



Hello 2022 Garfield Lake Association Members.

The monthly Garfield Lake Association Board meeting was held August 10, 2022 and continued to go over plans and thoughts on how we can Keep Garfield Healthy, the GLA mission. Written below are the ideas and programs that we discussed at that meeting.

We reviewed and again celebrated the July water sampling negative results of zebra mussel and spiny water flea tests. We have now done 5 of these water samples, taken over 3 different spots on the lake, over the last 2 years and all tests have been negative. They show no evidence of zebra mussel vilegers nor spiny water flea. Great news! While no one knows what the future will bring, the additional staffing at the boat landing supported by our GLA membership dues and multiplied by additional assistance from Hart Lake Township, Lakeport Township, and the City of Laporte certainly helps. We thank our members and the leaders of these other entities for their financial support. We also thank Darryl Jarombek, the person who does both this AIS test and the Water Clarity test done 5 times per year and drives these water samples to the RMB lab "pick up point" for evaluation.

We discussed the need to get the specific dates the GLA needs to meet with the above entities to request this additional AIS funding and where required be at that entities financial meeting to answer any questions regarding our request. We need to assign someone to be at each of these meeting and therefore need those dates.

It is our thoughts that the lake does look clearer this spring / summer and we give that credit to the significant snow that we got last winter. The lake level was 13 inches higher this spring that last. However, we expect that this fall, we will once again see the "green cloudy slime look" that seems to come with the warmer fall waters. To better understand what is going on, we are looking into the history of zooplankton and phytoplankton and if there is some type of unknown "run off" into the lake causing this algae growth. Matt Summers agreed to take over the water clarity measuring done throughout the year. This data is sent to the MPCA and Mark has been doing it for over 15 years. Thanks both of you guys.

We discussed the cost vs value of our GLA website. Are there more cost-effective ways our members and nonmembers can read about activities and efforts to Keep Garfield Healthy? We would like our members feedback on this and am therefore, asking, you, the reader of this message to give us a reply to this question using the GLA website. Please go to: <https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/contact-us/> and write a brief comment on your thoughts. It won't take but 2-3 minutes and we would like some feedback on how valuable the website is. Also, please take a moment to look at the

super great photos that Bill Karsten has taken of wildlife around the lake. Amazing photos!! Thanks Bill.

On the issue of how we deal with the number of northerns and especially small northerns in our lake. Matt, agreed to write the DNR Commissioner, Sara Strommen, and ask her how we can reduce that number. Garfield has the largest northern population in the County according to the head of Hubbard County Fisheries. We believe that the huge number of northerns in the lake is one of the major causes of the significant decrease in the walleye population and size.

We spent some time discussing the DNR program called GET THE LEAD OUT. This program is focused on the impact that lead has with local wild life, especially loons. Lead is toxic and per the DNR website on this issue: "In areas where loons breed, lead poisoning from sinkers or jigs may account for up to 50 percent of the dead adult loons found by researchers."

We would like to better understand how we can encourage our members and other anglers to move to a different material in their fishing tackle. We see this as a "process over time event" rather than a one-time event. We would like to understand how all anglers can exchange their lead tackle for non-lead tackle and retail stores and websites where they can purchase non lead tackle. Therefore, 4 of us visited a sidewalk GET THE LEAD OUT one day site in Hackensack where the Birch Lake Association had a booth set up to make this exchange. We brought in 8 ounces of our own lead tackle and got several pieces of lead free tackle and a "free drink" coupon from a local tavern. We are looking into how we can support a program like this as well as help our community understand the impact of lead on wildlife. We also went to Reeds Sporting store in Walker looking at the price and availability of non-lead tackle and viewed the area where it was displayed.

Our next meeting will be 6:30, September 14, 2022. If any of our members would like to join us in these Zoom meetings, please let us know. You are very welcome to join and listen and or speak to issues where you might have questions and or concerns.

Thanks for being part of the Garfield Lake Association.

Ron Ray

Garfield Lake Association
PO Box 31, Laporte, MN 56461
www.GarfieldLakeAssociation.com
GarfieldLakeAssociation@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/garfieldlakeassociation/>