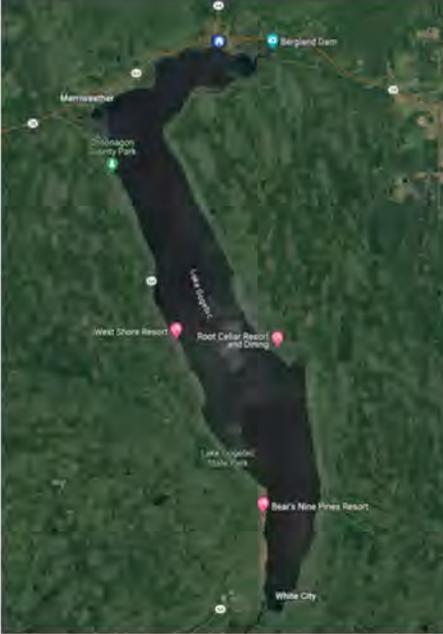


FALL 2024

LGIA NEWSLETTER



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

We've done great things over the winter and so far, this year, not the least of which was meeting with U.S. Representative Bergman about our views on lake levels. In addition, State Senator McBroom and State Representative Markkanen attended our Annual Picnic on July 27 and addressed LGIA concerns surrounding a proposed conservation initiative by the United States Forest Service. We're continuing to strengthen ties with stakeholders such as local Tribal Government, local county and state municipal officials, DNR personnel, USFS and others.

We are working hard to become stronger and more efficient through these ties, as well as making some changes in our own organization:

·We received approval of our application to become federally tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code, and now membership dues and any donations are tax deductible.

- We're in process of making improvements to the fish crib program.
- We continue lake monitoring, invasive species and Adopt-a-Highway programs.
- We have re-established our Facebook and updated our web pages. Please visit us at:
 - [Lake Gogebic Improvement Association \(LGIA\) - Home \(lakegogebicia.com\)](http://LakeGogebicImprovementAssociation(LGIA)-Home(lakegogebicia.com))
 - <https://www.facebook.com/lakegogebicia?mibextid=ZbWKwL>
- We have established a new e-mail address info@lakegogebicia.com. Please save it to your contacts so you won't miss any updates from us.

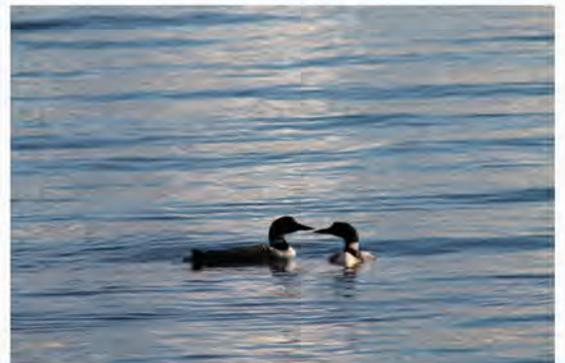
CALENDAR

- 9/25/24 Fall Dinner Finn & Feather Resturant 6:00pm CST
- 10/24/24 - Monthly Board Meeting Bergland Township Hall

We would love to see more people become involved to help us grow and continue as a strong presence in the Stewardship of our Lake. Plan to attend a board meeting, invite a neighbor to join, volunteer for a board position, or ask a current board member what we do. Working together we CAN make a difference, we CAN protect our fabulous resource, we CAN make our voices heard.

If you're interested in becoming active in our group, we will be holding elections to the Board at our Fall Dinner meeting. Please fill out a Nomination Form included in this Newsletter and return it to the PO Box, to any Board member, or bring it with you to the Fall Dinner. We look forward to working with you!

Wishing you all the very best.
Steve Salmi, President





Lake Gogebic Improvement Association

FALL

dinner

EVERYONE WELCOME

Finn & Feather Restaurant

September 25 2024

5:00pm - 8:00pm CST

**Soup or Salad
Herb Roasted Chicken or
Beef Strongoff with sides
a dessert, coffee & tea**

**Tickets
\$20.00**

RSVP by September 17 to Karen Ekstrum with your
dinner choices, kaekstrum@gmail.com or call/text
612-382-8640

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The By-Laws of the Association provide that an annual meeting of the members shall be held 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 **Wednesday, September 25, 2024** at the **Finn & Feather Restaurant** in conjunction with the fall dinner.

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/dinner 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 September 25, 2024, 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: _____, 2024

Signature _____

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

NOMINATION FORM

I am interested in volunteering for a Board position for the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association.

I would like to nominate the following person for a Board position for the Lake Gogebic Improvement Association.

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

Please check BELOW if you have nominated someone other than yourself:

I hereby acknowledge the person I have nominated has consented to serve in this position.

ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES

CONSERVATION PROJECT PROPOSAL COULD IMPACT PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RIGHTS

We received an e-mail soliciting support for a Grant request to implement a proposed Ecosystem Restoration Project by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). This potential project, titled "Ganawendan zaaga'iganan genawenimigoyaang — Take care of those lakes that take care of us — is named after agreements made in the 1836 and 1842 Ceded Territories in Michigan treaties. The restoration plan identifies Lake Gogebic as one of five priority lakes in Upper Peninsula on which to implement "voluntary, permanent conservation easements on at least 1,500 acres of private lands surrounding the lake. This project will teach landowners the benefits a natural shoreline provides to the cleanliness and health of the lake.



As a benefit, landowners that implement the project on their property will receive a one-time tax credit in exchange of a voluntary/permanent easement along their shoreline.



Our Board members are concerned with the implication of "voluntary, permanent conservation easements." Specifically, we are concerned that these easements will result in removing a landowners' right to manage their own lakeshore, including placing or keeping docks, controlling lake access through their property, as well as the impact this could have on the value of private lakeside land parcels. The Board unanimously agreed that additional clarification would be necessary before consider supporting.

We sent clarification requests to Congressman Bergman, Senator McBroom and Representative Markkanen where they informed us, additional information is not yet available as this grant has not yet been approved.

Both, however, did warn that, if property owners are approached by anyone regarding these easements, great care should be taken to ensure you fully understand the implications.

Ultimately, the Board decided to remain neutral on this subject. While we support any efforts to improve the quality of our lake, we are not comfortable lending our name to support a project that could negatively impact property owners. If you would like to review the full application, please visit our website www.lakegogebicia.com.

ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES

LGIA Board members meeting with LGIA Board.

LGIA Board treats AG Nessel to tour of the Lake



LAKE LEVELS

LGIA Board Continues to Work with Representatives to Discuss Our Concerns Regarding Lake Gogebic Water Levels

We are certainly pleased that fears for the impact of the “winter that wasn’t” on spring and summer lake levels proved unfounded. Despite this, we continue to advocate for lake level oversight that results in a consistent level both acceptable for boating through mid-October and minimizing shoreline impact.

After our meeting with Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel last summer, many activities took place over the winter months and into this season toward this effort. Lake Level Advisor Wilbur Hurst continued to collect and refine research data that forms the basis of our recommendations.

We met with Representative Bergman in February to discuss our concerns and seek his input on the best approach to making our voice heard on this subject.

Board member Mark Malmberg discovered a large volume of historical monitoring information that shows meaningful attempts to maintain lake levels at the those required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), further supporting our view that those levels need to be adjusted.

We met with UPPCO Generation Supervisor Nolan Miles on August 22 to gain more knowledge about their processes for managing the lake level and to discuss our concerns. The meeting was extremely informative. We plan to strengthen our partnership by participating in the Bond Falls Implementation Team (BFIT) that monitors lake level data, and by collaborating directly with Nolan.

ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES



FISH CRIBS

One of our on-going projects is the construction and placement of fish cribs in Lake Gogebic. The benefits of this project are numerous, and we are excited about the positive impact it has already had on our community. We are in process of updating how we administer this program due to losing our source of cedar and crib construction, but in the meantime, we have placed 10 more cribs in 2024. Once we have permitting issues resolved for a new program we will share those details.

Since the crib program began the LGIA has placed 67 cribs into Lake Gogebic. Members of the Association have access to the coordinates of where the cribs have been placed.

Not a member? Join for \$15 for one year, or \$40 for three years. The form is available on the website lakegogebicIA.com!



BOAT CLEANING STATIONS

We are pleased to report that the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians has placed boat cleaning stations at the Bergland Boat Launch and the public launch on East Shore Road. We are happy to partner with them in preventing the spread of invasive species. We encourage everyone to make regular use of these FREE cleaning stations



ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATES



SUMMER PICNIC LAKE GOGEBIC COUNTY PARK

For those able to attend, the LGIA Summer Picnic landed on a perfect Saturday. The sky was clear, the weather was warm, the breeze was slight, and the company to be kept was delightful. This year, 48 people made time in their schedules to join in a convivial gathering, eating, and learning experience at the south end of the lake. We hope to encourage more people to join in next year's summer picnic.

The LGIA Board set-up crew got things started at 11:00 a.m. and began welcoming guests around 12:30. The LGIA provided freshly grilled brats, hot dogs, hamburgers and buns, as well as beverages and eating utensils for the event. Individual members brought "dishes to pass," providing a delightful assortment of pastas, salads, fruit offerings, various chips, and desserts. The Board would like to thank the people who provided us with those extra treats.

Some of the activities included member sign-up for the Association, a 50/50 Raffle, and a giveaway of door prizes, including restaurant vouchers, t-shirts, coffee mugs, boat rides, and a finely sculpted and painted freshwater fish by local artist, Chris Wirtanen. The LGIA thanks the local businesses that provided many of the prizes.

Also, on the agenda were talks given by State Representative Greg Markkanen and State Senator Ed McBroom. Both statesmen were invited to address some of the concerns LGIA members have regarding the lake management and care.



Rep. Markkanen talked about the effect mining interests may have on the local environment and economy as well as getting Lansing's attention regarding infrastructure matters, including highway maintenance, electrical and internet access. Senator McBroom talked about the loss of the hospital in Ontonagon and the issue of lake level management.

Afterwards, a question-and-answer session was held to accommodate any other concerns attendees may have had. Thanks to Mr. Markkanen and Mr. McBroom for taking time out of their schedules to come speak with our organization. US Representative Jack Bergman was also invited, but he had schedule conflicts. He did send the letter below that was read as part of the presentations. All in all, we believe the picnic was a fun, positive event. Hope to see you in '25!

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

July 27, 2024

Lake Gogebic Improvement Association
P. O. Box 75
Bergland, Michigan 49910

Dear Lake Gogebic Improvement Association and Guests,

I regret that I can't be with you all in person today while I'm over in the Soo, but I send my regards and best wishes for a great picnic and productive discussion.

It was a pleasure to meet with some of you earlier this year and hear about the work you're doing to protect our Lake Gogebic waters and wildlife. You have taken on an essential role for our District, preserving and advocating for one of our best assets. Lake Gogebic's health directly correlates with the health of our communities, so your efforts are vitally important and appreciated.

We must continue to do our part to prevent the spread of invasive species, monitor water quality, and secure the habitats of fish and other wildlife. With the proper cultivation and stewardship, our beautiful Michigan lakes will remain intact for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your advocacy for and dedication to the wellbeing of Lake Gogebic and please feel free to reach out to my office if we can ever be of assistance!

Respectfully,



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress





LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOC

MEMBERS WELCOME!

MISSION

The Lake Gogebic Improvement Association exists for the purpose of monitoring the lake levels and maintaining and improving its well-being.

Members and volunteers collaborate with other organizations, to monitor the quality of the water, eradicate and control terrestrial invasive plants and shrubs and provide boat washing and boater education of aquatic invasive species with the assistance of the U.S. Forest Service and Bergland Township.

We work to enhance the fish habitat, securing permits from the Michigan DNR for fish cribs and paying for the construction of and placement of them in the lake. We've also funded adding Loon nesting platforms, to foster and grow our population of this beautiful, popular bird.

We proudly partner with organizations to help us achieve our goals, some of which include:

- Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO)
- White Water Associates
- US Forest Service
- Michigan DNR
- Bergland Township
- Marenisco Township

We belong to and support these organizations to help inform our work and achieve our objectives

- Michigan Lakes Stewardship Association (MLSA)
- Western Peninsula Invasives Coalition (WePIC)
- Michigan Swimmers Itch Partnership (MISIP)
- Coordinated Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)
- Lake Gogebic Chamber of Commerce (LGCC)

JOIN TODAY

MEMBERSHIP

\$15.00 per year

\$40.00 for three years

**THE LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION IS
NOT A HOME-OWNERS ASSOCIATION.**

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO LIVE ON THE LAKE TO BE A
MEMBER.**

**IF YOU LOVE LAKE GOGEBIC AND WISH TO SEE IT
MAINTAINED IN ITS CURRENT STATE, THEN YOU CAN BE
A MEMBER, TOO.**

7-25-24 BOARD MINUTES

Minutes of the LGIA Board Meeting

July 25, 2024

1. Meeting called to order by S. Salmi: 6:02 CDT
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call-Present: S. Salmi, C. Tuckey, T. Meinke, J. Luxton, J. Vigness, C. Wirtanen, K. Carlson, K. Ekstrum, M. Malmberg, D. Aukee, and guests, M. McMann and E. Tuckey
4. Meeting agenda approved
5. Minutes of June 27, 2024, meeting approved
6. Financial report: K. Ekstrum
 - LGIA current account balance is \$3,140.55 as of 6/27/2024
 - CD account balance is \$ 8,095.11 as of 6/27/2024
7. Details concerning the LGIA Summer Picnic to be held at Gogebic County Park were discussed:
 - members are encouraged to arrive between 11-11:30 CDT on Sat. July 27 for set-up.
 - door prizes handled by C. Wirtanen
 - 50/50 raffle handled by S. Salmi and D. Aukee
 - Jane, Betty Lou, and June to manage food table
 - grilling and safe meat temp. maintenance handled by a whole bunch of guys standing around
 - clean up and storage managed by T. Meinke and wife
 - verified attendance at picnic by Rep. G. Markkanen and Sen. E. McBroom
8. Official LGIA email address: Info@lakegogebicia.com
9. C. Wirtanen discussed the Ontonagon County Conservation District meeting
 - the OCCD seeks to expand its services to the County Park, Bond Falls, etc. regarding soil conservation
 - the OCCD will host a general meeting at Rockland Township Hall on Aug. 12, 2024
 - C. Wirtanen will contact them concerning the details of the meeting
10. Fish cribs: T. Meinke reported that all fish cribs have been built and were installed last Sat.
11. D. & O. Insurance: M. Malmberg will investigate liability insurance for board members. A dissolution clause is required in the by-laws of the LGIA to draft appropriate liability coverage. Mark plans to draft such a clause for the board's approval.
12. Good of the Board: S. Salmi sent a letter to UPPCO asking for information regarding the lake level. Nolan Miles of UPPCO oversees the dam matters and gave a reply. Steve invited Nolan to visit the Bergland Dam, along with available board members on Thursday August 22, 2024, at 3:00 pm.
13. Next LGIA meeting: August 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. CDT

Lake Gogebic Improvement Association

August 22, 2024

GOGEBIC RANGE BANK: A/C # XXX5861 - GENERAL ACCOUNT				<u>BALANCE</u>	
				1/1/2024	\$ 6,695.43
DEPOSITS:					
DATE	SOURCE	AMOUNT			
	na	May Member Dues Rec'd	\$55.00		
	na	July Member Dues Rec'd	\$615.00		
07/27/24		Fish Crib Donation	\$500.00		
07/27/24		Picnic 50/50 Proceeds	\$150.00		
07/27/24		Miscellaneous Donation	<u>\$20.00</u>		
TOTAL YTD DEPOSITS:			\$1,340.00		
CHECKS WRITTEN:					
DATE	CK#	PURPOSE	AMOUNT		
3/26/2024	749	CLMP Fees	\$400.00		
4/29/2024	750	Pontoon	\$500.00		
6/18/2024	752	Pontoon Registration	\$30.00		
6/18/2024	753	Cedar - Fish Cribs	\$1,245.00		
6/25/2024	EFT	IRS Application Fee	\$550.00		
7/25/2024	754	Trailer Jack/Fish Crib supplies	\$171.88		
7/25/2024	755	Pontoon gas/oil	\$63.00		
7/25/2024	756	MLSA Membership Renewal	\$210.00		
7/25/2024	EFT	Liability Ins Renewal	\$520.00		
7/27/2024	757	Potoon Parts	\$80.02		
7/27/2024	759	Fish Crib Supplies	<u>\$200.99</u>		
TOTAL YTD CHECKS:			\$3,970.89		
				8/22/2024	\$ 4,064.54
GOGEBIC RANGE BANK: A/C # XX0410 - CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT					
				1/1/2024	\$ 8,005.30
DATE		AMOUNT	RATE		
3/26/2024	Interest	\$89.81			
3/27/2024	Auto Renewal		2.25%		
9/27/2024	Next maturity				
				8/22/2024	\$ 8,095.11

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box #75

Bergland, MI 49910

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

BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - Steve Salmi
Lake Water Quality Chair
steve.salmi@yahoo.com

John Luxton
Fish Cribs
john@iwirelessolutions.com

VICE PRESIDENT - Vacant

Walt Whiburn
Fish Cribs
wwhitburn@gmail.com

TREASURER - Karen Ekstrum
Acting Membership & Newsletter Chair
kaekstrum@gmail.com

Trevor Meinke
Fish Cribs
trevor.meinke@westfall-technik.com

SECRETARY - Dwight Aukee
daukee@comcast.net

Wilbur Hurst
Lake Level Advisory Chair
whurst@verizon.net

Chris Wirtanen
WcPIC Chair
cwirtanen10@gmail.com

Dave Zelinski
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Jim Vigness
Adopt-a-Highway Chair
jwvigness@gmail.com

MarkMalmberg
FishCribs
mark@bessemergia.com

VACANT
WUPCAC
Membership
Newsletter