc. for all watercraft. GCOLA feels that these bills as written do not significantly reduce the problem with shoreline erosion and subsurface turbulence caused by enhanced wake watercraft (EWW) and are not consistent with current published technical information. As a result, the GCOLA Government Relations Committee wrote letters to our four local legislators (Senators Gazelka and Ruud, Representatives Heintzeman and Poston) and to Rep. Rick Hansen, the Chair of the House Environmental and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee. The letters requested that no action be taken on bills HF 1606 and SF 1639 until results of the Univ. of Minnesota – St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) scientific research conducted in fall of 2020 are released. Preliminary results are expected in 2nd Qtr. 2021. With similar input to legislators from MLR, MN COLA, Safe Wakes, and other lake associations, the House Environmental Committee led by Rep. Rick Hansen, said that the House bill would not be heard or acted upon in this session. Neither the House or Senate Omnibus Environmental and Natural Resources bills contain any language on the 200-foot no-wake offset from shore; thus these bills appear to be dead for this legislative session. After the results of the Univ. of MN - SAFL study have been published, GCOLA will work with MLR, MN COLA and Safe Wakes on prospective legislation for the 2022 session for the enhanced wakes issue.

2. Provide sustained funding to Minnesota Aquatic and Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

Excellent progress has been made on funding for MAISRC with several individual MAISRC funding bills that made it through the committee processes to be included in the House and Senate versions of the Omnibus Environmental and Natural Resources Bill (SF 1059). That proposed funding includes:

- a. \$3,750,000 funding allocated in the first year of the budget cycle. The GCOLA Government Relations Committee sent letters to our local legislators and to Sen. Ingebrigsten (Senate Environmental Finance Committee Chair) supporting this funding bill and the funding in item (b) below. This funding is in both omnibus bills.
- b. \$410,000 base funding allocated in each of the two years of the budget cycle. This funding is in both omnibus bills.
- c. \$1,000,000 base funding allocated in each of the two years of the budget cycle. This funding is only in the House omnibus bill.
- d. A proposed increase in the watercraft AIS surcharge from \$10.60 to \$25 per watercraft would have \$4 from each surcharge allocated to MAISRC and \$2 to lake associations for AIS grants. In the House Environmental and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee hearing on this bill, Jeff Forester (MLR Executive Director), Dr. Nick Phelps (MAISRC Director) and Uldis Birznieks testified in favor of the increase and the benefits it would have to MAISRC with sustained funding. Also, the Government Relations Committee sent letters to our local legislators supporting this bill. This legislation is only in the House Omnibus bill.

3. Maintain current funding level (\$10M) to counties to prevent spread of new or existing AIS

All four of our local legislators enthusiastically endorsed this position as did MLR and MN COLA. No new bills were introduced to lower or modify the funding to the counties to battle AIS. As a result, it appears that the \$10M funding to the counties will be safe for another year.

4. No more stocking of muskies in the Gull Chain of Lakes

As in 2020, GCOLA worked this as a local issue rather than a state-wide issue with our local legislators. We were seeking a 5-year moratorium on muskie stocking in the Gull Chain and asking for an independent study on the sociological/economic impact and issues of muskie stocking in non-native lakes. Our local State Representatives (Heintzeman and

Poston) have been in favor of this item, but we did not get any local Senate support to move forward with a bill. The Otter Tail County COLA, who we worked with in previous years, also was not able to garner any local Otter Tail County Senate support. Without support in one of the two legislative chambers, probability of bill success is minimal. Thus, there is no legislative action on this item in the 2021 legislature.

Other lake-related legislation that our Government Relations Committee is following is shown below and status in the House and Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Omnibus bills is included:

- a. The DNR will be tasked to update the AIS Management Plan by Dec. 31, 2021 with updates every 5 years (House bill) or 10 years (Senate bill) thereafter. The AIS management plan has not been updated by the DNR for over 15 years. This legislation, for which MLR was a leader, is in both omnibus bills with the differences in updates as noted above. GCOLA supports this legislation being in favor of the 5-year updates for the AIS plan.
- b. The walleye limit to be reduced from 6 walleyes to 4 walleyes, state-wide. This legislation is in the Senate omnibus bill only. GCOLA supports this legislation.
- c. \$1,000,000 allocated to the DNR to work with MLR and civic leaders to purchase and install watercraft AIS cleaning stations at all public accesses on the 16 state lakes infested with starry stonewort. MLR was key in getting this legislation moved into both Omnibus bills. This hopefully will decrease the possibility of starry stonewort moving to other lakes in Minnesota. GCOLA supports this legislation.
- d. \$500,000 to DNR to develop genetic control tool exploiting RNA (ribonucleic acid) silencing to target and control zebra mussels without affecting other species. This legislation is in both omnibus bills. GCOLA supports this legislation.
- e. \$110,000 to Univ. of MN – Duluth to test effectiveness of AIS removal methods from watercraft and propose improved boat cleaning stations. This legislation is in both omnibus bills. GCOLA supports this legislation.
- f. Prohibit sale of lead fishing tackle by July 2025. Bills were introduced in both the House and the Senate but did not get included in the Omnibus bills. There may be action on this issue in the next legislative session. GCOLA supports this legislation.
- g. Increase watercraft license fees – for boats under 19 feet, the fee will increase from \$27 to \$39 and for boats from 19 – 26 feet will increase from \$45 to \$65.25. Other boats sizes and types all have similar increases. This

increase is in the House omnibus bill but is not in the Senate omnibus bill. The majority of the fee increases would be used to build new boat accesses and upgrade current accesses. GCOLA has not taken a position on this legislation.

- h. \$500,000 grants in each year of the budget for lake association grants to combat AIS. This bill is only in the House Omnibus bill. GCOLA supports this legislation.



Photo by Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

The Government Relations Committee will continue to work with MLR on the above items through the end of the legislative session and provide support as needed. Since the House and Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Omnibus bills have differences, the House and Senate have formed a joint Conference Committee to work out the differences between the two omnibus bills. The five Senate conferees include Senator Ruud. The five House conferees include Representative Heintzeman. Thus, our Brainerd lakes area is well represented with Senator Ruud and Representative Heintzeman on the Conference Committee. GCOLA will send letters to Senator Ruud, Representative Heintzeman, Senate leader Ingebrigsten and House leader Hansen to reiterate GCOLA's position on any bills noted above that have differences between the House and Senate versions. Once the Conference Committee has agreed to an omnibus bill (SF 959), they will present the updated omnibus bill to the House and Senate for floor votes and assuming passage, will submit it to the Governor to sign into law.

We ask you, our GCOLA members, to continue to be active and let your legislators and our Committee know how you feel on these issues.

GCOLA PROFILE

CLAUDIA ALLENE, BOARD MEMBER



I have spent my whole life traveling around the world, but Gull Lake is where I chose to call home.

Every summer as a child my family would drive from Denver, Colorado to our grandparent's cabin on Gull Lake. It was a perfect summer

camp for five children. Eventually that summer cabin became our mother's year-round home until she passed away in 2012. The family asked in lieu of flowers that any donations be made to GCOLA. As a thank you for the generous donations that were received, GCOLA purchased a buoy in our mother's name, Janet Boner. Our family still maintains that buoy located just off Holman's Point.

I have enjoyed living on Gull Lake since 1998 in a small cabin I purchased years ago next door to our family cabin. One of my favorite events anywhere in the world is the Jaycee's Ice Fishing Extravaganza. My friends abroad cannot believe it when I show them the pictures of this crazy and amazing

event telling them that approximately 20,000 holes are drilled through the ice. Summer, fall, winter, or spring Gull Lake has its allure, not to mention sunsets that rival some of the most stunning in the world.

Since returning from a solo three-year journey around the world I have been participating in the GCOLA loon count, buoy program and am proud to say that many of my dearest friends are Lake Stewards. I am extremely honored to be an active new board member involved in a lake association that cares not just for today but the future of tomorrow.

As the pandemic has brought life to a slow crawl, I look forward to the day when I can resume my company, "Claudia Around The World Tours". A leisure group travel company specializing in small group tours to many of the world's most exotic destinations. My group sizes are never more than 16 people which ensures an intimate and exciting vacation for all.

Yes, it is great to get away and explore this big, beautiful world, but it is also great to be home!



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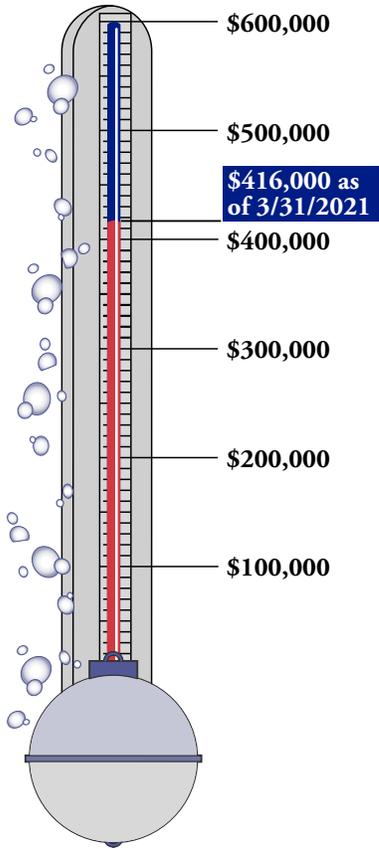
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FUND UPDATES

Endowment Fund



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!



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2020 DONOR CORRECTION

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PHOTOS WANTED



Photo by Eric Utter



Photo by Alivia VanDeWiele



Photo by Joey Halvorson

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 Facebook. 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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AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE

Another boating season is upon us and with the early ice-out a number of fishermen will be after some early season crappies from the Gull Chain of Lakes. The boating season in 2020 was very busy with many people wanting to enjoy the freedom of the outdoors in a world dominated by the pandemic. This year will likely be another busy year on our lakes and another year to guard against AIS infestation.

2020 Minnesota AIS Summary

Last year in Minnesota, an additional 40 lakes or streams were infested by zebra mussels, 11 lakes with Eurasian watermilfoil, and one lake with starry stonewort. In Cass County Sylvan, Dade, and Little Red Sand lakes were infested with zebra mussels. There were no reports of Eurasian watermilfoil or starry stonewort in Cass County.

In Crow Wing County, there were also no infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil or starry stonewort; but there were six infestations of zebra mussels. These occurred in Armour #2 Mine Lake, Louise Mine Pit, Nokasippi River, Ripple River, Serpent Lake, and Tame Fish Lake.

To help slow or eliminate transfer of AIS species into our lakes and streams, public education, and awareness of how AIS species are transported has been broadly publicized across Minnesota. Additionally, the number of boat inspections has substantially increased across Minnesota. In 2020 over 600,000 incoming and outgoing boat inspections were completed, which is nearly double the number of boat inspections from 2017. As we have increased boat inspections and better public awareness of the damage that AIS species can cause to our waterways, the number of AIS infestations is starting to slowly decline. In 2018, we had 79 new lakes in Minnesota infested with either zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, or starry stonewort. In 2020, new lakes infested with zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and starry stonewort declined to a total of 52.

Boat inspections continue to find AIS species, particularly zebra mussels, that could potentially result in an infestation. From 2017 through 2020, boat inspections found 731 boats or trailers that had zebra mussels attached to them. Of the 731 boats and trailers, 113 of them were at lakes that did not have a zebra mussel infestation. Without the boat inspections, you can surmise that nearly all of the 113 lakes would now be infested.

The DNR, County AIS Coordinators, and Lake Associations have worked together to promote programs like Clean, Drain, and Dry to prevent transportation of AIS species from lake to lake. There is a photo in this newsletter promoting the importance of Clean, Drain, and Dry. Programs like this have created more public awareness of steps that can be taken to stop transfer of AIS species.

Gull Lake Chain 2021 AIS Prevention Plans

This year to prevent infestation of AIS species into Gull Chain of Lakes, we will be inspecting boats entering and leaving public accesses at Nisswa Lake, County 77 access at Zorba's, Hwy 371 access at Hole-In-The-Day Bay, and Government Point access located at the Gull Lake Dam. The boat inspections are a coordinated effort between the DNR, Cass and Crow Wing County AIS Coordinators, and Lake Shore Police Department. Cass County will also have a watercraft decontamination unit located at Government Point access and the DNR will utilize a portable decontamination unit at various accesses in both Cass and Crow Wing Counties.

Additionally, GCOLA will conduct a twice a summer survey of 23 specific locations on the Chain of Lakes looking for early signs of any AIS vegetation, particularly Eurasian watermilfoil, and starry stonewort. We will also participate in "Starry Trek", which is a statewide effort to locate early infestation of starry stonewort. All of the public accesses will be checked for starry stonewort or any other AIS infestation. If an AIS species is found, GCOLA has prepared a rapid response plan that will provide coordination with the DNR, County AIS Coordinators, MN AIS Research Center, and communication to members of GCOLA.

Spiny Water Fleas

An AIS species that requires more awareness are spiny water fleas. Spiny water fleas are an AIS species that has found its way from Lake Superior into some inland lakes, notably Lake Mille Lacs, Lake of the Woods and Lake Vermillion. The Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) describes spiny water fleas as:

"Spiny water fleas are a microscopic freshwater zooplankton that invade lakes and can take over the bottom of the food chain, disturbing the ecology of the lake and presenting a serious potential threat to Minnesota lakes. They can decimate populations of Daphnia and other native zooplankton resulting in a decreased

food source for native fish and an increase in algal blooms. They can also clog the eyelets of fishing rods, causing problems for recreationalists. At their peak, their populations reproduce rapidly and can be as high as 100 individuals per cubic meter, sometimes taking over the biomass of the lake. There are fewer predators on spiny water flea than on native zooplankton because small or young native fish can't consume their sharp, barbed spine."

Here's a picture of the fishing line that has become clogged with spiny water fleas.



Photo by University of Minnesota

You can help stop the spread of spiny water fleas by following the Clean, Drain and Dry process steps. If you are fishing on a lake that is known to have spiny water fleas, take extra caution to also wipe your fishing line, reels, bait buckets, and live wells. Spiny water fleas reproduce rapidly; they can mature and reproduce within about one week. Spiny water flea eggs are resistant to short-term drying when out of water and can establish a new infestation if transported to a different lake.

Know the MN Laws Helping to Prevent Transportation of AIS Species

Minnesota legislature has passed specific laws to help stop the transport of AIS species across the state. Here are the rules that are enforced by the DNR:

You may not:

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug and draining all livewells.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

As a note on bait disposal, it is **illegal** to release bait into a waterway or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. It is recommended that you dispose of unwanted bait including minnows, leeches, and worms in the trash. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water; all lake water must be drained before trailering your boat.



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SWIMMER'S ITCH

Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee Chair

Swimmer's itch is a common problem in water frequented by waterfowl. The organism causing the itch is a parasite. It has a life cycle as shown in the chart. The free-swimming parasite's intended host is waterfowl - ducks and geese. Since the parasite cannot distinguish between a bird and a human, they attach to the skin of both. However, once the parasite burrows into human skin, it cannot go further. It is at a dead end and will eventually die, but before it does so, it causes a rash and extreme itching.

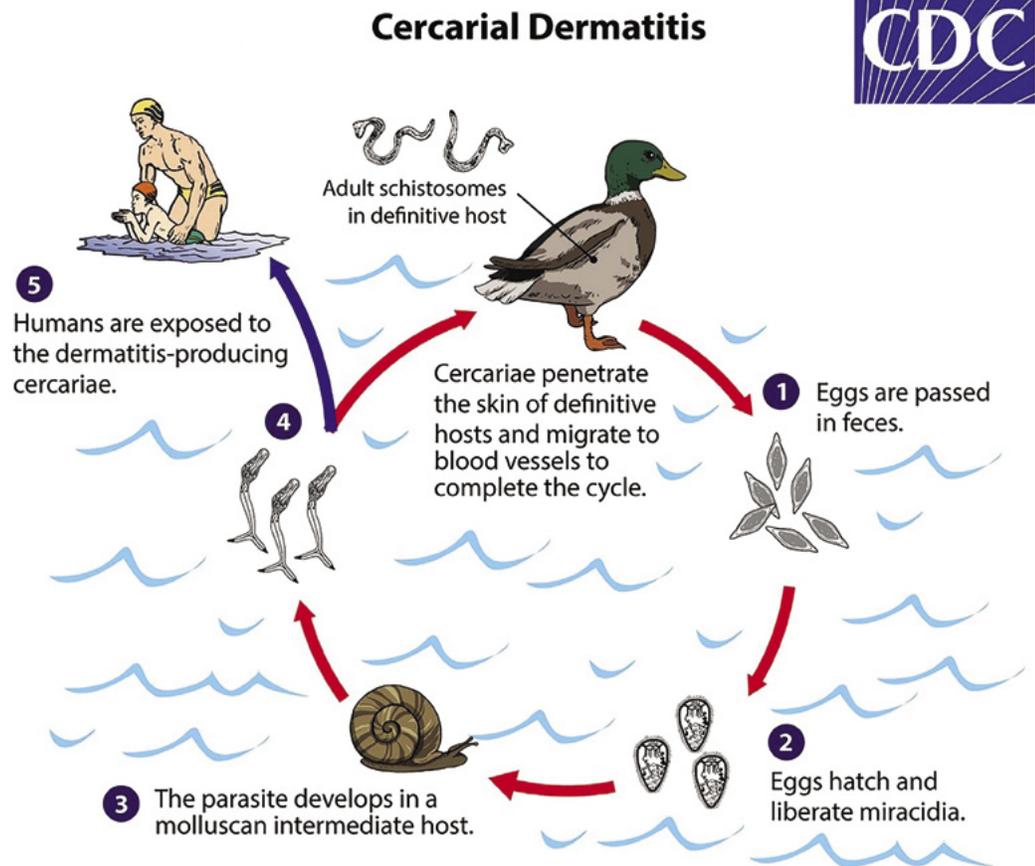
The itch usually clears up within a week by itself. The following treatments might help those who are infected.

1. Make a paste of baking soda and water and apply.
2. Soak infected parts in a bath containing Epsom salts, baking soda, or oatmeal.
3. Apply hydrocortisone cream.
4. Take an antihistamine such as Benadryl.
5. Apply cool compresses.

To prevent becoming infected try the following.

1. Shower immediately with non-lake water after leaving the lake.
2. Use a towel to vigorously wipe and dry all wet skin.

You can help prevent swimmers itch around your dock. **DO NOT FEED** waterfowl. Encourage your neighbors to also not feed waterfowl. It is the feces from waterfowl that start the swimmers itch cycle. If your shore has geese, the simplest way to discourage geese from using your shore is to not mow next to the lake or to have a shoreline buffer. High vegetation acts as a fence against geese. Either of these two things cause geese to seek out more suitable shoreline somewhere else.



U OF M SAFL WAKE STUDY UPDATE

The number of data points generated by the study far exceeded Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) research team's initial estimate which is good news. This will result in a more comprehensive study. Watch for information to be posted at gcola.org and a future newsletter when the results are received.



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ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 – 7 p.m.

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Meeting ID: 945 3064 3183

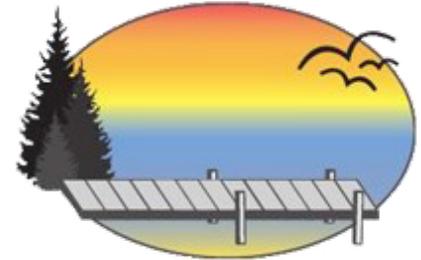
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THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE:

- Annual election of board members
 - Financial summary
- Updates on GCOLA activities and issues affecting the Gull Lake Chain
 - Question and answer session



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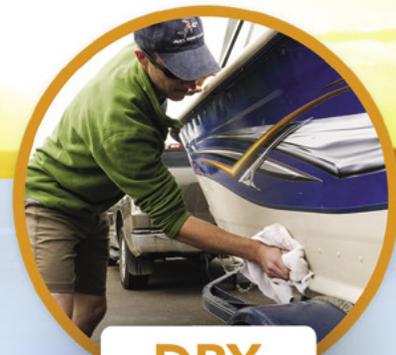
CLEAN

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✓ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axels, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing



DRAIN

- ✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- ✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✓ Trash unused bait



DRY

- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- ✓ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

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WHATEVER IT TAKES

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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- Stone
- Metal composite



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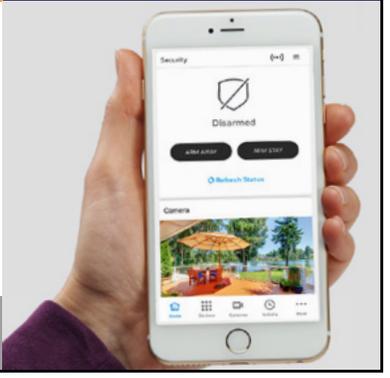


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The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID #41-1272492. Dues are \$50 per year and any contributions above the dues are greatly appreciated.

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

2021 Gull Chain of Lakes Association Dues (January 1 to December 31) \$50.00

Additional Donation (Optional)

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

Please keep my additional donation(s) anonymous

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Email _____ Second Email _____

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Lake Name _____ Location on Lake (side, bay, etc.) _____

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WHAT WE DO

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Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AIS)

- Coordinates with the City of Lake Shore Police Department to provide water craft 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 lakes and streams running into the Gull Lake Chain for water quality. The samples are taken by GCOLA volunteers, with testing completed by licensed environmental labs.
- Takes weekly secchi disk readings during the summer to test the water clarity.
- Promotes lake shoreline restoration projects by providing matching grants for approved restoration projects.
- Awards Lake Steward signs to property owners who have eliminated the use of lawn chemicals, have a shoreline buffer zone of native plants, and upland zone with trees, shrubs, and natural ground cover.
- Gives 500 native tree/bush seedlings to members every year.
- Conducts a yearly loon count in the spring and late summer and promotes loon-safe boating.

Gala Committee

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

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.

Government Relations Committee

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

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 Todd Myra

WAKE RESPONSIBLY



1 Stay at least 200 feet away from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.

2 Keep music at reasonable levels. Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.

3 Minimize repetitive passes on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.



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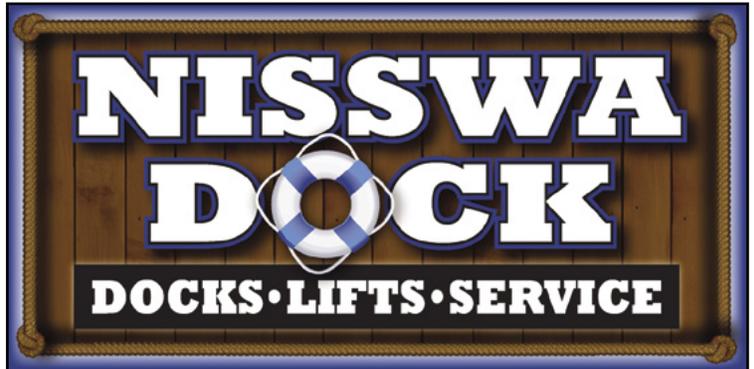
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MISSION STATEMENT

Photo by Joey Halvorson

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.