

THE GREEN LAKE AND DUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION

2024 WINTER NEWSLETTER



Winter 2024, Volume 70

GLADLA Mission Statement

The objectives of the GLADLA shall be:

1. To monitor the Green Lake and Duck Lake ecosystems and take actions necessary for maintaining and improving our lakes, watershed, and riparian community.
2. To educate riparians and local community about relevant ecological, recreational and ethical issues endeavoring to make our community a better place to live.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, PAUL JOHNSON

New Year greetings! The GLADLA ended 2023 with an impressive list of accomplishments. Our focus is on community outreach, educating people about lake health and invasive species, as well as raising awareness of the lake association. We completed several boat washing events on both lakes, set up a booth at the Interlochen Farmer's Market, and attended the Michigan Lakes and Streams conference. The association also collected samples for water testing, and worked with The Grand Traverse County Drain Commissioner regarding water levels on both lakes. Most recently, the GLADLA participated in December's Light up Interlochen event, sponsored by the Interlochen Chamber of Commerce. We staffed the popular s'mores station and enjoyed interacting with the many families that attended. Such a heart

warming task, helping kids, sticky marshmallow hands and all. Also, horse-drawn wagon rides, hot dogs, gift bags from the Interlochen Public Library, and hot mulled cider from the Hofbrau were free to all attendees. Events like this make the Green Lake and Duck Lake Association integral to our community.

With all we have accomplished, there are always more things to do. The board members continue to look for ways to protect our precious lakes while enjoying them responsibly. We value your insights, and would love to hear if you have suggestions for improving our lakes.

In 2023, both Duck and Green Lake grew the GLADLA membership. Thank you to all the members; your support makes us successful. I look forward to another great summer.

This year we'll celebrate our 50th annual meeting. We're planning something special. I hope to see everyone there.

Paul Johnson
President



SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for the 50th GLADLA Annual meeting celebration on Saturday, August 24, 2024 at the Interlochen Public Library. Milk & Honey will provide ice cream treats. Marv Radtke, the Green Lake Township Supervisor will be the speaker.

GRASS LAKE DAM

FISH REPORT

I had the pleasure of interviewing Heather Hettinger, a biologist in the Traverse City DNR's Fisheries Division, to get the scoop on recent fishing conditions. Heather said calls and reports from anglers indicated that 2023 was a stable and overall good fishing year for lakes in our area, with plentiful smelt and perch. Lake trout were a bit smaller, and bass fishing posed more challenges due to unusual weather patterns. The last few years have seen less rainfall in the spring and early summer, impacting bass behavior. Low precipitation affects the oxygen levels in the water, which in turn influences the bass's spawning habits. If lake levels are low, the bass alter their patterns, setting their beds in deeper water, and making their fry more vulnerable to predators.

Occasionally, the GLADLA receives inquiries about splake, a unique fish not found naturally in nature, but produced in fisheries, a cross between a female lake trout and a male brook trout. Heather commented that many anglers don't want splake stocked in Michigan waters, indicating they have concerns about the purity and genetics of the species. Since there's a low demand for splake, the DNR only stocks at a few Lake Superior locations.

The native Arctic grayling is making a comeback. Recently, four-hundred graylings, taken from the Marquette State Fish Hatchery, were stocked in two lakes in the UP and Manistee County's Pine Lake. It is now legal for anglers to catch and release

grayling. The DNR's goal is to create a self-sustaining grayling population. Their habitat is primarily streams or small, cold, deep lakes.

GREEN LAKE EVALUATION SUMMARY

PLM Lake & Land Management conducted an Aquatic Vegetation Assessment Survey (AVAS) on Green Lake in September 2023. PLM rates Green Lake's native plant cover as excellent; no submersed exotic species were found. The lake has a small infestation of the invasive phragmites and buckthorn, located on the shoreline. PLM treated these non-native plants on September 26. The goal is to keep them from spreading and choking out the native plants. Watch for the Yellow Flag Iris, another invasive shoreline plant. Its bright yellow blooms are prominent in May and June. Notify the GLADLA if you see this plant. It's been spotted on both Duck and Green Lakes.

The most dominant aquatic species in Green Lake is chara. Chara is a natural filter that helps clean the water, provides excellent habitat, and stabilizes sediments. Numerous pondweeds are also prevalent. These plants provide fish habitat and contribute to increased dissolved oxygen levels, essential for fish survival.

The information provided is directly from PLM's report. PLM also treats Duck Lake's invasive Eurasian watermilfoil. The GLADLA pays for the annual Green Lake survey from Green Lake's invasive species fund.

Mike Kowalski, DNR Wildlife Division, filled me in on the details about the rumored removal of the Grass Lake Dam in Benzie County, located in the Green Lake Watershed (not affecting Duck Lake.) Mike said there are no immediate plans to remove this dam installed in the early 1950s. Back then, it was created to increase the beaver and muskrat populations to ultimately trap them for their fur. Now, the dam is close to outliving its lifespan.

Mike explained that the dam currently functions like a speed bump on the Betsie River and doesn't hold back much water. However, it has mostly kept salmon from entering Green Lake, and it also holds back the invasive Lamprey eel. Without the dam, these two species would have an unobstructed path to Green Lake.

If salmon were to inhabit Green Lake, they'd compete for the same food sources as the current fish population. Young salmon would stay in the lake for a couple of years before moving on to spawn, giving them plenty of time to feast on the lake's "groceries."

The lamprey eel is a dangerous and unwanted guest. They survive by attaching to a host fish and draining its body fluids. The eels prefer salmon and lake trout but will also attach to pike, whitefish, and lake sturgeon.

There's been a trend in Michigan to remove dams due to environmental concerns and aging infra-structure. However, it's important to understand all the facts and implications before petitioning the DNR for removal.



In early January, Paul Johnson photographed this bald eagle sizing up a raft of ducks bobbing around in Duck Lake.



The annual Turkey Protest on Bush Road, two days before Thanksgiving.



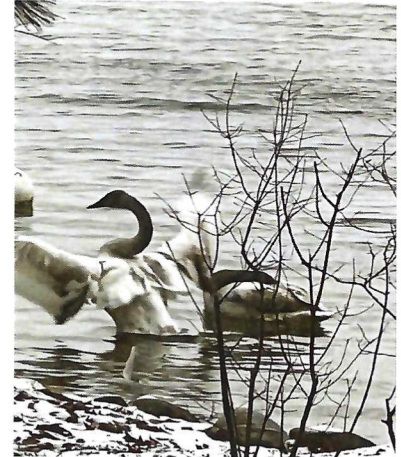
This native Michigan Cardinal Flower is a hummingbird favorite, and flowers from July - September. Photo taken by Rose Ranville.

LIGHT UP INTERLOCHEN

The GLADLA participated in Light Up Interlochen in December. Paul Johnson, Roger Edgren, Ralph and Marietta Hamady, Sarah Hehir, and Kurt Hubschneider helped make s'mores.



TRUMPETER SWANS



The regal Trumpeter swans, native to Michigan, were caught by Roger Edgren's camera in December. Most of the swans were juveniles as evidenced by the dark gray coloring on their heads and necks. Once mature, they are completely white. Swans nest in quiet wetlands where there's little human disturbance. They use the same nest site for years and return to those sites before ice-out. In the past, swans were hunted nearly to extinction. Several states, including Michigan, have worked to restore wetlands, promoting the swan's population growth. The US Migratory Bird Act protects these birds.

SAY NO TO BALLOONS

Balloons can be inexpensive and fun decorations for celebrations and parties, but when they get loose, they pose a threat to our wildlife. The strings attached to many balloons can strangle small animals and birds. Turtles and water fowl mistake the colorful fragments for food which can kill them. Also, jet skis can suck up pieces of balloons, causing damage to the engine.

This summer I decorated our boat for the 4th of July Parade with a few balloons. Before the parade even started, they popped in the hot sun and I scurried around picking up all the debris. I now say no to balloons!

Green Lake/Duck Lake Association Officers: Paul Johnson, President; Roger Edgren, Vice President; Emily Anderson, Treasurer; and Marietta Hamady, Secretary.

Board Members: Emily Anderson, Ken Chamberlain, Ed Dewey, Roger Edgren, Rich Garvey, Doug Griese, Marietta Hamady, Sarah Hehir, Kurt Hubschneider, Paul Johnson, Brian McAllister, and Claire Stephenson.

Emeritus: Fippy Komrka

Newsletter Editor: Marietta Hamady

Duck Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Paul Johnson

Green Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Rich Garvey



GLADLA Annual Membership Dues and Donations Form

Annual Membership Dues are **\$25**. Dues and contributions are used for water testing, plant surveys, bi-annual newsletters, and education. Funds are kept separately for each lake. Indicate where you'd like your membership fees or donations directed:

GREEN LAKE _____

DUCK LAKE _____

_____ \$25 Friend _____ \$50 Supporter _____ \$75 Champion _____ \$100 Advocate _____ \$125 Patron _____ \$200 Benefactor

Green Lake Invasive Species Fund (for treatment of invasive species as required.)

(Duck Lake's Invasive Species treatment is covered by a Special Assessment District)

_____ \$25 Friend _____ \$50 Supporter _____ \$75 Champion _____ \$100 Advocate _____ \$125 Patron _____ \$200 Benefactor

Is your donation in memory or honor of someone? Or a special occasion? Let us know: _____

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Member Name & Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Green Lake & Duck Lake Association, PO Box 23, Interlochen, MI 49643

YOU MAY ALSO PAY OR DONATE ON OUR WEBSITE WITH CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL: gladla.org



SCAN ME

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