

THE GREEN LAKE AND DUCK LAKE ASSOCIATION

2023 WINTER NEWSLETTER



Winter 2023, Volume 68

GLDLA Mission Statement

The objectives of the GLDLA 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 NEW PRESIDENT, PAUL JOHNSON:

Another great summer has come and gone. The seasons have changed and our winter wonderland is here. With that in mind, the GLDLA has also undergone some changes. Ed Dewey, after deciding to step down from his position as president, remains on the board, focusing on managing our revamped website. Thanks to Ed and all the improvements and accomplishments he spearheaded during his term spanning 2015 - 2022.

My name is Paul Johnson, the new president of GLDLA. I was raised on Duck Lake, and have enjoyed lake-living my entire life. If it was water-related, I did it; swimming, water skiing, boating, and scuba diving.

I've spent many happy hours fishing on Green Lake, so both lakes have been a big part of my life. I live on Duck Lake, in my childhood home.

It's an honor to be the President of this organization, and I take my responsibilities very seriously. The board members are some of the best people I've ever worked with, and they are committed to keeping our lakes as clean and enjoyable as possible.

My focus for 2023 will be providing educational opportunities for the membership and community. This includes hosting a Boating Safety class, and providing invasive species signage at the boat launches.

Also, the association plans to contact the DNR about planting other species of fish in addition to the usual lake trout.

Everyone needs to take responsibility for the health of our lakes, not just the board members. If you have suggestions for any lake improvements, let us know.

I look forward to growing our membership, and continuing to protect our lakes.



WE NEED YOU!

**Become a member
of your lake
association today.**

Duck Lake has a 16% membership rate, and Green Lake has a 38% rate. We can do better! For just \$25.00 a year, your dues will help us continue to conduct water testing and monitor lake levels. The GLDLA is a vibrant organization of volunteers passionate about the lakes. To keep it that way, we need a robust membership. (Duck Lakers, please note that your SAD tax *doesn't* cover the costs of what the GLDLA does.) Please join today and support your lake community.

IN MEMORY

John Thomas passed away in November, 2022. John loved Green Lake and served on the Green Lake and Duck Lake Association's board for five years.

Barb Bayer passed away in December, 2022. Barb served for over thirty years as the lake association's Secretary.

John and Barb were passionate about protecting our lakes. We'll dearly miss them as friends and neighbors.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

As a 501c3, the GLADLA is eligible to apply for grants. The MSU Extension office offers Clean Boats; Clean Waters grants to organizations that educate the public about invasive species prevention. Strategically placed signage has proven to be effective at delivering the message.

This month, your lake association will apply for a \$3000 grant for four signs to be installed at Green Lake: DNR Boat Ramp, Interlochen State Park, Diamond Park Launch, and at the Diamond Park Property Owners Association's docks. Three signs at Duck Lake: The North and South boat launches at Interlochen State Park, and the Duck Lake Peninsula.

Clean Boats; Clean Waters is a joint effort between MSU and EGLE. Funding comes from the Great Lakes Restoration initiative in partnership with EGLE.

FROZEN LAKES?

It's January 18, and Green and Duck Lakes have not frozen over yet. Yes, a lot of winter is left, but it made me wonder about the what-ifs. Imagine no ice fishing, cross-country skiing, ice skating, fat-tire biking, or snowmobiling. And what happens beneath the surface of the lake? Jo Latimore, an aquatic scientist from the MSU Extension, is my local go-to person for all things lake-related. Jo agreed to an interview, and I had my questions ready.

1: What happens if an inland lake doesn't freeze over? Jo explained that ice on a lake is like a porous lid. It allows oxygen into the lake and serves as a buffer against wild temperature swings. Without ice, the water warms too rapidly in the spring.

2. What's the harm of that? Rapid temperature swings stress fish, so they seek colder water with more oxygen. (Warm water has less oxygen.) In the long term, fish could become smaller, which may lead to reproductive consequences.

3. How about aquatic plants? Jo said warmer spring water contributes to earlier and more algae blooms. Ice reflects sunlight, keeping the water cool. Open water absorbs sunlight and warms faster, encouraging plant growth.

Cooler temperatures are in the forecast. Bring on the ice!

Ice Thickness Reminders:
2" or less: Keep off!
4": Suitable for ice fishing
5 - 6 ": Safe for snowmobiles
8 - 12": Okay for cars
12 - 15": Supports mid-sized trucks.

WATER LEVELS

The GLADLA purchased lake-level monitoring equipment this fall and installed it on Green Lake. It's the same equipment that Grand Traverse County uses at the Duck Lake Dam. The purpose is to gather data to determine exactly what happens to Green Lake's water levels when the dam's boards are removed or added.

Lake levels are a constant topic of conversation and conflict among Green Lake and Duck Lake riparians; just ask any GLADLA board member. Rain, snowfall, and the Duck Lake Dam affect both lakes' levels. Obviously, the more precipitation that falls, the higher the lake levels will be. What is praised or cursed most often is the Duck Lake Dam, built in the late 1950s. How much does this dam *really* affect our watershed? That is a good question, but there's not enough data to answer it. The court-ordered lake levels, set at the time the dam was installed, established the "normal" lake level at 837.3 feet above sea level. A seasonal winter variation (issued by the Grand Traverse Circuit Court) was made to the lake level in 2017, dropping the level to 836.8 from November 1 - March 31.

Our quest is to gather accurate data, instead of observational data, and analyze it. If necessary, we may petition the courts for different levels. Time will tell.

A special thank you to Eric Gray at the Interlochen Center for the Arts. He provided the surveyor, and the location of the equipment. An anonymous donor gave the GLADLA the underwater pipe for the water sensor, and a post was donated by Give 'Em a Brake.

SPOTTED IN NATURE

Rose Ranville reported seeing a white ermine, also known as a short-tailed weasel, running through her backyard on Green Lake. These helpful little animals keep the mouse population in check. As summer turns to winter, their brown fur turns white, a process that takes place over a few days to a month.



The first GLADLA board Christmas Party. Thanks to Kurt Hubschneider for providing Brookside's rec room.

LIGHT UP INTERLOCHEN

The GLADLA joined the Interlochen Chamber of Commerce in December, 2022, allowing us to participate in their festive event, "Light Up Interlochen," on December 9.

Several board members braved the cold and manned a booth in Tom's parking lot promoting the lake association. Along with hotdogs, s'mores, and a bonfire, they chatted with more than fifty people about the GLADLA.

The association strives to increase our exposure in the community. Joining the Chamber allows us to cast our net a little wider.



From left to right: Dick Thompson, Doug Griesse, Ed Dewey, Sarah Hehir, Roger Edgren and Kurt Hubschneider.

ANOTHER INVASIVE

I discovered the Common Mullein invasive on our lake-shore this September. I'd never seen the plant, prompting me to ask the all-knowing Google about it.

The plant is native to Asia and Europe, and in our environment, grows and spreads very quickly. It can become a nuisance. The best eradication is pulling before it blooms. The seeds are dispersed by wind and animals. Several websites mentioned the seeds remain viable in the soil for over 100 years!

Common Mullein prefers sunny bare ground and dry soil.



The Green Lake eagles had two babies this year. Emily Anderson took this photo on May 31, 2022.

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

Board Members: Emily Anderson, Ken Chamberlain, Ed Dewey, Roger Edgren (new member!), Rich Garvey, Doug Griesse, Marietta Hamady, Sarah Hehir, Kurt Hubschneider, Mark Jackson, Paul Johnson, Brian McAllister, Claire Stephenson, and Dick Thompson.

Emeritus: Fippy Komrska

Newsletter Editor: Marietta Hamady

Duck Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Paul Johnson

Green Lake Water Testing Coordinator: Rich Garvey

Save the date! The Annual GLADLA meeting is Saturday, August 26, 2023.



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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