

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

"SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE
"FOR THE WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE LAKE"

Editor of LGIA Newsletter—Phil Wirtanen

Publisher—Jim O'Neill

From The President's Desk



June 2019
Volume XIV Issue 1

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Website

Hello and greetings from your LGIA. This is the first of our 2019 Newsletters. Our primary intent with these newsletters is to inform you about association activities but also we want to give you a sense of the broader world of Michigan's waters and where we seem to fit in. Maybe it's a function of the excess of information life brings us these days but there does seem to be a heightened awareness in the news about all the threats to our lakes and streams.

Early in May I attended the annual conference of the Michigan Lakes Stewardship Association. Over three days I heard about many problems and programs regarding the inland waters of the state. We are blessed to be free of the great share of issues affecting the downstate lakes. Stories of various sources of pollution, industrial, agricultural, chemical, homeowner, etc. are very common to the agenda and panel presentations. Zoning, jurisdictional, riparian rights and other legal topics are also focused on.

It was interesting to note that in the display area most of the vendors represented companies that specialized in restorative services. These are companies that offered the means to clean up your lake rather than protect it. That is not the case with Lake Gogebic. Rather our primary need is to protect the lake to keep it in its pristine nature. That is the primary goal of the LGIA; the well-being of Lake Gogebic. Whether it is our monitoring water quality, combating invasive species, operating our boat washer, having native vegetation studies done or supporting fisheries surveys, the LGIA is working for the good of the lake and, by extension, every property owner, fisherman, swimmer, boater or park resident.

We want to grow as an organization. That will allow us to bring more effort to bear on our programs and activities. Your Board will be discussing suggestions as to how best to increase our membership but even before we do that we already know that word of mouth from our current members is the best tool we have. So I ask you to tell your neighbors and friends of the good work the LGIA does for them and invite them to join. Any one of the Board members listed at the end of this Newsletter would be pleased to get them an application.

We are looking forward to another great summer on Lake Gogebic. Let us know if you think of ways we can better serve you and this wonderful lake.

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
May 23, 2019
MINUTES

President Phil Wirtanen called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. CDT at the Bergland Fire Hall.

Attendance: (Board Members): Phil Wirtanen, Chris Wirtanen, Jim O'Neill, , Kathy Lowery, Mark Brown, , Mike Burt, Ralph Wirtanen, Steve Salmi, Glenn Korpi, Jean Niefeldt

Absent: Ken Carlson, Carol D'Alberto, Jim Vigness

The agenda was distributed by Phil Wirtanen. A motion to adopt the agenda was made, seconded and approved.

Minutes from the September, 2018 Board Meeting were previously distributed via email. A motion to accept the report as written was made, seconded and approved.

Treasurer Report: The year-end 2018 and April 30, 2019 reports, were previously distributed via email. Current balances are as follows: General Account \$5,891.48; Special Account \$480.82; CD Account \$7,846.86. A motion to accept the report as presented was made, seconded and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Carol D'Alberto via email: About one half of the membership is due for renewals this year. Most renew for three years at a time. There are 17 + new owners on the Lake who need to be contacted. 15 of the 17 purchased homes from our previous members. Have attached an LGIA membership application for our members that might have new neighbors or know of someone near them that is not a member of LGIA. Please give them a membership application and invite them to join. Or if you would rather we contact them directly please forward their information to the membership chair. Invoices for renewals will go out on June 10th so please check your snail mail or email. Carol suggests another effort at face to face contact. She has the membership set up in quadrants but will update as new/renewed member information is available.

Fish Cribs: Mike Burt reported that 10 cribs are available for setting. However, he has no information as to who has requested them. Also there is the question of where the pontoon can be stored and where it should be launched. Mike will discuss these issues with Jack Kurtz who has offered to assist in the setting. Mark Brown will also assist.

Lake Level and CLMP: Mark Brown reported that he attended an educational seminar on May 8th regarding the CLMP program. Spring lake samples have been obtained and sechi disk testing will start soon. He will also begin taking weed samples at each of the boat landings in conjunction with invasive species sampling guidelines. He requested assistance for this sampling. Lake levels have been, and still are, very high this spring. Current level can be observed on the LGIA website: lakegogebicia.com. Once in the site, click on Lake Gogebic, then Lake info.

Social Committee: No report.

WEPIC: Nothing to report.

Special Projects: Deferred to New Business

Boat Washing: Kathy Lowery reported that all of the volunteers from last season (except one) have agreed to do the work again this year in all three locations. The 2018 annual report has been completed and submitted. Kathy is working on developing a transfer graphic providing information about the website and Facebook page to assist in recruitment of new members.

Adopt A Highway: Jim Vigness has completed the spring cleanup.

WUPCAC: Phil Wirtanen – Information on the last meeting, held in Houghton, will be covered in the forthcoming newsletter. Phil was re-elected as chairman.

Old Business:

Website progress: Nathaniel Carlson has done a great job on the website. One issue is that unless a searcher types in the exact website address, i.e. lakegogebicia.com, our web page does not load. Or, if it does, one must make an effort to find it. (Ken, will you please ask Nathaniel if he has any ideas for getting higher on the Google totem pole??)

Loon Nests: Jack Kurtz has one more nest to launch. There was a discussion on where it should be located.

Membership: As previously discussed, there should be a membership solicitation letter sent to local businesses. Many of them are not members but do rely on the well being of the Lake to support their business. Phil will write this letter. Carol D'Alberto and I will update the membership roster in support of creating a "target list" of potential members to be contacted. This list will exclude current members. All Board members were asked to try to think of other ideas to increase membership.

Newsletter: Articles for the May-June newsletter were solicited. My goal is to have it done and distributed by June 10. Glenn Korpi suggested that the annual meeting be characterized as a "block party" instead of a picnic. This may enhance attendance. He and Chris Wirtanen will work on a flyer that will appear in the newsletter but also be posted in local businesses and the boat ramps.

New Business:

Purple loosestrife funding: New management at UPPCO has changed the process by which our funding request will be considered. Phil accepted the offer to prepare the request from Ian Shackelford of the USFS. BFIT did not support the request, specifically because of certain modifications. UPPCO denied the funding. Phil will follow up to find out if the request can be resubmitted without those modifications.

The next meeting will be on June 20, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m., CDT

Respectfully submitted by

Jim O'Neill, Treasurer

Kent McDonough**In Memoriam**

January brought difficult news with the passing of Kent McDonough, longtime LGIA member. The shock of losing a good friend was compounded by realizing just how much Kent had done for the Association. He was always ready to respond in the positive to anything asked of him. He piloted the pontoon for both placing fishing cribs each year as well as for our annual Purple Loosestrife containment efforts. He collected water samples for our CLMP water quality program. He served as a Board member for many years. He was truly one of the more dedicated volunteers within the membership.

Beyond his contributions Kent always had a smile and on any given occasion you could expect to hear his hearty laughter. He is missed.

LGIA FINANCIAL REPORT

DATE 4/30/2019

GOGEBIC RANGE BANK: A/C # 4105861 - GENERAL ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE: JANUARY 1, 2019 \$3,671.48

DEPOSITS FOR PERIOD:

MEMBERSHIPS:	\$0.00
UPPCO PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE	
PMT	\$2,500.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS:	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$6,171.48</u>
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MEMBERSHIP PAYMENTS:

\$0.00

CHECKS WRITTEN:

CK#	DATE	PAID TO:	AMOUNT
		PHIL WIRTANEN-MEETINGS	
666	04/12/19	EXPENSE	\$85.00
667	04/18/19	P. WIRTANEN MLSA CONFERENCE EXPENSE	\$195.00

TOTAL CHECKS:	\$280.00	<u>\$280.00</u>
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CLOSING BALANCE
ON

4/30/19

\$5,891.48

SPECIAL ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$480.82

CD ACCOUNT BALANCE:

\$7,846.86

NOTE: 1 - INTEREST EARNED THIS PERIOD ON THE CD IS \$31.13 AND IS REFLECTED IN THE CURRENT BALANCE.

NUMBERS TO KNOW

BERGLAND TWP OFFICE: 906-575-3522

MARENISCO TWP OFFICE: 906-787-2463

MARENISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT: 906-787-2300

LAKE GOGEBIC FIRE DEPARTMENT:

906-842-3555

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

Almost all of the membership is aware that we are involved in the boat washing program at the Bergland launch site. Not many, however, are fully aware of the extent of the program.

In 2012 the USDA Forest Service Ottawa National Forest and Bergland Township began a partnership to prevent and control invasive species in and around Lake Gogebic, with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). On March 27, 2017, the Forest Service and Bergland Township signed a second agreement (#17-PA-11090700-015) to continue the cooperative work for another five years. Bergland Township has the authority to undertake this public education and invasive species work around Lake Gogebic. Bergland Township works with the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association (LGIA) for invasive species matters on the lake. To this end, Bergland Township provides an invasive species coordinator for Lake Gogebic. In this case, the coordinator is Kathy Lowery. Her duties are to conduct "Clean Boats Clean Waters" public education, teaching people about AIS and how to prevent the spread of AIS. When boaters agree, one of her team operates the U. S. Forest Service pressure washer and washes the boats and trailers. In addition, she supervises and schedules other washer staff, coordinates activities with the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association, and conducts other public education concerning AIS, possibly including public presentations, working with local schools, and preparing news releases about AIS.

Her duties include:

- Attends the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association meetings to keep the Board of Directors informed on the AIS education efforts.
- Supervising and scheduling boater education and boat washing staff and volunteers.
- Creation of a Lake Gogebic Citizen AIS Prevention Watch program
- Recruit and coordinator volunteers for boater education, boat washing, AIS prevention, invasive plant control (mostly purple loosestrife and common buckthorn), and AIS lake surveys.
- Record volunteer and staff hours and accomplishments
- Work with the Bergland Township Clerk to oversee payroll and completion of the agreement annual report.

2018 boat washer staff continued with Stanley and Pat Wontor at the Bergland boat launch, Gene Kauranen at the East Shore Boat Launch and Carol VanDonsel and Nancy Miskovich at the Gogebic State Park and Gogebic County Park. Kathy kept in contact with the washer staff; making sure they were equipped with literature and handouts, overseeing payroll and addressing any concerns presented. Additionally, Lowery met periodically with the Bergland Township Clerk.

In addition, Kathy prepared an article regarding the activities of the LGIA for the Lake Gogebic Times, an annual publication provided by the Lake Gogebic Chamber of Commerce. It appears on page 7 of the 2019 edition of the paper.

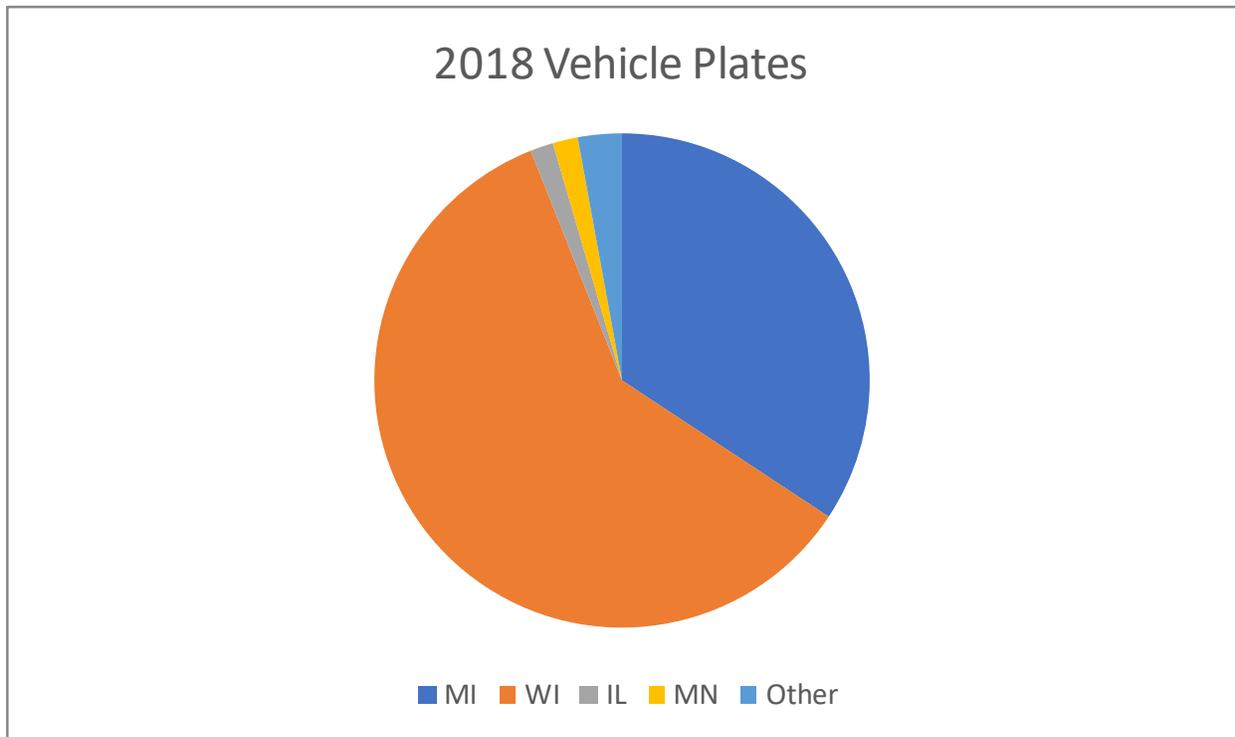
Not that she needed more to do, but one of her greatest accomplishments in 2018 was to acquire air time on a television program that appears in the entire Upper Peninsula of Michigan on Monday nights. **Discovering** is a nature program that airs on WLUV-6 in Marquette, MI. Brian Whitens compiled a comprehensive report of our efforts on the lake. Here is a link to the program in its entirety:

<http://www.906outdoors.com/906outdoors/videos/S309.html>

She also created a Facebook page, *Protecting Lake Gogebic*, which continues into its second year and has 120 followers. It can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/moxiepot/>

For all public contacts, Kathy completes a Clean Boats Clean Waters activities form, provided by the U. S. Forest Service. At a minimum this form must include the date, time, location, number of people contacted, and number of boats washed. The invasive species coordinator will type data into an Excel spreadsheet and provide same to the U. S. Forest Service by July 1, October 1, and November 15, of each year for which funding is provided. The U. S. Forest Service will review the report and forward the data to GLRI in a timely manner.

During 2018, the AIS team contacted 1,467 people at the various launch locations and washed 144 boats/trailers. It is interesting to note the following illustration which demonstrates that there are many visitors from out of state which increases the risk of an invasive species entering our Lake.



As you can see, Kathy and her staff provide a service that is critical to the well being of Lake Gogebic. So, as you spread the word about the LGIA to friends and neighbors, here is a great answer to the question “what does the LGIA do for me”? Our thanks to Kathy, Stanley and Pat Wontor, Gene Kauranen, Carol VanDonsel and Nancy Miskovich.

Lake Gogebic Block Party

Glenn Korpi

A block party sounds like a great time for all Lake Gogebic and surrounding area property owners, new and old, to get to know each other and get to know the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association (LGIA). We hope this will be an opportunity to increase our membership which, in turn, provides the people and income resources needed to continue our stewardship of our beautiful lake. During the past several years, we have been supported in our invasive species education and control activities by a grant from UPPCO. It appears, though, that this funding may no longer be available.

The LGIA will provide burgers, brats, soft drinks and water. Each attendee is asked to bring a dish to pass. You are also welcome to bring a "BYOB" cooler if you like. More importantly, bring a friend and/or neighbor along. We will have a short meeting explaining our activities and goals, all supported by dues and volunteers.

Unlike many lake communities in neighboring Wisconsin, Lake Gogebic and surrounding area property values have increased over the years, thanks in no small part to the aquatic and land invasive species management by the LGIA and its volunteers. Some Wisconsin lakes have significant invasive species problems which damage water quality, fisheries and, therefore property values. Many of these communities are being assessed special taxes to help alleviate this problem. Maybe that's why so many visitors to our lake are from Wisconsin (see the preceding article). Because the LGIA has been proactive in this regard, our lake is one of the cleanest in Michigan according to the MDNR.

In the past week I have talked with many local and visiting fishermen. Many have reported that, on average, fish are more plentiful and larger than in past years. The LGIA has had an active role with the MDNR in changing the size limits of walleyes. The results have been very positive.

Not only property owners on the lake, but those of the surrounding area and all of the business on and around the lake, benefit from the activities of the LGIA. But to continue in these efforts, we not only need more members, but we need all members to be involved in some respect. It costs only \$15 a year or \$40 for three years to have a membership. That's an investment of only four cents a day to help keep the lake clean and our property values high. We will post flyers in local businesses inviting surrounding property owners to attend. Enjoy your neighbors, meet new ones and see what you can do to support our efforts.

I have been a property owner on the lake for 20 years. The lake is the clearest it's ever been and the spring run-off is not over yet. Our thanks to the LGIA volunteers. You have made a real difference.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The By-Laws of the Association provide that the annual meeting of the members shall be held in conjunction with the annual picnic and that notice of the meeting be provided in writing not less than ten days prior to the meeting. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be the **election of the Board of Directors** and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. This year the meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 21** at 12: pm CDT at Gogebic County Park in conjunction with our first annual block party. This article shall constitute the notice to all members as provided for in the By-Laws. One-third of the outstanding members of the Association entitled to vote, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at this meeting. **If you are not going to attend this meeting, please fill out and return the proxy form provided below.** You may designate as your proxy any member that you know will be attending the meeting/picnic or you may designate any Director either by name or by title, i.e. President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary. **Alternatively, if you wish a Director to exercise your proxy, you need not fill out and return the form. Any proxy not returned shall be deemed to be given to the President to exercise.**

PROXY

I, _____ residing at _____ do hereby constitute and appoint _____ as my proxy to attend the annual meeting of the general membership of the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association to be held on July 15, 2018, or any continuation or adjournment thereof, with full power to vote and act for me and in my name, place and stead, in the same manner, to the same extent and with the same effect that I might were I personally present thereat, giving to said _____ (Designated Proxy) full power of substitution and revocation, and I hereby revoke any other proxy heretofore given by me.
Dated: _____, 2019

[Signature]

LAKE GOGEBIC BLOCK PARTY

sponsored by the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association

July 21, 2019

12:00 p.m. CDT

Gogebic County Park Pavilion



WUP-CAC Report

Phil Wirtanen

Even though the first LGIA Newsletter of each year is our first chance to report to you on the actions of the Western Upper Peninsula Citizens Advisory Council (WUP-CAC) the Council meets during the entire year. We gather every other month in one of the 10 counties represented on the group. We include this report in our Newsletter since the LGIA has had a member on the CAC since its inception in 2008. The LGIA representative has been elected Chairman for the last 8 years. Both the WUPCAC and its Eastern counterpart, the EUPCAC, have been cited by many as significant influencers on the NRC and DNR.

The focus of discussions at CAC meetings is on regional issues. Sometimes the nature of a discussion might affect the rest of the state but that is tangential to a UP primary concern. As an example, some years ago a regulatory change was implemented for Yellow Perch on Lake Gogebic. Part of the rule change moved the daily bag limit from the statewide 50 per day to 25. We felt that to be quite logical given the nature of Perch in this lake. The rest of the state stayed at 50 until recently when the "Gogebic Rule" was implemented statewide.

It's interesting to follow the dynamics of this story. Locally, we initiated a discussion that led to the creation of the Go-YEP Partnership. This was the moniker we gave a group of local stakeholders and DNR people. The group met several times, had a public meeting in Marenisco and ultimately brought forth a recommendation via the DNR to the NRC. They agreed and the rule change was implemented; along with a slot limit of only 5 Yellow Perch over 12".

At the WUPCAC meetings after that this rule change was discussed and over several years the CAC Fisheries Committee included a similar change in some recommendations to the DNR Director. Other sources may have requested the same but certainly the WUPCAC action was a primary influencer. The change was made and so now the rule across the State of Michigan is a 25 daily bag limit on Yellow Perch. It's a great example of how local action worked up through the system can lead to change.

A side element to this story is how the DNR works cooperatively with these citizen initiatives. The Go-Yep Partnership had strong DNR leadership from George Madison, Senior Biologist-Baraga and at each CAC meeting we have the DNR divisional leadership group for the Western UP.

As mentioned we meet every other month and the most recent WUPCAC gathering was held at MTU in Houghton on May 16th. The agenda was pretty standard fare for such meetings. We cover quite a lot of ground in 2 ½ hours. Besides the DNR divisional reports given at each meeting the agenda includes: officer elections, Western UP Trail Update, Marquette County Shooting Range, Proposed UP Deer Regulations Recommended to NRC, Chronic Wasting Disease Update, Fisheries Committee presentation on Walleye stocking and comments from Wildlife and Recreation and Law Committees.

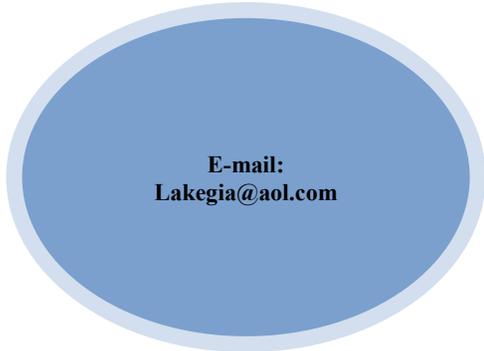
Each meeting has a time for public comment and this time we had four members of the public speak to a variety of issues. Each felt the WUPCAC group was a good conduit for getting their message to the DNR.

If ever you have a desire to get a subject before the DNR let me know. As always you are invited to the meetings. The DNR website will give you meeting locations and dates. We would love to have you join us.

For several years now the Marenisco Township office staff has supported the LGIA by allowing us to use their automated copy machine to run copies of the newsletter. Of course, the machine is not fully automated and we rely on the able assistance of the office manager to actually get the letter loaded and the machine properly prepared to do the 100 collated copies. We proffer our sincere thanks to the Township and staff for this continuing support.

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box #75
Bergland, MI 49910



E-mail:
Lakegia@aol.com

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE FOR THE
WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE LAKE.

L.G.I.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

OFFICERS

President— Phil Wirtanen - WUPCAC
906 575-3520 pwirtane@aol.com

Vice President— Chris Wirtanen-WEPIC
906 575-3354
2wirtanens@gogebicrange.net

Treasurer—Jim O'Neill
906-575-3429 gogebic@aol.com

Secretary—Ken Carlson
906-575-3301 khcarlson@gogebicrange.net

COMMITTEES:

Mark Brown- Lake Level
2009pikachu13549@gmail.com

Kathy Lowery – AIS & Boat Washing
906-842-3638 moxiepot@live.com

Carol D'Alberto - Membership
906-842-3525 lkogebic@gmail.com

Glenn Korpi gdkorpi@verizon.net

Ralph Wirtanen ralphwirtanen@yahoo.com
906-364-3000

Steve Salmi steve.salmi@yahoo.com

Jean Ninfeldt jnquietmagic@gmail.com
906-842-3444

Jim Vigness- Adopt – A – Highway
715-212-0918 jwvigness@gmail.com

Mike Burt – Fish Cribs
Carenburt1952@yahoo.net