

THE GREEN LAKE AND DUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION 2026 WINTER NEWSLETTER



Winter, 2026, Volume 74

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 the local community about relevant ecological, recreational and ethical issues endeavoring to make our community a better place to live.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ROGER EDGREN

Happy New Year to all of our neighbors and friends! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. As I sit here looking out on a warm 45-degree day, I am thankful for the sunshine, which is too scarce this time of year. I'm also appreciative of the smiles and sunny dispositions of our GLADLA members.

As we look back on 2025, I'm pleased with the progress and results that we achieved. We welcome Lisa Taylor and Joan Panter from Duck Lake to our board, and we thank Claire Stephenson for her many years of service with the GLADLA.

A few months ago, Grand Traverse County and Green Lake Township signed an agreement to manage the Duck Lake Dam. The county maintains ownership of the dam, and the township is managing the water level by taking boards in and out. The court-mandated lake levels for summer and winter are the guideposts. We continue to

post lake levels and temperatures on the GLADLA website. Please check them out, along with the other areas of interest on our site.

In 2025, we increased our visibility on Facebook and Instagram. The newly added email blasts feature current topics, photos, and videos. The data shows us you're reading and enjoying these communications, and we'll continue to expand them in 2026.

Our updated Bylaws were completed in 2026 and approved at our annual meeting. Paper copies will be available at the next annual meeting. August 2025's annual meeting had record attendance and received many positive comments. Thanks for attending!

As we look to 2026, we'll expand on our efforts of past years, and new focuses will include shoreline management, understanding the impact of beavers on the watershed, and an outside financial review for due diligence. During this year, we'll

continue to actively participate in the myriad organizations that protect our waters in Northern Michigan and beyond. We always learn and benefit from one another.

Our board has been very active, and I thank each of them for their time, energy, and caring. Thanks also to our volunteers who showed up for annual plant pulls, boat washes, and community events. As always, we value the support of our members at large.

Please talk with your neighbors and friends and ask them to join our association. We need your help to keep our lakes clean and healthy.

Enjoy the winter months. Spring will be here before we know it!

Roger



Visit us on Facebook, Instagram,
and our website: gladla.org

A LOON IN DISTRESS

In early October on Green Lake, I spotted a loon with something red wrapped around its neck. We quickly found out that others had seen the bird on Green and also on Duck Lake. Several photos confirmed the claim. Our board member, Doug Griese, stepped up and organized a loon rescue through the Michigan Loon Preservation Association. It turns out that one of our GLADLA members, Chris Ross from Duck Lake, is an official Loon Ranger with this organization. Chris gathered other loon experts as well as people from the Association to Rescue Kritters (ARK), and North Sky Raptor Rescue. This passionate crew spent three hours scouring the water and shoreline of Green Lake searching for the loon with the unwanted red necklace. They did not find the loon that day.

Photos revealed that the red item was a “birthday balloon”, complete with a QR code you could scan to wish the person a happy birthday. As fun as collecting well-wishes from around the area might be, released balloons are a serious litter problem. And they can be a killer for wildlife.

Our loons are precious to us. When you see them in the water, please be respectful and keep your distance. Many people turn off their boat engines around the loons. It’s quite peaceful to bob around in the water watching them dive, resurface, flap their wings, and hear their distinct calls.

Should you ever see a loon in distress, it’s best to take a photo and then contact Doug Griese on Green Lake; (231) 499-7506, or Chris Ross on Duck Lake; (312) 543-1004.



Chris Ross, Duck Lake’s Loon Ranger

MICHIGAN ARCTIC GRAYLING INITIATIVE

In May 2025, approximately 480,000 Arctic Grayling eggs were released into the North Branch of the Manistee River, and the Boardman River, as well as the West Branch of Maple River.

Grayling are native only to Michigan and Montana. These fish completely disappeared from Michigan in 1936 due to habitat degradation from deforestation and unregulated harvests.

In 2016, the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative (MAGI) met for the first time to develop an action plan to help return Grayling to our waters. With the

help of nearly 50 partners, which include the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, various foundations, local businesses, and the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, our native Grayling has a chance to reclaim its place in our ecosystem.

ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEERS

Ed Dewey, Rich Garvey, and Doug Griese recently volunteered to help monitor school trails within the 1200 acres of Interlochen Center for the Arts (ICA). ICA is within the Green Lake and Duck Lake watershed, so it’s appropriate that the GLADLA board members assist with observing and identifying invasive species on trails and in the wetlands. I recently spoke with Brooke DeVault, one of our board members, who is a Sustainability Ecologist and Natural Areas Coordinator for ICA. She explained that the private trails on campus are used for educational purposes, and that the volunteers will work to gather data to help combat invasive species such as phragmites, buckthorn, bitter-sweet, autumn olive, and garlic mustard.



LIGHT UP INTERLOCHEN



Marshmallows, chocolate, candy canes and lights! Our third year of participating in Light Up Interlochen was cold but busy. Board members and volunteers helped build S'mores for a couple of hundred kids and adults. Special thanks to Doug Griese, the BATA polar bear, Ralph & Marietta Hamady, Ken Chamberlain, Ed Dewey, Lisa Taylor, and Scott Lundeen.

Officers & Board Members: Roger Edgren; President, Ed Dewey; Vice President, Emily Anderson; Treasurer, Marietta Hamady; Secretary, Laurie Bouwman, Ken Chamberlain, Brooke DeVault, Rich Garvey, Doug Griese, Sarah Hehir, Joan Panter, and Lisa Taylor.

Newsletter Editor: Marietta Hamady

Duck Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Ken Chamberlain

Green Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Rich Garvey

TRUMPETER SWANS



A familiar site on our lakes, trumpeter swans stay with us from summer through winter. When the lakes freeze over, they move to larger bodies of unfrozen water, such as Lake Michigan or major rivers with strong currents. Some swans stay put, resting on the ice and relying on their natural insulation. These birds are built for cold weather, and their feet have a counter-current heat exchange system preventing them from freezing to the ice. Most waterfowl and wading birds have this feature too. Resist the temptation to "rescue" a swan that is merely resting on the ice. They're doing what comes naturally. Thank you, Sandie Lundeen, for this remarkable December photo.

FRESHWATER SUMMIT

In October, as pictured below, Doug Griese, Brooke DeVault, Joan Panter, Lisa Taylor, Marietta Hamady, Roger Edgren, and Ed Dewey attended the one-day Freshwater Summit held at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City. The GLADLA Board strives to stay educated to best care for our lakes and broader watershed.

This year's Summit covered relevant topics such as sea lamprey control, Great Lakes water levels, Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative, and the local FishPass project.



The Arctic Grayling ranges from 13 – 20" long. Their diet is aquatic insects and zooplankton. They reach full maturity at 3 years.

As of December 31, 2025, Duck Lake has 99, and Green Lake has 94 GLADLA members. Love your lake? Join the Association. It's only \$25 a year. 😊

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



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PO Box 23
Interlochen, MI 49643