

A Message from Our President

Andy DuPont

On January 13th, your Board of Directors met to review 2010 results and make plans for the coming year. I was particularly pleased that for the third consecutive year our annual revenues covered the full cost of our operations. This is a great sign of sustainability for the many valuable programs of the Association. These programs are focused on protecting this special place and the memories and investments that are important to us all. We plan to do the same in 2011, which is only possible through the generous support we receive from you, our members. Thank you.

During the meeting the Board decided to have the Association participate with a family oriented float in the Glen Arbor 4th of July parade. Read more about this in the newsletter. We hope you decide to get actively involved as plans for the float move forward. (Parade attendance is now mandatory for all members ;-)

Two of our directors, John Rockwood and Carl Oleson, who have each contributed their valuable talents and time to the Association for many years, have decided to retire. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Pete Andersen and Bob Boles as replacements. Pete brings with him, a wealth of experience heading up the Glen Lake Yacht Club, and Bob has been instrumental in elevating the Association's communications efforts in his role as chairman of the Public Relations Committee. Please join me in thanking all four of

these members for their willingness to serve.

This past summer we initiated, with the State Police, a study of the speed limits along Dunn's Farm and Day Forest roads with the hope of having the limits lowered. Unfortunately, based on state law, the results of the study did not warrant a reduction except for a short section of Dunn's Farm Road between Agnew Street and Old Settlers Park. We are disappointed with the decision, but not giving up on this significant safety issue, given the level of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the summer months. We are also seeking better signage to protect people who portage their canoes and kayaks across the road as they enjoy their outings on the Crystal River.

We can only dream about boating at this time, as the lakes have frozen over, and fishermen are in ice fishing coops and not boats. There is a special peace and beauty that we enjoy during the winter months around the lakes and river. If you are not able to be here for any of it, we will strive to put up some pictures on the website - glenlakeassociation.org so you get a taste. In the meantime, enjoy reading the excellent articles in this newsletter which, along with the website, can keep you up to date on our activities.

Have a great winter, Andy



The Glen Lake Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation and continued improvement of the beautiful Glen Lake area.

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Karner's Korner

Ten Things YOU can do to preserve the Glen Lake Watershed

When we discover there are negative forces working on something we value, our first tendency is to blame someone other than ourselves. While that may prove to be a valid position, it is also true that we can take action ourselves to help improve the situation. It has been said that "if your not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem." Here are ten things we can take action on that will help keep the water quality of Glen Lake Watershed at a high level.

- **Maintain or improve your greenbelt** - By maintaining an existing greenbelt (forbs*, shrubs, trees) along the shore there are many benefits for promoting clean water. The main benefit is that this vegetation absorbs much of the excess nutrients in the soil such as phosphorous and nitrogen before these elements contaminate the water and stimulate undesirable weed and algal growth.
- **Install a lake water irrigation system** – Taking water from the lake and pumping it onto your shore through your irrigation system allows your greenbelt or lawn to be rehydrated and the yard vegetation will extract the lake water nutrients as it percolates back to the lake as filtered water via the ground water/springs.
- **Participate in hazardous waste recycling** – Usually twice a year in Leelanau County, there is a hazardous waste recycling program that allows you to take your unused paints, oils, pesticides, batteries, electronics, and other materials that are not allowed in landfills, to be properly disposed and recycled. Heavy metals and toxic organic compounds become deadly if and when they enter into our water. This cost-free service is a vital part of preserving our watershed. Therefore, keep watch in the newspapers for the exact dates and locations for future recycling opportunities (usually on Saturday mornings in the spring and fall).
- **Plant trees** – American Beech, Sugar Maple, Eastern Hemlock, White Ash, and White Birch trees are aging around the watershed. Consequently, these trees will eventually die and need to be replaced with new tree plantings. Saplings of these trees often are cut or mowed down. By planting saplings, the adult trees that die will be replaced and will help maintain a healthy forest. Trees are a significant part of helping our water quality stay high.
- **Use phosphorous-free lawn fertilizers** – Now it is an ordinance in Glen Arbor Township that it is illegal to use a lawn fertilizer containing phosphorous within 500 feet of any lake, river, or stream. Recently, a law was passed in the state legislature and signed by our Governor that places restrictions on phosphorous containing fertilizers. It is common knowledge that phosphorous loading in our water is the top pollutant that causes deterioration of our water quality. Lawn fertilizers are sold with three numbers on the bag. Just remember to only use ones with the middle number being zero.
- **Maintain or upgrade your septic system** – A healthy and properly functioning septic system is an important priority. Be sure to have your septic tank pumped every two or three years. A full inspection of your system is a good idea as well. Usually, your septic hauler will do a general inspection at the time of the pump out but more thorough inspections and tests can be done at an additional charge. Remember, septic leaks into our water cause E.coli outbreaks along with excessive nutrient loading that causes excessive weed and algal growth.
- **Repair any erosion on your shoreline** – Exposed soils, especially exposed soils on hills and banks, are vulnerable to erosion. The best way to reduce or eliminate soil erosion is to plant vegetation on the soil and use lots of mulch and/or geo fibers. The best result often comes using native plants. When

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you plant over an eroded area, remember to think of planting a variety of plants – forbs*, shrubs, and trees. In addition, have a good mix of species. Using native plants will increase your chances of success when drought and insect damage arise.

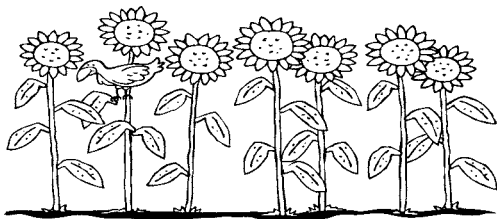
- **Reduce or eliminate impervious surfaces** – Impervious surfaces on riparian property increase runoff. The key to making strides in maintaining water quality is to slow down rainwater and allow for percolation. When rainwater or snowmelt is allowed to percolate into the soil, the water is filtered and the lake, river, or stream water is replenished via the ground water (springs).

- **Do not feed the waterfowl near the shoreline** - Concentrating waterfowl on a shoreline by feeding them grain may be fun and make for great entertainment. However, by feeding waterfowl on the shore it also contributes to unwanted manure from the birds. E.coli will rise in the feeding area and excess algae and aquatic weeds will result from the nitrogen and phosphorous from their droppings.

- **Join and support the Glen Lake Association** – By joining the lake association, you are helping fund the many activities and projects that are associated with preserving water quality. Our lake association is a leader in the state and it deserves all the support it can get from people who value the wonderful water quality of our watershed.

*Editor's note:

Okay, I had to look up the word “forbs”. This term is used widely in ecological studies by very smart biologists. According to Wikipedia, “Forbs are herbaceous flowering plants that are not graminoids (grasses, sedges and rushes). Some examples of forbs are clover, sunflower and milkweed.



Glen Lake Association News

From the Finance Committee

12 Months Ending December 31,

	2010	2009
REVENUE:		
MEMBERSHIPS	\$81,289	\$76,019
FOUNDATION & GRANTS	8,700	12,923
INTEREST	8,842	8,231
OTHER	<u>290</u>	<u>347</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$99,121</u>	<u>\$97,520</u>
EXPENSES		
WATER QUALITY	\$31,369	\$33,080
WATER LEVEL	9,251	4,952
RECREATION & WATER SAFTY	552	500
INVASIVE SPECIES	26,543	26,961
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS	14,676	10,820
SUPPORT SERVICES	<u>16,450</u>	<u>15,754</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$98,841</u>	<u>\$92,067</u>
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$280</u>	<u>\$5,453</u>

From the Development Committee

This committee met numerous times in 2010 to determine the format and content of the new Development brochure. The brochure was included in the committee's appeal letter mailed in early December. A July 2011 event is planned at the Glen Lake Yacht Club to thank past generous donors and inform new Glen and Fisher Lakes homeowners of the Association's activities.

The Development Committee is pleased to announce another “Legend.” Charles and Sara Ofenloch have notified the Glen Lake Association of their intent to include the GLA Endowment Fund in their estate plan. Charles, a past Board member and President, and Sara state “They appreciate all the good work that has been accomplished by the Association to improve, preserve and protect our lakes and watershed. We feel responsible as a riparian for sustaining our beautiful lake and the Association's program of work for future generations.” The Ofenlochs join Patrick Barry, Jr. in becoming GLA “Legends”. If you are interested in becoming a “Legend” contact a member of the Development committee.

Glen Lake Association News, continued

From the Water Quality Committee New Resources Being Planned for Glen Lake Association Riparians

The Glen Lake Association has received some very good news! The Inland Lakes Partnership recently established an initiative to preserve the water quality of Michigan inland lakes. This initiative assists riparian property owners to be active stewards in the protection of their lakes through landscaping for natural beautification and the preservation of water quality. This initiative assures that trained and certified local contractors will be available to assist riparians. These contractors will be proficient in bioengineered erosion control methods and the use of landscaping techniques that benefit lake ecosystems.

Contractor training and certification sessions for excavation, landscaping, and shoreline protection companies were initiated last year with two sessions held in southern lower Michigan. **The good news is, sessions are now scheduled for our part of the state.** This means that there will be an opportunity for local contractors to receive this training and become certified in the use of lake-friendly landscaping technologies and bioengineered erosion control. The training program for contractors will be held in Cadillac in March 2011. There is also a "Lake Scaping" session scheduled to train lake association representatives. The session, to be held April 1, 2011 in Gaylord, will focus on erosion control, beautification, and water quality protection.

Many GLA members have already enhanced their shorelines either with the help of our Watershed Biologist, Rob Karner, or through their own efforts. After noting the high level of phosphorus entering some areas of Glen Lake, identified through our annual cladophora surveys, many riparians have made modifications to reduce nutrient inflow from their properties at their shorelines. A dramatic example of these efforts is what was done by the Shugart family at Dorsey's Trailer Park on the south

shore of Little Glen Lake. The park re-landscaped 900 feet of shoreline over a 3 year period and restricted the use of phosphorus fertilizer for their tenants. Our 2010 cladophora shoreline survey indicated a dramatic reduction of algae producing nutrient levels at their shorelines. The judicious use of fertilizer and the nutrient absorption action of deep rooted vegetation was undoubtedly responsible.

What the Inland Lakes Partnership initiative and their contractor training and certification program will mean for GLA riparian's is, **now we will likely be able to contract local certified professionals to make warranted shoreline landscaping modifications.** And we will have the assurance that modifications will be lake friendly.

More information about the Inland Lakes Partnership and their web link to the present downstate certified contractors is available on our web page, www.glenlakeassociation.org

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From Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation and Water Safety

Fishing Not Up to Par

Little Glen froze over early in November. Shanties were seen way before Christmas. The December thaw drove them off for a time. But now, at 14 inches thick, they are dotting the ice once again. Big Glen appears to be frozen - much earlier than normal; but some open water is still on the west side as of this newsletter. No one has ventured out too far, though.

As for fishing...well that is spotty at best. Many hours spent with few fish to show for it. There have been occasional sightings through the hole of rainbow and even a 40-inch pike. But they are not biting. Theory is that the water became cloudy once the ice came on, but there is not an understanding as to why. That seems to be a deterrent to the fish's normal patterns.

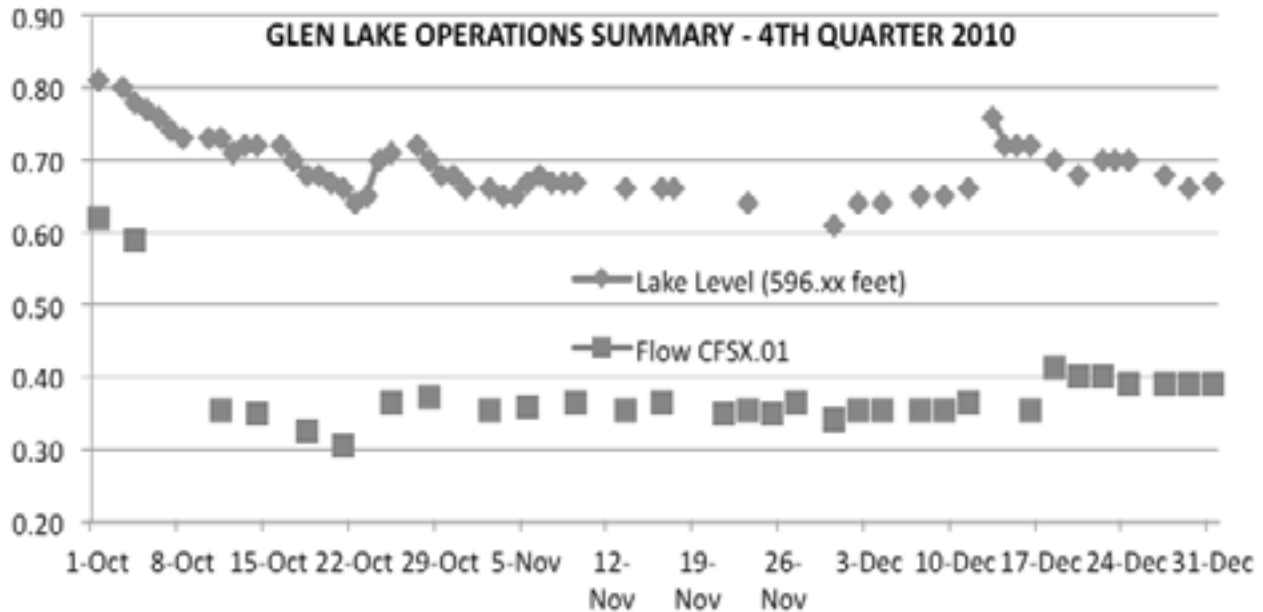
Let's hope it gets better.



Glen Lake Association News, continued

From the Water Level Committee

The Glen Lake level and Crystal River flow rates were about as expected over the fourth quarter of 2010. The lake level did rise slightly following a measureable precipitation event in mid-December and the end of the year lake level was slightly higher than the target. These results are believed acceptable. Precipitation patterns over the next two quarters will be less consistent and accordingly, it will be difficult to match the results summarized below.



The WLC completed the installation of the automatic lake gauge during the fourth quarter. Bill Meserve, Calvin Killen and John Spring handled this project in an impressive manner. Some notes on this facility are as follows:

The lake level is now automatically posted every hour on the web site. This instrument is so accurate and sensitive that modest changes in the wind direction and rate impact the lake level reading. As a result, we have to average the reported lake level reading over a two hour period to produce a lake level report that is meaningful. The lake level reported on the web site is a rolling average of the previous two hours. Reported results have been very consistent with both the lake level readings at the Narrows (when available and not impacted by ice and waves) and the alternate water level readings at the Crystal River Marina.

The instrument is powered with a solar panel. The instrument management system reports the status of the battery continuously.

Also reported is the Narrows' water temperature at the instrument location which is 3 and a half feet deep. We think variations in this water temperature reflect changes in the water flow between the two lakes.

Finally, the fifteen person WLC is now down to the winter staffing level of nine. This staffing is adequate and will increase as members return from warmer climates.



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Winter 2011

GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION 2010-2011

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GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

Sallyanne Morris - Office Manager
P.O. Box 245 **231-334-7645**
 Fax 231-334-7470

GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

www.glenlakeassociation.org
email: glenlakeassociation@gmail.com