

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

May 2002

“Spring Has Sprung”

. . . and new life is all around us . . . fresh new growth of trees and plants, new roads and landscapes and wonderful new homes . . . all around our beautiful lake. But along with Spring clean-up, we are seeing people using road ditches as their personal dump sites! Why?



Let us start “a-new” and with personal pride . . . keep our beautification project all around our lake.

You do not throw grass clippings and sticks on your own lawns, why use the ditches across the road where our walking path is! Soon, all the construction will be done, and all will be fresh and beautiful, let’s “begin a new” with yard refuse being taken care of properly and keep beautiful Green Lake - beautiful!

Remember, too, do not blow, mow, or take grass or leaf clippings onto the street or into the storm sewer or into Green Lake!

Thank You.

Kathryn Frazee

Dear Green Lake Property Owner,



The winter months and the ensuing winter weather we had in March and April is now behind us. We all look forward to summer and the enjoyment of owning a home or summer residence on beautiful Green Lake.

Green Lake Property Owners Association (GLPOA) board activity is somewhat limited during the winter months as many of our board members leave to spend time in warmer climates. However, since our last issue of the “Breeze” the association has:

- Continued to monitor and provide input to the County Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission on activities, such as property variance issues which impact Green Lake.
- Communicated with the County Commissioners about the Kandiyohi County comprehensive plan which was adopted at the Commission’s November 20, 2001 meeting. The GLPOA has expressed concern over future second tier housing development and its possible impact to Green Lake and Green Lake property owners.
- Made a \$500 contribution to the Spicer Commercial Club to help cover the cost of the Winter Fest fireworks display.
- Provided weekly property patrol services from October to mid-April for 131 Association members and communicated with owners as to any external property damage or forced entry. Owners are also notified if everything appears to be okay.

The 2002 Annual Meeting of the Association will be on June 21st at the Green Lake Bible Camp. Please mark this date on your calendar. A mailing with detailed information about this meeting will be sent out in early June.

The GLPOA Board is organized to represent the interests of Green Lake property owners. If you have any questions about the activities of this association or would like to provide input to the GLPOA activities, please contact any member of the board.

HAVE A GOOD SUMMER!

Sincerely,

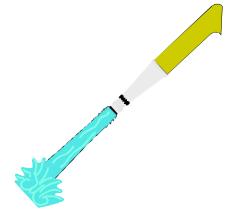
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendell Halvorson".

Wendell Halvorson
President, GLPOA



Water/Wastewater News from GLSSWD

With the summer season fast approaching, so will the demand on our water system increase. Providing a safe ample water supply for any and all needs will not be a problem for the district. The Water Treatment Plant is operating well and storage supply in the water towers is plentiful. Although water is readily available, for economic and environmental reasons we still need to be cautious not to waste it. Mother earth does not make any new water; we just recycle the amount we already have. So remember to repair any leaking faucets or toilets. A few drops a minute can add up to lots of gallons on 4hours. Also when you are out and about and happen to notice a suspicious flow or puddle of water occurring call the district office, so we can investigate for possible system leaks. When watering lawns, one-quarter inch of water applied in the evening hours is all that is needed to keep it looking healthy. Please remember not to water driveways and sidewalks. They don't need any moisture.



Water meter installation activity has increased as the weather started to warm up. All residences who are connected to the centralized district wastewater collection system must be metered to determine the usage amounts. So if you are utilizing your existing well system as your water source you will need to have a meter installed to track the amount of water going down the drain.

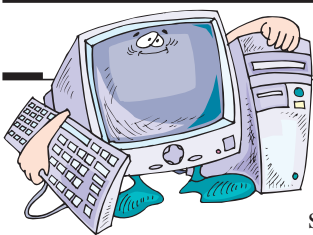
New chemical odor control equipment was installed last fall on the wastewater collection system to help eliminate odors. The chemical dosage had to be increased as the wastewater warms up during the summer months. We have been doing sulfide analysis a lift stations to monitor proper chemical feed amounts. Since odors can occur at any time during the day or night depending upon sewage detention time in the lines, let us know if odors become a concern at your residence so we can adjust feeders accordingly.

Please call the district office at 796-4523 if you have any questions or concerns you would like us to address.

Ron Hagemeyer
GLSSWD Director

GLPOA Web Site

www.greenlakespicer.com



The Green Lake Property Owners web site will be more active during the coming lake season. Any news articles concerning the lake will continue to be added along with events sponsored by the association. The upcoming spraying for lake flies will be posted and the calendar of events in the region will be included. Any news from Duinick's and the county on the finishing of the Sewer and Water project will be highlighted. Sheriff Kujawa will update the rules and regulations regarding buoys and markers. Check this section on the web site for how to apply for any permits needed for rafts, buoys, etc. These will be enforced starting this spring. He also is concerned on safety on the new roads and enforcement of the speed limits. Make the GLPOA web site a shortcut on your desktop to check the weather and any news concerning Green Lake. Contact the association via email if you have concerns and suggestions.

Bonnie Haug
Web Site Chairperson

N - ® - K
Just say **NO** to Phosphorus!



Common Loon

Minnesota's state bird, the common loon, is more at home in the water than on land. Built like a torpedo, it swims underwater in search of prey. Minnesota has more common loons than any other state except Alaska.

Identification - General description: Larger than a mallard but smaller than a goose, this water bird has a thick neck and a long, black bill. Its legs are set far back on its body, so it has an awkward gait on land. The male is slightly larger than the female, but otherwise the two sexes look identical. Weight: Adult loons weigh 8 to 12 pounds. Color: The common loon has a black bill and a red eye. In summer it is a spotty black and white with a black/iridescent green head. In fall a "winter coat" that's gray above and white below replaces its summer plumage. Sounds: The common loon has four calls. The tremolo, which sounds a bit like maniacal laughter, is an aggressive call. The wail is a long, drawn-out sound. The boot, a shorter call, is used to communicate among parents and young. The yodel is sounded by male loons guarding their territory.

Reproduction - Loons don't begin breeding until they are three or four years old. The male chooses a territory and attracts a mate. Together the male and female build a nest out of reeds and grasses on the edge of the water. They take turns incubating the one to two eggs the female lays. After 28 to 30 days blackish brown chicks emerge from the eggs, soon ready for a swim. One of the ways parents care for their young is to carry them on their backs to keep them safe from fish and turtle predators. Young loons don't fly until they are more than 2 months old.

Food - Loons like fish-panfish, perch, ciscoes, suckers, trout, bullheads, smelt, and minnows. They also may eat frogs, leeches, crayfish, mollusks, salamanders, amphipods, and insects.

Predators - Adult loons rarely are eaten by other animals (except bald eagles), but their young can fall prey to skunks, raccoons, foxes, snapping turtles, northern pike, and muskies.

Habitat and range - Loons are found on lakes throughout central and northeastern Minnesota. In September, Minnesota's adult loons travel to their winter home along the Atlantic coast from North Carolina south to Florida, or on the Gulf of Mexico. Younger loons follow a month or so later.

Population and management - Minnesota has more loons (roughly 12,000) than any other state except Alaska. Threats to loons include human disturbance and pollutants such as lead and mercury. The DNR monitors loon populations with the help of volunteers to improve understanding of what our state bird needs to maintain a strong, healthy presence here.

Fun facts - Loons' lives are filled with fun facts. For example:

- The bones of most birds are hollow and light, but loons have solid bones. The extra weight helps them dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food.
- They can stay underwater for up to five minutes.
- Because their bodies are heavy relative to their wing size, loons need a 100- to 600-foot "runway" in order to take off from a lake.
 - Loons can fly more than 75 miles per hour.
 - The red in the loon's eye helps it to see under water.
 - Scientists think loons can live for 30 years or more.

For more information - [North American Loon Fund](#)

www.enature.com/fieldguide/showspeciesSH.asp?CurGroupID=1

[Iron Trail Convention and Visitors' Bureau- Common Loon](#)

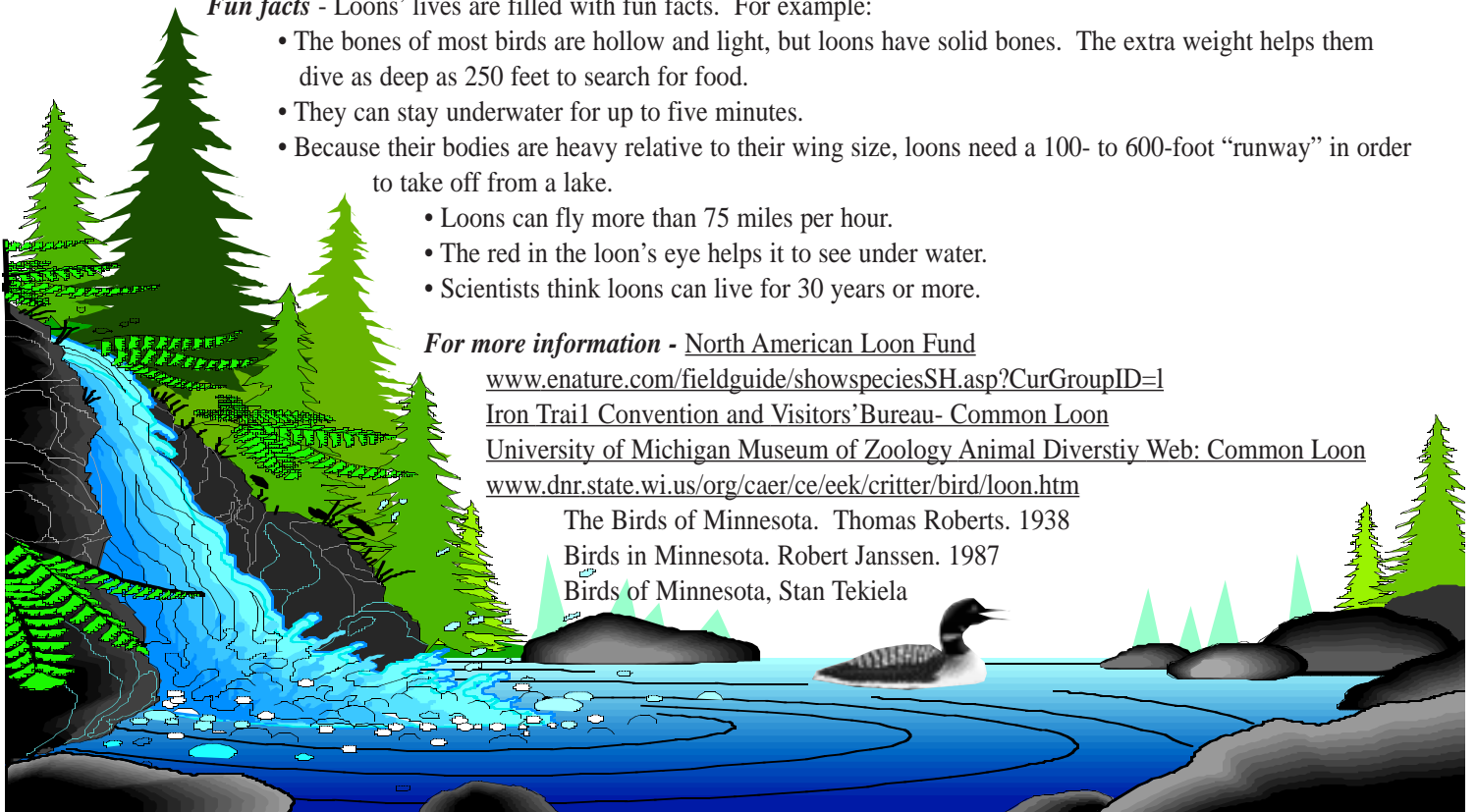
[University of Michigan Museum of Zoology Animal Diversity Web: Common Loon](#)

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/eeek/critter/bird/loon.htm

The Birds of Minnesota. Thomas Roberts. 1938

Birds in Minnesota. Robert Janssen. 1987

Birds of Minnesota, Stan Tekiela



Phosphorus Pollution

Phosphorus is a necessary and natural element found in rocks, soil, and our bodies. An essential nutrient for animals and plants, it is a common ingredient in fertilizers, and human sewage is a rich source of phosphorus. Of all elements, phosphorus is the key to managing lakes as “cleatf” or “green.”

Phosphorus clings to soil and is carried or “exported” from forests and fields into lakes and streams by water from rainstorms and snow melt. Export can also occur when land is developed or paved, and the natural filters and sponges of vegetated soil are reduced or eliminated, greatly increasing phosphorus export to our lake.

Phosphorus is a major pollution concern for lakes and streams because it supports the over growth of algae and water weed and can lead to oxygen depletion in the water. When one-tenth of a pound of fertilizer containing five percent phosphorus washes into Green Lake it may result in the growth of approximately 2.5 pounds of algae.

The good news is the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus is usually unnecessary because most soils in Minnesota are already naturally high in phosphorus at levels adequate for lawn growth. Often no additional phosphorus needs to be added to our lawns!

Homeowners on Green Lake may take a pro-active part in preventing lake pollution and degradation of water quality by helping to reduce the amount of phosphorus that gets into Green Lake from the run off from our lawns.

Look for fertilizer with a middle number of “zero” (27 - 0 - 5). We have contacted the following dealers regarding phosphate free fertilizer. Some have authorized coupons which are enclosed with this news letter, or your use.

The following stores carry phosphate free fertilizer:

In Willmar: Central Lakes Coop, I & M Nursery, Stacy’s Nursery, Holm Brothers, Meuleners Hardware Hank

In Spicer: Green Lake Nursery, Vegdahls Hardware Hank

In New London: Bergman’s Tru Valu Hardware

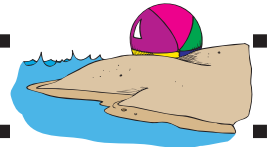
*The following stores **DO NOT CARRY PHOSPHATE FREE FERTILIZER**, but do carry low 3 percent:*

Walmart, K-Mart, Target, Menards

If you use a commercial business, they are required to offer phosphate free fertilizer. Please check with them to make sure they are using phosphate free.

Remember to check the numbers, pick the fertilizer with the “zero” in the middle!

Indian Beach Resort Sold To Developer



SPICER - This summer will be the 50th and last season for Indian Beach Resort on Green Lake.

The resort’s owners plan to sell the resort, and a local construction company plans to develop 27 single-family homes there in the next few years.

On Tuesday, the Kandiyohi County Board approved the development plans of Carlson Construction of Willmar. The planned unit development approved Tuesday is allowed under county ordinance.

While the Planning Commission had recommended prohibiting docks on the west shore of Green Lake, the County Board lifted that restriction.

“I believe it’s none of the county’s business,” said Commissioner Richard Falk of Willmar.

Board Chairman Harlan Madsen said the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will probably dictate where docks and lake access will be located. Much of the development will have lake access through a lagoon on the property.

Tim Carlson, president of Carlson Construction, said he has a purchase agreement for the land, but is still working on getting all the permits needed to develop the property.

Getting approval from the county was one major step. He still needs to work out agreements with the Green Lake Sanitary Sewer and Water District and the DNR, he said.

Depending on the housing market, the 27 homes will be built over the next two to three years, Carlson said.

Resort owner Donan Kroneberger called the sale of the resort “a sign of the times.”

The value of the land was probably double the value of the resort business, he said.

“I guess I’m kind of glad Carlson is doing this project,” he said. “It allows a number of families to continue to enjoy the property.”

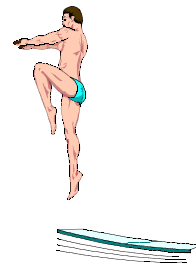
Raft/Dive Tower Permits.

Reminder to all residents to renew their swim raft/dive tower permits. For those who do not have a permit (no cost) please call the sheriff s department 235-1260 and one may be sent out for you to fill out.

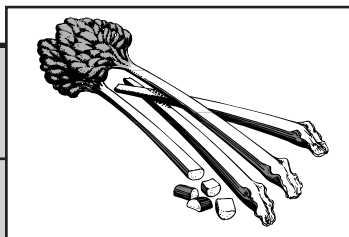
This year our department is issuing permits on private swim area and any extra buoys placed in the lakes. This includes property owners who put out a buoy to keep boaters farther out in the lake. Most areas the maximum distance allowed from shore is 100' for any buoy.

Please see the GLPOA web site for the private swimming area regulation swim raft rules, The water patrol will be inspecting swim areas and extra buoys for compliance and permits this summer. Permit applications can be obtained from water patrol officers.

Mike Roe Water Safety Office



Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Dept



Jim Gilbert's Journal

It's Rhubarb Time

The first rhubarb was tall enough to pull a week ago in southern Minnesota. It is a cool-climate perennial grown for the thick leaf stalks that are pulled and cooked in spring for their agreeable acid flavor. Native to southern Siberia and the Volga region, rhubarb has been cultivated for centuries. It was introduced to Europe about 1600, and by 1800 many different varieties were listed by horticulturists in America.

Rhubarb is most productive in the northern third of the United States. It is one of the few vegetables that can be grown in Alaska but cannot be successfully grown in the southern Gulf states as it requires a cold period of dormancy, preferably at freezing temperatures. In Minnesota, rhubarb is a harbinger of spring and is ready about a month before the first strawberries ripen.

In harvesting rhubarb, a stalk is pulled, not cut, but the leaf is cut off as it contains toxic quantities of oxalic acid and should not be eaten. The flower stalks should be removed and not allowed to produce seeds since seed production saps the energy of the plant. Harvesting of the thick reddish leaf stalks can continue for about two months after which plants should be allowed to build up a large crown for the next year.

*The Green Lake Property Owners have special permission to use Jim Gilbert's Journal.
Jim is a naturalist with WCCO Radio.*

Annual Meeting

Green Lake Property Owners Association

Friday, 15 June 2001

Green Lake Bible Camp

7:30 p.m.

The 2000 Annual Meeting of the Green Lake Property Owners Association was called to order at 7:30 p. m. by Chairperson Chuck Burmeister. A total of 97 guests were present.

Burmeister welcomed members and thanked them for coming. Guests introduced were Kandiyohi County Commissioners, Dick Larson, Dennis Peterson, and Dick Falk, Public Works Director Gary Danielson, and Kandiyohi County Sheriff Don Kujawa.

Burmeister thanked the Green Lake Bible Camp for the use of their facilities and coffee and to TDS for cookies for the meeting. The Spicer Queen Candidates introduced themselves to the property owners and encouraged property owners participate in the 4th of July celebration in Spicer.

Queen candidates sold flares and buttons before the annual meeting.

Rolf Figenskau gave the minutes for the annual meeting of 18 June 1999. Motion was made and passed unanimously.

Wendell Halvorson reviewed the financial statement for 06/01/99 to 05/31.00. The balance presented is \$22,119.93 which is placed in funds as shown:

General Funds	\$16,432.26
Patrol Fund	\$ 1,831.55
Caterpillar Fund	\$ 3,856.12

Treasurer Halvorson explained that the financial statement for this year will be based upon dollars received for the fiscal year and disbursement paid. In the past, revenue was placed in the previous year and the present year. Motion was made and seconded to approve the financial statement. Passed unanimously.

Chuck Burmeister, Chair of the Caterpillar Control, reported that we sprayed 340 acres for caterpillars on 15 May. Teryjon Corporation, Inc. of St. Peter, MN. sprayed at a cost of \$7,760.50. Due to a large number of worms, we sprayed a second time on 25 May covering 110 acres. The cost of the second spraying was divided between Teryjon Corporation and the Green Lake Property Owners Association. The cost of the second spraying was \$1,210.00 or total cost of \$8,970.50.

D.N.R. Chairperson Ron Dobbs reported, (1) the Rush Brown access will not be completed until the lift station is removed, (2) The D.N.R. has purchased the 2 parcels of property east of County Park 5 for a public access. The access will not be developed for one or 2 years because the DNR will be working with the county to obtain a grant to help with park improvement, (3) Because of very poor water conditions in front of the Gene Ransom property a permit was issued to remove the sand island in front of their property. The work has been completed and the conditions are improved, (4) The DNR is working with Kandiyohi County to provide fishing piers off of the bridge by the outlet when the trail is completed, (5) regulations for northern pike will remain in effect until 2007 with one northern over 24 inches may be kept, and (6) there will be a possible hearing in August to consider changes in the regulation that does not allow any bass to be kept.

Chuck Burmeister gave the Education Report for Gwynne Anderson. The Education Committee mailed out six GREEN LAKE BREEZE'S during the past year. Thank you to Verna Patrick for her NATURE NOTES and also to Jim Gilbert for his articles. A new directory was put out by the Education Committee and we wish to thank Bernice Barber for the cover

Nongame Wildlife Program

Greetings!

Volunteers across the state are needed to track Minnesota's loon population. In southwestern Minnesota, the lakes targeted for survey are in Kandiyohi County. Now in its ninth year, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Loon Monitoring Program has been fortunate to have had the support of many dedicated volunteers who also enjoy getting out to see loons and 7 other wildlife. Further, the information that they collect has been valuable for better understanding and conserving the common loon, our State Bird. However, this year we still have some unfilled survey "slots" in Kandiyohi Co. Gaps in survey coverage hinder our ability to properly interpret the data.

So we are putting out the call for more volunteers to partner with the DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program to have fun while making a difference. We're seeking volunteers who are willing to participate in the program for more than one year as this helps ensure more consistent reporting. Interested persons will be put on a list to fill available openings. Volunteers must be willing to participate in the program for more than one year. We will assign each volunteer to a pre-selected lake to count the number of loons they see on one morning during early July. This year the survey period is July 4-July 14, 2002. Easy-to-follow instructional materials, maps, and data form will be provided. Volunteers will need their own binoculars and/or spotting scopes and to provide their own transportation. In order to survey some lakes, a boat also may be necessary. Besides counting adult loons and their young, volunteers also will be asked to record basic information about the habitats that the loons need to survive and thrive. The average time commitment for surveying each lake is 2-4 hours. Surveys must be conducted between 5:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

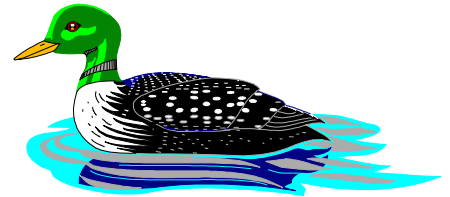
Persons interested in signing up should call or e-mail, Larinda Burg, MNDNR Nongame Wildlife Program - New Ulm, 507-359-6035, [larinda.burg\(a\),dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:larinda.burg(a),dnr.state.mn.us) by May 15, 2002. If you have additional questions about the survey itself, please call or e-mail Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer, MNDNR Reg. 4 Nongame Wildlife Specialist (507-359-6033, lisa.gelvin-innvaer@dnr.state.mn.us . Thank you!

REMEMBER - IT'S ALL FOR THE BIRDS!

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Gelvin-Innvaer
Nongame Wildlife Specialist
MNDNR-Nongame Wildlife Program



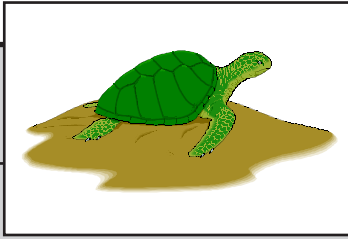
Spraying For Tent Caterpillars

The University of Minnesota has warned us of a large Tent Caterpillar infestation this year. The GLPOA has employed TeryJon Corporation to spray, with a helicopter, a 200 foot swath around Green Lake the week prior to Memorial Weekend. This is, of course, weather permitting. The spraying will be done when the leaves are between 1/2 and 3/4th out. They will use a spray called "BT," which is a natural substance, absolutely not poisonous to anything except tent caterpillars. The spray adheres to tree leaves, when the caterpillar eats the leaf it upsets it's digestive system so bad it will die.



We will announce over the local news outlets the day and time of the spraying, of course weather permitting. When the helicopter passes over it is suggested that you go inside your home - but the spray, as stated above, is not harmful.

Please remember that we use a substance which adheres the spray so there will be some clean-up to your windows, cars, etc.



Jim Gilbert's Journal

Painted Turtles

On a sunny day, look for basking turtles up on logs or other objects above the surfaces of ponds.

The painted turtle, commonly called a mud turtle, is a small turtle with an upper shell up to six inches long with bright yellow and red markings on its underside.

There are more painted turtles than any other of the eight turtle species living in Minnesota. Ponds and lakes where aquatic vegetation is abundant are their habitat. Their diet consists of about two-thirds water plants and one-third animal food, including dead fish, dead clams, worms and various aquatic insects.

Although it is not easy to approach the painted turtle, it is probably the least wary of all Minnesota turtles. Its habit of sunning on floating logs, or any object projecting just above the water level, makes it easy to see.

Curious people sometimes ask why turtles bask in the sun with outstretched necks, legs and tails. Reptile biologists tell us they do this to raise their body temperatures, enabling food digest. Turtles also receive ultraviolet light for the manufacture of vitamin A, but there is no certain evidence that sunning removes parasites.

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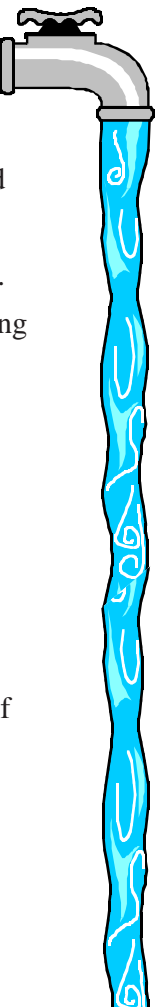
Water Quality

Eurasian watermilfoil will continue to be a focus of our lake association in 2002. DNR informed me that no checks have been made in Green Lake as of this date for spring growth of the milfoil, but that it will be done soon and treatment procedures will be determined after the survey has been done. We are hoping that the active prevention and control activities last year have paid dividends in keeping this problem to a minimum.

The water testing programs of both MNDOT and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed will continue in 2002. We are fortunate to have the number of sampling stations in our watershed area to monitor pollutants and help to identify the source. This is necessary to be able to seek support for corrective action to help keep our lake as clean as possible.

You are again asked to use phosphorus-free fertilizer in any applications you use near the lake. If you use a lawn service, please request that they also use this fertilizer in their applications. You can make a difference!

Marlin Wacholz



Division of Natural Resource Committee Report



Gary Broman
Spring 2002

Last August Wendell Halvorson, Terry Frazee, and myself met with Bruce Gilbertson and Skip Wright of the DNR for a change of GLPOA personnel briefing session. We reviewed a number of issues, but two of them I wish to bring to your attention.

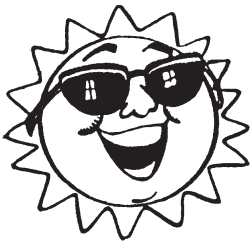
As Green Lake homeowners we watch the level of Green Lake wax and wane over the years; so have you wondered how the level is controlled. We need to consider the three areas of water; Green Lake, Dietrich Lange Wildlife Management Area (out east of the Green Lake outlet), and Lake Calhoun, as a single body of water of about 7300 acres. At the outlet of Lake Calhoun and at the outlet of the Lange Wildlife Management Area there are two dams where these waters enter into the Middle Fork of the Crow River for their eventual trip to the Mississippi River. The outlet of Green Lake goes primarily through the Lange Wildlife Reserve area and then into the Crow River.

These two dams are set at an elevation of 1155.3 feet above sea level and sets the level of all three bodies of water. When Green Lake gets above that level due to watershed drainage the water will flow over the dams and continue to overflow until it reaches the dam control level. When the water level is below the dam level, Green Lake will continue to go down due to evaporation, lawn irrigation pumping, etc. Since Green Lake is the largest size by quite a bit (5821 acres), a high level in Green Lake (like in the spring or after a very large rainfall) will take quite awhile to lower itself by overflowing the dam at the outlet of the Lange Water Refuge. Remember, these outlet dams are a fixed level; so if the water is higher it just has to overflow until it gets back to the level of the dam.

The dam at the Olde Mill Inn controls the level of water upstream between the dam and New London, which includes Nest Lake and the Crow River to New London. The darn at New London controls the level of the Mill Pond at New London and upstream the Crow River towards Mud Lake. These two dams are managed together to control the level upstream from New London. Whenever it is necessary to release water from the New London darn, it is also necessary to adjust the stop logs at the Old Mill Inn to allow a similar about of increased water flow to avoid flooding the area of Nest Lake and the river to New London.

In summary, the two dams at the outlet of Lake Calhoun and the Water Mgt Area control the water level for the combined areas of Green Lake, Lake Calhoun, and the Dietrich Lange Water Mgt Area. The dam at the Olde Mill Inn controls the water level of Nest Lake and the river back to New London.

A year or so ago an extensive Water Management Study was initiated of the Green Lake Watershed Area. The watershed for Green Lake is about 107,000 acres in size and consists of many sub-watershed areas that ultimately flow into Green Lake. This watershed area is very crucial in controlling the water quality of Green Lake. Under this Water Management Study, a satellite imaged map of the Green Lake Watershed area has been created. At our meeting with the DNR, we were given a copy of this map (3 ft. by 4 ft). We have framed this map and provided it to the City of Spicer for Green Lake residents to view it at the City Hall. Also the water is monitored at 9 locations to allow data to be gathered to determine water flow and quality level in various areas of the watershed. As time goes on this data will be valuable in determining problem areas that need attention.



Nature Notes

Remember “This Was the Week that Was,” familiarly known as TWTWTW?

We have a new TWTWTW-This Was the Winter that Was (Not), at least when it was supposed to be. After our 27-30” snowfall on November 30 that socked in the New London-Spicer-Willmar area for several days, we had a comparatively snow-free, mild winter, only twice going below zero. Green Lake finally froze over on Christmas Day, and even on New Year’s Day, those hiking out on the lake found open patches of water in small areas.

Spicer’s Winter Fest was postponed a couple weeks until the ice became thick enough to cut for the September memorial, taking the place of the traditional ice castle. High School students designed it, and the sculpture with the three large American flags flying freely was most impressive. The dedication, complete with fireworks, was duly held-and the next week the entire sculpture had to be tom down, as melting caused the blocks to teeter dangerously.

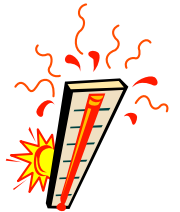
Then March and April arrived-and the snows came, and came, and came, along with stiff winds that sculpted concrete-like drifts. Spring bulbs like tulips awoke early and poked through their straw cover, and some experienced arrested development, grew big leaves and forgot to send up buds. A picture in the West Central Tribune showed other tulips with several inches of fluffy, wet snow atop their blossoms. Snowdrops and crocuses bloomed through the snow.



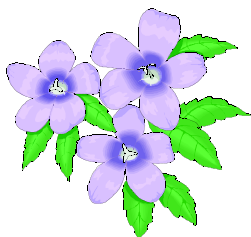
Canada geese and swans arrived in the early open water by the outlet. An eagle sat on an ice ridge, watching a patch of open water on the northeast side for its next meal, and robins hopped about on the few tiny patches of open ground amid the snowdrifts. Gulls began soaring overhead as ice out approached.

We went from 17 degrees to 91 degrees (briefly) in just a few days.

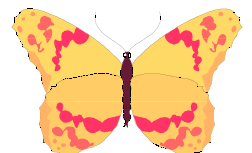
On April 16 the ice went out after becoming more and more porous and black for a week. This time southwest winds piled it up in five foot drifts on sections of the east shore and mostly on the north shore. As soon as the ice went out, mergansers and then coots were swimming by. Purple martins arrived April 18, as one person used to predict, coinciding with the lake’s opening up. A couple of bird I-overs on the north shore were dismayed by a hawk that kept attacking the smffler birds that frequented their bird feeders, so they had to relinquish feeding the birds. Others, fortunately, had the usual pileated woodpeckers, downy and hairy woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and housefincbes visiting their feeders regularly.



The late snows (we had more in March and April than in the previous two months) brought the lake level up-within a foot of the bridge over the outlet. One is hard pressed to determine a “normal” level of the lake, but suffice it to say it is up from last fall and not so high as it was last spring. A hydrologist would be more precise, but these observations are made by one who has lived here for years and checks with friends around the lake for their sightings as well. Those of you who were away for several months missed a most unusual winter. We are still waiting for SPRING.



Gloria E. Benson



Fish Management



DNR Fisheries stocked Green Lake in the fall of 2000 with walleye fingerlings, and have modified the experimental regulations on bass beginning in 2001 to allow harvest of bass under 14" in length.

Reasons for the actions are as follows. Green Lake has had experimental fishing regulations since 1997 to improve the quality of northern pike and bass angling. The rules have required no harvest of northern pike 24" and larger, and catch and release only for bass. Northern pike have responded to the regulations as expected with moderate improvement in quality size fish, while maintaining relatively stable population levels. Smallmouth bass showed an improvement in size, however, the number of bass increased greatly over the pre-regulation abundances.

Spicer Area Fisheries held public meetings in summer and fall 2000 to provide Green Lake fish population monitoring information, and to gather input from anglers about their observations and concerns. Anglers were pleased with the increase in average walleye size, but were worried about sustaining the "good" walleye fishing. They were also pleased with the bass fishing, but were concerned for how it might affect the walleye fishery. There was concern especially for lower reproduction of walleye as sampled by electrofishing each fall since implementing the regulations.

The abundance of adult walleye since the experimental regulations has remained above the historical average for Green Lake. Green Lake still ranks as one of the best walleye lakes in the state.

Spicer Fisheries stocked Green Lake with 100,455 walleye fingerlings in fall 2000. I recommended a change in the bass regulations to modify the no harvest of bass to: **no harvest of bass 14" and larger (smallmouth and largemouth)** beginning with the 2001 bass season. The regulation change has been approved.

The change in the experimental regulation for bass on Green Lake will allow angler harvest to control the abundance of bass, while maintaining a quality fishing opportunity.

Spicer Area Fisheries will continue to monitor Green Lake through annual test netting and electrofishing surveys. A creel survey will be conducted this summer to monitor angling success. We will continue to solicit public input, and will actively manage Green Lake to provide the best fishing into the future.

Sincerely,

Bruce Gilbertson
Area Fisheries Supervisor

