

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

July 2006

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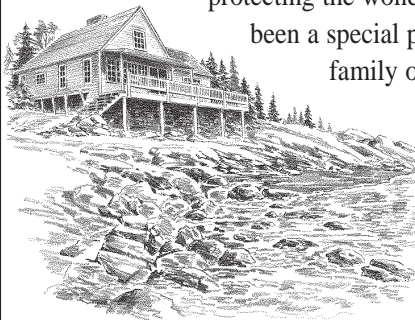
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Dear Green Lake Property Owners,

As the incoming president of the GLPOA I would like to express great appreciation to the past president, Bruce Halgren, for his year of service. I also want to thank outgoing board member Marlin Wacholz, and welcome new board member Roger Stehn.



As I look back over my last three years as a GLPOA board member, I am pleased at how much more "tuned in" I have become to the importance of protecting the wonderful waters of Green Lake. The lake has been a special place to me since my childhood when my family often traveled from central South Dakota to Minnesota to vacation at Indian Beach Resort. I can remember at that time my father telling me that Green Lake was, "the most crystal clear lake in the universe," or something to that effect! Fifteen years ago as an adult I returned again from South Dakota to Spicer to become a resort owner, so now Green Lake is special to me both because my home is on the lake and because my business depends upon the lake. Today Green Lake is still a beautiful, clean body of water, but we must not become complacent and think it will remain that way without diligence of us all.



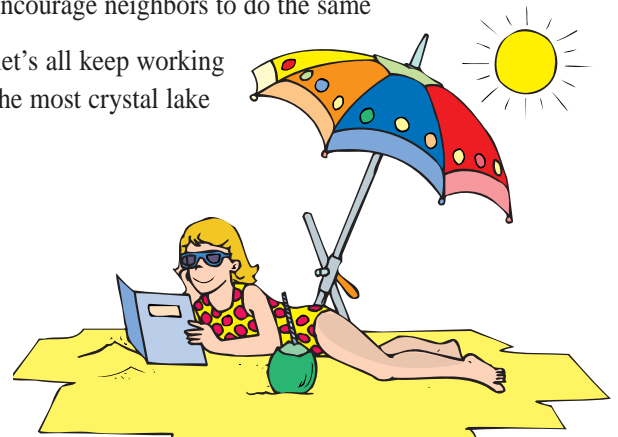
There are several things that each one of us can do as a riparian homeowner:

- 1 Become educated regarding the importance of native plant buffer strips between our yards and the water front - and consider adding one of these strips
- 2 Mow the grass so that the clippings go back onto the yard and not onto the street or sidewalk, or into the water
- 3 Use phosphate free fertilizers
- 4 Remain a member of the Green Lake Property Owner's Association, and encourage neighbors to do the same

Enjoy your summer, and let's all keep working so Green Lake remains "the most crystal lake in the universe!"

Sincerely,

Jill Nelson
President, GLPOA



Green Lake Partnership

The Green Lake Property Owners Association along with the City of Spicer and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District have formed a partnership to promote greater awareness about protecting the water quality of Green Lake. There are simple acts that we all can do to prevent further water pollution. For example, never mow or wash grass clippings or leaves into the streets or roadways which in turn go down storm drains which run into the lake. One bushel of grass clippings contains the phosphorus to grow 30 to 50 pounds of ALGAE. There are 31 storm drains which empty into Green Lake.

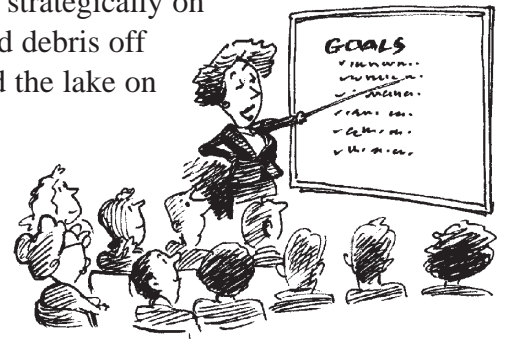


In the next several weeks all homeowners living on Green Lake and adjacent to it will be receiving a post card reminding them to help prevent pollution in Green Lake. Additionally, signage will be placed strategically on

roadways around the lake asking people to keep grass clippings, leaves and debris off the streets. Kandiyohi County has agreed to sweep all county roads around the lake on a monthly basis through September.

With a little effort on everybody's part we can make a significant difference in maintaining the water quality of Green Lake.

Bruce Halgren



Sewer and Water Report



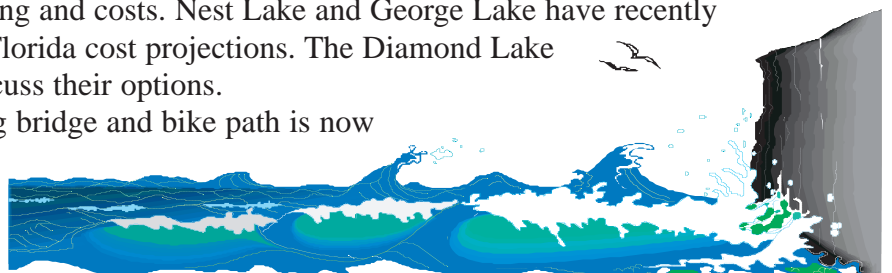
The May monthly water loss figures show a reduction of 20% from the previous month. However, since the total volume lost per month is relatively constant and the total volume pumped increased by 30%, the apparent reduction gives us a false impression of progress.

Board member Trudie Guptill (New London) reported on the results of a detailed analysis of rate calculating formulas for residential and commercial water and sewer rates, or EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Units). The study recommends that a single formula be used by Spicer, Green Lake, and New London, and be adopted for the 2007 year.

Gary Danielson reported that the Lake Florida sewer hook-up project is under way and the contractors will present their plans of action this week. The main trunk line should be finished by early fall, and the individual residential hookups before winter. In a recent meeting, the Lake Henderson residents asked for more information on timing and costs. Nest Lake and George Lake have recently shown more interest after hearing the Lake Florida cost projections. The Diamond Lake home owners have a meeting July 8th to discuss their options.

Gary also reported that the new outlet fishing bridge and bike path is now complete.

Dick Baken



Do You Really Know Your Neighborhood?



We, here on Green Lake, not only take our beautiful surroundings for granted, but also our neighbors! Our lake shore ring consists of 809 homes, of which we find 733 people are Minnesota residents. In looking at our lake community, we found 19 other states and one country, that of Switzerland noted as residency.

Is it not interesting to see that one of every 38 homes within our “neighborhood” are from South Dakota?

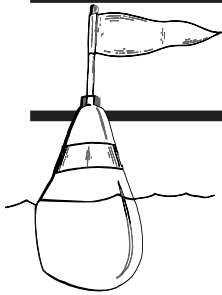
In thinking “neighborhood,” one must also think of “neighborliness” and that, of keeping our surroundings - our shore lines, roads, ditches and storm sewer gutters cleaned up so that our beautiful Green Lake will always be clean, clear and pristine as it is always portrayed.



Let us keep our neighborhood “Green Lake Nice!”

States

Alaska.....	1	Nebraska.....	6
Arizona.....	3	North Dakota	1
California	7	Oregon	1
Florida	7	South Dakota	21
Georgia.....	1	Switzerland.....	2
Illinois.....	3	Texas.....	6
Iowa	7	Virginia.....	2
Kansas	1	Washington.....	1
Maryland	1	Wisconsin	2
Minnesota.....	733		
Missouri	2	Total	809
Montana	1		



Make Your Own Swim Buoy

Materials List:

- 1 - 6" White PVC pipe 20" in length
- 2 - 6" White PVC pipe cap
- 1 - 4" Stainless Steel Eyelet bolt
- 5 each - Nuts and Washers
- Mortar mix
- PVC pipe glue

- Drill a hole the size of your eyelet bolt in one of the PVC caps.
- Secure the eyelet bolt into the hole in the PVC cap. Place a couple of nuts and washers on the shaft of the bolt for the mortar to secure to.
- Glue the cap on one end of the 6" PVC pipe.
- Fill the bottom 4" to 6" with mortar mix and let dry.
- Glue the second PVC cap on the open end of the pipe.
- Apply reflective tape to the outside to indicate swimming area. See page 32 of the Minnesota boating guide for the proper markings.



Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District

A three year Water Quality Improvement Phase I Study of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed was completed in 2002. This study reached some significant conclusions regarding projects that need to be implemented to improve the water quality and a Phase II Implementation Plan was submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in 2002 and 2003 for funding of the Program. Funding was denied on both occasions. The GLPOA re-activated the Middle Fork Crow River/Lakes Partnership to develop, fund, and implement Watershed Improvement Projects. The Partnership oversaw the water monitoring activities in 2004 thru December 2005. In 2005 the Middle Fork Watershed District was created as a legal entity to oversee the Middle Fork Crow Watershed District.



The Watershed District covers about 150,000 acres, of which about 100,000 acres are upstream of Green Lake, about 10,000 acres cover direct Green Lake/Lake Calhoun drainage, and the balance is downstream of Lake Calhoun. As such, about 110,000 acres of the Watershed directly impact the quality of water in Green Lake. Or to put it another way, 2/3 of the Watershed acreage either drains into Green Lake via the Crow River at the Old Mill Inn or drains directly into Green Lake via the other 38 inlets into Green Lake.



So, the question remains... **What role should the Green Lake Property Owners Association take in relation to the new Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District?**

It is crucial that the Green Lake Property Owners (and the GLPOA) become sufficiently involved that the priorities can be put in place to ensure actions are taken on all fronts to improve Middle Fork Crow River Watershed water quality and to ensure that all future Watershed development activity gives appropriate attention to protecting the watershed. We need to be a strong and pro-active input to the Watershed District Board of Managers to ensure our voice is heard!

The Primary Tasks are:

1) **Water Monitoring Plan** - Five lake sites and six river sites are being monitored along with the three Spicer sites being monitored by MNDOT and the County Road 2 site being monitored by the Sewer and Water District. The 2004/2005 Program (under the direction of Skip Wright-DNR and Jill Nelson-GLPOA Board member) went very well and a final report has just been released. In general, all areas monitored showed improvement in phosphorous content. The 2006 Program started on April 12 and will continue throughout the summer. We need to insist that the Watershed District maintain and improve a strong water monitoring program as this is the only way we know the details of what the water quality is. Also, any request for grant funding for future Watershed projects will require detail historical water monitoring data to substantiate the request for funding.



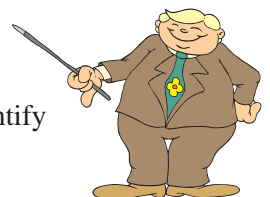
2) **Storm Water Management Plan** - A Storm Water and Erosion Control Management Plan for Kandiyohi County was prepared by the County over the winter and the changes have been recommended by the Zoning and Planning Commission to the County Commissioners and were approved on April 19.

There are 38 sites around Green Lake where water enters the lake, in addition to all the runoff from individual property sites. Richard Baken, GLPOA Board Member, is overseeing T-tube testing of 14 inlets around the lake to assist in determining if water quality problems exist in the drainage input.



GLPOA property owners can help in this matter by making sure debris along your property is cleaned up and not allowed to wash down the road and into the storm water drainage system. Don't mow or sweep grass and/or blow dirt from the lawn, driveway, and sidewalk onto the roadway.

3) **Watershed Tributary Improvements** - Each Township and Lake Association should be asked to identify those tributaries in their area that need to be improved from a water quality standpoint. A Technical



Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District cont.

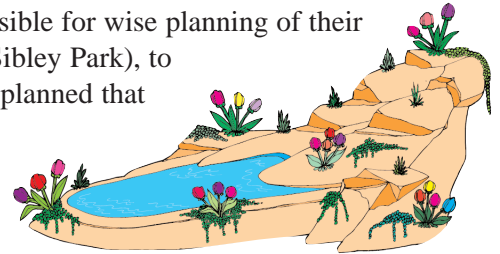


Committee has been formed with representatives from the many local government agencies involved in managing the Watershed. The current priority areas are Alvig Slough, that drains into Green Lake on the south side, the Crow River between New London and Nest Lake, and County Ditch #26 that flows in Calhoun Lake from the north. The Phase I Study identified that the phosphorous content in these three areas should be reduced by 50%.

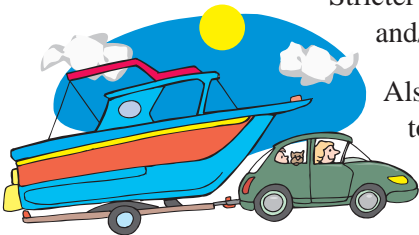
The Lakeview Motel completed their sewer and water hookup to the municipal system last fall. The Little Crow Golf Course has eliminated the phosphorus in their early crab grass treatment.

4) **Land Use Management** - The Crow River Middle Fork Watershed Area is a very important tax base for Kandiyohi County and continuing degradation of the water quality could have very significant downside impacts. Future development of the Watershed Area will continue to blossom and this development must be properly managed in the development planning stage rather than wait for dealing with bad practices after the fact. The principal concern here is that potential new developments must be identified soon enough; so proper diligence can be given to ensuring their compliance with existing requirement.

5) **Lakeshore Improvement** - This is the area where each property owner is responsible for wise planning of their property area. Resources exist, through DNR Lakeshore Consultants (located at Sibley Park), to obtain assistance needed to properly develop your property. A handbook is being planned that will assist each Watershed Property Owner in better understanding Watershed Management; so everyone can take ownership in the overall improvement of the Watershed water quality. Shoreline buffers and rain gardens will provide a huge reduction in yard runoff and can be made quite attractive.



6) **Visitors to Green Lake** - As a public lake Green Lake has many visitors that come with their boats to enjoy the lake. Stricter measures need to be established and enforced to ensure that unwanted water plants and/or other invasive species are not hitching a ride on the visiting boats.



Also, we need to limit the boat size that can be allowed on Green Lake. (This also applies to Tier 1 property owners).

Gary Broman - Board Member

Tax Exempt Status



The Green Lake Property Owners Association has made an application for tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. If approved, the organization will be able to receive tax deductible donations from individuals to further the association's purpose, which includes promoting the improvement of Green Lake, and adjacent properties.

It is anticipated that the application process will be completed this summer, with a final determination provided by the Internet Revenue Service in August or September 2006.

*Brett Aamot
Conway, Deuth & Schmiesing*

Phosphate Report

N · ® · K
Just Say **NO** to Phosphorus!

2006 - Total Phosphorus (ppb - parts per billion)*

	Green Lake Old Mill	Green Lake Indian Beach	Nest Lake	Calhoun Lake	Monongalia Lake
5-30	16	14	20	26	33
6-13	11	13	28	33	49
Goal	<18	<18	25	25	35

* North Central Hardwoods Ecoregion (23-50).

Two lake samples have been collected so far this season. Lake sampling activities are being coordinated by Jill Nelson. Early readings from this year are slightly higher than last year's readings during this time period. The increased levels are most likely related to the extraordinary amount of rainfall (41 inches) that occurred in 2005.

This illustrates the need for all lakeshore and watershed residents to implement conservation practices which hold water on the landscape longer to help control phosphorus entering our area lakes.



MIDDLE FORK CROW RIVER WATERSHED

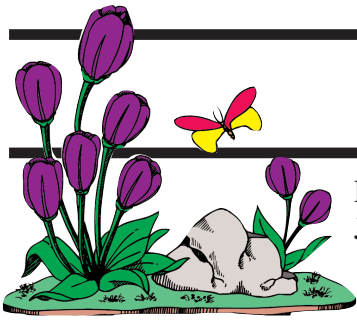
2005 - Total Phosphorus (ppb)

	Green Lake Old Mill	Green Lake Indian Beach	Nest Lake	Calhoun Lake	Monongalia Lake
5-24	14	15	18	20	34
6-7	13	15	26	23	30
6-21	10	10	22	33	35
7-5	11	13	36	27	31
7-19	14	11	43	31	29
7-25	12	17			
8-2	18	17	39	30	29
8-16	26	17	59	32	35
8-30	21	21	54	27	27
9-14	19	23	62	40	37
9-27	27	19	52	46	27

Correction:

The y-axis of the Green Lake Total Phosphorus graph in the May issue of "The Breeze" should have read ug/l (micrograms/liter or parts per billion) instead of mg/l (milligrams/liter).

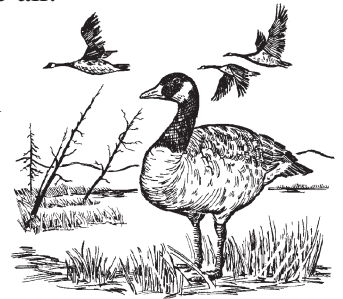
Nature Notes



From: “It’s May! It’s May! The merry month of May” to “What is so rare as a day in June. Then if ever come perfect days,” we’ve segued into July almost without our knowing it. We had the fragrant lilacs and a multitude of flowering apple trees, plum and cherry trees to admire. Deep red and pink, sometimes doubled, peonies were huge and profuse. The scent of lilies of the valley was a balm, waiting to be captured for a less than perfect day. Then came the roses and primroses, astilbe and Endless Summer hydrangeas (those who were fortunate enough to keep them coming back after winter).

The highway department planted trees in the median and along the roadside through Spicer. Some fruit trees bloomed earlier, but the most fragrant were the Japanese tree lilacs that some individual homeowners also have gracing their lawns. Interestingly, a naturalist once listed the latter tree as one of the most appropriate trees for Minnesota. The burr oak was another. Now the linden trees’ sweet scent wafts through the air.

Two families of Canada geese have been cruising the east side of Green Lake— two sets of parents with six goslings each. When the goslings were rather small, the parents would bring them in to shore for a short rest. The smallest would gratefully sink down among the warm stones and sand and sit there until the others would move farther on. Then it would hoist its little body up and waddle over to the rest of them, sitting down as soon as it could. It managed to keep up with the rest when they returned to the water, but I think that’s why one of the parents stayed at the end of the line while the other led the little flotilla. (In skiing, that last one would be the “sweep,” the last one down the hill to make sure no one was left behind.)



The songbirds regale us from early (and I mean *early*) in the morning until nightfall when the loons take over in the middle of the night. The robins, cardinals and orioles have songs that are music to our ears, but I don’t think anything holds a candle to the little wren that perches on a ridgepole or branch and sings its little heart out. The bright yellow goldfinches and red house finches add color to the feeders and bird baths. The hummingbirds whirr their way from blossom to feeder, rather territorial at times. The chickadees and white-breasted nuthatches are still with us, as are the downy and hairy woodpeckers. The pileated ones thrum in the trees as they do all winter. I’m still waiting for a sight of a scarlet tanager or an indigo bunting. Any sightings you’ve had?

The loons swim by in twos or threes, often calling to each other across the lake. Some have sounded so desperate that I’ve wondered what their problem is. The answers keep going back and forth for quite some time.

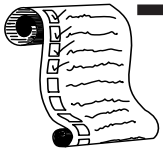
The chipmunks, red and gray squirrels are active as ever, ripping out geraniums and other potted plants or casually munching a delectable peony bud that was almost ready to open fully. As far as rabbits are concerned, this year we seem to have a regular Watership Down. The audacious bunnies will eat an impatiens while a person is watching from just a few feet away.



The inch and a half (at least) rain on June 23-24 was most welcome, spotty though it was. High winds or hail we don’t need, some more gentle rains will be greatly appreciated.

May you have a safe and sane July. Enjoy the wonders of Green Lake wisely. May gentle Green Lake breezes replenish your soul.

Gloria Benson



Whom Do I Call For Important Questions?

Department of Natural Resources

Trails & WaterwaysGregg Soupier796.6281
 FisheryBruce Gilbertson796.2161
 WatersSkip Wright796.6272
 Conservation OfficerJim Steffen366.3952
 Shore Line Habitat.....Leilani Peterson354.0009
 Turn In Poachers (TIP)800.652.9093
 DNR Web Pagewww.dnr.state.mn.us

Kandiyohi County

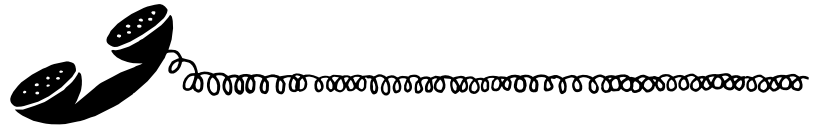
Assessors OfficeTim Falkum.....231.6200
 Environmental OfficeJeff Bredberg231.6288
 Public WorksGary Danielson235.3266
 Sheriff’s OfficeDan Hartog235.1260
 Emergency911
 Vehicles Parked on Walking Path235.1260

Kandiyohi County cont.

Zoning Administrator.....Gary Geer231.6229
 Kandiyohi County Web Page.....www.co.kandiyohi.mn.us

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 Irving Township.....Russell Schmidt276.8242
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 Spicer, City ofBill Taylor796.5562



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