

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

May 2010

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Who would have ever thought that given the winter that we had that the ice would be out on Green Lake two weeks earlier than average? The spring has been great and we are now getting ready for the summer. We had our first meeting of the board of the GLPOA and we have a lot to be working on this year.



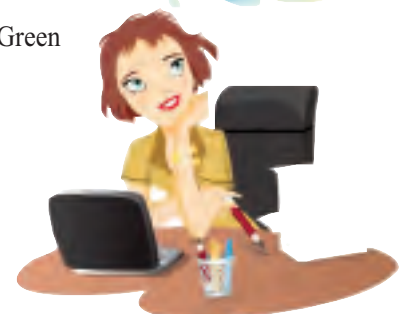
One action that was taken during that meeting was to expand the "Milfoil Fund" to the "AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Fund." With the threat of zebra mussels getting closer we are going to have to get more aggressive in protecting Green Lake from these little critters. When you get your dues statement please consider the MS fund for any donations that you can make as we need to keep vigilant in the protection of the lake. Our milfoil treatment last year appears to have been quite effective and we will get the true results of that when the assessment is done early this summer. As you may know, we changed to a different chemical last year which has been proven to be extremely effective in Lake Minnetonka. This chemical is more expensive than the Navigate that we were using in the past but given the results that we have seen in other lakes we feel that it is well worth it. Again, please consider any donation that you can to the AIS funding for 2010!

Many of you had heard about the proposal for further regulation of boat traffic on the lake that came out last year. The reason that this has become an issue is primarily due to respecting others, either their property, safety and or simply noise. The county commissioners appointed a committee made up of property owners, lake users, the county sheriffs department and the DNR. This committee met several times since last fall and from that the county will be posting signs at all of the boat accesses with suggested areas on the lake for boats to congregate where they will not be in close proximity to private residences, those being; the outlet, County Park 5, Saulsbury Beach and Lions Park. The signs will also delineate where public restrooms are located on the lake. The committee as well as the county is hoping that the signs as well as more public awareness will help to alleviate the issues so that further regulations would not be necessary. In working and communicating together all members of this committee gained a much better understanding of the issue. One thing that the lake users that do not own property pointed out during these meeting is that there is a lot of property owners that are contributing to the issue. Let's all just consider what we would want to have happening in front of our house or our children!



We are looking forward to a great, safe summer on Green Lake!

Kelly TerWisscha, President, GLPOA





Zebra Mussels in Green Lake

In 2000 we were confronted by an aggressive exotic weed called Eurasian Water Milfoil. We were told that it was an invasive species capable of altering the lake ecosystem. At first, the infestation was relatively isolated and was relegated to small patches. DNR treated it successfully with herbicide at both Saulsbury Beach and at the George Couleur access.

After 2001, DNR discontinued herbicide treatments. In 2004, an explosive new growth of milfoil occurred at the east end of the lake, but DNR, for the most part, stood on the sidelines. Requests by residents for permits to apply herbicides in 2005 and 2006 were denied. All this time, the milfoil continued to spread. Finally in 2007 and 2008 herbicide treatment on a small scale was given approval. In 2009, as milfoil became ever more pervasive, all known infested areas were treated and the same is expected in 2010. At this time, there is hope that the milfoil problem is manageable.

Coincidentally, GLPOA members increased their financial contributions to the invasive species fund in 2009 and it is hoped that the fund will experience continued substantial membership support in 2010, now that we understand that it is up to us to deal with the wolf which is at our door in the form of the zebra mussel.

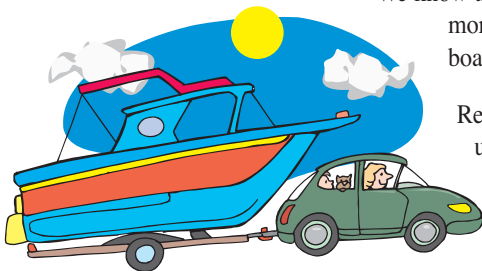
In 2009, Lake L'Homme Dieu, just 50 miles to the northwest, was found to be infested with zebra mussels. An old friend, Bill Harper, who has lived on the St. Croix River for more than 20 years, tells me that the mussel infestation there has reached the point that no one walks on the beach barefoot. This past summer, his 5 year old child removed her tennis shoes and suffered lacerations to both feet.

We learned in late April of this year that DNR has authorized no less than eight fishing tournaments on Green Lake in the summer of 2010. Bass tournaments in particular present a high risk of bringing zebra mussels to host lakes. It is not a coincidence that lakes such as Prior, Mille Lacs, L'Homme Dieu and Pelican, all hosts of bass tournaments, are now infested by zebra mussels. Because of this threat, Ruth Schaefer of the MS committee requested that DNR consider reducing or eliminating tournaments in 2010. We were surprised when DNR's response was a doubling of tournament permits in 2010. At the very least, tournament boats should not be coming directly from a tournament on an infested body of water such as L'Homme Dieu to Green Lake which is uninfested.



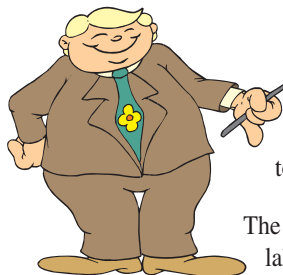
We know that the zebra mussel larvae, known as veligers, which are microscopically small, can survive five days or more out of water. The typical fishing boat and trailer has safe places for veligers such as the hull, the bilge, boat wells, live fish tanks, outboard motors and the trailer bunks on which the boat hull rests.

Research has shown that the most effective way of eliminating zebra mussels is by washing the watercraft, using a high pressure system, to deliver water at 140 degrees F. The motor's cooling system should also be flushed.



Because zebra mussels are now present in at least 14 of Minnesota's 87 counties, with new counties being added to the list annually and because exotic mussels represent a clear and present danger to the health of Green Lake, your board decided in September of 2009 that we should be proactive with respect to fighting the zebra mussel/quagga mussel explosion. Terry Frazee expressed his concern that fishing tournaments created an additional risk of infestation at the Sept. 2009 meeting of the Board. DNR had informed him that a Bass Tournament had been scheduled for June of 2010 on Green Lake. It was his understanding that contestants would fish Lake L'Homme Dieu the first week. Both Prior Lake and L'Homme Dieu were known to be infested. Letters were sent to DNR and the Bass Federation requesting that the tournament scheduled for Green Lake be cancelled. The Board requested that the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District (MFCRWD) use its influence to persuade DNR and/or the legislature to codify regulations which would reduce the risk of further zebra mussel infestations.

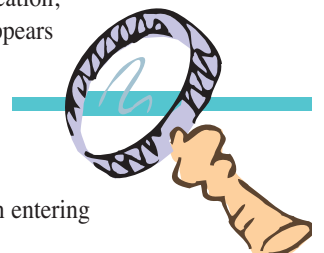
Subsequently, the MFCRWD managers appointed Greg and me along with one of its managers Ruth Schaefer, and Ann Latham a GLPOA member, to serve on an MS committee. This committee was granted up to \$2,500 by GLOPA to pay DNR trained inspectors. The MFCRWD agreed to provide up to \$5,000 to help fund the committee's mission.



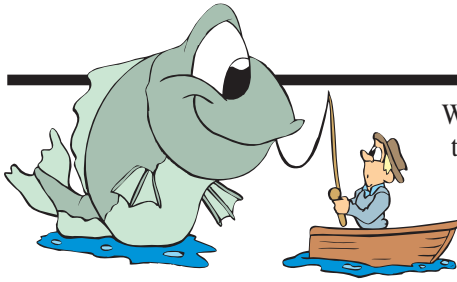
The MS Committee received approval to hire Dick Sternberg, a prominent fresh water biologist and former DNR employee, to assist us in developing educational tools to influence DNR MS policies and inform anglers about both the milfoil and zebra mussel issues. With Mr. Sternberg's help, we have developed an education, inspection and "dumping" strategy which in conjunction with DNR's education program, appears to have received DNR's acceptance.

The program which we will have in place for the fishing opener at all 46 public accesses to 17 lakes in Kandiyohi County incorporates these features:

1. Education of anglers and other boaters including sail boats and personal water craft, urging inspections on entering and leaving public waters.



Very Important!!



With dock, boat lift and boat season upon us, please join in helping prevent the spread of ZEBRA MUSSELS AND EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL.

The Green Lake Board of Directors would like to ask that if you hire someone to do any of this work for you, please ensure they do not unwittingly introduce one of these invasive aquatic (AIS) into Green

Lake. Ask them if they have been in any of the following infested waters with their waders, trailers, floats, etc. If they have, verify that their equipment (even waders) have been properly checked and cleaned before allowing them to enter our lake. If they have not taken the proper precautions, please consider to hire someone who has.



Waters in Minnesota infested with Zebra Mussels:

COUNTY	LAKES WITHIN
Benton	Little Rock Channel, Little Rock
Crow Wing	Black Bear, Boom, Half-Moon, Little Rabbit, Miller, Ossawinnamakee, Pelican Br. from the source at Ossawinnamakee Lake to the Pine River, Pickeral, Pine River from the mouth of Pelican Br. to the Mississippi River, Rice, Unnamed wetlands
Dakota	Rebecca
Douglas	Alvin, Carlos, Darling, Geneva, Jessie, Le Homme Dieu, Victoria
Mille Lacs	Mille Lacs, Ogechie, Onamia, Shakopee
Morrison	Crow River (from Long Prairie River to the Mississippi River)
Olmsted	Zumbro
Otter Tail	Bass, Crystal, Fish, Little Pelican, Lizzie, Pelican, Pelican River from Fish to Prairie, Prairie
Ramsey	Charlie, Pleasant, Sucker, Vadnais
St. Louis	Mud, Pike, White Pine River
Scott	Lower Prior Lake, Upper Prior Lake
Washington	St. Croix River downstream of the St. Croix Boomsite Recreation Area, at the river mile 25.4
Wright	Fish
Multiple	Long Prairie River, Mississippi River from the mouth of the Pine River in Crow Wing County to the Minnesota - Iowa border, Rum River, St. Louis River downstream of the White Pine River, Superior, tributaries to Lake Mille Lacs from their mouth upstream to the first public road, Zumbro River downstream of Lake Zumbro



Another thing to do to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels or Eurasian Watermilfoil into the lake: if you rent a trailer to put your boat, boat lift or pontoon in Green Lake, ask where that trailer has been. If it has been in a lake or river infested with aquatic invasive species (AIS), do not rent it unless it can be verified that the trailer has been properly checked and cleaned.

Terry Frazee

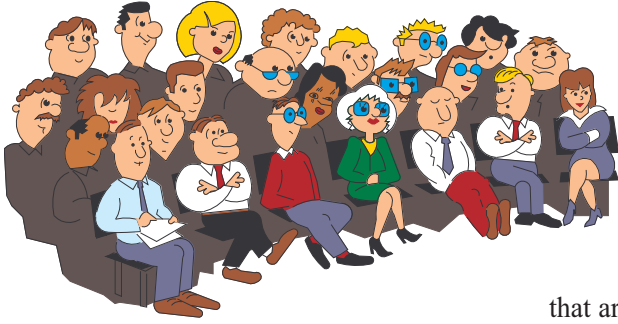
Chemical names may sound scary - perhaps that is why we are concerned! Look at this:

4-thia-lazabicyclo(3.2.0)-heptane-2-carboxylic acid, 3,3-dimethyl-7-oxo-6-[(2S-2a,5a,6b)], monopotassium salt, [2S-(2a,5a,6b)]. - who can even pronounce this?

The most common reactions are nausea, vomiting, epigastric distress, diarrhea, and black, hairy tongue. The hypersensitivity reactions noted are skin eruptions (ranging from maculopapular to exfoliating dermatitis); urinary; reactions resembling serum sickness, including chills, fever, edema, arthralgia, and prostration; laryngeal edema; and anaphylaxis. Fever and eosinophilia may frequently be the only reactions observed, Hemolytic anemia, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia, neuropathy, and nephropathy are infrequent reactions.

What is this chemical? Go to page 8 to find out.

Green Lake Inlet Partnership



The Green Lake Inlet Partnership met most recently on December 10, 2009.

The group includes representatives from the GLPOA, MN DNR, MN DOT, the City of Spicer, Kandiyohi County and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District. Special guests at the meeting were Senator Satveer Chaudhary, Senator Joe Gimse and Representative Al Juhnke.

The purpose of the inlet partnership is to bring together the diverse entities

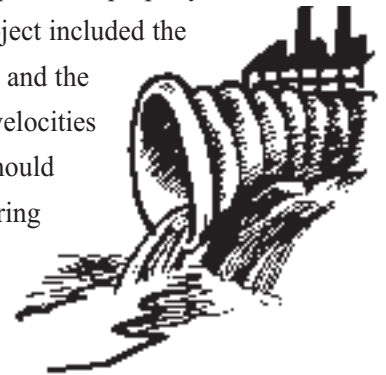
that are involved to address the growing concern over stormwater runoff. The runoff is flowing directly into Green Lake and it is polluting the water, adding excessive nutrients and sediment and is thought to be creating conditions that add to the growth and spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil.

In January 2009, at the encouragement of Senator Chaudhary, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, several members of the partnership prepared presentations to legislative committees seeking approval of a pilot project to reduce stormwater pollution and Eurasian Watermilfoil. In the end, the pilot project was not one of the proposals approved by the legislature last year, but we hope with some refinements that certain aspects of the proposal will be approved through other channels in 2010. The legislators who attended our meeting in December were very supportive and provided a number of helpful suggestions and ways to proceed with future requests for funding and other sources that might be able to help besides the legislature.



Despite the setback in the legislature, we have made some progress on several key stormwater issues. First, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has funded a grant through the Watershed District to conduct a formal study of our stormwater inlets seeking greater insight into pollution and sediments as they relate to invasive species. Second, the Watershed District, in conjunction with the City of Spicer and property owners, completed a major inlet project on the south side of Green Lake. The project included the

installation of a series of riffles and pools along with slight meanders and the planting of native vegetation to provide bank stability, slower water velocities and greater native plant interaction with the water. These measures should



allow for reductions in nutrient and sediment concentrations to take place prior to the water entering Green Lake. Third, we are also seeking a grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to help us carry out other projects related to stormwater runoff.

The Inlet Partnership continues to be an important forum for cooperative efforts to protect Green Lake. GLPOA collaboration with all of the other players in the partnership is producing positive results for all of us.

Greg Roverud, Chairman, Green Lake Inlet Partnership



Green Lake: A Safe, Enjoyable Resource



The county committee to study issues resulting from boat congregating on Green Lake has come up with some suggested areas that they feel could be a step in assisting the residents and the lake users to work together and allow everyone the use of the lake and the residents more privacy in the use of their own property.

The committee is made up of regular users of Green Lake, residents of the lake, county commissioners, county sheriffs' representation and the DNR. The first and foremost goal of the committee is to come up with methods that would allow the continued use of the lake for everyone without imposing additional regulations which would have a negative impact on every one that uses the lake.

The committee has come up with the following suggestions as a first step and hopefully final step in the process of making Green Lake the safe, enjoyable resource that it should be for all of its users:

- Create a suggested "boat congregating" area near the East outlet on the lake. This area is a shallow, sandy area that does not have residences in close proximity to it and could even allow public restroom facilities on the shore near the fishing bridge. The suggested "congregating" area could have mooring buoys to assist people in anchoring in the area.
- Place signs at each of the boat accesses informing the public of a suggested boat congregating area. The access signs will inform the public of all of the public restrooms that are accessible from the lake.
- The County Sheriffs' office has refined its interpretation of the noise ordinance which will give them more enforcement ability of the ordinance on the lake.
- Begin a public awareness campaign in an attempt to get lake users and residents to work together for the common cause of not forcing additional regulation on the lake.



The committee plans on monitoring the activity on the lake this summer and to get together again in the fall to determine if the methods put in place this year are adequate or if they need to look into further regulation.

All of the members of the committee gained a much greater understanding of the other members of the committee and are determined to do what they can to make Green Lake a resource that can be enjoyed by all for future generations.

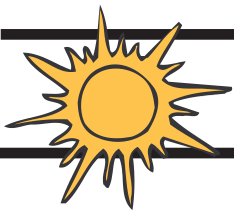
Zebra Mussels in Green Lake continued...

2. Supplementing DNR's education program with a power point presentation on the importance of assuming responsibility for the condition of one's boat both on ingress and egress from public waters.
3. Maintaining sites at each public landing where water and waste from boats and trailers may safely be deposited.
4. Interviews of boaters for the purpose of determining whether their boat has been in infested waters, among other things.
5. At least three trained boat and trailer inspectors for at least 17 lakes in the county plus as many volunteer inspectors as we can recruit.



It is believed that we must, as soon as practicable, have no less than three boat, motor and trailer cleaning sites operating within the county. Our inspectors should be able to direct watercraft which come from infested waters to an approved cleaning facility which is accessible seven days per week. The measures which we are proposing at this point represent a compromise. These measures are the least intrusive and least expensive among several proposals.

As we've met with anglers, water skiers, etc., we've found substantial support for close supervision of infested waters by those who choose to boat in such waters. It should be much less onerous to monitor the 50 or so bodies of water that are known to contain zebra mussels than the 10,000 bodies which are not yet infested. At this point we know that what we are doing will only reduce the risk. Far more stringent measures would be required to significantly reduce that risk.



Nature Notes

“Lo, the winter is past and the song of the turtle (dove) is heard in the land.” Oh, yes, Spring arrived unexpectedly early this year. The superabundance of snow mid-winter made me think it would last forever, but of course, Mother Nature proved otherwise.



Those who've spent many winters on Green Lake know that the ice-over seldom occurs the same way twice. This fall very seldom did the ice along the shore extend out more than a few feet. Then suddenly on December 10 we awoke to the lake entirely covered with a sheet of clear ice. Occasionally, the shadow of a cloud made it look as if open water were still out in the middle, but it kept moving with the cloud.

Heavy snows followed, making the depth of ice tenuous. Most ice fishermen were cautious, using ATVs to reach their fishing spots. The houses and trucks appeared later.

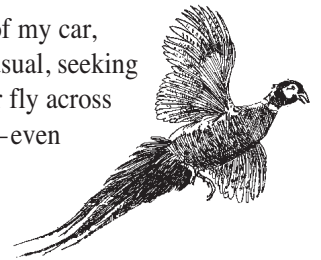


With all the snow, wildlife and birds were more evident. A brash opossum sat under the yew bush near the bird bath for the longest time, ignoring raps on the window, staring me down. The seeds dropped from the feeders apparently were worth more than my feeble attempts at intimidation. It did not, however, appear again—when I was watching.



A cardinal sat in the maple tree on Christmas Day, listening to our reading a Christmas story. He and his mate were frequent visitors under the feeders, too. A pileated woodpecker visited the suet feeder—and wrapped himself around the sunflower feeder—daily. His cousins, the downy, hairy, and red-bellied woodpeckers, visited regularly. So did the nuthatches, the cheerful chickadees, the olive-coated goldfinches, and their cousins, the house finches and purple finches, in turn.

What was fun to see were the wild turkeys that ran along Indian Beach Road ahead of my car, later crossing the road to feed on the lake side. Pheasants appeared more often than usual, seeking food alongside the road. What surprised me was the male pheasant in all his splendor fly across our road and roost in a tree, lake side. Mid-February was the month most of those occurrences were observed—even the time I saw seven pheasants, seeking food together.



The red-winged blackbirds made their appearance in mid-March, chirring by the outlet. It was not long before they found the bird feeders and proceeded to empty them daily. Three days before their appearance, one swan flew over the road to Willmar on the 16th I thought I must be mistaken, but two swam by on the 20th. I'd heard and seen them by the outlet, along with the Canada geese that arrived about the same time. On the 27th several mergansers swam by our shore, and I wasn't sure if a loon was amongst them. The next day two loons flew over my trees, calling loudly as if to say, “We're back! We're back.” By April 8th I could hear them night and day, affirming that “our” loons had survived the winter in the south bays and gulfs. A red-bellied woodpecker took a bath in the birdbath - not just a drink - April 11.



One of the more unusual aspects of the winter were the many wintering robins—no more waiting for the first robin of spring. They were at the birdbath in February and earlier.

Then we had the unusual March with no snow nor rain, except for a brief shower or two, and warmer temperatures—in the 50's, nearing the 60's. What frost was in the ground swiftly left so there were few lakes and ponds in yards from melting snows. The lake ice naturally became more and more porous, turning black for days. As swiftly as the lake froze over, the ice left on April 2. One could see crumbled ice out from the north shore that day, but by sunset it had gone. One resident described the ice as “perfect for making ice cream.” No big floes or slabs to cause damage when coming up on shore - at least none that I heard of. Another person's description of hearing the crumbling the day or two before the ice vanished made me think of fairy wind chimes.

The lake is higher than usual but docks and boatlifts are going in. At least one couple has already been swimming— “not as bad as they thought it would be,” according to a neighbor.

Welcome back to Green Lake, those who were away for the winter. Another summer awaits us. May the eagles continue to soar overhead.

May the Green Lake breezes refresh our souls.



Gloria Benson



Eurasian Watermilfoil Research

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems by filling the water column and forming dense canopies at the water's surface that can adversely affect navigation, recreation and water quality. Dense stands have the potential to reduce native plant diversity, deplete dissolved oxygen, increase water temperatures, increase internal loading rates of nutrients and negatively impact habitat for waterfowl, fish and other wildlife. The means of colonization for EWM is mainly via vegetative fragments, produced by wind, water currents, wave action, boating activities and via plant autofragmentation.

Once determined to possess a substrate (lake bottom) unfit for the propagation of EWM, Green Lake has experienced rapid establishment and spread of EWM since the plant was first discovered in 2000. DNR surveys have reported a frequency of occurrence increasing from 4% in 2004 to 20% in 2008. While EWM infestation on Green Lake has not yet reached nuisance levels on a widespread basis, its rapid spread is alarming and steps must be taken to manage its spread.

The rapid spread of an invasive aquatic plant in a lake once determined to not be at risk begs the question: what has changed? Over the past couple decades, development on and around Green Lake has increased dramatically. In the City of Spicer on the lake's southwest shore, impervious surfaces increased more than 53% from 1990-2000. Around the lake, greater development pressures within the first tier (within 300 feet of the shoreline) have resulted in an estimated 29% imperviousness. While the impervious surfaces themselves represent a clear threat to the lake, perhaps the greatest threat is from the engineered change in hydrology that accompanies the impervious surfaces. These surfaces increase runoff velocities and volumes, necessitating the incorporation of stormwater infrastructure to accommodate water that previously infiltrated soils. Due to the exorbitant cost of the stormwater infrastructure, water is typically drained to the nearest low area, which in this case, is Green Lake. In the past 20 years, more than 40 stormwater inlets have been incorporated into the lake, directly delivering the sediment, nutrients and other pollutants that typically accompany stormwater.



The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District wrote and procured a grant to conduct research to test the hypothesis that stormwater inlets provide a means for nutrient and sediment loading that previously did not exist and that the nutrients and sediment are providing an environment more hospitable for the propagation of EWM. The study expands upon an existing paradigm with EWM in a study that could have local, regional and national impacts on development with regards to stormwater. If the hypothesized relationship can be established, the location of new stormwater infrastructure and inlets near all water bodies would have to be reconsidered prior to construction.

Submitted by Chad Anderson - Administrator- Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District



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Return Service Requested

Milfoil Treatment Chemicals



The herbicide used in the 2009 milfoil treatments: Triclopyr (3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid).

Restrictions following Triclopyr applications:

- * **Swimming - None**
- * **Fishing and fish consumption - None**
- * **Irrigation of ornamental plants and newly seeded lawns - when residues go below 1 ppb (about 30 days)**

Our point here is not that the chemical we have used in the milfoil project are without risks, they are as are all milfoil management tools. Our point is that the tools, techniques and products used to control milfoil have been thoroughly tested using accepted scientific and regulator protocol and are allowed for use in the environment by federal and state agencies.

The Green Lake Property Board of Directors is aware that individuals and organizations may oppose using chemicals for milfoil control for their own particular reasons. However, we become concerned when objections are founded on fear, speculation and sometimes non-factual claims.

The Green Lake Association is an advocate for a healthy Green Lake. Milfoil in Green Lake is one kind of pollution that diminishes our lake's health. Controlling milfoil using herbicides has been deemed safe by the US EPA, the MN DNR and other agencies and organizations. In a perfect world, other seeming less "nasty-sounding" alternatives would be available, but unfortunately right now they are not. The milfoil project has been and continues to be overseen by scientists representing federal, state and local agencies and the team has found the use of herbicides to be the only feasible method to accomplish the project's objectives which includes being safe and restorative.



Terry Frazee

ANSWER: Penicillin