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ASSOCIATION



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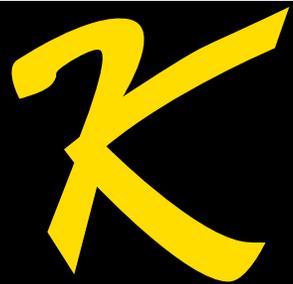
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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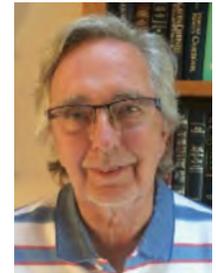
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You are always welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. We usually adjourn around 10 a.m. Due to COVID we are currently conducting our meetings online. Contact Sue Friedrichs at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

The summer has flown by even in this unsettling time. The GCOLA Board of Directors have become accustomed to monthly board meetings using Zoom virtual conferencing as we now have five months of practice! I do miss meeting in person at Grand View Lodge and can't wait for those days to return. In the meantime, the work GCOLA oversees continues and our board members are doing an admirable job under the circumstances.

Steve Alex, our AIS Chair, recently participated in a Starry Trek event which was held statewide on August 15. The purpose of the annual event is for AIS detectors to search a designated lake for any sign of starry stonewort, which is an aquatic invasive algae that is expensive if not impossible to control if not detected early. Fortunately, no signs of starry stonewort were found on the Gull Lake Chain. Thank you Steve for leading this effort.

A new initiative we are piloting is called Up The Creek Meats. Lake associations have learned what affects water quality isn't just what happens along the lakeshore, but what happens miles away from the lake in our watershed, the Crow Wing River Watershed. The goal of the pilot is to support cattle farmers who practice environmentally responsible cattle grazing. GCOLA members would be able to purchase better tasting, better for you grass fed beef from these farmers. Steve Alex has volunteered to act as coordinator for this project. You can learn more about the pilot from Steve in this issue.

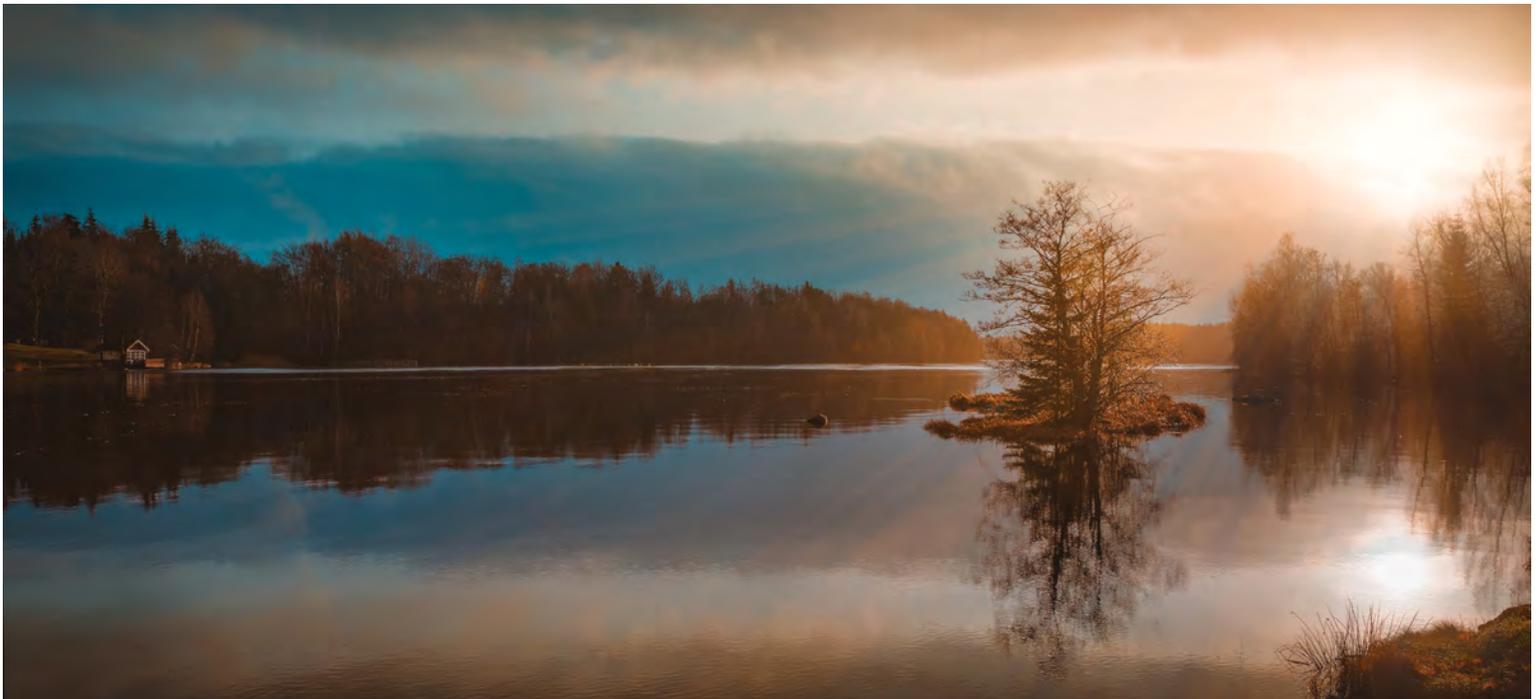
Many GCOLA members have reached out to us regarding water safety concerns from irresponsible boating and shoreline damage from boat wakes. For the past two months Steve Frawley and Uldis Birznieks have worked to secure funding for a University of Minnesota research project to study the impact of boat wakes on shoreline erosion and subsurface lake bottom vegetation. The good news is the funding goal has been reached and the project will begin this September! You can read more detail about this project in this issue.

Our Lake Steward and Shoreline Restoration programs continue to grow in popularity. Over 40 GCOLA residents now qualify for recognition as being good stewards to the Gull Lake Chain. Our goal is to reach 60 participants next Spring. You can learn more about these programs through our website, [gcola.org](http://gcola.org).

It truly takes a village to lead all the efforts that GCOLA is involved in. That village is largely made up of volunteers who donate tireless hours on countless projects. We are using this issue to thank those volunteers from the Environmental Committee projects.

Thank you for supporting GCOLA through your membership, volunteerism, and donations. The work mentioned above, and many more projects would not be possible without your support.

*Have a safe and enjoyable fall.*



# ZEBRA MUSSELS IN GULL LAKE CHAIN



Photo by MAISRC

It has been 10 years since zebra mussels were first found in the Gull Lake Chain. In October 2010, a company was removing boat lifts and docks on the west side of Gull Lake and found the mussels. A day later, mussels were found on the east side of the lake meaning that the infestation had been actively reproducing all summer. In Minnesota, zebra mussels were first discovered in 1989 in Duluth harbor. It took 20 years, but the mussels finally made their way here.

In 2010, there were many more questions than answers on how to deal with zebra mussels:

- Can we control the spread of mussels in the lake or limit to certain areas of the lake?
- Will this affect property values?
- What control methods or chemicals can be used or are approved by the DNR?
- Who has data on effectiveness of experimental treatments?
- Should we mandate that all boats leaving the Gull Lake Chain be decontaminated?

Studies by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) documented that, “A single adult zebra mussel can filter one quart of water per day while feeding primarily on algae. A female can produce 100,000 to 500,000 eggs per year. Fertilized eggs develop into microscopic free-living larvae called veligers that form shells.”

With all the unanswered questions and the threat of AIS species growing in Minnesota, in 2012 the legislature appropriated

funds to create an Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) at the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with the DNR. With well over 10,000 lakes and streams, it was time to invest in research and create knowledge to protect our waterways against all types of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The mission of the MAISRC is “to develop research-based solutions that can reduce the impacts of aquatic species in Minnesota by preventing spread, controlling populations, and managing ecosystems.”

I recently had a conversation with Dr. Nicholas Phelps, Associate Professor and Director of MAISRC, about current and future research to control or possibly eradicate zebra mussels. Dr. Phelps is originally from the Brainerd Lakes area and is familiar with the Gull Lake Chain and many of the lakes in the area. Dr. Phelps and I discussed some of the completed research on zebra mussels, notably:



Nicholas Phelps,  
Director of MAISRC

- **Walleye growth decline following zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infestation:** A research paper was released in January 2020, which studied the effects on walleye fishing in lakes infested with zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas. This research was conducted at multiple lakes that had infestations of zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, or both. For comparison, lakes without either zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas were also studied. The study determined that walleye, “in the first year of life grew more slowly in the presence of either zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas and were on average 12-14% smaller at the end of their first summer.”
- **Treatment options for eradication of limited-scale zebra mussel’s infestations:** A “white” paper was released that provides guidelines to treat small areas of a lake or bay where an infestation has occurred and has not spread across the larger body of the lake. The paper provides guidance on chemical treatment options and treatment parameters such as optimum temperatures, dosage rates, and chemical exposure time. This is a guide that can be used by DNR managers, lake associations, watershed districts, or invasive species consultants.

Additionally, we discussed research projects that will provide incremental steps toward population control or possible eradication of zebra mussels. Dr. Phelps described three projects where initial results are trending positive and have potential to provide control of zebra mussels:

- **Zebra Mussel Control with Low-Dose Copper:** This research project started in 2019 and aims to evaluate the use of low-dose copper treatment to manage zebra mussel populations by suppressing their early life stages. The test area is a 160-acre section of St. Albans Bay in Lake Minnetonka. The chemical selected for the study was Earth Tec QZ, a copper-based molluscicide that interferes with cellular respiration of gill tissues. It is registered by the U.S. EPA for use controlling zebra and quagga mussels. The low dose rate was 60 parts per billion, but the dosage rate was maintained over a longer time period. From review of the initial data, the treatment eradicated 100% of the veligers and 98% of the adult mussels from the quadrant test samples. Post treatment monitoring is planned for this year and 2021 to determine the duration of treatment effect on zebra mussel density and determine if retreatment is required.
- **Evaluation of Innovative Coating to Suppress Spread and Attachment by Zebra Mussels:** This project will develop and test new coatings that can mitigate the spread of zebra mussels. The coating is intended to prevent any microbial or mussel from attaching onto surfaces such as metal docks, boat lifts, water inlet screens, etc. Attachment of zebra mussels to water inlet screens often results in costly cleaning expenses. As an example, to maintain its water supply, the city of Saint Paul spends nearly \$150K per year removing mussels from inlet screens in Lake Vadnais, Pleasant and Sucker Lakes in northern Ramsey county. This coating would have applications with docks, boat lifts, and maybe even surfaces of boats and other watercraft. The coatings to be evaluated will contain a non-toxic biological molecule that will minimize or eliminate attachment by zebra mussels or mussel veligers. Initial test results planned to be completed by the end of 2020.
- **Zebra Mussel Genome Research:** In 2019, after considerable time and collaboration with scientists across the country, MAISRC was able to determine and release the genome for zebra mussels. Genome is the genetic material of an organism, its DNA. By understanding the

zebra mussel DNA, it opens the door to development of biological or genetic based treatments. As an example, gene splicing could create mutant zebra mussels that are unable to produce female offspring. Released into a lake with wild zebra mussels, their offspring would inherit the broken gene and eventually the mussels would die out. Other biological treatments might block or damage the tissues used in the water filtering process or even prevent how mussels attach to rocks, metal, or other objects. Genetically coded “messenger” molecules could possibly be released into the water and cause zebra mussels to self-destruct. This approach will take considerable testing to verify that the genetic or biological solutions will not create irreversible consequences. Some environmental advocacy groups have called for moratoriums on genetically modified organisms. Even though zebra mussels are an invasive species, some groups may question if eradication of a species is ethically justified. While an understanding of the genome opens the door for a wide range of treatments, there are many questions that will need to be addressed before eradication can begin.

In the years since zebra mussels appeared in the Gull Lake Chain, we have a much better understanding of treatment programs, how the mussels are transported from lake to lake, and are moving towards solutions for eradication. Until these solutions are finalized, it is vital to slow down the migration of zebra mussels to other lakes until eradication is determined to be safe and effective.

I want to thank Dr. Phelps for his time to discuss current plans for zebra mussel treatments and the research work that MAISRC is conducting.

In addition to zebra mussels, MAISRC is also conducting research on other AIS species such as eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, asian carp, spiny waterflea, baitfish diseases, and others. For a complete list of research projects and status, you can go to [www.maisrc.umn.edu](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu).

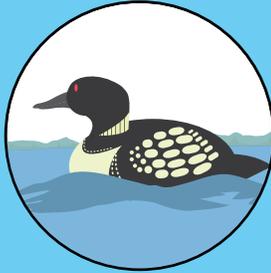


GULL CHAIN of LAKES ASSOCIATION

# Stewards for the Gull Lake Chain

## Protecting the Future for You, Your Family and Your Business

### OUR ENVIRONMENT



- Lake Stewards preserve lake environment
- Programs to protect our loons
- Shoreline restoration and water testing programs

### YOUR SAFETY & ENJOYMENT



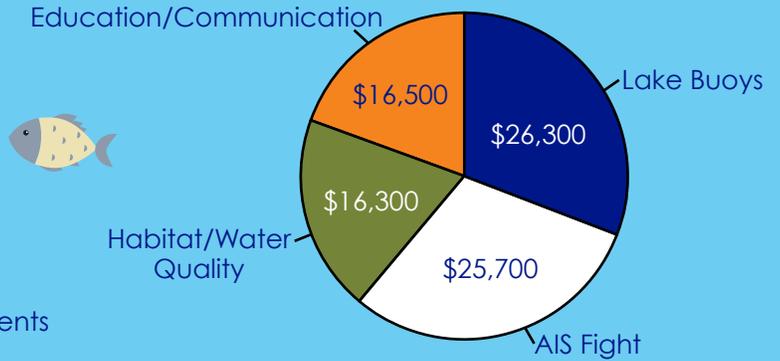
- 110 navigational buoys across the Gull Lake Chain
- Boat Safety classes 75+ kids
- Partner with local sheriff departments

### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

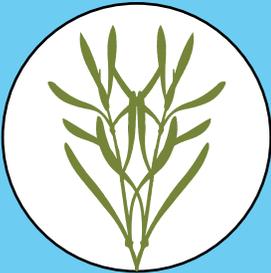


- Advocate for lake issues with state legislators
- Interface with county, city, and township governments
- Share with neighboring lake associations

### WHAT IT COSTS ANNUALLY



### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) FIGHT



- Protect our lakes from AIS
- Educate stakeholders on AIS
- Maintain technical knowledge of AIS

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If you use the Gull Lake Chain for an activity or just appreciate its natural beauty consider joining GCOLA as we work to preserve, protect and defend these beautiful lakes and the wonderful memories we have around them.

## The Benefits of Membership

- Be a part of a community of neighbors, friends, and local businesses who care about our lakes.
- Receive our quarterly newsletter
- Be “in the know” through website, Facebook page
- Attend the annual Gala and annual meeting
- Attend board meetings
- Get involved! Volunteer on a committee or project.

## Who can become a member?

Individuals, families, and local businesses who care about the lake chain. Seasonal and permanent residents, visiting fishermen/women, kayakers, resort guests, lake area foodies, summer sports enthusiasts, and winter sports fans. Anyone can join!

## How to Join or Renew

Visit us at [www.gcola.org](http://www.gcola.org) and click Join/Donate. Either download, fill out, and mail in a membership form or pay online. Another option is to use the membership form on page 31.

*Annual membership dues are \$50 per year*

## Why join or renew your membership?

Our members care deeply about the quality of the waters of the Gull Lake chain and the quality of life enjoyed around them. Sand-bottom, spring-fed chain lakes are gems of the central Minnesota landscape.

The lakes you enjoy are a gift. They need to be used and cared for in a manner that allows them to sustain themselves. Whether you enjoy fishing, boating, swimming, eating lakeside at a local restaurant, wake boarding, or just sitting and watching a sunrise or sunset, it can't be enjoyed to its fullest if the lakes become unhealthy. Help us protect this valuable resource by being a member. Our lake saving programs are funded in large part through membership dues.

Check out the infographic, “Protecting the Future For You, Your Family, and Your Business” and the article “What We Do” to learn more about GCOLA and why your membership is important.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cyndy Chaney

Richard Fiebiger

Robert Plagemann & Stoneridge on Gull  
Townhomes Association (Upper Gull)

Wayne & Susan Schmidt (Gull)

Chad & Lisa Swan (Round)

Keith & Tracy Tomlinson (Gull)

Gull Lake LLC DBA Gull Lake Marina

Brent & Jennifer Gunsbury and Bercher  
Design & Construction (Gull)

Chip & Jo Foster

Lisa Covey-Topp (Round)

Daniel & Pamela Hogstad

Mary Jetland

Erik & Heidi Saari (Margaret)

Tom & Mary Corrigan (Gull)

Jim & Liz Krezowski

Kelli McClintick & Brian Horst (Margaret)

Mike & Deb Veldman (Round)

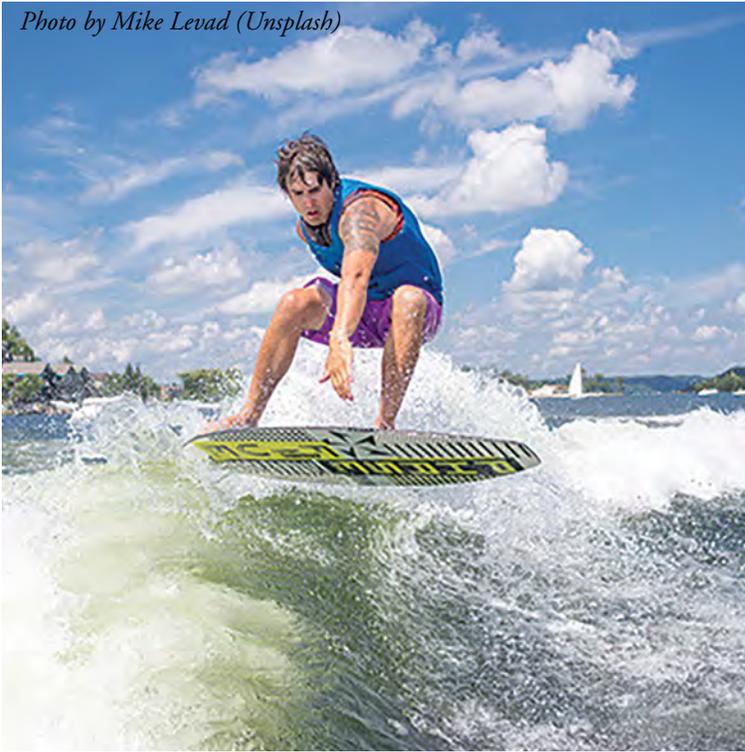
Gail, Olivia & Elsa Hetletvedt



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# U OF M ST ANTHONY FALLS LAB ENHANCED WAVE IMPACT STUDY

*Photo by Mike Levad (Unsplash)*



## **Background**

Motorboat activities on inland lakes is a major recreational pastime in Minnesota and includes fishing boats, ski boats, wake surfing boats, and pontoons. Over the last 15 years, a new class of boat has emerged - wake enhancing watercraft or wake surfing boats. These boats are engineered to create large wakes nearly twice the size of a typical motorboat - large enough to allow surfing directly behind the boat. The wave energy produced by these boats appears to result in increases in sediment erosion, damage to aquatic vegetation and damage to shorelines.

During the 2020 Minnesota legislative session, some organizations suggested setbacks from the shoreline for watercraft be 200 feet to reduce the issues with enhanced wakes

while others suggested that it should be 1000 feet. Legislators indicated that science-based research was needed before they could decide. As a result, the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA), Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) along with Safe Wakes for Minnesota Lakes and GCOLA asked the University of Minnesota (UMN) to propose an enhanced wave impact study.

The UMN St. Anthony Falls Hydrology Lab is one of the leading hydrology research institutions in the world and is an excellent choice to better understand impacts of boat generated waves and prop wash on lakeshore and lake bottom stability. With the emergence of larger and more powerful boats, specifically wake surfing boats, it is prudent to understand how large waves may shift shoreline out of balance or equilibrium state and into a state of erosion and land loss. The same is true for lake bottoms that may be impacted by deeper penetration of propeller wash from a large class of boat. Presently, little data exist on these impacts.

The UMN St Anthony Falls Hydrology Lab will be conducting the first of its kind, unbiased study focusing on evaluating the impacts of large recreational watercraft (e.g. large ski boats, wake surfing boats) on lake bottoms and shorelines. The study will be led by Jeffrey Marr and a team of university researchers. The proposed research study involves two projects:

## **Project One - Propeller wash and wave characterization of large recreational watercraft.**

This project will seek to characterize boat-generated waves and propeller wash generated by a wake surfing boat and one other large watercraft. The effort will be focused on a Twin Cities metropolitan lake. Wave heights and wave energy will be studied by placing sensors masts in the nearshore (~5-10 ft. of depth) capable of measuring water velocity at the lake

bottom as well as wave heights. A wake surfing boat and one other large watercraft (to be determined) will be operated at various distances from the sensor masts.

Propeller wash is a general term for the turbulent jet produced by the engine and prop. Working in deeper water (15-25 ft.), a bottom mounted sensor platform will be temporarily placed on the bottom of the lake. Watercraft will be operated under various conditions over the sensor platform. Sensors will measure the penetration depth and turbulent energy of the propeller wash. Water quality around the test will also be measured.

### **Project Two –Framework for citizen science wave network for Minnesota lakes.**

The project is motivated by the goal of establishing a statewide network of nearshore wave monitoring stations. This project will focus on the first step toward this goal, which is the design and prototyping of the wave monitoring sensor station, developing data storage and quality control methods, and developing the program for citizen science participation.

### **Funding**

This UMN study seeks funding through crowdfunding with a goal of \$94,000. A UMN webpage has been developed to support the fund-raising campaign. All donated funds will be placed in a UMN Foundation account specifically designated for this research program and donations may be made from associations, industry sponsors or individuals.

### **Schedule**

Project One and Project Two will be carried out from July 2020 through March 2021. Field work will occur late summer and fall of 2020 with data processing and publication occurring in winter 2020-2021.

### **Deliverables/Outcomes**

The proposed program is designed as stand-alone research. All data, analysis and results will be peer reviewed and publicly available once the project is complete. It is hoped that the preliminary results will be available by January 2021 for the Minnesota state legislative session.

### **Status of funding**

The rising concern of enhanced wakes in Minnesota, in the US and around the world is a shared concern. As a result, lake associations and individuals from the following states in addition to those from Minnesota are contributing to the study: Michigan, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Idaho, Oregon, Maine, North Carolina, Indiana, and Vermont. A marine boat dealer in Minnesota is also contributing to the study. Because our legislators need scientific based research to determine if legislation is needed to reduce the effects of enhanced waves and because the enhanced wave issue is GCOLA's number one priority legislative issue, GCOLA has contributed \$15,000 to the cost of this important study. As a result, the UMN has just received commitments exceeding the \$94,000 goal. Surplus funds may be utilized to conduct related research. If you wish to make a private tax-deductible donation visit: [Crowdfund.umn.edu](https://crowdfund.umn.edu).

# INVASIVE SPECIES SLOW WALLEYE GROWTH

*Chuck Herring, Fisheries Committee Chair*

Walleyes in northern Minnesota lakes infested with zebra mussels and spiny water fleas are growing at a slower rate than they did before the infestations. That's the bad news in a recent study by University of Minnesota researchers who looked at nine popular walleye lakes that have been impacted by one or both aquatic invasive species.

Researchers looked at walleye growth rates in Lake of the Woods, Rainy, Kabetogama, Vermillion, Red, Cass, Winnibigoshish, Leech and Mille Lacs using 35 years of data gathered by the MN DNR. The study found that walleyes in lakes infested with zebra mussels or spiny water fleas were 12% to 14% smaller after their first summer than before the lakes were infested. It was concerning to note that Mille Lacs Lake, which has both invasive species, showed even more stunted growth.

Both spiny water fleas and zebra mussels take small zooplankton out of the water which is what walleyes and

perch rely on as a food source their first year. It's not clear if the decline in zooplankton is why walleyes are smaller. Their smaller size could be from other factors as well, such as clearer water caused by zebra mussels making them more vulnerable to prey their first year. The research team also looked at yellow perch growth rates. Perch growth was less affected by the invasive invaders.

The next step in research was to look at additional second tier walleye lakes, including Gull Lake, to determine if the same slower growth rates occurred in additional lakes. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has postponed research for now.

It is critical that we do all we can to prevent the introduction of spiny water fleas into the Gull Lake Chain. Since we already have zebra mussels, adding another invasive that consumes zooplankton could prove detrimental to our walleye population in size and first year survival.



*Photo by Hunter Braunberger*



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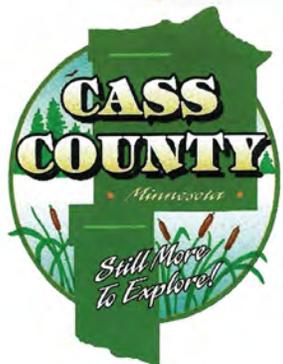
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# ASSOCIATION CASS COUNTY LAKES NEEDS YOUR HELP



## IT'S ILLEGAL TO...

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

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

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

## IT'S THE LAW!

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

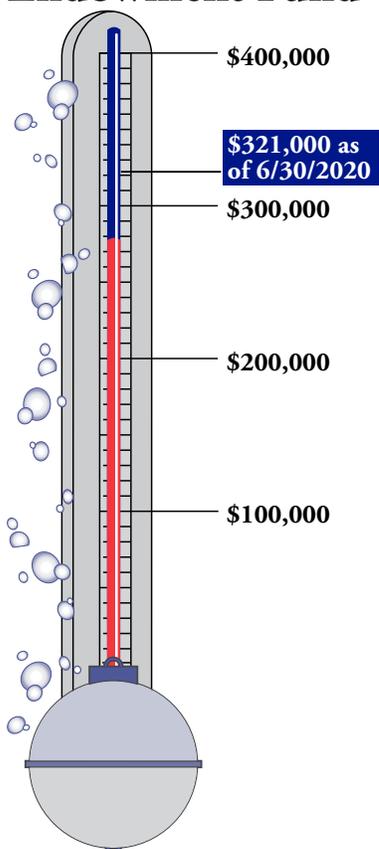
**DRAIN** water from the boat's bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.

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

**THANK YOU**  
**CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## FUND UPDATES

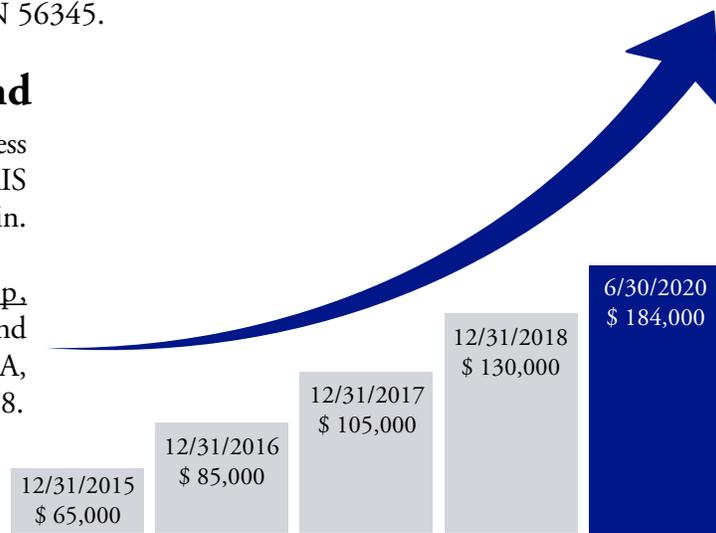
### Endowment Fund



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.



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# NEW LAKE STEWARDS

## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW 2020 LAKE STEWARDS FOR PROTECTING OUR LAKES!

Please join GCOLA in thanking our 28 new Lake Stewards, who have won this award for their lake friendly actions on their own property, such as pulling out invasive plants and reducing nutrient flow and algae growth in our lakes. You can be a Lake Steward, too! Go to [gcola.org](http://gcola.org), click Get Involved and then click Lake Steward Program.



*Corrigan and Johnstone Family  
Gull Lake*



*Jon Vilella Family  
Gull Lake*



*Jim and Judy Orrock with Lily and Lacey  
Roy Lake*



*Joyce and Dennis Kamstra  
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*Marc and Beth Swiontkowski  
Lake Margaret*



*Congratulations  
2020 Lake Steward*



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dave@lakesareahomes.mn

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# EXTENSIVE EXPENSIVE BUOY SYSTEM

Jay Chaney, Safety & Recreation Committee Chair

As most of our members are aware, the Gull Lake Chain has one of the most extensive navigational buoy systems in our state. That said, it's also an expensive proposition, commanding the largest budgeted item within GCOLA on an annual basis. Maintaining this system is a full time job for our installer, Gull Lake Marina.

Buoys often blow out of place during storms or when chains/connectors fail. If the buoy has simply moved out of place, it is promptly returned once we are notified by our members or other recreationalists utilizing the Gull Lake Chain. Sometimes however, buoys blow ashore to a homeowner's property. If this occurs, it's very important that we are notified of the property address, and that the buoy is secured on shore so that it can be promptly retrieved. In many instances, a homeowner will find a buoy, place it behind their garage or other storage area and we aren't notified until the homeowner closes up for the season. Sometimes we are never notified. With approximately 100 buoys on the chain, at an average cost of approximately \$300 per buoy, we don't want to lose them! The cost entails the buoy itself, the light (if applicable), the chain and the weight.

We also get calls every season with request to add additional buoys to areas that have not been previously marked. Although GCOLA pays for the majority of the buoys on the lake and is responsible for installation and removal, we do not make the decision as to where to place them. The determination is at the discretion of the county. When I receive a call from a homeowner with a request for a new buoy, the best I can do is refer them to the decision makers at the county level.

Lastly, we often receive inquiries as to why many of the buoys are removed at season's end "too early". The short answer to that is safety. Our installers generally begin removal in mid-October. Waiting longer can mean icy decks on our steel barge and removing these heavy buoys and weights in this condition is not safe. Point buoys and "Rock Pile" buoys are left in longer. Towards the very end of the season, there will still be a buoy presence on the "Rock Pile" but it won't resemble the 20 buoys marking this area during the summer boating season.

Our buoy system enables long time Gull Lake users, as well as "first timers" to enjoy our lake in a safe and confident

manner. We look forward to maintaining this system for the enjoyment of all, and hearing from our members as to missing or damaged buoys that need replacement or repair. Here's to hoping you had a wonderful summer, and if you're a winter enthusiast on Gull, it won't be long before the buoy lights on our lake are replaced by those of snowmobiles and fish houses!



A man and a woman are riding bicycles on a dirt path in a forest. The man is on the left, wearing a red shirt, black shorts, and a black helmet. The woman is on the right, wearing a light green sleeveless top, black pants, and a white helmet. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest with trees and a large rock, illuminated by the warm light of a sunset.

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# BOARD MEMBER UPDATE

Steve Frawley, Nominations Committee Chair



John Ingleman served as a GCOLA board member for almost nine years. He was the Communications Chair while working on the Finance/Audit and Nominations Committees. He also was our Gala Chair in 2019. John is a respected leader and we were fortunate to have his expertise on our board.



Rosemary Goff served as Secretary/Treasurer to GCOLA for 18 years. Like Bob, her knowledge and experience on our board has been invaluable. She has represented GCOLA as the “go to person” for advice, contact information, and any questions related to our lake association.



Bob Toborg has been a GCOLA board member for 25 years, which is longer than any board member past or present. He helped implement our buoy program, and in fact, installed and removed the buoys himself for many years. Bob’s institutional knowledge on the history of GCOLA and the Gull Lake Chain area has been invaluable to all those who have reached out to him.

*John, Bob, and Rosemary will be sorely missed but we wish them all the best as they retire from the board.*

## GET TO KNOW YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Joel Meyer lives in Litchfield and has a cabin on the east side of Gull Lake. He is the son of past GCOLA President and current board member, Marv Meyer. Joel is a franchisee operating several Papa Murphy’s throughout multiple states. He is interested in serving on the Safety & Recreation committee.



Claudia Allene owns and operates Claudia Around the World, an international tour company. Prior to this she worked as a realtor and is a longtime resident on Gull Lake. Claudia is interested in serving on the Membership committee.



Rick Quackenbush lives on Gull Lake and is an avid fisherman. He is retired from the security business and has served as a former Rotary International Assistant District Governor and trainer in the state of Illinois. He is interested in serving on the Environmental committee.



Todd Amerman is a retired flight controller and has recently served on the Environmental committee for the City of Lake Shore. He lives on Lake Margaret and is interested in serving on the Environmental committee



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## YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION IS WORKING FOR YOU

### 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](http://www.gcola.org)), a member group email service and a Facebook page (@GullLakeChain) to provide timely communication.
- Issues four newsletters 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 the 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 provides 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.



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# UP THE CREEK MEATS

## FARM TO TABLE PROGRAM HELPS TO PROTECT THE GULL LAKE WATERSHED

Information provided by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, [www.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org)



“We all know that industrial agriculture is one of the biggest polluters of water in our lakes and rivers. Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus wash off fields, supercharge algae and aquatic plant growth in our waters. Agricultural nitrogen is making its way into our aquifers and causing significant health risks according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Soil washed off farm fields in heavy rains increases turbidity in our lakes and rivers. The silt impacts fish spawning and fills in shallows, giving rise to significant dredging projects.

### But We Gotta Eat - So What to Do?

There is a new movement (it is an old movement that is coming back into fashion) towards “regenerative agriculture” with a focus on “soil health.” The goal is to farm in such a way that you increase topsoil and soil health instead of decreasing it.

According to the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, there are five soil health principles:

1. Keep the soil covered,
2. Minimize soil disturbance,
3. Increase crop diversity,
4. Keep living roots in the soil,
5. Integrate livestock.

Healthy soil infiltrates more water. In healthy soil more water percolates down into the ground. Less, much, much less, runs off the fields into ditches, creeks and, eventually, the lakes. Farming in a way that increases the infiltration rate of soil protects water resources.

One conventional farmer reported that after two years of practicing these soil health principles his fields went from only being able to infiltrate one half of an inch of rainfall an hour to three inches an hour. After many years, farmers can absorb and contain even 8-10 inches of rain an hour on their fields. This means less runoff into Minnesota’s lakes and rivers. It also means less need to irrigate, since deep rooted plants keep that infiltrated water available to the crops.

### Other Benefits of Sustainable Farming Include:

- These farmers need either much less, or no fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, or pesticides, further protecting water resources.
- Costs for these inputs fall for farmers, benefitting family farm economics.
- As soil health increases, yields increase often approaching or surpassing industrial yields.
- Diversity of crops leads to diversity of product.
- Veterinary bills fall to zero - chickens, cattle and hogs need no antibiotics or steroids, meaning that these compounds are also less likely to end up in the water or in your body.
- Crops and livestock are more nutrient dense from a diverse feed source.
- Wildlife benefits.
- Healthy livestock means healthy food for you and me.

With all these benefits, why aren’t regenerative Agriculture and Soil Health practices the norm? Marketing. Agricultural commodity markets grew up around the industrial farming practices which emerged after World War II. Farmers practicing regenerative agriculture have a harder time getting their product on grocery store shelves and into meat cases.

### This is Where You Can Help

You value the lakes and rivers in your area. Buy your food from farmers that share your values and actively work to protect water in their operations. By supporting these farmers and developing markets for these products, you make it possible for other farmers to begin adopting these practices.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers has identified several farmers in the Pine River and Crow Wing (Gull Lake Chain) Watershed area and is working to connect them with lake associations. These farmers participate in providing meat directly to consumers under the logo of “Up the Creek Meats”. Their



“Sunup offers grass-fed and grass-finished beef in quarters or split quarters. Our processing is done by local facilities that are USDA or Minnesota inspected. We practice low-stress handling of our cattle and do not use implants. We encourage customers to tour the ranch and see how we operate.” Sunup has sold all of their beef packs for this year, but Greg indicated that he will be taking orders next year for delivery next summer. Greg can be reached at 218-838-1266. As lakeshore owners we should support farmers, such as Sunup, that are actively engaged to protect our watershed. Long term there are many farmers and ranchers who are raising livestock next to streams that feed directly into the Gull Lake Chain. If these farmers would adopt land management practices used at Sunup, this would improve water quality not only for the Gull Lake Chain but also for the entire Crow Wing watershed.

motto is, “If you want to protect the lake, buy your meat from these guys.” One of the partners in the “Up the Creek Meats” concept is Sunup Ranch (Sunup) located three miles south of Gull Lake on County Road 18. Sunup produces grass fed beef and all-natural feeder calves on a ranch owned and operated by Greg Booth and Vicki Kettlewell. The ranch is also an American Quarter Horse Association Legacy Breeder and Ranching Heritage Breeder.

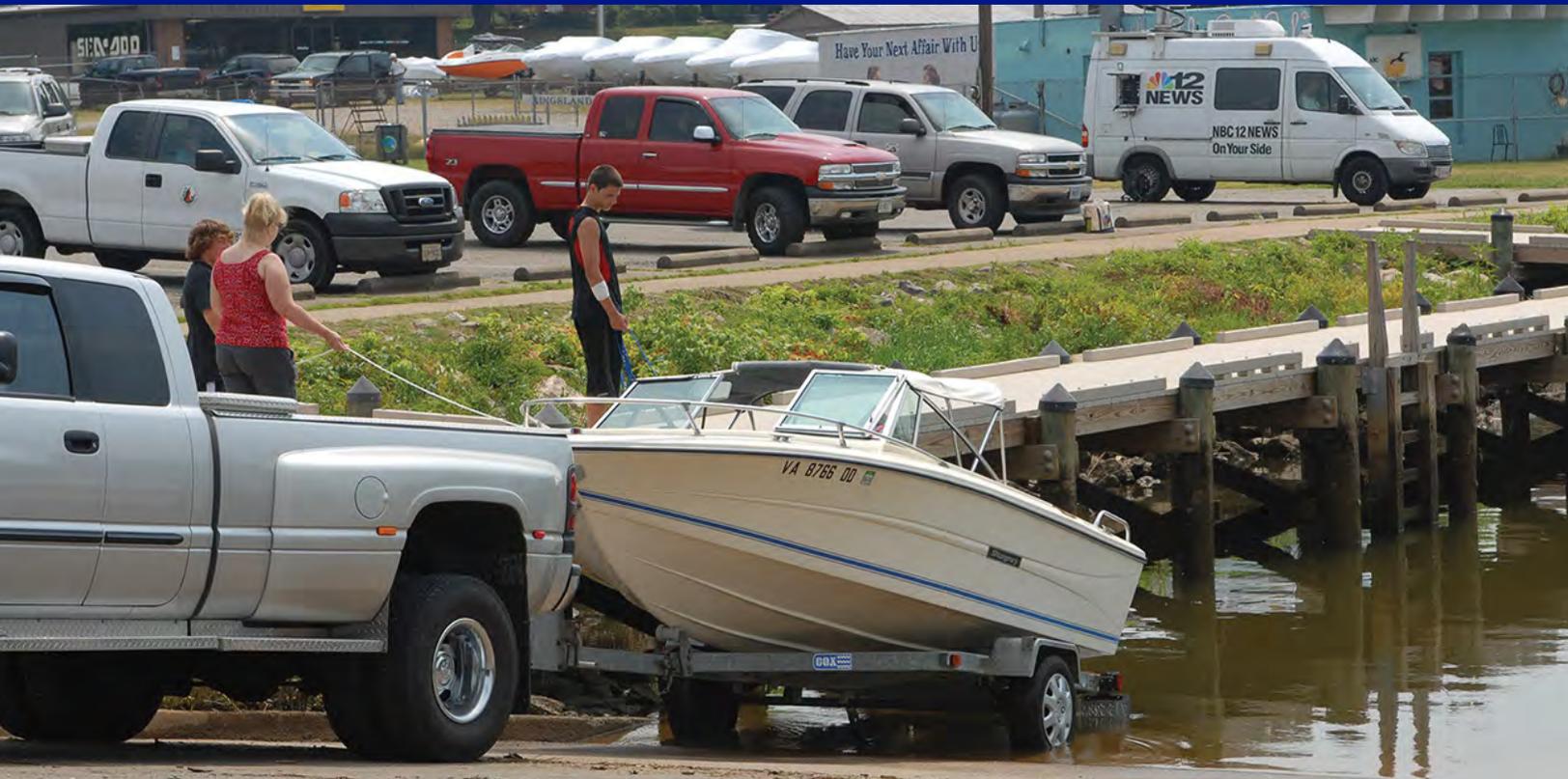
Greg has provided this information on how the ranch made improvements and management of the soil, “In 2009, the ranch began improvements to pastures, working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop a grazing system for the entire ranch – both cattle and horses. We implemented a conservation plan to emphasize water quality, timber management, rotational grazing and wildlife habitat. The ranch is situated in the glacial drift region of southern Cass County, with kettle-and-moraine topography, Gull River shoreline, seasonal and year-round ponds and a variety of tree, grass and wildlife species. Much of the ranch is under a permanent conservation easement. With the changes in practices, we see improvement in our pasture forages, soil and our livestock. We have more resilience with more variability in the weather. In dry years, we have more options for grazing and extending the forage. We continue to bring our paddocks down in size and graze more intensively. In 2012, we participated in a University of Minnesota Silvopasture study that took place over three years. The study results showed the value that a managed forest/grazing system can achieve for the forage quality, water quality and livestock production.”



For more information on the “Up the Creek” meat program and other ranchers who are participating in the program go to: <https://fishandwatersconservationfund.org/up-the-creek-meats>

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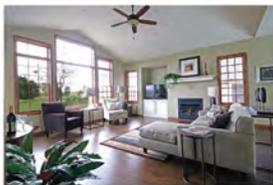
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# ADULT LIVING



# NO HELIPADS IN EAST GULL LAKE



On September 1, the City of East Gull Lake made the decision on whether or not helipads can be built at East Gull Lake residences allowing the takeoff and landing of private helicopters. How did we get to this point and why does the Gull Chain of Lake Association (GCOLA) care? Read on.

A person who recently purchased lakeshore property on the south end of Gull Lake informed the City of East Gull Lake that he wanted to build a helipad on his lakeshore property. Per Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) regulations, if a helipad is to be built within six miles of an airport, the property owner must get approval from the local government unit to build the helipad. Since all of the City of East Gull Lake is within six miles of the East Gull Lake airport (located by County Rd 77 near Madden's), anyone wanting to build a helipad in East Gull Lake needs approval from the City (Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council). An ordinance amendment had been proposed and if it was approved, private helipads would be a regulated use in East Gull Lake. Those who want to build a helipad would have to apply for a conditional use permit and adhere to the conditions of the ordinance. The proposed ordinance amendment has eight conditions related to property size, permits/insurance, permitted weather conditions and permitted take-off/landing time periods of the day. The proposed ordinance amendment does not address location of the helipad on the property including offsets from buildings, other residences or the lakeshore. Thus, the proposed ordinance amendment could allow a resident to build a helipad in their front yard between the lakeshore and their home, close to the water's edge.

The GCOLA Board received input and feedback from many GCOLA East Gull Lake residents and other GCOLA members in opposition to the proposed ordinance. The GCOLA Board discussed the proposed ordinance and the input received from members. The GCOLA Board concluded the following:

1. The proposed ordinance amendment would allow a lakeshore owner to build a helipad close to water's edge on Gull Lake.
2. A helicopter landing/taking off near water's edge could impact the environment and safety of wildlife, lake user's (boaters, kayakers, paddle boarders, swimmers, people on floatation devices, etc.) and people on nearby residential property with issues including, but not limited to: runoff, noise pollution, excessive wind velocity and helicopter rotor downwash.
3. Proximity of helicopter operations in a residential area will create a disturbance affecting peace and tranquility and change the character of the neighborhood.
4. Wildlife in the area such as loons, eagles, ducks, songbirds, hummingbirds, etc., would be negatively impacted by the noise, wind, and downward air velocity.

Since the ordinance amendment could negatively impact the recreational safety and environment of the Gull Lake Chain, the GCOLA Board voted unanimously to recommend disapproval of the proposed ordinance amendment.

If the City of East Gull Lake were to seek approval of the original ordinance amendment, the GCOLA Board recommended adding a ninth condition to the amendment regarding offset from shoreline. The additional condition would be to restrict the build of helipads to at least 1000 feet from the high-water mark of water bodies defined as lakes by the DNR. The additional condition for the 1000 foot offset from the shoreline is based on the following:

1. The Gull Chain of Lakes has a number of eagle nests in trees near its shoreline including the shoreline of Gull Lake within East Gull Lake. The US Fish & Wildlife Service document "National Bald Eagle Management Guideline", May 2007, page 14 states the following for operation of helicopters near eagle breeding grounds  
*"Category G. Helicopter and Fixed Wing Aircraft - Except for authorized biologists trained in survey techniques, avoid operating aircraft within 1000 feet of the nest during breeding season..."* In Minnesota, this document defines the breeding season from December to the end of August.
2. US DOT FAA Advisory Circular AC 150/5390-2C, Paragraph 310 recommends a helicopter protection zone (HPZ) of 400 ft. in length and that zone has to be under the control of the helipad owner. Per the FAA Advisory, *"The HPZ is intended to enhance the protection of people and property on the ground. This is achieved through heliport owner control over the HPZ. Such control includes clearing HPZ areas (and maintaining them clear) of incompatible objects"*

and activities.” Any extension of that zone onto the water is not under the control of the helipad owner since Minnesota lakes are public domain. Thus, the minimum property distance under control by a helipad owner would be 400 ft. from water’s edge for a helipad.

These two conditions are applicable for an ordinance amendment. GCOLA recommended the more restrictive of the two conditions (helipad should be a minimum of 1000 from lakeshore water’s edge) as it would be best for the lake environment and safety of lake users and satisfies the US Federal government guidelines/circulars.

The GCOLA Board sent its recommendation (opposition to the amendment) via a letter to the East Gull Lake Planning and

Zoning Commission members and also to the City Council members on March 16. This letter was publicly read on July 28 at the public hearing for the proposed ordinance amendment. The East Gull Lake Planning and Zoning Commission met on August 25 and voted 3 – 2 to recommend to the City Council to reject the proposed ordinance amendment. On September 1, the East Gull Lake City Council voted 5 – 0 to accept the Planning and Zoning Commission recommendation. Thus, private helipads will not be allowed in East Gull Lake. Lake users on the south end of Gull Lake, the eagles, loons and shoreline property owners are all breathing easier as a result of this decision. No helipads in East Gull Lake. The local airports will be available for the helicopters.



# ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Our annual meeting was held on Wednesday, July 22. This was our first annual meeting where we could not meet in person, so we used Zoom virtual conferencing. We had around forty attendees who tuned in and participated in the meeting, which is consistent with the number of attendees from the past few years.

We ratified four new board members who you can read about in this issue. Thanks to Rick Quackenbush, Todd Amerman, Claudia Allene and Joel Meyer for their new roles on GCOLA. Three board members stepped off the board this year - John Ingleman, Rosemary Goff, and Bob Toborg. John, Rosemary and Bob were invaluable to our board and we thank them for their many years of service and leadership to GCOLA.

The 2020 mid-year financial summary was presented by Uldis Birznieks from the Finance Committee. The actuals for the first half of 2020, the 2020 budget with and without the Gala and the 2019 actuals were presented as shown in the figure below. For GCOLA, 2019 was a very good year financially with a net income of +\$18.2K and with \$25K added to the AIS Contingency Fund. The budget for 2020 as passed by the GCOLA Board of Directors closely mirrored the 2019 actuals on the income side of the ledger. On the expense side, the Board approved a significant increase for budgeted expenses for Environmental/AIS as this is our #1 priority for GCOLA. Funding was allocated for increased shoreline restoration funding, additional AIS boat inspections, the loon awareness and National Loon Center programs and the Lake Steward program. The budget for Government Relations was also increased recognizing we needed a greater presence with our legislative and local governmental representatives on lake-related issues. The budgeted net income for 2020 was set with a small negative net income of -\$10.1K.

But then in early March, all of us including GCOLA were WALLOPED by the coronavirus. This resulted in Zoom GCOLA Board meetings, all lake-related legislation put on the shelf and no Gala for 2020, etc. Our lives were changed. The columns in the figure below titled “2020 Budget W/O

Gala” show the impact of not having the Gala. Our budgeted net income went from -\$10.1K to -\$40.8K. In the 2020 Spring edition of the GCOLA newsletter, we explained why even with this increase in negative net income that GCOLA will still be in sound financial condition.

The income for the first half of 2020 shows we have received 51% of our year-end budgeted income. Dues are similar to the first half of 2019 (84% of budget) and donations are ahead of 2019 at this point (93% of budget). Donations to the Endowment Fund for the first half of 2020 were \$7.0K and total a healthy \$330.6K. On the expense side, most major categories have similar patterns (% of budget) to our 2019 expenses year to date. The buoy system expenses are about \$5K greater than 2019 with increased costs for replacement/repair of buoys. Year-to-date, our net income is +\$21.7K, which is like what we had in 2019, exclusive of Gala income/expenses. Thus, exclusive of any major unknown expense or income, we will finish the year with a net loss in the -\$18K to -\$30K range, as detailed in the 2020 Spring edition of the GCOLA newsletter. As a result, our checking balance will be somewhere between +\$57K and +\$80K at year-end. In summary, GCOLA is in a sound financial position through the first half of 2020.

With our AIS Contingency Fund reserve of \$184.4K and our Endowment Fund at \$330.6K, we have \$515K available, if needed, for any new aquatic invasive species that might get introduced into our beloved Gull Chain of Lakes. All of us should be diligent to make sure that does not happen.

We then shared updates on several GCOLA initiatives including AIS, environmental projects, water safety, and our government relations efforts. The meeting ended with Q and A from our members. Topics ranged from interest in shoreline restoration to concerns about swimmers itch. We plan to include an article on how to avoid swimmers itch in an upcoming newsletter.

|   | 2020 THRU   | ACTUALS JUNE | 2020 WITH    | BUDGET GALA | 2020 W/O     | BUDGET GALA | 2019 ACTUALS      |     |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-----|
|   | \$ (K)      | % of Budget  | \$ (K)       | % of Total  | \$ (K)       | % of Total  | \$ (K) % of Total |     |
| <b>INCOME</b>   |             |              |              |             |              |             |                   |     |
| DUES  | 42.2        | 84%          | 50.0         | 35%         | 50.0         | 53%         | 48.2              | 34% |
| DONATIONS   | 29.8        | 93%          | 32.0         | 23%         | 32.0         | 34%         | 35.8              | 25% |
| GALA  | 0.0         | 0%           | 47.4         | 34%         | 0.0          | 0%          | 46.6              | 33% |
| GRANTS*/OTHER   | 0.6         | 5%           | 11.6         | 8%          | 11.6         | 12%         | 12.4              | 9%  |
| <b>TOTALS</b>   | <b>72.6</b> | <b>51%</b>   | <b>141.0</b> |             | <b>93.6</b>  |             | <b>143.0</b>      |     |
| ENDOWMENT IN  | 7.0         |              |              |             |              |             | 23.8              |     |
| ENDOWMENT TOTAL   | 330.6       |              |              |             |              |             | 328.5             |     |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>   |             |              |              |             |              |             |                   |     |
| ENVIRONMENTAL/AIS   | 13.2        | 22%          | 59.3         | 39%         | 59.3         | 44%         | 42.0              | 34% |
| BUOY SYSTEM/SAFETY  | 18.4        | 61%          | 30.0         | 20%         | 30.0         | 22%         | 27.5              | 22% |
| GALA  | 5.7         | 25%          | 22.4         | 15%         | 5.7          | 4%          | 20.3              | 16% |
| ADMINISTRATION  | 6.4         | 35%          | 18.5         | 12%         | 18.5         | 14%         | 18.3              | 15% |
| COMM/GOVT REL/MEMBER  | 7.2         | 34%          | 20.9         | 14%         | 20.9         | 16%         | 16.7              | 13% |
| <b>TOTALS</b>   | <b>50.9</b> | <b>34%</b>   | <b>151.1</b> |             | <b>134.4</b> |             | <b>124.8</b>      |     |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>   | <b>21.7</b> |              | <b>-10.1</b> |             | <b>-40.8</b> |             | <b>18.2</b>       |     |
| AIS Contingency Fund  |             |              | 20.0         |             | 20.0         |             | 25.0              |     |
| AIS Contingency Fund Cum  | 184.3       |              |              |             |              |             | 152.8             |     |
| *Note 1 - Does not include cost of Watercraft Inspections directly paid by counties to inspectors |             |              |              |             |              |             |                   |     |



## OUR LAKE STEWARDS MARY MARKERT PLATT AND SON DAVE PLATT

It started almost 100 years ago, and a pandemic was raging, as the Markert family of Saint Paul sought refuge in the forests and lakes of central Minnesota. They were escaping for whole summers from seasonal epidemics of childhood diseases, the most feared of which was paralytic polio. Mary Markert Platt's older brother John remembers taking an old Willys 4-door sedan and loaded trailer on the all-day trip north, suffering two flat tires on dirt roads north of Onamia to reach the north shore of Gull Lake. There they rented cabins until the late 1940's and fell in love with the beauty and timelessness of natural lakeshore. In 1953, when Mary's much older seven siblings were all reaching adulthood, but Mary was only 11, they felt an urgent need to "get Mary out of town" because of another summer polio epidemic in the Twin Cities. In a precious moment of history for the family, they came back up to the north shore of Gull Lake and began again to rent the "Hotchkiss cabin" (now owned by the Jones family, also Lake Stewards!) for the next 33 summers.

Mary remembers her father teaching her to fish, and then allowing her to take a rowboat out on the lake by herself at age 11. She caught a bullhead (catfish) and rowed back! And with five of Mary's much older siblings acquiring seasonal cabins or a home in the area, there were many cousins to play with and sometimes get into trouble with, like the time they hiked up onto Dutchman's Bluff and let out a piercing Tarzan yell that had guests panicking at Grand View and brought the sheriff to their door! Mary even met her husband Doug at a party at Grand View Lodge when he was a "beach boy" working for the summer there. Dave and his three siblings had the pleasure of spending their summers with many of his 36 cousins, including one who now owns the property right next door. Finally, in 1986, Mary and Doug bought her current lake home, just down the beach from their longtime rental property, and sharing the same lakeshore that they love so much: untouched natural beach where plants are allowed to grow, and towering trees that provide cooling shade and privacy. The property is forested all the way back to the access road and beyond, where there is a marsh rich with wildlife. Now Dave Platt's children Emily, Luca and Charlie have wonderful summer memories of building forts and playing hide-and-seek in the forest, and finding turtles in the pond with many other children from their extended family.

History is all around on the Platt's land. There is a swale in the lake side where horse and buggy once brought the US mail on the Old Government Trail. Previous owners left a section of engraved concrete with four arrows pointing to the Gull Lake landmarks of Holman's Point, Sandy Point, Rocky Point and Dutchman's Bluff. And there is a fairy tale playhouse in the woods, which this summer is hosting a princess, Dave's daughter Emily. With the Platt's careful stewardship of our lakes, we wish them many generations of wonderful lakeside living.

*Photos by Dorothy Whitmer*



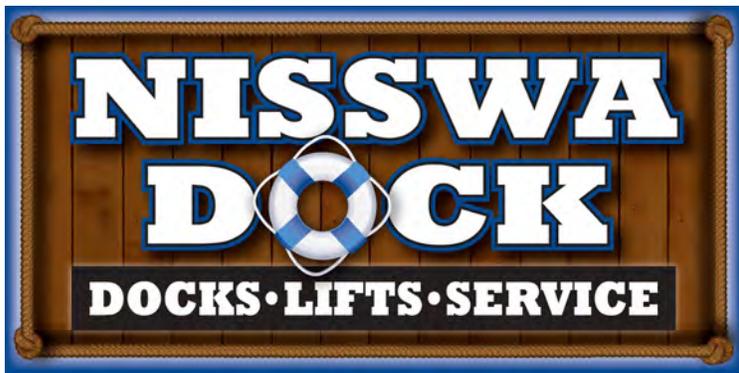
*Congratulations Lake Stewards! Mary and Dave Platt on their lakeshore*



*Log planter in Swiss tradition; canoe against old ice heave on shore*



*Fairy tale playhouse*



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# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



*Kris Driessen and Sheila Johnston  
at the tree give away event*

If you look at the “What We Do” list later in this newsletter, it becomes clear that the Gull Chain of Lakes Association couldn’t accomplish its goals without the significant contribution of volunteers. Over the next few issues of the newsletter, we want to express our sincere thanks and recognize those individuals and families who have significantly contributed to the success of our Association. This issue focuses on projects from the Environmental Committee.

Over the years, the Board has instituted several projects to monitor the water quality of both the streams flowing into our lakes and the lakes themselves. The Board also started a project seven years ago to survey the health of the loon population on our lakes. All these projects require the collection of data that has been dependent on GCOLA member volunteers. The Board would like to recognize the members who have devoted their time and energy to make these projects successful for the years 2018 - 2020. Without their involvement, none of these projects could have gone forward. A heartfelt thanks to the following individuals who worked on the End of Dock (ED) water quality testing, the Loon Surveys (LS), Lake Steward program (LSP), Shoreline Restoration (SR), and Tree Giveaway (TG):

Joan & John Akin (ED)  
Sue Amerman (LS)  
Bette Bagnall (ED)  
Ron Bagnall (ED)  
Kristi & John Bahnemann (LS)  
Steve Bergan (ED)  
Renee Billington-Woolley (LS)  
Lorrain Birskovich (ED)  
Uldis & Pat Birznieks (ED)  
John & Mary Boeder (LS)  
Daryl & Nancy Briley (ED)  
Mike Chase (ED)  
Berry & Bonnie Dornquast (LS)  
Ben & Rhoda Drake (ED)  
Kris Driessen (ED, LS, LSP, SR, TG)  
Jane & Gary Edwards (ED, LS)  
Bob & Laura Eng (ED)  
Maureen & Michael Farnsworth (LS)  
Ron Faust (LS)  
Bob Fier (ED)  
David Foster (ED, LS)  
Robert & Roberta Freese (LS)  
Sue & Larry Friedrichs (ED, LS, TG)  
Dick Gady (LS)  
Jeanne & Matt Green (LS)  
Mike Gibson (LS)  
Sharon Gibbons (LS)  
Joe & Shannon Glenn (ED)

Bill & Deb Grehl (LS)  
Bob Grussendorf (LS)  
Troy Gustafson (ED)  
Marty Halverson (ED)  
Gloria & Dave Hamilton (ED)  
Denny & Diane Hartog (LS)  
Linda and Bruce Harrier (ED, LS)  
Bob Hebrink (ED, LS)  
Julie Hepburn (ED, LS)  
Dan & Lise Herren (ED)  
Anne Holub (ED, LS)  
Dee & Rich Hultman (ED)  
Kurt Hunstinger (ED)  
Barbara Huso (LS)  
Arla & Charles Johnson (ED, LS)  
Randy Johnson (ED)  
Doug & Sheila Johnston (ED, LS, LSP, SR, TG)  
Joyce & Den Kamstra (LS)  
Kurt Kittleson (LS)  
Darrell & Jane Kolden (ED)  
Carolyn & Robert Laskey (ED)  
Bill & Judi LaTour (ED)  
Tom Lundeen (LS)  
Arleen Macko (ED)  
Ginger Markham (LS)  
Beverly Marx (ED)  
Christine Maxson (LS)

Kyle McClintick (ED)  
Shelley McDonald (ED)  
Michael McGray (LS)  
Molly McMullen-Krakowski (ED, LS)  
Lynne Miller (ED)  
James & Jani Moe (ED)  
Judy & Robert Morgan (LS)  
Chris Newpower (ED)  
Pat Nicolai (LS)  
Steve & Sue Peterson (ED)  
Gordon & Judy Pryor (LS)  
Cathy Robinson (LS)  
Mary & Pat Rugloski (LS)  
Sandie & Ric Sanchez (LS)  
Annabel Smith (ED)  
Olivia Smith (ED)  
Kevin & Vicki Smith (ED)  
Donald Snell (LS)  
George Sommerfeld (ED)  
Patty & Tom Steiger (ED)  
Dorothy Stewart (LS)  
Loriese & Robert Stoll (ED)  
Dorothy Whitmer (ED, LS, LSP)  
Michelle Wilson (LS)  
Jim & Mary Woll (LS)  
Earle Woolley (LS)  
Barbara Zapffe Vielma (ED)

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone’s contribution to these projects, please notify us at [info@gcola.org](mailto:info@gcola.org).

# 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation which means that money donated by you is tax deductible. Contributions above the \$50 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](mailto:info@gcola.org) to find out.

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Second or Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location on Lake (side, bay, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**2020 Gull Chain of Lakes Association Dues (January 1 to December 31)**

**\$50.00**

**Additional Donations (Optional)**

\$ \_\_\_ Aquatic Invasive Species Fund    \$ \_\_\_ Endowment Fund    \$ \_\_\_ Buoy Fund    \$ \_\_\_ Board Discretion

Please keep my additional donation(s) anonymous

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Please contact me via email regarding the following volunteer opportunities:

- AIS       Communications       Lake Steward Program       Gala/Silent Auction/Sponsorship  
 Government Relations       Loon Programs       Water Testing

**Thank you for being a member!**

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association does not sell, trade, swap or in any other way use your data except for official GCOLA use.

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# PHOTOS WANTED

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](mailto:info@gcola.org).

**THANK YOU!**



*Photo by Jill Kinsley*



*Photo by Mark Richard*



*Photo by Brittany Svendsen*

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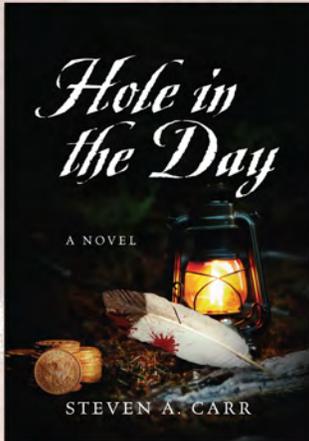
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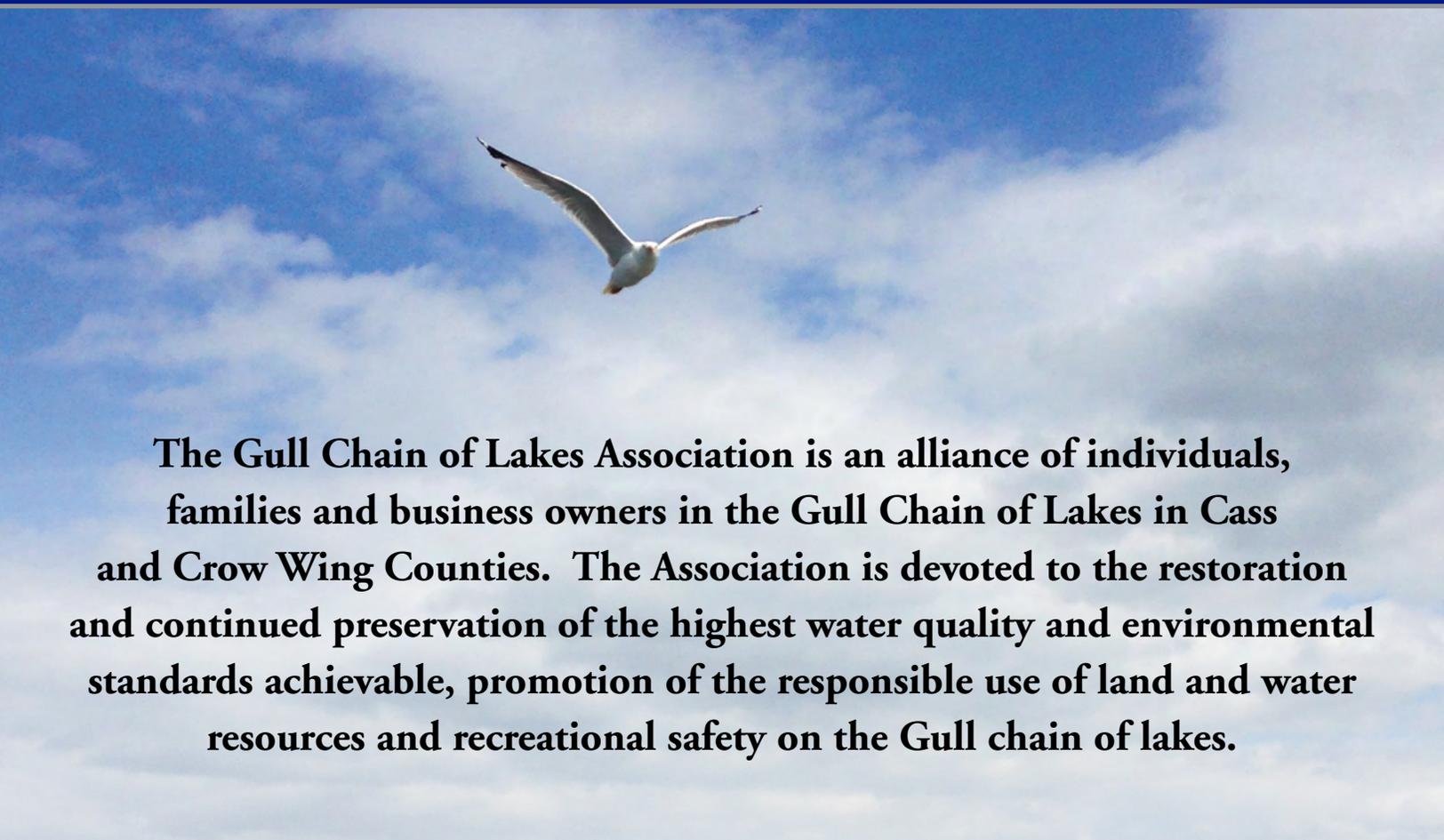
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# MISSION STATEMENT



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