

A Message from the President

As I put together the winter newsletter the ice on Big Glen Lake is spreading to “put to sleep” the beautiful blue waters of the lake while Little Glen has already frozen and unfrozen several times allowing the ice fishermen and women to access the life below the ice. It is the rhythm of the seasons and its symphony of colors, sounds, and moods that fills up our senses for those who stay at Glen Lake year round or visit it in its various “symphonies”.

The channel between Big Glen and the Fisher Lakes is now resting after an invasion on December 12 of the hydraulic dredger, the pipe across the neighbors beaches to the Hoagland’s beach, the filling of “the whale with dredged sand”, another two weeks of silence while the water from the whale found its way back to the lake, and then the noisy invasion of the earth movers from KAL excavating to spread the sand from the bottom of the channel to the beaches where it was allowed according to the DEQ permit and where it was wanted by riparian owners in Tamarack cove.

The three years that it took to plan the project makes a good study of how we must plan and carry out projects in the Glen Lake-Crystal River Watershed by collaboration in a responsible, cooperative and competent way to respect both the environment and those who inhabit it, including humans, animals and plants. Margaret, Judy and Mimi Gass who have a beautiful property that borders Big Glen Lake, Fisher Lake, and the channel initiated a “responsible look” at the project by hiring Grobbel Environmental Associates to do an environmental study of the channel and adjacent beach areas. The project went full circle with the hiring of Chris Grobbel to then oversee the dredging and spreading of sand so that it was done according to the DEQ permit and in an environmentally responsible way. Along the way Tom Klingamen,

George Faulstich, Andy Dupont, Amy Peterson, Vic Theiss, Chuck Ofenloch, Chip Hoagland and Dick Chorman facilitated the dialogue and details of the project among all parties and the hiring of KAL and Grobbel to get the project done. Riparians on the Fisher Lake contributed approximately one third of the cost of the project, Glen Arbor Township put in \$3,000 while the Glen Lake Association funded the remaining costs. The GLA did the contracting and supervision of the dredging as well as accepting the responsibility and liability of the project.

A slight “bump in the road” or more correctly *on the beach* occurred when the Glen Lake Association received a notice several days after Christmas that Robyn Schmidt from the DEQ office in Cadillac had inspected the *finished* project and that we were in violation of the permit on three beaches. We immediately had Robyn come up to meet us on the beach along with Joel Voss from KAL Excavating and Chris Grobbel of Grobbel Environmental Associates to determine what the extent and nature of the violation was. The Glen Lake Association wrote a plan to the DEQ for restoration. Robyn decided that two of the violations were unwarranted and the
(continue on page 2)



What is the White Whale on on Hoagland’s beach?



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

	A Message from the President	1
	Welcome New Members	2
	Water Level Update	2
	Karner’s Korner	3
	Zoning Ordinances	4
	Planning Committee Report	4
	Global Change at Glen Lake	5
	Preservation Fund Update	6
	Contributions and Pledges	6
	Honorariums	7
Winter 2007		

(continue from page 1)

only concern remaining was some extra sand on the Backus's shoreline. Chris and Joel removed the extra sand several days later and we *swept* the beach to remove intervening snow so that pictures could be sent to Robyn. She responded that "The Land and Water Management Division of the Department of Environment Quality finds that the site has been satisfactorily restored in accordance with our restoration requirements." Now we hope that after a little landscaping at the Backus property in the spring we will really be "full circle" on this project.

The Dalai Lama said, "The person who has a tremendous reserve of patience and tolerance has a certain degree of tranquility and calmness in his or her life." This project was an exercise in patience and our thanks to all who had the patience to see it through.

Sincerely,

Sarah Litch
President



Hydraulic Dredge in the channel



Pipe from dredger to sand drainage bag

Welcome New Glen Lake Association Members

Our fall outreach membership drive was a great success. We are growing! Twenty two new landowners joined our organization as a result of our total watershed mailing which included a complementary copy of last summer's *Alligator and Inspiration* newsletter. At year end our landowner membership was at 525. Our business memberships total 13. In addition to these memberships 79 children of the landowner members hold a family membership.

The association has been reaching out to all landowners within the Glen Lake /Crystal River Watershed because we believe there is strength in numbers in our quest to preserve and protect this beautiful natural area that we are so fortunate to be part of. Of course with our ownership comes a stewardship responsibility for what we so dearly treasure. Why do we want to live here? The answer assuredly is this. We are here because of what the watershed offers. This wondrous basin with forested hills sloping down to the waters below is treasured by all who own a part of the watershed or who visit it. With growth and development pressures, the area could change in an undesirable way. Its character could be lost, and its beautiful waters compromised. Can we assure that this will not happen? This task falls upon all of the friends of the watershed and especially those who own a part of it.

Our 2007 membership drive will begin in February. You will receive your membership renewal applications soon. Please help us expand our membership and our ability to protect what we value. Encourage your neighbors who are not members to join us in our quest.

Water Level Update

Jack Laitala

While everyone is enjoying their winter hiatus, at either the lake or warmer climes, your Water Level Committee is working throughout the winter in an attempt to ensure adequate water for the lake and river for the 2007 summer season. We are attempting to achieve a 596.70-596.75 lake level at ice-out. This has and will require several dam adjustments to achieve. This is the second year winter adjustments have been made. Once proven plausible, a winter season section will be added to our Water Sharing Management Plan. You can follow the progress from wherever you are, by clicking on Water Level button at www.glenlakeassociation.com.

**Karner's Korner****Rob Karner,***Glen Lake Association & Watershed Biologist*

Do you know that there are some aspects about the Glen Lake Association that are unique among lake associations in the state? Actually there are several things. How do we know this to be true? By attending the annual meetings of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations conference where nearly all of the lake and stream associations in Michigan attend, comparisons have been made.

One part of the GLA that is unique is it has made the commitment to hire a part-time Lake Biologist. Making this commitment comes with hope and expectation that the duties and responsibilities of one person and the teamwork of volunteers that work with him will make a positive impact on the quality of the Glen Lake Watershed. So if GLA were more common and did not have a Lake Biologist, what sort of things would be left undone or delegated to volunteers? Let's take a look into the work of our Lake Biologist during 2006.

Being GLA's Lake Biologist, I find it exciting, rewarding, and challenging to fulfill the duties and take on the responsibilities that have been formulated by the Water Quality Committee. The five main areas of responsibility include leading and coordinating the annual Cladophora Survey, supervising the swimmer's itch control program, monitoring water chemistry using the Hydrolab, conducting plankton analysis, and promoting/educating/designing "lakescape" plans for riparians. In addition, a myriad of issues and challenges of the GLA come into the mix such as providing advice on dredging, measuring heavy metals in the deep basins, providing advice for roadways, and participating in committee work and conferences to name a few.

Our annual Cladophora survey results (pinpointing pollution locations) are an important way of giving me a picture of where my efforts should be placed with home visits and lakescaping. Using Global Positioning Survey (GPS) map units and topographical maps of Glen Lake helps me set priorities for home visits and lakescaping projects. It is also a way to involve young men/women to "get their feet wet" in water preservation practices. Who knows, maybe projects like this will fuel a future career in watershed preservation! Also, I know of no other lake that has over 25 consecutive years of Cladophora survey data.

Perhaps the most emotionally charged challenge I deal with is swimmer's itch. Imagine a young grandchild peppered with swimmers itch and screaming wildly with discomfort on a sunny, clear blue sky day

when life should be perfect. Not a great way to experience swimming in one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. My challenge is to reduce the parasite load in the snails by minimizing the number of hours the Common Merganser spends on the lake. To control parasites one must break the cycle. Preventing Common Mergansers from spending their summers on the lake greatly reduces their passing the parasite to snails and in turn, resulting in the lower infection rates of snails. Low snail infection rates lower the chance that humans will get into the pathway of the parasite. For the past three years and for the next three, SiCon, Inc. have and will be using the latest and most innovative Merganser trapping systems to help control this important issue. I know of no other lake in Michigan that employs a Merganser Control Program like Glen Lake. I also manage the "Merganser Hotline" whereby riparians phone in the locations of merganser broods. Mergansers should only be reported when they have their broods (early spring to mid-summer). I also try to get out the message that no one should harass these birds. This makes trying to live trap them extremely difficult. Mergansers have an incredible memory and have a great fear of humans. Our ability to trap requires we get close to them and if they fear us, we lose and they win (meaning they stay on the lake). And just a reminder, it is against federal law to harass or shoot them.

Perhaps my most favorite segment of the work I do is the "home visits". It is during my contact with you that I get a good perspective on who lives in our watershed. The goal of the home visit is to provide each riparian with an assessment of how well things are going as it pertains to preserving water quality. My checklist of questions and the walk-through of the property help assess septic, erosion, lawn/ground care, and other land-use practices that either help or hinder the lake. A "score" is then mailed to each riparian after the visit. All the home visit data is kept in a database that will help provide us with a clear idea of what the pressing issues are with water quality.

Lakescape design is another part of my job. In cases where riparians wish to make their property as "lake friendly" as possible, I can provide a lakescape plan that will allow riparians the chance to install native vegetation either by themselves or with the help of a hired landscape contractor. Our goal around the lake is to have our shoreline as natural as possible and still balance the natural setting with enough "developed" shoreline that provides for recreational access to the lake. Often, riparians are surprised that lakescape design can improve water quality, increase privacy, reduce maintenance, and enhance the look and value of their property.

(continued on page 4)

Beyond all the areas already mentioned, I get involved in a variety of issues and tasks that come my way. Providing testing of heavy metals in the deep basin is one example. This sampling occurs infrequently (about every two years per basin). I also visit local landscape architects, landscape contractors, and builders to ensure that as lakeshore property is developed, water quality concerns are addressed early in the process. Also, I serve on various committees such as the long range planning and water quality. I get to represent GLA in public speaking opportunities such as the Glen Lake Women's Club, Garden clubs, GLA workshops, the GLA annual meeting, Noontiders, and the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations. I also work with numerous volunteers and high school students as I carry out my duties – especially with Hydrolab and plankton sampling. Occasionally, I assist water quality committee grant writers who need my input and advice.

So now you know more about some of the duties and responsibilities of my job as Lake Biologist. Feel free to contact me anytime by phone or email. Phone: 231-334-5831 or email: rkarnar@leelanau.org

Thank you Rob for your continuing stewardship of the

Zoning Ordinances

Dr. Clifford Humphrys founded Michigan Lake and Stream Associations nearly fifty years ago. As the keynote speaker at the 25th MLSA Annual Conference at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State University on October 13, 1986 he said,

“My perpetual fear of zoning is that a) an ideal ordinance can be adopted by the 1986 riparian population at great expense of time and money and b) one year later the township populace can approve; exceptions, waivers, and changes in local governments. Also the lack of enforcement results in the insidious death of basic zoning goals and the original goals are lost.”

The Glen Lake Association supports strict adherence to ordinances formed with the time, expertise and input of each township's residents. These efforts are critical to the current and future challenges that could threaten the quality of life and the beauty of the Glen Lake-Crystal River Watershed, the quality of its waters, the nature of the area, as well as its economic value as a vacation, resort and retirement community, and gateway to the Sleeping Bear National Seashore.

Report of the Long-Range Planning Committee

John Rockwood, chairman

Last Fall, the Board of the Glen Lake Association appointed a new Committee to develop a long-range plan for the Glen Lake area, including the Fisher Lakes, Brooks Lake, the Crystal River, and the surrounding area that comprise the Glen Lake/Crystal River watershed. This effort recognizes that the Glen Lake area is one of the most pristine and beautiful areas in the country; however, there are many current and future challenges that could threaten the beauty of the area and the quality of life it offers, including:

***The quality of water in the lakes and river is impacted by the presence of some invasive species, as well as the potential introduction of new and damaging species.**

***Development of the shoreline and surrounding hills continues without sound planning and necessary zoning practices in place that would maintain the area's beauty and character.**

***Several different governmental entities (the county and four townships) have a role in regulating activities in the area, making consistent planning and enforcement difficult.**

Many of these issues are complex and long-standing, requiring longer-term solutions. Most will need the cooperation and support of local and state governments as well as other organizations with common concerns for the area. Toward that end, the Committee has developed a draft plan and a number of implementation recommendations to be addressed in the short and longer-term in the general topic areas of:

**Protecting the watershed*

**Protecting water quality*

**Improving advocacy efforts with governmental entities*

**Representing and promoting quality of life issues*

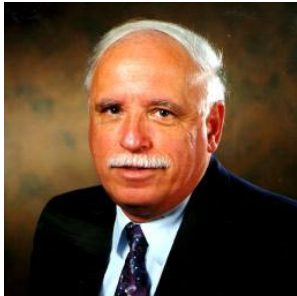
**Working with area organizations to achieve common goals*

The Committee will continue to define and refine the areas for emphasis and attention. **We will be sharing a preliminary Plan with you this summer and look forward to your candid response.**

Global Change at Glen Lake

Roland Drayson, Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Science, University of Michigan

Roland is a summer resident on Little Glen Lake and recently met with the Glen Lake Water Quality Committee to discuss Global Change at Glen Lake.



Global change is no stranger to Glen Lake; it was formed when the giant ice sheets that covered much of North America finally retreated some 10,000 years ago. Initially a bay, it was connected to Lake Michigan around what is now Glen Arbor. The

glaciers that carved out the Great Lakes and many smaller lakes, left huge piles of moraine that formed the hills surrounding Glen Lake. The very features that we value most are a result of global change.

Global warming is just one aspect of global change. Other changes involve precipitation, drought, storms, severe weather, extreme events, etc. It is universally agreed that the global mean temperature rose by about 1^oF during the 20th century, most of the increase taking place towards the end of the century. The overwhelming consensus of scientists is that most of the warming is due to greenhouse gases, principally carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels and forest clearing, with smaller contributions from methane, nitrous oxide, etc, all the result of human activity. The future depends to a large extent on our ability to decrease emissions, but we are likely to see warming of 5 to 10^oF by the year 2100.

The warming will bring changes in precipitation, likely an increase during the winter months, but a smaller, if any, increase in the summer. However, the temperature rise will increase evaporation from both water and land surfaces. A secondary effect is that ice cover on lakes will be shorter in time and in area, further enhancing evaporation. Lake levels depend on inflow, outflow, precipitation and evaporation. The general consensus is that the Lake Michigan level will fall, but the amount is uncertain. Glen Lake may present a slightly different picture, since it is fed largely by ground water issuing from numerous springs in the lakebed. How these will change during the course of the year is unknown, but increased winter precipitation will tend to cause the

level to rise in the winter months while increased evaporation in the summer will lower the level. This will provide an interesting challenge to those responsible for keeping the level within legal limits.

Little Glen Lake is very shallow and will quickly respond to higher air temperatures, increasing by the same amount as the air temperature. Big Glen is much deeper, with bottom temperatures about 40^oF year-round, remaining so for some time in the future. The surface waters will warm in much the same way as Little Glen, although strong winds may sometimes cause cooler intermediate water to upwell. Since I am not an ecologist, I can only speculate on the effects on life in the lake. Presumably, many species will not be able to adapt, particularly in the shallow waters of Little Glen, providing opportunities for exotic invading species to take their place. On land, hotter summers, combined with dryer soils, will stress vegetation, from the smallest plants to towering trees, making them more susceptible to disease and insect attack. For example, birch trees are already being attacked by borers and may soon disappear from the area.

I have been asked several times if the extended period of warmth from early December 2006 through mid-January 2007 is due to global warming. The short answer is no, because global warming has so far averaged only 1^oF, whereas our anomaly was far greater. There is, however, another way of looking at this phenomenon. Global change is predicted to bring more varied weather, with greater incidence of severe events, including unusual warmth and cold, torrential rains and prolonged droughts. Extreme events place the most stress on the ecosystem, in much the same way as it does on humans. Wild fires are increasing in the West and we can expect the same here, particularly if dead trees and other vegetation provide a source of combustion.

Returning to the unusual warmth that we have recently experienced, we must remember that our neighbors to the west and southwest have to deal with the opposite problem, with heavy snows and crippling ice storms. It may be our turn next year. Do not expect the winter warmth of the past few years to last forever. Cold winters will return, perhaps setting records. But, during this century the average temperatures will rise, resulting in unforeseen, detrimental changes worldwide, including Glen Lake.

If you have questions or comments, please email me at drayson@umich.edu

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

I would like to draw your attention to The Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, a non-profit organization that assists the Lakeshore in many ways, including coordinating volunteers, writing grant proposals, providing funds for projects not covered in its budget, etc. For more information, visit the web site www.friendsofsleepingbear.org and be sure to look at its comprehensive wild flower pages. Sample copies of its newsletter *Drifting Sand* are available at the park headquarters, as well as online. Individual membership is \$20 or \$40 for a family, to be sent to Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, PO Box 6344, Traverse City, MI 49696-6344. Please join!

Preservation Fund Update

Chuck Ofenloch

The Development Committee had a busy and productive summer and fall under the leadership of Jack Otto and John Peppler as co-chairmen. Other members of this committee are Jim Dutmers, Howard Dean, Jim Duff and Charles Ofenloch, Dick Chormann and Terri Morowski. As a result of their efforts, we have exceeded our 2001 initial fund raising goal of one million dollars. As you know the Preservation Fund provides funding for the GLA's various programs and projects.



Chuck Ofenloch and Jim Dutmers at the Glen Lake Association Fund Raiser

In August the Development committee hosted a fund raiser at the Glen Lake Yacht Club. Attendance exceeded one hundred and twenty-five GLA members and raised in excess of \$100,000 in pledges and contributions. The cost of the event was underwritten by the Jane and Louis Haley. Also as a result of this gathering a challenge pledge of \$60,000 (\$5,000 each from 12 individuals) was received. This pledge was contingent upon soliciting a like amount from riparians who have never given to the Preservation Fund. In October a mailing was sent out to approximately 500 property owners. As of December 31, \$42,090 has been received and \$20,000 of the pledge paid.

During the fall of 2006, we also received our first contributions totaling \$25,000 to the GLA Endowment Fund. Gifts to this Fund in the amount of \$5,000 or more can be designated for specific GLA programs. Contributions to this Fund, whether in cash or in-kind remain in the Fund as financial protection in the future and only 75% of the earnings can be used. Why not consider leaving a legacy of clean water for future generations. Contributions can be mailed to the **GLA Preservation Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 551, Glen Arbor, MI 49636.**

We appreciate those of you who have supported the Development Committee's efforts. The GLA is a 501(c) (3) organization and a gift provides the donor with a full tax deduction. Donations provide resources to promote, preserve, study, educate and fund projects important to the good stewardship of our lakes and watershed. Listed below are those individual and entities who have given to date; new donors are recognized with an asterisk (*).

2006 Contributions and Pledges

2006 Contributions and Pledges

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Allemang Family *
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Anderson, Peter & Karen
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Anonymous *
Ashmun, Bob & Krista *
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Grants & Foundations

GATX
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The Glen Lake Association acknowledges memorials, honorariums, and grants with a thank you note and the amount contributed for tax purposes. Periodically a list of those who donated along with their names and addresses are sent to the family. All preservation contributions, memorials, honorariums, and grants are published once a year in the winter newsletter.

2006 Honorarium

Donor (from)
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 Patton, Charlie

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 Fred & Joyce Foust
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