

Times & Tides

2020
VOL. 47 | NO. 1

The Voice of Green Lake

A Publication of the Green Lake Association



Caring for the lake at the heart of our community

ALSO INSIDE:

2020 Reflections | GLA Board Member Spotlight | Many Hands Make Light Work
From the Land to the Water, Care Abounds | How to Care from Home

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- JUN. 19 GLA ANNUAL MEETING
9 to 11 am, Location TBD
- AUG. 7 GLA ANNUAL GALA
4:30 to 10 pm, Location TBD
- AUG. 21 LAND AND LAKE FAMILY FIELD DAY
10 am to 2 pm, Avalon Creek Farm,
W1774 Co. Rd K, Markesan, WI 53946

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FROM THE DIRECTOR
STEPHANIE PRELLWITZ | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a year 2020 has been. It has presented its fair share of difficulties, and required an extra measure of resiliency, adaptability, and strength from us all. While the work of the Green Lake Association (GLA) revolves around protecting and restoring the lake year-round, it's hard times that make us pause and assess what really matters. In my moments of reflection, I've more fully come to appreciate Green Lake as a vital part of my life and this community. The lake is a constant reminder of beauty, peace, hope, and of happier, healthier times. Like many of you, I have really leaned on and needed the lake this year.

During this year of great uncertainty, I've also had the pleasure of watching the community come together, to offer encouragement, to extend generous gifts of time and treasure, and to continue supporting the GLA's lake-protecting work. This edition of *Times & Tides* focuses on the caring community that the GLA is so fortunate to be a part of. What better time could there be to reflect on what we're grateful for?

We will never give up on protecting and restoring Green Lake's water quality, we will never stop pursuing the goal of a cleaner, healthier lake—but we also know that we can't do it alone, and we are grateful that we don't have to. From researchers, to partner organizations, to local farmers and caring community members, Green Lake is surrounded with the love and care that will help see it through to healthier times.

We hope you enjoy the stories that follow. From the bottom of our hearts—which are as deep as Green Lake—we thank you for your continued support.

Stephanie Prellwitz

STAY CONNECTED...

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2020 REFLECTIONS

LOOKING BACK ON A YEAR OF CARING

Navigating 2020 has been like sailing on uncharted waters day after day. All of the uncertainty we've faced as individuals and as a community has, at times, felt overwhelming—but when taking a look at the year as a whole, the GLA sees a community that truly cares for each other, and for its namesake: Green Lake.

We've witnessed care-in-action, through participation in our virtual events, through generous donations that fund lake-protecting work, through the dedication of our volunteers, and through the countless calls, cards, and words of encouragement we've received.

The uniting nature of Green Lake is something we have all known but, this year especially, the lake's ability to unite has been undeniable.

During times where we had to be apart, Green Lake helped us feel like we were together. During times when we were worried and weary, it offered moments of peace and solace. During times of uncertainty, it anchored us to the joy of the past and hope for the future. The lake has given us so much during this challenging year. Yet, we must remember that—as much as we've needed Green Lake—Green Lake needs us, too.

When we care for the lake, we care for each other. When we work together to protect and restore it, we're honoring the memories of those who have passed, and helping to preserve a beautiful place that means so much to so many in the present. When we work together for the sake of our lake, we are passing on a gift of love to future generations who have yet to experience the magic of Big Green.

While it's true that Green Lake is facing some big challenges that we will need to navigate, we take hold of a deep hope that these challenges are surmountable. Collectively, we can make a positive difference in the health of our lake.

The GLA looks forward to sailing into 2021 with more knowledge, strengthened resolve, and a community that cares—so that we can protect, preserve, and ultimately restore the lake that we all love so much. When we work together, we can accomplish anything!



BOARD SPOTLIGHT: SHARON DOLAN

CARING GLA BOARD MEMBER HELPS PROTECT THE LAKE AT HOME

The GLA is lucky to have talented board members all dedicated to caring for Green Lake. Sharon Dolan became an official board member in 2020, but has been doing volunteer work with the GLA for many years. Her diverse background and her commitment to caring, in both her professional and personal life, make her an example of how we can all contribute to the greater good for the lake and for the community.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Utah, moving to the Chicago suburbs when I was eight. I received a degree in Biology from Northern Illinois University, going on to do graduate studies in Immunology. I was hired by Abbott Laboratories Diagnostics Division, where I held positions in Technical Support, Clinical Studies, and Field and Operations Quality Assurance, retiring after a 25-year tenure.

After retiring, I purchased a home in Florida, becoming a snowbird. While taking part in community classes I became enamored with kiln formed glass art. I enjoy both the creative and technical aspects of this art form and have accelerated my learning by studying with glass masters, both national and international.

I also became involved with the local volunteer Emergency Squad, which provides Basic Life Support Services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is run entirely on community donations. After a year I went back to school, becoming an EMT for 5 years. Unfortunately, a rotator cuff tear ended that career, but I plan to train as a dispatcher. I truly enjoyed this experience because it allowed me to help people and I was able to use my background.

How did you get involved with the Green Lake Association?

For many years, I visited friends in Green Lake and always enjoyed it here. When I sold my home in Illinois, I decided to build a home here on Green Lake.

Shortly after settling in, I set up a meeting with Stephanie Prellwitz with the GLA and asked her to put me to work. I had always been impressed with the science-based, logical way the GLA approached improving water quality. I was also impressed with the research they sponsored, deepening our understanding of the issues the lake faced and illuminating potential solutions.

Since volunteering with the GLA, I have helped with record-keeping, gala setup, writing grants, and now, by becoming a board member. This opportunity challenges me, as I learn science that is new to me. It also allows me to be a part of something larger than myself, hopefully leaving the lake better than I found it.

What are some things you've done at home to help protect Green Lake?

As anyone who has a home or has built a home on a hill near Green Lake knows, you need to manage water on your lot. During the construction of my home, I partnered with Outdoor Impact to create landscaping I would enjoy, along with the infrastructure to manage and safely trap water on my property.

These projects included:

- Installed garden beds on both sides of the driveway and the front of the home, with terraced garden beds along the sides of the house.
- Graded the shoreline to reduce the steepness of slope to control erosion. Planted native plants and shrubs to anchor the soil.
- Installed two water catchment systems, which capture the vast majority of rain falling on the roof, reducing the overall flow of water on the property. The system consists of buried half round tanks installed over a bed of clear stone. Water from the downspouts is funneled into underground piping which flows into

the catchment system. This allows roof runoff to be filtered through the soil before entering the lake as groundwater.

- Created two large garden beds on either side of the backyard, planted primarily with pollinator-friendly and native plants, trees, and shrubs.

Before joining the GLA, I underestimated the impact of water runoff from my lot to the lake. Now I know that capturing 1 pound of phosphorus on my property prevents the growth of 500 pounds of algae in the lake—so it made sense to adopt strategies at home that would slow the flow and reduce the amount of water-quality-harming phosphorus that runs off my property, into the lake.

What does the lake mean to you and why is it important to you to help protect it?

The lake is a place of beauty and endless fascination. I never tire of watching the lake and its many moods. Each day that I look out on the lake or go out kayaking I see something remarkable. More recently, the lake and the challenges it faces informs the art I create.

The fact is the health of the lake isn't a given. This remarkable resource needs the intervention of people working to decrease the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. I hope to play a part in preserving this resource.

Anything else you think it's important for people to know?

Protecting the health of the lake isn't someone else's job. Everyone can do something to make a positive impact on the health of the lake.



WELCOME TINA AND NANCY

The GLA has welcomed two new additions to its team: Tina Solberg and Nancy Hintz.

Tina Solberg joined the Green Lake Association in October 2019 as Office Administrator. She holds a B.A. in French and Women's Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was a member of the UW swim team.

After college, Tina moved to France to teach as an English Assistant through the U.S. French Embassy and tutor students preparing to take the International Baccalaureate exam.

After returning from France, Tina became a Certified Professional Midwife and Licensed Midwife. She studied at Birthwise Midwifery School in Bridgton, Maine and continued her clinical work throughout rural Virginia and Wisconsin. During these same years, she married her husband, Dan, and they have since welcomed their four delightful children into the world.

Tina and her family currently reside on a small pasture-based farm in Neshkoro. Dan is a farmer and self-trained chef and their children attend the IB school in Green Lake. Tina appreciates the tranquility of rural Wisconsin, where she especially cherishes her evenings around the family dinner table.

Thrilled to be part of the GLA Team, Tina has high hopes for the impact and reach GLA can continue to have.

Nancy Hintz joined the Green Lake Association in January as its Director of Development.

She earned an M.S. in Experimental Psychology and an M.S. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She also has a B.A. in Biology and Psychology from Ripon College. Nancy worked for several years in various roles in Green Lake County's Human Services Department and then in UW-Oshkosh's College of Business.

Nancy previously worked for 12 years in Ripon College's Advancement Department, where she progressed to be involved in every aspect of fundraising and engagement. She most recently led the Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory's first-ever development program.

Green Lake was a favorite vacation destination for Nancy's family, which inspired her to attend Ripon College, given its proximity to the natural resource that made a positive impression on her. She has lived in the region ever since, and for many years has had a home on the shores of Green Lake.

Nancy feels that there is no environment that she is more committed to preserving, protecting, and restoring than that of Green Lake, and she is grateful for the opportunity to work on behalf of Wisconsin's most beautiful lake.





MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

GOLDEN SANDS RC&D HELPS PROTECT BIG GREEN

There’s a reason it’s called *BIG* Green Lake—because, after all, it’s a big lake! Compared to other nearby bodies of water, Green Lake is incredibly deep and holds a huge volume of water. For example, Lake Winnebago, which is just 45 minutes away, is bigger than Big Green in acreage but has a maximum depth of only 21 feet—compared to Green Lake’s 236 feet depth!

Such a large body of water needs many people and organizations coming together to help protect it. The GLA is proud to work side-by-side with many dedicated individuals and organizations, all striving to protect our beloved lake.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: GOLDEN SANDS RC&D

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) is a vital partner in helping to care for Green Lake, by actively working to prevent new aquatic invasive species (AIS) from arriving on our shores and in our water.

The GLA caught up with Golden Sand’s Anna Cisar, who serves as the Green Lake County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, to get the scoop on what it takes to keep Big Green safe from invasive species.

How long have you been the AIS coordinator for Green Lake County?

I have been the AIS Coordinator in Green Lake County (as well as Marquette, Waushara and Waupaca) for three years and counting.

As the AIS coordinator, what kind of projects and monitoring do you do?

As AIS Coordinator, my position focuses on prevention, outreach, and education. Throughout the year, I give

presentations, host outreach booths at events, and conduct a variety of surveys such as: AIS Early Detection Monitoring surveys, point-intercept surveys (a lakewide analysis of all aquatic plants), and current AIS population mapping on various water bodies, to name a few.

This year, I completed a survey in Green Lake for spiny waterflea and am currently waiting on results. Spiny waterflea, an AIS that causes an explosion of algae in lakes, has not yet been detected in Green Lake, so this is an offensive measure to protect the lake.

I also completed a survey for starry stonewort, another invasive plant, and am happy to report none was found.

This year, I also worked with the GLA, the Green Lake Sanitary District, Green Lake County Land Conservation Departments, and local municipalities to get new AIS signs and toolboards installed at seven of Green Lake’s public boat launches. This improved signage with cleaning tools will make removing those hard-to-reach weeds that get stuck under trailers a little easier.

How important is it to protect our lakes from new invasive species?

Protecting Green Lake from a new invasive species is extremely important! Green Lake is almost 8,000 acres, but it only took a couple of zebra mussels being introduced to the water to negatively alter the ecology of the whole lake.

If a couple of spiny waterflea are brought into Green Lake, it could cause a whole new set of problems and even compound the negative impact of the already-present zebra mussels. There are dozens of other AIS too, so protecting the lake is key.

IF A COUPLE OF SPINY WATERFLEA ARE BROUGHT INTO GREEN LAKE, IT COULD CAUSE A WHOLE NEW SET OF PROBLEMS AND EVEN COMPOUND THE NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE ALREADY-PRESENT ZEBRA MUSSELS.

What is your favorite part about your job?

My favorite part of my job is getting to work with so many people and getting to be a part of a project from beginning to end. Spending my summers on the water isn’t bad either!

What do you think makes Green Lake so special?

What makes Green Lake so special is the partnership that has been formed around this great resource. Green Lake has a team of professionals that span across county boundaries who are working together to improve the entire watershed. This, in turn, has a long-lasting impact on the health of the waters of Green Lake.

What are some of the most important things the public can do to prevent new invasive species in Green Lake?

The most important thing the public can do to prevent new invasive species is to *be aware* and *be vocal*. Before entering or leaving a body of water, inspect your equipment; remove any plants, animals, or mud; and drain all of your water.

Be vocal and talk to others about the importance of preventing the spread of AIS. Others will learn by seeing you take action, which could inspire them to start taking action themselves. That’s the kind of community-wide cooperation that we need to prevent a new invasive species from making Green Lake its home.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO EFFORTS ON BIG GREEN

Berlin Journal Newspaper
Cities of Green Lake and Ripon
Delta Institute
Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Dept.
Golden Sands RC&D
Green Lake Chamber of Commerce
Green Lake Coldwater Fishery Advisory Council
Green Lake Conservancy
Green Lake County Farm Bureau
Green Lake County Health & Human Services
Green Lake County Land Conservation Department
Green Lake Town Square
Green Lake Sanitary District
Green Lake School District
Michigan Technological University
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Patagonia
Princeton Fire & Rescue Department
Purdue University
Ripon Area School District
Ripon College
Ripon Commonwealth Press
Ripon FFA
State and Local Governmental Representatives
Towns of Brooklyn, Green Lake, Markesan, Princeton, and Ripon
United States Geological Survey
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Upper Fox-Wolf Farm Demonstration Network
Water Action Volunteers
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
All GLA Members, Board Members, Donors, Volunteers, Citizen Scientists, Sponsors, Supporters, Partners, and many more!



FROM THE LAND TO THE WATER, CARE ABOUNDS

AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBORS AROUND GREEN LAKE PRACTICE CONSERVATION

WITH 65% OF THE GREEN LAKE WATERSHED BEING AGRICULTURAL, FARMERS PLAY A BIG ROLE IN HELPING TO PROTECT THE LAKE. IN OUR FRIDAYS ON THE FARM VIDEO SERIES, WE FEATURED THREE LOCAL FARMS THAT ARE DOING THEIR PART TO HELP PROTECT SOIL AND LAKE HEALTH.

AVALON CREEK FARM

Avalon Creek Farm, located south of Green Lake near Twin Lakes, is operated by Lynne and Brad Goldsmith and is the site of a stream restoration project that has since diverted an estimated 300 pounds of phosphorus from the lake.

Dave Wilke, who was the first host of the Land & Lake Family Field Day, rents and farms part of the land at Avalon Creek Farm. Dave discussed how he enjoys working with conservation practices and how he sees more farmers moving towards conservation practices like no-till.

“The amount of soil lost with conventional tillage is so much greater than no-till. [No-till] makes more sense, saves time, saves the soil, and it has definitely saved me money.”

With the next generation of farmers in mind, Dave said, “If we lose all the soil, we’re not going to have [anything] for future generations to grow crops in.”

Lynne shared that Dave “has a tremendous respect for conservation practices, and that is really important to the legacy of this farm and we’re trying to accomplish here.”

POLLACK-VU DAIRY

With his wife, Kelly, and his parents, Chris Pollack milks 160 cows and farms 800 acres at Pollack-Vu Dairy, located in the Green Lake watershed.

The Pollacks were the second Land & Lake Family Field day hosts and—in collaboration with the GLA and Natural Resources Conservation Service—are the watershed’s first-ever demonstration farm, as part of the Upper Fox-Wolf Demonstration Farm Network.

“[The demo farm] is a great opportunity. We’re all trying to do different things to...keep more soil on our fields, and we’re all trying to achieve a common goal, which is to protect the lake and its tributaries,” said Chris. “It takes decades to build an inch of topsoil and you can lose it in a couple of really bad storms.”

In talking about overall goals for the farm, Chris stated, “I’m trying to stay profitable, but look at things in a different way from an environmental standpoint, while improving soil health and making this farm better. I have three kids now and

I hope there’s an opportunity for them to farm here...and have the same opportunity I had farming with my parents.”

Ultimately Chris wants to “be a farm that’s respected for how I farm.”

BOERSON FARM

Boerson Farm is a 69-acre diversified farm in rural Green Lake County. Mat and Danielle Boerson are committed to regenerative agriculture, the practice of building soil health and reducing dependence on outside inputs, such as commercial fertilizers and fossil fuels.

“We’ve always used ecologically-friendly practices, and we’ve always had the environment as our main focus,” said Mat.

When talking about the way they farm, Mat shared that “a big guiding principle for us is fostering the biology of the soil. Whatever we can do to promote life in the soil is good for the soil structure and its ability of water to infiltrate into the ground, thereby preventing it from running into creeks and lakes.”

“I’m a firm believer that if agriculture in the Green Lake watershed can move toward perennial and regenerative practices that keep the soil covered more of the year, our water quality will improve greatly,” Mat said.

Like many conservation minded farmers, Mat and Danielle are thinking of future generations. “The long term impacts of soil loss means a reduced ability to produce food and requires more and more inputs to do the same thing. If we leave a degraded resource that’s not viable for future generations, there will be nothing left,” said Danielle.

The Boerson’s sell their produce as part of CSA’s, at farmer’s markets and to local cafes. “The community is a big part of what we do.” www.boersonfarm.com

To view all videos from our Friday’s on the Farm series visit www.greenlakeassociation.org/fieldday.

Left: Lynne Goldsmith of Avalon Creek Farm Center: Dave Wilke examines the crops at Avalon Creek Farm. Right: The Pollack family at their farm Pollack-Vu Dairy Photos courtesy of ClearView Productions.

Left: Chris Pollack inspecting a no-till field at Pollack-Vu Dairy Center: Mat and Danielle Boerson in a greenhouse at their farm Right: Danielle Boerson shows their farm’s harvest. Photos courtesy of ClearView Productions.



HOW TO CARE FROM HOME

HELP PROTECT GREEN LAKE WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING YOUR YARD

Together, we can make a positive difference in the health of Green Lake by taking small actions that add up to make a big difference. Here are some ways to care for Big Green right from your own home.

LIMIT FERTILIZER USE ON LAWNS

Our soils are naturally abundant in phosphorus, so most lawns don't need phosphorus fertilizer. Any excess fertilizer will wash off and make its way to Big Green, where it will hurt water quality. Before adding fertilizer to your yard, make sure the middle number on the front of the bag, representing phosphorus (Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium) is ZERO. Also, if using a lawn service, call and ask them to confirm that the fertilizers they use do not contain any phosphorus.



DON'T RAKE LEAVES INTO THE ROAD OR LAKE

Leaves contain nutrients. When leaves pile up in the gutters, they act like a brewing cup of tea: The leaves may stay in place, but the water that leaves them is now "steeped" full of phosphorus. From there, it washes into storm drains, makes its way to the lake, and hurts water quality. Protect the lake by keeping leaves up on the terrace of your yard or mulching them in place on your lawn—but *never* rake them directly into the street or lake. Want to do a little more? If you see leaves in the street, rake them out of the gutter and onto the grass, and clear any leaf-covered storm drains. The lake thanks you!



REDIRECT DOWN-SPOUTS ONTO THE LAWN

Downspouts that are on hard surfaces, like driveways, direct rainwater straight towards gutters and storm drains where that water—and any nutrient pollution it contains—is then shuttled right to Green Lake. By re-directing your downspouts off of the driveway and onto the grass, you're giving rainwater a chance to slow down and soak into the ground, helping to slow the flow of lake-harming phosphorus.



Photo credit: ArmchairBuilder.com is licensed under CC

USE A RAIN BARREL

During storms, a large amount of runoff moves across the land, picking up nutrients, like phosphorus, that eventually ends up in the lake where it increases weed and algae growth. During a 1" rainstorm, an average sized roof can collect 600 gallons of water. By using a rain barrel, you're protecting the lake by helping to slow the flow of runoff. As an added bonus, the water they capture can later be used for watering lawns and gardens, conserving overall water use. Getting one rain barrel is a great start and if you want to have the greatest impact, get one for every downspout on your house!



Photo credit: Arlington County is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

REDUCE ROAD SALT USAGE

Winter road salt, used to de-ice sidewalks and driveways, eventually washes away and ends up in the lake. Just one teaspoon is enough to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. Salt negatively impacts water quality, aquatic life, and plant life. It can also harm terrestrial plants, damage concrete, and irritate pet paws. Follow the guidelines below to prevent over salting.

- Reduce the amount you use by shoveling more frequently to prevent ice formation.
- Don't apply road salt near storm drains.
- Remember most salts work best between 15-32 degrees F, so consider the weather before application.
- Only use the amount needed. Twelve ounces, the volume of a standard coffee mug, is enough to treat 10 sidewalk squares.
- Clean up any leftover salt remaining on driveways and sidewalks.



Photo credit: "Road Salt" by b_ungar is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

GET INVOLVED WITH THE GREEN LAKE ASSOCIATION

- Become a GLA member and help support our lake-loving work.
- Share these tips and tricks with friends and family.
- Volunteer with the GLA.
- Let us know how you're helping the lake at home by sending photos to info@greenlakeassociation.com.
- Stay up to date on the lake by signing up for our e-newsletter at greenlakeassociation.org.



SHORELINE RESTORATION

Caring for shoreline habitats is especially important, as these areas are adjacent to the water. Planting a buffer of native plants and trees along the shoreline helps anchor soil, prevents erosion, and filters out contaminants from upland areas. As an added bonus, allowing native plants and grasses to grow tall along the shoreline will prevent geese from camping out and leaving a mess of droppings on your beautiful property.

Anyone interested in shoreline restoration can contact the GLA to request a complementary copy of Shoreline Living magazine by emailing info@greenlakeassociation.com.



Photo credit: Jim and Mary Ratos

LOOKING TO DO MORE? HERE'S A FEW MORE TIPS:

- Pick up after pets. Their waste contains lake harming nutrients and bacteria.
- Never dump waste down storm drains, as they all drain to the lake.
- Go slow in your boat. Big wakes can erode shorelines.
- Wash your car in a grassed area instead of your driveway, where excess water could wash into storm drains.
- Eliminate bare spots of soil in yards and fields. Soil held down by plants is more likely to stay put during storms, helping prevent erosion, and run off into the lake!

COMMUNITY CARE SPOTLIGHT

During our Shine A Light event video debut, we received the following comment from Green Lake's very own Harrison Bold.

"I'm Harrison. I'm 9 years old and I love the lake!!! Thank you for keeping it safe"

It's moments like these that our commitment to caring for Green Lake is reaffirmed. The GLA will continue to work toward a restored lake that's safe for Harrison and for all future generations.

