



GULL CHAIN of LAKES
ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2019

Nisswa, Minnesota 56468



ELSA AND CHET ANDERSON
PLAYING HOCKEY ON GULL LAKE.

SPECIALIZING IN LAKE SHORE

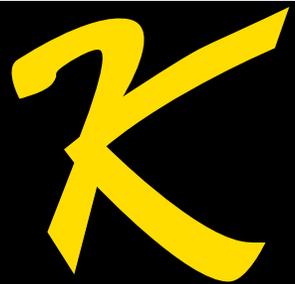
Central Minnesota's Finest Lakeshore Properties Since 1964

www.Kurilla.com



(218) 963-7333

23590 Smiley Road • Box 779 • Nisswa MN



KURILLA
REAL ESTATE
NISSWA LTD.





ShoreStation[®]
At the forefront of shorefront since 1959



**Wave
Armor[®]**



**NISSWA
MARINE.com**

24238 SMILEY ROAD  NISSWA, MN



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

gcola.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIR

Chuck Herrig
612-240-3159

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Rosemary Goff, Margaret
218-963-3542

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CHAIR

Steve Allex, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-829-2612

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

John Ingleman, Margaret
218-963-9441

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Sheila Johnston, Upper Gull
612-226-6571

Robert Eliason, Bass Lake
Loon Survey; End-of-Dock Program
218-568-7868

FISHERIES CHAIR

Chuck Herrig
612-240-3159

FINANCE/AUDIT CHAIR

Marv Meyer, Gull, Wilson Bay
218-828-9577

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Uldis Birznieks, Gull
218-820-7318

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jay Chaney, Gull
218-963-7700

SAFETY & RECREATION CHAIR (BUOY SYSTEM)

Bob Toborg, Margaret
218-963-3542

Steve Frawley, Margaret
612-750-2633

Sue Friedrichs, Gull
612-751-6156

Linda Harrier, Bass
218-963-2250

ADVISORY MEMBERS

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

Tim Plude, DNR AIS Specialist
218-203-4354; timothy.plude@state.mn.us

Brian Turner, US Army Corps of Engineers
Gull Lake Recreation Area
651-290-5771; brian.w.turner@usace.army.mil

WEBSITE MANAGER

Dave Anderson, Bass
218-963-312

WEBSITE: gcola.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message2

GCOLA Financial Summary.....3

GCOLA 2019 Legislative/Government Relations Priorities..... 5-6

Mary Kay Larson Retirement7

New Loon Committee Needs
Volunteers for Projects Throughout the Summer9

Cause of Loon Deaths10

GCOLA Tree Give-Away Day 11-12

GCOLA End-Of-Dock Program.....13

Bass Lake Shoreline Habitat Project14

Shoreline Light Pollution or Trespass...15

There is No Plot
to Shut Down the Lakes.....16

WINTER 2019

Civic Governance as a Best Management Practice (BMP) 17-18

Save the Date19

Endowment Fund Update.....22

2018 Donors..... 23-24

Photos Wanted.....26

Association of Cass County Lakes Needs Your Help!.....27

Mission Statement.....28

Board of Directors.....29

Gull Chain of Lakes Membership.....30

What We Do.....31

Confidentiality Policy.....32

A Busy Year on Our Website34



CHAIR'S MESSAGE ²

Chuck Herrig, Chair

Winter came quickly in late December. As you have probably read, the Brainerd Lakes area set a record for December snowfall in a two-day period. I now measure 18" in our yard after another snowfall. Our family purchased two used snowmobiles so we are enjoying the season and getting a lot of use from those machines.

As I look back at 2018, we have a great deal to be thankful for. GCOLA has increased its membership to 1000 members! We have not added any new aquatic invasive species to our lake chain. Our financial picture looks sound with available funds and a response action plan in place if new invasive species are found. We have introduced new shoreline signing to protect nesting loons and chicks. Thank you for your support in ensuring we do all we can to protect our beautiful chain of lakes.

So here we are in 2019. We have a new governor, Tim Waltz who is in process of putting together his administration. As you have probably read, we also have a new DNR commissioner, Sarah Strommen. Based on her background we are hopeful she will be a strong partner to lake associations. Important topics that the DNR and state legislature will need to address include increasing funding for AIS prevention and research, ensuring adequate and meaningful enforcement of watercraft use laws, and clean water restoration. Clean water restoration includes watershed protection.

The Gull Lake Chain is in the Crow Wing River Watershed which is made up of forests, lakes, rivers and agricultural land across eight counties. Contamination of water at the northern end of our watershed in Hubbard County eventually finds its way through the Gull Lake Chain and even into our drinking water. Watershed protection is a critical and thorny issue which will be of increasing importance in the years ahead. Hopefully our government officials will take the necessary steps to address and protect our water.

Congratulations to GCOLA board member, Bill Brekken, who was elected a Crow Wing County Commissioner. Due to potential conflict of interest issues, Bill has resigned from the GCOLA Board. While we regret losing him as a Board member, we look forward to working with him at the county level on lake issues.

Finally, I want ask that you be safe if venturing out on to the ice this winter. We experienced inconsistent weather temperatures prior to the recent snowfalls which makes for inconsistent ice thickness. The snow acts as an insulating layer which can prevent the ice from establishing a thicker layer. If you do go out on the ice, please stay on established trails.

Thanks again for your support to the Gull Chain of Lakes Association and enjoy the rest of the winter season.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael & Deborah Babcock, Gull
James & Mary Boerjan, Gull
Jack & Suzi Devlin, Round
Joseph Devito & Holly Kuznia
Cynthia Ellsworth
Paul & Wendy Engelman, Round
Angela & William Ernst
Mary Anne Etzell, Round
Jerry & Karla Greene
Lisa Gudajtes, Gull
Richard & Sharon Haynes, Roy
Nancy Jacks, Round
Barry & Treva James, Bass



Scott & Bonnie Laugen
Sheila & Rod Lewis
Jesse & Angela Lind
Suzette Olson
Lisa Ranum, Gull
Ronald & Michael Reiser, Roy
Bonnie & James Rodness
Gary Scheeler, Gull
Patrick & Kelly Smith, Gull
Dr. Jim Storm
The Harbor at East Gull Lake
Ronald & Karen Wade
Barbara Wilson, Round

3 GCOLA FINANCIAL SUMMARY

By Uldis Birznieks, Finance Committee

As usual every 1st Quarter of the year, it is time to provide you, our valuable GCOLA members, a review of how GCOLA did financially in 2018 and a look forward on what is planned for 2019. The figure below shows the financial data for 2018 and the budget for 2019 with the \$ (K) and % for each major category.

	2018 BUDGET		2018 ACTUALS		2019 BUDGET	
	\$ (K)	%	\$ (K)	%	\$ (K)	%
INCOME						
DUES	50.0	38%	51.2	39%	52.6	40%
DONATIONS	28.5	22%	32.1	24%	28.5	22%
GALA	41.5	32%	35.6	27%	36.0	28%
GRANTS*/OTHER	11.5	9%	13.8	10%	12.8	10%
TOTALS	131.5		132.7		129.9	
ENDOWMENT FUND IN			15.7			
EXPENSES						
ENVIRONMENTAL/AIS	54.0	41%	25.9	27%	51.9	41%
BUOY SYSTEM	24.5	18%	25.8	27%	25.6	20%
GALA	18.0	14%	15.4	16%	15.7	12%
ADMINISTRATION	14.2	11%	15.5	16%	14.4	11%
COMM/GOV REL/OTHER	22.1	17%	13.1	14%	18.8	15%
TOTALS	132.8		95.7		126.4	
NET INCOME	-1.3		37.0		3.5	
AIS Contingency Fund	20.0		25.0		20.0	

*Note 1 - Does not include cost of Watercraft Inspections directly paid by counties to inspectors

2018 was an excellent year for GCOLA from a financial standpoint. Overall, our 2018 was budgeted for a slight negative net income of (\$1.3K), and we came out of the year with a very nice positive income of +\$37K. Of that net total, \$25K was allocated to the AIS Contingency Fund, which now totals \$131K, to deal with any new AIS threats. That makes it five years in a row of very positive net income for GCOLA.

On the 2018 income side, dues were above budget as we have grown to over 1000 paid members. Thank you for your membership! Donations (above and beyond Endowment Fund donations) were \$3.6K above budget. Once again, thank you for your donations!! The Gala Event income and expenses both were lower than budget due to lower attendance. Yet, net income from the event was a healthy +\$20.2K, which is within \$3K of the 2017 net totals. Environmental expenses were significantly lower than budgeted. None of the allocated shoreline restoration funding was used (\$10.3K) and treatment for curly leaf pondweed/purple loosestrife was significantly reduced from what was anticipated (down \$14K). Government Relations Committee expenses, in their first year of operation, were \$4.4K lower than budgeted.

Per recommendation from the GCOLA Finance Committee, chaired by Marv Meyer, the 2019 budget has been approved by the GCOLA Board with a net income of +\$3.5K as shown in the far right column of the figure above. Highlights of the 2019 budget include the following:

- The board put a challenge to the Membership Committee, chaired by Jay Chaney, to increase the membership to over 1050 paid members including businesses.
- Donations were budgeted at a conservative \$28.5K (same as the 2018 budget) and we hope to beat that figure as was done in 2018.
- The Gala Income and Expenses are budgeted for similar amounts to the 2018 actuals but John Ingleman and the Gala Committee have some ideas up their sleeves for an exciting 2019 Gala.
- For 2019, the Environmental/AIS area is still the major benefactor of GCOLA funding with 41% of the budgeted expense. Environmental/AIS is the top priority for GCOLA and Steve Alex (AIS Committee Chair), Sheila Johnston (Environmental Committee Chair) and Dr. Robert Ellison will be working to use those funds in the most effective manner possible.
- Increased the allocation to \$11.3K for 50/50 grants to GCOLA members for shoreline restoration and \$5K for the MN AIS Research Center
- Buoy system maintenance will continue to be a major expense item at 20% of the Expense budget as the need to replace buoys is anticipated to be at the same higher level in 2019 as it was in 2018 versus earlier years.
- The Government Relations Committee, entering its second year of operation, has plans to be more even active in the legislative process and other government relations activities and has budgeted double the expenses of 2018 (\$7.8K budget versus expense of \$3.5K for 2018).

The Endowment Fund received \$15.7K from our members in 2018 and at the end of the last reporting period (Nov. 30, 2018) totaled a very healthy \$280K. Thank you for your contributions.

Bottom line – it is great to be able to say that GCOLA is in a very sound financial position and we will work to make sure that it continues in 2019.



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



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



CHAD SCHWENDEMAN IS YOUR

Gull Lake Chain

HOME SELLING EXPERT

It's Not the Market, It's the Marketing!



218-831-HOME (4663) | WWW.HOMES1234.COM

7153 Forthun Road, Suite 120, Baxter, MN 56425

The charter for the Government Relations Committee is that it “shall be the primary interface for GCOLA with our state and local legislators, local units of government and the executive branch of state government.” The charter for the committee extends beyond the legislature and legislative lake-related issues and includes issues and concerns that we would work with local units of government (county, city and township). Membership in the committee has increased to six members and includes two GCOLA Board members (Uldis Birznieks and Steve Frawley) and four GCOLA members (Dave Hoelmer, Doug Johnston, Jon Mendel and Bill Brekken).

In 4Q 2018, the Government Relations Committee met to formulate a proposed set of 2018 GCOLA government relations priorities. That proposed set of priorities was discussed and approved by the GCOLA Board at the November 2018 Board meeting. The list includes three legislatively oriented items and one DNR-related item. In priority order, the 2019 GCOLA Government Relations priorities are the following:

1. **Establish regulations for watercraft causing shore line erosion and turbulence (speed limits, distance from shore, etc.) and excessive/inappropriate noise**
This is an increasing problem in our lake chain and nation-wide. The evermore popular wake/surf boats create erosion shoreline and sub-surface water turbulence problems, especially on smaller/narrower bodies of water. Loud music with inappropriate language is also a problem. The large wakes in confined water areas create safety and erosion problems. Current noise regulations are for engine noise only. At the local level, we want to work with local law enforcement to implement speed/no-wake regulations in confined water areas. At the state level, we are making legislators aware of this problem and working with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) on an incremental legislative approach for updated regulations and laws for all boats similar to those for personal watercraft.
2. **Increase fines for AIS violations to be similar with Minnesota game and fish fines including authority to impound.**
This is not an increased “tax”, but rather seeks equality in the violation/fine system. One example, keeping a 53” muskie in Minnesota results in a fine up to \$1300. Transporting AIS to a lake has a maximum fine of \$500. Is keeping one muskie a bigger risk to the environment than spreading AIS? We also are proposing a “third strike” rule for repeat violators. That is, on the third gross AIS violation, a person’s watercraft would be impounded. Also, the MN Fishing Regulations and Boating Guide should clearly state the MN AIS fines; currently there is no mention of the fines.
3. **No more stocking of muskies in the Gull Chain of Lakes**
Muskie preference by fisherman, per 2015 DNR sponsored study dropped from 6th place to 13th place. There are 61 actively managed muskie lakes within 80 mile radius of Brainerd and over 35% of MN surface waters have native/stocked muskies that provide significant opportunities for muskie fisherman. DNR Fisheries has limited financial resources and should limit muskie stocking and concentrate on the top priority, our walleye fishery. This is a sociological issue that extends well beyond fishermen and input is needed from all lake users. Why should the DNR spend money to manage the risk of impacts from muskie stocking when they have stated “the agency cannot ensure that no negative impacts will occur for the Gull Lake Chain fishery in the future.”
4. **Get the DNR Commissioner to make AIS prevention/containment a high priority in DNR.**
It is obvious that AIS prevention/containment is not a top priority for the DNR, it is barely on their radar. Key outdoor news reporters and leaders of lake-oriented organizations have described the DNR AIS efforts as “lame.” Local DNR AIS specialists are overloaded and have too many lakes/territory to cover. Local DNR AIS personnel are great to work with but the leadership in St. Paul needs to understand the significant impact of AIS on our environment and the potential financial impact of AIS on the “land of 10,000 lakes.”

RELATIONS PRIORITIES

By Uldis Birznieks,
Government Relations Committee Chair

The Government Relations Committee met with and discussed these priorities in January with State Representative John Poston, State Senator Carrie Ruud and State Senate Leader Paul Gazelka (see photo). We thank them for their input and feedback. On that same trip to the State Capitol, we met with and received excellent feedback from MLR Executive Director Jeff Forester and MLR lobbyist Henry Erdman.

We plan on meeting with State Representative Josh Heintzeman in the near future. We are actively participating in the legislative activities for MNCOLA (umbrella organization for lake associations in MN) and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

Advocates (MLR). We also are participating with other Crow Wing County (CWC) lake associations on providing input to CWC regarding their AIS plan. Future activities include trying to have meetings with the new DNR Commissioner, meetings with local county (Cass and Crow Wing) law enforcement, and meetings with the leaders of environmental/natural resources committees in the State House and Senate. As the 2019 legislative session progresses, we will keep you informed on the progress of our 2019 priorities. Be active and let your legislators know how you feel.

Pictured below are l to r: Dave Hoelmer, Jon Mendel, Uldis Birznieks, Doug Johnston, Sen. Gazelka and Steve Frawley



CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY KAY LARSON ON HER RETIREMENT

Mary Kay Larson recently retired after three decades with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a Park Ranger at the Gull Lake Dam and Recreation Area (GLDRA). During her time with USACE Mary Kay was recognized for expanding the volunteer, partnership and outreach programs and for providing a quality outdoor recreation experience at the GLDRA. Growing up in the Brainerd area Mary Kay believes that it “takes a community working together to protect and preserve the great natural resources entrusted to us by God.” Her efforts have resulted in the GLDRA being one of the top recreation destinations in the St. Paul District and Mississippi Valley Division.

Mary Kay’s success is due to the strong relationships she has developed both professionally and personally. As the USACE liaison to the Gull Chain of Lakes Association (GCOLA), the Board of Directors express their gratitude for the privilege of working alongside Mary Kay in their common goals of preserving the lake environment and promoting water safety.

Mary Kay’s plans are to continue volunteering for GCOLA and local community outreach, along with spending time with her family and traveling.

Congratulations Mary Kay!



PROUDLY SERVING THE
LAKES AREA SINCE 1993

218.963.0431

REQUESTS@BRADOWDOCK.COM

WWW.BRADOWDOCK.COM



Bradow Dock Service strives to serve the Brainerd Lakes Area with excellence. In addition to installing and removing waterfront equipment, we also offer a variety of services such as canopy cleaning and storage, dock and lift sales, and equipment maintenance. Please let us know how we can best serve you.

You can count on us to do the job right.



MINNESOTA INBOARD

ONE FAMILY. ONE BRAND. ONE MISSION.



BOAT SALES • PRO SHOP • SERVICE • STORAGE • FIBERGLASS REPAIR



LET OUR FAMILY TAKE CARE OF YOURS!

EXCELSIOR SALES / 720 GALPIN LAKE ROAD EXCELSIOR, MN 55331

TWIN CITIES SERVICE CENTER / 260 STATE STREET NEW GERMANY, MN 55367

BAXTER SALES & SERVICE CENTER / 15779 EDGEWOOD DRIVE BAXTER, MN 56425

WWW.MNINBOARD.COM



@MNINBOARD



@MNINBOARD



/MNINBOARD

9 NEW LOON COMMITTEE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR PROJECTS THROUGHOUT SUMMER

By Sheila Johnston

GCOLA has formed a new Loon Committee, and we need you! We are expanding our mission from surveying the loon population to protecting our loons. There are many new volunteer opportunities to fit anyone's summer schedule. Meeting attendance is not required. Programs include the Loon Survey, the Loon-Safe Boating Program, Loon Caution Sign Program, and the Loon Ambassadors Program. Level of involvement may be whatever you choose.



© Sheila Farrell Johnston

Loon Survey: We are expanding the Loon Survey to include a final September survey. We will begin the season with a nesting site survey, and we need volunteers to survey nesting sites throughout the Gull Chain of Lakes between May 25th and June 8th. The summer survey will take place during the week of July 15th. We will survey adults and chicks. The final survey will take place between September 1st and 10th. Volunteers may sign up for one, two, or three surveys. Our goal is to survey nesting sites throughout the chain, and identify reproductive success and survival. With this information we hope to protect nesting sites and support survival of adults and chicks.

Loon-Safe Boating Program: The goal of this program is to protect loons by educating boaters about safe boating practices near loons. Death from collisions with watercraft is a significant cause of loon mortality. If threatened or stressed loons will abandon their nests, and they may choose to nest on another lake in subsequent years. We will be targeting boaters who come onto the chain at the Zorbaz and Nisswa boat landings. Volunteers will be stationed at the landings encouraging people to protect our loons when boating, and they will distribute postcards with tips for boating safely near

loons. Early in the season we will stress staying away from nesting sites. As summer progresses, we will explain the importance of keeping a safe distance from adults and chicks. This program relies on volunteers to give their time in three hour blocks throughout the summer during high boating times. If you are not able to assist at the landings, you can help by distributing the safe boating postcards to watercraft rental businesses and resorts.

Loon Caution Sign Program: With this program our goal is to increase boater awareness of adults and chicks in "chick rearing areas", and to increase caution in these areas. We need residents near these areas to post loon caution signs on their shorelines or the ends of their docks. We particularly need signs near Point Narrows, entering Spider Lake, Roy Lake, and near chick rearing areas on Lake Margaret. GCOLA will provide the signs at no cost to members and will assist with installation if needed.



Loon Ambassadors Program: Volunteers will welcome new neighbors and give them a folder containing information about GCOLA, and how to protect loons.

How to Get Involved: Sign up for the Loon Survey and the Loon-Safe Boating Program will be on the GCOLA website. To get involved with any of the other volunteer opportunities please email

Jane Edwards, jedwards3718@gmail.com, or Sheila Johnston, sheilafjohnston@me.com. Please join us to "get loony" and volunteer to protect our loons!

CAUSE OF LOON DEATHS¹⁰

Robert Eliason, Environment Committee and GCOLA Loon Committee member



Since the GCOLA loon survey started, two dead loons (a chick and an adult) have been found by our volunteers. I was curious about the causes of loon deaths and did a little online research. Back in 1992, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency did a study on mercury and lead levels in loons in Minnesota. I obtained a copy of the published article. The study reported that 56% of the loons collected were either dead or dying and, of these birds, 74% were necropsied to try to determine the cause. The necropsy results showed that disease accounted for about a quarter of loon deaths. The exact disease was not determined, but the usual ones are aspergillosis, avian flu, West Nile and avian pox. Nearly a fifth of adult deaths were caused by stabbed wounds from another loon, which most likely occurred during a nesting season territorial dispute. (Loons are very, very territorial at nesting time.) Unfortunately, about a third of the deaths were attributed to human activity. Of the total number necropsied, 7% of the birds died due to being hit by a motorized water craft (boat, PWC, etc.), 5% died from fishing line entanglement, and 8% died from gunshot wounds. Lead poisoning was another cause; 7% of the total deaths were due to this. Loons need stones, which they obtain from the lake bottom, for their gizzards. If a loon should ingest a lead sinker, lead shot, or lead headed jig, the loon will be poisoned, which usually leads to death. The Minnesota DNR recommends that lead based fishing tackle and sinkers be exchanged for non-lead tackle and sinkers. Also, fishing line should be disposed of in the garbage and not in the lake, and any line found in the lake should be removed.

A sick loon was found on the shore of Middle Cullen in August and was brought to the Garrison Animal Hospital. The loon was diagnosed having avian pox, which is very contagious in birds and is spread by contact with a pox growth on another loon, by mosquitoes, and by biting flies. (The accompanying picture shows a red pox growth at the base of the beak. This bird also had a growth in its throat and had to be euthanized.)

In May 2015, Roberta and Robert Freese, loon survey participants, emailed me that they saw a dead loon in Roy

Lake. The next day, my friend Robert and I collected the loon; I put it in my freezer and called the DNR. The DNR picked it up and stored it in a freezer until sufficient funds were available to pay for a necropsy. The DNR does not perform this procedure, but the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources does. It was eventually sent there.

Finally this last May, after waiting for three years, I received the necropsy report from the DNR. The report stated that the necropsy was performed by a wildlife veterinarian in Eau Claire, WI. The age was reported only as "adult," and the weight of the bird was 5.08 kilograms (11.2 lbs.). An x-ray was performed, and it did not show any evidence of foreign metal such as a lead sinker or lead shot. Overall the external appearance of the bird was normal. Examination of the internal organs revealed some changes from decomposition of the body, which had an impact on the overall findings. The examiner did notice that the lungs appeared to contain more fluid than expected and the heart appeared enlarged. These findings could relate to the death process rather than be the direct cause of death. The appearance of the liver was unremarkable. Even so, a sample was taken and sent in for heavy metal and toxin analysis. However, the sample was accidentally overlooked, and the analysis was not performed. One notable finding was evidence of inflammation in the spleen. This suggests an infection, possibly bacterial or viral, as the most likely cause of death. A sample of the heart was sent for testing and came back negative for West Nile virus. It was not tested for other diseases.

This past August, Sheila Johnston found a dead chick in Upper Gull. She took it to the Garrison Animal Hospital where a necropsy was performed. The conclusion was that the chick had died from a massive infection.

If you should ever see a sick or dead adult or chick, please contact one of these GCOLA Loon Committee members: Jane Edwards (jedwards3718@gmail.com), Sheila Johnston (sheilafjohnston@me.com), or Robert Eliason (gcola.loonwatch@gmail.com).

In addition, volunteers are needed for many different GCOLA Loon Committee projects. Please contact a committee member to find out how you can help.

GCOLA TREE GIVE-AWAY DAY

By Sheila Johnston



The annual GCOLA Tree Give Away Day will take place on Saturday, May 11th, in the Ski Gull parking lot, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This year we are giving away white pine, red pine, and paper birch seedlings. Additionally, we will be giving away red osier dogwood, American hazelnut, and serviceberry/Juneberry bushes. These bushes will add beauty to your landscape while providing habitat and food for a variety of wildlife. Seedlings will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Recipients must be GCOLA members. Ideally, trees and shrubs will be planted on the lake side of members' properties.

White pines are medium growth trees that will grow best in sand, loam, and clay soil. White pines grow best in full sunlight. During the trees first 10 years of life growth is slow. Between 10 and 20 years of age the tree's growth rate speeds up. During these years the white pine usually grows about 16 inches per year. It is a long lived tree and normally attains a life span of 200 years.

Red pines (Norway) are fast growth trees that grow well in sand/well drained soil. It is intolerant of shade but does well in windy sites. It is a long-lived tree, reaching a maximum age of 500 years! The species is self-pruning; there tend not to be dead branches on the trees.

Paper birch are fast growth trees. Height may increase anywhere from 13 inches to 24 inches per year. Full sun and partial shade are the best lighting conditions for this tree. It prefers a minimum of four hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day. The paper birch grows well in acidic, loamy, moist, sandy, well-drained, and clay soils. While it prefers moisture, the tree has some drought tolerance.

Red osier dogwood is also known as red-twig dogwood and grows 6 to 12 feet tall. They are a multi-stemmed shrub with conspicuous red twigs which add beauty to the winter landscape. In spring they have creamy white blossoms followed by clusters of white berries. Autumn foliage is colorful. In addition to its beauty, this shrub is beneficial to birds and butterflies.

American hazelnut provides a variety of wildlife with food and shelter. Luna moth caterpillars feed on the leaves, nuts, and stems. Nuts are eaten by a variety of birds including red-bellied woodpecker, quail, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, and blue jays. The male flowers and buds provide an important source of food for ruffed grouse and wild turkeys in winter. American hazelnuts provide excellent cover and nesting for many birds. Fall color is an attractive yellow to orange to copper color. They do well in full sun to medium shade, but can be grown successfully in deep shade. They have no serious diseases or pests.

The serviceberry/Juneberry offers year round ornamental appeal and attracts and feeds wildlife. It is one of the earliest bushes to flower and has delicate white petals. It grows best in partial shade. It is a hardy plant that can tolerate a wide range of conditions, but thrives in well-drained, moist, acidic soil. The berries are edible and flavorful and work well in jellies and pies. It is a diverse plant that offers wildlife benefits including fruit, nectar, and edible foliage. Many birds enjoy the fruit, including chickadees, juncos, bluebirds, goldfinches, orioles, tanagers, and more. Butterflies make use of the nectar, and the plant serves as a host to swallowtail larvae. Leaves turn in the fall to a range of red, yellow and orange and beautify the landscape.

Mark your calendars for May 11, and come and get some seedlings! Mother Nature will thank you!



GCOLA END-OF-DOCK PROGRAM

Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee, End-of-Dock Program Coordinator

This is the fourth year of our End-of-Dock Program. For each lake, I averaged the data obtained in all four years for the June and August sampling periods, and then I averaged all of the data. These averages are given in the table. The column labeled “Mid-Lake Ave.” comes from previous studies where samples were collected from a boat from the middle of the lake. Neither Bass Lake, Spider Lake nor Love Lake have been studied previously; so, they have no mid-lake values. The only lake showing a definite increase in TP from June to August is Margaret.

Lake	Mid-Lake Ave. TP (ppb)	June Ave. TP (ppb)	Aug. Ave. TP (ppb)	Ave. all data TP (ppb)
Nisswa	20	16	20	18
Roy	18	14	12	13
Spider (2017 only)	N/M	15	10	13
Bass	N/M	19	13	16
Upper Gull	22	24	22	23
Mararet	57	34	53	44
Gull	18	15	19	17
Love	N/M	14	17	15

TP = Total Phosphate. ppb = parts per billion. N/M = Not Measured

The Gull Chain of Lakes is in the Northern Lakes and Forest ecological region. Lakes in this region are classified as mesotrophic and have TP readings in a range of 14-27 ppb. Except for Margaret, our TP results fall in this range and can be considered to be normal. Algae blooms are a natural part of a lake’s ecosystem; so, algae blooms in our lakes can be considered normal. However, algae growth was reported again this year to be quite severe in parts of the chain. I find it disappointing that this severe algae growth cannot be readily explained by our phosphate concentrations in those same areas because the concentrations are not out of the ordinary.

There are many factors that affect algae growth besides phosphate. Algae need sunlight, carbon dioxide, and the nutrient nitrogen, all of which are generally in abundance in the water. Their growth is also affected by the temperature and acidity of the water. I assume that there was just the right combination of all factors that resulted in optimizing algae growth in those areas that had excessive growth.

I find it frustrating that I can’t give individuals specific actions that would prevent excessive algae growth along their shore. One of the actions, which we can take, is to make sure that rain water does not flow directly into the lake. Shoreline buffers are designed for this purpose, and we all should have one. Trees can take up a lot of water and absorb dissolved nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. We should either plant trees along the shore or allow volunteer trees to grow up. I am partial to white pines because they were the original forest cover around our lakes. I also like to see trees along the shore; I think the shore looks less suburban like and more “up north” like. Besides, returning the area around cabins/houses as close as possible to its original undeveloped condition would be the most beneficial for our lakes.



BASS LAKE SHORELINE HABITAT PROJECT¹⁴

By Sheila Johnston

Bruce and Linda Harrier's Bass Lake property has been in the Harrier family since 1955. After building their house in 2007, they decided to address the issue of receding shoreline. At that time they thought installing rip rap would be the solution, and they included that as part of their landscaping when building the house. Through Linda's participation on the GCOLA Board of Directors, they became aware of the negative aspects of that approach, and in 2016 they decided to do a shoreline restoration project. They worked with Minnesota Native Landscapes to design and install the project. Since there were a healthy number of ferns and other plants growing naturally in the main section of the rip rap, they decided not to remove all of it. They kept the center section with all the natural growth in place and used the rocks from the two side sections of rip rap to outline three semi-circular areas for shoreline restoration.

Linda said, "As we planned the project, my main message was that I wanted as much color as possible. I love the natural

look of the landscape and we have more songbirds since installing the shoreline habitat." Linda loves blue and yellow, so their shoreline habitat is filled with plants in these color families. Purple coneflower, Blue Flag Iris, Meadow Blazing Star, Great Blue Lobelia, Blue Vervain, Stiff Golden Rod, and Golden Alexanders, along with a variety of sedges are part of this shoreline habitat color palette. The deep root systems of these native plants help the shoreline stay in place and many are excellent food sources for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators.

For property owners with existing rip rap, this project shows that it is not necessary to remove all the rip rap. You can leave it in place or remove as much as makes sense, and naturalize the remaining rip rap with plants.

Linda advised, "Be patient, and remember that you will need to wait at least three years for plants to mature and give the colorful beauty that you are expecting."



SHORELINE LIGHT POLLUTION OR TRESPASS

Robert Eliason, Environment Committee member

Forty some years ago when our kids were young, we wanted them to experience the wonder of the night as we were able to as youngsters. At our cabin, we would often go out, braving mosquitoes, to look at the sky. We saw the Milky Way with so many stars that it was difficult to discern constellations. We saw shooting stars and on rare occasions enjoyed the splendor of the Northern Lights. The shoreline was dark, and the lake had a very wild feel. We knew that we were indeed “up north”. We did the same thing with our grandchildren, but the experience was not as before. There was much, much more outdoor lighting around the shore. The Milky Way wasn't as milky; the constellations seemed easier to discern. The lake didn't feel as wild. It was disappointing that so much had been lost in just a couple of decades.

Today, we still like to sit outside to view the heavens, but the stray light from shoreline lighting has become worse. This stray light has reduced our enjoyment of the night sky. Basically, it has diminished our use of our property. In addition, we have had stray light from neighbors across the bay illuminate rooms of our cabin, including our bedroom. We felt that this light had invaded our privacy; it was trespassing on our property, in our cabin.

We can mitigate the stray light around our lake shore without really diminishing people's desire to have outdoor lighting. All it takes is to use appropriate light fixtures and to plan accordingly. Ordinary outdoor/exterior lighting normally uses unshielded fixtures that are responsible for stray light. A full cut-off shielded light fixture directs light downward and cuts off light from shining horizontally and skyward. (Appropriate fixtures are illustrated at www.darksky.org.) Directing all the light downward can actually have the effect of increasing the brightness of the illuminated area. This, in turn, allows a lower wattage bulb to be used, which has the additional effect of reducing energy use. When considering your lake shore lighting, the lighting should be bright enough to provide adequate illumination without being so bright that it lights up the whole neighborhood. By changing our lighting habits, I believe that some of the wild up north feel can be reclaimed. It will require individuals, businesses and government entities to make a commitment to alter their current lighting in a way that prevents stray light. By doing so, both light pollution and light trespass will be mitigated.

THERE IS NO PLOT TO SHUT-DOWN THE LAKES

By Jeff Forester,
Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

We have all seen in the press and on social media the myth that Lake Associations are working to “privatize” or limit access to the public waters. At the DNR Roundtable this myth emerged as a theme.

So, to set the record straight, not only do Lake Associations have no hidden agenda to privatize or reduce access of the public waters, they are perhaps one of the most effective institutions working to protect and enhance local resource dependent economies.

Every lake association in Minnesota, and there are over 500 of them, works to protect the lake resource for the benefit of all. According to a Concordia College study last summer of Lake Associations, Lake Associations spend about \$6.2 million of their own dollars for lake improvements and protection, including almost \$400,000 spent on fish stocking. They commit 1.25 million hours of volunteer time taking workshops on lake ecology, MAISRC’s Starry Trek, and AIS Detector program. Some of the best and largest lake ecology datasets are due to lake associations, many of whom have been doing secci disc, waterfowl counts and water chemistry analysis for decades.

Lake Associations fund storm warning systems for the lake, put out navigational buoys to keep visitors safe, support lake-based curriculum in local schools, volunteer at boat ramps to educate boaters about Aquatic Invasive Species BMPs. They buy Conservation Easements to help protect water quality. Some have put in campsite/shore lunch sites with fire rings, privy and picnic tables for visitors. They pick up garbage after ice fishing season (there are knuckleheads in every crowd), and work with local resort owners and chambers of commerce to promote tourism on the lake. They partner with watershed district staff to promote shoreline restoration and septic system compliance. Many Lake Association leaders were deeply engaged in efforts to update the minimum shoreland standards under Gov. Pawlenty. They bring in speakers to their annual meetings to talk about the importance of aquatic plants, shoreline buffers, woody debris and storm water runoff control in an effort to educate those members that don’t fully appreciate that what they do on the land impacts the water.

There is a spirit of altruism behind much of their work, but it is an altruism based in self interest. These people love the lake. They have invested both financially and emotionally in it. Most have been at any given lake place an average of 37

years, and it is where the core memories of their families are based. They are not, by and large, wealthy, with an average household income of \$58,000 a year. Many forego vacations to distant places and go to the lake “up north” instead. Eighty six percent do not plan to sell their lake places and want to leave them for the next generation to enjoy.

They are anglers. According to a phone survey conducted in 2016 for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates by Striezeck Research, about 62% of lake home and cabin owners buy a fishing license each year. In addition, they sell an average of four fishing licenses per property to friends and family that come up to the lake on vacation. With about 220,000 lake homes and cabins in Minnesota that means this group of people is responsible for about half the licenses sold in Minnesota each year.

But their self interest goes beyond preserving a Minnesota heritage of time at “the lake.”

First and foremost the benefits of lakes are financial. Water related tourism provides over \$12.5 billion in revenue. Many of the members of the lake associations are business owners, realtors, teachers, workers and others that live in the community adjacent to the lake in question. The lake economy extends to the faith community - congregant numbers and contributions swell during open water. For many of the small towns across the lakes districts in Minnesota, lake-based recreation is the primary economic driver. The average cabin owner spends about \$5,000 annually in the neighboring community.

Lake Association members also pay property taxes. A lot of property taxes. A recent Star Tribune article by John Reinan noted, “In 10 of Minnesota’s 87 counties, they (cabin owners) shoulder more than 40 percent of the residential property tax burden, according to data from the state Department of Revenue. And in several counties, they pay more than 50 percent.” In some lake rich but industry poor counties, cabins make up nearly 60% of the tax capacity. When we drill down to the smaller local taxing districts, cabin owners account for more than 50% of the tax capacity in almost 200 taxing jurisdictions.

CIVIC GOVERNANCE AS A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP)

in Establishing and Managing Successful Local Programs to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Protect Critical Aquatic Habitats and the Ecosystem Services Dependent on Them ~ by MLR staff

With over \$15 million of public money and unknown millions in private funding being spent annually on AIS prevention and control in Minnesota, funding is not the primary barrier to success. The science is also pretty clear - there are areas and models that have significantly reduced the rate of spread. There is much to learn about control and management, but the vectors of infestations are clear - overland transport of watercraft and water related equipment is spreading AIS from one waterbody to the next. So, while there are still unknowns, our science is pretty good and getting better.

After almost a decade spent working this issue, we believe that one of the significant barriers to success is a systems failure within our organizations and institutions and their ability to communicate and coordinate efforts across a diverse base of stakeholders.

Put another way, current “civic engagement” efforts target stakeholders. Stakeholders tend to translate into single species special interest groups. But lake ecology is dynamic with multiple ecological systems interacting with each other. And a significant part of these systems is the social dynamic. We believe that instead of “engaging stakeholders” we should focus on partnering and building the capacity of communities.

It is clear that providing the necessary framework in which communities can navigate competing agendas and balance the higher public good against the rights of the individual in a way that is transparent, accountable and functional is a Best Management Practice for managing AIS.

For the last few years Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates has been working to reorganize their existing resources; time, knowledge and money within our organizations, and testing this new approach. In 2018 MLR began to pilot this framework in two jurisdictions, Cass and Ramsey Counties, with funding provided by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and administered by the Initiative Foundation in Little Falls. The Pilots will run until July, 2019.

Said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR, “This pilot will strive to create a new approach to policy making at the local level. This isn’t about passing laws or ordinances, but working to change the way citizens organize both themselves and existing resources, and partner with governmental units (which might also reorganize existing resources) towards the common public good of protecting water resources from AIS.”

At the 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit over 400 attendees from 64 Minnesota counties participated in writing and approving the Local AIS Action Framework, LAAF. The LAAF lists the strategic goal of, “Build the Capacity of Civic Infrastructure - Preventing AIS spread requires participation by and engagement of a broad grassroots base. Building the capacity of local groups to work in concert with each other, with state agencies, and with local resource managers to write and execute a local AIS plan is critical to success.”

The current pilot project proposal is a response to this goal.

OVER 1,000 CARS AT MILLSAUTO.COM!

MILLS SINCE 1922

BUICK LINCOLN HONDA RAM

Ford CHRYSLER DODGE TOYOTA

Jeep

THE BODY WORKS

MILLS THE AREA LEADER IN SALES, SERVICE, AND ACCESSORIES!

Get Back to the Lake!

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

Body Works
MARINE REPAIR & DETAIL

HIGHWAY 371 N. • BRAINERD/BAXTER 800-991-9039 • 218-825-3500
VISIT US ONLINE: THEBODYWORKS.COM

Davenport and Seekamp (2013) highlight important differences between community capital and community capacity: “While community capital encompasses a variety of foundational resources or assets (e.g., physical, financial, technological) upon which a community can draw in times of need, community capacity is the interaction, mobilization and activation of these assets toward social or institutional change. Stated differently, a community may possess a broad range of capitals needed to cope with problems...but lack the capacity to establish common goals, make decisions based on mutual learning, and act collectively.” Additionally, recent research points to the important role of legitimacy and fairness as an interlinking and overarching concept in sustainable watershed management.

“One of Minnesota’s most important resources is the communities that work to protect our public waters. By leveraging their energy, promoting capacity, and building partnerships, we will build a powerful engine to achieve our shared water quality goals,” said Forester. “During the pilot and testing phase, we will discover gaps, and work to close those gaps. We intend to take the refined model to other jurisdictions as the model is refined.”

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ judy@mnlakesandrivers.org



SAVE THE DATE

The 2019 Gala and annual member business meeting will be held on Sunday, July 21 at Grand View Lodge. The business meeting will be held just before the Gala. Look for details in the spring newsletter.



WAKE RESPONSIBLY

1 Stay at least 150 feet away from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.

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

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

REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WAKE.



wsia
WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

"To Promote & Protect"

Cub

BRAINERD AND BAXTER GROCERY DELIVERY NOW AVAILABLE

VISIT: SHOP.CUB.COM

FUTURE PROOF YOUR HOME

Connect to the fastest internet in town, with speeds up to 1 Gig, that's 1,000 Mbps!

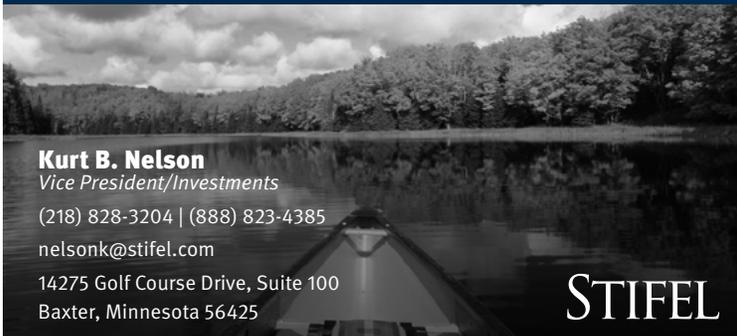
Call today!



CTC

(800) 753-9104 | (218) 454-1234
goctc.com | [f](#) [t](#) [y](#)

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

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | www.stifel.com

Midwest Family EYE CENTER

Dr. Jackie McCall
7870 Excelsior Road
Baxter, MN 56425
218.828.9545
toll free 877.338.3937

“our focus is on you”



midwestfamilyeyecenter.com

Small Group Tours & Crusies Galore



CLIK

 Claudia Around The World Tours
218-513-8922
www.ClaudiaAroundTheWorld.com



Claudia Allene
Your Guide

A family business for your family event



218-829-6300

PartytimeRentalMN.com

PARTY TIME
RENTAL




SHERWOOD FOREST
MINNESOTA
LODGE
FOOD & SPIRITS

As listed on the Minnesota Historical Society, this 1920's MUST EXPERIENCE restaurant features a large log interior with fireplace, full bar, and outdoor patio.
Located in Lake Shore • 218-963-6261 • www.sherwoodforest.3cheersmn.com



Hole in the Day

A NOVEL

STEVEN A. CARR

From local author Steven A. Carr

The quest for
the Ojibwa treasure

Available from:
Amazon, Outskirts Press, and
Madden Bros. Store.

PARTS - SALES - SERVICE - STORAGE



Brainerd 17821 Hwy 371 218-822-3500
Ramsey 6781 Hwy 10 NW 763-576-1706

Onamia 33972 US Hwy 169 320-532-3860



**LUND LOWE & RANGER BOATS
YAMAHA CLUB CAR & EZGO GOLF CARTS
TEXTRON ARGO & POLARIS OFF ROAD
SLINGSHOT PORTA DOCK ALUMA**

www.powerlodge.com



CALL OR VISIT OUR LARGE SHOWROOM TODAY!
Specializing in Contemporary & Traditional Fireplace Design

**OUR HEARTH EXPERTS
MAKE IT EASY!**

- Family-Owned and Operated since 2006
- Complete Design Process
- Gas and Wood Inserts, Stoves, or Fireplaces
- Stone (Real or Cultured)
- Mantels and a Full Line of Accessories
- Made in the USA

**MAKE YOUR
DREAM FIREPLACE OR
STOVE A REALITY!**



218-454-1040

14322 Dellwood Dr • Baxter, MN 56425
www.upnorthfireplacegallery.com



Is your water safe to drink?

**AW research
laboratories**

Certified testing for safe drinking water
coliform bacteria • nitrates • arsenic

www.awlab.com

(218) 829-7974



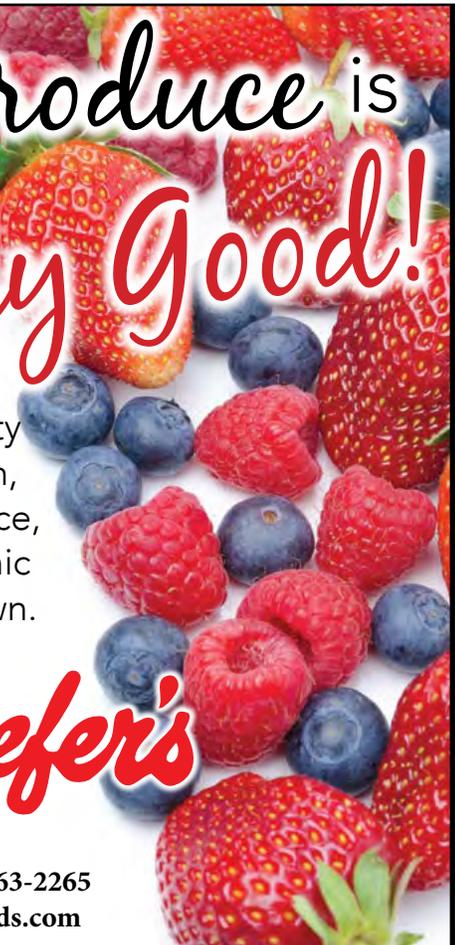
A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.
16326 Airport Road, Brainerd, MN 56401

Our Produce is
Berry Good!

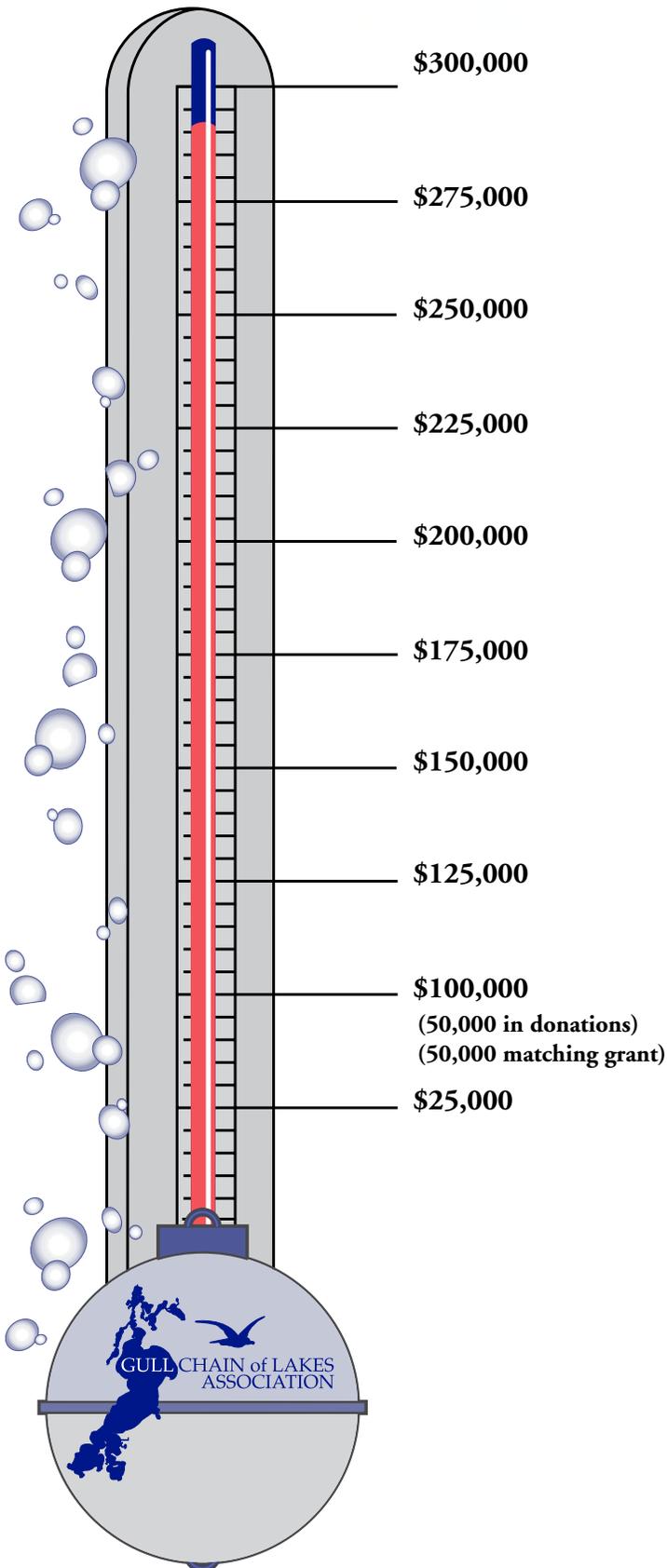
We carry an excellent variety of garden fresh, premium produce, including organic and locally grown.

**Schaefer's
FOODS**

Hwy 371 Nisswa • 963-2265
www.SchaefersFoods.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 off 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 \$292,000 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.

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
- Portable Equipment
- NOW OFFERING: CLEAN AND POLISH GRANITE COUNTER TOPS

Call..... **218-828-4320**
cdofthelakes@midco.net
www.Chemdryofthelakes.com

Independently Owned & Operated Serving Crow Wing, Aitkin, Southern Cass, Morrison & Todd Counties

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. 7am - 5pm Phone: (218) 963-7470
Sat. 8am - Noon Fax: (218) 963-7480

2018 DONORS

GCOLA offers a sincere thank you to our many members who made donations last year that were in addition to the dues paid. The support of all members through dues and donations is greatly appreciated and helps us with our efforts to improve the quality and safety of our chain of lakes. Names listed below are members who have contributed donations in addition to the \$50 dues. This list includes 2018 donations to the Endowment Fund. Our apologies if anyone was inadvertently omitted from this list.

OSPREY (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Thomas Burich
Jim Christensen – Kurilla Real Estate
Cornwall Foundation (Mary Ann & Looe Baker III)
John and Debra Hillstrom
Michael & Sandra Luker
Spicola Family Foundation

LOONS (\$500 - \$999)

Claudia Allene
Boos Family Foundation
Darryl Briley
John & Julie Ingleman
Stanley & Bonnie Jorgenson
Michael & Debra Lyons
Carlisle & Ellen Mabrey
Michael McGray
Jeff & Jill Noack
Pine Beach Peninsula Association
Greg & Nancy Schwanbeck
Tom Spicola

HAWKS (\$100 - \$499)

Anonymous (3)
David Aamodt
John Akin
Gary Alkire
Andy Anderson
Patrick & Pamela Ayd
Ken & Mary Baker
Pat & Sandy Baldwin
Pat Bartus
Fay Beauchine & Richard Graham
Brent Bechtle
Ray & Joan Benson
Tom & Elaine Bercher
Terry Berg
Tim & Ann Bergin
Daniel & Shonna Berken
Bernick Family
Carol & Don Birkeland
Uldis & Pat Birznieks
Jerry & Lois Bjurstrom

Matt & Lonnie Boe
David Brinker
Conley Brooks
Allison Bros-White
Bunten Family
John & Robin Carbone
Jerry & Judy Carling
Elsa Carlson Bros
Keith & Mary Fran Campbell
Dan & Karen Casperson
Collier Family
Tim Conroy & Polly Lyman
Glen & Sandy Cook
Kevin & Pam Cook
Wayne and Kathy Cornish
Ken & Linda Darula
Bill & Ginny Dingle
Kraig & Jayne Domogalla
DJ & Kris Dondelinger
Richard Dore
Vince & Martha Driessen
Jim & Gail Ehlen
Mark & Cindy Eischens
Robert & Maryann Eliason
Sue Ellis
Bob & Laura Eng
David & Debra Fellner
Dave & Debby Felske
David & Bonnie Foss
Catherine Fox
Robert & Roberta Freese
Todd & Marcia Friesen
Terry Frovik & Pauline Gustafson
David & Janet Galassi
Bob & Carol Galligan
John & Amy Gawlik
Betty Green
Mark & Nancy Hall
Greg & Cindy Hames
Jim & Pam Hanson
Linda & Bruce Harrier
George & Christina Hart
Tom Hartman
Denny & Diane Hartogh
Bill & Kathy Haug
Ron & Lisa Have

Robert Heaton
Dan Hedlund & Robin Preble
Earl & Jeannine Hemmerich
Mike & Pat Henkemeyer
John & Diana Herman
Chuck Herrig
Paul & Colleen Holmquist
Mike & Kris Hudalla
Gary Hylton, Jr.
John & Beth Jacob
Arnold & Joann Johnson
Rob & Pat Johnson
Kammerer Family
Greg & Dana Kellenberger
Chris Kienstra
William & Nancy Knapp
Gary & Kelley Knight
Jack Kubitz
Lake Fun Rentals
Roger & Marie Landsburg
Randy & Lynn Larson
George & Barbara Lehan
Doug & Pat Lewis
Tracy & Todd Linbo
Doug & Linda Linder
Keith Litke
Luther Crest
Roger & Kathleen Lykins
Jerry & Lori Lyng
Linda Martin
Daniel & Judith McAthie
Kyle McClintick
Joseph & Florence McErlane
David & Jan McNair
Al and Mary Agnus McQuinn
Bill & Joyce Mitsch
Colleen Mooney
Judy Morgan
Joe & Kathy Mucha
James & Wendy Mullaney
Lowell & Linda Naley
David and Margaret Nelson
Robert & Marianne Nemeth
Jeff & Sandy Norblom
Denise & Steve Park
Carol Pech
Rick & Suzanne Pepin

David & Rebecca Peterson
David & Claudia Pilot
Mike & Jeanne Qualen
John & Kathryn Rauth
John & Jackie Reedy
Lynette & Richard Richter
Joseph Salscheider & Bridget Kane
John & Margie Sampsell
Richard Sankovitz
Charles & Jeanne Scheiderer
Sue Schmidt
Peter & Goodie Schmitz
William & Deborah Schreck
Amy Scott
Jeff & Karen Sell
Sherwood Forest Condos
Dolph Jr. & Pam Simons
Bill Sironen
Allen Skogquist
George & Margaret Sommerfeld
Ryan & Cathy Sorenson
John & Grace Steuri
Andrew & Dorothy Stewart
Dan & Connie Stockness
Tim & Laura Stockness
Robert & Loriese Stoll
Bob & Rita Sundberg
Marc & Beth Swiontkowski
The Chocolate Ox
David & Marlys Thies
Rod & Carol Thole
Scott & Maxine Thome
Bob Toborg & Rosemary Goff
Gene & Carlotta Tutor
Margaret & James Utz
Christian & Leslie Vaillancourt
Harlan Wachholz
Doug and Deb Wagman
Jack & Louise Warden
Jim & Jane Werler
Karl & Denise Westenfield
Alex & Michelle Wilson
Jim & Trish Woerner

GULLS (Up to \$99)

Anonymous (7)
 Jim Aleff & Sandra Rada-Aleff
 Steve & Kathy Alex
 Todd & Sue Amerman
 Don & Violet Anderson
 James & Lois Anderson
 Leith & Charleen Anderson
 Sally Anderson
 Jeffrey Baker
 William Baker
 Sandy & David Baldwin
 Emily & Randy Bauernfeind
 Brent Bechtle
 Patrick & Heather Bennett
 Vicki & Buzz Benson
 Vern & Lois Berglin
 Mark & Angie Benson
 Linda Blaisdell
 Steve Boe
 Raymond Boesch
 Robert & Terri Bormann
 Don Bottemiller
 Tammara & Steve Braunberger
 Bill & Jane Brekken
 Mike & Debbie Broker
 Jeffrey & Kathleen Browne
 Mike & Jean Buller
 Beverly Burman
 Thomas Cameron
 Sara Campbell
 Michael Caron
 Mike & Julia Chaney
 Kathleen Chapman*
 Gregory & Loretta Clark
 Tim Commers
 Thom & Ann Cooper
 Carol & Randy Cote
 Sam and Mary Jo Cote
 Phillip & Linda Dabill
 Jeff & Monette Day
 Tom & Bobbie Deans
 Louis Dehner & Becky Pew

Trent Dore
 Ben & Rhoda Drake
 Tom & Karen Driessen
 Doug & Vicki Dypwick
 John & Ginny Ehlen
 Jerry & Sandy Erickson
 Terry & Mary Falk
 Naomi Farr
 David & Sheryl Foster
 John & Catherine Foster
 Pat Fournier
 Steve & Vicky Frawley
 Daniel Freking & Sharon
 Gregorie
 Fred & Julie Friedrichs
 Col. Lyle & Jan Fuller
 James Gabriel
 Johanna & Peter George
 Hoot & Mary Lynn Gibson
 Stan & Anne Glad
 Mike & Ruth Gmeinder
 John & Bette Goplen
 Alan & Janice Grinde
 John & Jane Guild
 Paul Haagenson
 Richard Hagerty & Jennifer
 Wagner
 Ike & Sharon Halliwill
 Donald & Yvonne Henderson
 Steve & Lois Hensel
 Pamela & Douglas Hoekstra
 Wayne and Lisa Hoglelund
 Anne Holub
 Terence & Jennifer Huddle
 Bryan & Kim Hughes
 Ron & Ginger Hustvedt
 Stephen & Rachael Imholte
 Don & Marilyn Johannsen
 Arnold S. Johnson Properties
 Bruce & Sharalyn Johnson
 Evan & Shea Johnson
 Gordon & Mary Lou Johnson
 Doug & Sheila Johnston

Don & Sally Jones & Sally
 Metcalf
 Debra Jungclaus
 Dennis & Joyce Kamstra
 Steven Katka
 Alan & Melinda Kehe
 Bob Keppel
 Kismet Partnership
 Scott Lake
 Jean & Patricia LaPlace
 Judith Lee
 H. Laury & Marilyn LePage
 Daniel Lind
 Kathleen Lundberg & Charles
 Batko
 Rodger Lundblad
 Polly Lyman & Tim Conroy
 David & Pat Maccabee
 Troy & Robin Magnuson
 Paul Martin
 David McCarthy
 Marv & Pat Meyer
 Norm & Marlys Meyer
 David Misukanis
 Jim & Jan Moe
 Tim & Cindy Moore
 Chip & Jane Morgan
 Joe & Pam Mueller
 Kurt & Stephanie Nelson
 Bryce & Cathy Norelius
 Nye Sisters
 Patrick O'Connell
 Jeffrey & Pamela Oldenkamp
 David & Kathy Olson
 Jennifer & Dustin Ordorff
 Keith Pasket
 Bob & Sue Payette
 Michael & Jaylene Pederson
 Dorothy Plager
 Mary & Doug Platt
 Mark & Terri Poindexter
 Patricia Pomeroy
 Octavio Portu, Jr.

Steve & Ruth Quisberg
 Roland & Betty Rasmussen
 Sid & Shirley Rhinehart
 Bill Ribbel & Deborah Jacobs
 Tom & Lori Rocheford
 Don & Patty Rodningen
 Rod Sande
 Douglas & Kelli Schieffer
 John & Janice Schmelzle
 Anthony Schwaller
 James Sheedy
 Keith & Nini Sieck
 Keith & Jacki Siemon
 Chuck & Sherry Skaugstad
 Jim Starkey
 Joan Steiger
 Tom & Patty Steiger
 Wes Streed
 Rey & Vicki Swanson
 Michael Swenson
 Gary & Nancy Tatge
 Stephen & Kathy Tanner
 Scott & Maxine Thome
 Ron Ann Thornton
 Keith Tomlinson
 Tony & Virginia Udelhoven
 Eric & Mark Utter
 Danny Van Roy
 Steve Vranich
 Greg & Beth Windfeldt
 Dr. Jan Whitman
 Dorothy Whitmer
 Sue Winterstein
 Kim & Karen Wood
 Steve & Lois Zauher

In Memory of:
 *Robert Chapman

This is what a good day looks like.

ORTHOPEDICS LIKE NOWHERE ELSE



Good days look different to everyone. But when pain or injuries stop us from enjoying them, we meet these challenges head on. With personalized treatment plans, experienced doctors and specialized surgeons, Essentia Health Orthopedics helps you enjoy the things that make this place unlike anywhere else. Together, we find a way to get the good days back.

Get started now — call 218-829-7812 or visit EssentiaHealth.org.



Essentia Health



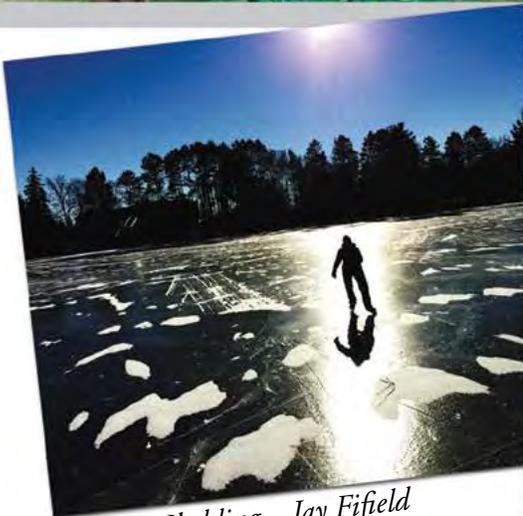
Find us on
Facebook

**Orthopedics &
Sports Medicine**

Appointments are available at:

**2014 S 6th St, Brainerd
35205 CR 3, Crosslake
138 Main St, Pierz**

PHOTO'S WANTED



Sledding – Jay Fifield



Pileated – Dave Anderson



Ice skating – TJ Bonnett

Do you have photos you've taken around the Gull Lake chain you'd like to share with other members? We're putting together a library of photos to be used in the GCOLA newsletter. You will be given credit for any photos printed in the newsletter. Putting a caption with the photos is also helpful. Photos can be sent at full size to Rosemary Goff at togogt@charter.net. ***All photos should be supplied at the highest resolution/largest size possible, thank you.***

LISTENS.

EXECUTES.

EXCEEDS.



NO ONE BUILDS LIKE NOR-SON.

Voted BEST HOME BUILDER in the Brainerd Lakes Area!

See our award-winning homes at Nor-SonResidential.com



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

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.



DIGITAL HORIZONS



COME SEE FOR YOURSELF
SHOWROOM/EXPERIENCE CENTER
1924 S. 10TH STREET, BRAINERD

Providing the best in **home entertainment, automation, and lighting control systems** for the Brainerd Lakes and surrounding areas

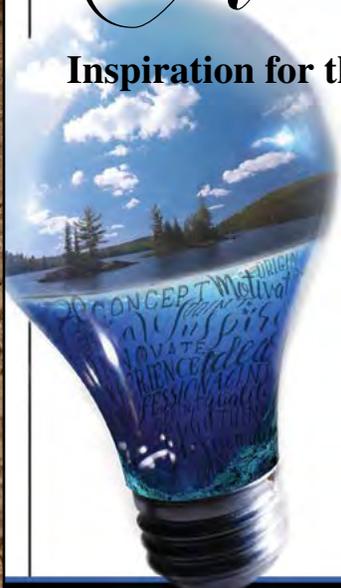
DIGITALHORIZONSMN.COM 218-330-4140

Creative

Inspiration for the entire Lakes Area

We want to be your design, offset printing, digital printing, bindery and mailing professionals.

We want to be your printer. Please contact us.



LAKES PRINTING
БЫЛИЦ
ЛУКЕР
WHATEVER IT TAKES

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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS



Steve Alex



Uldis Birznieks



Jay Chaney



Robert Eliason



Steve Frawley



Sue Friedrichs



Rosemary Goff



Linda Harrier



Chuck Herrig



John Ingleman



Sheila Johnson



Marv Meyer



Bob Toborg

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 2019 meeting dates are February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11. We usually adjourn around 10:00 a.m.

Come see what we do.

NISSWA DOCK
DOCKS • LIFTS • SERVICE

24428 SMILEY ROAD, NISSWA MN

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

Now offering cabinets for your outdoor living space

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

GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION ³⁰ 2019 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. Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated. You can get membership forms on our website at: gcola.org. If you are unsure as to whether you are current with your dues, call Rosemary at 218-963-3542

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

PLEASE USE THIS FORM: Please provide the information requested below and send with your 2019 dues to the address indicated. We have also provided a space for any additional contributions that you would like to make to the Invasive Species Fund.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____ Lake address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

2019 dues: \$50.00

Additional donation designated to:

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

= Total Contribution: _____



WHAT WE DO

YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION IS WORKING FOR YOU!

- Purchases, installs and maintains one of the premier navigational buoy systems (90 buoys) in the State of Minnesota. This system is NOT provided by local law enforcement. 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.
- In partnership with Cass and Crow Wing county sheriffs, provides free boat safety training for approximately 50 youth per year. The lake association also gives each participant a life jacket.
- Provides matching funds for a DNR grant to hire interns to monitor water craft at the three public boat landings on the Gull Chain for invasive weeds and aquatic species.
- Entered an agreement with the City of Lake Shore Police Department to fund additional monitoring of water craft for invasive species at the County 77 boat landing using police officers.
- Monitors lakes and streams running into the Chain for water quality. The samples are being taken by GCOLA member volunteers, with testing completed by licensed environmental labs. With the testing completed we have established a data base which will help us identify problems now and in the future and provide guidance for action plans.
- Conducts inspections twice in the summer at 24 locations to look for invasive species.
- Takes weekly secchi disk readings during the summer to test the water clarity.
- Promotes lakeshore restoration projects. We are currently providing matching grants for restoration projects.
- Since 2010 donated over 1200 white pine seedlings to members.
- Works with county sheriffs on safety and enforcement issues. We have donated to the sheriff's department night vision equipment, a range finder, life jackets and have made our buoy barge available for emergencies.
- Donated \$15,000 to the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research project to be specifically used for zebra mussel research.
- Conducts a yearly loon count in the spring and late summer.
- Issues four newsletters per year to keep members informed about association programs and important issues affecting lake quality and property owners.
- Maintains a web site (gcola.org), a member group e-mail service and a Facebook page.
- Through the Initiative Foundation, established a perpetual Endowment Fund for ongoing support. With a \$50,000 Initiative Foundation matching grant, the fund is now well over \$292,000.
- Holds an annual meeting and gala in July.
- Entered a partnership with the Corps of Engineers to establish a boat power wash station at the corps' Gull Lake Recreation Area public access ramp.
- In order to keep apprised of lake issues and programs, maintains memberships with the Crow Wing Lakes and Rivers Alliance, the Association of Cass County Lakes, Minnesota Conservation and Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Association.

RARDIN

CONSTRUCTION INC.

est. 1925

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING • ADDITIONS



218-828-1268

www.RardinConstruction.com

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA AND SURROUNDING

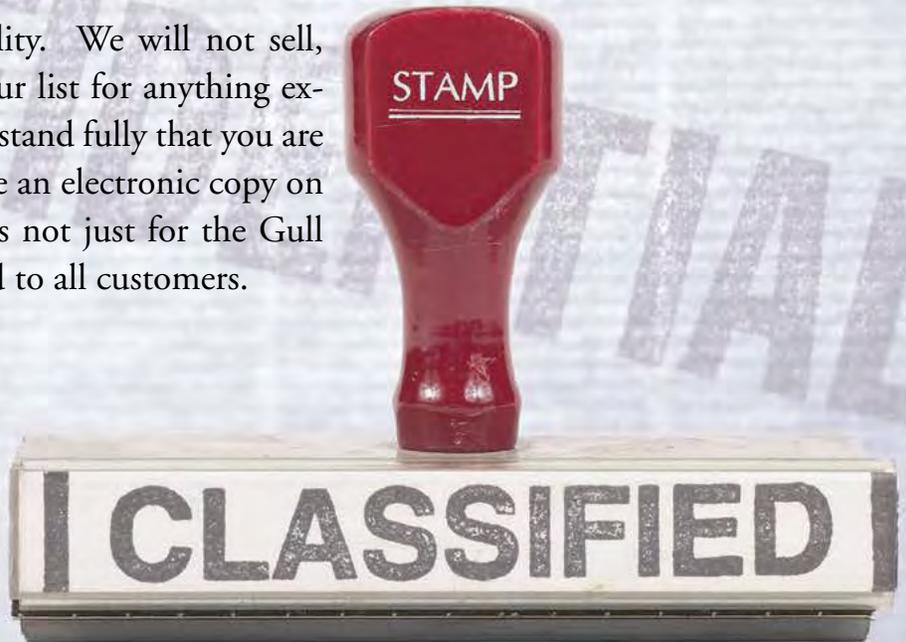
LAKE PRINTING ³² CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

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



CONVENIENT LOCATION ON THE WATER

TO ATTEND TO ALL OF YOUR SERVICE, STORAGE, & WINTERIZING NEEDS

Easily Accessible Gas Docks • Full Parts & Accessory Department • C-Store for Your Last-Minute Needs • On-the-Water Towing Available

RENTALS: MAKE YOUR 2019 RESERVATIONS NOW!

MERCURY®
Certified Technicians



YOUR BOAT CLUB



YourBoatClub.com • 218-963-1010

WES HANSON BUILDERS INC.
 GENERAL CONTRACTORS
 AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGN
 LIC#0003452

Misty Harbor

ALUMACRAFT

CROWNLINE

POWERED SUZUKI MARINE

Brainerd 
 Sports & Marine

Junction Hwy 18 & 25
 in SE Brainerd
 218-828-4728
www.brainerdsports.net



A BUSY YEAR ON OUR WEBSITE

Dave Anderson, Website Manager

As of September 30th, we have had 7,695 pages views at gcola.org since January 1st.

The most popular pages were as follows:

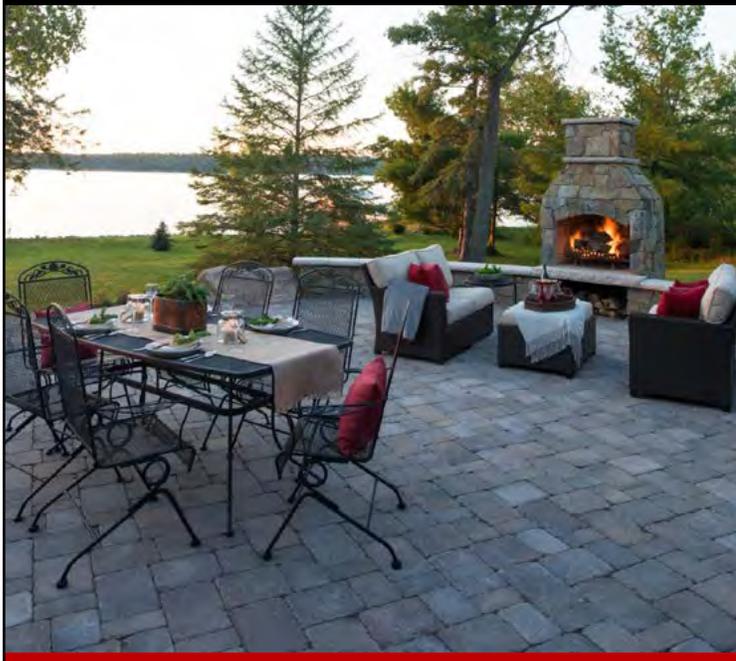
- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Home Page | 6. Gull Lake Dam |
| 2. Annual Gala | 7. Contact Us |
| 3. News & Events | 8. Newsletters |
| 4. Shopping Cart | 9. Get Involved |
| 5. About Us | 10. Our Lakes |

We had a number of new photos posted on our Photo Gallery page. You can find a link to this page near the bottom of the home page. We are always looking for more photos from the area. Please send them to webmaster@gcola.org and include your name and a suggested caption.

Dave Anderson – Website Manager



We Create Outdoor Dreams



Annandale, MN | Nisswa, MN | www.backyardmn.com | 877-365-4034

Trust your Water Treatment and Heating & Cooling to Us.

Local & family-owned since 1987 • *Earning the Right to be Recommended!*[™]

AQUARIUS
— HOME SERVICES —

Kinetico[®]
water systems



Amana
Heating & Air Conditioning
LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.

We pride ourselves on providing superior service—we respect you, your time and your home.



Our 100% performance guarantee is backed by the best material, product and labor warranties in the business.



We solve problem water.

GUARANTEED.

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR

FREE
WATER ANALYSIS
AND ESTIMATE*



* Free water test includes hardness, iron, pH, tds and chlorine

CODE: NP2015

AquariusHS.com
HEATING & COOLING

888.674.6509

KineticoMN.com
WATER TREATMENT



The Harbor Estates

BEGIN WITH US



L.A.C. # BC322437

The Harbor at East Gull Lake is a single-family lake home community located on the Gull Lake chain of lakes. It features 27 Baratto Brothers high quality, custom built craftsman style homes.

- Gull Lake Luxury Lake Homes
- Baratto Brothers Quality & Style
- Beautiful Nature and Harbor Views
- Private Harbor with 30' Boat Slips
- Pool, Putting Green & Walking Paths
- 26+ Acres of Community Grounds
- High-end Finishes & Architecture

The Harbor

at East Gull Lake



David Mernin, New Home Advisor
dave@lakesareahomes.mn

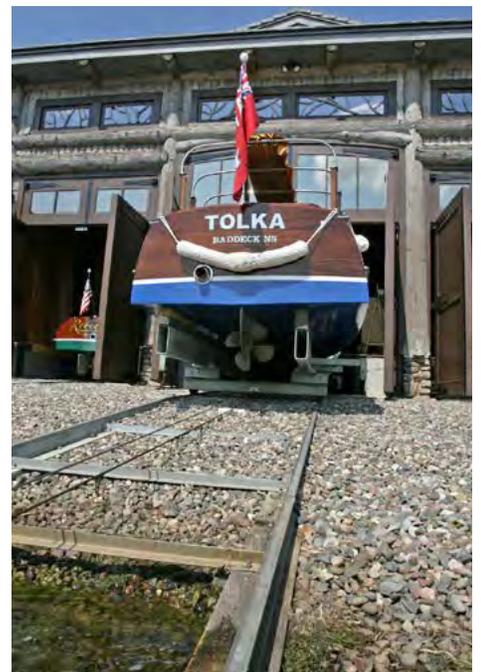
(218) 820-4668 | www.theharbor.info



Lakeside Living

DH Docks, LLC

www.dhdocks.com | 218-963-2566
instagram/facebook: @dhdocksnisswa





**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

MasterCraft

**THIS IS WHAT
WE LIVE FOR.**

