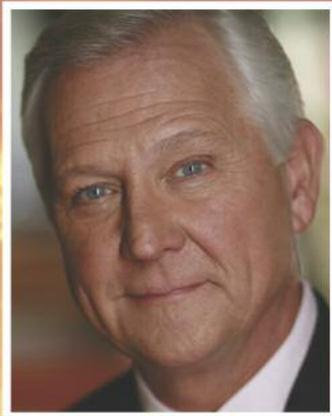




FOR THE LOVE OF OUR LAKES 5TH ANNUAL GALA

SPEAKER: FORMER JOURNALIST & TELEVISION ANCHOR



DON SHELBY

GRAND VIEW LODGE • MONDAY, JULY 25

5:00 PM • SOCIAL AND SILENT AUCTION

6:30 PM • DINNER AND SPEAKER

TICKETS: \$45 PER PERSON

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WWW.GCOLA.ORG

RAFFLE PRIZE:

**TRIP INCLUDING AIRFARE AND ACCOMODATIONS FOR TWO TO
BAHAMAS, ICELAND OR ARUBA. ONLY 100 TICKETS AT \$100/TICKET**

PHOTO BY MARY GIBSON



Exceeding Expectations

Satisfied customers are a result of quality products and service.

Pier Pleasure boat lifts provide the best in appearance and quality, backed by the best warranty in the industry.

The D.H. Aluminum Frame Dock is the leader in appearance, stability, versatility and value, with a LIFETIME WARRANTY.



It's the Good Life...

D.H. Docks & Tracks

218-963-2566



dhdocks.com

Since 1974



South of Schaefer's Foods • 23624 Smiley Road • Nisswa

SPECIALIZING IN LAKE SHORE

Located in Nisswa, Heart of the Beautiful Brainerd Lakes Area. Since 1964

www.kurilla.com



(888) 876-7333

23590 Smiley Road • Box 779 • Nisswa, Minnesota • (218) 963-7333



K

KURILLA
REAL ESTATE
NISSWA LTD.



Box 102 • Nisswa, Minnesota 56468
218-963-3542

gullchainoflakesassociation.org
gcola.org

CHAIR

Uldis Birznieks, Gull, Steamboat Bay
218-829-8193; pub@scicable.com

VICE-CHAIR & MEMBERSHIP

Arla Johnson, Gull
218-963-7954; arlajjohnson@msn.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rosemary Goff, Margaret
218-963-3542; togogr@charter.net

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES & GALA CHAIR

Steve Allex, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-829-2612; savesta@msn.com

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

John Ingleman, Margaret
218-963-9441; jaingl@aol.com

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Robert Eliason – Bass Lake
Loon Survey; End –of-Dock Program
218-568-7868; rmeliason@gmail.com

Ron Faust, Gull
Shoreline Restoration
218-961-1617; ronfaust@mac.com

FINANCE/AUDIT CHAIR

Marv Meyer, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-828-9577; mgmgull@gmail.com

GALA CHAIR

Steve Allex, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-829-2612; savesta@msn.com

SAFETY & RECREATION CHAIR (BUOY SYSTEM)

Bob Toborg, Margaret
218-963-3542; togogr@charter.net

Jay Chaney, Gull
218-963-7700; jay@boatsandbeyondrentals.com

Kevin Egan, Margaret
218-963-3546; kegan22583@comcast.net

Linda Harrier, Bass
218-963-2250; lharrier922@gmail.com

Chuck Herrig, Gull
Silent Auction Chair
612-396-9105; theherrigs@hotmail.com

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Marc Bacigalupi, DNR Fisheries,
218-203-4303; marc.bacigalupi@state.mn.us

MaryKay Larson – US Army Corps of Engineers
Manager, Gull Lake Dam Recreation Area
651-900-5770, MaryKay.L.Larson@usace.army.mil

WEBSITE MANAGER

Dave Anderson, Bass
218-963-3121, info@lakeshoreinnovations.com

WEBSITE: gcola.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair’s Message2-3

Save the Date.....4

2016 GALA5-6

The Trip Raffle is Back.....7-8

Membership Challenge Time Again!.....9

Boat and Water
Safety Classes Offered.....10

2016 Boat Inspection Plans for AIS.....11

Volunteer Opportunities.....13

Endowment Fund Update16

MNCOLA and MLR
Legislative Priorities17-18

News from the DNR.....19

MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research
Center Ribbon Cutting20

SPRING 2016

A Common Terrestrial
Invasive Species21

Shoreline Habitat Program22

Association of Cass County Lakes
Needs Your Help!23

Board of Directors25

Aloha! Gull Lake Yacht Club26

GCOLA Website.....27

Emails Wanted28

Welcome New Members.....29

Mission Statement.....30

Gull Lake Profiles31

Gull Chain of Lakes Membership.....33

Confidentiality Policy.....34



CHAIR'S MESSAGE ²

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

On behalf of the Gull Chain of Lakes Board of Directors, I would like to extend a warm spring greeting to our GCOLA members and all property owners on our beautiful Gull Chain of Lakes. This Spring Edition of the newsletter is being distributed to all Gull Chain property owners. It is our hope that all Gull Chain property owners see the value of our lake association and our stewardship mission. Our membership is at an all-time high in excess of 900+ property owners and businesses and we are always looking for new members. Current members, please remember to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Sign up a new member and both you and the new member could win a cash prize! (See Membership article in this newsletter)

The loons are back with their haunting calls, the ducks are flying, the dock and lift operators are hard at work and the ice officially went out on the Chain on April 8. This past winter might have been one of the shortest ice-on seasons in recent memory totaling only 105 days from total ice over to total ice out (Dec. 26 – April 8). The

snowbirds might have to shorten their stays in warmer climates if they want to take full advantage of our open water seasons.

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we are moving the Annual Meeting to a separate date from the Gala Event. This will allow time needed for discussions/actions/questions at the Annual Meeting and also allow more social interaction at the Gala Event. The Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, July 16 starting at 10:00 AM at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa. The 5th Annual Gala will take place at the Gull Lake Center of the Grand View Lodge in Nisswa on Monday evening, July 25. We are privileged to have as our Gala guest speaker, Don Shelby, the most honored and decorated local television journalist in the country. Please read the articles later in this newsletter on these events and be sure to put them on your calendar.

Our aquatic invasive species (AIS) watercraft inspection program for 2016 will be the most extensive that have

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Love climbing tall ladders?
(YEAH, WE DIDN'T THINK SO.)

Hard to access windows? One of our specialties!
AND we do them all safely and efficiently.
Hire professionals. Call us today!

Brainerd Lakes
WINDOW CLEANING
& MORE, LLC
"We'll Help You See Clearly"

YOUR GULL LAKE SPECIALIST!

218.820.5544 | BrainerdLakesWindowCleaning.com

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Uldis Birznieks, Chair

undertaken. One element of that plan had been a grant request to the DNR for a 50/50 cost share for 1000 hours of DNR interns for watercraft inspections. We had received these grants (for 750 hours/yr) from the DNR for the last two years. This year, we did not receive that grant (worth \$8K). I wanted to find out from the DNR why we did not get the grant. The DNR said they had requests for 26,000 hours from lake associations state-wide and their criteria favored lakes that did not have zebra mussels. I also found out, after talking to a DNR supervisor, that the DNR had internally cut the funding for the program from 10,000 hours in 2015 to 7,500 hours in 2016. The DNR made this cut in hours because they said that for the last couple of years they could not provide the necessary staffing for the inspections and reduced the hours available so “they could over achieve their goals.” We also had requested a 2016 grant from the DNR for controlling curly leaf pondweed in Lake Margaret and Love Lake. The DNR cut the 2016 funding for the AIS plant control program from \$675K in 2015 to only \$200K in 2016. The DNR had the same amount of funding available but chose to hire additional AIS planners rather than provide the funding to the lake associations. This is not the end of the world regarding the fight against AIS, as GCOLA will internally fund these efforts that we had anticipated grant money. But the message is clear, the DNR is putting more and more of the burden of fighting AIS on lake associations like GCOLA. Fortunately, the state legislature funding to fight AIS (\$10M/yr state-wide) is not discretionary, since it is enacted via passed legislation which is distributed directly at the county level to lake associations. Both Cass and Crow Wing Counties have been excellent to work with to receive funding for our AIS efforts.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the state legislature will either have ended or be close to ending. You will thus know the fate of proposed legislation regarding muskie stocking. The House bill, authored by Representative Mark Anderson (a GCOLA member), stated that the commissioner of natural resources shall not introduce muskellunge in six new lakes including Gull Lake. The Senate version of the bill, co-authored by Senator Tom Bakk, the Senate Majority Leader from the Lake Vermillion area, prohibited the DNR from all additional

stocking of muskie. The House version of the bill successfully passed two committee hearings and was rolled into a DNR omnibus bill. The Senate version was moved from the sub-committee level to a committee level. Given the shortened legislative session, chances of these bills making it all the way through the legislative process are reduced. If this legislation is not enacted, the DNR will announce their decision on the muskie stocking of Gull Lake mid-year. Jeff Forester, Executive Director for the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, had this to say in his legislative mid-session update letter, quoting “*What is clear is that no matter the outcome from this session, the controversy will continue. Otter Tail County lake associations are working to expand an advocacy base to oppose muskie stocking in Minnesota, and Muskie’s Inc., a national proponent of muskie fishing, is ramping up its advocacy efforts as well. But most importantly, it is clear that a large segment of the population, including Legislators, has lost confidence in both MN DNR science and the public input process. There is a need to do conclusive science on the impacts of muskie stocking. Without conclusive science that is above accusations of bias, there can be no resolution. Additionally, without a civic governance process that builds trust between all stakeholders, the legislative push and pull surrounding muskies will continue.*” That civic governance process should reside at the local/county level and should include lakeshore property owners, businesses and all local lake users (fisherman and non-fisherman).

Enjoy your spring clean-up chores, enjoy time with your neighbors, enjoy getting out on the water again, enjoy our great Gull Chain of Lakes.

We’ll see you at the Annual Meeting and the Gala,
Thank you,
Uldis

SAVE THE DATE



This year the GCOLA Board of Directors and Gala Planning Committee are trying something new. We are moving the Annual Business Meeting to a separate date from the Gala Event. This will allow the time needed to conduct the Annual Meeting and allow time for questions and interaction with board members. It also will allow more social interaction and reduce congestion at the Gala Event. The Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, July 16 starting at 10:00AM at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa. GCOLA members will receive a notice by mail.

The 5th Annual Gala will take place at the Gull Lake Center of the Grand View Lodge in Nisswa on Monday evening, July 25. We will be honored to have as our Gala guest speaker, Don Shelby, the most honored and decorated local television journalist in the country.

As in years past, we need volunteers to assist in preparation for the Gala Event; please contact Steve Allex (Gala Chair) at savesta@msn.com or Chuck Herrig (Silent Auction Chair) at theherrigs@hotmail.com to offer assistance. Be sure to mark on your calendars Saturday morning, July 16 for the GCOLA Annual Meeting and Monday evening, July 25 for the GCOLA Gala Event. You won't want to miss either event!!

SEE YOU ON JULY 16TH AND JULY 25TH!!

On Hwy 371, 2 blocks South of BIR Raceway
INDOOR/OUTDOOR BOAT STORAGE

LUND The Ultimate Fishing Experience
POLARIS The Way Out.
Ranger BOATS
Cypress Cay PONTOONS
WOW WALKS-ON-WATER, INC.
PORTA-DOCK
FOUR WINNS
YAMAHA
MERCURY

PARTS • SALES • SERVICE • STORAGE
CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS FOR

SEA DOO **EVINRUDE** **POLARIS** **MERCURY**

17821 Hwy 371 • BRAINERD • 218-822-3500
 33972 US Hwy 169 • ONAMIA • 320-532-3860
WWW.POWERLODGE.COM

Social Circles

Build yours Today!

goWild

16460 Hwy 371 North, Brainerd
 218.829.5519
LandsburgNursery.com

Landsburg LANDSCAPE NURSERY
Lakes PROUD YOUR BEST LANDSCAPE

For the best tips, advice, and coupons, sign up for our e-newsletter at LandsburgNursery.com

Relax & Enjoy.

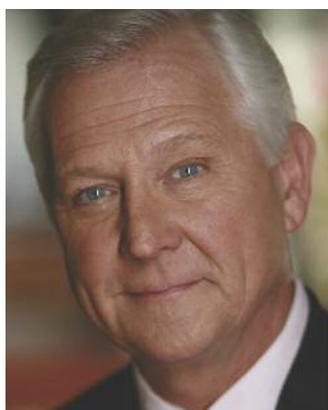
ERNEIE'S
 SINCE 1917
 GULL LAKE

10424 Squaw Point Rd 218.829.3918 erniesongull.com

2016 GALA

By Steve Alex, GALA Chair

Our 5th annual GALA will be held this year on Monday, July 25th at Grand View Lodge in the Gull Lake Center. The event will start at 5:00 PM with reception and the popular and ever growing silent auction. From last year we will again be using electronic bidding, where you can bid with your smart phone or tablet. You do not need a smart device to bid, as assistants will have smart devices to help you bid if needed. We will have additional assistants this year to help with the bidding and answer any questions you may have with the bidding process.



Dinner will begin at 6:30 PM with our featured speaker, former journalist and television anchor, Don Shelby. Don Shelby has been a reporter and television anchor for 45 years. Before retiring from daily journalism, he worked for 32 years as anchor, investigative reporter and environmental correspondent for WCCO-TV in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota.

Don is considered the most honored and decorated local television journalist in the country. He has won three national Emmys, and has twice won the Pulitzer Prize of broadcasting: The George Foster Peabody. He was honored in 1983 with the top award for investigative reporting by the International Radio and Television News Directors Association. He has been awarded more than two-dozen regional top honors from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Associated Press and United Press International. Don was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2008, and in 2010 Don was named Distinguished Minnesotan.

Don has reported from locations spanning the globe. He has reported from Romania, Egypt, Iraq, Venezuela, Australia, and the Arctic Circle - to name a few. He originated the I-Team concept in 1980, and developed Project Energy in 2005. He reported nationally on the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and from the scene of the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City. In 2010 Don reported on the war in Iraq from Contingency Operating Base Basra, Iraq

embedded with the 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division of the Minnesota National Guard. In 2001, Don began a ten-year term as a drive-time radio personality for WCCO-AM 8-3-0. Don interviewed more than two thousand national newsmakers during that time, and began a weekly segment known as E-Day, in which he dedicated three hours every week to the discussion of alternative energy, global warming, environment, ecology and the new economy of energy efficiency. Don also was recently inducted into the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. With Don's diverse background and on-stage presence, it will be a treat for all Gala attendees to hear Don Shelby.

Our \$100 raffle will return this year that provides a great travel opportunity to the winner. Only 100 raffle tickets will be sold, so your odds of winning are much better than a traditional raffle. This year travel options include many locations around the world or you also can customize your travel plans. These raffle tickets tend to sell out quickly, so contact a GCOLA Board member to purchase tickets. For more details, see Chuck Herring's article about the raffle and the silent auction in this newsletter.

We have a number of local sponsors and key supporters for the GALA event. You will find the logos of our major sponsors displayed prominently at the GALA and in our Newsletters. A list of the major sponsors can be found in this newsletter.

We look forward to another successful GALA, with the opportunity to renew acquaintances and meet new members. You do not need to be a GCOLA member to attend the GALA, so bring friends or your neighbors. Tickets are \$45 per person and may be purchased singly or in groups of ten (a table) through GCOLA web site (www.gcola.org), or from any Board member.

We look forward to seeing you on July 25th.

SET FOR JULY 25⁶

GALA MAJOR SPONSORS

WALLEYE LEVEL (\$750+)



NORTHERN LEVEL (\$500 - \$749)



Love at 425°™



THE TRIP RAFFLE IS BACK!

Our trip raffle is back and better than ever. For a raffle ticket price of just \$100, you could win a trip valued at \$4,000. We are selling only 100 tickets, so your odds of winning are far better than buying a lottery ticket!

Our travel agency partner, Traveler's Fare, has come up with three exciting new destinations to choose from. Here they are:

First option is a 5 night stay for two on the southern Caribbean island of Aruba. This 21 mile jewel is a year round paradise with an average temperature of 82 degrees. You will be staying at the newly remodeled Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino. This high-end hotel features a Ruth Chris Steak House, Balinese style spa and 24 hour excitement of the Stellaris Casino. This trip includes airfare and all airport transfers.

A second trip option is a 4 night all-inclusive stay for two at Great Exuma in the Bahamas. You will be staying at the luxurious Sandals Emerald Bay, which is a 500 acre all-inclusive resort set along a one mile stretch of white sand beach on Emerald Bay. This resort also features a stunning 18 hole Greg Norman-designed championship golf course and a 17 acre Emerald Bay Marina. This trip option also includes airfare and all transfers.

Our third and most unique trip option destination for two is a non-stop Icelandic Air flight to Reykjavik, Iceland with a 5 day stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Reykjavik. Included in this trip is 1 full day small group Golden Circle Tour and Secret Lagoon Visit Excursion. Trek a lava field, view a glacier, go whale spotting, or view northern lights in this unique travel destination and least populated European country.

Finally, a fourth and our most popular trip option is a \$4,000 allocation to travel to the dream destination of your choice. You will work with our travel agency partner, Traveler's fare, to plan your own custom vacation.

So how do you enter? Buy you raffle ticket today from any GCOLA board member.

With only 100 tickets to be sold, the popular trip raffle will likely sell out.

Don't miss this chance to win and Good Luck!



**GREAT EXUMA, BAHAMAS
2016 – 2017 INCLUDES**

**Round trip airfare for two from Minneapolis, 4 night
all- inclusive resort stay,
Round trip airport to resort transfers and taxes**

The Exumas make up a sparsely populated long, thin, sandy chain of islands. These islands have not seen as much development as the Bahamas' other islands, making for a relatively inexpensive visit. Accommodations in the Great Exuma are mostly smaller villas and inns, but large-scale all-encompassing resorts also exist.

Staying at the Sandals Grande Emerald Bay



All- Inclusive accommodations

Unfolding like a grand estate, Sandals Emerald Bay is a 500-acre resort set along a 1-mile stretch of white-sand beach on Emerald Bay, Great Exuma, Bahamas. This resort offers a selection of 183 magnificently appointed, luxurious accommodations with styles that range from beachfront villas to charming bay house settings. Unique to Sandals Emerald Bay is a stunning 18-hole Greg Norman-designed championship golf course, reputed to be among the best in the Caribbean, as well as a 17-acre, standalone Emerald Bay Marina by Sandals, the first-ever marina for any Sandals Resort.

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND 2016 – 2017 INCLUDES

**Round trip airfare for two from Minneapolis flying nonstop with Icelandair,
5 night stay at the Grand Hotel Reykjavik &
1 full day small-group Golden Circle Tour & Secret Lagoon Visit excursion**



Come trek a lava-field, gaze on a glacier, spot a whale or a puffin, sample one of Europe's strangest national cuisines, or brave the snows in winter to glimpse the northern lights in their full glory, undimmed by the least densely populated nation in Europe.

Staying at the Grand Hotel Reykjavik



Grand Hotel Reykjavik is a four star superior hotel with excellent service and facilities. It rests in quiet surroundings conveniently located close to the city centre & Laugardalur Sports & Recreational Park. The hotel is a member of Top Hotel International.

Best Time To Visit ?

Iceland's climate is tempered by the Gulf Stream. Summers are mild and winters rather cold. The colourful Aurora Borealis (Northern Lights) are best seen between November and February. In June and July, there are nearly 24 hours of daylight in Reykjavik, while in the northern part of the country the sun barely sets at all.

New Year's celebration in Iceland

Icelanders are crazy about fireworks and people come from all over the world to watch Reykjavik's fantastic New Year's extravaganza.

ARUBA 2016 – 2017 INCLUDES

**Round trip airfare for two from Minneapolis, 5 night resort stay,
Round trip airport to resort transfers and taxes**

The southern Caribbean island of Aruba is a 21-mile long jewel just north of Venezuela and is a year-round paradise with average temperatures flirting with a balmy 82 degrees and refreshing trade winds keeping it cool. Aruba offers something for everyone, from breathtaking natural wonders to designer shopping and nightlife, glittering casinos and great golf.

Staying at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino



Guests of all ages will enjoy this perfect Caribbean resort from the moment they arrive. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino has undergone a \$50 million makeover and features completely new guest rooms with luxurious bedding and bathrooms, new LCD wide-screen TVs and other high-tech amenities. The Marriott Aruba Resort offers premier facilities including the world renowned Ruth's Chris Steak House, a relaxing Balinese-style spa, and the 24 hour excitement of the Stellaris Casino

The hotel is 100% smoke free with the exception of the casino and open air restaurant

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE WIN TIME AGAIN! CASH!

Once again we are encouraging GCOLA members to help us expand our membership base by signing up a neighbor, friend or business acquaintance as a new member. Dues for any individual, family or business is \$50 per year. Business members' websites are listed on our GCOLA website, gcola.org while individuals are recognized in the GCOLA newsletter.

A larger membership pool enables your lake association to engage more lake lovers in their efforts to keep our beautiful chain of lakes healthy far into the future. Membership dues account for over 1/3 of the annual budget that supports our activities such as coordination of the buoy system, supporting boat safety training, conducting boat landing inspections for invasive species, shoreline restoration, water quality testing and others.

As we did last year, we are offering a cash prize of \$200 to one lucky new member and also \$200 to one current member who has invited a new one to join. Membership forms are printed on the last page of each newsletter, are

available for download on our website (www.gcola.org) under "Membership" and can also be obtained by emailing the Membership Committee Chair, Arla Johnson, at arlajohnson@msn.com.

All entries must be received by July 20, 2016 to be eligible to win. The winners will be announced and prizes awarded at our annual GCOLA Gala event on Monday, July 25. Contest participants do not need to be present to win.

So join in the fun, help your lake association and you might even win some cash!



Supporter of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association.

Kurt B. Nelson
 Vice President/Investments
 (218) 828-3204 | (888) 823-4385
nelsonk@stifel.com
 14275 Golf Course Drive, Suite 100
 Baxter, Minnesota 56425
 Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com

Mattson LUMBER COMPANY
 Hwy. 371 South, P.O. Box 149
 Nisswa, Minnesota 56468

3 MILES SOUTH OF NISSWA ON HWY 371
 • FREE ESTIMATES • FREE DELIVERY
 "Quality Materials To Serve You Better"

We carry a full line of building materials for all your construction needs.
 Marvin Windows ~ Acclimated Doors & more!

Mon.- Fri. 7:00 am - 5 pm
 Sat. 8 am - Noon

Phone: (218) 963-7470
 Fax: (218) 963-7480

GET BACK TO THE LAKE

BOAT REPAIR | CUSTOM DETAILING | MARINE ACCESSORIES
 AUTHORIZED FACTORY REPAIR FOR MANY MAKES & MODELS

HIGHWAY 371 N. | BRAINERD/BAXTER
 (800) 991-9039 | (218) 825-3500
 VISIT US ONLINE: TheBodyWorks.com

The Body Works
 MARINE REPAIR & DETAIL

We Service All Vehicle Makes & Models!

MILLS
 Visit MillsAuto.com

BOAT AND WATER SAFETY CLASSES OFFERED

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association (GCOLA) in conjunction with Cass and Crow Wing County Water Patrols, the DNR and the US Army Corps of Engineer is again sponsoring two boat and water safety classes for all youths ages 12 to 17. According to Minnesota state law, all youth ages 12-17 must have a permit to operate watercraft with a motor of over 25 HP. This class not only goes through all rules and regulations, but also provides all participants some hands on boat operation training as well. This class qualifies participants for the required permits. GCOLA will be giving participants a life jacket. The sheriff's office strongly recommends that all young people in this age bracket take the class.

with the class starting at 8:30 a.m. A pizza lunch will be provided for all participants at no cost courtesy of Zorbaz on Gull Lake.

All who are interested should call Mary Kay Larson at the Corps of Engineers for details and pre-registration. She can be reached during the day at 651-290-5770. Call now since each class is limited to 25 participants.

There will be two opportunities to take this class; Tuesday, June 14 and Wednesday, July 13 at the Gull Lake Yacht Club, 19696 Love Lake Road. Check in is from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m.



24/7 ... Rain or Shine ...

Your local, independent agent will be there.

AGENCYONE

Baxter • 218-829-2844
www.agencyonemn.com



Eric Bolt

Auto-Owners Insurance



Gull Lake Cabin Care

- PREVENTATIVE CARE
- SECURITY SUPPORT
- SEASONAL MANAGEMENT

BRENT WIZCEK

218.838.5312

Serving the Lakes Area since 2000

2016 BOAT INSPECTION PLANS FOR AIS

Steve Allex, Chair AIS Committee

During the winter months, GCOLA has been putting together plans for the upcoming boating season to support boat inspections as means to prevent movement of Aquatic Invasive Species, either entering or leaving the Gull Chain of Lakes. Our primary focus will be the public access located at Zorba's on County 77, Hole-In-the-Day access off of Hwy 371 and the Corps of Engineers access at the Gull Lake Dam. Similar to last year we will be utilizing resources from both Crow Wing and Cass Counties, DNR Regional Watercraft Inspection and Lake Shore police department. We will coordinate all of these resources to provide boat inspections from early May through the end of September. Our focus will be on the heavier boat traffic hours found from mid-morning through mid-afternoon on weekends.

As we move into another boating season, I want to provide a quick review of the results collected by the DNR during their 2015 boat inspections from all three of the public accesses. Keri Hull, Regional Watercraft Inspection Supervisor, compiled all of the inspection data last summer and has provided a summary of the findings.

Keri detailed the inspection process as, "The inspection process involves the watercraft inspector visually and tactilely searching for aquatic invasive species or anything else that could potentially spread aquatic invasive species such as water, mud, plants or other debris. Watercraft inspectors also complete a survey while educating boaters about the issues surrounding aquatic invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of aquatic invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread."

2015 Inspection Results:

- 4,893 boats were inspected; 46% exiting the lake and 54% entering the lake
- Over 60% of boats entering or exiting the lake were at the Zorba's access
- Of the incoming boats preparing to launch, 4% had not removed drain plugs prior to driving to the access
- 1% of boats entering the lake and 6.5% of boats exiting the lake had weeds on the trailer or boat that required removal

- 1% of the boats entering or leaving the lake had zebra mussels attached to either the boat or trailer that required removal
- 1% of boats entering or leaving the access had water in live wells that was required to be drained
- In total 5-10% of boats entering or leaving the lake were in violation of the items cited above

In addition to boat inspections, GCOLA will be working on additional signage at the accesses to help remind boaters of the laws concerning removal of boat plugs, draining live wells, removal of aquatic plants and other species. We will also work with the resorts or associations who have their own private accesses to provide training or educational materials to those responsible for monitoring these private accesses to help ensure that AIS are not entering or leaving the lake.



Voted
Top 100 Spas
by Spas of
America

Massages
Body Treatments
Hydrotherapy
Facials
Manicures/Pedicures



23521 Nokomis Avenue Nisswa Minnesota 56468
Appointments 218.963.8700 | glacialwatersspa.com



Simple moments.

WIRELESS REMOTE
Quickly raise and lower your lift with this convenient remote transmitter.



When it comes to your time on the water, every moment is precious. The speed of a FlexPower Hydraulic lift means you can be in or out of the water in under one minute, getting you to the fun quicker, and allowing you to make memories for a while longer. And, with convenient push button operation, lift dependability and increased safety, all worries can be left behind at the dock.

FlexPower Hydraulics. Simple and swift, from launch to lift.

ShoreStation®

Boat Lifts & Classic Docks



Visit Nisswa Marine for your water front needs - Your Lakes Area Authorized Dealer



NISSWA MARINE.com

218-963-2292

24238 SMILEY ROAD MINNESOTA 371 NISSWA, MN

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Loon Survey Participants Wanted

Participants are wanted for the 3rd annual GCOLA Loon Survey. Two surveys are conducted – one in the spring to locate nests and one in July to count chicks and adults. You can volunteer to participate in either of these or both. Contact Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee member, at: gcola.loonwatch@gmail.com.

End-of-Dock Program needs participants

The End-of-Dock program needs participants to collect water samples for water quality monitoring. Participants collect a water sample from the end of their dock in June and another one in August. Sample bottles are mailed to participants in late May and are returned to the analysis laboratory by using enclosed mailers. Participants on Nisswa, northern Roy, Upper Gull, and east side of main Gull especially are needed. You can enroll in the program by contacting Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee member, at: gcola.endofdock@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed for secchi disk monitoring

One of GCOLA's activities is to monitor the water quality of our lakes and of the streams flowing into our chain. A

common method for determining water quality is to use a secchi disk to measure water clarity. GCOLA has worked with the MPCA to gather water quality data. The MPCA has two programs for citizen involvement to collect water quality data. These are Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) and Citizen Stream Monitoring Program (CSMP). GCOLA members are participating in both of these programs. However, some parts of the chain lack coverage by CLMP volunteers. These are Nisswa Lake, northern part of Roy Lake, Love Lake, and main Gull Lake excluding Booming Out, Steamboat, and Wilson Bays. The CLMP program provides a secchi disk and instructions to volunteers. Please consider volunteering for the CLMP program to help GCOLA. The CLMP web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/citizen-lake-monitoring-program gives information on how to signup.

GALA and Silent Auction

If you are interested in helping with the annual Gala and silent auction on July 25 contact Steve Alex at savesta@msn.com or Chuck Herrig at theherrigs@hotmail.com.



**People's
SECURITY COMPANY®**
Always on Guard.™

VIEW YOUR HOME OR CABIN
IN TRUE HD 1080P FROM ANYWHERE!
4 CAMERA SYSTEMS STARTING AT
\$1499.99 WITH NO MONTHLY CHARGE



Honeywell
Authorized Security Dealer

YOU'VE GOT YOUR
PIECE OF PARADISE.
NOW WE'LL GIVE YOU
PEACE of MIND.

Serving Brainerd Lakes & Beyond For Over 25 Years!

CALL US TODAY!
(800) 735-1440

www.peoplessecurity.com

COMPLETE MOBILE MANAGEMENT!





Up North
FIREPLACE GALLERY

FIREPLACES • STOVES • INSERTS
218-454-1040

P.O. Box 2567 • 14322 Dellwood Drive, Baxter, MN 56425
upnorthfireplace@brainerd.net • upnorthfireplacegallery.com



QUADRA-FIRE
NOTHING BURNS LIKE A QUAD



HEAT & GLO
No one builds a better fire

“Call the agent I trust: Chad Schwendeman.”

– Barbara Corcoran, *ABC’s Shark Tank*



**Thinking of selling
your Gull Lake Chain
Property?**

**Call the agent this
Shark calls!**

“To sell your home on time for the most money, you need a sharp agent with a marketing strategy that creates the most demand, bottom line you need a partner that is willing to put their own money on the line for you. In the Brainerd Lakes Area that agent is Chad Schwendeman. Partner with the agent I trust, call Chad and get your home SOLD!”

- Barbara Corcoran - ABC’s Shark Tank

www.ChadWillSellYourHome.com



Call Chad Direct at 218-831-HOME (4663)



B. Johnson & Assoc., Ltd.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

OVER 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE

ACCOUNTING:

Personal & Business Financial Statements

AUDITING:

Small Business, Gambling & Other Non-Profit

BOOKKEEPING:

Payroll & Other Data Processing

CONSULTING:

Management & Computer Advisory Services

FINANCIAL PLANNING:

Personal & Business Financial Planning

TAX SERVICES:

Personal, Business, Estates & Gift Tax Returns

Bruce Johnson, CPA • Chris Ford, CPA
Jacen Gondringer, CPA • Tad Johnson, CPA • Tom Teasck, CPA

218-829-3501

Business Hwy 371 S
11610 Andrew St.
Brainerd, MN 56401



www.brainerdCPA.com

218-963-3424

Nisswa Office
Kurilla Building #2
Nisswa, MN

Fastest Growing Waste Collection Business In
"The Lakes Area"

**BEST PRICING
BEST SERVICE
BEST VALUE**



WASTE PARTNERS, INC.

(866) 602-8727 toll free

www.wastepartnersinc.com

Life is better here.



WES HANSON BUILDERS INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTORS
AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGN

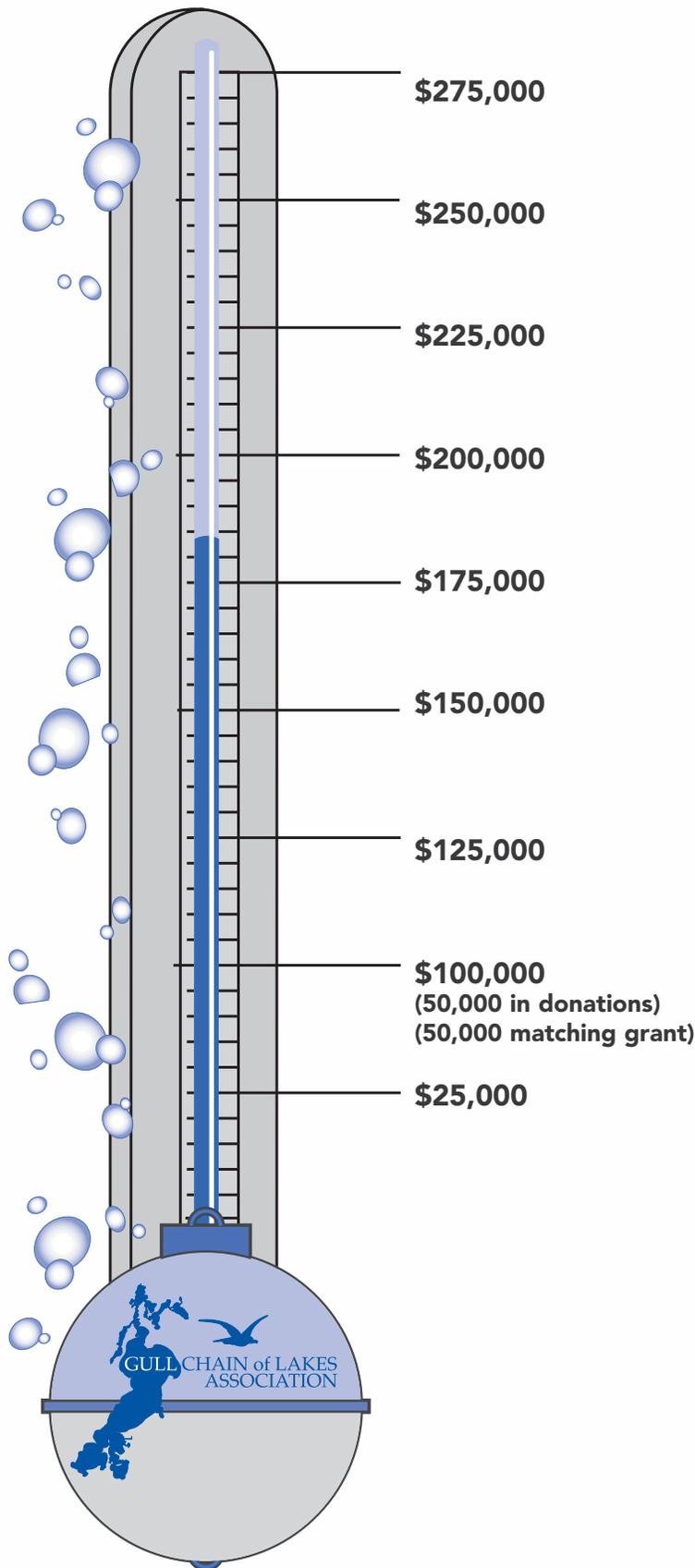
License #BC003452

Crosslake, MN

218-692-1760

weshansonbuilders.com

ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE



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

We currently have just over \$180,000 in the fund, which includes a \$50,000 matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. It is great to know that there is a long-term base of financial resources through the endowment to be able to carry out projects designed to enhance and protect our beautiful chain of lakes.

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

GCOLA BOARD

Park in your garage tonight.

Big stuff, little stuff, or just too much stuff. We can help.

- Units starting at \$50/month
- Gated keypad access & 24/7 security
- Drive-up & covered access
- Climate-controlled, heated & oversized units
- FREE use of enclosed trailer for move-in



16231 Hwy 371 North
www.LakeRegionStorage.com

Brainerd: (218) 822-3222

Because "SQUISH" is not a sound your carpets should make...



Chem Dry Of The Lakes
Superior Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Carpets Dry in 1-2 hours, not days
- Tile/Grout/Hard Floor Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Pet Urine & Odor Specialists
- Green-Certified Solutions, safe & non-toxic for kids & pets
- Truckmount & Portable Equipment
- Commercial & Residential
- NOW OFFERING: CLEAN AND POLISH GRANITE COUNTER TOPS

Call **218-828-4320**

cdofthelakes@midco.net

Independently Owned & Operated

Serving Crow Wing, Aitkin & Southern Cass Counties

MNCOLA AND MLR

By Uldis Birznieks

Two lakes-oriented organizations that GCOLA belongs to are MNCOLA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). MNCOLA is a state-wide lake association organization representing the Minnesota county COLA's. The Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL) and Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA) are both members of MNCOLA. Our Gull Chain of Lakes Association is a member of both the ACCL and LARA, and thus is a member of MNCOLA. MLR is an organization for lake associations and individual members. It's mission is to **protect Minnesota's lake & river heritage for current & future generations by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers.** GCOLA is a lake association member of MLR and individuals can also be members. MLR is a strong advocate for lakeshore home and cabin owners and lake associations with our Minnesota legislature.

It is always important to know what the legislative landscape looks like for lake-related issues and concerns. Given the shortened 2016 legislative session, any proposed legislation not acted on in this session will be carried forward to the 2017 session. Following are the legislative priorities for MNCOLA and MLR for 2016 and beyond.

The following are the MNCOLA legislative priorities for 2016 and beyond. MNCOLA has identified 5 AIS related agenda items.

1. Freshwater Protection Areas (FPA's) -

The concept behind establishing FPA's is simple. The DNR defines Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's) to protect important land, but has no equivalent approaches to protect water. Freshwater Protection Areas are defined as a protected area from fishing and tourism/boat traffic. Dr. Peter Sorensen, from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, is a leading proponent of FPA's and would like to set up a few test cases in Minnesota. He says that a number of FPA's already exist in Florida. Proposed legislation for this item is planned to be brought forward for the 2017 legislative session.

2. Decontamination at the state border -

We don't want any more AIS coming into the state and we don't want to be an "exporter" of AIS to other states. By establishing decontamination stations at existing MN DOT weigh stations we can accomplish both of these important intents. The western states use this border protection model today. They know Lake Minnetonka by name as the lake that sends the most contaminated boats

across their borders. This is a clear demonstration of our inability to manage AIS. DNR and DOT are required by state statute to begin the dialog to see how this could be done. To MNCOLA's knowledge, this hasn't moved yet. This is a longer term priority/objective for the MNCOLA legislative items.

3. Decontamination into and out of Minnetonka, Mille Lac and Koronis

These lakes were selected for a specific reason. We can't afford to let Minnetonka get any additional AIS. It is one of the busiest and most popular lakes in the state, with over \$5 billion in property value. We must stop Minnetonka from being the largest exporter of AIS to other Minnesota lakes and the western states. Mille Lacs is the first major lake in the state with both zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas. DNR's own data illustrates how this dynamic duo of AIS is destroying the fish food chain. Mille Lacs can't afford to let yet another new AIS into the mix. And we must stop outbound boats infested with AIS from Mille Lacs from entering any other lake in the state. And finally Lake Koronis. With the only known infestation of starry stonewort in the state... and an invasive species that the DNR does not yet know how to control, we must contain this situation until control remedies are established.

4. Move AIS from DNR to MN Pollution Control Agency

There are a few key reasons for moving AIS from the DNR. DNR has a dual mission of promoting access and protecting the resource. They consistently make access more important than protection of our public waters. PCA does not have that dual mission. Per MNCOLA, the DNR does not develop policies based on science. There is no peer-reviewed science behind the DNR's 21 day quarantine for moving docks and lifts, and the peer-reviewed study behind the DNR assertion that muskies do not affect the native fisheries is contested by numerous other scientists. PCA is a science-based organization. AIS prevention and management requires regulation of LGU's, businesses, and individuals to achieve the desired result of stopping the spread of AIS. That is not the DNR's strong suit, but it is PCA's.

5. Increase fines for AIS violations

There is a larger fine for taking a deer out of season than for being the potential cause of an AIS infestation. Education has helped make most boaters aware of AIS, but it hasn't changed their behaviors. We need behavior

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ¹⁸

change to stop the spread of AIS, and much higher fines will change behavior. Comment: This is the #1 priority for the 2016 legislative session for MNCOLA.

The legislative priorities for MLR are the following:

1. **Reform the State Business Property Tax on cabins and Commercial/Industrial property.** Various bills were put forth last session to reform this special, additional property tax with both Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate as authors. There was no policy driving the creation of the Statewide Business Property tax, no connection between a user group and a tax to fund that activity, no behavioral change being sought. The money raised does not go to local communities. Late at night in the final hours of the the 2001 Legislative Session, policy makers discovered a \$500 million budget hole in Gov. Ventura's "tax reform program." The State Business Property tax was created to "backfill" this budget hole.
2. **Aquatic Invasive Species:** MLR is focusing on a number of AIS related items this session.

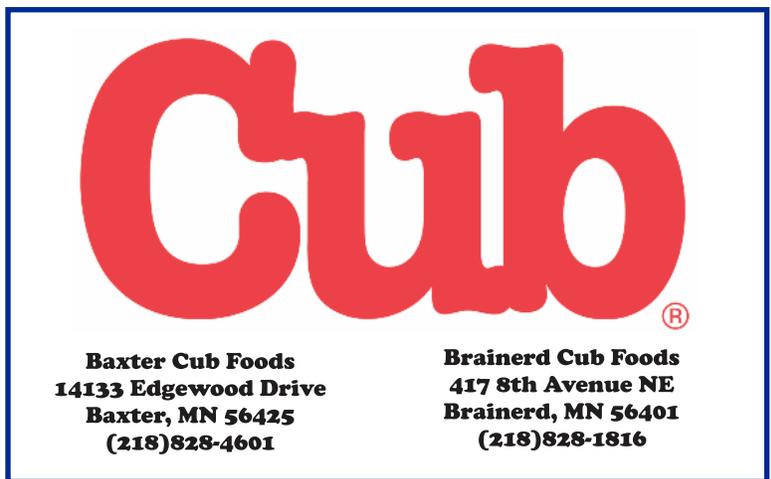
- **Restoring the MN DNR Grant programs for invasive plant management and inspectors.** Last Fall the MN DNR announced that they were cutting all public AIS education grants, all AIS inspection grants, and reducing Invasive Plant Management grants to \$200,000 from \$675,000 last year. Lake Associations spend millions annually out of their own pockets to fund lake protection and improvement for a range of activities including fish stocking, aquatic invasive weed management, putting out navigational buoys, inspection programs to help contain AIS spread and education programs for everything from shoreline management to storm water runoff management. They do this in support of a public asset, Minnesota's

lakes and rivers. It is short sighted that the MN DNR, instead of truly partnering and applauding these efforts that benefit so many, and partnering to enhance and encourage local efforts, chooses instead to abuse this generosity and push ever more of the cost for lake management to these civic minded volunteers.

- **Remove the Sales Tax for Lake Treatments of Aquatic Invasive Species** - Every summer lakeshore residents and cabin owners put out the call for donations to treat their area lakes for Eurasian Water-milfoil, curly leaf pond weed and other invasive non-native aquatic plants. This work, and expense, helps keep the lakes open for use by everyone in the state, improves aquatic habitats by increasing native plant growth, and lowers the risk that these noxious plants will be carried to another lake on a boat or trailer. MLR will push to remove the sales tax for these efforts, allowing tens of thousands more dollars to go towards this work statewide.
- **Increasing fines and penalties for Aquatic Invasive Species violations** - Currently the fine for violating Minnesota's AIS laws is \$500. In Idaho the fine is \$10,000 and possible quarantine of the watercraft. Minnesota's AIS program, including fines and necessary control of infested watercraft, needs to reflect the seriousness of the crime.



PARTY TIME RENTAL
Weddings, Graduations
Reunions & More
Canopies • Games
Concessions • Grills
Next to Iven's on the Bay
218-829-6300
Where it's always Party Time!
www.partytimerentalmn.com



Cub®

Baxter Cub Foods
14133 Edgewood Drive
Baxter, MN 56425
(218)828-4601

Brainerd Cub Foods
417 8th Avenue NE
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218)828-1816

Marc Bacigalupi, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Brainerd Area Fisheries Supervisor

We're all looking forward to spring and summer, but I have to mention the good walleye fishing that occurred on Gull this last winter. Despite the icefishing season being shortened by ice conditions, the walleye bite was quite good. I'll cite the Brainerd Jaycee's Icefishing Extravaganza Leaderboard result (icefishing.org) as "Exhibit A," with 77 quality-sized walleyes (over 1 pound) caught in 3 hours.

Walleye management continues to be the focus on Gull. Recall that the 2015 fish survey showed the walleye population index at 4.7 per test-net, below the long term average of 5.9 per test-net. Because of a combination of factors, especially the rising yellow perch numbers in the lake, summer fishing has been slower than in recent years. Good yellow perch populations are a plus though-perch are the favored prey of the walleye, and they buffer the predation of young walleyes by larger fish. We will ensure there are ample numbers of walleye fry stocked (2.8 million annually), and fingerlings, if needed. After that, the factors that combine to produce a good walleye year-class are out of anyone's control. We continue to evaluate

whether more restrictive regulations could even out the ups and downs in the fishery. The trade-off with regulations is that in exchange for potentially sustaining higher walleye populations and keeping catch rates up over time, one has to accept releasing some fish you might otherwise keep. I'd be happy to discuss the pros and cons in the future if you have an interest.

Of course, one of the big discussion topics is the Gull muskie management proposal. Since August, the DNR has collected over 1850 comments statewide. To view the full Response to Comments document, visit: dnr.state.mn.us/muskie. A lot of misinformation has been spread on this topic. I appreciate you taking a little extra time to scrutinize points being made. Final decisions about muskie management will incorporate both public input and biological assessments.

Until next time, enjoy your spring and summer in the beautiful Brainerd Lakes area.

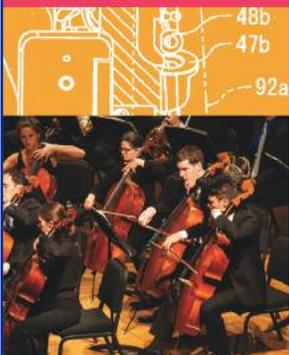
JOIN US
FOR OUR
2016
SEASON

Over 140 musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and other world class ensembles around the country will bring the best in classical music to our area!

JULY 31 - AUGUST 21

LAKES AREA
MUSIC
FESTIVAL

www.LakesAreaMusic.org



Trust Your Hometown Water Expert, Dave

Our revolutionary non-electric water treatment systems eliminate iron, hardness and odor—**GUARANTEED!**

 **Kinetic**[®]
water systems

Kinetic of Brainerd
Aquarius Water Conditioning

218.755.5120

KineticMN.com

511 Washington St. • Brainerd, MN 56401

Authorized Water Conditioning & Aquatics International Franchise Dealer



You can **LOVE** the water in your home or cabin!

25% OFF

Get 25% off the purchase of a premium Kinetic water treatment system. We have convenient financing options OAC. Limited time offer. Not valid with other offers. One offer per customer. Code: NSP-GLA



WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS

MN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER RIBBON CUTTING

By Linda Harrier, GCOLA Board Member

On behalf of GCOLA, I attended the opening of the new MAISRC facility on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. This was a complete refurbishment of a former farm machine repair facility, and has been designed to replicate the actual environment of the species being studied, right down to the black walls and ceilings to help replicate deep water. GCOLA was given special recognition for our support of MAISRC by Dr. Susan Galatowitsch, Director and Becca Nash, Asst. Director, both directly to me as well as part of the program. The following article was provided by Becca Nash.

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center lab ribbon cutting was held March 2.

Approximately 100 people gathered on the St. Paul campus Wednesday to get an inside-peek at the newly renovated 10,000-square foot facility that will be used to research solutions to Minnesota's aquatic invasive species problems.

In attendance were University Regent Thomas Devine, Vice President Pamela Wheelock, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Dean Brian Buhr, Minnesota DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr, and state representatives Alice Hausman, Cindy Pugh, and Rick Hansen.

Instead of a traditional ribbon-cutting, special guests released the Center's first lab fish into a new 100-gallon tank.

The new space – with nearly one hundred fish tanks and aquaria, four plant growth chambers, four living streams, and dedicated space for research on invasive plants, invertebrates, fish, and pathogens – will be home to cutting-edge research on zebra mussels, curly-leaf pondweed, heterosporis, Asian carp, and more.

During the program, the Minnesota Legislature and other key partners, including Gull Chain of Lakes Coalition, were thanked for their role in the renovation as well as for their research support. MAISRC

Director Dr. Susan Galatowitsch also provided some highlights of what makes the lab special, including the black walls to mimic underwater conditions for fish, the unique lighting for plant growth, and the water supply and filtration system that ensures all water is safely treated on the way out so that no invasive organisms escape.

The renovation project was made possible through funding from the 2014 Minnesota legislature, the University of Minnesota, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Clean Water Fund.



(Left to right) Dean Buhr, State Representatives Hausman, Hansen and Pugh, and Regent Devine get ready to release the first lab fish into a new tank

A COMMON TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

Robert Eliason,
Environmental
Committee Member

When I was a kid, I turned over the soil to find them. Then, I would bicycle 4 miles to go fishing. If I didn't use them all, I dumped the remainder on the ground. I seemed to find them everywhere. I thought they were native. I heard adults talk about how beneficial they were. About fifty years later, I read an article in the 1998 issue of the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer about them. They were not native. They were invasive. They were having a negative impact on our northern maple-basswood hardwood forests. Woodland wildflowers were disappearing, and trees were not reproducing. The lowly earthworm was an ecosystem-altering nonnative invasive species.

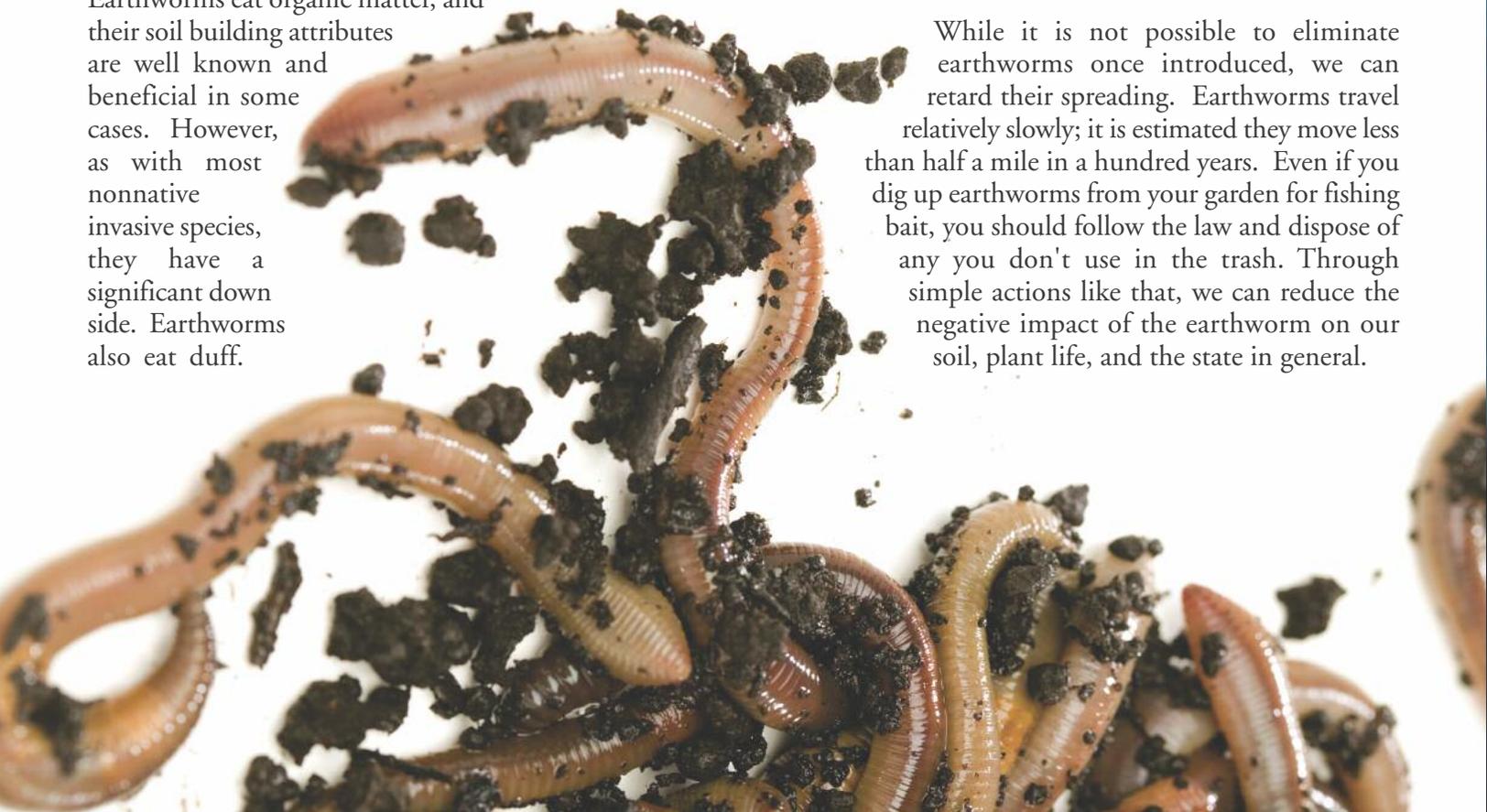
After the last ice age, the northern regions of North America, including Minnesota, were left devoid of earthworms. The plant ecosystems advancing into the state following the retreating glaciers developed without earthworms. Over the eons, the soil in maple-basswood forests acquired a spongy layer of decayed organic matter, comprised mostly of leaves, called duff. Many tree and wildflower species became so adapted to duff soil that they were dependent on it for reproduction. As European immigrants arrived in the state, earthworms were introduced.

Earthworms eat organic matter, and their soil building attributes are well known and beneficial in some cases. However, as with most nonnative invasive species, they have a significant downside. Earthworms also eat duff.

When introduced into a maple-basswood forest, they eat up the duff layer. A forest floor that was covered with a luxurious growth of plants can be transformed into a park-like setting with almost bare soil. Wildflowers like False Solomon's Seal, Bellwort, and Trillium disappear. (If your woods was once lush with Trillium and now is not, it may be due to an invasion of earthworms.) Plants like the nonnative, invasive common buckthorn are free to invade. (See "Buckthorn Comes to the Gull Chain" by Ron Faust in Summer 2014 newsletter.) Also, this bare soil is more prone to erosion, which can lead to stream siltation. Without plants to absorb the nitrogen from earthworm feces, rain easily washes the nitrogen into streams and lakes. The result can be more and bigger algae blooms.

In the 1980s, night crawlers became a popular fishing bait. A particularly large species, which was raised in Canada, was imported for the fishing bait market. It was subsequently noticed that maple-basswood forests surrounding lakes, boat landings, resorts, and other fishing places were exhibiting earthworm damage. Investigators found this bait species in the soil. It was assumed that unused night crawlers were being dumped on the ground. Today, earthworms are listed by the DNR as a terrestrial, invasive species. It is now illegal to dump earthworm bait in the woods.

While it is not possible to eliminate earthworms once introduced, we can retard their spreading. Earthworms travel relatively slowly; it is estimated they move less than half a mile in a hundred years. Even if you dig up earthworms from your garden for fishing bait, you should follow the law and dispose of any you don't use in the trash. Through simple actions like that, we can reduce the negative impact of the earthworm on our soil, plant life, and the state in general.



SHORELINE HABITAT PROGRAM

By Ron Faust



There are good reasons to restore native vegetation on our shorelines. The native wildflowers and plant species produce a succession of blooms throughout the summer. Habitat for many types of animals develops where the lawnmower used to roam. If you create habitat, the nature will come to you. Natural areas along the shoreline filter runoff from the land, improving water quality.



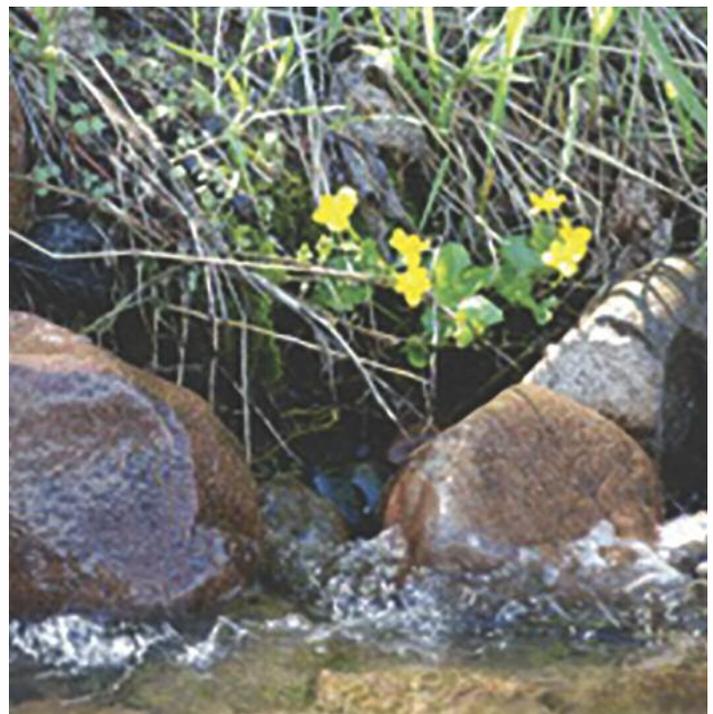
A shoreline threatened with erosion can be stabilized by converting it to native plants with strong roots. Trees planted near the shore are also very good at this. Replacing trees lost on the shoreline in last year's storm can be part of a restoration project. Although many people think expensive riprap is the way to do this, vegetative restoration is less expensive. Ice damage frequently destroys riprap walls, requiring repeated maintenance. Stone destroys habitat and creates a wall between the land and the lake. Animals and grandchildren can't cross it. Once established, a naturalized shoreline can save time spent on mowing lawns and raking beaches. A wealth of



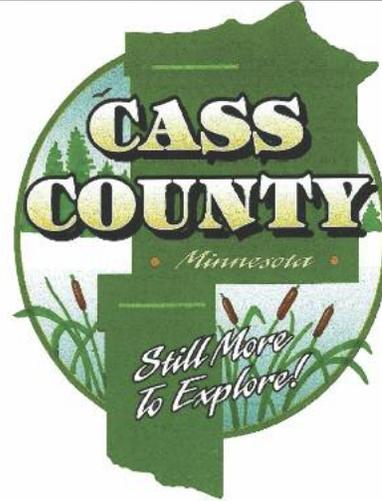
information can be found on the DNR's "Restore Your Shore" website:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/index.html>

For 2016, GCOLA is again offering grants to decrease the costs of shoreline restoration projects for its members, GCOLA has earmarked \$10,000 for this funding. The City of Lake Shore has a similar program. Fifty percent of the cost of approved projects will be reimbursed, up to \$5,000. Only native species obtained from local seed stocks can be used. The projects must be approved in advance by Heather Baird, Shoreline Specialist for the DNR, who can be reached at (218) 203-4345 or by email at: heather.baird@dnr.state.mn.us



ASSOCIATION OF 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

MINNESOTA'S MARKET LEADER

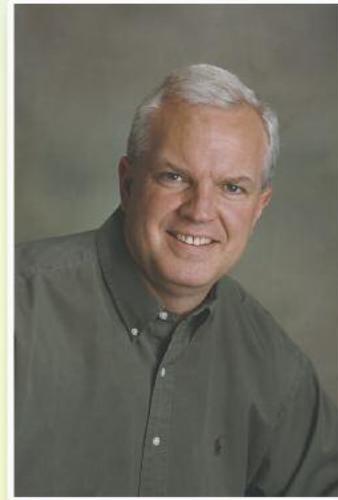
Connecting the Metro Area with the Lakes Area



Nina Karsky
218-821-3373
NinaKarsky@edinarealty.com



Mike Kennedy
218-232-1946
MikeKennedy@edinarealty.com



Brad and Matt Wadsten
218-821-2721
BradWadsten@edinarealty.com

Edina Realty[®]

a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate

www.edinarealty.com

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

From left to right:

- Uldis Birznicks
- Marv Meyer
- John Ingleman
- Bob Toborg
- Arla Johnson
- Rosemary Goff
- Linda Harrier
- Chuck Herrig
- Ron Faust
- Steve Alex
- Ike Halliwill (term ended)
- Kevin Egan
- Jay Chaney

Not pictured:
Robert Eliason



You are all welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors meetings. We meet at Grand View Lodge on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Upcoming meeting dates are: June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14. We usually adjourn around 10:00 a.m.

Come see what we do.

We have the meat,
your grill
is craving

AngusPride
The choice beef lovers make.

Schaefer's FOODS
Established 1914

Hwy 371 Nisswa • 963-2265

3 Cheers 3 Great Locations

PRAIRIE BAY
GRILL & CATERING
Local HOT SPOT

PREMIUM CATERING SERVICES

Lakes Area Destination
A Minnesota Menu with Local Flare.

Open Year Round
Deck Seating
Private Events

SHERWOOD FOREST
MINNESOTA
LODGE
FOOD & SPIRITS

LOST LAKE LODGE
ON THE GULL LAKE NARROWS

GLOBAL FLAVOR
with Local Roots

Discover the Hidden Gem of the Brainerd Lakes Area.

www.3CheersMN.com WE'RE SOCIAL



ALOHA

Welcome Back Summer!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

2016

GULL LAKE YACHT CLUB

Opening Party

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

SOCIAL 5-6 P.M. • DINNER 6 P.M.
ENTERTAINMENT TO FOLLOW

Get lai'd at the door!

Ticket Includes

One Complimentary Tiki Rum Punch & Dinner of
Roasted Pork, Pineapple Chicken, Mashed Sweet Potatoes,
Corn on the Cob, Asian-inspired Salads, and Dessert!

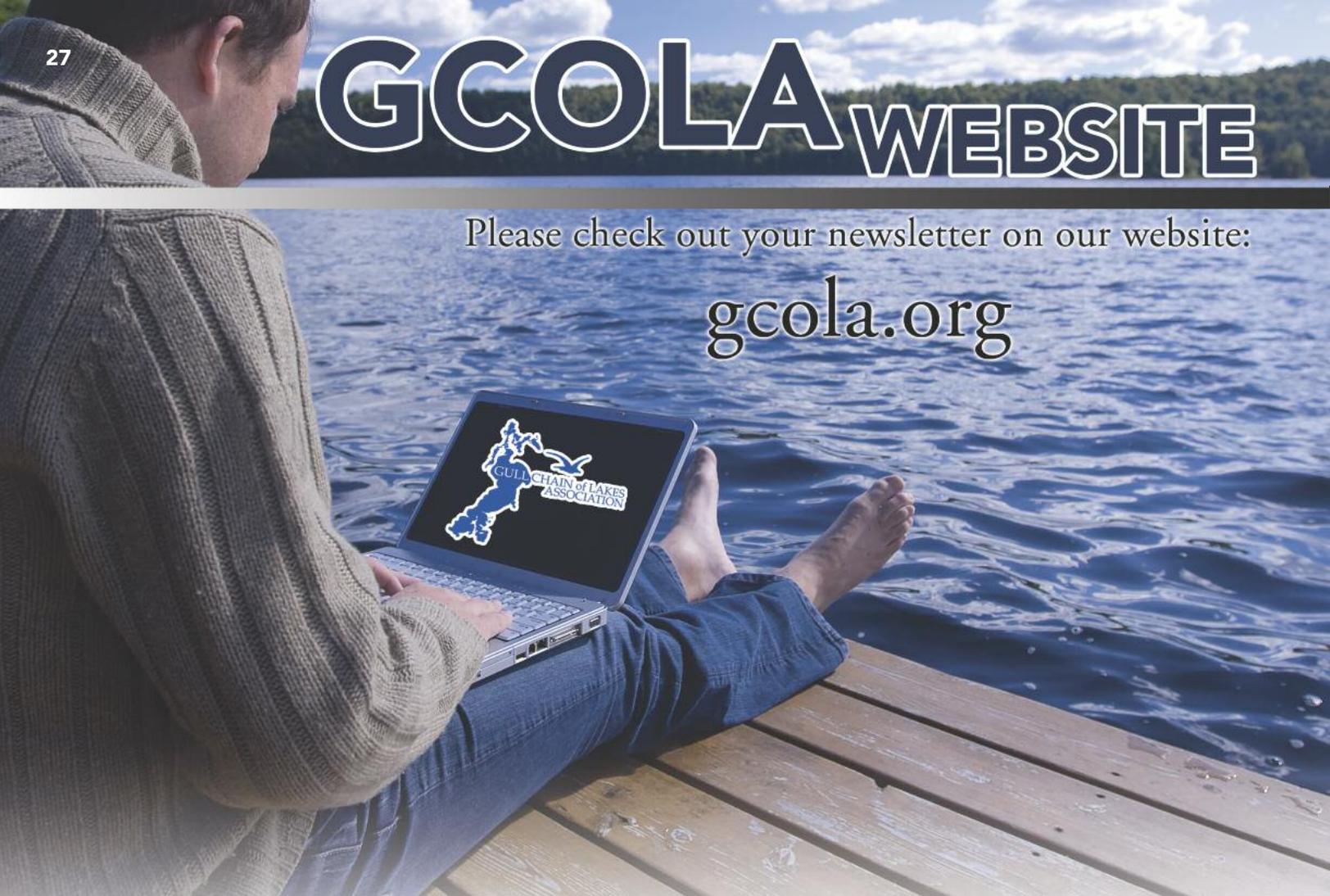
\$65 for Non-Members • \$55 for Skipper's Club Members
\$45 for Admiral Club Members • \$20 for Children 13 and under
Register online at GLYC.com

*All proceeds from the event go directly
to the Gull Lake Yacht Club*

GCOLA WEBSITE

Please check out your newsletter on our website:

gcola.org



A Local Company You Can Trust

Serving the entire Lakes Area

COMPLETE TREE CARE

- * Certified Arborists • Tree Consultations
- Deep Root Fertilization • Injections
- Root Regeneration • Disease Recognition

Free Estimates
Insured/ Certified

- Tree Removal • Mulch
- Brush Chipping • Stump Removal
- Pruning/Trimming

PROMPT YEAR ROUND SERVICE

218.825.8207

www.mikestreecompany.com



Nothing warms a room like a cozy cabinet.

17753 State Hwy 371, Brainerd, MN • 218-828-0620 • www.CrowWingCabinets.com

EMAILS WANTED

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



Take a little
me
time



Imagine sipping a cup of tea watching the sun set over Wilson Bay as you indulge yourself in a rejuvenating pedicure, or feeling the stress melt away during a signature hot stone massage. The perfect gift for someone special or—go ahead—pamper yourself...you deserve it!

\$15 OFF Any One Hour+ Service*
Available Sunday–Friday till June 30, 2016

THE SPA
AT MADDEN'S

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Located on beautiful Gull Lake
Brainerd, Minnesota

Register for “The Spaaaaah Club” Receive spa discounts and advance notice of spa specials.
Visit maddens.com/the-spa-at-maddens

For appointments call 218.855.5917 | Visit maddens.com for a complete list of services

*Not valid with any other discounts or promotions.



NEW WELCOME MEMBERS

Richard, Karen & Judith Alm
 Kevin Ballinger, Gull
 Patrick & Heather Bennett, Gull
 Richard & Candace Clark, Margaret
 Dan Germundson, Upper Gull
 Julie Gile
 Susan Hanson, Gull
 Derrick & Annette Harkins
 Martin Harstad
 Terrence & Jennifer Huddle, Margaret
 KC Companies, Inc.
 Todd & Tracy Linbo, Niswaw
 Blair Merwin, Roy
 Robert & Shelley Motzko

Richard & Kathleen Newell
 Amy Pearson, Gull
 Joseph & Emily Ranweiler
 Mark & Jodi Richard
 Walter Roth, Gull
 Mark & Susan Rotty, Niswaw
 Patrick & Mary Rugloski
 Terry & Lee Seipp
 Rod & Robin Sande
 Patrick & Annie Schmitz, Love
 Grete & Josh Skogen, Gull
 Andrew & Jessica Swartout
 Sean & Stacy Weldon, Upper Gull
 William & Denise Wolff



GAS! @ Love Lake Marina on Gull

Snacks • Beverages • Ice • Bait

JUST NORTH OF YACHT CLUB, THROUGH LOVE LAKE CHANNEL

SMOOTH, EASY, PAY AT THE PUMP



218-963-7700

www.BoatsandBeyondRentals.com

PONTOONS • FISHING BOATS • SKI BOATS

JET SKIS • TRAVEL TRAILERS

WAKEBOARD BOATS

❄️ SNOWMOBILES ❄️ FISH HOUSES ❄️

Boating Season:

Gull-Love Lake Marina: 19571 Love Lake Rd, Brainerd

Snowmobiling Season:

4758 County Rd. 77, Niswaw - Right on the trail system!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is an alliance of watershed property interests within 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.



7870 Excelsior Road
Baxter, MN 56425
218.828.9545
toll free 877.338.3937

121 4th Street NE
Staples, MN 56479
218.894.5480
toll free 866.894.5455

"our focus is on you"

Dr. Jackie McCall

Dr. Evan Kuhn

9-5 M, W, F • 9-6 T & Th • 9-12 Sat.

midwestfamilyeyecenter.com

CRAGUN'S
CELEBRATING OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SPECIALS
MARINA • DINING • GOLF • FOOTGOLF • LODGING
WEDDINGS • REUNIONS • OPEN 4-SEASONS
ON GULL LAKE • BRAINERD • MINNESOTA
1-800-CRAGUNS (1-800-272-4867) • CRAGUNS.COM



SERVICE DONE RIGHT AND ON TIME SINCE 1993

The most important person in our company is "you", the customer. Thank you for allowing us to continue the tradition at Bradow Dock Service.

At Bradow Dock Service you have a company that has the experience and commitment to excellence in everything we do. Installing or removing waterfront equipment, canopy cleaning and storage, sales or servicing your equipment, you can trust us to be on time and do the job right the first time, at a fair price.

218.963.0431 • requests@bradowdock.com
www.BradowDock.com



GULL LAKE PROFILES

This is an ongoing column focusing on local businesses and community leaders in the Gull Chain of Lakes area

Destiny Cruises

Cruise Gull Lake on a Luxury Yacht

"We thoroughly enjoyed the cruise! The evening was perfect, food great and staff very friendly! We met some wonderful people."—Mary W.

That sounds like a pretty fun summer night, doesn't it? There may not be a better way to spend an afternoon or evening on Gull Lake than taking a cruise aboard the "North Star", Destiny Cruises luxury yacht that provides the best views of all the beauty in and around one of Minnesota's most glorious lakes.

Since June, 2014, Destiny Cruises has offered day and evening cruises open to the public as well as private charters on Gull Lake aboard the \$1.8 million, 65' long by 22' wide "North Star". The floor plan includes two levels designed to accommodate up to 116 passengers. The design also offers two full bars and a top-deck open BBQ – perfect for hosting fundraisers, weddings, receptions, family reunions, office parties and more.

Owners Jerry Johnson, Liz Diedrich and Reid Porter are proud to offer Destiny Cruises on Gull Lake to visitors and residents of all ages.

"We studied the market for over a year and selected Gull Lake due to its proximity and readiness," said Diedrich, owner of Twin Cities-based research and marketing firm Diedrich RPM. "We hired local talent and roughly 85% of the operating expenditures are focused in the Brainerd Lakes area. We've become an attraction in Brainerd, and with that, we're involved in the community's activities and programs."

The yacht docks at Ernie's on Gull and also offers passenger pickups and drop-offs for private charters and wedding events at Cragun's and Grand View Lodge. The lovely, glass-enclosed main deck of the "North Star" can accommodate 62 guests for a seated dinner and provides a climate-controlled environment to ensure optimum comfort for every passenger. In addition, the upper deck patio (that can be open or enclosed, depending on the weather), can comfortably seat 36 and serves as the perfect setting for those who want some fresh air or like to stargaze on a moonlit night. Full audio/video for three

flat screen TVs on the main deck and a projector with a screen on the upper deck are perfect for watching sports events and slideshow presentations.

Elegance is everything aboard the "North Star". While dining during wedding events, family gatherings, small private parties and corporate charters, guests can enjoy the beautiful, scenic views Gull Lake has to offer. With a wide variety of menu options to choose from and an outstanding staff you can depend on, events and special occasions with Destiny Cruises are anything but ordinary. Destiny Cruises will begin running the "North Star" on Gull Lake during the third week of May (the first cruise date is scheduled for May 19) with limited cruising until June 13. Cruises then run seven days a week through the second week in October (dates may vary depending on weather). Cruise dates will be posted on destinycruisesllc.com the first of every month for each month of the schedule. Themed cruises will be posted as soon as they become available for the season. Customers can book online or by calling the number below.

Again, there may be no better way to take in all of the beauty and grandeur of Gull Lake than aboard a Destiny Cruise!

For any questions regarding cruise dates, or scheduling a private event, please contact: Michele Baker, General Manager, Destiny Cruises at 218.831.0126 or michele@destinycruisesllc.com.

Book Your Next Event — on — Gull Lake

DESTINY CRUISES

DestinyCruisesLLC.com | 218.820.9543



- Commercial
- Residential
- Farm
- Overhead Garage Doors
- Service
- Parts

How To Make a Grand Entrance.

Improve the look, function and value of your home with a new, beautiful overhead door from American Door Works. We deliver style and service throughout the Brainerd Lakes area.

Call or make an entrance at our Brainerd showroom to learn more.

AmericanDoorWorks.com / 218-829-8365 / 10727 BRENT DR / BRAINERD, MN 56401



on the Causeway behind Zorbaz



YOUR BOAT CLUB

PONTOON, RUNABOUT, PWC RENTALS AND MORE
YOURBOATCLUB.COM
 TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS



NEW GAS PUMPS
 are user friendly
 and available 24-7

TAKE THE BOAT TO PICK UP:
 Snacks, bait, tackle, eggs, milk,
 bread, ice, s'mores fixin's, health
 needs, sun lotions... soup to nuts

Keep us in mind
 for all your Service, Storage
 and Winterizing needs.

RENTALS - CALL NOW
TO RESERVE YOUR BOAT
RENTAL FOR 2016

Our Service slips are open to
 serve your boating needs
 and keep you on the water

218-963-1010

AUTHORIZED WARRANTY REPAIR





GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT

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

PLEASE USE THIS FORM: Please provide the information requested below and send with your 2016 dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund. If a board member or neighbor convinced you to join, let us know on the Invited By line. *Thank you!!!*

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Cell Phone: _____

2016 dues: \$50.00

Invited to join by (if applicable) _____

Additional donation designated to:

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

= Total Contribution: _____



PLEASE JOIN THE GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION

Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which means that all money donated by you over and above the \$50 dues amount is tax deductible. **If you have not sent in your dues for this year, it's not too late.** Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated.

You can get membership forms on our website at: gcola.org.
Dues can be sent to Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468

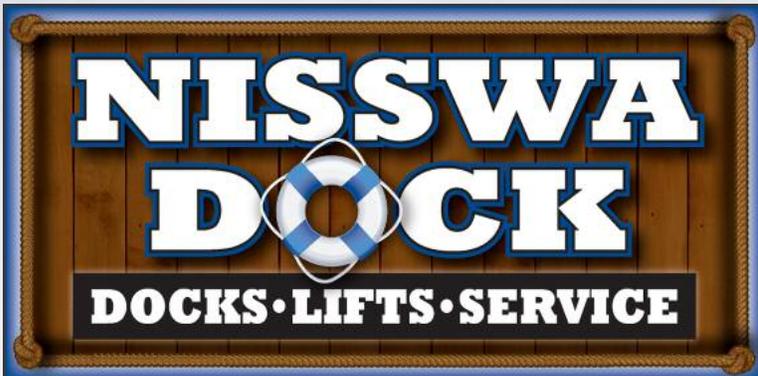
LAKE PRINTING CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

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

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



WHATEVER IT TAKES



24428 SMILEY ROAD, NISSWA MN



Toll free | 800-322-3525
Web | NISSWADOCK.COM



WHATEVER IT TAKES

It is our belief that through **hard work, honesty, integrity and a commitment to this community** that we can make a difference. **We are proud to live, work and play** in this community.

We truly do **“Whatever it Takes”** to make our home a better place. **It is our desire to be your printer.** Please contact us. **We look forward to working with you.**

1223 Oak Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-829-7790 • Fax: 218-829-0977
www.lakesprinting.com



Here with you
is knowing when the
unexpected happens
we are here

UrgentCare at the Essentia Health Baxter Clinic has expanded hours on the weekends and holidays for more options to expert care seven days a week. The team at *UrgentCare* treats patients on a walk in basis and is best for immediate, but not critical medical needs like sprains, minor cuts, urinary tract infections, and sore throats.

View current wait times at
EssentiaHealth.org/BaxterClinicUrgentCare



URGENTCARE EXPANDED HOURS AT BAXTER CLINIC

13060 Isle Drive, Baxter, MN

Monday – Friday 8:00am -8:00pm

Saturday – Sunday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Holidays 9:00am - 4:00pm

Closed Easter, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day



Essentia Health
Here with you

RARDIN

CONSTRUCTION INC.

est. 1925

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING • ADDITIONS • MORE



— DESIGN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE —

(218) **829-6507**

www.RardinConstruction.com

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA AND SURROUNDING

Superior Craftsmanship... Exclusive Customer Service



**WATER SPORTS
SINCE 1992**

MINNESOTA INBOARD

ONE FAMILY. ONE BRAND. ONE MISSION.



SERVING MINNESOTA'S 10,000 LAKES SINCE 1992



WWW.MNINBOARD.COM



EXCELSIOR / 720 GALPIN LAKE ROAD, EXCELSIOR, MN 55331 / 952.474.1742
BAXTER / 15779 EDGEWOOD DRIVE, BAXTER, MN 56425 / 218.822.4401



GULL CHAIN of LAKES
ASSOCIATION

Box 102

Nisswa, Minnesota

56468

218-963-3542

PRSR
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Brainerd, MN
Permit No. 471



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

PLEASE CHECK OUT YOUR NEWSLETTER ON OUR WEBSITE:

GCOLA.ORG

RESIDENTIAL - PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING EXPERTS



Professional Service on All Brands

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Sales • Service • Design • Installation

Geothermal Heat Pumps

In-Floor Heat • Sheet Metal • Indoor Air Quality
Preventative Maintenance • Plumbing

FREE ESTIMATES 218.828.4337

7674 COLLEGE RD, SUITE 115 BAXTER



\$15⁰⁰ OFF Plumbing
Service Call

ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of service.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/16.

\$15⁰⁰ OFF Heating/Cooling
Service Call

ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of service.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/16.

\$15⁰⁰ OFF Home Heating/Cooling
System Check

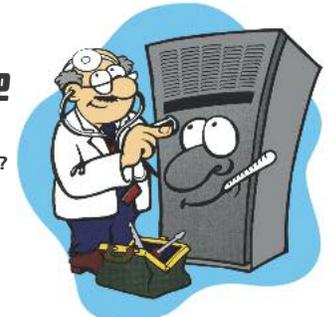
ONE COUPON PER SERVICE CALL



218.828.4337

Coupon must be presented at time of clean & check.
Not valid with any other offers. Expires 12/31/16.

What is the
**Carbon
monoxide
Level**
In Your Home?



We are
also your
plumbing
experts!

www.scr-mn.com www.brainerdgeothermal.com

Serving the Entire Brainerd Lakes Area & Beyond!