

## GUN LAKE WOMEN'S CLUB

In 1983 GFWC Gun Lake Area was officially organized and Federated by Joan Weick and a handful of other local women. We work to create better communities by empowering our clubwomen.

Our motto, "**Friendship through Service**", has been tested this year as we have been unable to meet as we normally do. Still we have made thousands of masks and surgical caps that have been delivered to hospitals, schools, nursing homes and our four area fire departments. We continue to serve area families in need after home fires, medical emergencies, and delivering socks, underwear and diapers. In Nov. we will be delivering 16 Thanksgiving baskets to our four area schools and keep kids warm with the hat, scarf and mittens initiative.

Through the Barry Community Foundation and the work of our GFWC-GLA scholarship committee **we present one senior student from each of the 4 area high schools with a \$2000 college scholarship** (\$8000 total) based upon exhibited leadership, community service achievements, academics, and communication skills. We also award \$500 Skills-

## WINTERFEST CANCELLATION

Due to COVID 19 and the Governor's Executive Order we sadly have made the decision that 2021 Gun Lake Winterfest will not happen as usual this February. We understand what a very frustrating year this has been for all of our sponsors, vendors and volunteers.

Trade Scholarships for those who have been accepted in an accredited post-secondary vocational or technical institute, community college or a certification program. Because we believe that education is more than literacy, we encourage students to create learning opportunities for themselves through the arts. We provide two incoming 9th - 11th grade students up to \$500 each at each of the four area high schools (\$4000 total) for an art summer enrichment program.

The GFWC-GLA lending library located inside Water's Edge is just one of several libraries that we support along with mobile ones. We also have a book club that has been able to meet through zoom meetings.

With Covid keeping us from getting together for cards and games, sewing and quilting, craft projects and more, we "together" have been able to and will continue to serve this wonderful area we call home.

If you would like more information about GFWC-GLA call Katie at 517-861-6897 or Linda Rough at 616-318-3417 **We would love to have you join us.**

**Katie Ambrose**  
Co-President,  
GFWC-Gun Lake Area

We thank you for your past support and hope and pray that your business will survive and grow. We are still making plans so keep checking back with us. **Even though we can't have our event in the way we would like to, we are working to do some fundraisers throughout the year and would love to have you support us in any way you can.** We hope to see you all back in 2022.



**FEB**

**GUN LAKE WINTERFEST**  
— CANCELLED FOR 2021



**MAY 1**

**GLPA MEMBERSHIP DUES**  
— Please submit your dues and membership information no later than May 1st



**JUN 5**

**"GUN LAKE PADDLE BATTLE"**  
at the Allegan County Park



**JUN 26 • 9:00 AM**

**MICHIGAN BOATER'S SAFETY CLASS**  
SHADY SHORES CLUB HOUSE

Bring pen, pencil, and a sack lunch. The age for operating personal watercraft unsupervised is age 16. You may obtain a certificate, which you must have, by attending this boaters safety class. **Unable to attend? Go to: boat-ed.com** and get certified



**JULY 3 • 10:20 PM**  
**FIREWORKS**

**JULY 4 • 10:20 PM**  
**RAIN BACK-UP DATE**



**AUG 14 • 9:30 AM**

**ANNUAL GLPA MEETING FOR MEMBERS; SATURDAY AT THE GUN LAKE CHAPEL**



**SEPT 18**

**"GUN LAKE PADDLE BATTLE"**  
at the Allegan County Park



**Gun Lake Protective Association**

P.O. Box 319  
Shelbyville, MI 49344



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

OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 GLPA ACTIVITIES WITH PERTINENT EXCERPTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLPA, HELD AT THE GUN LAKE CHAPEL, AUGUST 8, AT 9:30 A.M.

## PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

What a season it has been! We started out not being able to get our boats out of storage, and if we had them couldn't boat due to state orders. Some of our seasonal folks were banned from coming into the area to their cottages. We had two fireworks shows cancelled because

we could not get a permit from the state to use the usual state park island site to shoot. And weed treatment was delayed as obtaining a state permit for the type of chemical needed proved difficult. 'Mask up' joined our vocabulary. Local eateries and businesses struggled.

But there were good things as well. We had a beautiful summer of weather. Water testing showed very

clean water with very low e-coli levels. Fish were stocked and fishermen reported a good season. We had a safe boating season with only a couple minor accidents. Barry County was spared significant Covid19 cases. And we had no significant legal battles this year.

We made progress on our three strategic goals. First, GLPA membership increased 12% to an

**AUTUMN 2020**

## MISSION STATEMENT

TO PRESERVE GUN LAKE THROUGH GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, AND FOR THE LIVING AND RECREATIONAL ENJOYMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S MEMBERS.



**President's Remarks, continued**

all-time high over 1,100. Second, we gathered data to study the boat capacity issue. We shore counted 3,100 resident watercraft, 2,300 of which are motorized. By counting trailers during peak weekends we determined an average of 237 non-resident boats/jet skis out on the lake. During our trailer count we used a drone to count actual craft out boating and determined that at peak about 50% of the 425-520 craft using the lake at once were non-residents. Since there is no

recognized acceptable boat density standard and practically no studies on the subject, this is a complex issue and opinions vary. **We will be discussing what, if any, conclusions and action we should draw from this new data.**

And finally, our goal of improving standardizing and coordinating zoning and ordinances that affect the lake between townships awaited the results of elections. There are especially big changes in Yankee Springs Township for us to adapt to.

So that's our summer in review. The GLPA wishes you all a happy and healthy off-season and Holidays and encourages you to keep in touch with what is going on by checking out our brand new, completely redeveloped, and more comprehensive website at myglpa.com

**Jim Deters**  
President GLPA

**FISHING REPORT**

**Anglers noted exceptional fishing throughout the summer season.** Good numbers of panfish and walleye were reported. Anglers should look forward to a productive fishing season this coming winter.

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 we were unable to obtain annual spring fingerling walleye stock for the rearing ponds. However, we were able to purchase 1000 fall fingerlings that will be stocked this October. These fall fish will be stocked at a length of 6-8". Each fish will have a pectoral fin clip to help identify this season's year class for future stocking evaluation and research.

**BOAT CLEANING UPDATES**  
**CD3 BOAT CLEANING STATIONS USE SINCE INSTALLATION**

- Allegan County Park: 983
- Yankee Springs Entry: 182
- Yankee Springs Exit: 382

**GLPA BOARD UPDATES**

At the August 2020 Annual meeting, the following were reelected to a 3 year term:

- Deb Masselink
- Chad Kraai

Also, Nick Zyskowski was elected to replace Rob Heethuis, who will be retiring.

**BARRY COUNTY MARINE PATROL**

Sergeant Lehman is the Deputy in Charge of the Marine Patrol with nine seasonal staff members assisting him. Sgt. Lehman advised that so far this year the Marine Patrol had put in 632 hours on the lake with 2,500 stops, resulting in 47 tickets and 56 warnings. They had received 36 complaints for a variety of issues and covered six boating accidents which were fortunately minor.

Sgt. Lehman confirmed that the speed limit on the lake is 55 mph

regardless of the time of day, although he advised going much slower after dark. He was asked about Wake Board boats that create waves that are damaging the shoreline and docks. He advised that there is a requirement for Wakeboard Boats to stay 100 ft. from the shoreline and docks. Those boats do create some damage to the shoreline and some states, including Minnesota, having recently increased the distance to stay from the shoreline to 200 ft.

Beyond the distance to the shoreline and docks there are no other restrictions on these boats. Jet skis are allowed to operate on the

lake from 8:00 a.m. to sunset with no other major restrictions. The island, formerly known as Party Island, does have a restriction as it is a "private island." Based on a legal review with the County Prosecutor, a determination was made several years ago that it is trespassing to be on the island or within the area of water less than 4 ft. deep around the island. The Marine Patrol does enforce this directive for this and other privately owned islands as well.

**FIREWORKS!**

**Make your plans for the Fourth of July Now!**

The show starts at 10:20 p.m. on July 3  
Rain date is Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:20 p.m.

**Thank you for your continued donations.**

*Your donations make this the greatest holiday of the year for our community.*

First of all, we would like to thank our members and first responders for your support and patience in these times of Covid-19. With that being said, we have secured the date of Saturday, July 3rd, 2021, for our Independence Day fireworks celebration. We will use your kind donations of this past year and from the year to come to

make this the best display ever. Any funds received above of the cost of the fireworks will be placed in a contingency fund to help supplement future displays.

Shooting the fireworks from Murphy's Island (also known as Lighting Island) is the safest and most centrally located place to shoot the fireworks. We hope to



The GLPA has historically presented the Fourth of July fireworks show as a community celebration of patriotism, uniting the community.

continue to use this island, but we will be setting up contingencies in case the same restrictions are in place for the coming year. We realize the fireworks have been a tradition for many generations around Gun Lake. Thank you again for your continued support.

**WHO DOES THE BUOYS?**

So who puts in and takes out the safety buoys on our lake? Many of us on the GLPA Board didn't even know and we're betting you don't either. Turns out it is a lot of work as each buoy is anchored by a five gallon pail half filled with cement.

**The GLPA wishes to recognize and thank lake resident Mark Englerth for his volunteer work in installing, removing, and**

**maintaining these buoys on Gun Lake.** The buoys were the result a number of years ago of partnership between Yankee Springs Township and Orangeville Township, with GLPA involvement. In the last six years Mark has taken charge of the operation on a volunteer basis, recruiting a few key helpers. Mark uses his own boat and stores the buoys in his own barn.

These buoys mark areas where boulders and other special circumstances warning boaters apply. As such, they help prevent

accidents and damage to boat equipment and facilitate smoother operation of traffic on the lake. Nothing takes the fun out of a nice day or evening on the lake like ruining a prop on boulders off Orangeville Island, Turtle Rock, or Hastings Pt. Some of us have been there. :) And those living by the 'No Wake Zones' sure appreciate the markers. Thank you Mr. Englerth and your helpers for the many hours and effort lugging those buckets! **We appreciate you.**

**WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

In early August, the GLPA conducted an Around-the-Lake water sampling for E-coli, (concentrating on swim areas) and ALL of the results came back as SAFE. Most of those tests showed zero E-coli, but a couple showed very low levels, notably the Cuddy Drain as sampled at the Patterson Bridge. That area used to be in the thousands-of-CFUs (Colony-Forming Units) before the upstream mitigation efforts; **since then, it has been in the safe range of less-than-300 CFUs every year!**

Weed Control has been a challenge for the Gun Lake Improvement Board (GLIB) this year; the heavy boat use of the lake all summer, combined with more sunshine than usual, has given us a bumper crop of weeds, both native and invasive. We discovered a new, invasive Milfoil growing on the north end of the lake: "Variable-Leaf Milfoil" - it died back nicely after being treated with an herbicide called ProcellaCor. **The good news is that a LOT of Starry Stonewort (an invasive algae) was killed last year;** but that left bare patches of lake bottom where new weeds grew. Some of those weeds include a nice crop of Sago Pondweed, which is a

very beneficial plant for both waterfowl and fish; but Eurasian Milfoil has also cropped up, especially near the dam where there is a DEQ-mandated 1000' "no-spray" zone because it's also the mouth of a river. GLIB is seeking a permit to sandbag the dam ASAP to stop water flow over it for 24 to 48 hours so the herbicide can be applied. (This will have almost NO effect on the lake level). Until that can happen, we recommend you simply stay away from that area unless you live there, because every boat propeller chopping up (and getting loaded up with) the E. Milfoil, simply spreads it farther into Gun Lake. Even a 1" segment of E. Milfoil can take root and grow.