

LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

June 2021



The Lake Gogebic Improvement Association (LGIA) has existed for over 60 years. Across the decades, several generations of its members participated in and contributed to work of the LGIA on behalf of this body of water that means so much to so many. And it is our hope, thanks to you and with your help, that the LGIA will continue its efforts for decades to come.

The past year has been difficult for everyone and every organization. In early 2020, the LGIA lost its president of many years, Phil Wirtanen. Phil lived and loved Lake Gogebic. His untimely death was followed by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. And in May, the LGIA Board of Directors made the hard decision to suspend all meetings and gatherings for 2020. Unfortunately, this also brought the Association's endeavors to a virtual standstill. So, if you've missed hearing from us, know that we've missed communicating with you.

But now it's 2021, and a new season on the Lake. The LGIA is picking up where we left off. Demographic change is part of every community's life. And we've experienced our fair share around the Lake. Regular editions of our Newsletter will follow, but first on the LGIA agenda is to catch up with you--and you with the LGIA.

If the Lake could speak, it might tell us that it isn't much interested in who comes and who goes. It might also, however, remind us that it knows whether we who are here *now* care enough to protect it for those who one day will take our places. The LGIA exists to serve the Lake. You may already be a member of the Association. Or perhaps not yet a member. In either case, the LGIA is your Association.

Thank you!
For your interest and support!

The LGIA Board of Directors

Dwight Aukee; Mike Burt; Ken Carlson; Kathy Lowery; Jean Ninefeldt; Jim O'Neill; Steve Salmi; Jim Vigness; Chris Wirtanen; Ralph Wirtanen . . . with new members coming on Board in July . . . and keen to welcome more.

The LGIA We Are What We Are. And We Aren't What We Aren't.

The Lake Gogebic Improvement Association isn't, can't, and doesn't pretend to be all things to all people. It's not in our power, for example, to control the water level (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Upper Peninsula Power Company do that). Nor are we a property owners association or agency of government that pre- or proscribes what you can or cannot do. Nor are we empowered to negotiate or control the number of fish allotted each year for our Native American friends (that is a matter of sacred Treaty rights). The LGIA is simply a voluntary, low-budget, non-profit organization of dues-paying members with a Board of Directors who care--and care a lot--about Lake Gogebic.

Search for "**Protecting Lake Gogebic**" on **Facebook**. You'll discover one of the primary interests of the LGIA: clean boats and clean waters go hand in hand. If you've seen the boat washer and volunteers at boat landings around the Lake, that's the LGIA.

Inland waters in the Upper Midwest are increasingly vulnerable to **aquatic invasive species**. Lake Gogebic is no exception. Everyone on the Lake has a vested interest in AIS. Understanding the potential of the problem, monitoring the Lake, and eradicating threatening aquatic life is a top priority for the LGIA.

Historically, the Lake Gogebic **fishery** has been a source of pride. At the request of property owners, the LGIA has placed dozens of **fish cribs** in the Lake to help maintain the fish population. Perhaps you or your neighbors have one. And each year more are built and placed.

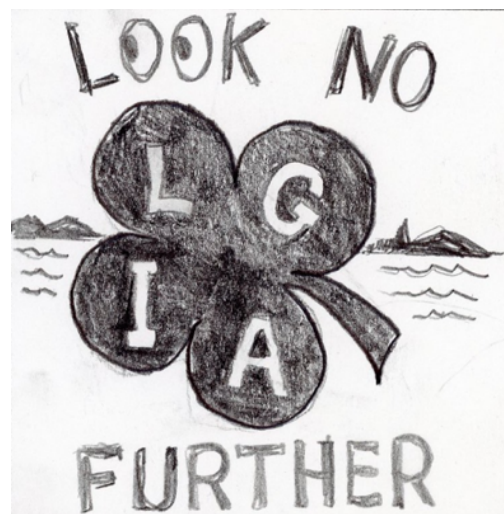
The LGIA is also working to build a **website**. **LakeGogebicIA.com**. It'll be a place where you can track with the work of the Association and all things Lake Gogebic, with links to interesting and relevant resources. And you may have a photo to share or a story to tell about life on Lake Gogebic that can be posted on the site.

Lake Gogebic has always been and is a clean and clear body of water. To ensure that this remains, the LGIA participates in Michigan's **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program**, documenting indicators of water quality.

Because highway litter is a near relative of polluted water, the LGIA participates in Michigan's **Adopt-A-Highway** program.

The LGIA also has a social side. Each July (except 2020 and 2021), in conjunction with its **Annual Meeting**, the LGIA hosts a **picnic** at the Gogebic County Park. In October, a **Fall Gathering** dinner wraps up the boating season.

So . . . →



LGIA Membership

Participating and contributing members are the lifeblood of every community of people. The Lake Gogebic Improvement Association is no different. Everyone who is interested in the wellbeing of this Lake qualifies for membership. You needn't be a property owner or a full-time resident on the Lake. Some of us are part-time residents; and others are seasonal or occasional visitors. Some of us have been on this precious body of water for generations; and others are more recent--and still learning how to pronounce 'Gogebic'. But what we all have in common is care for the Lake.

So, if becoming a member is just too tempting for you to pass up, you've got two questions: How do I become a member? And how much does it cost? Membership for **one year** is **\$15**. But the better choice is a **three-year** membership for **\$40**. Simply fill in the form below and send it, along with your check (payable to: Lake Gogebic Improvement Association, Inc.) to:

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

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Mailing Address:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Lake Address:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p> <p>Telephone: _____</p> <p>Any particular interests, talents, concerns you like to share?</p>
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The LGIA thanks you in advance for your interest and your support.

The LGIA sincerely grateful to Marenisco Township and its office staff for its continued generous and kind assistance in reproducing the LGIA Newsletter.

THE LAKE GOGEBIC IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE

FOR

THE WELL-BEING

OF

LAKE GOGEBIC

