

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

May 2004

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Greetings Green Lake Property Owners,

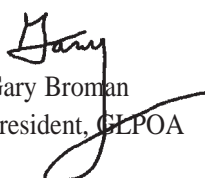
Many of you are finding your way back to Green Lake for the summer (sort of like the swallows at Capistrano - you return to the same place each spring) and others of us have made it through the winter (or a major portion of it). Welcome to Green Lake for another beautiful summer.

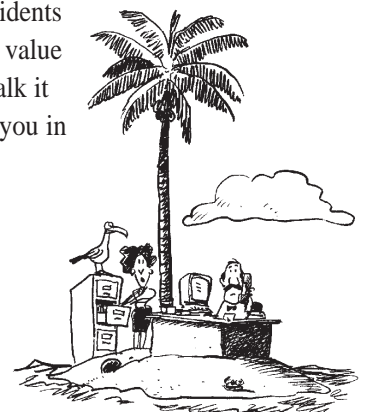
Last fall, I wrote in the newsletter that your Lake Management Committee would be meeting over the winter to assess how we should be more proactive about the future of Green Lake and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed. Well, much has been discussed and the Board of Directors reviewed a summary of that on Saturday, 24 April 2004. It is planned that a full summary will be presented at the annual meeting in June. Some key points are:

- 1) A proposal was submitted to the County Water Board to fund a minimum level water monitoring program for the MFCRWS until funding may be located for more significant work. The Kandiyohi County Commissioners funded \$12,000, Spicer funded \$1,000, GLPOA funded \$2,000 and we are working on additional funding to get to a total of \$20,000 for the 2004 Monitoring Program.
- 2) Action is being taken to reactivate the MFCRWS Association; so we are able to get all the players in the watershed on the same team concerning Water Quality issues. The MFCRWS includes 7 lakes (Calhoun, Elkhorn, George, Green, Long, Monongalia, and Nest), the cities of New London and Spicer, and the townships north of us to the county border. A meeting of these groups will be held on Tuesday, 11 May 2004 at the Green Lake Bible Camp at 7:00 P. M to address the issue of Water Quality and to establish a Steering Committee to oversee reactivating the association.

At the September 2003 meeting, the Board of Directors took action to change the dues system for members of the Green Lake Property Owners Association. Effective with the fiscal year starting in June 2004 the dues will be \$25.00 per year. This will include spraying for army worms, which was a separate charge in prior years. The winter patrol will still remain a separate charge for those using the service. Hopefully, all the residents of Green Lake shoreline will recognize the great value this is and we can achieve 100% membership. Talk it up with your neighbors and make sure they join you in being a member!

Wishing you a great summer at Green Lake!

  
Gary Broman  
President, GLPOA





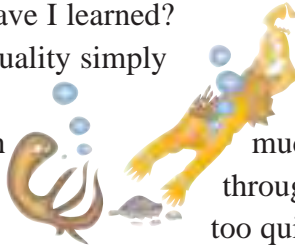
# Green Lake: Don't Take It For Granted

Like most people who grew up in Kandiyohi County, I have always taken Green Lake for granted: Red Cross swimming lessons on Saulsbury Beach; Fourth of July picnics at the park; summer vacations at Krueger's Resort. It was known at that time as one of the purest lakes in the world, but I never knew why.



Today my ignorant bliss has been shaken by the knowledge that as a resident on the lake, I must be acutely aware of my responsibility to preserve this wonderful water resource, and that how I lead my daily life affects not only the water quality of Green Lake, but also my property's value (water clarity & property values have been shown to go hand in hand). So now that I'm a little smarter than yesterday, what have I learned?

I know that Green Lake's water quality simply depends on what goes into it: if waters in the watershed north of us are impaired, bad water will come into the lake; development has brought more surface cover with much less opportunity for storm water and storm water run-off to naturally filter itself through dense grassy areas; curb and gutter along our roads means that run-off often goes too quickly and directly into the lake taking along whatever pollutants laying in the roadway; use of fertilizers and soaps containing phosphorous will produce a multitude of gunk in the lake. But what can I do about it? I need to make sure that our roads are kept clean of any and all debris, particularly grass clippings (the GLPOA intends to secure a more frequent schedule of street sweeping). I will also try to slow the water run-off between my home and the lake by keeping that grassy area a bit longer and thicker. I need to re-direct eve spouts towards grassy areas rather than onto hard surfaces. I can make sure that our pet's doo goes into the garbage (walking the other day, I saw where someone had cleaned their kennel and threw it on the lake bank - this is really bad!). Finally, I can talk to my neighbors and share with them the importance of being awake, aware, and active members of the GLPOA. There is only one person responsible for Green Lake's future, and that is you.



*Jon Pederson*

## Notes From The Sheriff



Greetings to all Green Lake residents:

It's hard to believe the summer season is here! The Sheriff's Office is gearing up for another busy summer and I was asked to give you a reminder on a few items. The first is if you have rafts and other structures that you want to put in the lake, to please make sure and contact the Sheriff's Office for a structure permit. There is no cost for those permits.

The Sheriff's Office also receives complaints about individuals that parking around the lake is limited, but the no parking areas because of the bicycle lane. We have issued warnings and If you hire a yard maintenance service to take care of your yard so that they are not parking in the no parking zones.



parking in the no parking zones. I realize are there for a reason and that is mainly citations for this and will continue to do so. please allow them to park in your driveway

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at the Sheriff's Office 320-214-6700, ext. 3301. If you have immediate concerns please call our dispatch center at 320-235-1260 and a dispatcher will assist you.

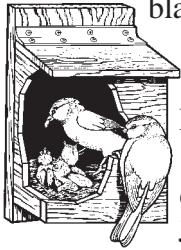
Have a great summer!

*Sheriff Dan Hartog*

# Nature Notes



“The winter is past and the song of the turtle [dove] is heard in the land” along with the trill of red-winged blackbirds, the often questioning call of the cardinal (that stays with us all winter), the phoebe call of the chickadee, and the haunting cry of the loon. The great blue heron stalks among the rushes; flocks of pelicans form floating islands in East Woodcock and the waters across the road from Indian Beach Road.



The dry snows came often and deep this past winter but seldom packing into the concrete like drifts of previous years, doing little to alleviate the dry conditions since last July. A few days way below zero with shivering wind chills reminded us what

winter in Minnesota can be like. Spring came abruptly when the ice went out (mostly) in one day-April 3. For once those of us here had an opportunity to watch it all day long, from the tongues of open water from the outlet to seeing the ice, borne by a strong northwest wind, pile up on the south shore. Some slabs, but often rock shaped chunks of ice, formed 10' to 20' drifts around boathouses, docks and boats, supposedly safely stored on the shore or up on lawns. Those dunes of ice were dramatic, to say the least. Ice extended out into the lake during the next couple days, but the lake was 90% ice free on the 3rd.



The night of April 4 the first cry of the loons was heard. Previous to break-up, swans spent a couple days in the open water over Hultgren's bar. Canada geese by the hundreds sought the open water of the outlet for about a week on their flight north.



One might assume from the previous mention that the winds have been mighty. When one sees waves on the birdbath, what further proof does a person need?

Over the years one has occasionally seen a water skier, equipped with a wet suit, out in the open water while ice covers much of the lake. I recently learned that two intrepid brothers on the North Shore, as soon as the ice retreats enough to make it worthwhile, don their swimming suits and jump in the lake. This year one even swam out to an ice floe so his mother could take his picture. She's taken pictures of both of them, so they have a record of the endeavor. The third brother watches from shore, shaking his head at his siblings' antics. More power to you boys. That's the Green Lake spirit. May the Green Lake breezes waft more gently on us all this summer.

*Gloria Benson*



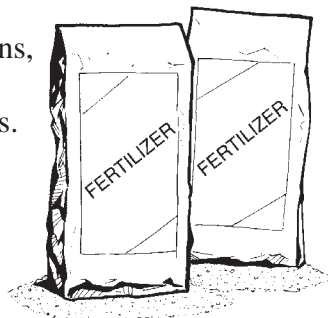
## Remember Not To “P” In Green Lake

A new Minnesota law restricts the sale of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers in the 7 county metro area.

Greater Minnesota has the chance to say “No” to phosphorus within our fertilizer. Phosphorus in lakes causes unwanted algae growth and is not needed in most lawns.


If you fertilize your own lawns, in the middle three numbers on means it contains no phosphorus.

If you use a lawn service, formulation. If you do not ask, to use phosphate free fertilizer.



look for the number ‘zero’ each fertilizer bag. This

please make sure they are using a phosphorus-free you may be hurting Green Lake. Please ask your vendor This is one way we may help Green Lake.

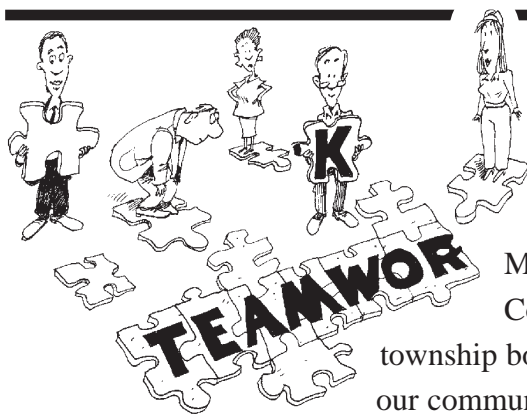
N -  - K  
Just Say **NO** to Phosphorus!

So remember, please do not “P” in Green Lake!

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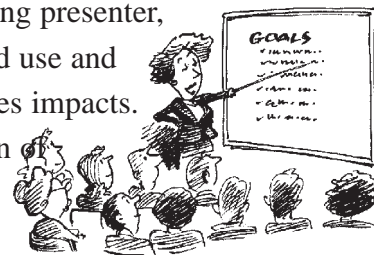
# Help Protect Our Lake

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On March 23, GLPOA and the City of Spicer sponsored an educational workshop called NEMO, (Nonpoint Source Pollution Education for Municipal Officials). The event was attended by Kandiyohi County Commissioners, city council members of Spicer and New London, township board members, and others interested in protecting our water resources as our communities grow. About 75 persons attended, hearing presenter,

Jay Michels, of MN Erosion Control Association, making the connection between land use and water quality; and how to make land use changes with minimal adverse water resources impacts. The information was excellent and well received. Short and long term implementation of our goals, will be the key to our success.

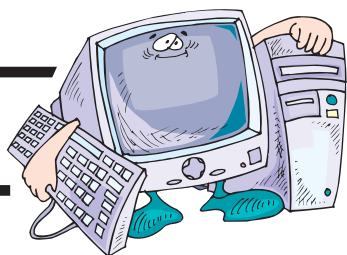


Another piece of information coming your way will be a “paper homeowners to keep pollutants off streets, driveways and storm drains. A Boy Scout Troop from New London along hang this flyer on your door knob around Memorial Day. the suggestions on the card to help protect our lake and keep

door knob hanger,” as a way of reminding sidewalks, and out of our with their assistant Scout Master, will Please take a moment to read and use our waters clean.



*Gwynne Anderson*



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## Education and Web Site

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The GLPOA Website at [greenlakespicer.com](http://greenlakespicer.com) continues to provide information throughout the year to the residents of Green Lake. A link will be available to MNDOT'S Highway 23 Project on the Main Page again this summer. This site contains the latest information concerning road conditions and any detours. In addition check the History Section with monthly changes and the News Media Section with local press releases concerning Green Lake. Photos can also be submitted Dan Hartog has outlined the process for obtaining permits the Sheriff's Section of the web site. In addition Green Lake roadways are given. Together we can roadways safe for vehicles and residents on the adjacent walkways.



for the Photo Gallery. Sheriff for buoys and rafts on the lake on reminders to residents driving on all help in making these

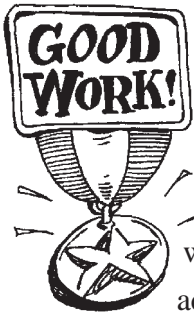
Informational Education Meetings for Green Lake Residents will be months sponsored by the Green Lake Property Owners. The first session will address Market/ Assessed Evaluations of Kandiyohi Property. It will be held Friday, June 11, 2004 at 7:30 PM at the Green Lake Bible Camp. The presenter will be Dave Oelslager, Kandiyohi County Assessor.

This will be an informational meeting to explain the evaluation process throughout the county and not a time for individual case discussion. Individual cases can be handled by arranging an appointment at the county offices. Coffee and cookies will be provided. Bring your neighbors with you.

*Bonnie Haug, Education & Web Page Chairperson*



# GLSSWD News



The GLSSWD is proud to announce that it received a 2003 operational award from the MPCA for its wastewater treatment system. There are numerous criteria's that must be met to qualify for this award. The GLSSWD also received this same award for 2002.

The MPCA recently issued the district a new five-year operating permit. This permit allows the wastewater treatment system to legally operate its facilities. The permit contains language that addresses every aspect of operations. Some of the requirements identified in the permit relate to sampling, analysis, reporting maintenance and effluent limits.

For those homeowners who are getting their residences ready for summer be sure to watch for leaking fixtures or any other fault in your water system. Water gallons running through toilets or discharging from lines elsewhere can add up quickly. If the water meter was removed last fall, be sure it is not re-installed backwards. This will cause the homeowner and district personnel additional time and effort to correct. Just look for the arrow on the base of the meter. The arrow should point the same way the flow enters your house. Also do not forget about the signal wire that attaches to head of the meter and to the remote read box normally located on the outside of your house. If this is not attached we receive a no read signal and again we will need to contact the homeowner .



A few property owners again had some problems with their water or sewer system this past winter. We know of nine water meters that were damaged by letting them freeze. This can create some expensive flooding problems when pipes/meters freeze and burst. Some sewer services also froze up this past winter. This was mainly due to no activity in the home for long periods of time and their high efficiency furnace depositing small amounts of water down the sewer service system and freezing in the cold pipe before discharge.

If you do a lot of lawn or garden watering with the district water supply you may want to consider installing a separate water meter just for those purposes. You would be billed only for water usage.

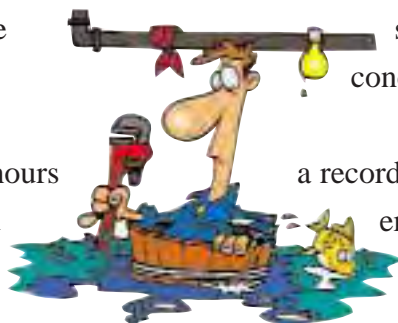
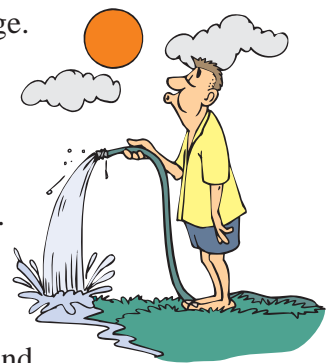
Call the district office for additional details and guidelines.

Again this summer keep an eye out on your property for any water system leaks or non-metered discharges of water. If you notice an area that stays wet or has water accumulating while other areas are dry, give the district a call and we will investigate.

Sewer collection line maintenance and pump repairs are expensive and time consuming. So please remember, put solid waste items in the garbage for disposal at the landfill and not down the drain. Also remember that grease clogs your system and ours, so help keep it out of the system.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call me at the district office at 796-4523.

If it is after normal workday hours a recording will direct you how to contact someone if you have a water or sewer related emergency.



*Ron Hagemeyer GLSSWD Director*

# REFRESH .... RENEWED .... RETHINK .... REWARDS

## Refresh...

In the newness of life all around Green Lake!

**Renewed** hope for our area abounds in new plants, new roads and new landscapes and wonderful news homes on beautiful Green Lake!

But now, we need to **Rethink** and adjust our old habits. Be a good conservation person for Green Lake!

If you do not bag your lawn clippings... Please mow the first four or five rounds into your lawn instead of the clippings on the road or the gutter area, as these clippings may find their way into the storm sewers that enter Green Lake!

Please, never mow grass clippings or leaves into Green Lake.

Please remind your neighbors to do so also. It is important to keep curb areas clean. Following your lawn mowing, we remind you to sweep the gutter clean as you will reap **Rewards** in the future for Green Lake.



**Lake Fatality: Suspect Phosphorus**

# Threats to Loon Habitat

*All loons ask for is a place to live, clean water, some fish to eat, and a little privacy.  
For what loons give to people, that seems a small price to pay.*

*Tom Klein, Loon Magic*

Common Loons were once nesting on lakes as far south as northern Iowa, California, and Pennsylvania. Since the late 1800s their breeding range has been shrinking north away from populated areas. Now Common Loons breed only as far south as the top portions of the northern continental United States. But as loons retreated to less disturbed areas, people followed. The main reason? People are attracted to the same environmental qualities as loons -clear water, healthy fish populations, and a little peace and solitude. Unfortunately, as more people move north they are changing the lake ecosystems that loons depend upon.



*Photo courtesy of Steve Kohls*

The greatest threat to the loon's ability to live and reproduce on northern lakes in the long term is the loss of lakeshore habitat through shoreline development. In Wisconsin, from the 1960s to the 1990s, two-thirds of previously undeveloped lakes greater than 10 acres were developed. In the same time period, the average number of homes on privately owned shoreline more than doubled (WI DNR 1998). This trend is repeated throughout the lake country within the loon's breeding range in Minnesota and Wisconsin and it does not appear to be slowing. Homes, marinas and campsites are forcing loons out of traditional nesting areas and into marginal habitat or off lakes entirely where alternative habitat is not available.

If shoreline development does not eliminate critical loon habitat directly, loons and people can and do live together successfully. Whether this is possible depends on the actions of people, both on and off the water. How property owners manage the lakeshore contributes significantly to the health and quality of the entire lake ecosystem. Property owners tend to remove trees, shrubs and plants along the shoreline, not understanding that plant communities are the basis for wildlife habitat. Native plants with their deep root systems, stabilize the shoreline, reducing erosion and turbidity in the water. Lakeshore plants filter contaminants and nutrients purifying water entering the lake from the watershed. And plants, both live and dead, provide food and habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species, including fish. So by altering the shoreline, people can impact the lake qualities that loons depend upon; nesting areas, clean and clear water, and a stable fish population.

As lakes are developed, human activity on the water also increases. Common Loons are most vulnerable to disturbance during nesting until the chicks are about four weeks old. If people get too close to a nesting loon, it will slip away, leaving the eggs exposed to overheating or cooling and to predators such as bald eagles, gulls, and raccoons. Wakes from powerboats can wash eggs out of nests or separate small chicks from adults, exposing chicks to predators. Loons can be tolerant of human recreation and even raise young successfully on lakes that have regular recreational use - if people using the lakes are mindful of the loon's presence and give them some space.

The presence of Common Loons successfully reproducing on a lake is a visible sign that the lake is relatively healthy. By observing what happens to loons in the long term, we can keep tabs on the levels of change occurring on our lakes. In turn, to insure that we continue to hear loon music on our northern lakes, we must protect the habitats upon which loons depend.

## ***What can you do to protect loon habitat?***

- Identify critical areas that loons use on a lake for feeding, nesting and raising chicks. Work to protect these areas in the long term through conservation easements and other methods.
- Protect or restore native vegetation along shores and in the water.
- Leave downed trees and shrubs for wildlife habitat.
- Observe loons from a distance with binoculars or a spotting scope. Stay 200 feet away from loons on nests or on the water whenever possible.
- Share this information with your lake association members, friends and neighbors.

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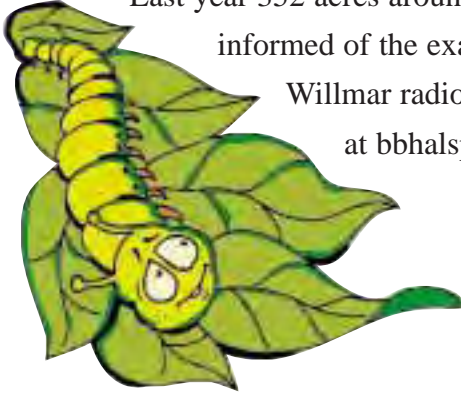
# Caterpillar Spraying

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Again this year the Green Lake Property Owners Association will work with Teryjon Aviation to spray for caterpillars. We will attempt to do this spraying either the Wednesday before the Memorial Day weekend or the Wednesday after. The exact date will be dependent on weather conditions, when the tree leaves open and evidence of the worms appearing.

Last year 352 acres around the lake were sprayed. Residents will be informed of the exact date for spraying by announcements from the

Willmar radio stations. People are asked to contact Bruce Halgren at 796-2208 or email him at [bbhalspicer@aol.com](mailto:bbhalspicer@aol.com) when they see evidence of the worms.



**The Green Lake Breeze**  
**Green Lake Property Owners Association**  
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**[www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com)**