



## Alligator & Inspiration

“It’s All About the Water”

Winter 2017

### **From Our President, Bill Witler**

Greetings from Glen Lake. We hope you all enjoyed a great holiday season & are off to a happy & healthy start in 2017.

Thank you to all our volunteers & members for their continued support in 2016 of the GLA in both time & money. We are fortunate to benefit from your donations, including support of our new suggested giving dues levels, allowing us to fully fund our annual budgeted activities. I would like to mention the loss in 2016 of three highly respected volunteer leaders whose contributions over the years to our community & this organization were recognized by significant donations to the GLA in their memory– Pat Dutmers, Karen Anderson & Sarah Litch; three great ladies that we will greatly miss.

In recognition of Sarah Litch’s extraordinary dedication and outstanding contributions to the association, we will be designating our watercraft a research vessel and naming it the “R. V. Sarah”.

Your association worked hard in pursuing our primary mission of preserving the quality of our great water resources & also selectively participated in some quality of life issues, e.g. speed limit studies. We undertake our initiatives cautiously as we do not want to stray a far from our primary & unifying goal of preserving water quality. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts with me or one of your directors as our agenda evolves from time to time.

We have chosen to continue the recent tradition of using a “by the numbers” approach to our winter newsletter in addition to informational articles & the listings of 2016 active members & lifetime donors. Membership feedback has been favorable & we hope you enjoy the change of pace.

A brief review of 2016 finds continued high water quality in great part due to the success of managing invasive species through our vigilant & thorough hydrologic testing & preventive measures like the boat wash at the public boat launch on Day Forest Road & treatment of invasive species like coltsfoot.



Despite the completion of the Hatlem Pond dredge, work funded by your pledges continues. The GLA and pond landowner are working together with professionals to insure the Hatlem Pond dam is secure & are obtaining a hydrological study to estimate how the dam will handle a 100 year rain event. The GLA also commissioned a post dredge study of the pond bottom concluding that under normal conditions it will take about 20 years to fill requiring a maintenance dredge in 15 years.

Our “Discovery Boat” series of hands on education led by Rob Karner was expanded & received great reviews including significant contributions to our GLA by inspired participants & observers.

We believe that our investment in information technologies for our database & website have enabled us to communicate more often & effectively, especially with ongoing video posts thanks to Rob Karner’s cinematography & educational production ability.

We sponsored & help lead a coalition of lake associations known as the MSIP (Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership) in obtaining a \$250,000 grant from the State of Michigan

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*The Glen Lake Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation and continued improvement of the beautiful Glen Lake area.*

## President's Message, continued

Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to be spent to control swimmers itch in the beautiful lakes that are a cornerstone of the "Pure Michigan" tourism campaign.

In addition to the recurring activities of managing water quality, cornerstones of our 2017 plans include employing new strategies in our ongoing battle to control swimmers' itch ("SI"), updates to the 2015 Guardian Program, expanded Discovery Boat experience, & membership retention & expansion including a focus on business membership.

Thanks again for all you do in making this place so special!

Bill Witler

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## Karner's Korner

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### Swimmer's Itch

The GLA is committed to reducing swimmer's itch in 2017 & beyond & we consider it one of our top priority projects. Historically over the past several years, we have implemented a very aggressive merganser duck harassment program in the spring & fall. This time & expense was designed to discourage mergansers from nesting in tree cavities near shore or loafing on particular shorelines, & to encourage both resident & migrating mergansers to bypass our lakes on their migratory paths during spring & fall migrations.

After careful evaluation of our 2016 harassment program, it has been deemed that the **GLA will no longer do spring harassments** directed at mergansers. However, the **GLA will implement fall harassment in 2017**. There are two reasons for this change. The first is that in the spring of 2016, despite a doubled effort to harass, we were unable to discourage female mergansers from nesting & had an unusual number of broods & a record number of merganser chicks. The second & most important reason is that the GLA is planning to live trap & relocate merganser broods in the spring of 2017. Live trapping is nearly impossible if the merganser broods have been harassed - by anyone. It makes the merganser broods nearly un-trappable.

So, if you are reading all of this so far, please pause & take note:

**Do not harass any mergansers on Glen Lake (and Fisher Lakes) during the spring seasons until further notice!!**

I know for a fact that many riparians have tried to help control swimmer's itch by implementing their own harassment practices (thanks for your good work). The GLA would be happy to see your support for harassment in the **fall but not in the spring**. If we are going to have any success in controlling swimmer's itch in the future, we will need the cooperation of everyone. No exceptions.

One way that will prove to be invaluable to our control of swimmer's itch will be to ask volunteers to become extra observant around their shoreline in the spring & watch for any merganser nesting activity. If you think you have found a merganser nest, please contact the GLA office at 231-334-7645. Mergansers nest in tree cavities within several hundred feet of the shoreline. We hope to place video cameras on each nest we find in order to learn more about merganser practices. Hopefully, this will give us an upper hand in preventing future nesting & saving GLA time & money. We also welcome volunteers to share images from their own cameras that show merganser nesting behavior.

Also, the GLA is a key player in the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MSIP) & will have access to state funding for a variety of swimmer's itch control & research activities. I anticipate a second state swimmer's itch appropriation of \$250,000 for 2017 that we will obtain a share of to help offset some of our costs. We will still need GLA members to provide financial support in addition to this state funding.

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## Karner's Korner, continued

Another way we could use volunteer support is by reporting any & all cases of swimmer's itch at [www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org) Last year, 30 cases of swimmer's itch were recorded online. Five cases were from Little Glen & 25 cases were from Big Glen. Nearly all cases were reported after an early afternoon swim & most cases were reported during the months of July & the first half of August.

One final note on swimmer's itch is that GLA will be working together with other lakes, universities, & government to monitor levels of swimmer's itch - both before & after the trap & relocate activities. This new method of using pQCR (a DNA based metric) will help us evaluate the effectiveness of our control practices. This method is much cheaper, more accurate, & faster than the conventional "snail infection rate" metric we used in the past.

### Discovery Boat

I plan to offer more Discovery Boat sessions again this summer. They were very popular & all the 2016 sessions were sold out. You

can receive 2017 schedule priority by pre-registering at the GLA website under events. The detailed schedule for this program will be published in mid-May. The Discovery Boat program is a great way to learn what makes our watershed so special & provides answers to your questions about Glen Lake. Sessions are two hours long & are launched both morning & afternoon from Glen Craft Marina. I hope to see many of you this summer on the water!

### Water Quality - Guardian Program

The GLA sent out a postcard in December providing riparians a chance to evaluate how "lake friendly" you are by taking a personal online survey. I highly encourage every riparian to take their survey & see how well they score. The program has Gold, Silver, & Bronze categories for lake friendly riparians. I participated in a group of lake association volunteers that helped develop the content of this website & I know you will learn much about how you & your lake can cooperate for mutual benefit. The website is <http://www.mishorelandstewards.org>

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## From the Water Level Committee

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Working year-round to enhance your recreational activities.

**120** The number of trips Glen Lake Water Level Committee volunteers made to the Crystal River Dam last year to take readings and check for problems (like snow on the solar panel).

**0.1"** The amount Glen Lake would rise if 1 million people went swimming at the same time.



**1"** Amount of rain that is equivalent to 10 inches of snow at 30° F. At 10° F it takes 30 inches of snow to equal 1 inch of rain.

**23,000,000** How many gallons of water pass through the Crystal River per day in February. This is 100 times as much water as Ice Mountain pumps out of the Michigan basin.

## From the Membership Committee

**The Membership Committee extends its best wishes to all Members for a great 2017.** We're pleased to start the New Year with 574 Active Members (721 including family members). Our Active Riparian Membership stands at 453 (excluding family members).

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2017. Members' annual dues historically provide the GLA with 85% of our yearly operating funds. We're most grateful to our Members for renewing on a timely basis & for your additional financial contribution(s), as well. With much on the GLA 2017 agenda, we encourage you to consider renewing at a higher level & to also "nudge" family members to join individually. If your property is owned jointly, each co-owner is encouraged to be a member. This will help us financially & hopefully increase even more of our Members being active in the GLA.

The GLA Membership Committee has divided our watershed riparian properties (Glen, Fisher, Crystal River) into 24 neighborhoods with respective "captains". They are: Brooks Lake (Kay Riegel), Burdickville (Susan Haughn), Crystal River (Joy Taylor), Dune Hwy 1 (Ann Davey), Dunn's Farm Rd 0,1,2,3 (Andy DuPont, Charlie Wallace, Tom Dutmers, Lori Lyman,

Susan Haley), Dorsey Park (Chris Shugart), Day Forest 1 (Jerry Morawski), Day Forest 2 (Denny Becker), Glen Lake W1 (Bruce Alton), Glen Lake W2 (Ed Ricker), Glenmere (Ed Murphy), Little Glen S1 (Jim Chormann), Macfarlane 1 (Dale DeJager), & Tamarack Cove (Irene Bagby). A few neighborhoods are without captains at this time as we search for volunteers.

During the course of the summer, your captain may contact you to verify information such as e-mail address, postal address(es), & your preference for such correspondence as GLA Newsletter & other communications (USPS or e-mail).

We're very fortunate to have these volunteer captains. Their efforts are greatly appreciated & certainly contribute to our membership endeavors.

In closing, if you have any interest in getting involved in GLA Membership or need additional information regarding membership, please don't hesitate to contact us via the website, email or phone.

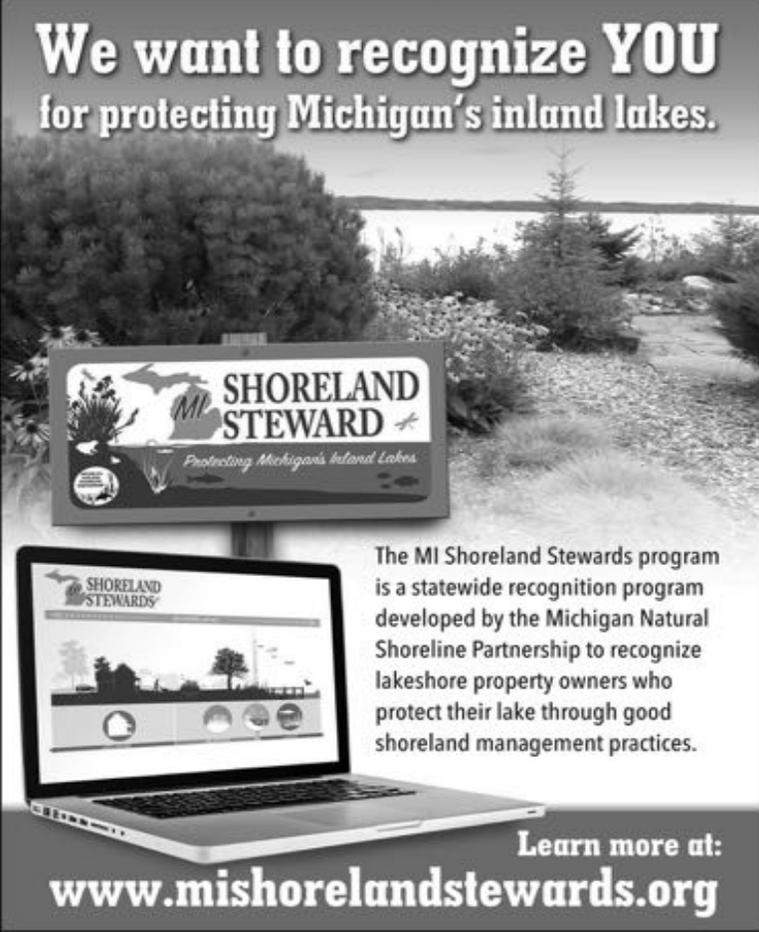
Respectfully Submitted,  
Cara Cassard  
Tom Dutmers  
Membership Committee

If you receive this newsletter in the US Mail, the mailing label indicates when your membership expires. Membership in the Glen Lake Association is on a calendar year basis. While dues must be paid by the date of the annual meeting for eligible members to vote, the GLA encourages payment early in the year and sends an email reminder to members in February if they have not yet paid for the current year. Once a member has paid for the current year, they are able to pre-pay for the subsequent year if they wish to do so.

You may renew your membership online (under the "Manage Profile" menu item on our website) or by mailing a check to the office: PO Box 551, Glen Arbor, MI 49636.

# Glen Lake Guardians

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**We want to recognize YOU**  
for protecting Michigan's inland lakes.

**SHORELAND STEWARD**  
*Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes*

The MI Shoreland Stewards program is a statewide recognition program developed by the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership to recognize lakeshore property owners who protect their lake through good shoreland management practices.

Learn more at:  
**[www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org)**

Every 2 years the GLA starts a new cycle for Glen Lake Guardians. We encourage our members to renew and update their pledge by going to [www.glenlakeassociation.com](http://www.glenlakeassociation.com) and clicking on the menu item for "Events". Scroll down and find "Become a Glen Lake Guardian (2017-2018)". Click on Register to renew or make your pledge. This cycle we are also encouraging our membership to become a Michigan Shoreland Steward by filling out the survey located at [www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org). At the Shoreland Stewards website you will find useful information about shorelands and have the opportunity to be recognized for your protection efforts.

# Speed Limits & Safety Around the Lake

The increase in full-time residents & tourists in the Glen Lake area has created more congestion on our street, rivers, & trails. A special committee has been established to explore possible reductions in speed limits & other traffic calming techniques in identified problem areas. This committee is working closely with townships, the National Park Service, local businesses, Friends of Sleeping Bear Trail, & other government agencies.

**75,000** Estimated number of bikers on the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail in 2016 - an increase of 27% from 2015



**40**

The new speed limit on Northwood Drive, recently approved by state & county officials

**30** The number of vehicle access points on a road within a half mile to qualify for 45 mph speed limit on that road

**1,647,309** The number of visitors at Sleeping Bear National Park for the 10 months ending October 31, 2016 - an increase of 29% over calendar year 2010



*Sue's hard at work on the GLA Newsletter*

# Accessing your membership information online

Last year the Glen Lake Association implemented a new online system that allows all members to:

- Renew and/or change your membership online. You can, optionally, pay online using either PayPal or a credit card at the time of your renewal. Alternatively, you can mail in your check to PO Box 551, Glen Arbor, MI 49636 as in the past.
- Access a secure online directory of the Glen Lake Association members. Only active members have access to the online directory. You can choose to opt out of the online directory or restrict what information you make visible to other members.
- Sign up for events. Events include things like becoming a Glen Lake Guardian, voting online, or registering & paying for programs like Discovery Boat that the GLA will again be sponsoring this summer.
- Add or remove family members from your membership if you are the family membership sponsor.
- Change other contact information about yourself such as your postal address(es), email address(es) & phone numbers. If you have two addresses you can control when postal mail will be sent to your local vs. away address.
- Make additional donations online, including Memorials, Honorariums & other donations.
- View a record of your prior membership payments & donations.
- Add a family photo to your membership record that will be visible in the directory.
- Nonmembers can register to become a member online or register for public events like Discovery Boat & make donations, but cannot access the online directory.

To access your account, go our website at <http://glenlakeassociation.org> & click on "Membership Login" in the upper right corner of the menu. Next enter the primary email address that we have on file for you & your password. (If you don't know or recall your password, click on "Forgot Password" on the login screen & follow the directions. You will be emailed a link that allows you to reset your password.)

Once you are logged in you will see four choices that you can select from along with a description of the choices at the bottom of the screen. These choices are:

- Directory – View the online directory of members
- Manage Profile – Join, Renew, or Manage your information, privacy, & email subscriptions)
- Events – View or register for upcoming events
- Donate – Make designated donations

If you have any questions or comments, send us an email: [glenlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:glenlakeassociation@gmail.com)



P.O. Box 551  
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

General Boxholder  
or Rural Route Holder

## Winter 2017

### GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION 2016-2017

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### OFFICERS

Bill Witler	President
David Hayes	Vice President
Lori Lyman	Secretary
David Herr	Treasurer

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Dennis Becker	Ranae Ihme
Cara Cassard	Cal Killen
John DePuy	Bill Meserve
Tom Dutmers	Vic Peirce

Watershed Biologist	Rob Karner
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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Auxiliary Development	Joan Kramps Lori Lyman Bruce Alton David Herr
Finance & Investment Fisheries, Wildlife, Recreation & Water Safety Historian	John DePuy Joan Kramps Bill Witler Cara Cassard Tom Dutmers Susanne Meserve
Long Range Planning Membership & Records	Andy DuPont Vic Peirce Cal Killen Bill Meserve
Newsletter Nominating Public Relations Technology Water Level Water Quality Web Site	Andy DuPont Vic Peirce

#### GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

Sallyanne Morris - Office Manager  
P.O. Box 551  
231-334-7645  
Fax 231-334-7470

#### GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

[www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org)  
email: [glenlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:glenlakeassociation@gmail.com)