



GULL CHAIN of LAKES  
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2019

Nisswa, Minnesota 56468

Photo by Sheila Farrell Johnston

# SPECIALIZING IN LAKE SHORE

Central Minnesota's Finest Lakeshore Properties Since 1964

[www.Kurilla.com](http://www.Kurilla.com)



**(218) 963-7333**

23590 Smiley Road • Box 779 • Nisswa MN



©2018 Kurilla Real Estate LTD.





Box 102 • Nisswa, Minnesota 56468  
612-751-6156

info@gcola.org

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Chuck Herrig, Chair

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIR

Chuck Herrig  
612-240-3159

### VICE CHAIR

Linda Harrier, Bass  
218-963-2250

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Sue Friedrichs, Gull  
612-751-6156

### AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CHAIR

Steve Alex, Gull - Wilson Bay  
218-829-2612

### COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

John Ingleman, Margaret  
218-963-9441

### ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR

Sheila Johnston, Upper Gull  
612-226-6571

### FISHERIES CHAIR

Chuck Herrig  
612-240-3159

### FINANCE/AUDIT CHAIR

Marv Meyer, Gull - Wilson Bay  
218-828-9577

### LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

Uldis Birznieks, Gull  
218-820-7318

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Jane Edwards, Nisswa  
832-541-5766

### SAFETY & RECREATION CHAIR (BUOY SYSTEM)

Bob Toborg, Margaret  
218-963-3542

### BY-LAWS CHAIR

Robert Eliason, Bass Lake  
218-568-7868

### NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Steve Frawley, Margaret  
612-750-2633

### BOARD MEMBERS

Rosemary Goff, Margaret  
218-963-3542

### ADVISORY MEMBERS

Marc Bacigalupi, DNR Fisheries  
218-203-4303; marc.bacigalupi@state.mn.us

Tim Plude, DNR AIS Specialist  
218-203-4354; timothy.plude@state.mn.us

Brian Turner, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Gull Lake Dam Recreation Area  
651-290-5771; brian.w.turner@usace.army.mil

### WEBSITE MANAGER

Dave Anderson, Bass  
218-963-3121

WEBSITE: GCOLA.org

FACEBOOK: Facebook.com/GullLakeChain

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair's Message .....2

A Good Time  
"For the Love of Our Lakes" .....3

Sponsors.....4

8th Annual GCOLA GALA..... 5-6

Annual Meeting .....7

Mid-Year Financial Summary .....9

Endowment Fund Update.....10

GCOLA Congratulates  
Our First Lake Stewards:  
Kathy and David Matthew ..... 11-12

Lake Steward & Shoreline Restoration  
Programs Update .....13

Congratulations Lake Stewards.....14

Loon Programs.....15

Loon Chicks at Different Stages of  
Development .....16

Action Packed Summer at the Gull Lake  
Sailing School and Yacht Club... 17-18

## SUMMER 2019

Find Us on Facebook.....19

Wake responsibly.....19

Meet Your New Board Member.....22

GCOLA 2019 Legislative/Government  
Relations Update .....23

Youth Boat Safety Classes .....24

Reminder to Boat Owners  
on the Gull Lake Chain .....24

Is Your Water Safe to Drink? .....26

Association of Cass County Lakes  
Needs Your Help!.....27

Mission Statement.....28

Board of Directors.....29

Gull Chain of Lakes Membership.....30

What We Do.....31

Confidentiality Policy.....32

Photos Wanted.....34

Summer is flying by and its already August. We Minnesotans in lake country cram as much social activity as possible into three short months. It's all great fun but I will be ready for a slowdown in activity come September!

We enjoyed a very successful Gala on Sunday, July 21! The guests I spoke to unanimously said it was our best Gala ever. We tried several new fund-raising ideas and brought new entertainment, Deuces Wild, to the event which kept the energy level high. I want to extend a huge thank you to all who attended and supported our Gala. You can read more about the event from our Gala Chairs and see photos from the event in this issue.

As you know the Gala is our single fund raiser for the year and is a key financial component to achieving the goals of GCOLA. The event would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our board members and many volunteers. Specifically, I would like to thank John Ingleman, our Gala Chair, Steve Frawley, our Trip Raffle Chair, and Jane Edwards, our newest board member and Silent Auction Chair. Jane's past fund raising experience made a real difference in the success of this year's Gala.

We recap this year's Gala at our board meeting in August to discuss what worked and what we might improve on. We then begin planning next year's Gala in January. We would love to hear suggestions from our association members, and we are always looking for volunteers to assist and plan the next Gala. You can contact us through our website at GCOLA.org. Of course, all association members are welcome to attend our board meetings which are on the second Wednesday morning of each month at Grand View Lodge. You can find more information regarding board meeting dates on the Board of Directors page in this issue or on our website.

In this issue you can also read an update on Lake Steward program. This shoreline restoration proposal came to us from GCOLA member, Dorothy Whitmer, and shows great promise to increase awareness of what lake property owners can do to improve water quality. Reception to the program has been positive and this is our most successful lakeshore restoration program to date.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kent & Liz Kienholz, Gull

# A GOOD TIME "FOR THE LOVE OF OUR LAKES"

John Ingleman, 2019 Gala Chair

Our eighth annual Gala was held on Sunday evening, July 21, at Grand View Lodge. We had about two hundred seventy guests who were treated to an evening of socializing, silent auction, dinner and entertainment. A big thank you goes out to the many local businesses and individuals who sponsored the Gala and donated items for our silent auction. The auctions and sponsor donations raised over \$22,000. Thanks to Jane Edwards and her silent auction team for leading a successful and great fundraiser. We had a first-time live auction that raised \$1,500, thanks to auctioneer Jeremy Wiczek. Our trip raffle also sold out and produced a very happy winner.

### Bill and Sharon Frank, trip raffle winner!



This year's entertainment was Deuces Wild Dueling Pianos who provided a fun filled hour of singing, laughing, clapping and generally having a good time.

Finally, a big thanks to our GCOLA members who have supported the Gala year after year. The Gala is our association's single fund-raising event and is key to providing financial support for all that GCOLA does in maintaining water quality and water safety in our Gull chain community.



Kevin Eagan, Dave Hoelmer, Dave Anderson, John Ingleman, Hoot Gibson

# SPONSORS

We want to give a big thanks to all the sponsors who made our annual Gala silent auction another big success. The many wonderful silent auction items generated over \$22,000 in sales.

## THANKS TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS

PLATINUM • \$1,500+



GOLD • \$1,000 - \$1,499



Maxson Family

SILVER • \$750 - \$999



BRONZE • \$500 - \$749



Sheila Farrel Johnston Northlight Photography



## THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

- American Family Insurance, Finnegan & Associates, Inc
- Dave & Marian Anderson
- Ann Swenson
- Anytime Fitness
- Arrowhead Lodge
- Bar Harbor
- Baxter Family Insurance
- Belle Cheveux Salon
- Bloomington Security Solutions
- Bradow Dock
- Brainerd Int'l Raceway
- Carlson Hardware
- Cash Wise Liquors
- Chocolate Ox
- Christmas Point

- Claudia Around the World
- Dock 77
- Dondelinger
- Elite Detailing and Marine
- Executive Express
- Paul Goff
- Rosemary Goff
- Gull Lakes Cruises
- Indulge Your Senses
- Jack Pine Brewery
- Joyce Kamstra
- Lake Fun Rentals
- Landsburg Landscape Nursery
- Linder Media Productions
- Martins Sport Shop

- Mike's Tree Company
- Morey's Seafood
- Melinda & Joe Re
- Nisswa Family Fun Waterpark
- Panache Salon
- Riverwood Bank
- Schaefer's Foods
- Gail Speckmann
- Maris Speckmann
- Spirits of Nisswa
- Structures International
- Super One
- Mary Tuomi
- Turtle Town Books & Gifts
- Vicki Randall Salon

# 8TH ANNUAL

Photos by Mary Gibson

# GCOLA GALA



*Thank you to Ron and Claire Faust and Cal and Annie Brager for the lovely centerpieces!*



# ANNUAL MEETING

Chuck Herrig, GCOLA Chair

This year we moved our annual meeting to coincide with the timing and location of the Gala, which was Sunday July 21, at Grand View Lodge. Attendance this year was once again very light. Low attendance has been the trend for the past few years. We have tried a few options for timing of this meeting without success to boost attendance. Hopefully this means our association members trust that our Board of Directors are doing a good job and don't see a need to attend. A more likely reason for not attending is simply busy summer schedules. We would love to hear from you, our association members, on what we could do to encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting. Your collective input can shape our association's efforts in the years ahead. Please contact one of our Board members with your suggestions or write us at [info@gcola.org](mailto:info@gcola.org).

Those who attended learned about GCOLA's latest initiatives and timely topics affecting our lakes. We discussed the latest efforts to increase loon awareness and ensure loon protection. We shared our new Lake Steward program which supports shoreline restoration and clean water. We communicated the latest news on aquatic invasive species and our AIS Rapid Response Plan. Finally, we discussed concerns regarding

increased boat wake and noise. This topic is receiving more attention nationally and certainly here in Minnesota. We will share updates in the GCOLA newsletter in the months ahead.

Five Board members were re-elected to three-year terms: Uldis Birznieks, Robert Eliason, Sheila Johnston, Marv Meyer, and Bob Toborg. We also elected a new Board member, Jane Edwards. You can learn more about Jane in this issue in our new board member profile. We now have 14 board members. Our bylaws allow for a maximum of 15 board members.

We announced Rosemary Goff is stepping down as Secretary Treasurer and will be replaced by Sue Friedrichs, who was elected to our Board of Directors last year. Fortunately for us, Rosemary will remain a board member for another year. Rosemary has been our Secretary/Treasurer and the primary contact for GCOLA for 15 years. Rosemary has done a remarkable job. The Board and I have relied on her experience and expertise to guide our decision making for a long time. I am confident we will have smooth transition with Sue moving to the Secretary/Treasurer role.



CHAD SCHWENDEMAN IS YOUR  
*Gull Lake Chain*  
HOME SELLING EXPERT

*It's Not the Market, It's the Marketing!*



218-831-HOME (4663) | [WWW.HOMES1234.COM](http://WWW.HOMES1234.COM)

7153 Forthun Road, Suite 120, Baxter, MN 56425



# MINNESOTA INBOARD

ONE FAMILY. ONE BRAND. ONE MISSION.



**BOAT SALES • PRO SHOP • SERVICE • STORAGE • FIBERGLASS REPAIR**



**LET OUR FAMILY TAKE CARE OF YOURS!**

**EXCELSIOR SALES / 720 GALPIN LAKE ROAD EXCELSIOR, MN 55331**

**TWIN CITIES SERVICE CENTER / 260 STATE STREET NEW GERMANY, MN 55367**

**BAXTER SALES & SERVICE CENTER / 15779 EDGEWOOD DRIVE BAXTER, MN 56425**

[WWW.MNINBOARD.COM](http://WWW.MNINBOARD.COM)



Uldis Birznieks, Financial Committee

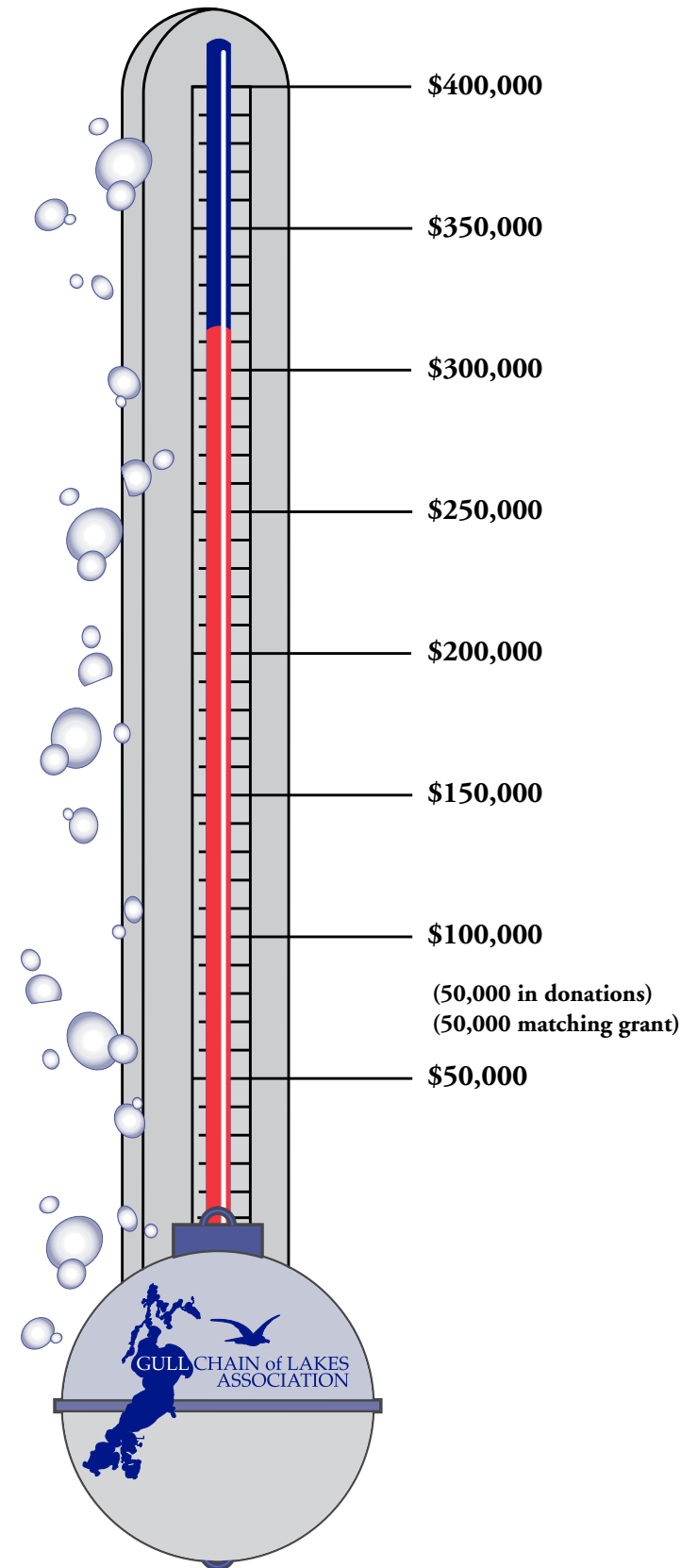
The 2019 GCOLA mid-year financial summary was presented to GCOLA members at the Annual Meeting on July 21. The actuals for the first half of 2019, the 2019 budget and the 2018 actuals were presented as shown in the figure below. For GCOLA, 2018 was a very good year financially with a net income of \$37K of which \$20K was allocated to the AIS Contingency Fund. The budget for 2019 as passed by the GCOLA Board of Directors closely mirrored the 2018 actuals on the income side of the ledger. On the expense side, the Board approved a significant increase for budgeted expenses for Environmental/AIS as this is our #1 priority for GCOLA. Funding was allocated for additional curly leaf pondweed treatments, shoreline restoration, additional AIS boat inspections, the loon awareness program and an infrared septic fly-over inspection. The budget for Government Relations was also increased recognizing we need a greater presence with our legislative and local governmental representatives on lake-related issues. The budgeted net income for 2019 was set with a balanced budget having a small positive net income of \$3.5K.

The income for the first half of 2019 shows we have received 62% of our year-end budgeted income. This is very similar to our position in 2018. The only variations being we are slightly behind on dues collection versus 2018, yet it is a healthy 84% of budget, and we are slightly ahead on income collection for the Gala. Donations to the Endowment Fund for the first half of 2019 were \$5.6K and with the excellent stock market returns in 2019, the fund has a total of \$313K. On the expense side, all major categories have very similar patterns (% of budget) to our 2018 expenses year to date. Given the increased budgeted expense for Environmental/AIS, we hope to increase our activities in this vital area in the second half of 2019. Year-to-date, our net income is \$30.2K, which is very similar to what we had in 2018. Thus, we anticipate, exclusive of a major unknown expense, that we will finish the year with a net income in the \$25K to \$35K range. In summary, GCOLA is in a very sound financial position through the first half of 2019.

	2019 ACTUALS THRU JUNE	2019 BUDGET	2018 ACTUALS
	\$ (K) % of Budget	\$ (K) % of Total	\$ (K) % of Total
<b>INCOME</b>			
DUES	44.1 84%	52.6 40%	51.2 39%
DONATIONS	24.4 86%	28.5 22%	32.1 24%
GALA	11.8 33%	36.0 28%	35.6 27%
GRANTS*	0.0 0%	11.0 8%	11.8 9%
OTHER	0.8 44%	1.8 1%	2.0 2%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>81.1 62%</b>	<b>129.9</b>	<b>132.7</b>
ENDOWMENT IN	5.6		15.7
ENDOWMENT TOTAL	313.0		280.0
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
ENVIRONMENTAL/AIS**	12.8 25%	51.9 41%	25.9 27%
BUOY SYSTEM	13.4 52%	25.6 20%	25.8 27%
GALA	5.9 38%	15.7 12%	15.4 16%
ADMINISTRATION	8.5 59%	14.4 11%	15.5 16%
COMMUNICATIONS	1.3 45%	2.9 2%	2.0 2%
GOVT RELATIONS	3.1 40%	7.8 6%	3.5 4%
OTHER	5.9 72%	8.2 6%	7.6 8%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50.9 40%</b>	<b>126.4</b>	<b>95.7</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>			
AIS Contingency Fund		20.0	20.0
AIS Contingency Fund Cur	151.2		130.9

\*Note 1 - Does not include cost of Watercraft Inspections directly paid by counties to inspectors  
 \*\*Note 2 - Does not include DNR and Lake Shore City Shoreline restoration grants and expenses (in/out)

With our AIS Contingency Fund reserve of \$151K and our Endowment Fund at \$314K, we have over \$460K available, if needed, for any new aquatic invasive species that might get introduced into our beloved Gull Chain of Lakes. All of us should be diligent to make sure that does not happen.



In partnership with the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA established a perpetual Endowment Fund. The fund is intended to provide long-term funding to support the stewardship activities of GCOLA to preserve and improve the ecosystem of the Gull Chain of Lakes. It's also a wonderful opportunity to leave a legacy for those who will enjoy this area for years to come.

We currently have just over \$314,000 in the fund, which includes a \$50,000 matching grant from the Initiative Foundation. It is great to know that there is a long-term base of financial resources through the endowment to be able to carry out projects designed to enhance and protect our beautiful chain of lakes.

The Board again wants to thank all the many members and friends of GCOLA for the generous support of our endowment fund.

Because "SQUISH" is not a sound your carpets should make...

**Chem Dry Of The Lakes**  
Superior Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Carpets Dry in 1-2 hours, not days
- Tile/Grout/Hard Floor Cleaning
- Upholstery Cleaning
- Pet Urine & Odor Specialists
- Green-Certified Solutions, safe & non-toxic for kids & pets
- Portable Equipment

**NOW OFFERING: CLEAN AND POLISH GRANITE COUNTERTOPS**

Call.....**218-828-4320**  
 cdothelakes@midco.net  
 www.Chemdryofthelakes.com

Independently Owned & Operated Serving Crow Wing, Aitkin, Southern Cass, Morrison & Todd Counties

**Mattson LUMBER COMPANY**  
 Hwy. 371 South, P.O. Box 149  
 Nisswa, Minnesota 56468

**3 MILES SOUTH OF NISSWA ON HWY 371**

- FREE ESTIMATES • FREE DELIVERY

"Quality Materials To Serve You Better"

We carry a full line of building materials for all your construction needs.  
 Marvin Windows ~ Acclimated Doors & more!

Mon.- Fri. 7am - 5pm  
 Sat. 8am - Noon

Phone: (218) 963-7470  
 Fax: (218) 963-7480

# GCOLA CONGRATULATES OUR FIRST LAKE STEWARDS:



Kathy and David Matthew had a vision for their new home on Gull Lake: it would be nestled among birches, pines and native grasses, with almost all the surrounding land kept in its natural state. But they had to fight for it.

Kathy and David wanted to find an architect who could create a home to complement the stunning lakeshore, rather than the other way around. They chose David Salmela of Duluth, who was reluctant to undertake a project over two hours away. They barraged him with messages and finally brought



their entire family (with 6-month-old grandchild) to Duluth to camp out on his doorstep. But what won Salmela over was the Matthews' vision of enfoldng the home into the natural landscape.

The building process was also challenging. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Shoreland Management Act, a crucial Minnesota law passed in 1969 to curb the destruction of natural lakeshore as shorelines saw heavy development. Setbacks from the lake were mandated, and clearing land indiscriminately was discouraged. Enforcement was delegated to counties and towns, who have worked hard to try to protect the lakeshore. The design for the house, perpendicular to the shoreline, was very environmentally friendly, but this concept was so different that it was difficult for others to accept. Instead of a lakeshore lawn, which would have allowed harmful runoff of polluting nutrients and silt into the lake, they have native grasses that are mowed once a year in the spring.

The Matthews' experience of living in a home surrounded by nature is exhilarating. "Every day we see something different: new flowers, butterflies, a bird we have to identify quickly, or the transitions as seasons change", says Kathy. In addition to a whole palette of native wildflowers, they have seen eagles, hawks, orioles and many other Minnesota birds. "We have so many birds nesting on our property and one of our greatest joys is watching the babies as they fledge and try to figure out the world. [Our landscape] provides so many birds their first opportunity to hide and feel safe once they have left the nest". David is a talented photographer who offered the photos of their lakeshore for this article.



# KATHY AND DAVID MATTHEW

Dorothy Whitmer, Lake Steward Program Coordinator

But most of all, Kathy and David Matthew are proud of their efforts to protect our lake for the future. Look for the Lake Steward sign on their property about a half mile north of Ernie's. And join the Lake Steward program! Take the 4-question Score Your Shore Mini-Assessment on GCOLA.org under "Get Involved" in the menu and enjoy the benefits of becoming a Lake Steward.

Photographs by David Matthew and Dorothy Whitmer





**BRADOW DOCK SERVICE**

PROUDLY SERVING THE  
LAKES AREA SINCE 1993

**218.963.0431**  
**REQUESTS@BRADOWDOCK.COM**  
**WWW.BRADOWDOCK.COM**



Bradow Dock Service strives to serve the Brainerd Lakes Area with excellence. In addition to installing and removing waterfront equipment, we also offer a variety of services such as canopy cleaning and storage, dock and lift sales, and equipment maintenance. Please let us know how we can best serve you. You can count on us to do the job right.



# LAKE STEWARD & SHORELINE RESTORATION PROGRAMS UPDATE

By Sheila Johnston, Environmental Committee Chair

# CONGRATULATIONS LAKE STEWARDS!

## Lake Steward Program

This summer GCOLA launched our new Lake Steward Program. The mission of the program is to restore and preserve the highest water quality and environmental standards and to promote responsible use of land and water on the Gull chain of lakes. As part of this program we are encouraging all property owners on the Gull chain to score their shore! The Score Your Shore Mini Assessment consists of only four questions and will take just two minutes to complete. Our goal is to have 80 percent of GCOLA members complete the SYS Mini Assessment by the end of the summer. 142 people have completed the survey thus far. Let's grow that number! Please visit [GCOLA.org](http://GCOLA.org), click on **Get Involved**, then **Lake Steward Program**, and you will find a link to the **SYS Mini Assessment**.

Property owners with high scores on the SYS Mini Assessment may qualify for a beautiful Lake Steward sign to post on the end of the dock or on their shoreline. The sign is awarded to property owners in recognition of their lake friendly management. 13 properties on Gull Lake, Lake Margaret, and Upper Gull have been awarded signs, and more are coming. The next time you are out for a boat ride, see if you can spot the Lake Steward signs on these beautiful properties.



Photograph by Dorothy Whitmer  
For more information on the Lake Steward Program, email Dorothy Whitmer, [lakesteward@gcola.org](mailto:lakesteward@gcola.org).

## Shoreline Restoration

If you would like to improve your score on the SYS Mini Assessment, you may be interested in taking advantage of GCOLA's Shoreline Restoration Program. GCOLA promotes shoreline restoration projects through this program and can connect you with other sources of funding. GCOLA will reimburse members for up to 50% of approved costs with a maximum of \$5000. Funds can be used for creating a shoreline buffer of native plants and to add native plants, trees, and shrubs to the upland zone on the lake front side of the property. Three new shoreline restoration projects were completed on the chain this year. Please contact Sheila Johnston, [sheilafjohnston@me.com](mailto:sheilafjohnston@me.com), for more information.



Photographs by Sheila Farrell Johnston



David & Kathy Matthew  
Gull Lake



Jennifer & Matt Smith Family  
Lake Margaret



Judy Brubaker, Joe Marchel, Lorraine Birkovich & Luna  
Gull Lake



Tim & Cindy Moore  
Upper Gull



Mary & Dave Platt  
Gull Lake



Crowther Family  
Gull Lake



Tom, Regina & Karen Driessen  
Gull Lake



Chapin/McNally Family  
Gull Lake



Carlotta Tutor & Barbara Vielma  
Gull Lake

By Sheila Johnston, Environmental Committee Chair



In 2019 we expanded our loon programs to include loon protection efforts. We initiated the Loon-Safe Boating Program in response to concerns about our loon population and the effects of boater activities on our loons. Beginning in May, over 1,500 loon-safe boating cards were distributed to boaters. We are thankful to our partners at Boats and Beyond, Lake Fun Rentals, Your Boat Club, Causeway on Gull, Grand View Lodge, Madden's on Gull Lake, Lykin's Pinehurst Resort, and the US Army Corp of Engineers at Government Point for distributing the cards and educating boaters.

## TIPS FOR LOON-SAFE BOATING



*Death from collision with a watercraft is one of the most common causes of loon deaths.*

- Please stay at least 150 feet away from loons, if possible.
- Young chicks are unable to

dive or get out of the way of boats. If struck by a boat, they will die.

- **SPEED KILLS!** Please keep your speed down near adult loons and chicks, especially outside no wake zones where loons rear their chicks.
- Do not separate loon families by boating between them. Loon parents are not able to protect their chicks when separated.
- Do not pursue loons. Let them decide how close they wish to come to your watercraft.
- Do not circle loons with your watercraft. This is harassment and is subject to a fine from the MN DNR.
- When pulling tubers, wake-boarders, or skiers do not allow them to get close to or separate loon families.
- Do not feed loons! Loons will start chasing baited hooks, endangering their lives.
- Do not cast towards loons.



*When threatened, adults will lift their body out of the water, flap their wings, and issue a tremolo call. This means, "Stay away!" If you see this display, please respect their territory*

Remember, the best way to observe loons is at a distance with binoculars.

If you see a sick, injured, or dead loon please call a conservation officer at 888-646-6367.

Thank you for protecting our loons! Please share this information with other boaters.

We also expanded our Loon Caution Sign Program. Loon caution signs were posted at four new locations near chick rearing areas on Gull Lake, Lake Margaret, and in the Point Narrows Channel on Bass Lake. Please contact Sheila Johnston if your property is located near a chick rearing area and you are interested in posting a loon caution sign on your property next spring.

We are thankful to the many volunteers who helped with the spring nest survey and July loon count! We began the 2019 Loon Survey with a nest survey, and 14 nests were identified on the chain. In July we did a chick and adult count. 15 chicks and 109 adults were counted. Compared to 2018, chick numbers were down a bit, but there were 39 more adults counted this year than in 2018. We are following a protocol that decreases the chance of loons being counted more than once, so the higher number of adults in 2019 is very good news. The average number of chicks per nest was 1.1. For the first time, we will be doing a chick survey in September to determine the number of chicks that survived the season. Complete results will be published in the next newsletter.

Despite our best efforts to improve loon-safe boating practices, both adults and chicks are still at great risk of being struck and killed by watercraft. Please use caution when boating near loons and spread the message to others.



© Sheila Farrell Johnston

*Photograph by Sheila Farrell Johnston*

For more information about GCOLA's loon programs, go to [GCOLA.org](http://GCOLA.org), scroll to the bottom of the **Home Page**, find **All About Loons**, and click **Loon Programs**. If you have questions, please contact Jane Edwards, [jedwards3718@gmail.com](mailto:jedwards3718@gmail.com) or Sheila Johnston, [sheilafjohnston@me.com](mailto:sheilafjohnston@me.com)

The Common Loon is Minnesota's state bird. There are many loon families on the Gull Chain of Lakes raising their young throughout the summer. As summer passes, adults leave their chicks alone more often, making them more vulnerable to being struck by a boat.

*Photographs by Sheila Farrell Johnston*



Chick in June with adult loon



Chick transitioning to flight feathers



Chick in late August, early September

Mary Jetland, Gull Lake Sailing School Board Member



### IT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A BUSY SUMMER!



### BOAT SAFETY AND SAILING LESSONS

This summer, enrollment numbers for both sailing and water safety classes have broken records.

90 slots have been filled for sailing classes this summer. Our lessons are open to all, and students include both local area youth and seasonal lake residents, some coming from as far as Connecticut and California. Full scholarships are available, to help ensure availability to anyone interested. Sailing as a sport is on the rise across the country and we are happy to be part of that in the Brainerd Lakes Area!



### ILYA MC Invitational

The Gull Lake Yacht Club and Sailing School (GLYC/GLSS) hosted the Inland Lake Yachting Association's 2019 MC Invitational. If you were out on Gull Lake July 19 – 21, you may have seen the beautiful fleet of boats participating in the regatta. Skippers who traveled from New York, Texas, Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin and a host of Minnesota lakes were here to sail against some of the best.



Among the participants were sibling duo and seasonal residents Vince Driessen and Katie Arvesen. Both grew up in lessons at Gull Lake Sailing School and have continued to give back to Gull Lake Sailing programs. Their passion for sailing continues as they compete nationally at the highest levels, often as top finishers. Driessen won the 2018 MC Masters Championship in Indianapolis and Arvesen finished the event as the top female sailor.



This summer's ILYA MC Invite could not have happened at GLYC/GLSS without an army of volunteers. Again, that's where Driessen and Arvesen are key to the success. Coming from a family with nine children and a multigenerational love of sailing gives you a built-in team to assist. With Katie and Vince at the helm, many other GLYC/GLSS supporters joined in to ensure this event was a success.

Variable weather delayed a few races, but sailors were able to compete in four full races. Event participants enjoyed the wonderful Minnesota hospitality GLYC/GLSS extended between races. From great local restaurants on the lake to a tenderloin dinner at the clubhouse, as well as breakfast and hearty lunches, sailors went away extremely happy with all the area had to offer.

In the end it was Dave Anderson from Gull Lake who closed out the top ten. Katie Arvesen was again the top female, with Driessen finishing 12th. A strong showing from GLYC sailors!

### Brainerd Area High School Racing

2018 was the inaugural year of the Brainerd Junior High and High School racing team. In 2019, the spring team raced on both Lake Minnetonka and Bde Maka Ska (Lake Calhoun), experiencing top competition and showing great improvements throughout the season. Several team members are now serving as assistant summer instructors as they have been able to greatly expand their knowledge and experience through this program. **The fall team practice will begin September 3**, holding an open house week for area youth to come try out this wonderful life sport, at no charge. Scholarships are available, making sailing possible for anyone with an interest in the sport. Come out and give it a try!

### Events Still to Come and Open to All

- Gull Lake Sailing School Golf Tournament August 10 at The Pines
- Lakes Area Music Festival August 12th at Gull Lake Yacht Club

All proceeds benefit Gull Lake Sailing School with information available at GLYC.com



**We Create Outdoor Dreams**

**Backyard Reflections INC.**  
1700 C. FREDERICK LAMBERT DR. GREENSBORO, MN

Annandale, MN | Nisswa, MN | www.backyardmn.com | 877-365-4034

**Trust your Water Treatment and Heating & Cooling to Us.**

Local & family-owned since 1987 • *Earning the Right to be Recommended!*<sup>TM</sup>

**AQUARIUS** HOME SERVICES | **Kinetico** water systems

*Heating & Air Conditioning*  
**Amana**  
LASTS AND LASTS AND LASTS.

We pride ourselves on providing superior service—we respect you, your time and your home. Our 100% performance guarantee is backed by the best material, product and labor warranties in the business.

**We solve problem water. GUARANTEED.**

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR **FREE WATER ANALYSIS AND ESTIMATE\***

\* Free water test includes hardness, iron, pH, tds and chlorine  
CODE: NP2015

**AquariusHS.com** HEATING & COOLING | **888.674.6509** | **KineticoMN.com** WATER TREATMENT

# Find us on

Gull Chain of Lakes Association is now on Facebook! Enter Gull Chain in your Facebook search box to like our page. Use it to learn more about the key issues impacting the Gull Lake chain and events that we sponsor. Thank you for making a difference in our lake community by sharing our posts with your Facebook friends!






**Cub**  
**BRAINERD AND BAXTER**  
**GROCERY DELIVERY**  
**NOW AVAILABLE**  
 VISIT: [SHOP.CUB.COM](http://SHOP.CUB.COM)

**FUTURE PROOF YOUR HOME**

Connect to the fastest internet in town, with speeds up to 1 Gig, that's 1,000 Mbps!

**Call today!**

**CTC** (800) 753-9104 | (218) 454-1234  
[goctc.com](http://goctc.com) |   

**Supporter of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association**

**Kurt B. Nelson**  
 Vice President/Investments  
 (218) 828-3204 | (888) 823-4385  
[nelsonk@stifel.com](mailto:nelsonk@stifel.com)  
 14275 Golf Course Drive, Suite 100  
 Baxter, Minnesota 56425

**STIFEL**

Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated | Member SIPC & NYSE | [www.stifel.com](http://www.stifel.com)

**Midwest Family EYE CENTER**

"our focus is on you"

Dr. Jackie McCall  
 7870 Excelsior Road  
 Baxter, MN 56425  
 218.828.9545  
 toll free 877.338.3937

[midwestfamilyeyecenter.com](http://midwestfamilyeyecenter.com)

## WAKE RESPONSIBLY

- 1 Stay at least 150 feet away** from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.
- 2 Keep music at reasonable levels.** Sound travels well over water. If it's loud enough to hear at 80 feet back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear, too.
- 3 Minimize repetitive passes** on any one portion of shoreline. Once you've run the same line for a while, move on to another area.



REMEMBER, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR OWN WAKE.

**wsia**  
 WATER SPORTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
 "To Promote & Protect"

October 24~November 3, 2019  
**WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE**  
 7 Day Cruise with 2 full days in Barcelona, Spain

Please join me this fall as we discover together the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea onboard the Norwegian Epic! Price of \$3,896.00 PPDO, includes 2 nights in Barcelona with breakfast, mini suite on cruise with private balcony, free open bar, great food and entertainment, all gratuities paid and a \$1,200 credit towards airfare.

 Claudia Around The World Tours  
 218-513-8922  
[www.ClaudiaAroundTheWorld.com](http://www.ClaudiaAroundTheWorld.com)

 Claudia Allene  
 Your Guide

A family business for your family event

**PARTY TIME RENTAL**

218-829-6300  
[PartytimeRentalMN.com](http://PartytimeRentalMN.com)

**SHERWOOD FOREST LODGE**  
 FOOD & SPIRITS

As listed on the Minnesota Historical Society, this 1920's MUST EXPERIENCE restaurant features a large log interior with fireplace, full bar, and outdoor patio.  
 Located in Lake Shore | 218-963-6261 | [www.sherwoodforest.3cheersmn.com](http://www.sherwoodforest.3cheersmn.com)

*Hole in the Day*  
 A NOVEL

**From local author Steven A. Carr**  
 The quest for the Ojibwa treasure

Available from:  
 Amazon, Outskirts Press, and  
 Madden Bros. Store.

STEVEN A. CARR

**PARTS - SALES - SERVICE - STORAGE**



Brainerd 17821 Hwy 371 218-822-3500  
 Ramsey 6781 Hwy 10 NW 763-576-1706  
 Onamia 33972 US Hwy 169 320-532-3860



**LUND LOWE & RANGER BOATS**  
**YAMAHA CLUB CAR & EZGO GOLF CARTS**  
**TEXTRON ARGO & POLARIS OFF ROAD**  
**SLINGSHOT PORTA DOCK ALUMA**

[www.powerlodge.com](http://www.powerlodge.com)



**UP NORTH FIREPLACE GALLERY**  
**CALL OR VISIT OUR LARGE SHOWROOM TODAY!**  
 Specializing in Contemporary & Traditional Fireplace Design

**OUR HEARTH EXPERTS MAKE IT EASY!**

- Family-Owned and Operated since 2006
- Complete Design Process
- Gas and Wood Inserts, Stoves, or Fireplaces
- Stone (Real or Cultured)
- Mantels and a Full Line of Accessories
- Made in the USA



**MAKE YOUR DREAM FIREPLACE OR STOVE A REALITY!**

**218-454-1040**

14322 Dellwood Dr • Baxter, MN 56425  
[www.upnorthfireplacegallery.com](http://www.upnorthfireplacegallery.com)

HARMAN HEAT & GLO QUADRA-FIRE heatilator VERMONT

# MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

**JANE EDWARDS**



While growing up in south Minneapolis, "The City of Lakes," and spending summer weekends at my parent's cabin "up north" I learned to love and respect our beautiful lakes. After college my husband's and my careers took us away from Minnesota, and we lived out of state for 30 years. Five years ago, longing to return to our home state, we purchased our lake home on the Gull chain.

individually unique and each a precious natural resource for all of us to enjoy. But, we also need to protect these gifts. The GCOLA team is committed to preserving our lakes and shores for years to come. They are our lake's stewards, making up a team of dedicated and talented volunteers. Thank you for letting me be a part of your team.

As we began to settle into our new lake community, we quickly met many incredible people. Having been engaged in a fast-paced hospitality and recreation career for over 30 years, I was always the happiest when I was part of a team. A neighbor invited me to attend a GCOLA board meeting. The focus of their work and the talent I saw in the room was impressive. The lakes that make up the Gull chain are



Is your water safe to drink?

**AW research laboratories**

Certified testing for safe drinking water  
 coliform bacteria • nitrates • arsenic

**\$10 OFF WELL TESTING FOR GCOLA MEMBERS**  
[www.awlab.com](http://www.awlab.com)  
 (218) 829-7974



A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.  
 16326 Airport Road, Brainerd, MN 56401

Our Produce is **Berry Good!**

We carry an excellent variety of garden fresh, premium produce, including organic and locally grown.



**Schaefer's FOODS**

Hwy 371 Nisswa • 963-2265  
[www.SchaefersFoods.com](http://www.SchaefersFoods.com)



**Serving the entire Lakes Area**

**COMPLETE TREE CARE**

- Certified Arborists • Tree Consultations
- Deep Root Fertilization • Injections
- Root Regeneration • Disease Recognition

**Free Estimates Insured/ Certified**

Tree Removal • Mulch  
 Brush Chipping • Stump Removal  
 Pruning/Trimming

**PROMPT YEAR ROUND SERVICE**  
 218.825.8207  
[www.mikestreecompany.com](http://www.mikestreecompany.com)



**OVER 50 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

**ACCOUNTING:** Personal & Business Financial Statements

**AUDITING:** Small Business, Gambling & Other Non-Profit

**BOOKKEEPING:** Payroll & Other Data Processing

**CONSULTING:** Management & Computer Advisory Services

**FINANCIAL PLANNING:** Personal & Business Financial Planning

**TAX SERVICES:** Personal, Business, Estates & Gift Tax Returns

Bruce Johnson, CPA • Chris Ford, CPA  
 Jacen Gondringer, CPA • Tad Johnson, CPA • Tom Teasck, CPA

218-829-3501 Business Hwy 371 S 11610 Andrew St. Brainerd, MN 56401  
[www.brainerdCPA.com](http://www.brainerdCPA.com)

218-963-3424 Nisswa Office Kurilla Building #2 Nisswa, MN

# GCOLA LEGISLATIVE/GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Uldis Birznieks, Government Relations Committee Chairman



The Minnesota legislative session ended on May 20. The following is the outcome by the legislature on priorities and issues that we worked on during this session. Please note that priority issues not noted below such as increased AIS fines, no more stocking of muskies in the Gull Chain and getting the DNR Commissioner to make AIS a higher priority did not have an outcome this legislative session and will be worked in the 2020 session.

### AIS Surcharge Fee Increase

The 3-year AIS surcharge for watercraft was increased from \$5 to \$10.60. GCOLA had recommended to our legislators an increase in the range of \$7.50 - \$10 per watercraft.

### Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) Funding

The legislature approved two sources of funding for MAISRC. They approved \$510K/year for two years from the General Fund and \$3M from the Environmental Trust Fund. GCOLA had recommended approval for sustained funding for MAISRC. We, like many others, feel that remedies for slowing and stopping the spread of AIS will only be solved long-term through research by organizations such as MAISRC.

### Grants to lake associations to fight AIS

The legislature approved \$900K over the next two years for DNR AIS grants to lake associations. These grants will have a 50/50 share with the lake associations. GCOLA had strongly recommended reinstating these grants which had been stopped by the DNR for the last two years.

### Wright County Mandatory Watercraft Inspections

The Wright County Regional Inspection program, which was started in 2017 with mandatory inspections at a centralized location for three lakes, has been stopped as of July 12, 2019. The lake associations in Wright County sought to increase the program from three lakes to eight lakes. This proposal was extensively and consistently supported by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR), MNCOLA, the Initiative Foundation, GCOLA and other lake associations, however the efforts to secure DNR approval failed. There was no support from the DNR to fund or enforce the regional inspection model, so legislators did not go forward with an amendment proposed for the expansion of the program for the Omnibus bill.

### Regulations for watercraft causing shoreline erosion (due to large wakes), underwater turbulence and excessive / inappropriate noise

This issue has quickly risen to a high priority as many residents on the smaller lakes in the Gull Chain are complaining about the large wakes created by boats. This issue has gained local, state and national attention. The issue was highlighted/discussed at both the MLR Annual Meeting and the MNCOLA annual meeting. Steve Frawley from our Govt Relations Committee has accepted the lead for GCOLA on this issue. He participated in a meeting/interview with Kirsti Marone from Minnesota Public Radio on July 24. Steve also is representing GCOLA as a member of a state-wide group that is collecting additional information on this issue and looking at what can be presented for a potential legislative bill for the 2020 Minnesota legislative session or for local governmental units. This issue has many aspects and potential outcomes and GCOLA will work with and communicate with all local parties involved including property owners, boat users and the retail boating businesses.

As a final legislative/government relations update for this quarter, Uldis Birznieks was nominated and voted onto the MNCOLA Board of Directors at the MNCOLA Annual Meeting. He will be serving a two-year term. MNCOLA is the state-wide umbrella organization for all Minnesota lake associations and it will benefit our Gull Chain of Lakes to have GCOLA representative working our lake-related issues at the state level.

**Gas @ Love Lake Marina on Gull**  
**SNACKS • BEVERAGES • ICE • BAIT**  
 JUST NORTH OF YACHT CLUB, THROUGH LOVE LAKE CHANNEL

Boats and Beyond Rentals.com

SMOOTH, EASY, PAY AT THE PUMP

218-963-7700

www.BoatsandBeyondRentals.com

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

# YOUTH BOAT SAFETY CLASSES

Rosemary Goff, Board Member

Over fifty (50) youth took advantage of boat safety classes offered earlier this summer. The classes were sponsored by the Cass and Crow Wing Sheriff's Departments and the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers. The participants were given classroom instructions in boat safety by Crow Wing County Deputy Todd Holk and Cass County Deputy Sheriff Travis Collette and had the opportunity to experience "hands on" training in a boat. A special thanks to the Gull Lake Yacht Club/Sailing School for offering their facilities for the training

and Zorbaz on Gull for providing a noon lunch of pizzas. The Gull Chain of Lakes Association provided a new life jacket to each participant.

Since several youths were turned away, at the suggestion of the Deputy Sheriff, we are considering adding a third-class next year. The 2020 spring newsletter will have the dates for the 2020 classes for youth between the ages of 12 and 17. Also check Facebook and our website for next year's dates.



## REMINDER TO BOAT OWNERS ON THE GULL LAKE CHAIN

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association wants to remind all boat owners who leave their boats on lifts in the Gull Lake chain that because of the presence of zebra mussels all motor lower units should be stored out of the water. If left in the water, zebra mussel veligers (larvae of zebra mussels) may get into motor cooling systems and burn out water pumps and/or ruin the motor. In past years, it's been noted that many boats on lifts had the motor lower units left in the water. Be sure to lift them high enough to be out of the water.



This is what a good day looks like.



## ORTHOPEDICS LIKE NOWHERE ELSE

When joint pain keeps us from doing what we love, it can affect our entire way of life. That's why we meet these challenges head on — one by one, day after day. So whatever your good day looks like, we'll find it together.

Get started now — call 218-829-7812 or visit [EssentiaHealth.org](http://EssentiaHealth.org).



**Essentia Health**

St. Joseph's-  
Orthopedics & Rehabilitation Clinic

Join our team: [EssentiaCareers.org](http://EssentiaCareers.org)

# IS YOUR WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc.

Safe drinking water is essential to our health and well-being, yet it is something that we often take for granted. There are several contaminants that can affect the safety of drinking water. Some such as bacteria or parasites can make us sick right away while others such as arsenic cause more chronic health problems over a long period of time.

If you have a well, you should test your water annually to make sure that it is safe to drink. Cities and municipalities are required to test their water for safety on a regular basis; however, if you own your own well, it's up to you to make sure your water is safe. The Minnesota Department of Health recommends testing your well once every year for coliform bacteria, once every 1-3 years for nitrates, and at least once for arsenic during the life of the well.

**Coliform bacteria** are a closely related group of bacteria species that live in the intestinal tracts of animals and are generally not harmful to human health. A few types of bacteria within the total coliform group, most notably E. coli, can cause serious gastrointestinal problems. Coliform bacteria are common in the environment and are easily identified during routine water testing; therefore, they are frequently used as indicators that a water supply may be contaminated.

**Nitrate** is a form of nitrogen and is a common contaminant in wells throughout Minnesota. Most of the nitrate in the environment comes from decomposition of organic material; however, nitrates are also added to the environment in the form of fertilizers or septic waste. High nitrate levels pose a health concern for young children and infants.

**Arsenic** is a naturally occurring element that can enter drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or

from agricultural and industrial practices. The health risks associated with arsenic result from low-level exposure over a long period of time such as skin damage, problems with nervous or circulatory systems, and an increased risk of some forms of cancer. The health limit for arsenic is 10.0 parts per billion (ppb). The Minnesota Department of Health estimates that approximately 10% of wells in Minnesota have arsenic exceeding the health limit.

So how do you know if your water is safe to drink? Most of the contaminants that are a concern for our health are colorless and odorless. There is no way to know for sure that your water is safe to drink unless you have it tested by a certified laboratory.

**A.W. Research Laboratories, Inc. is partnering with GCOLA to offer discounted safe drinking water testing to all residents of the Gull Chain.**

Safe Drinking Water kits may be purchased for \$56.00 (a \$10 savings off the regular price) through December 31, 2019. Please contact the lab by calling 218-829-7974 or email [sarah@awlab.com](mailto:sarah@awlab.com) to order your kit. Payment is due at the time of order. Kits may be picked up at the lab (located at the Brainerd Lakes Regional Airport) or mailed to the homeowner for an additional fee of \$4.



ANALYTICAL LABORATORY, ONSITE SAMPLING, AND CONSULTING SERVICES

OVER 1,000 CARS AT MILLSAUTO.COM!

An advertisement for Mills Auto featuring a grid of white boxes, each containing a different car brand logo. The logos include Buick, Lincoln, Honda, Ram, Nissan, Ford, Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Toyota, and GMC. A red banner at the top left says 'MILLS SINCE 1922'. At the bottom, a blue banner says 'MILLS THE AREA LEADER IN SALES, SERVICE, AND ACCESSORIES!'.

Get Back to the Lake!

BOAT REPAIR • CUSTOM DETAILING • MARINE ACCESSORIES  
AUTHORIZED FACTORY REPAIR FOR MANY MAKES & MODELS

An advertisement for Body Works Marine Repair & Detail. It features a blue background with a white boat wake on a lake. The text includes 'Get Back to the Lake!', 'BOAT REPAIR • CUSTOM DETAILING • MARINE ACCESSORIES', 'AUTHORIZED FACTORY REPAIR FOR MANY MAKES & MODELS', and the 'Body Works MARINE REPAIR & DETAIL' logo. Contact information at the bottom: 'HIGHWAY 371 N. • BRAINERD/BAXTER 800-991-9039 • 218-825-3500' and 'VISIT US ONLINE: THEBODYWORKS.COM'.

# ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY LAKES NEEDS YOUR HELP!



## IT'S ILLEGAL TO...

**TRANSPORT** aquatic plants, water, or prohibited invasive species (e.g., zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil).

**DUMP** live bait into state waters, on the shore, or on the ground.

**LAUNCH** or attempt to place, watercraft or trailers with aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or prohibited invasive species into any waters of the state.

## IT'S THE LAW!

**CLEAN** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited species off of watercraft, trailers, and equipment before transporting from any water access.

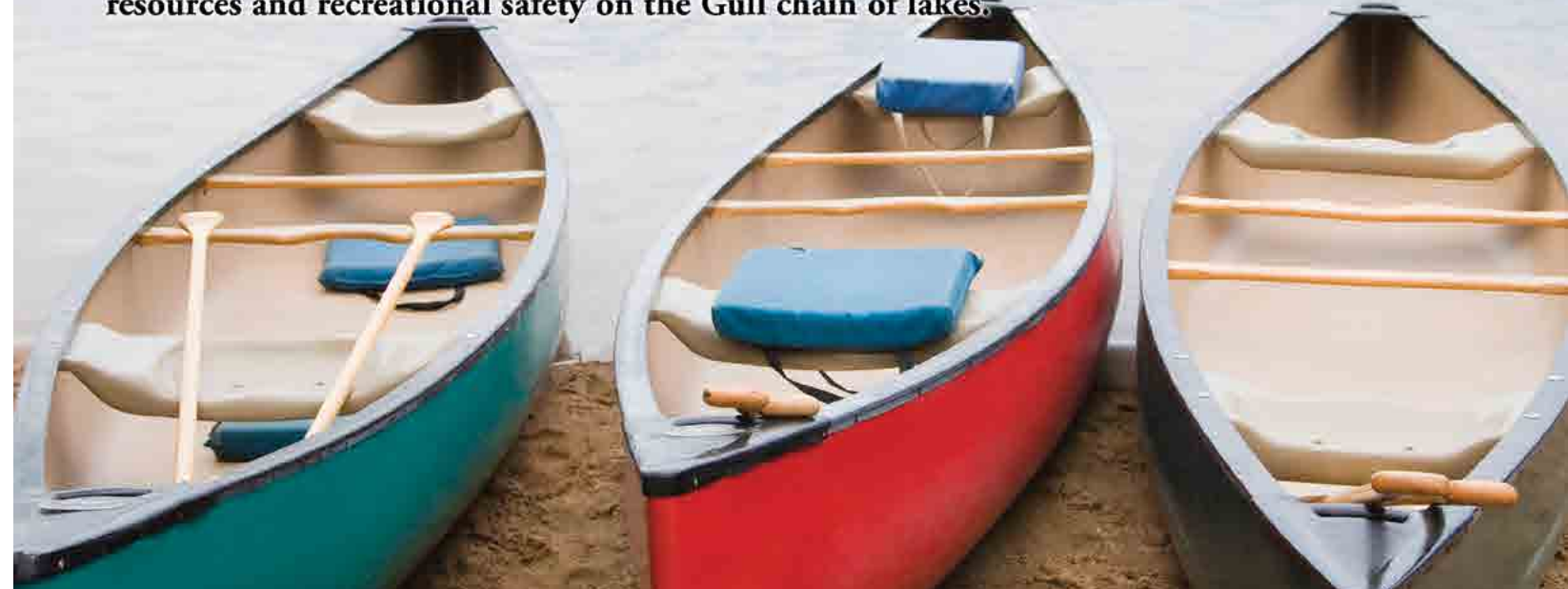
**DRAIN** water from the boat's bilge, livewell, motor, ballast tanks, and portable bait containers before transport from water access site or shoreline property.

**KEEP** drain plug and water draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

*THANK YOU....CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Gull Chain of Lakes Association is an alliance of individuals, families and business owners in the Gull Chain of Lakes in Cass and Crow Wing Counties. The Association is devoted to the restoration and continued preservation of the highest water quality and environmental standards achievable, promotion of the responsible use of land and water resources and recreational safety on the Gull chain of lakes.





**COME SEE FOR YOURSELF**  
**SHOWROOM/EXPERIENCE CENTER**  
 1924 S. 10TH STREET, BRAINERD



Providing the best in **home entertainment, automation, and lighting control systems** for the Brainerd Lakes and surrounding areas

**DIGITALHORIZONSMN.COM 218-330-4140**

*Creative*  
**Inspiration for the entire Lakes Area**

We want to be your design, offset printing, digital printing, bindery and mailing professionals.

We want to be your printer. Please contact us.

**LAKES PRINTING**  
 БУДИЩЕ ГУКЕ  
 WHATEVER IT TAKES

218-829-7790 | Fax: 218-829-0977  
 1223 Oak Street, Brainerd, MN 56401  
 www.lakesprinting.com



# ALL ARE WELCOME TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS



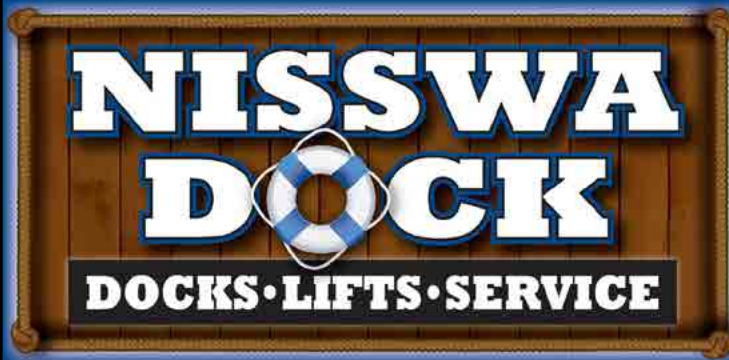
Steve Alex      Uldis Birznicks      Jay Chaney      Jane Edwards      Robert Eliason      Steve Frawley      Sue Friedrichs



Rosemary Goff      Linda Harrier      Chuck Herrig      John Ingleman      Sheila Johnson      Marv Meyer      Bob Toborg


You are all welcome to join us at our monthly Board of Directors' meetings. We meet at Grand View Lodge on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. Upcoming 2019 meeting dates are September 11, October 9, November 13 and December 11. We usually adjourn around 10:00 a.m.

*Come see what we do.*



**NISSWA DOCK**  
DOCKS • LIFTS • SERVICE

24428 SMILEY ROAD, NISSWA MN



Toll free | 800-322-3525  
Web | NISSWADOCK.COM



Now offering cabinets for your outdoor living space





17753 State Highway 371  
Brainerd, MN  
218-828-0620  
www.CrowWingCabinets.com

# GULL CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION 2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT <sup>30</sup>

Dues for the lake association are \$50 per year. They are payable anytime from January 1 – December 31. We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation which means that money donated by you is tax deductible. Contributions above the \$50 dues are greatly appreciated.

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 as to whether you are current with your dues, call Sue at 612-751-6156 or send an email to [info@gcola.org](mailto:info@gcola.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2019 dues: \$50.00

Additional donation designated to:

+ Invasive Species Fund \_\_\_\_\_ + Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_ + Buoy Fund \_\_\_\_\_ + Board Discretion \_\_\_\_\_

= Total Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_



# WHAT WE DO

## YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION IS WORKING FOR YOU!

- Purchases, installs and maintains one of the premier navigational buoy systems (90 buoys) in the State of Minnesota. *This system is NOT provided by local law enforcement.* We also install the no wake enforcement buoys for the sheriff's department.
- Provides free maps with boating rules and regulation at three public landings.
- In partnership with Cass and Crow Wing county sheriffs, provides free boat safety training for approximately 50 youth per year. The lake association also gives each participant a life jacket.
- Entered an agreement with the City of Lake Shore Police Department to provide water craft inspections for invasive species at the County 77 boat landing.
- Monitors lakes and streams running into the Chain for water quality. The samples are being taken by GCOLA member volunteers, with testing completed by licensed environmental labs. With the testing completed we have established a data base which will help us identify problems now and in the future and provide guidance for action plans.
- Conducts inspections twice in the summer at 24 locations to look for invasive species.
- Takes weekly secchi disk readings during the summer to test the water clarity.
- Promotes lakeshore restoration projects. We are currently providing matching grants for restoration projects through grants received from the DNR and the Initiative Foundation. Property owners with high scores on the Score Your Shore Mini Assessment may be awarded a Lake Steward sign to post on their dock or shoreline.
- Since 2010 donated over 1200 white pine seedlings to members.
- Works with county sheriffs on safety and enforcement issues. We have donated to the sheriff's department night vision equipment, a range finder, life jackets and have made our buoy barge available for emergencies.
- Donated \$35,000 to the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research project to be specifically used for zebra mussel research.
- Conducts a yearly loon count in the spring and late summer and established a loon-safe boating program.
- Issues four newsletters per year to keep members informed about association programs and important issues affecting lake quality and property owners.
- Maintains a web site ([gcola.org](http://gcola.org)), a member group e-mail service and a Facebook page.
- Through the Initiative Foundation, established a perpetual Endowment Fund for ongoing support. With a \$50,000 Initiative Foundation matching grant, the fund is now well over \$314,000.
- Holds an annual meeting and gala in July.
- Entered a partnership with the Corps of Engineers to establish a boat power wash station at the corps' Gull Lake Recreation Area public access ramp.
- In order to keep apprised of lake issues and programs, maintains memberships with the Crow Wing Lakes and Rivers Alliance, the Association of Cass County Lakes, Minnesota Conservation and Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Association.

# LAKES PRINTING CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY

Lakes Printing in Brainerd is the only business that is allowed access to our Association member list and only for the purpose of mailing our newsletter. They have issued the following confidentiality policy.

We have a strict policy of confidentiality. We will not sell, trade, swap or in any other way use your list for anything except mailing your newsletter. We understand fully that you are the owner of the list and we simply have an electronic copy on our system for your use. This policy is not just for the Gull Chain of Lakes Association, it is applied to all customers.



## CONVENIENT LOCATION ON THE WATER

TO ATTEND TO ALL OF YOUR SERVICE, STORAGE, & WINTERIZING NEEDS

Easily Accessible Gas Docks • Full Parts & Accessory Department • C-Store for Your Last-Minute Needs • On-the-Water Towing Available

**RENTALS: MAKE YOUR 2019 RESERVATIONS NOW!**



YOUR BOAT CLUB



YourBoatClub.com • 218-963-1010

# RARDIN CONSTRUCTION INC.

est. 1925

NEW CONSTRUCTION • REMODELING • ADDITIONS



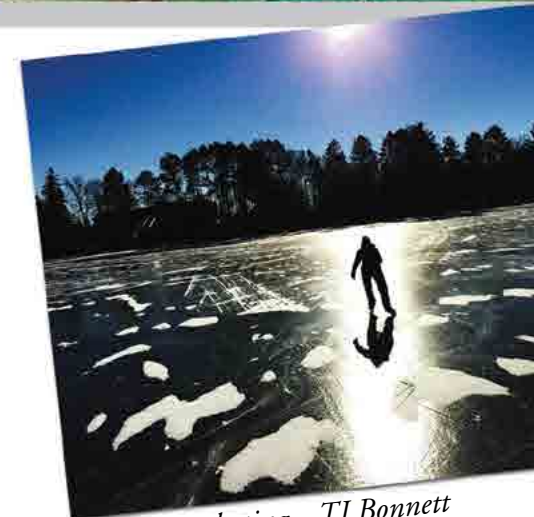
218-828-1268

[www.RardinConstruction.com](http://www.RardinConstruction.com)

SERVING THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA AND SURROUNDING

**WES HANSON BUILDERS INC.**  
**GENERAL CONTRACTORS AND PROFESSIONAL DESIGN**  
 LIC#0003452

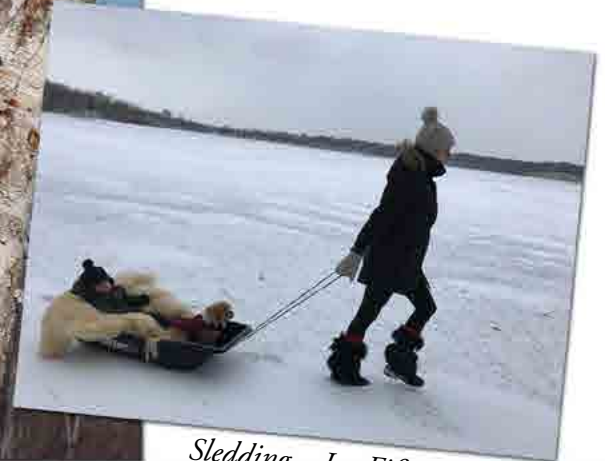
# PHOTOS WANTED



Ice skating – TJ Bonnett



Pileated – Dave Anderson



Sledding – Jay Fifield

Do you have photos you've taken around the Gull Lake chain you'd like to share with other members? We're putting together a library of pictures to be used in the GCOLA newsletter. We have a shortage of fishing and boating snapshots so those are especially appreciated. You will be given credit for any photographs printed in the newsletter. Putting a caption with the picture is also helpful. Your snapshots can be sent at full size to Sue Friedrichs at [info@gcola.org](mailto:info@gcola.org).

*All photos should be supplied at the highest resolution/largest size possible, thank you.*

**ALUMA Craft**  
**Misty Harbor**  
**CROWNLINE**  
**POWERED SUZUKI MARINE**

**Brainerd Sports & Marine**  
 Junction Hwy 18 & 25 in SE Brainerd  
 218-828-4728  
[www.brainerdsports.net](http://www.brainerdsports.net)

LISTENS. EXECUTES. EXCEEDS.

**VOTED #1 BEST HOME BUILDER**  
**Best of THE BRAINERD LAKES 2018**  
 Presented by the Brainerd Dispatch

NO ONE BUILDS LIKE NOR-SON.  
 Voted BEST HOME BUILDER in the Brainerd Lakes Area!  
 See our award-winning homes at [Nor-SonResidential.com](http://Nor-SonResidential.com)

**NOR-SON CUSTOM BUILDERS**



# The Harbor Estates BEGIN WITH US



The Harbor at East Gull Lake is a single-family lake home community located on the Gull Lake chain of lakes. It features 27 Baratto Brothers high quality, custom built craftsman style homes.

Gull Lake Luxury Lake Homes

Baratto Brothers Quality & Style

Beautiful Nature and Harbor Views

Private Harbor with 30+ Boat Slips

Pool, Putting Green & Walking Paths

26+ Acres of Community Grounds

High-end Finishes & Architecture

# The Harbor at East Gull Lake



David Mernin, New Home Advisor  
dave@lakesareahomes.mn

(218) 820-4668 | www.theharbor.info

**LIFETIME  
DH  
WARRANTY**

**PIER  
PLEASURE**  
LIFTS • DOCKS • ACCESSORIES

# Lakeside Living

DH Docks, LLC

www.dhdocks.com | 218-963-2566  
instagram/facebook: @dhdocksnisw





GULL CHAIN of LAKES  
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 102  
Nisswa, Minnesota 56468

PSRT  
FIRST CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Brainerd, MN  
Permit No. 471

Find us on 



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

Please check out your newsletter on our website:  
**GCOLA.ORG**

*MasterCraft*

THIS IS WHAT  
WE LIVE FOR.

