

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

[www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com)

August 2008

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Greg Roverud 320.796.6335  
roverudgreg@tds.net

### Vice President

Kelly TerWisscha 320.796.5190  
TerWisscha@charter.net

### Treasurer

Dick Gunderson 320.796.5167  
randbgunderson@aol.com  
480.502.9531

### Secretary

Ron Minke 320.796.2612  
nationwide@clearwire.net

### Executive Secretary

Terry Frazee 320.796.2502  
frazee@tds.net  
863.439.0455  
terry.frazee@verizon.net

Brett Aamot 320.796.5257  
brett@cdsca.com  
320.235.6464

Tom Broman 320.796.5611  
patbroman@charter.net

Jamie Duinick 320.796.4100  
jamied@prinsco.com

Ralph Jansen 320.796.4530  
ralphkathyj@peoplepc.com

Jill Nelson 320.796.5540  
Jillnelson@charter.net

Pauline Spilseth 320.796.0430  
spilseth@charter.net

Roger Stehn 320.796.2374  
arstehn@aol.com  
281.970.8217

Dear Green Lake Property Owners,

Great days at the lake continue as we move into August. The weather has been good, the lake water clear and people are having fun. I'm a swimmer, so I love my time in the water now that it has warmed up!



We had excellent weather recently for our latest effort to treat selected areas of Eurasian Watermilfoil (EM). Jill Nelson, Lake Management Committee Chairperson, has the latest information on that treatment in this newsletter, so check out her article. We will continue to do our best to control the EW and find the right approach or combination of approaches to meet this challenge. EW is there; we're working to control it, but the good news is that it affects only a very small percentage of the lake. We intend to keep it that way.

Regarding the *Green Lake Breeze*, some people have requested that the *Breeze* be made available online and that a paper copy not be mailed. This would save both printing and mailing costs for the association. So, next spring you will have the option to delete your name from the *Breeze* mailing list when you fill out your annual dues notice. The electronic *Breeze* will be available then, as it is now, during the first weeks of May, June, July, August and September. Thanks for considering that option. It's in color and online at [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com).

Enjoy your August vacation right here at home!

Sincerely,

Greg Roverud, President





# PLEASE ASSIST US!

The Board of Directors of the Green Lake Property Owners Association will print a new directory to be mailed out when dues are paid, starting in May 2009.

We would like to ask for your assistance to make sure that we have your name and address spelled correctly. Please check the 2006 directory to see that this information is the way you wish to have it printed.

If you know of a new neighbor or a neighbor who has sold his/her property, we wish to place the correct name(s) in the directory. If you have any corrections or know of any, please write to us.

The Board of Directors is also looking for colored and black and white pictures which might be used for the front cover of the directory. If you have a picture which you wish for the Board to consider, please print your name, address and telephone number on the back side of the print and mail to: Green Lake Property Owners • PO Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288



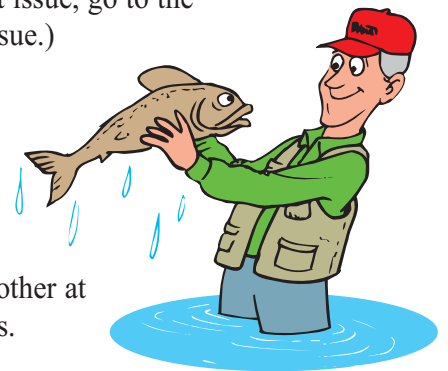
# SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT COMPLETED!



July 15, 2008...This morning a group of volunteers was on the water by 6:00 to treat predetermined stands of Eurasian watermilfoil in Green Lake with the chemical Navigate (2,4-D). The weather could not have been finer, no wind and a sunny sky! The group met the day before the treatment to decide on the best method of tackling this job, and it seems that the chosen procedure worked very well.

DNR requirements have been followed explicitly regarding the obtaining of the proper permits, the amount of chemical dispersed per acre, and the posting of notification signs on buoys at all of the treated areas. These areas were identified on the DNR permitting map that was printed in the July issue of the *Green Lake Breeze*. (If you do not have that issue, go to the website, [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com), select "Newsletter," and then select the July 2008 issue.)

There are no restrictions with Navigate for swimming in the treated areas or for eating fish caught in these areas. Navigate is a selective herbicide which leaves most native submersed vegetation unharmed. Irrigation with lake water will not cause a problem for lawn turf, but should not be used for vegetables or for ornamental plants for at least seven days post treatment. There were only two areas within 150 feet of the shoreline where the irrigation could have caused a problem, one by Lion's Park in Spicer and the other at Indian Beach Harbor. Signatures were required from an official at both of these locations.



There are stands of milfoil in the lake that were not treated this morning. If homeowners notice areas that have not been previously documented, especially if these are large, matted or nuisance areas, please record the GPS coordinates or note landmarks, then send this information in an email to [jillnelson@charter.net](mailto:jillnelson@charter.net).



At the end of the summer the treated areas will be surveyed once again. Hopefully the efforts of today will pay off with a decreased Eurasian watermilfoil population. This survey will help determine how we will proceed with milfoil control in the future. Thank you to the following volunteers for their help in this project: Gary Broman, Terry Frazee, Duane Hanson, Ralph Jansen, Ann & Bill Latham, Roger Stehn, Jim Tiede, and Jim's son and two grandchildren. They all did an excellent job!

*Jill Nelson*

# WHAT IS EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL?



Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an invasive, submersed (underwater) aquatic plant accidentally introduced in the 1940s to North America from Europe, where it is widespread. It most likely reached eastern North America through the aquarium trade, entering the waters when aquarium owners released the contents of their aquariums into local lakes. Eurasian Water Milfoil flourished and began to spread westward by clinging to recreational boats. People using Lake Minnetonka near Minneapolis, reported the first Eurasian Water Milfoil infestation in Minnesota in 1987. Eurasian Water Milfoil now occupies over 200 water bodies throughout the state.



Eurasian Water Milfoil likes to live in lakes, ponds, shallow water reservoirs and slow moving rivers and streams. It reproduces very fast and in many different ways. If a stem breaks off, it can start a new plant. It also produces flowers and seeds that appear above the water, while the rest of the plant is under water. And it spreads by roots or runners (stolons) in the ground. It is also very tolerant of cold water, so it can grow fast in cold Minnesota lakes in early spring.

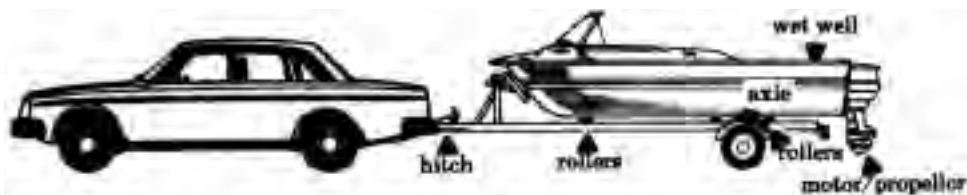
Eurasian Water Milfoil grows and spreads really fast. So fast, that it can choke out native plants and reduce the amount of light that reaches into the lake. This aggressive growth kills off other native aquatic plants. And when the native plants can't grow, other aquatic species that rely on the native plants for food and shelter have trouble surviving. Eurasian Water Milfoil's dense growth makes it difficult for invertebrates and other organisms that fish eat to survive. So, with less to eat and less open water, fish populations also decrease.



Have you ever tried to swim in weeds? Kinda hard, isn't it. Well, imagine a whole lake full of Eurasian Water Milfoil— so full that it's almost impossible to swim in, fish in, or drive a boat through. If you were a fish it would be really hard to live in a lake so full of Milfoil that you couldn't swim around and catch food.

## What Does It Look Like?

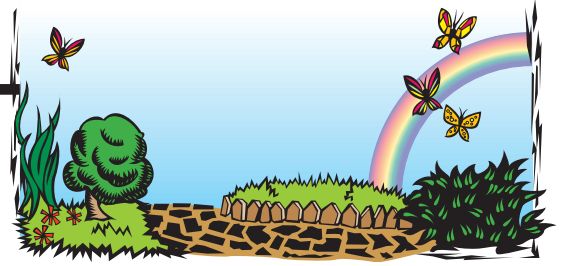
Eurasian Milfoil looks almost like Northern Milfoil, which is native to Minnesota. But, Eurasian Milfoil has 12 to 21 leaflet pairs, while Northern Milfoil has only 5 to 10 leaflet pairs. But, the best way to tell the two apart is to pick them up. Eurasian Milfoil is limp and soft, while Northern Milfoil (the native species) is stiff and bristly.



▲ Locations where aquatic weeds are often found

# RAINGARDENS: A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF THE STORMWATER PUZZLE

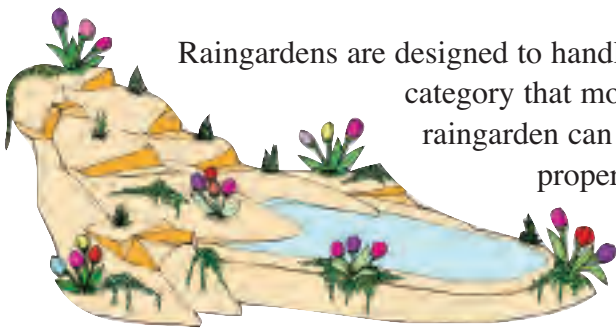
Pitter, patter. Pitter, patter. The gentle sound of raindrops hitting the lake, trees and sidewalks resonates through the windows. Almost immediately the heat releases its firm grip on the afternoon and a cool breeze drifts throughout the house, bringing with it the sweet smell of freshly cut grass and fragrant summer blooms. A soaking rain falls, watering flower beds and vegetable gardens and giving crop irrigators a much needed break.



As the soils quench their thirst and the rain begins to run off the rooftop, lawn and road toward our lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands, the same water is collecting grass clippings, leaves, trash, oil, pet waste, sand and road salt and delivering it directly into our water bodies through storm drains. Stormwater is the largest polluter of surface water and can carry excess nutrients and chemical pollutants which feed algae blooms, harm aquatic wildlife and degrade water quality. With increased impervious surface area (rooftops, driveways, roads, etc.), stormwater runoff becomes a greater concern. We can't stop the rain, but we can reduce the pollutants that it gathers as it flows over impervious surfaces before reaching our water bodies.



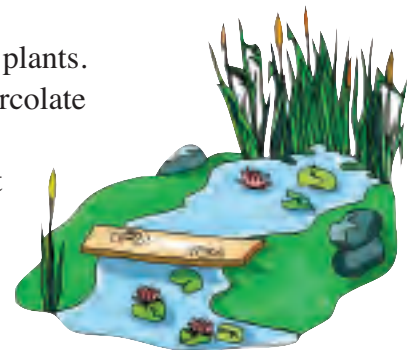
Raingardens are low areas, usually about a foot deep at their centers, where stormwater and runoff can pool for several hours while it filters through the soil to be cleaned before it reaches the groundwater. Raingardens can be as small in area as a queen size mattress for a smaller yard or can be quite large and designed to capture and filter water from surrounding properties. While raingardens are not a cure-all for stormwater problems, they are an efficient and effective means of filtering sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to improve water quality.



Raingardens are designed to handle the first 1/2 inch to 1 1/2 inches of stormwater runoff, which is the category that most rain events fall into. A properly designed and maintained raingarden can provide control for nearly 90% of the annual rainfall for the property in question, as well as many of the sediments and pollutants that would otherwise wash off with the rain. By slowing down the runoff and allowing it to filter slowly through the soil, sediments have the opportunity to settle out, nutrients are taken up by plants and left in the soil instead of the water and bacteria in the soil break

down oil and gasoline into simple organic compounds. Harmful bacteria such as fecal coliform from pet waste are also trapped in the soil instead of being flushed into the lakes.

Native plants work best in raingardens and require less maintenance than non-native plants. Grasses and sedges have deep root systems that create more channels for water to percolate through. Native perennial flowers provide showy bursts of color and attract birds, butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. They are generally more drought tolerant but can also sustain the brief periods of saturated soil. Shrubs add texture and diversity while providing berries and seeds for winter wildlife. If a cleaner look is desired, edging around the perimeter of the garden can provide the distinction of a separate garden, rather than just a planted area at the edge of a lawn.



---

## RAINGARDENS: A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF THE STORMWATER PUZZLE CONTINUED...

---

Maintaining a raingarden will not detract from your leisure time. Once established, native plants don't require watering or fertilizing like cultivated plants do. Also, as the shrubs, sedges and flowers begin to fill in, many weeds will be choked out, keeping weeding down to just twice per season in most cases. And those concerned about the gardens becoming mosquito-breeding habitats can rest easy; mosquito larvae require 5-7 days of standing water to hatch and raingardens are designed to filter water within 48 hours. In many cases, the gardens have standing water for several hours only.



Raingardens are strategic, beautiful gardens that work to recharge groundwater supplies, maintain the base flows of streams, filter out pollutants and sediments and prevent erosion from runoff. They work well where space is limited and can be located in yards, parks, ditches and parking lots.

If you are interested in the possibility of implementing a raingarden on your property, cost share funds may be available through the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District. Please contact us at 320-796-0888 for information.

*Sara Jacobson and Chad Anderson  
Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District*

---

## ARE YOU ONE OF THE 5000?

---

**Have you recently opened** the websight [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com) lately? Then, you are one of only 5072 visitors since May 31, 2006.

**Did you know** that the minutes for all Board meetings are posted 24 hours after the meeting?

**Have you read** the *Green Lake Breeze* posted on this sight in its entirety? They date back to 1999.

**Have you browsed** the web's index to find other important committee reports?

**Have you seen** the beautiful pictures of Green Lake or the picture postcards that can be sent to friends around the Internet?

**Have you reached out** to the "Links" and read about other happenings in our area? Or you can also read minutes of other Boards that are pertinent to every one of us.

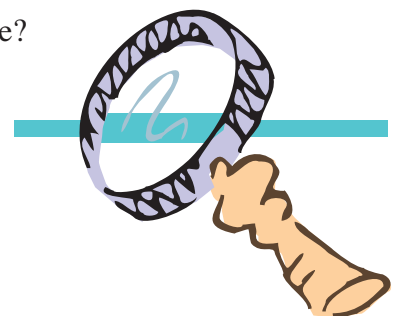
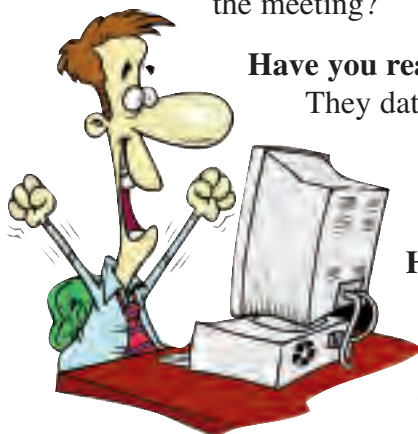
**Do you share** Spicer's true history with guests in your home?

The Spicer History, as well as Green Lake's, is also found in the Index.

Well, **are you really up to date** and knowledgeable about what is happening and what you need to know about your home - Green Lake?

If not, then now is the time to investigate!!

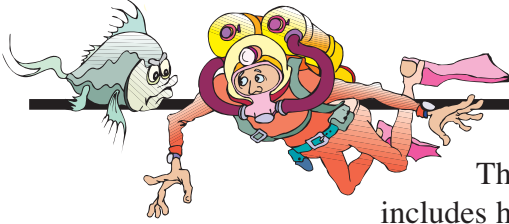
*Terry Frazee*



---

# MnDNR TRAINING SCUBA DIVERS FOR EURASIAN MILFOIL REMOVAL

---



The DNR Permit issued for Eurasian Water Milfoil control in Green Lake includes hand pulling as a control measure, which can be done by volunteer divers who have completed a DNR training session.

On July 22 Jacquelyn Bacigalupi, MnDNR specialist from Region 4, conducted a SCUBA EWM removal workshop in Spicer for Green Lake volunteers. Pauline Spilseth, Pam and A.J. Geiringer, Carol Maursetter, Margie Gehant, Judd Latham and Tyler Dick attended the session and are now qualified to hand remove Eurasian water milfoil from the lake in the areas within the control Permit for 2008.

Pauline Spilseth is authorized by DNR to conduct training for volunteers who could not attend the July 22 session. If you are SCUBA certified and are willing to help with EWM removal, please contact Pauline, 796-0430, to arrange a training session. Some areas are accessible by snorkel also.

Hand removal of EWM is a method used consistently by Buddy Divers, and is another important part of our efforts to control Eurasian water milfoil in Green Lake. Great appreciation goes out to the folks who have volunteered to dive and remove EWM, thank you!

*Submitted by Ann Latham*



---

## SANITARY SEWER AND WATER DISTRICT NEWS

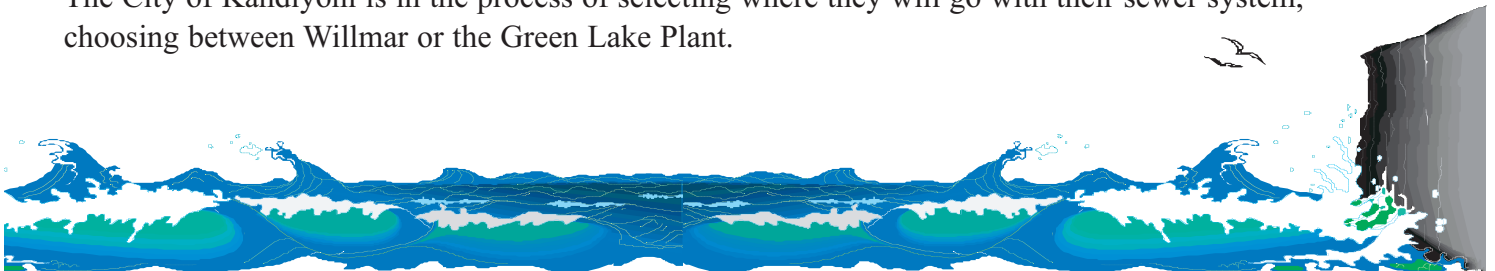
---



Finished water losses year to date for Spicer are 16%, Green Lake/Eagle Estates 20.3%, New London is 35.4% with an over all average loss of water of 24.2%. The Water Conservation District is in the process of preparing a report for the DNR on the issue.

Sewer line installation is on schedule for Nest, George and Henderson lakes with homeowners participation running at 80 plus participation which includes all the resorts on Nest Lake.

The City of Kandiyohi is in the process of selecting where they will go with their sewer system, choosing between Willmar or the Green Lake Plant.



# LOONS AND OTHER NATURE NOTES



Thank you to those who responded with information about loons since the last *Breeze* came your way. Apparently, we do not need to worry that the loons aren't reproducing. Several mentioned seeing baby loons with their parents. A scary account came from a person who'd seen a family of loons. The father swam off, leaving the mother and baby behind. The next thing he (we'll call him Bill) noticed was two young boys on jet skis rapidly approaching mother and baby. Bill maneuvered his pontoon (no easy feat) in front of the loons. The boys did not discourage easily and began making a second attempt at running them down. Bill successfully put his pontoon in front of the family again and the boys drove off. Makes one wonder, doesn't it!

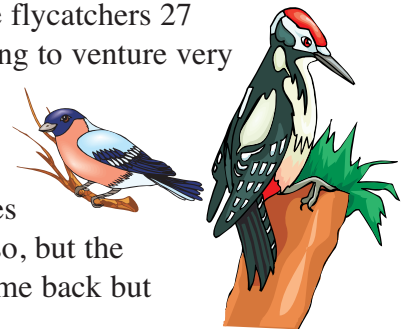


Another person who'd been biking around the lake reported seeing a loon resting? sitting? nesting? inches from the blacktop near the outlet. We hope it peacefully swam away after a short stop.



A bright spot of red in an ash tree the other day turned out to be a cardinal passing by. A hummingbird came to my patio door to remind me that its feeder was empty. A couple days later he returned to thank me. Considerate little thing!

I've been amused watching a Least Flycatcher sitting on my hammock stand and making his quick forays from there. For almost two hours, he kept up that routine. (Oops, later note.. make that four hours.) When I first became aware of the flycatchers 27 years ago, I thought they were young ones learning to fly, not daring to venture very far at one time. I soon learned that was their feeding pattern.



The finches—house, gold, you-name-it—devour the somewhat-shelled sunflower seeds and enjoy the bird bath for drinking and bathing. So do the sparrows, chickadees and nuthatches. Downy woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers visit the feeder also, but the red-winged blackbird must have read the last copy of the *Breeze*, too. He hasn't come back but once, and then he thought better of it and veered away before stopping.



While swimming and exercising in the lake Sunday, I found at least six different water plants floating by, and I decided to "gather ye" milfoil "while ye may." Unlike Robert Herrick's "rosebuds" they do not "smile today and tomorrow will be dying." Some of the plants were Eurasian milfoil; others were North American milfoil. The Eurasian milfoil whorls stick straight out from the stem when held vertically, if I've identified them correctly. They're the ones we don't want, as you well know. Another plant, broad-leafed, is the one that sometimes reaches the surface and often has sunfish swimming amongst the beds. Not knowing their name, I call them "lake kelp," as they remind me of those huge ocean plants. We don't have any sea otters, though, that wrap themselves in kelp to keep from floating away while napping, as I saw on "Nature" on TV. Scoop up any weeds (I know, Jim Gilbert—they aren't weeds because they ARE aquatic plants) so the milfoil doesn't take root and proliferate.



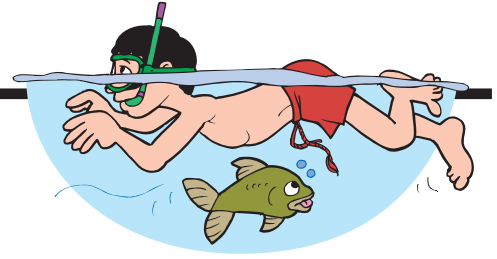
Summer sun, warm waters, humidity I could do without. Too little rain—I don't dare pray for it because sometimes it doesn't know when to quit and that's another problem—but summer is here—full time. May Green Lake breezes refresh and delight us.

Gloria Benson

---

# SWIMMER'S ITCH

---



Swimmer's itch is a rash caused by a parasite (schistosomes) which infect birds, mammals and snails. Blackbirds, ducks, geese, swans and muskrats have been found to carry the parasite. As part of their life cycle, these parasites are released from infected snails, migrate in water and can penetrate our skin.

After penetration, these parasites remain in the skin and die but can then cause a skin reaction in some people.

Only about 1/3 of people who come in contact with the parasite get swimmer's itch. Children are most often infected from wading and swimming in shallow water.



Symptoms are noted when the parasite penetrates the skin. Irritated bumps reach maximum size in 24 hours; the itching may continue for days to a week. There is no treatment necessary for swimmer's itch. Some people may get relief by applying skin lotions or creams to the site.

To reduce the chances of getting swimmer's itch:

1. Towel off immediately after swimming or wading in infested water
2. Swim in water away from the shore
3. Avoid swimming in areas where snails have accumulated
4. Don't feed birds near swimming areas

*Dr. Mike Hodapp*