



11/17/22

Hello Garfield Lake Association Members,

The monthly GLA Board meeting was held Wednesday, November 16, 2022, via Zoom. Board members present were, Greg Melhop, Mark Warish, Matt Summers, and Ron Ray. Our purpose and focus for these meetings are to work on ways to Keep Garfield Healthy, our GLA Mission Statement.

Our current membership is 55 families from around the lake. We discussed the benefit of having local business join us and Mark and Ron will approach them and see if they too would like to join.

The status of the relationship between the “green slime” and the levels of zooplankton and phytoplankton is on our follow up list. Darryl will contact some individuals he knows to help us learn. We, also all agreed that this years level of “green slime – algae” was much lower that prior. Perhaps that is the result of the good snowfall last winter and higher lake levels. We hope to find out and see if there are other contributors which we can monitor and perhaps control.

Mark is continuing to work with both the MPCA and the Laporte school as we are trying to get a representative from the MPCA to give a presentation on the effects of lead in fishing tackle and its impact on waterfowl. Our thoughts are that perhaps we can help others understand this impact and help change fishing tackle from lead based to some other material such as tin, bismuth, steel, ceramic, or tungsten-nickel alloy. All of these materials are more expensive than lead which is the primary cause of the difficulty in getting this “Get The Lead Out” initiative to take effect. We hope to expose our members to this problem and hope they will move in the direction. Funding from the MPCA is available thru 2023 and paid for by the financial settlement after the oil spill in the Gulf several years ago.

Matt is working on getting water level and lake clarity levels on a monthly basis so we can publish them in our BOD minutes.

The funding for the Garfield boat landing is supported a lot by matching funds given to us by Hart Lake Township, Lakeport Township and the City of Laporte. They match our GLA funds, which come from our membership dues, and Hubbard County distributes funds given to them by the state for this purpose. However, the GLA needs to make sure we request this funding at each of these governmental organizations at their annual budget meeting planning sessions. Greg will be going to Hart Lake. Ron will talk with the City and Lakeport Township, and we will need a representative to attend. As you can see, this is a BIG deal. If any of our members would like to help us with this, please contact any of the Board members or call Ron on 218-689-4232.

Matt did an excellent job in studying the analytics of the GLA web site. While we are paid thru 2024 (\$375 for 3 years) we want to understand if this website is helpful for our members. For the month of October, we had 38 different users visit 42 times for an average of 30 seconds. We would like to hear from any of our members as to how helpful this site is to you. Please let us know thru the CONTACT button on the web site. Thanks ahead of time for this. And we are looking at the continued use of the GLA on our Facebook page that Bill has put together for us. Thoughts and comments please.

Matt did another excellent job in putting together the history of the walleye and norther population on Garfield using the DNR fish survey data from 1977 thru 2020. Our interest is in the huge increase we are “seeing” in the northern

population growth. As an example, the DNR netted 37 northernns in their survey in 1987; 150 in 2010 and 487 in the 2020 study. We will be putting this data onto a separate e-mailing to our members so you can see this change. In the meantime, we will be trying to get the attention of the “right people” in the DNR who can do something about this huge northern population growth. Our local fishery DNR leader does not seem concerned which we believe is a very wrong attitude and approach.

Mark has been working with Wade Measure, the Fishery Head guy for our area and Wade wrote Mark an email that says Garfield was stocked with 526,000 walleye fry on My 24, 2022. Garfield was last stocked in 2018 and missed the “every other year stocking” in 2020 due to Covid. Our next stocking will be 2024.

Ron has been approached by one of our GLA members who can provide various types of clothing for adults and youth with various Garfield Lake logos and such. We have provided such product in the past with some success and pleasure on the part of all of our members. We will follow up with this, but the Board has cautioned that we do not want to use our GLA funds to hold inventory. We are thin as it is and or primary goal is To Keep Garfield Healthy as we see thru our AIS prevention efforts. But we also want our members to be please and proud of the GLA. Ron will work with this and see what we can come up with.

We agreed that we would hold no BOD meeting in December due to Christmas so our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30pm.

As always if any of our members have any questions of comments on our programs, please contact any one of us using the GLA website. We would welcome hearing from you.

Happy Holidays!

Ron Ray