



SUMMER 2024

For the Love of Our Lakes ANNUAL GALA

**Sunday, August 4
Grand View Lodge Gull Lake Center
\$60 per person**

SCHEDULE

5:00 pm Social & Silent Auction

6:30 pm Dinner & Speaker

Dr. Bruce Carlson, MD PhD, Lake Biologist and Biomedical Researcher

TRIP RAFFLE

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Only 100 tickets sold for \$100 each

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Opinions or recommendations contained in advertising in the newsmagazine are not necessarily opinions or recommendations of GCOLA, GCOLA's Board or Advisory members.

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RECREATION AREA**
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651-290-5771

You are always welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Contact Info@GCOLA.org for meeting details.



When I wrote the Chair's message column at this time last year, we had endured a long winter season with nearly 90 inches of snowfall; the most in the Brainerd Lakes area since 1948. This past year we witnessed the flip side of winter with only 12 Inches of snowfall and limited opportunities for skating, skiing, snowmobiling, sledding, ice fishing and other traditional winter sports activities. The lack of cold weather resulted in the cancellation of the Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Gull Lake, an event GCOLA helps support. These divergent winters are evidence of our changing climatic trends that impact algal bloom growth and AIS, water quality, wildlife and fish populations.

Once again, we offered the free annual tree giveaway on Saturday, May 4th at Sunshine's Summerhouse. Read the article in the newsmagazine to learn more about this successful event. I'm also pleased to report that the 12th annual GCOLA Gala fundraising event will take place on August 4th at Grand View lodge featuring a social hour, full-service dinner, live and silent auctions. We are lucky to have Dr. Bruce Carlson, a lake ecologist and widely respected researcher, discuss the various factors including climate, the environment, aquatic invasive species (AIS), and others that impact our chain's ecosystems. We have also made plans for our GCOLA Annual Meeting which will take place on August 21 via Zoom at 7 pm. Boater safety classes for youth between 12-17 years of age will begin in early June at the Gull Lake Yacht Club.

Please take the time to review articles in our newsmagazine including prevention of Swimmers Itch, Firefly Watchers Program and our End of Dock Program by Robert Eliason, upcoming Youth Boat Safety Classes article by Jay Chaney, my Government Relations update and important details on the upcoming Sunday, August 4th annual Gala event fundraiser.

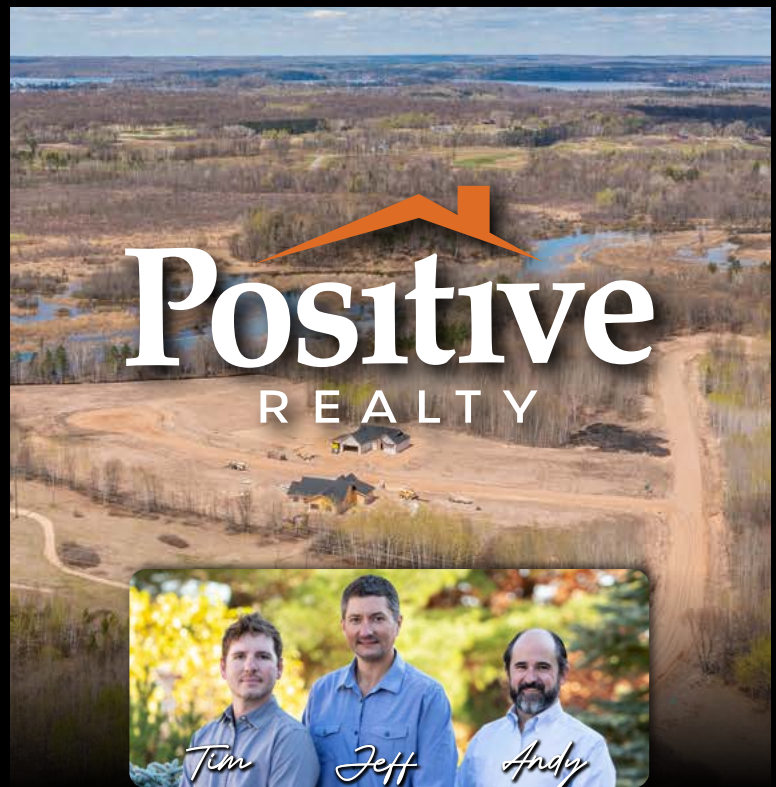
As always, GCOLA offers opportunities for volunteers in areas that GCOLA serves including Lake Steward, Communications, Loon Conservancy, Recreation and Safety, Finance, New Members, Government Relations and Fisheries. Contact a board or advisory member listed in the newsmagazine for further information.

Steve Frawley



An aerial photograph of a large lake with a winding shoreline, surrounded by a mix of green trees and brown, cleared land. A large, semi-transparent sign with a gold border and black tree silhouettes is centered over the lake. The sign contains the text "SANCTUARY RIDGE" in a gold, serif font.

SANCTUARY RIDGE

A composite image featuring the Positive Realty logo and a photo of three agents. The logo consists of an orange house icon above the word "Positive" in a large, white, serif font, with "REALTY" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Below the logo is a photo of three men standing outdoors. Their names, "Tim", "Jeff", and "Andy", are written in a white, cursive font at the bottom of the photo.

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LAURA KESSLER, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



My grandparents bought our little cabin on Roy Lake more than four decades ago. It's where I spent most summer weekends growing up and continues to be my favorite getaway as an adult. Now my mom and her two sisters co-own the property, so at any given time it is full of family and our dogs!

Looking back at my childhood, I can't imagine a better place to spend my summers other than growing up learning how to fish, drive our boat, ski, and holding on for dear life as my dad whipped my sister and me around on the tube. Now that I am a stepmom of three teenagers and have a toddler of my own, I'm so happy I get to share these experiences with them at our cabin. Here's to hoping my son can catch a sunny off the dock this summer!

Knowing how much the lake has influenced my life, I felt pulled to join GCOLA to do my part in preserving the area. Working for a civil engineering firm that works primarily on water resources (where I happened to meet my husband, who is a water quality scientist) has opened my eyes to how vital these groups are. I am happy to be a member of GCOLA and hopefully provide valuable services for our area.



ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 7 p.m.

ZOOM OPTION ONLY

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3UAlDRe> • Phone: 312 626 6799 • Meeting ID: 880 8353 8483 • Passcode: 697751

THE MEETING WILL INCLUDE:

- Annual election of board members • Financial summary
- Updates on GCOLA activities and issues affecting the Gull Lake Chain
- Question and answer session

YOUR ONE-STOP

Boat Shop

IN THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA

MarineMax Nisswa & Crosslake has a rich history of helping families just like yours enjoy the water in the Brainerd Lakes Area each summer. Formerly known and loved as Nisswa Marine and C&C Boat Works, our two stores have teamed up with one mission: to provide the world's best pleasure boating experience to boaters on the Gull Lake and Whitefish Chains.

Experience boat-buying the way it was meant to be. Request boat service from our skilled team of technicians with over 120 years of combined expertise. After a long day on the water, simply stop at our gas docks in Crosslake to refuel and explore our pro shop full of water toys and boating accessories to enhance your summer fun. Enjoy peace of mind in the off-season while we winterize and store your boat at our expansive facilities. Come spring, we'll summerize it and deliver right to your lift or landing!

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FISHING REGULATION UPDATE

Mike Knapp, Brainerd Area Fisheries Supervisor, MN DNR



The size regulations regarding northern pike has changed for the entire Gull Chain (including Round Lake) and now requires all pike from 30-40" to be immediately released. The possession limit is 2 with only one over 40" allowed in possession.

For further information on this, the DNR website can be accessed at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=11030500>



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decide if she eats

Mosquito Spraying And Lawn Chemicals
kill
the insects baby birds require as food

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THE LIGHTS
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- 1 Stay at least 200 feet away
- 2 Keep music at reasonable levels
- 3 Minimize repetitive passes



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ANNUAL GALA

Sunday, August 4

Save the Date!
Welcome GCOLA members, friends, and neighbors!
Get your tickets soon!

The Annual Gala is GCOLA's only fundraising event, and it helps support our mission through the work of the committees such as the Lake Steward, Loon Conservancy, AIS identification and prevention efforts, along with many other programs to keep our chain of lakes, shorelines and wildlife healthy and sustainable.

Location

The event will be held at the Gull Lake Center, Grand View Lodge

Schedule of events:

- 5:00 Social hour and silent auction
- 6:30 Dinner options Pork loin with Dijon buerre GF or Polenta lasagna GF vegan no dairy
Dessert is a gluten-free chocolate torte
- 7:30 Trip raffle drawing



Dr. Bruce Carlson, MD, PhD

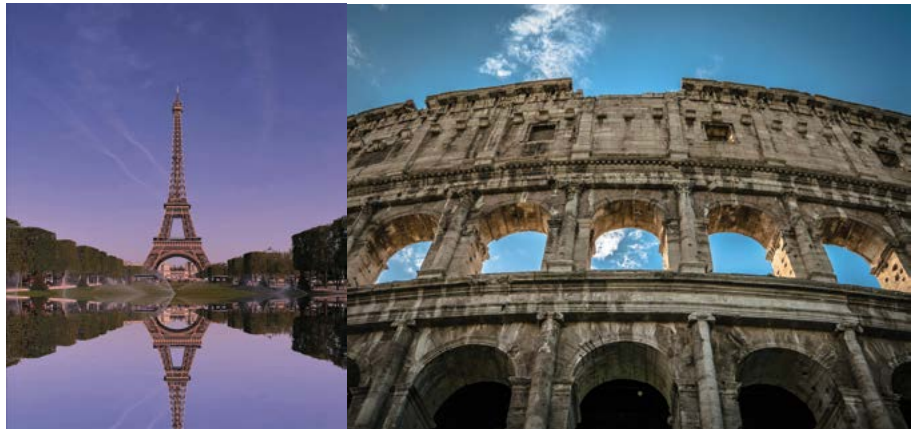
Dr. Carlson, both a biomedical researcher and a lake biologist, will discuss how a north country lake, like Gull, is influenced by factors such as climate and aquatic invasive species (AIS) and how they interact with native plant and animal communities to produce the lake we currently experience.

Dr. Carlson is Professor Emeritus and former Chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of Michigan. Along with 200 papers, he has authored more than 20 books on regeneration, embryology and lake biology and has edited another 15 symposium volumes and translations. He is a well-known lake ecologist who focuses on how Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), climate and fish habitat are impacted throughout the seasons as documented through the use of underwater videos. Dr Carlson was formerly a fish biologist and recently directed a 10-year study on northern pike with the US Geological Services. His retirement activities include speaking and writing books such as his 2023 release "A North Country Lake throughout the Seasons" and "Understanding Midwestern Aquatic Invasives" in 2024. Dr Carlson is a frequent speaker and a former President of the Ten Mile Lake Association in Hackensack and will be available for signing copies of his book during the Gala event.

TRIP RAFFLE

Back again is our raffle prize of a \$4000 trip for two to:

Paris, Rome, London, Venice, Dublin, Belize, Honduras, Costa Rica (airfare and 7 nights hotel) OR Riviera Maya, Mexico, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (7 nights all-inclusive) OR create your own option (\$4000 value).



We are limiting the number of tickets sold to 100, with tickets priced at \$100 so your odds of winning are 1 in 100! The drawing will be held on Sunday, August 4, 2024 at 7:30 pm at Grand View Lodge, 23521 Nokomis Ave, Nisswa, MN. Sponsored by Gull Chain of Lakes Association License #X-93369. You need not be present to win and must be 18 or older to purchase a ticket or win a prize. The winner is responsible for trip costs exceeding \$4000 and any applicable fees or taxes and delivery expenses. Terms and conditions of travel certificate provided by Bursch Travel: 1) Redeemable for air & hotel package, air & tour package or air & cruise package only. 2) Certificate has no cash value, no residual value, no expiration date. 3) Blackout dates and restrictions may apply.

Trip Raffle Tickets

Tickets can be purchased through any GCOLA board member or by making your check payable to GCOLA Raffle and mailing it to GCOLA, PO Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468. Please provide the following required information:

- Name
- Address including city, state, zip code
- Phone number

We are not able to accept credit card payments for raffle tickets due to State of Minnesota gambling requirements.

Gala Tickets

Tickets are \$60 each and can be purchased through the GCOLA website at www.gcola.org or from a Board member. You do not need to be a GCOLA member to attend.

Check option: Mail information with your email and a check to GCOLA, PO Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468 and include name for each person attending along with their meal selection of Pork loin with Dijon buerre GF or Polenta lasagna GF vegan no dairy. All meals are gluten free.

Credit card option: Send information to info@gcola.org and include your phone number so you can be called for your credit card number.

Seeking Volunteers for this fun and worthwhile event.

Volunteer 30 minutes of your time during the Gala between 5-7 pm and help us spread the fun! Volunteers also needed to help at the registration tables. No experience necessary. Contact Jane Edwards at jedwards3718@gmail.com and be part of our team For the Love of Our Lakes!

8 SIMPLE WAYS YOU CAN PROTECT LOONS!

Sheila Johnston, Loon Conservancy Committee Chair



1. Conserve and restore shorelines for loon habitat.



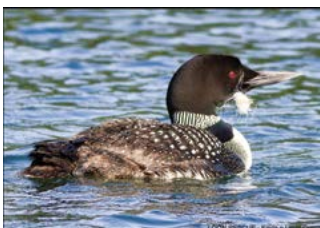
2. Stay at least 200 feet away from nesting loons so they don't feel threatened and abandon their nest.



3. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of deaths. Just one lead sinker or jig can kill a loon! Please use lead-free tackle. Learn more and find sources for lead-free tackle at www.pca.state.mn.us.



4. Watch ahead and use caution when boating and jet skiing near loons. Boat and jet ski strikes injure and kill loons. Always assume they will NOT dive! Loons will not dive out of the way when protecting chicks on their backs or on the water. Chicks cannot dive out of the way.



5. Discard broken fishing line properly. Please pick up fishing line and tackle you see in the water or caught in vegetation so loons do not become entangled.



6. Do not cast towards loons on the water or nesting. Move fishing spots if loons are near or going for your line. If you hook a loon call Loon Rescue, Inc, 715 966-5415 and 715 453-4916.



7. Do not shoot fireworks off over the lake. Fireworks are very alarming for loons! Chicks may be separated from parents in the chaos. The explosions can injure loons and chicks.



8. Seek and follow guidance from GCOLA's Loon Conservancy Committee and DNR Minnesota Loon Restoration Project staff before building and deploying an artificial loon nesting platform. (DNR approved platform pictured.)



© Sheila Farrell Johnston

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**Prostate Cancer impacts 1 in 7 men and their families.
Over 45 or a family history? Do not ignore this!**



Support Group meeting held at Cragun's Legacy Golf Club House

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Last fall, swimmer's itch was a big problem in some Crow Wing county lakes. We would like to determine how widespread the problem is on the Gull Lake chain. If you have experienced swimmer's itch this year, please send your name and address to Robert Eliason at gcola.endofdock@gmail.com. I will put the results of this survey in our fall newsmagazine. Note: There are anti-swimmer's itch products available to put on the skin before going in the water. They are advertised to prevent swimmer's itch.

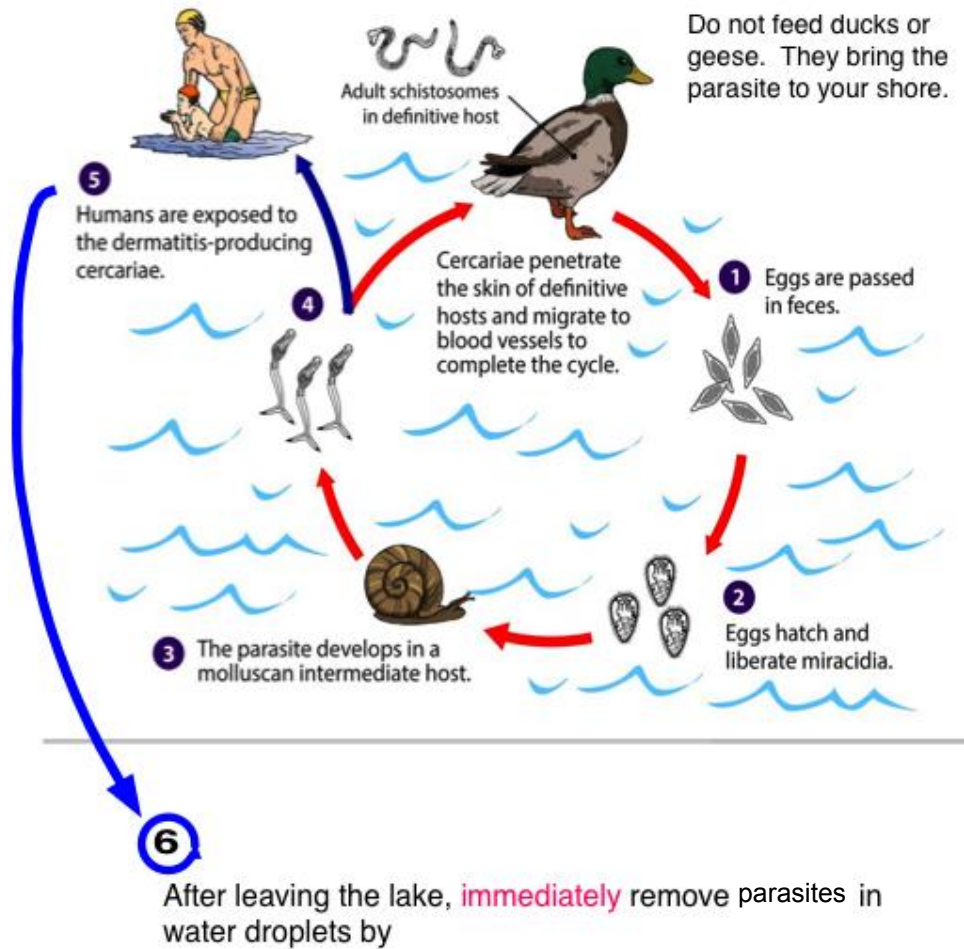
Per the CDC, most cases of swimmer's itch do not require medical attention. The following may provide relief:

- Use corticosteroid cream
- Apply cool compresses to the affected areas
- Bathe in Epsom salts or baking soda
- Soak in colloidal oatmeal baths
- Apply baking soda paste to the rash
- Use an anti-itch lotion

Remember: Waterfowl promote the presence of swimmer's itch along your shore as shown in the graphic below. **DO NOT FEED WATERFOWL!**

Swimmer's Itch

Cercarial Dermatitis



1. Showering (Best method) **DO NOT USE LAKE WATER!!**

2. Toweling off all water from entire body.



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John Macklin Family, Gull Lake

1. You Kick Back!

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Josh Noser Family, Gull Lake

2. You Become Famous!

See our Awardee page!



Emily Loberg and Family, Margaret

3. Um...Did We Mention You Protect the Lakes For Future Generations?

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GCOLA will again offer youth safety classes in conjunction with the Crow Wing and Cass County Sheriffs' departments. GCOLA is offering the classes free of charge. We will offer three classes on three different dates. We ask that students arrive at 8:30 am to check-in, with classes beginning at 9:00 am. Class should conclude at approximately 1:00 pm. Dates are as follows:

- Friday, June 14
- Thursday, June 20
- Friday, July 12

Classes will be held at the Gull Lake Yacht Club, (Upper level) 19696 Love Lake Rd. Brainerd, MN. They have always been very generous in allowing the classes there and they will once again have a busy summer at their facility. Class dates are also posted on the GCOLA website, as well as the GCOLA Facebook page.

Classes will be capped at 25 students (age 12-17) and the class will qualify students to receive the necessary permit to operate a motorized boat over 25 HP. Please sign up early, as classes typically fill quickly! Students will get hands-on experience as well, upon completion of the written coursework during class. Pizza will be provided to all attendees, generously donated by Zorbaz on Gull. In addition, each attendee will receive a lifejacket to take home, courtesy of GCOLA.

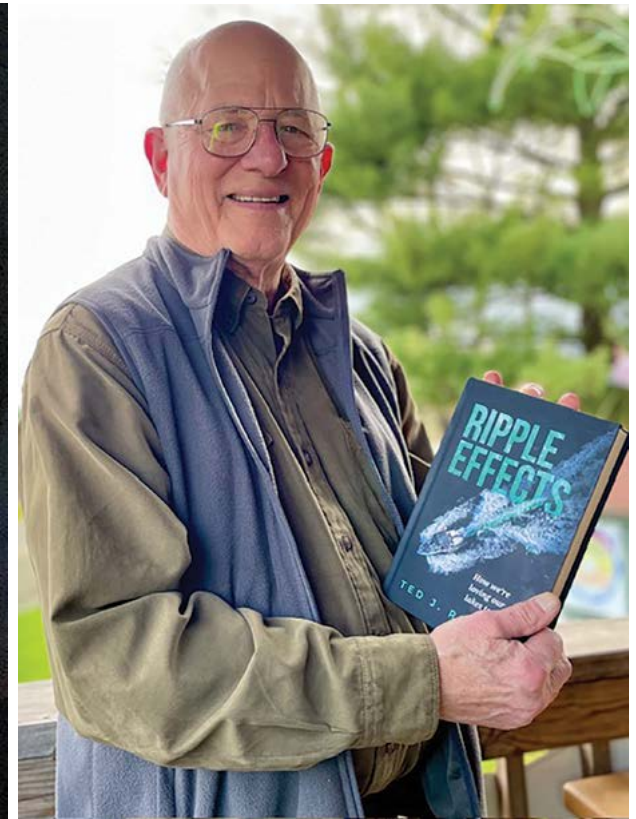
To reserve a spot for your date of choice, contact Mary Kay Larson at 218-831-5656. This is a great opportunity for the youth in your family to receive the necessary foundation to become a safe and courteous boater for years to come! The classes are on a first-come basis and in the likely event that they fill, the state of MN offers an online course. Unlike our course however, there is a fee, no hands-on experience, no lifejacket, and no Zorbaz pizza!

Have a wonderful summer and safe boating!

ORION PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee Chair

In the winter news magazine, I proposed an Orion picture contest. Members were challenged to take a photo of the constellation Orion and send it to me. I am pleased to announce that Ron Faust was the winner of the contest. He has received the book prize "Ripple Effects: How We're Loving Our Lakes to Death" by Ted Rulseh. His prize-winning photo is below, along with a picture of him with his prize. Please note the number of stars in the photo. They are part of the Milky Way and might make it difficult to identify the constellation to the casual observer. It is a great photo of my favorite winter constellation. Congratulations Ron!



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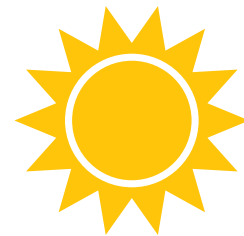
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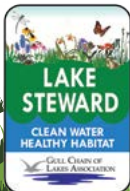
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OUR PRIORITIES AT A GLANCE



LAKE STEWARD

- 185+ lakeshore owners working to protect our lakes
- 97 Lake Steward awards
- Fund shoreline restoration
- Annual tree giveaway

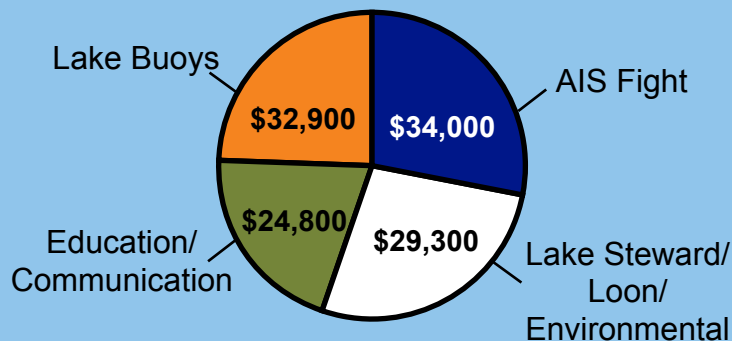


SAFETY & RECREATION

- 125 navigational buoys across the Gull Lake Chain
- Boat Safety classes 75+ kids per year
- Partner with local sheriff departments



2024 BUDGETED PRIORITIES



LOON CONSERVANCY

- Loon population surveys
- Loon-safe boating program
- Get the Lead Out (GTLO) loon-safe fishing

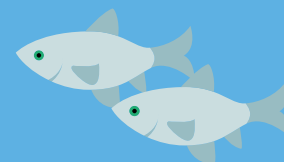


ENVIRONMENTAL

- Water quality monitoring
- Light pollution education
- Education on improving lake water quality

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

- Inspect 24 boat launches for AIS
- Fund 3,300+ boat inspections annually
- Financially support the U of M AIS Research Center



GET INVOLVED

- 1050+ family & business members strong
- Exciting volunteer opportunities
- FUN! Annual Summer Gala Event

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Advocate for lake issues with state legislators
- Interface with county and local governments
- Share with neighboring lake associations

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

TREE GIVEAWAY/GET THE LEAD OUT TACKLE EXCHANGE

Kris Driessen, Lake Steward Co-chair

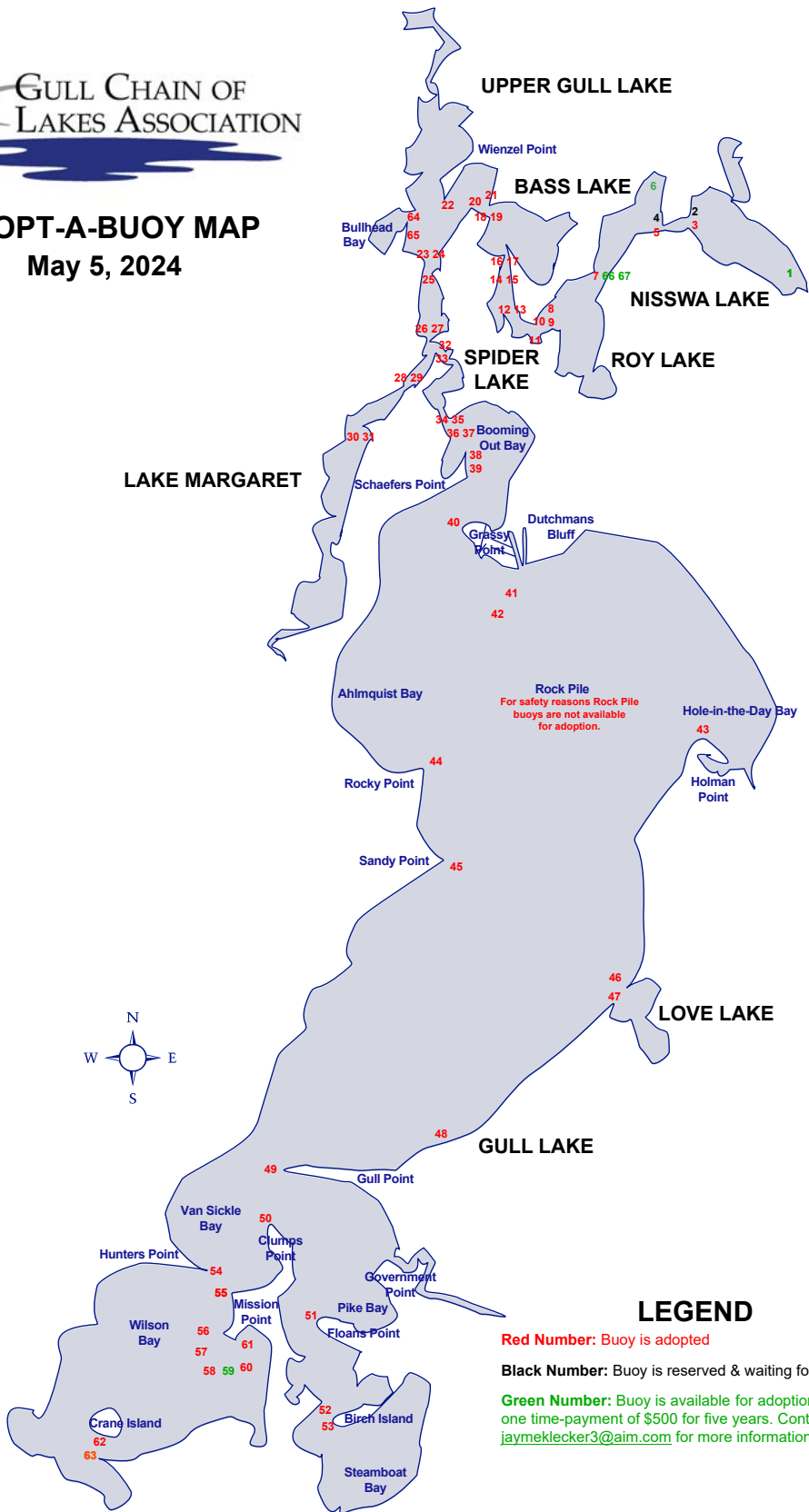


The 2024 Tree Giveaway was a success. A wide variety of trees totaling 450, were bagged and handed out by volunteers-bur oak, white pine, white spruce, sugar maple, jack pine, and tamarack. Enthused tree lovers showed up and all trees were given away. Lead tackle was also collected and exchanged for lead-free. A big thank you to Sunshine's Summerhouse for offering space to host the event. Also, thank you to volunteers-Kris and Chuck Driessen, Teri Whitman, Sheila Johnston and Sandy Hobby.

BUOY MAP



ADOPT-A-BUOY MAP May 5, 2024



LEGEND

- Red Number:** Buoy is adopted
- Black Number:** Buoy is reserved & waiting for payment
- Green Number:** Buoy is available for adoption with a one time-payment of \$500 for five years. Contact jaymeklecker3@aim.com for more information.

Many thanks to Troy Srock, owner of LM Steel Manufacturing & Supply in Brainerd, for the donation of two dozen buoy weights needed for our buoy placements this year. His donation is much appreciated to maintain our network of buoys.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kathryn Cima

Elizabeth & Kevin Jakuc, Gull

Amy Markert, Gull

Karen & Jeffrey Nonhof, Margaret

Welcome

The Magic Behind the Party!



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Which Group of Flowers Is Prettier?



A. Native Plants

No need to water or fertilize.
Adapted to lakeshore for
thousands of years.
Support wildlife.

Clockwise from upper left:
Wild bergamot, yarrow,
showy tick-trefoil, blue vervain.

B. Cultivars

Cultivated to catch the eye.

Clockwise from upper left:
Red day lily, hosta, hydrangea,
yellow day lily

Answer: Both!

But only one protects the lakes.

Find out why!
Take the Quiz to Get Started.
Scan the QR Code.



GCOLA has funding for native
plants on shorelines.
Or go to gcola.org.
Or email
lakesteward@gcola.org

GCOLA
Shoreland Habitat



Your Care
Will Change the Future
Of Our Lakes



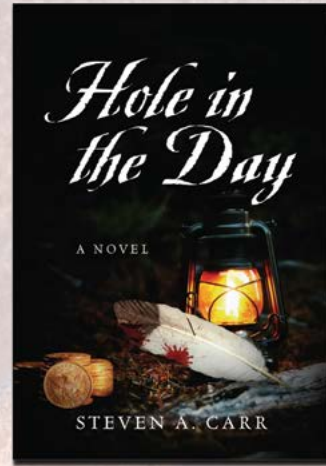
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From local author Steven A. Carr

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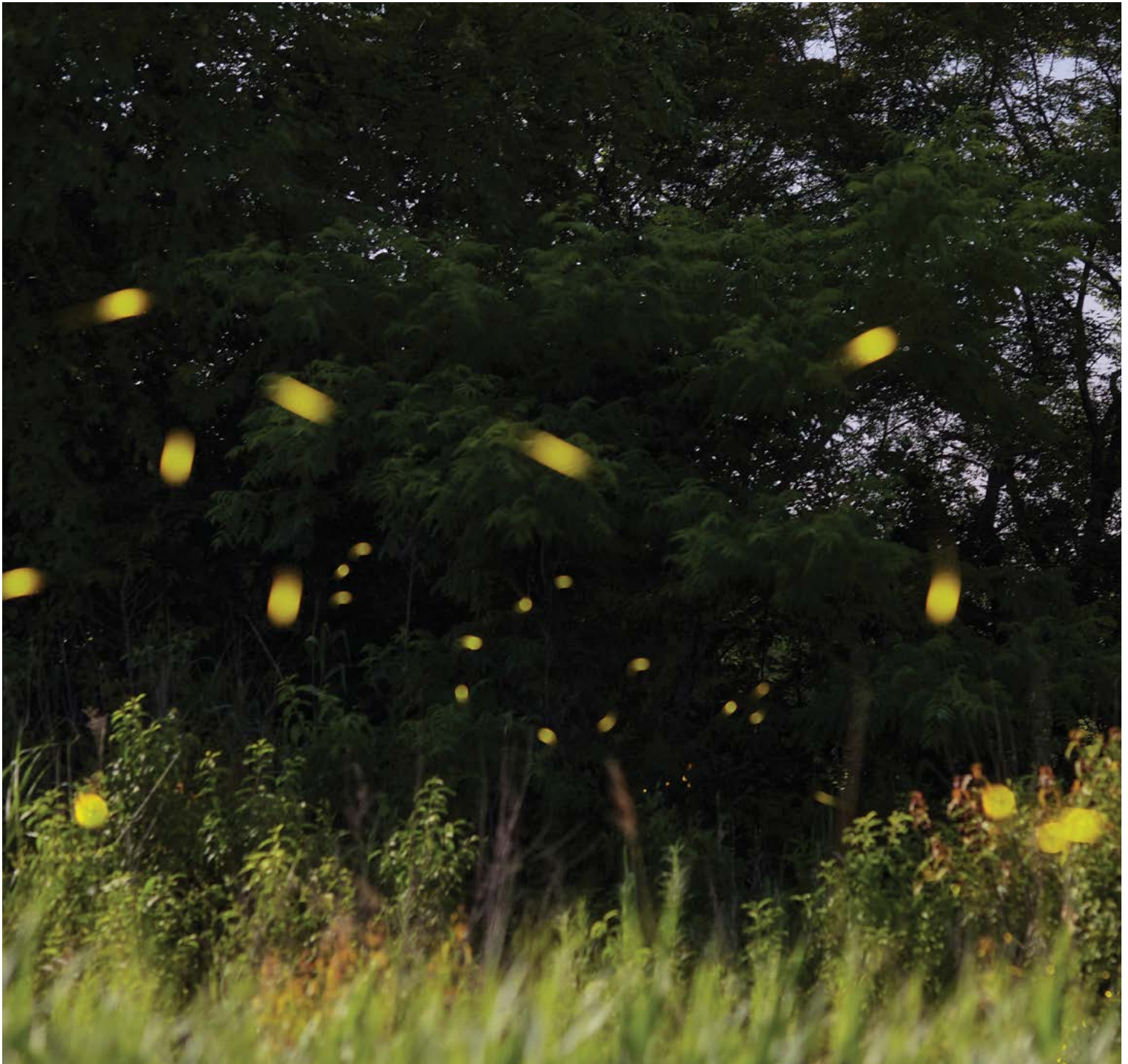
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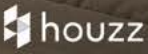


Several people have already volunteered to be Firefly Watchers. Now is your chance to be a Firefly Watcher this summer. What does a Firefly Watcher do? On a warm summer's evening between now and September as the twilight turns to darkness, a Watcher turns off all lights and sits either outside on a deck or inside in a screened in porch. The primary purpose of a Watcher is to enjoy the ambience of the darkness, which makes the evening's endeavor fun with or without fireflies! A watcher does this throughout the summer whenever in the mood. I am asking Firefly Watchers, if they see a firefly, to make a note, and then send an email to me. If you are interested in becoming a Firefly Watcher, send an email to Robert Eliason at gcola.endofdock@gmail.com with Firefly in the subject line Please include your lake address. I will report our findings in the winter newsmagazine.





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Since my last Government Relations update, there has been a flurry of activity around the country regarding enhanced wakes. Here are a few highlights:

- We are awaiting the imminent results of phase two Saint Anthony Falls (SAFL) research on enhanced wakes. Phase two focuses on the impact of prop wash on lake bottoms and the harmful effects such as scouring lake bottoms, creating algal blooms, adversely impacting fishing habitat, and re-suspending harmful substances such as mercury from lake bottoms. Work on SAFL phase three research has also begun which will take a holistic view of factors impacting a lake's ecosystem with an anticipated 2025 completion date. Phase three is funded primarily through Minnesota State lottery funds via a grant from Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- As I mentioned in the last newsmagazine edition, Vermont approved the nation's most comprehensive restrictions on wake boats and wake sports on Vermont's inland lakes and ponds. The new rules, which will take effect in 2024, impact 43 of Vermont's 73 lakes and stipulates that enhanced wake sports must operate 500 feet from shore in no less than 20 feet of water.
- Closer to home, Michigan House Bill 5532 would restrict the operation of wake boats to 500 feet or

more from shorelines or docks and at water depths of 20 feet or more to minimize potential harmful impacts to swimmers, non-motorized watercraft, shorelines, and docks, and on fish and wildlife.

- Wisconsin Senate Bill 1077 required the University of Wisconsin systems to conduct a wake surf boat study. This study looked at a variety of factors including impact on lake bottoms, fish habitat, aquatic vegetation, sediment disruption and wave energy created by winds and storms versus waves generated by enhanced wakes. Over 75% of Wisconsin residents surveyed voted in support of legislation enacting statutes prohibiting creation of artificial wakes on lakes under 1,500 acres. For lakes over 1,500 acres, wake sports would be allowed if conducted at least 700 feet offshore and in at least 20-foot depths.

In a major in-state development, a Cook county Minnesota based lake is in final discussions with the DNR regarding their petition for wake surf restrictions. These restrictions stipulate that wake surf boats operate 500 or more feet offshore at a minimum depth of 15 feet. A final decision and announcement are expected any day now. Finally, DNR efforts are continuing to create a Watercraft Operators License since the 2023 Legislative passage of the bill.





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BECOME A MEMBER

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID #41-1272492. Dues are \$50 per year and any donations above the annual membership dues are greatly appreciated and recognized in the spring newsmagazine. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your membership and donation.

Please use this form and mail your dues to GCOLA, PO Box 102, Nisswa, MN 56468 -or- log in to our website at <https://www.gcola.org/shop> to pay with your credit or debit card.

If you are unsure if you are current with your dues, call Sue Friedrichs at 612-751-6156 or send an email to info@gcola.org to find out.

THANK YOU

2024 Gull Chain of Lakes Association Dues (January 1 to December 31) \$50.00

Additional Donation (Optional)

\$____ Aquatic Invasive Species Contingency Fund \$____ Buoy Expenses \$____ Board Discretion

Please keep my additional donation(s) anonymous

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Please contact me via email regarding the following volunteer opportunities:

- AIS Committee Communications Gala Government Relations
 Lake Steward Loon Programs Membership Committee Water Quality Testing

Existing Member New Member

Name _____

Second or Company Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Primary Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____

We use email to keep you informed and request your input on issues impacting the Gull Lake Chain.

Email _____ Second Email _____

Lake Address _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Lake Name _____ Location on Lake (side, bay, etc.) _____

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association does not sell, trade,
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PHOTOS WANTED

Do you have photos taken around the Gull Lake Chain that you'd like to share? We always need pictures for the newsmagazine, website and social media. **We especially have a shortage of winter, autumn and other fun activities on the lakes!** You will be given credit for any photographs appearing in the newsmagazine and a description of the picture is helpful. Your snapshots can be sent at full size (**minimum 300DPI**) to Sue Friedrichs at info@gcola.org.

THANK YOU!



Photo by Jon Villela



Photo by Rebecca Lahl



Photo by Steve Wall

HELP! ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

Robert Eliason, Environmental Committee Chair

The environmental committee needs new members. Several previous members have moved on to chair other important GCOLA committees, which leaves room for some new members who have an interest in things our association can do to continue to protect and monitor our lakes' water quality along with other activities which enhance our shorelines and lake life in general.

Current activities sponsored by the environmental committee include:

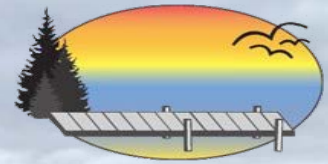
Water quality testing (aka the End-of-Dock) program. Volunteers assist with a program to gather water samples from a network of more than 30 people who have signed up to gather samples twice a summer from the end of docks. These samples are then submitted to a water testing laboratory. The data from the lab is collected and presented to GCOLA members each year in the newsmagazine with a graph showing the trends for the past several years.

Firefly Watchers program. A volunteer for this program would solicit members, through an article in the spring/summer issue of the newsmagazine. You would record the observations from the Firefly Watcher volunteers' emails and write up the results each year.

Swimmer's Itch program. A volunteer for this program would put an article outlining the cause of swimmer's itch in the summer issue of our newsmagazine and also ask members to report via email any problems with this which they may have experienced. Write up an article with data and any interesting observations about preventions or treatments which may be successful.

Other topics of interest to you which may fit under the umbrella of GCOLA's environmental committee. Give it a try for one summer and see what a difference you can make!





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Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AIS)

- Coordinates with the City of Lake Shore Police Department to provide watercraft inspections for invasive species.
- Conducts two inspections at 24 locations to look for AIS.
- Donates annually to the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) for zebra mussel research.
- Fulfills AIS prevention needs including establishing a boat power wash station at the USACE public access ramp.

Communications Committee

- Maintains a website, a member group email service and social media to provide timely communication.
- Issues four newsmagazines per year to keep members informed about association programs and important issues affecting the Gull Lake Chain.

Environmental Committee

- Monitors water quality of our lakes and stream inlets through quantitative chemical analysis. Samples are collected by GCOLA volunteers and analysis completed by a licensed environmental laboratory.
- Measures water quality during the summer by secchi disk readings taken by GCOLA volunteers.
- Promotes star gazing and northern lights viewing through educational initiatives on light pollution.

Finance/Audit Committee

- Oversees the GCOLA AIS Fund with BLACF, the Gull Chain Preservation Endowment Fund with Initiative Foundation and the AIS Contingency Fund which provide long term funding for fighting and eradicating AIS.
- Manages and provides oversight of finances and audit process.

Fisheries Committee

- Attends annual Avid Angler discussion led by DNR and local fishing guides and outdoor media.
- Stays informed on fishery-related research from the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center.

Gala Committee

- Plans and executes annual fundraising Gala, including silent auction, trip raffle, and event sponsorship.

Government Relations Committee

- Works with state legislators, the DNR, state agencies, and local government units on lake issues and concerns.
- Works with other lake associations, county COLAs, and state-wide lake-related organizations on common legislative priorities.

Lake Steward Committee

- More than 185 lakeshore owners working to protect our lakes with 97 Lake Steward awards to date.
- Provides funding for approved shoreland naturalization projects.
- Conducts a Tree Giveaway each spring to promote naturalization of shoreland to protect water quality.

Loon Conservancy Committee

- Conducts a yearly loon count in the spring and late summer.
- Educates boaters on loon-safe boating practices.
- Promotes the Get the Lead Out loon safe-fishing program.
- Supports loon reproduction activities including loon nesting platforms.

Membership Committee

- Conducts membership development programs to recruit and retain individual, family, and business memberships.

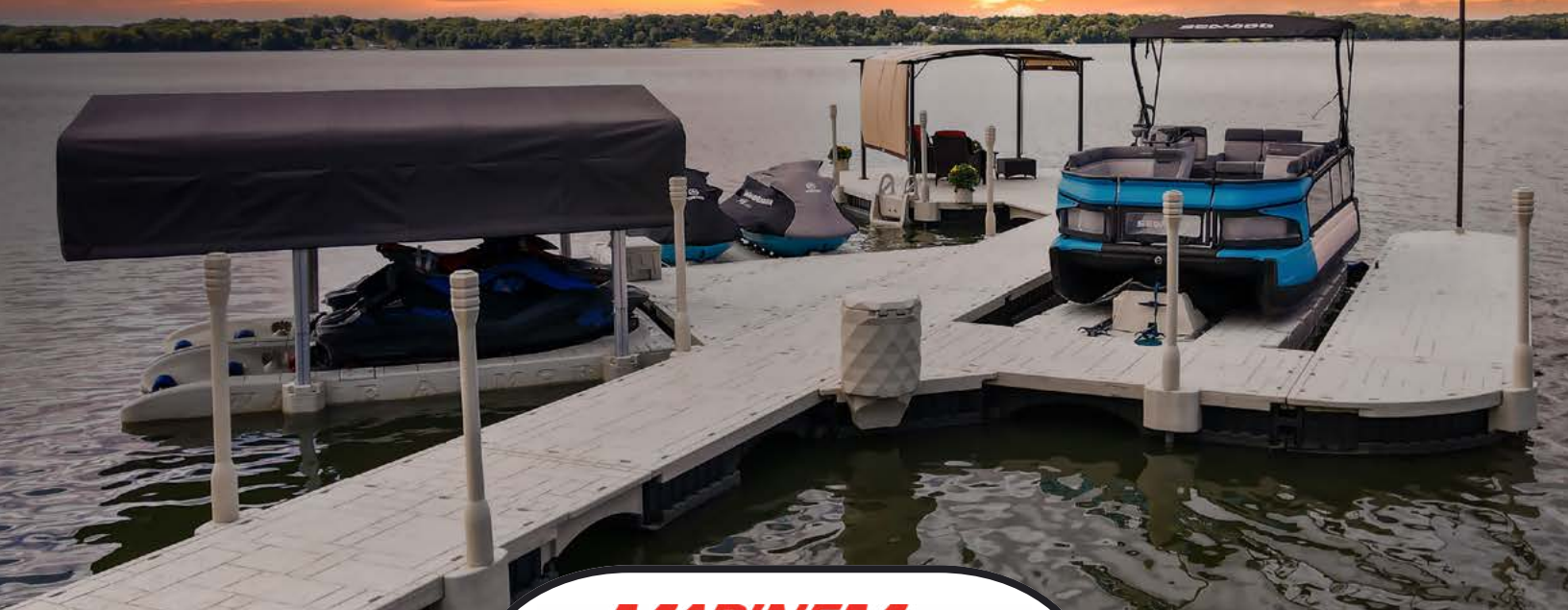
Safety & Recreation Committee

- Purchases, installs, and maintains one of the premier navigational buoy systems (100 buoys) in the State of Minnesota. We also install more than 20 no wake enforcement buoys for the sheriff's department.
- Provides free maps, with boating rules and regulation, at three public landings.
- Partners with Cass and Crow Wing County sheriffs to provide free boat safety training for approximately 75 youth per year.
- Works with county sheriffs on safety and enforcement issues including donations for night vision equipment, a range finder, and life jackets.



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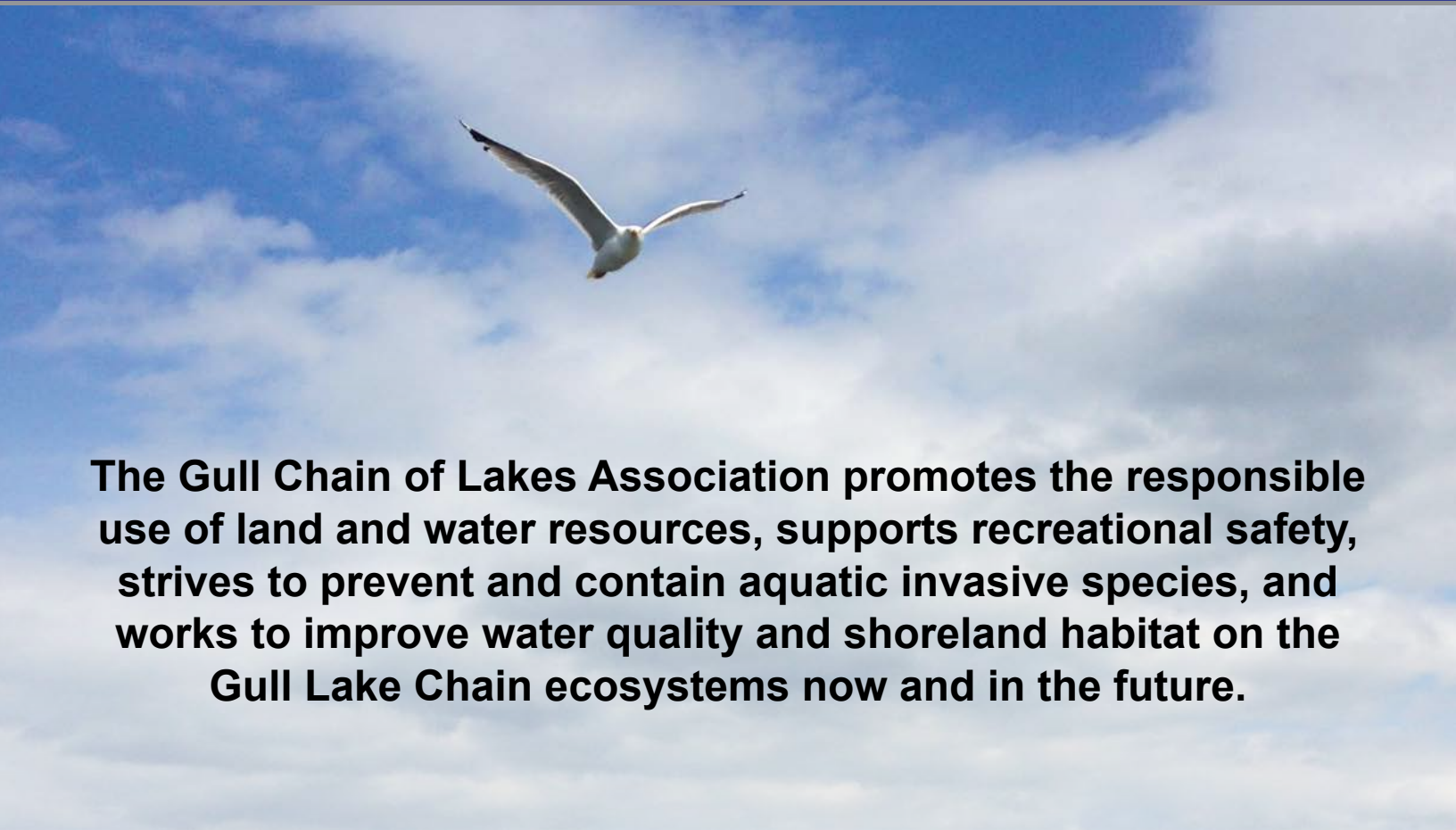
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Photo by Joey Halvorson



The Gull Chain of Lakes Association promotes the responsible use of land and water resources, supports recreational safety, strives to prevent and contain aquatic invasive species, and works to improve water quality and shoreland habitat on the Gull Lake Chain ecosystems now and in the future.