

# ALLIGATOR AND INSPIRATION

*It's All About the Water*



Summer 2019

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## From Our President, David Hayes



My goal is to include more GLA members in our ongoing and exciting upcoming projects. Keeping everyone informed and involved will build confidence in our organization.

Here is a summary of the work we are doing on your behalf:

\* Swimmer's Itch- Rob Karner, his staff, and our partner Freshwater Solutions, LLC ("FWS") are continually conducting activities and searching for ways to mitigate if not solve this vexing problem. It will probably never be completely eradicated here or elsewhere on the many affected lakes in the US and Canada, but we are not giving up. Look for Rob's article for more details.

\* Hatlem Pond and Dam- We are continuing to monitor the depth of the pond to control unacceptable sediment discharges into the lake. Importantly, we are working with the owner of the Dam to improve its integrity to assure it will not fail in the event of unanticipated storm events.

\* Crystal River- We continue to measure chemical and physical parameters of the water every two weeks year round using our hydrolab as we have done continuously since 2004. In addition we are conducting an aquatic Insect survey of the middle and upper reaches of the river as follow up to 2017 study of the lower reaches in order to

create a health index of the study areas. We have also begun collecting data on watercraft traffic. All these activities allow us to chart trends and impacts in the future.

\* Water Quality and Water Level Committees- These committees spend an incredible amount of time monitoring the health of the water, keeping track of invasive species, and controlling the level of the lake and maintaining proper flow in the river in conformance with the court decree. We are committed to making sure these committees are appropriately staffed with capable volunteers going forward. Please reach out to me or Rob if you are interested in serving.

\* Boat Wash- This is probably one of the most important activities of the GLA because it is our front line defense against invasive species entering the lake. It costs us about \$30,000/year to operate and staff. We need to make sure we continue to raise these funds on a yearly basis.

\* Discovery Boat- An educational "hands on" program in the summer designed to educate participants of all ages about the unique aspects of our watershed along with highlighting how the GLA is actively and powerfully engaged in the mission of preserving and protecting our water - now and for future generations.

\* Enteric Bacteria- We are now investigating the extent to which pollution from septic systems

exists in our lakes. Using recently developed scientific testing methodologies (qPCR), we can now easily differentiate between human and animal sources. Again, we are partnering with FWS to determine if and where septic pollution "hot spots" are present in our surface waters.

\* Drone Surveys- This is a very exciting and important monitoring activity we have been pursuing for the last several years. This technology allows us to visually track changes in shoreline erosion, water quality (including possible areas of pollution from failed septs), the whereabouts of invasive species, etc. We intend to continue and expand our use of this versatile tool.

\* Watershed Protection Plan- This project is intended to guide uniformity in the regulations of our three local Townships for the purpose of protecting the water resources within the Glen Lake-Crystal River Watershed and to ensure that structures and uses are compatible with these unique resources. Through this process, we hope to prevent water pollution and water quality degradation. We have a very active committee working on this project and have hired a consultant to assist us. We expect to report on developments in the near future. Stay tuned.

\* Glen Lake Guardian Program- an ongoing grassroots program where All who live, work

or play in the watershed (GLA members and non-members) commit to do their part to protect and improve water quality by adopting simple "best management" strategies in their everyday life. The companion state-wide program "Michigan Shoreland Stewards" has ranked the GLA as number 1 in Michigan for participation in the online survey that allows for self-evaluation of one's stewardship of the water. Have you pledged or taken the survey yet? You can do so online.

\* Strategic Planning-The GLA has never had a strategic plan and with all the above mentioned activities in mind it's easy to see why your Board concluded it was time to have one. We have engaged a consultant to assist in this effort and expect to roll-out the Plan to the Membership in the next few months. We will discuss our progress on this initiative at the Annual Meeting in August.

Finally, Volunteerism is what has made us the best lake association in the State and maybe in the mid-west. There are incredibly capable people in our community and you can bet we will be continuing to call on you to help us protect and preserve the Glen Lake/Crystal River Watershed now and for future generations.

"It's All About The Water."



## Membership and Voting

We want to thank all of you who have already paid your annual dues for 2019. Your dues allow us to fulfill our mission. Of the 601 current memberships, 406 have paid dues as of 6/13/2019. Please look at the label on this newsletter to see your membership level and to confirm if you have paid your dues for 2019. If you have not yet paid your dues, please go online ([www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org)) and click on "Renew Your Membership" under the Membership Login menu item. Alternatively, you can mail a check using the enclosed envelope to the Glen Lake Association at P.O. Box 551, Glen Arbor, MI 49636. Your dues for this year must be paid this year by July 26 for your vote to be counted at the annual meeting, per our bylaws.

If you are eligible to vote, a proxy card is included in this newsletter. You may fill it out and return it via US Mail, or you may vote online at <https://glenlakeassociation.org/vote> (or login, click on events, and then click on the "Vote for Board of Directors" event). We encourage online voting as it simplifies our recordkeeping. Online voting closes on August 7, 2019 and any mailed proxy cards must also be received by that date.

## Swimmer's Itch Reporting

The Glen Lake Association is extremely fortunate to have watershed biologist, Rob Karner, leading the efforts to reduce the incidence of Swimmer's Itch in the Glen Lakes. The GLA, led by Rob, has invested considerable resources in this battle. We hope to see a noticeable reduction in cases this summer, but we know there will be some. And that's where we need your help.

Should you, a family member, or household guest contract a case of the Itch, we want to know about it! We have made the reporting process easier for you by placing a link for reporting Swimmer's Itch on the home page of the GLA website. The link is in the left-hand column on the home page below Webcam & Weather and Lake Stats. Scroll down and you will see a big blue button that will take you to a form to fill out with details of the case. Be sure to click on *Send Report* at the bottom of the form.

Rob always stresses the need for good data when doing science. The data you provide will help Rob identify any "hot spots" and provide valuable information for further Itch prevention efforts and research.

If you prefer, you can email details of a Swimmer's Itch case to [glenlakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:glenlakeassociation@gmail.com) or phone us at (231) 334-7645.

Thanks!



## Reminder: Annual Meeting on August 10, 2019

The Glen Lake Association (GLA) Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 10th, 2019 at the Glen Lake Community Reformed Church, 4902 W. MacFarlane Rd., Glen Arbor. The meeting will begin at 10:00 A.M. with an educational program, business meeting and member recognition awards. Lunch will be provided for all attendees immediately following the meeting.

Educational topics will include Swimmer's Itch and a State of the Lake report by GLA biologist, Rob Karner, the Glen Lake Watershed Guardian Program by Tricia Denton, plus how members can make an impact through their GLA involvement.



Also, at the meeting, members will have the opportunity to vote for new board members who are filling vacancies for terms that have expired and those seeking a second term. A nominating committee has identified qualified members and made their recommendations for the available positions. The GLA appreciates your participation in this important matter.

The GLA encourages you to bring a friend or neighbor, particularly someone who has never attended the Annual Meeting.

Free wildflower seeds will be provided to all attendees as a thank you for supporting the GLA.

For additional information, contact the Glen Lake Association office at (231) 334-7645 or visit [www.glenlakeassociation.org](http://www.glenlakeassociation.org).

# Karner's Korner



What happens when you put your best foot forward each step of the way in any endeavor? Hopefully, good things will come to pass. This best summarizes how the GLA is approaching our challenge to manage Swimmer's Itch. Following are a few of our "best foot forward" practices for this summer.

One "best foot forward" this summer, as with the last two summers, will be again **relocating the common merganser broods** from the lake to help set the stage for Itch reduction in 2020. This summer's Itch reduction will occur as a result of last year's brood relocation. Based on 3 decades of research and practice, this has been our best bet for managing Itch on a lake-wide basis. (Note: adult mergansers, without young are impossible and illegal to catch)

The second "best foot forward" is to **continue to conduct research** in partnership with Freshwater Solutions, LLC (FWS) in an effort to evaluate brood relocation and to discover how migrating ducks in the spring and fall may be contributing to Itch risk. In addition, we want to learn about other life cycles of Itch that may be adding to our Itch woes. Currently, we don't know if we need to manage these other life cycles involving other waterfowl such as mallards, geese, and swans and other species of parasites. (No federal or state permits currently exist for relocating mallards and other species of migratory ducks) However, gaining insights into what is actually going on at the parasite level will help guide us into future actions and/or decisions.

The research for 2019 is centered around two fundamental questions:

*Do spring and fall migrating waterfowl increase the Itch risk and thereby cancel out the effort to reduce Itch risk by relocating summer resident mergansers?*

*To what degree do other Itch-causing parasites in our water increase Itch risk as compared to the one parasite that has been historically reduced?*

All our water collecting efforts this spring/summer/fall will be analyzed for species of parasites and our waterfowl surveys/fecal samples will help answer these two important questions.

We also need to understand the consequences of relocating summer merganser broods. One question that needs answering is whether we are spreading Itch or increasing Itch risk to the relocation sites? The research this summer by FWS will include taking water samples at all the DNR approved

relocation sites in an effort to determine if the Itch-causing parasites are there. If they are, then we are only increasing the Itch risk for others when we relocate our broods. If the parasite is not there, then we are confident that we are breaking the life cycle and doing no harm by relocating them.

Perhaps another "best foot forward" is to be ready in the event that our relocation of summer broods of mergansers turns out to be marginally effective or even ineffective in managing Itch on a lake-wide basis. FWS has put two years of research effort into "**Safe Swim Areas**" (otherwise known as SSA's). Beginning in 2020, riparians of Glen Lake will have the option to create greatly reduced Itch risk swim area by setting up a SSA right in front of their shore at minimal cost and minimal effort! The research looks promising and GLA will communicate more specifics on this revolutionary approach in the coming year.

Finally, we advise everyone to **swim "smart"**.

Follow these tips to reduce your Itch risk:

- Avoiding the Itch is one way of managing the Itch risk. Therefore, do not enter shallow water when an onshore wind causes the parasites to "pile up" in the shallows. Also,
  - If possible, use a boat and swim in deep water where the Itch risk is negligible.
  - Make sure that, if you suspect Itch in the water, to towel off immediately when leaving the water.
  - Before swimming, try applying mineral oil to your skin which can act as a physical barrier to the parasite.
  - Lastly, avoid swimming in the morning and early afternoon hours. Research has shown that during those hours, the parasites are at the highest level compared to the rest of the day.

Please know that GLA is working hard to reduce the number of Itch cases for our swimmers. We are grateful for the involvement of all the volunteers, GLA board members, FWS, and the University of Alberta for lending support, expertise, and work hours to help us "put our best foot forward".

Rob Karner  
Watershed Biologist

# Report from the Nominating Committee

The 2018/2019 GLA Board Nominating Committee has completed its 2019 work and has recommended to the board a list of candidates for election to the board.

First, we all strongly recommend confirmation of the following incumbent directors for three year second terms. Their extensive contributions to the GLA needs no further comment.

- David Hayes – current GLA Board President
- Victor Peirce – current GLA Board Communications chair

We are replacing Cal Killen and Bill Meserve who are completing their second three-year term. Many thanks to both of them for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the GLA. Fortunately, we are not losing their talents as both have agreed to continue volunteer activities on the many committees they serve!

Next, due to what we view as emerging and near future needs in the GLA Board for technical and financial expertise and perspective, we encourage a vote for new Board Members, Rick Fink and Stan Kryder. Each has extensive work experience as an engineer and bank executive and has a deep committed lifelong love for this area we all so much love. More information about these two candidates can be viewed below.

Please vote your approval of these talented and dedicated volunteers at the August 11, 2018 annual meeting.

Peter Anderson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Bill Witler, Board Liaison to the Nominating Committee

## **Rick Fink**



My grandparents, close friends with the Schillings, were invited up and started coming to Glen Lake in the 1920's.

Sometime in the 30's George Schilling sold a couple lots to my grandfather, Henry Fink, where he built our family cottage on the east shore of Big Glen Lake in 1940. My folks first brought me to Glen Lake the summer I was born and every year thereafter, so it is no wonder this has always felt like home. In 1998 we made it our permanent home. All four of our children went through the Glen Lake School system.

I grew up on Glen Lake in the summers. As a child, without video games or TV, I enjoyed spending countless hours exploring the lakes - shoreline, bottom, streams and woods. Fish, minnows, mud puppies, ducks, turtles, snakes and frogs were my entertainment. I still maintain a close relationship with the environment and all its inhabitants. Maintaining this special place for generations to come is of utmost importance to me.

Since graduating from Michigan State University in 1981 I have spent the last 38 years in electrical power distribution, control and industrial process automation.

Active in the Glen Lake Yacht Club, I have been a director, chair of the buildings and grounds committee and Commodore.

An avid sailor, I sail at the GLYC on weekends and crew on a J34 on West Bay at the Grand Traverse Yacht Club Wednesdays.

## **Stan Kryder**



has been to Glen Lake every year since he was born. His family began coming to Glen Lake in 1957 along with a number of other families from Akron, Ohio. These families began their Glen Lake experience at Tom House's Maple Croft in Burdickville. Stan learned to sail from Tom along with his

older brother George, and they both competed at the GLYC as teenagers. In 1970, the Kryder's purchased two cottages in Burdickville, where he still vacations. He brought his wife, Joy, a southerner, to the lake 35 years ago and she has come to love Glen Lake as much as he does and both enjoy being members of the Glen Lake Yacht Club.

Stan and Joy's two children, Robert and Kathryn, enjoyed summers at the lake with their grandparents, and both still look forward to their lake vacations. Stan grew up in Akron, OH, and graduated from Albion College and LSU-School of Banking. For 25 years, he worked for two of the nation's largest banks and had geographic responsibility for 12 East Coast states before becoming a community banker in 2005. Stan successfully led his community bank through three mergers in the past five years into what today is a \$17 billion, 3 state bank known as CenterState.

Stan and Joy live in Atlanta Georgia. He is active in the community there and has served as Chairman of the Georgia Bankers Association. He is involved in the American Bankers Association, and serves on the board of directors of the Atlanta Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Midtown Alliance, and the Buckhead Coalition.

## Major Swimmer's Itch Study Underway



Last summer something very unexpected happened on Glen Lake. The number of Swimmer's Itch cases far exceeded what was suppose to be a banner year for mostly a itch-free swimming experience.

Using a federal and state permit, in 2017 the GLA removed all broods of mergansers. That should

have resulted in a significant reduction in Swimmer's Itch in 2018. Granted, the very warm, sunny summer resulted in increased swim hours and may have contributed to increased itch. Consequently, a lake-wide increase in itch has prompted a scientific study to find out what is going on.

Glen Lake Association in conjunction with Lake Leelanau and Walloon Lake Associations are the three locations for a major Swimmer's Itch research project that will be conducted by Freshwater Solutions, Inc.

Each lake association is staffed to have 5 volunteers collect 10 different water samples on the same day (Tuesdays) and the same timeframe (between 8 a.m. to 12 noon) May 21 to November 5, and from the same locations on the lake. Quick math indicates that is 15 volunteers working for 25 Tuesdays collecting 750 water samples.

The volunteers for GLA include Cecelia Denton, Shelly Water, Edward Gergosian, Andy Du Pont, Dale DeJager, and Bill Meserve. Joe Blondia, Bruce Hood, and Rob Karner will serve as the back-up support for the water sampling.

Each water sample will be analyzed for the number of parasites in the water sample, noting the number of species of itch causing worms in the water and their relative abundance for each species. Our ability to analyze water samples in this way is new technology and all analysis of parasites is under the direct supervision of Dr. Hanington and his team at the University of Alberta, Canada.

The final results of this study will help us better understand the impact that migrating waterfowl have on itch severity, along with gaining a better understanding of what additional species of waterfowl besides the Common Mergansers are harboring itch-causing parasites and perhaps unknowingly contributing to increased Swimmer's Itch risk.

Having removed all Common Merganser broods last summer, we are hoping for lake-wide reduction in itch this summer.

GLA will be sharing a summary report of this study for all three lakes by the beginning of 2020.

For more information, contact our watershed biologist, Rob Karner, at [rkarner@leelanau.org](mailto:rkarner@leelanau.org)

## Boat Wash Facts

According to Boat Wash Manager, Sallyanne Morris

- GLA's Boat Wash has operated for 25 years, starting in 1994.
- 3,747 watercraft came through the boat wash in 2018
- 845 boats were power washed and 597 engines were flushed
- 634 kayaks were washed for the M22 challenge.
- Boat wash numbers are up 1,200 boats from 10 years ago
- This FREE service employs 5 people
- Boating season HOURS are 6 am - 7 pm, 7 days a week
- Empire Township is one of the only townships in Michigan with a boat wash ordinance
- Our main goal is to educate people about protecting our watershed
- Boats come from all over the U.S. to the Glen Lakes
- The boat coming the furthest was from Hawaii!

## Business Plus Members

Below are our Business Plus Members who help us in our efforts to protect our extraordinary resources. Please thank them by doing business with them.

Stenback Builders, Inc.

💧 Glen Lake Marine

Funistrada

Crystal River Outfitters

Leelanau Getaway

Dorsey's on Glen Lake

💧 Glen Craft Marina & Resort

Art's Tavern

Northwoods Hardware

Leelanau Vacation Rentals

Cherry Republic

💧 A special thank you for donating their resources to the GLA

## Your GLA Board and Committee Chairs

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

David Hayes	President
Edward Lanphier	Vice President
Lori Lyman	Secretary
David Herr	Treasurer

#### DIRECTORS

Corinne Cochran	Cal Killen
Dale DeJager	Bill Meserve
Tom Dutmers	Vic Peirce
Ranae Ihme	Bill Witle

#### STAFF

Rob Karner	Watershed Biologist
Sallyanne Morris	Office Administrator/ Senior Boat Wash Manager
Tricia Denton	Administrative Coordinator/ Guardian Ambassador

### GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

Glen Arbor, MI 49636  
P.O. Box 551  
231-334-7645  
Fax 231-334-7470

### COMMITTEE/PROGRAM CHAIRS

Communications  
Community Relations  
Development  
Finance & Investment  
Guardian Program

Historian  
Long Range Planning  
Membership & Records

Nominating  
Technology  
Water Level  
Water Quality

Vic Peirce  
Bill Witle  
Lori Lyman  
David Herr  
Corinne Cochran  
Lori Lyman  
Joan Kramps  
Jim Dutmers  
Corinne Cochran  
Dale DeJager  
Tom Dutmers  
Peter Anderson  
Cal Killen  
Bill Meserve  
Andy DuPont

### GLEN LAKE ASSOCIATION WEB SITE

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



P.O. Box 551 | Glen Arbor, MI 49636



**Annual Meeting for the  
Glen Lake Association  
Saturday, August 10**