

# Glen Lake Association Annual Meeting Saturday, August 9, 2008 (Proposed)

Board Members present: Sarah Litch, John Rockwood, Gary Humphreys, Pat Smith, Charles Ofenloch, Matt Wiesen, Andy DuPont, Felicia Bloom, Joan Kramps and Jack Laitala. Absent: Carl Oleson and Shirley Hoagland.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Sarah Litch, stating that we had a quorum of 99 members present. Sarah welcomed everyone, and commented on the good summer that we are having, and how the Glen Lake area is a wonderful place to live. She also thanked the membership for their support of the Association. Sarah introduced the Board Members, as well as the Proctors: Sue Dutmers, Barb LeJeune, and Bob Novak; and the Parliamentarian: Chuck Barnell.

The minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were accepted as presented in the 2007 Fall Newsletter.

Copies of the 2007 end of the year financial statements were available for review. These were accepted as presented and put on file for audit.

Also introduced were: Rob Karner, our lake, watershed, and river biologist,  
Sallyanne Morris, supervisor of the boat wash and office assistant – soon to be office manager,  
Roland Drayson, Jerene Nichols, Gary Croskey – our Science Resource Panel  
Two visiting members of the Crystal Lake Watershed Association

Nominating Committee: Chairman, Jim Dutmers introduced his committee: Barb LeJeune, Jerry Morawski, and Shirley Hoagland and presented the slate: 2<sup>nd</sup> term: Jack Laitala and Joan Kramps  
1<sup>st</sup> term: Sue Meserve and Roy Pentilla

It was moved by John Spring, seconded by Jack Otto to accept this slate of nominees. Accepted.

By-Law Change: The By-Law change was presented in the proxy mailing send to all members. It was moved by Gary Humphreys, and seconded by Charles Ofenloch. It was approved with one opposed.

Road End Legislation Update: Sarah Litch stated that a Road End Ordinance had been written for Empire and Glen Arbor Townships. It has been approved by their attorney Dick Figura. It must still be passed in both Townships, and the Boards will be discussing and voting on this on August 19, 2008. There are 8 road ends on Glen Lake, and the purpose of the Ordinance is to prevent obstruction of these areas with docks and mooring, so that they are accessible to the public. The two bills, 4463 and 4464, which would provide for private use of road end, are presently held up in the Senate. Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLS) has a lobbyist to oppose these bills, although it is felt that they would probably be unconstitutional.

#### Stewardship Awards:

1. Paul and Mary Finnegan received awards in two categories: Lake Friendly Home Construction and Lakescaping
  2. Vik and Susan Theiss received a Lakescaping Award for restoring a wetland area that had previously be destroyed
  3. Glen Arbor Township Board received a Lake Friendly Strategy Award
  4. Empire Township Board also received a Lake Friendly Strategy Award
- Both Townships received these awards for adopting an Aquatic Nuisance Ordinance which makes it a fineable offense to bring invasive species into the lakes.
5. Leelanau County Road Commission received a Lake Friendly Protection Strategy Award for their cooperation and help in putting up the Watershed Signs and the Aquatic Nuisance Ordinance Signs. John Popa accepted this award

and stated that he was very impressed with the GLA, and that the Commission supports our Road End initiative. He said that the ordinance would be very useful.

Sarah Litch stated that the Association would like to be able to give out many more awards in the future, and that applications can be found on the Web Site – [www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org).

Sarah Litch noted that the Glen Lake Association consists of 15 Committees. There are 100 members of these committees, serving as the heart and muscle of the Association.

Auxiliary Committee: Felicia Bloom is Chair, with members: Bob Bloom, Carolyn Chormann, Ann and John Davey, Charlotte Fornowski, Joan Kramps, Barb LeJeune, and Mary Whiteside. Special helpers were: Shirley Hoagland, Mike and Sarah Litch, and Pat Smith. This committee sent out a total of 5190 pieces of mail. There were 3 Newsletters, 2 letters from the Development Committee and 3 mailings from the Membership Committee. Felicia requested that all members please keep the GLA posted as to any changes of address, so that all mailings reach all members. This may be done by mail or via the web site.

Development Committee: Co-Chair of this committee are Charles Ofenloch and John Pepler. Members are Dick Chormann, Howard Dean, Jim Duff, Jim Dutmers, and Gary Humphreys. This committee has met 16 times during the past year, and have included the following 4 guests at some of their meetings: Dee Smith from Lawton Gallagher, James Merenda from Huntington Bank, Eleanor Luedtke, a fundraiser and writer, and Jeanne Snow from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. This committee is responsible for establishing and managing fund raising actions to fund current and future programs supporting the GLA goals. Financial support can be directed to the GLA General Fund to be used for the various ongoing programs or to the Endowment Fund where only a portion of the income will be used if necessary for the programs. The committee made the following recommendations to the Board of Directors:

- Change the Preservation Fund to an Endowment Fund with the appropriate By-Law revisions with the purpose of the Fund remaining the same “To preserve the Glen Lakes and its watershed”
- Perpetuate the Endowment Fund by limiting the amount of income that may be used for GLA programs
- Set aside a certain portion (25%) of the Endowment for the purpose of funding an extraordinary event with stipulations that any borrowing would be paid back over a reasonable time before any additional borrowing
- Hire Lawton Gallagher to create public awareness of the GLA through press releases and to reconfigure the website
- Encourage the GLA Board to increase revenues to offset the cost of operations
- Explore the benefits for the GLA Endowment Fund to use the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation
- Approve and create a Public Relations Committee initially operating as a sub-committee of the Development Committee
- Position the GLA strategically in order to initiate a new Capital Campaign in 2009 for the Endowment Fund

Finance and Investment Committee: Gary Humphreys chairs this committee. Its members are Jim Duff, Charles Ofenloch, Roy Pentilla, and John Rockwood. Gary reported that together these 5 members have 200 years of financial experience. It is their responsibility to make recommendations to the Board concerning the annual budget, insurance coverage providers, investing policy and the selection of independent auditors. They also review the monthly financial statements and the annual audit results. Gary used pie charts to show the income and expenditures of the GLA. He also stated that the Townships bordering Glen Lake have tripled their support this year. The Hatlem Creek study and project has generated grant money to cover those expenses. Businesses in the area have doubled their support. The Water Quality and Invasive Species programs are the most costly. He indicated that the many hours of volunteer help offered to the Association is significant in cutting down on expenses. During this past year, the GLA incurred no legal expenses.

Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation and Water Safety: Carl Oleson, Chairman. Members: Felicia Bloom, Gary Croskey, Ken Fosmore, Annette Lewis, Carl McBride, John Pepler, Ed Ricker, Bob Smith, John Soderholm, Joanne Sprouse, and Matt Wiesen. This committee maintains and upgrades the GLA Memorial Park at the Crystal River Dam sit. It is responsible for the buoys and signs in and around Glen Lake related to safety issues, and distributes pamphlets to educate residents and tourists about boating laws and etiquette. They work closely with the DNR in stocking the lakes with fish and helping to maintain a healthy environment for the fish and wildlife. Some of their ongoing projects are to reopen and improve the openings between Little Glen and the Mill Pond, Little Fisher and Tucker Lake, and Big Glen and Brooks Lake so that fish have better access for spawning. Carl has also been involved in consulting with MDOT and the

Townships about the upcoming M22 bridge construction. He has also made efforts to encourage cormorants to move on to other locations. Sarah Litch commented that this is a complex issue, as the cormorants do eat zebra mussels and round gobies, thus ridding our area lakes of troublesome invasive species.

Invasive Species: Denny and Carole Becker co-chair this committee. Members are Stan and Lorraine Kuk and Tom Flerlage. The staff at the Boat Wash this summer are: Sallyanne Morris (lead), Paul Hall, Hazel Flaska, and James Harris, Jr. Denny reported that the purpose of this committee is to educate boaters and prevent invasive species from entering the lake. A total of 2500 boats were surveyed at the launch this summer with 100% compliance. The Boat Wash has been open daily from 6 AM to 7 PM June through September, and will remain open on weekends in October.

Membership and Records: Mike Litch is chairman, and the committee members are Felicia Bloom, Ann Davey, Jim Dykstra, Gary Humphreys, Charles Ofenloch, Carl Oleson, and Bob Snell. It was announced that Jerry Morawski will also join this committee. Mike reported that the GLA had 521 members in 2007. In 2008, the dues structure changed to a range of dues. Although the number of members was up slightly, the income was increased by \$20,000. As of August 1 there are still 80 families who have not renewed their memberships. To sustain our effectiveness and support of important programs we must retain existing memberships and increase new memberships. It is important for everyone to talk to their friends and neighbors and encourage them to join the GLA. The target for this year is to reach a total of 600 members.

Water Level: Jack Laitala is the chairman of this year round committee. Other members are Charles Ofenloch, Vik Theiss, and Mike Sutherland. The alternate members are Gary Croskey, Dave Haughn, John Kassarian, Bruce Lichliter, John Lund, Amy Peterson, Jerry Powley, John Spring and Matt Wiesen.

The water management plan objectives are:

- Satisfactory usage and enjoyment on the lakes and river
  - o Lake at 596.60 or above (feet above sea level)
  - o River at 31 cfs or above (flow measured in cubic feet per second)
- Preserve biological health in the watershed
- Minimize shoreline erosion

Jack reported that the ground water level has the biggest influence on the level of the lake, and that dam controls only a small portion. Adjustments to the dam take weeks, or months, to affect the lake. Last years drought was caused by the lowest amount of rainfall in history. As of August 8, 2008 the lake level was at 596.79, and the flow in the river is at 32 cfs. This puts the lake at 3.8 inches higher than last year. Changes in the Water Management Plan must be approved by the Technical Committee, established by the Court, and representing Glen Lake, Crystal River, DNR, NPS and the County. When the new Glen Lake Narrows bridge is built this coming year, a new measuring devise will be installed to make collecting data safer and easier. The Technical Committee will undertake a Hydrology study in the near future to provide more current information about the lake. Several graphs were shown, indicating the changes in the lake levels during the year and in comparison the last several years. The lake level data is posted on the web site at [www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org).

Water Quality: Sarah Litch chairs this committee, working closely with Rob Karner, our Lake Biologist. Other members are Emery Blanksma, Andy DuPont, Mike and Candy Hasselbeck, John Hayes, Cal Killen, Barb LeJeune, Bruce Lichliter, Mike Litch, John and Carol Lund, Elaine Pentilla, and Jerry and June Powley.

Water quality testing is done in Big and Little Glen Lake, Big and Little Fisher Lake, Brooks Lake, Crystal River and Hatlem Creek. Volunteers do the CLMP testing for spring phosphorus, late summer phosphorus, chlorophyll a, harmful algae, water clarity, and aquatic plant surveys. Contracted Field Biology Testing includes hydrolab testing, plankton analysis, sediment analysis, shoreline survey, shoreline restoration, and e coli sampling. Slides of curly leaf pondweed, hydrilla, and Eurasian Watermilfoil were shown to make all aware of the weeds that we DO NOT want in our lake.

Rob Karner has done a shoreline survey to check on nutrient loading from septic systems or lawn fertilization. At the same time he checks for erosion and greenbelting. He reported on Hatlem Creek, stating that e coli was found at a level of 8 times higher than is safe for swimming. This is the largest surface water inlet in Glen Lake. Initial DNA testing indicates that the cause id both human and animal. More conclusive results are expected, and then the GLA will work with the Leelanau Health Department. High e coli levels will appear after a big rain event, but will clear up within a week without rain. The monitoring work on this project has been paid for through a MiCorps grant. Rob thanked Bruce Lichliter for being the #1 Volunteer – always ready to help when needed.

There is an abundance of microcystis on the west shore of Little Glen. The Zebra mussels do not eat it, so it grows quickly in the clearer water.

The GLA is trying to minimize the Swimmers Itch problems in our waters. It is necessary to swim smart – stay out of the shallow water especially when it is hot and there is an on shore wind. The merganser ducks are being controlled. Six years ago over 100 ducks were relocated, and this year there were only 3 broods for a total of 24 ducks. We cannot control the migrating ducks in the spring and fall. All cases of swimmers itch should be reported to Harvey Blankenspoor web site, a link to it is provided on our website. Recent snail surveys indicate that only about .1% of the snails are infected. It was reported that some riparians may employ a snail snagger company next year to temporarily get rid of the snails, and the swimmers itch, in their area. This would serve as an alternative to copper sulphate.

Septic Awareness – To maintain high water quality we need to maintain septic systems. Riparians are encouraged to have an inspection of their tanks and drain fields on systems that are more than 30 years old. All tanks should be pumped every 3 to 5 years. The County Board voted down a septic inspection ordinance.

In working to preserve our lake and surrounding area the GLA has formed partnerships with the Leelanau Conservancy in preserving land, ridgelines and wetlands; with local realtors to encourage all new riparians to become members; and new cooperative relationships with government and commercial enterprises.

Website: Jack Laitala serves as chairman of this committee, with fellow members: Andy DuPont, Shirley Hoagland, Mike Litch, Bob Snell and Dale VanHouzen. Jack reported that the site was about to be redeveloped with professional assistance. There have been 4194 hits since its inception. A special Swimmer's Itch reporting link has been added.

#### Questions and Comments:

- Several riparians on the SE side of Big Glen stated that 10-11 lots in their area had suffered severe erosion problems, starting with a big storm from the North in 2007, and continuing with high water in 2008. This damage has cost them jointly approximately \$100,000. The GLA was asked to reconsider their adjustments for water sharing. Sarah Litch stated that the Association understands their frustration and had visited the area, but that we have no control over the wind and ice. Jack Laitala stated that the Hydrology Study will help to address this issue.
- Hatlem Creek – More notification was requested by an area resident who lives just beyond the 10 riparians on each side who were notified of e.coli problems. It was stated that after a rain, the lake water was tea colored, and that they had many problems with Swimmers Itch. In other lakes all waterfowl are removed. She asked how these problems could be corrected. President Sarah Litch stated that in Glen Lake studies have shown that Swimmers Itch here is caused by one particular snail and the mergansers. She also stated that the e coli testing being done at U of M is almost certain to contain human as well as animal waste. Further study is to follow. IF it proves to be human, the Leelanau County Health Department will get involved. Mike Litch commented that if we had everyone's email address, contacting riparians when problems arose would be much more efficient. Rob Karner stated that the lake water is safe again when it clears, usually within a week.
- Algae blooms in west end of Little Glen – Zebra mussels are making the lake clearer. Will we get blooms that are dangerous to humans?
- Many boats are being launched at the end of Lake Street, some by tractor. They are not being washed, and therefore are a threat of invasive species. How can this be held in check? The DNR offers no money to protect lake access.
- Another riparian stated that their area had low water, requiring frequent repair of their boat propeller, and possibly the extension of their dock. Sarah stated that there is always a difference in opinion between those who want high or low water. Living on a changing lake means that all must share the pain.

Sarah Litch bid farewell to the two retiring board members: Felicia Bloom who has served 2 terms, and Pat Smith who is leaving after 1 three year term. She thanked them for all their time and effort for the good of the Association.

Results of the Election: Sue Dutmers announced that all 4 Board members were unanimously accepted, and that the By-Law changes were passed.

Sarah Litch thanked everyone for their support during the past two years, and stated that she had enjoyed being the president of the GLA. She then introduced John Rockwood, who will become the new president.

John thanked Sarah for her great leadership and hard work as she faced the issues of Road Ends, clear cutting, and water quality, to name a few. He presented her with a plaque of recognition, and from the Board a gift certificate to La Becasse.

In regard to future financial challenges of the Glen Lake Association, John noted that the dues will need to be increased to cover basic programs without additional members. There are 750 riparians on our waters, and at present only 60% of them are members of the Glen Lake Association. We must encourage others to join. He asked that members sign up to help by being an ambassador. The Board is willing to help provide information. Personal contact is important in recruiting new members. It is also important to have email addresses for all members to facilitate communications. More members will minimize the need for further dues increases.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35