

Alligator & Inspiration

Glen Lake: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



Let's hear it for the volunteers (pictured above: Jerry Powley)! Even on windy, cold days, they're out there keeping tabs on our lake. See story on page 5.

JUNE 2004

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

GLA • PO BOX 551 • GLEN ARBOR, MI 49636
231.334-7645 | www.mlswa.org/gla-916

A

Message from the President

A hearty "Welcome home" to all here at beautiful, blue Glen Lake. There are no reports of winter ice damage to the shorelines and the water level of the lakes is normal, so "hat's off" to the Water Level

Committee and the modernized Crystal River Dam for a job well done. In addition, I expect that an airplane has sprayed for Gypsy moths. It was a busy spring.

If tree leaves and needles from last fall are still on the ground and need to be removed, please do not dump them in the lake. That is a no-no in the battle to keep Glen Lake clean, beautiful and blue.

The effort this spring to remove and relocate the prolific and pesky Merganser ducks from Glen Lake has begun. We hope this bold move will reduce incidents of "swimmer's itch" and increase your summer swimming pleasure. We would appreciate any comments you might have. Don't forget to call the Swimmer's Itch Hotline (231.334.6608) to report any swimmer's itch occurrences; we still track and record this).

This is the year when we hope to be able to redredge the channel between Glen Lake and Fisher Lake. Work to secure necessary permits from Leelanau County, MDEQ and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proceeding. Please remember and alert your guests: narrow waterways like this, and those under the bridge, are "No Wake" zones and deserve the very best in boating courtesy to preserve shoreline quality, reduce erosion, increase safety and be good neighbors.

If you haven't already done so, please visit the new GLA Website at www.mlswa.org/gla-916. Jack Laitala has done a fantastic job, and we're working to improve the site and make it more useful to you; we welcome your comments, suggestions and questions.

I thank you for a timely response to our dues request and your generous support of the GLA Preservation Fund. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 14. Have a safe and wonderful summer.

President of the Board
Glen Lake Association

Swimmer's Itch in 2004

During the last weeks of May and the first weeks of June, young Merganser ducks can be seen around Glen Lake. Thought to be the primary source of the parasite that causes swimmer's itch, Mergansers breed at the lake and return year after year. In an effort to rid the lake of these fowl, the Glen Lake Association has agreed to fund a removal project, where professionals gather the broods and move them to other lakes so that they imprint there and do not return to Glen Lake.

If you see Merganser ducks and their broods in your area, please call Rob Karner at 334-5831. He and his team will remove the ducks and take them to another body of water.



The Swimmer's Itch Committee has distributed thousands of flyers to homeowners and resorts in the area, alerting

readers of the GLA Hotline, the remedies and relief of swimmer's itch, and the Merganser plan. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact committee chair Ed Ricker, 334-4656.

Water Safety on the Lake: It's everyone's responsibility!

GLA will again work with the Leelanau County Sheriff's deputies who patrol Glen Lake on weekends and holidays. Should you observe dangerous boating practices, or activities insensitive to shore residents, call one of the volunteers listed below and they will quickly notify the deputies of the problem. Please post this handy reminder below for all your summer guests.

It is dangerous, unsafe and/or illegal to:

Use high speed close to shore, swimmers, rafts or other boats, or, running too close to other boats. (Michigan law requires that boaters stay 100 feet away from rafts, docks, buoys, drifting or moored vessels & people in the water.)

Pull a skier, boarder without a spotter. (It is also illegal to tow a skier, boarder, etc., behind a boat between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise; if the skier is being towed behind a PWC, it is illegal to do so between one hour before sunset and 8 a.m.)

Use incorrect or neglect to use children's life preservers.

Operate a PWC one hour before sunset to 8:00 a.m.

2004 Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee (Barbara LeJeune, Jim Dutmers, and Larry Krawczak) reports that after a thorough review of active members, **Jane Haley** has been nominated for a three-year term to fill the vacancy created by retiring director Karen Soderholm. Richard Chormann, Stanton Cook and Carol Lund have each agreed to serve second three-year terms. **Gary Humphreys** was named a director during the past year to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Merle Prins, who was serving the first year of a second three-year term. Joanne Sprouse has agreed to serve a second term of two years to fill a vacancy in the 2006 class. Voting will take place at the GLA Annual Meeting in August.

More about our nominees:

Gary Humphreys is a retired partner of Ernst & Young and former financial executive with Harrow Industries, a small holding company. Gary and his wife, Sharon, summered at Glen Lake for 20 years and in 2002 realized their dream of building a retirement home at the site of their old cottage on the east side of Big Glen. The Humphreys, formerly of Grand Rapids, have three adult children who return to the area as often as possible.

Jane Haley has summered at the lake since 1964. She manages a business in Dayton, Ohio. Jane and her husband, Louis, have two sons, two daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren. "We all love Glen Lake," she says, "and spend as much time up north as possible."

Operate with more passengers than the watercraft was built for.

Be insensitive to shore residents, including using the beaches, piers, or rafts of owners.

SAFETY PATROL VOLUNTEERS - Call to report issues!

Irene Bagby	334-4311
Jeanine Dean	334-4197
Leonard Heinz	334-4203
John Hoagland	334-3851
Tom Klingaman	334-4752
Gerald Powley	334-4704
Don Smith	334-4121



Invasive Species Alert

Glen Lake is one of the area lakes still free of most invasive species, which now threaten fresh waters throughout the Midwest. The free boat inspection, information distribution, and power washing program at the Day Forest Road launch is part of a Glen Lake Association effort to keep Big and Little Glen, the Fisher Lakes and the Crystal River free of a myriad of non-native organisms. Once introduced these organisms could substantially affect the quality and enjoyment of our water-related experiences in this area.

Some of the organisms, which could arrive as stealthy hitchhikers, on boats, in bait buckets or on trailers from other waters are as follows:

Aquatic Plants	Fish	Plankton
Eurasian watermilfoil	Round Goby	Spiny Water Flea
Hydrilla	Ruffe	Fish hook Water Flea
Mussels	Crayfish	
Quagga Mussel	Rusty Crayfish	
Zebra Mussel*		

* It is important that we prevent a re-introduction of zebra mussels in our lake. A different genotype than what was first discovered in Glen Lake in 2003 could strengthen the species we now have.

Zebra mussels and Quagga mussels readily attach to most hard submerged surfaces, including boats, rocky shoals, water intake pipes, navigational buoys, docks, piers, and native species such as clams. They affix themselves to shells of their own species and are able to form dense layered colonies of over one million per square meter. Because they are filter feeders they consume much of the plant plankton (phytoplankton) on which animal plankton (zooplankton) feed. Forage fish depend greatly on animal plankton as a primary source of food. Thus the larger game fish are ultimately affected by the loss of their primary food source.

The primary source of many invasive species infestation is via boats being launched from an infested lake into a non-infested lake. Zebra and Quagga Mussel larvae can live for up to a week on boat hulls, and much longer in bait wells or other wet areas.

Michigan Sea Grant at Michigan State University has recently alerted citizens to be on the watch for Hydrilla, a new invasive aquatic plant that is sure to show up in our area (it has already been found in some New England states). It is a very aggressive nuisance aquatic plant and could greatly affect our area lakes and rivers. It is similar to Eurasian watermilfoil in how it grows and is spread. Both Hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil are non-native aquatic plants, which reached the US between the 1950s and 1980s. In certain lakes, both species can form thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation at the water's surface. In shallow areas, these plants can interfere with water recreation such as boating, fishing and swimming. The plant's floating canopy also crowd out dominant native water plants.

Look for the card in this mailing to help you identify aquatic plant invasive species.

Zebra Mussel/Invasive Species Control Program

Boat and personal watercraft owners can help keep the Glen Lake/Crystal River watershed free of invasive species in the following ways:

1. Always launch your boat or personal watercraft at the Day Forest Road ramp, which is the only public launch site on Glen Lake. The ramp is manned from early June on the weekends and every day from June 15 to Labor Day.
2. Allow your boat or personal watercraft and trailer to be inspected and, if necessary, power washed.
3. Do not carry bait or liquids from other lakes on to Glen Lake nor empty bait bucket contents into the lake.
4. Before taking your boat or personal watercraft onto the ramp, briefly start its engine to blow the water out of the cooling system.
5. If the Day Forest Road ramp is not manned, vigorously rub down your hull and exposed motor surfaces with a rough towel. You can actually feel the Zebra Mussel larvae on the hull as little rough bumps. Empty your live wells and dry them out before launching into the water.
6. Waterborne plants can be transported from lake to lake by trailers. Non-native aquatic plants can be ripped out by trailers in lakes where they are present and then transported and introduced into a different lake. Make sure plants are removed from trailers, boats and personal watercraft before re-launching into a different lake. Hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil can be spread by just parts of the plant.



Water Quality Committee Delighted with New Tools

Recent acquisition of water quality testing equipment has been well-received by the Water Quality Committee. Purchased with monies from the GLA Preservation Fund, the new equipment includes:

A. The Ponar Dredge: a heavy device that can “grab” sediment from the bottom of Big and Little Glen in even the deepest parts of the lake. This piece of equipment enables us to do deep collections for chemical analysis (heavy metals, toxins, phosphorous, nitrogen, etc.). The committee is somewhat concerned that we have overloaded the lake with copper, so that will be one of the first tests we will have run at a lab.



D

B. The Hydrolab: a very sophisticated instrument used to test the water on a regular basis from top to bottom at the deepest parts of the lake. It measures and records dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, temperature, and conductivity, every few feet as it is lowered to the bottom. By keeping records of these parameters, changes can be determined.

C. The Plankton Net: used to collect zooplankton (small free floating animals) or crustaceans to determine the types that are resident. This helps the GLA determine the health of the food web and also lets us see if there are any invasive zooplankton which, if present, might be a threat to the food web.



A



B

D. The depth sounder: a hand-held device that helps to determine the depth of the lake at a specific anchorage position. GLA will use it for the aquatic plant survey work and when the Hydrolab is used. Pictured is Ben Marcy-Quay, a sophomore at The Leelanau School, studying environmental science. (Testing with the Hydrolab is done as close to the bottom as possible without getting the test probes into the sediment.)

Members of the Water Quality Committee include: Mike Litch and Sarah Litch (chairs), Hope Laitala, Jack Laitala, Jerry Powley and June Powley. Jerry is pictured in photos A, B, and C (with Rob Karner).



C

It's Time to Renew Your GLA Membership

The natural magnificence of the Glen Lake area and Leelanau County come alive with the beginning of the summer season. It's also the time of year to renew your membership in the Glen Lake Association. GLA is **your** Association; its strength and success depend on your continuing support and involvement. As a member of GLA, you are a steward and help protect and preserve the precious natural resources of the beautiful Glen Lake area.

Your annual membership dues help to provide funding to operate the Crystal River Dam, monitor and control the Glen Lake water levels, monitor water clarity and quality, provide education on swimmer's itch and water safety, supervise zebra mussel and invasive plant exclusion programs, place buoys to mark the Glen Lake Narrows, and spearhead other projects that affect the entire watershed.

Riparian or **Associate** membership is open to anyone. Association bylaws extend voting rights to those who have riparian interest (own waterfront property on Glen Lake, Fisher Lake or the Crystal River). Membership dues are \$40 per year. Contributing and Benefactor memberships are available at \$75 and \$100 or more, respectively, for those who wish to contribute additional funds to the GLA. As a nonprofit, 501-3C organization, GLA dues and contributions are tax-deductible.

Larger gifts may be made to the **GLA Preservation Fund**. Such gifts are used for projects that extend beyond the scope or means of the Association's dues structure. An annual listing of donors to the GLA Preservation Fund is published each year in the GLA's February newsletter.

The forms that appear below may be used to: Top (Light Blue) alert the GLA that you have changed your address or transferred ownership of your Glen Lake property, or Bottom (Dark Blue) renew your membership for 2004.

If you have questions about membership, or if you wish to get involved as a volunteer in GLA activities, please contact Bob Snell at 231-334-4330, sssres@aol.com.

YOUR DUES help to operate the Crystal River Dam, monitor & control the Glen Lake water levels, monitor water clarity & quality, provide education on swimmer's itch & water safety, supervise zebra mussel & invasive plant exclusion programs, place buoys to mark the Glen Lake narrows, & spearhead other projects that affect the entire watershed.

OWNERSHIP CHANGE/CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

Name: _____

We sold our Glen Lake home to: _____

New Address: _____

Address: _____

EMAIL: _____

EMAIL: _____

THE GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION • PO BOX 551 • GLEN ARBOR, MI 49636

2004 GLA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name: _____

EMAIL: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Dates mail should be sent to summer address? _____

Summer Address: _____

____ Riparian Member (\$40) ____ Associate Member (\$40)

____ Contributing Member (\$75) ____ Benefactor (\$100+)

Your 2004 Glen Lake Association annual membership dues are now payable. Please send this card and your check made out to the Glen Lake Association to the address below. Thank you.

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