



Please consider adding the Glen Lake Association to your year-end contribution considerations. While we have enjoyed a very productive and successful year in 2017, we continue to expand our outreach to further preserve and protect the quality and enjoyment of the Glen Lake/Crystal River Watershed. Your generous gift will help us deliver on our commitment.

The following are examples of current initiatives that will benefit from your generosity:

**Swimmer's Itch** – our gross spend on SI in 2017 was \$115,000. After expected reimbursement of \$62,000 from the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership allocation of the State of Michigan's DNR budget, the net GLA spend was \$53,000. Hindered by a lack of DNR permits for trapping, our average spend on SI over the prior four years was only \$16,000. One of many benefits of our substantial spending increase in 2017 included monies spent to train our own watershed biologists to trap and relocate common merganser duck nesting on our lakes in 2018 and beyond. Enabled by new DNR permits, we removed 99 birds in 2017 and may be challenged again in 2018 to remove similar bird numbers among eight broods. Additionally, the GLA plans to build on our statewide leadership reputation by offering to Lime and Lake Leelanau our expertise in bird relocation at attractive rates that reflect the economies of "owning" our own resources. We recently purchased the nets, equipment and flat-bottomed watercraft needed to execute this strategy at a cost of \$15,000. Your help in funding this investment will pay dividends as we reduce SI incidents through these critical control procedures.

**Watershed Protection Plan** – After several years of deliberation, we have engaged a consultant to join the GLA and our three watershed townships (Kasson, Empire and Glen Arbor) in a comprehensive review of the existing planning and zoning ordinances. Our goal is to identify opportunities to insure best practices for both ground and surface water quality are developed for consideration by our three local governments who will be working side by side in this two year project. This cost is currently estimated at \$30,000. While we are soliciting financial support from several groups including the townships themselves, your support in this project will allow us to utilize an intern to defray and leverage our professional fees.

**Guardian Program** – Launched in 2015 under then GLA president Denny Becker's leadership, this educational program targeted all watershed residents, businesses and visitors. The GLA asked all parties to learn of the best practices for protecting the ground and surface waters in the watershed and CONSIDER maintaining and/or adopting some or all of those practices by signing a pledge to do so. As a total volunteer program we were pleased to recognize 206 Guardians who returned a confidential pledge in joining the program. The Guardian program needs to be updated and promoted with more outreach for new participants throughout the watershed including new GLA memberships.

**Internships** – 2017 was the first year the GLA employed two outstanding interns to assist with research projects. We were fortunate to benefit from two \$1,000 gifts from Jim and Tom Dutmers in memory of their mother, Pat Johnson Dutmers, to provide a stipend to help compensate Erika Becker and Amanda Dow. We would really benefit from providing more financial support for the intern program in 2018 and beyond.

**Discovery Boat** – This hands on experience led by Rob Karner for 78 participants in 2017 has been warmly received and lauded for providing educational insight into the biology and integrated environment of our local lakes and streams. As a growing part of our educational outreach and marketing plans, we charge a small amount that only partially underwrites the cost of each adventure. We would like to provide more trips and could use your help to make this beneficial experience available to more people of all ages.

**New Engine for the R.V. Sarah** – Based on increasing maintenance and operating costs and to lead by example, the GLA purchased an environmentally friendly and fuel efficient four-stroke outboard engine at a cost of \$14,000.

The above are just the highlights of the exceptional work being done for all of us. Please consider sending us your additional support as you make your plans to close out 2017. As always, we greatly appreciate and thank you for your ongoing support during the year with your membership dues and other contributions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Witler".

Bill Witler, President

P.O. Box 245 | Glen Arbor, MI 49636

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