

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

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

July 2010

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Dear Green Lake Property Owners,

We made it through another 4th of July on Green Lake! While the weather did not start out great for the weekend the 4th was a great day. I would like to thank all of you that made it out for the annual meeting at the Bible camp. We had a great turnout, great breakfast and an informative meeting and discussion. Thank you again for all that showed up and all of the great comments and input regarding the issues that we are facing on the lake.

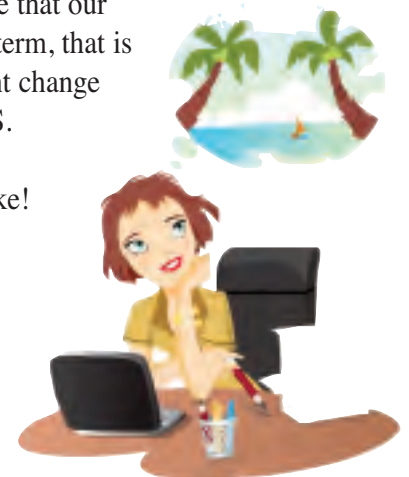


The board and committees of the GLPOA have been busy over the last month as well. We had a very good meeting with Bob Meier and Luke Skinner from the DNR regarding zebra mussels and the DNR's approach to controlling the spread of these nasty little critters. Also attending the meeting were two county commissioners and Representative Juhnke. While the DNR's approach is not as aggressive as we would like, it was a great start to further discussions and understanding of their position as well as them to ours. They have guaranteed us that they would have inspectors at all of the large fishing tournaments on Green Lake and they were changing some scheduling to try to make sure that they would have the smaller tournaments that are on the lake as well. The DNR is going to have some "phase 2" stakeholder meetings starting this month of which we were told that we would have a seat at the table.

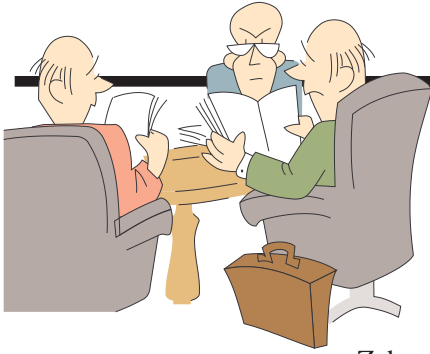
One thing that became very clear from our meeting with the DNR is that many of the things that we would like to see enacted to help in stopping the spread of these invasives would take legislative action, which takes time. The other issue that we need to be aware of is that there are some very powerful lobby groups that become very active when any changes are proposed. We as concerned lake owners need to get active as well and make sure that our voices are heard on the legislature. In the long term, that is the only way that we are going to get significant change that would help in controlling the spread of AIS.

Have a great summer and I'll see you on the lake!

Kelly TerWisscha, President, GLPOA



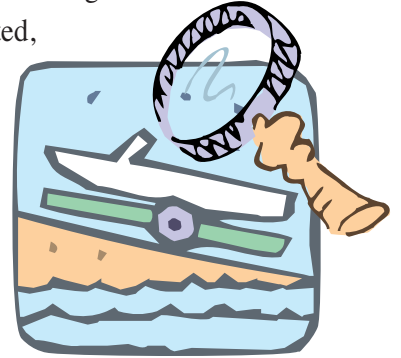
# Meeting With DNR



On June 28th representatives from the GLPOA board met for lunch with Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The intent of the meeting was to share thoughts and ideas regarding the subject of Aquatic Invasive Species (A.I.S.) and specifically Zebra mussels. The threat of A.I.S. should be of great concern to all Green Lake property owners.

Zebra mussels have invaded more than thirty lakes in Minnesota and once they have infested a lake they are a major nuisance for anglers and boaters since they can ruin equipment, clog motor cooling systems, foul hulls and jam the centerboard wells under sailboats. Once a body of water is infested, Zebra mussels are virtually impossible to eliminate.

The tone of the meeting was positive and it is apparent that the DNR recognizes the state-wide problems of A.I.S. We were left with the impression that at the present time the emphasis of the DNR is on education — i.e. attempting to educate the public about the threat and potential impact of Zebra mussels. Mr. Meier also discussed the issue of inspecting boats for A.I.S. as

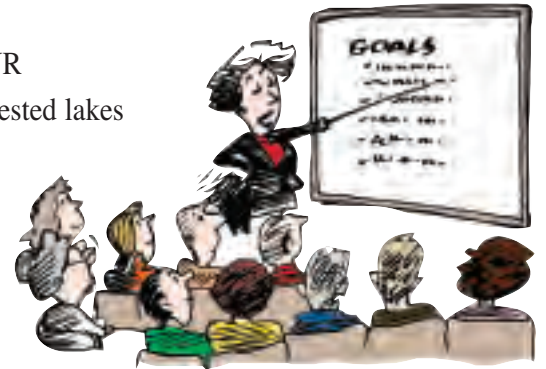


they leave and enter a lake. The GLPOA president, Kelly TerWisscha,

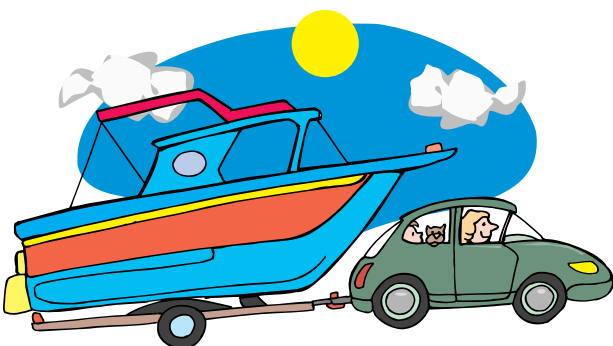
urged the DNR to seriously consider the strategy of “containment.” He stated that focusing containment efforts on the lakes in Minnesota that are already infested seems like a more logical approach than dedicating limited resources to those lakes that are not. Concentrating efforts on a few lakes rather than thousands seems much more realistic and affordable. The desirability of pursuing a containment strategy is a point-of-view shared by all members of the GLPOA who attended the meeting.



Currently under consideration by the GLPOA board is a communication to the DNR recommending that a pilot project be developed and implemented at one of the infested lakes known to contain Zebra mussels. This project would serve to test and refine inspection and cleansing procedures with the desired outcome of improving both efficiency and effectiveness before the model is adopted for use at all of the infested waters in the state. There is much to be said for having the DNR focus its resources on infested waters, especially if such an effort represents the initiative with the highest odds of success.



*Dick Gunderson, GLPOA Board Member*





# Congregating Areas

Greetings Green Lake Residents!

July 2010

It is that time of year already, fishing opener has taken place and the water is starting to warm up, as will the boating activity on the lake!

Issues that have been a topic of conversation are people congregating with their boats and anchoring at certain locations on the lake. Some of the concerns brought up by residents who live on shore, near these areas, are the noise level, foul language, throwing of garbage in the lake, urinating in the lake and other rude behaviors. We have met with a group of Green Lake property owners, County commissioners and persons who do not live on Green Lake but use their boats there, about the above mentioned issues.



As we all are aware, the lake is public water and it is there for the public to use. As with any gathering of people, be it on the lake or at a public park, the people gathering at the site should use common sense and be respectful to the neighbors in the area; this being the individuals living on the shore of the lake.



Kandiyohi County Commissioners, working with the Green Lake Association, are asking boaters who want to anchor and congregate with other boats, to congregate in the County Park 5 area, NE lake outlet area, Lion Beach, and Salisbury Beach areas. The maps, showing congregation areas, will be posted at the accesses around Green Lake.

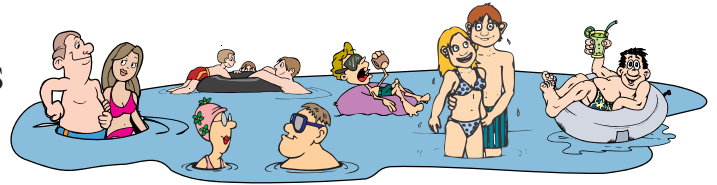
With the above recommended areas to congregate, we hope this will address the noise issues that have become more prevalent.



When boats have congregated and we do get a complaint on the noise coming from the group of boaters, Sheriff's deputies will respond and deal with the noise or other violations. The ordinance that will be enforced will be **Kandiyohi County Ordinance No. 3 — Ordinance Regulating Parties and Gatherings** (see ordinance listed below).

## ORDINANCE NO. 3

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PARTIES AND GATHERINGS  
The County Board of Commissioners of Kandiyohi County does ordain as follows:



**Section 1.** No persons shall congregate at or participate in any party or gathering of people from which noise emanates of a sufficient volume to disturb the peace, quiet or repose of other persons. No person shall congregate at, participate in, or knowingly permit any party or gathering of people at which persons under the age of 21 unlawfully consume or are in possession of beer, alcohol, or intoxicating liquors as defined by Chapter 340A, of the Minnesota Statutes.

**Section 2.** Noise of such volume as to be clearly audible at a distance of 200 feet from the structure or building in which the party or gathering is occurring, or in the case of a multiple dwelling or apartment, in the adjacent hallway, apartment or unit, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this ordinance. In the case of an outdoor party or gathering, noise of such volume as to be clearly audible at a distance of 200 feet from the property line of the parcel on which the party or gathering is located or clearly audible adjacent to the nearest occupied dwelling, whichever distance is greater, shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this ordinance.

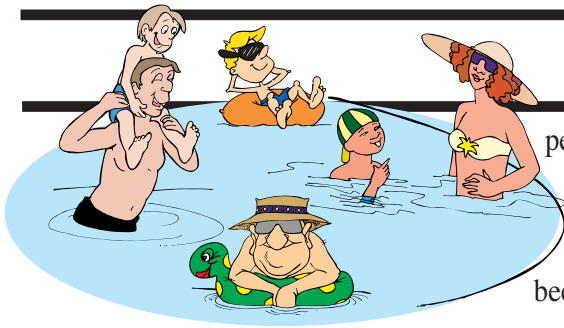


**Section 3.** No person shall knowingly remain at such a party or gathering. No person who is the owner, renter, tenant, or person in lawful possession of such premises shall permit



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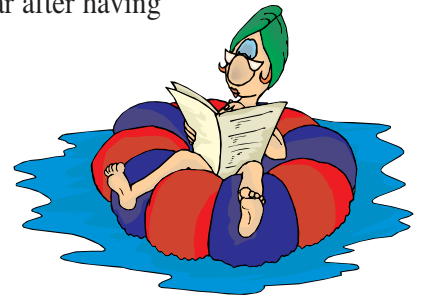
# Congregating Areas continued...



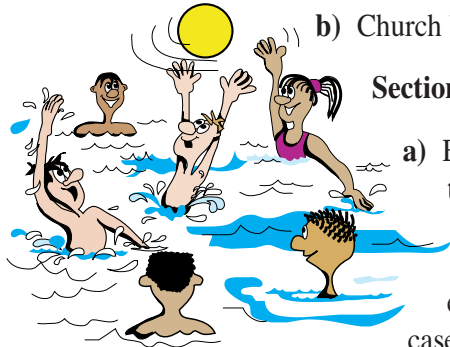
persons under the age of 21 who are unlawfully in possession of or have been consuming alcohol or alcoholic beverages to remain at the premises following notice that the party or gathering is in violation of Section 1, above, or to return to the premises for such purpose within one year after having been given written notice.

**Section 4.** The following are exempt from violations of this section:

a) Activities which are duly authorized, licensed, or sponsored by the County of Kandiyohi, or any other government entity, provided the activity is conducted pursuant to all conditions established by the authorizing government entity.



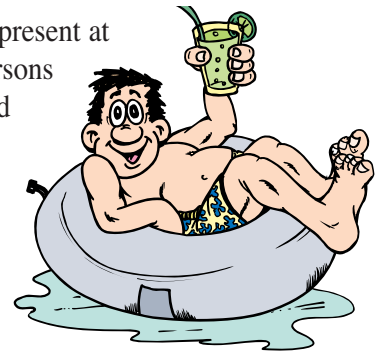
b) Church bells, chimes or carillons.



**Section 5.** Penalties.

a) Every owner, or person in lawful possession, or in the case of rental property the tenant of the premises, where a party or gathering in violation of this section occurs, who is present at such party or gathering, or who has knowledge of the party or gathering, is guilty of a misdemeanor, if noise continues at a volume in violation of this ordinance after a law enforcement officer has notified the owner, tenant, or person in lawful possession as the case may be, that the noise is in violation of the Ordinance, or the noise reoccurs at a volume in violation of this Ordinance within twenty-four (24) hours of the aforesaid notification from a law enforcement officer.

b) Every owner, or in the case of a rental property the tenant of the premises, or the person in lawful control thereof, where a party or gathering in violation of this Ordinance occurs, who is present at such party of gathering, or has knowledge of the party or gathering, and has knowledge that persons under the age of 21 years have been unlawfully in possession of or consumed alcohol at the said party or gathering is guilty of a misdemeanor.



c) Any person, other than the owner, tenant, or person in lawful possession who refuses to disperse from the party or gathering in violation of this section after being ordered by a law enforcement officer to do so, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

d) A second or repeat violation of this ordinance within one (1) year shall constitute proof that the premises are a nuisance as defined in the Kandiyohi County Nuisance Ordinance Section A Paragraph 10, and the Kandiyohi County Sheriff may then order abatement of the nuisance or refer to the nuisance violation for prosecution or abatement by Kandiyohi County pursuant to the Kandiyohi County Nuisance Ordinance.

e) Any person found guilty of a misdemeanor under this ordinance shall be punished as provided by the Laws of the State of Minnesota for misdemeanor violations.

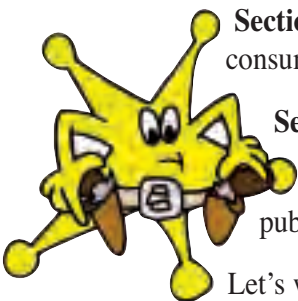
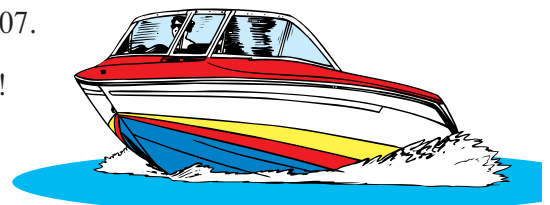
**Section 5.1** Exception. Persons under the age of 21 who are in the presence of a parent may lawfully consume or be in possession of alcohol pursuant to Chapter 340A, Minnesota Statutes.

**Section 6.** Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective from and after its adoption and publication. Dated at Willmar, Minnesota, the 7th of August 2007.

Let's work together to have a safe and enjoyable summer. Thanks!

Sincerely,  
*Daniel Hartog, Sheriff*

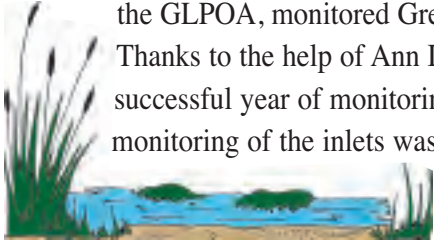


# Watershed District Update



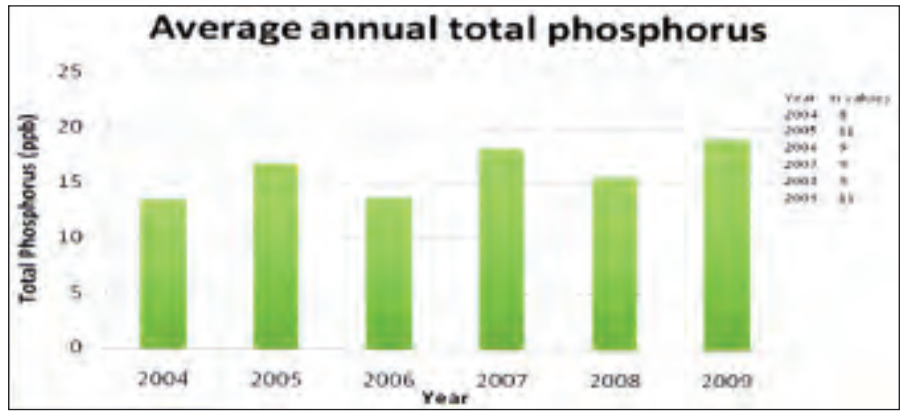
## MONITORING

The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, with the assistance of Green Lake volunteers and the GLPOA, monitored Green Lake and some of the inlets to the lake again in 2009.



Thanks to the help of Ann Latham, Jill and Riley Nelson and Bob Hodapp, we had a successful year of monitoring. Due to the abnormally dry conditions present throughout much of the summer, our monitoring of the inlets was limited — many were dry from June until the end of the season.

Some of the monitoring results are pictured below in graph form. The first graph — a depiction of average annual total phosphorus readings on Green Lake over the past six years - shows an increase in total phosphorus from 2008 to 2009, from 16 to 19 parts per billion (ppb), or 19 micrograms per liter. As many of you now know, excess phosphorus in lakes encourages algae growth — too much algae in the lake affects the aesthetic and water quality properties of the lake.

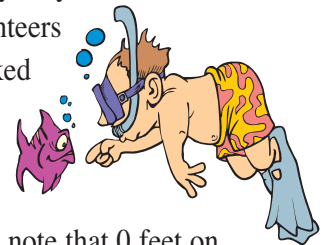


The reason the value of 19 ppb is important is because of the water quality goal that was established for Green Lake in 2002; non-degradation. For Green Lake to be considered as meeting this water quality goal, average annual

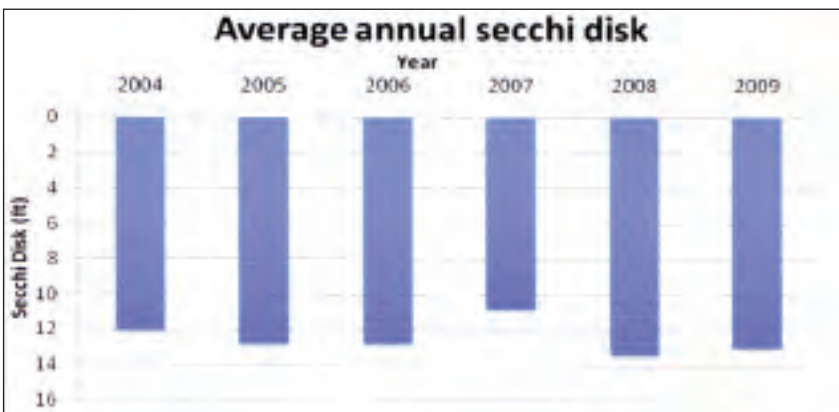


total phosphorus readings must remain at or below 18 ppb. Green Lake exceeded the threshold of the non-degradation goal last year, underscoring the importance of increasing our efforts to reduce the phosphorus inputs into the lake. These efforts will require continued involvement from all local entities, as well as increased efforts by property owners.

Another important piece of information that our volunteers collect has to do with water clarity. As everybody who either lives on or has visited the lake knows, the clarity of the water is one of Green Lake's many assets. Our volunteers measure the lake's clarity with the use of a secchi disk — a circular disk attached to a rope that is marked for measuring the water's depth. The disk is lowered into the water on the shaded side of a boat. At the point in which the disk is no longer visible, the depth is recorded — the deeper the depth, the clearer the water. A graph of average annual secchi disk readings over the past six years is shown below.



Water clarity decreased slightly from an average of 13.5 feet in 2008 to 13.0 feet in 2009. In the graph, note that 0 feet on the y-axis represents the lake's surface — the further the bar goes down, the clearer the water.



As mentioned previously, our monitoring extends beyond the lake's shores and into some of the many inlets that lead into the lake. Because the water quality of a lake is reflective of the surrounding watershed, this type of monitoring is extremely important. These results give us a glimpse of the water entering the lake and allow us to identify emerging issues and future projects.

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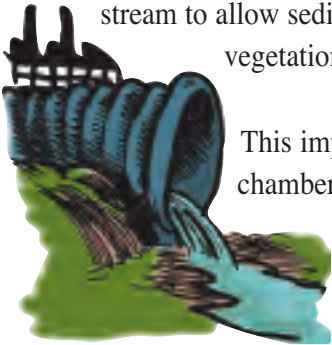
# Watershed District Update continued....



The inlet monitoring results from 2009 were relatively scarce due to the dry weather; however, results from previous years indicate the need for the implementation of best management practices to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the lake. The successful implementation of these practices will be very important for the future of Green Lake and in meeting the aforementioned defined water quality goal of non-degradation.

## COUNTY ROAD 10 CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Last November, the Watershed District had the opportunity to implement a channel development project on the inlet to Green Lake near the Park Lane Resort. The project involved creating a series of pools and riffles within the channel of this ephemeral stream to allow sediment to drop out and reduce nutrient loading prior to the stormwater entering Green Lake. Native vegetation was also planted in the channel to further slow the flow of water and aid in nutrient attenuation.



This improved channel is part of a larger project that also involved the installation of two grit separation chambers under County Road 10 — these grit chambers will catch much of the sediment that will run down the newly paved road, prior to the water flowing into the new channel.

The project was funded with a grant for the improvement of stormwater management in the cities of Spicer and New London. It was made possible by 319 federal funds and through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Stormwater is regarded as one of the biggest polluters of our country's waterways; the grants under which the project was implemented have provided us with the opportunity to address some of the issues that affect the Middle Fork Crow River, Nest Lake, and Green Lake. Two of the more important components of these grants are outreach and education, and the implementation of stormwater treatment solutions. Please keep your eyes open for educational opportunities as we continue these programs throughout this year!



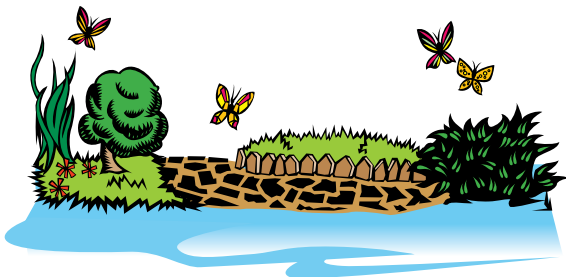
## 2010

We are planning to have a very busy year again in 2010. We plan on entering into another cost-share agreement with the GLPOA to conduct lake water quality sampling. We will also work with our volunteers to continue our efforts on monitoring the inlets into Green Lake — thank you to all the volunteers who have offered their time again in 2010!



Our best management practices cost-sharing program will also continue this year. We were awarded a continuation to our Clean Water Partnership grant.

This grant allows us to cost-share on projects that are designed to improve water quality. These projects can include raingardens or other stormwater mitigation, shoreland restorations, rain barrels and others. Please contact the Watershed District if you are interested in completing a water quality project on your property.



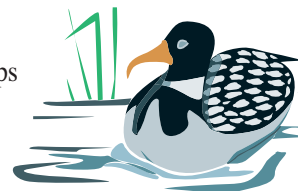
*Sara Jacobson and Chad Anderson  
Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District*

# Loons and Nature and Such -- Green Lake

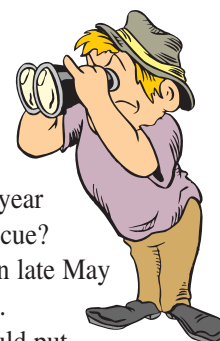


The air is filled with the redolence of basswood blossoms, breezes or not. Lilies of the valley, lilacs and mock orange have their day, but nothing compares with the basswood/linden blooms. One year I gathered and dried them and tried making tea with them, thinking I might have a jasmine-like tea, with little flowers floating on the surface. It didn't work; in fact, it tasted blah. Maybe I should have used fresh blossoms, but then how does one keep them for the future? Oh, well... the nasturtiums and pansies tasted good as a garnish or in a salad. I'm not as adventurous as Euell Gibbons was in "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" and subsequent books, but I'll try a few things.

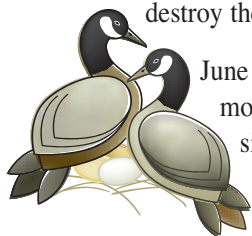
A resident of Indian Beach Harbor called to say she hears a loon every night at 10:00. She speculated that perhaps it was at the south end of the lagoon, dug years ago when the Indian Beach development was planned. (That's a digression I won't go into now.) The loons I hear are in the Wildlife Management Area, east of the outlet bridge. They, too, call at night—sometimes past midnight. One wonders if they are simply conversing or entertaining each other. A neighbor spotted four loons, one with two babies on her back, earlier this summer. Their nests must be back there too, with the shore line as built up as it is.



Until I read a column by Mark Taper of a Decatur, IL newspaper of June 27, 2010, I had not realized that loons, as difficult as it is to take off from open water, will fly in migration "at speeds of 75 to 120 mph and at elevations of up to 8,800 feet." He has vacationed at lakes in northern Minnesota and become fascinated by the loons, which they don't have in Illinois. He has studied them and photographed them for 30 years. As the young loons who fly to the Gulf for the winter do not return to Minnesota for a year or two, what will happen to them when they alight in the Gulf waters and stay? What about the adults who do return on cue? He writes: "I've endured weeks when the walleye were not biting and weeks when the rain would not stop. I've fished in late May snow and swatted mosquitoes the size of parakeets." But he never envisioned anything threatening the loons—until now. "Now, BP, you've got my attention. Now, you're messing with my loons." We can all say AMEN to that. If only one could put giant detour signs in the sky to divert them to other, cleaner waters.

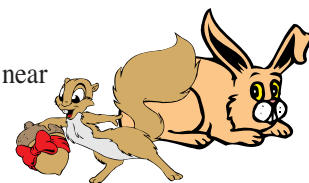


Another threat to loons is the zebra mussel. With shells so sharp a person cannot walk on the shore barefoot, they also pose a problem for the loons and other waterfowl. Mussels apparently eat everything in sight, keeping the water so clean that they destroy the food sources for the birds. Fish, too?



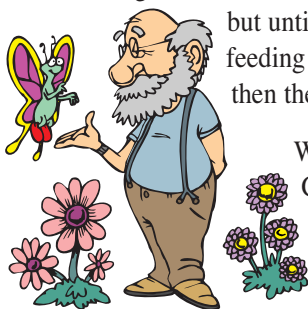
June brought families of Canada geese, papa and mama and anywhere from four to ten goslings or in joint families of even more swimming sedately along the shore or making less welcome walks across the lawns. Some residents handle the situation with equanimity; others throw up their hands and cry, "Oh, no! Not again!!"

Speaking of nuisances, rabbits seemed to be more prolific this year and bunnies abound—near gardens, across lawns, eating hostas, almost any green leafy plant—breaking off flowers and eating the geranium or other stems. Squirrels tackle wood and plastic, not only bird seed. An article in the paper the other day mentioned ways of getting rid of them, including live traps. It even mentioned there are seasons for shooting them, unless they threaten a person or destroy property. Sounds like open season then.



Speaking as I was of large fowl, I was delighted one day to see what I thought was a flotilla of loons with two pelicans. As soon as the dark bird began flying, I realized they were 21 cormorants led by a cormorant scout and one white pelican. The other pelican brought up the rear, like the sweep in skiers—the last one to make sure no one is left behind on the hill. Everyone has probably known that for years, I learned it only a few years ago.

Commenting on smaller birds, I've watched mother robins feeding their young and pileated woodpeckers feeding their young, but until the other day I'd never seen a nuthatch taking a seed from the feeder, flying to the maple tree and feeding her young one that was perched on a small branch. She made countless trips back and forth—then they both flew off. The smaller one flew not quite straight but in the general direction of its mother.



We'll let the rest of nature take care of itself this month. Suffice to say we have sunshine and rain. Colorful flowers and lush green grasses and trees—including the lovely Japanese lilac trees, refreshing waters to swim in, gusty and gutsy winds—and the gentle Green Lake breezes. Enjoy them all this summer of 2010.

**The Green Lake Breeze**  
**Green Lake Property Owners Association**  
**P.O. Box 362**  
**Spicer, Minnesota 56288**  
**[www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com)**

**Return Service Requested**

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## Walleye In Green Lake

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Spicer Area DNR Fisheries continues to monitor walleye natural reproduction and survival of stocked walleye fry in Green Lake. The last netting was in late July of 2009. The walleye gillnet catch was only 2.83 walleye per gillnet, however, the proportions of various sized and age walleye were similar to the previous year. The low catch may be related to the cool summer and available dissolved oxygen to 45 feet of depth. Most other fish species were caught at low levels in 2009. Fisheries sets the nets in the same locations each year, but the oxygenated available space can vary. The huge volume of available space last summer might have allowed walleye to inhabit areas well away from normal net sites. Anglers continue to find walleye, and fishing at times is very good. The long range goal for walleye is 9.5 fish per gillnet.



Fisheries took 63.75 quarts of walleye eggs (7,024,613 eggs) from Green Lake this spring for area stocking needs. We normally stock walleye fry back at 10% of eggs taken. This year we stocked 2,220,806 fry or about 31% back to Green Lake. The fry were “OTC” marked so that this fall when we conduct the electro-fishing survey, we can determine what percent of captured walleye fingerlings were from fry stocking as opposed to natural reproduction. In fall 2009, half of the walleye fingerlings sampled were from natural reproduction, half “OTC” marked stocked fry. Although survival of both natural and stocked walleye each year remains relatively low to moderate, it is encouraging to see that naturally reproduced walleye are contributing to the Green Lake walleye population.



Spicer Area Fisheries will be conducting the annual assessment netting of Green Lake in late July to early August of 2010. An update will be provided from the netting in fall 2010, and in winter 2010-11, we will be reviewing the Lake Management Plan and make adjustments if needed for 2011 and beyond.

Hoping you have an enjoyable summer at the lake.

*Sincerely, Bruce Gilbertson, Area Fisheries Supervisor*

