

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

October 2002

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Dear Green Lake Property Owner,



Greetings from your Green Lake Property Owners Association Board.

Fall sun declinations give Green Lake a sparkle as beautiful as a well cut diamond.

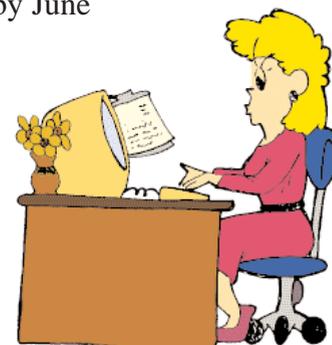
Sumac shrubs are showing mostly red tones and the cedar waxwings are feeding on ripe mountain ash and crabapple fruit.

Fall also brings lawn clean-up, which produces waste of leaves, grass clippings, fertilizers and soil, all of which contain a phosphorus, which turns lakes and ponds green with algae. Just a reminder for all of us property owners to properly dispose of yard waste. Please do not rake or sweep wastes into the gutter or street as the next flow will be into a storm drain and then the lake.

This will be the last Green Lake Breeze until May 2003, though you can log onto our web site at [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com) for interesting data, pictures, updates etc. A new Green Lake Directory is scheduled for distribution by June 2003.

Sincerely,

Gwynne Anderson  
President, GLPOA



# GLSSWD News



As a homeowner be aware of the location of your outside water service line shut off and sewer service line clean-outs. When sewer service line backup occurs or a water line ruptures, valuable time, much effort and less damage will result if shut offs and clean-outs are exposed and accessible. Contact the district office if you would like a copy of your service connection as-built drawing.

The GLSSWD is now allowing installation of an additional water meter for non-sewered use, such as lawn irrigation. Below are the guidelines for such an installation.

**Purpose:** To provide recordable water usage for irrigation and other non-sewered uses.

1. An application for a non-sewered water meter installation must be completed by the property owner.
2. Water meter must be purchased from the GLSSWD.
3. Total installation expense is the responsibility of the water meter purchaser. Including signal wire installation to MXU mounting location.
4. The non-sewered meter must be plumbed in so as not to record gallons of usage recorded by the main sewered meter. Meaning, the non-sewered meter cannot be plumbed in line either before or after the main sewered meter. The non-sewered meter must utilize a separate supply source tied off from the in coming water service.
5. Only outside faucets shall be connected to the non-sewered meter. Only faucets installed in such a manner as to not allow drainage to any sewer collection devise will be allowed.
6. Inspection of non-sewered meter installation by the GLSSWD is required. Inspection and approval of completed installation must occur before utilization of the non-sewered meter.
7. Water usage is to be billed at the normal usage rate. Current usage rate is \$1.85 per thousand gallons.
8. Non-sewered water meter must be removed or sewer usage fees will apply if determined by the GLSSWD that inappropriate installation and/or water usage has occurred.



Soon many of you will be winterizing cabins and homes. If at all possible do not disconnect the meter signal wire and totally remove the water meter. Just empty the water out of it by tipping it downward one end at a time. If the meter signal wire must be removed, please call the district office at 796-4523 to notify us of the disconnection. Without notification valuable time is spent by the district trying to determine if the loss of meter signal is the result of equipment failure or physical disconnection.

*Ron Hagemier*  
*GLSSWD Director*

N - (R) - K  
Just say **NO** to Phosphorus!

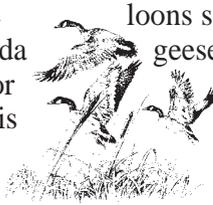


# Nature Notes

Around the time of the autumn equinox, we often have storms or, at least, rain. Except for our unusually high water for this time of year, we've lucked out so far. Boats, pontoons and docks are being taken out earlier than usual-moves that may prove to be extremely sensible.



The gulls are sharing their territory with the terns; the (three were swimming out front just the other day); Canada An orchard oriole appeared at the feeder, but neither it nor days. Humming birds sip their nectar - one in particular is flight south. The nuthatches, finches, chickadees, and feeders. Did you know that mourning doves are nesting mention that they are the latest nesting birds around here. Unfortunately, we won't have another newsletter to report on the birds in migration-that's always a most interesting time to observe songbirds that we don't usually see, scads of ducks, geese, swans and eagles.



loons still call plaintively geese are flying west (are they confused or what?). the Baltimore oriole has been seen for a few very hungry and must be getting ready for his downy woodpeckers visit their black sunflower now? I didn't, until I heard Jim Gilbert Unfortunatly, we won't have another newsletter to report on the birds in migration-that's always a most interesting time to observe songbirds that we don't usually see, scads of ducks, geese, swans and eagles.

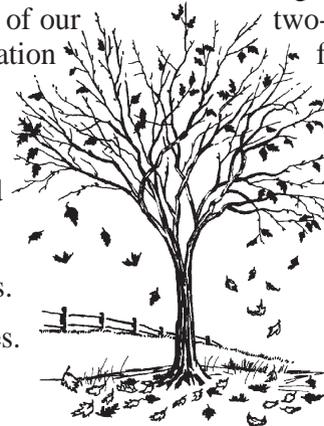
Although monarch butterflies have not been so numerous as usual in some localities, the neighbors who have a border of dwarf zinnias (in blossoms, not in height) have at least a dozen every afternoon, along with bees and moths. Swallowtail butterflies, both yellow and blue, visit the gardens (they enjoy the phlox) as well. Russian sage and artemesia, purple salvia and trusty red and white geraniums (okay, there are beautiful pink and salmon colored ones, too), and multicolored mums add more color to the still green and lush yards (are we going to be mowing grass until Thanksgiving?)

Last year those who watched turtles laying their eggs along the sandy beach also saw raccoons racing down to devour those eggs. Maybe that's why we haven't seen as many turtles this summer. The chipmunks, squirrels, and raccoons (the latter at night) still make themselves at home at the bird feeders, if they can reach them.



Fires out west apparently were responsible for the brilliant red sun that set for a few nights a while ago. They could also have accounted for the almost oily, gray residue one of our two-inch rainfalls left. This is simply a conjecture; perhaps someone has a more scientific explanation for the phenomenon.

With the cool nights and refreshing days (please, we've had enough us until next year), fall is in the air. With all our moisture (another couple Minnesota would have set an all time record for the wettest summer and the 1800's) the leaves of the maples, basswoods, poplars, cottonwoods and you have in your environs should be spectacular.



high humidity to last inches and that goes back to whatever other trees

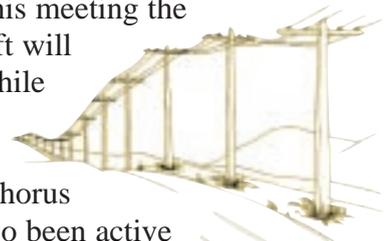
May autumn's glow and "October's bright blue weather" delight your days. May winter be kind to you, and spring bring you back to Green Lake breezes.

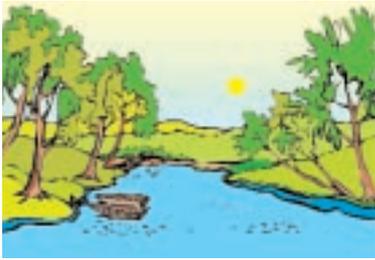
Gloria Benson



## Highway 23 Upgrade and WQAC

The "WQAC" water quality advisory committee is nearing completion of its stated mission. After 26 meetings over 18 months the final meeting should be Sep. 26th. At this meeting the committee will review the final draft document and assuming no more revisions the draft will become the final report and be made available to the public the first half of October. While the Highway 23 upgrade continues to be controversial, the committee has reviewed, challenged, and been proactive in the final design as the advisory group to MNDOT in its design process and original goal of no net increase in nutrients and phosphorus created in the watershed with the expanded highway. The "WQAC" has also been active in the documentation and specifications involving erosion control during the construction phase. Long term maintenance of the holding ponds and filtration systems will require future cooperation between NMDOT, and the local government agencies involved.





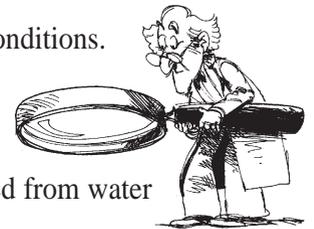
# Resource Investigation of the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed

Kandiyohi County, Minnesota

The area that drains to the Middle Fork of the Crow River covers roughly 196 square miles, with much of that area in Kandiyohi County. Green Lake is the largest lake in the watershed and has been the focal point of a 3-year study involving over 10 state and local agencies. The objectives of the study were to characterize existing conditions and then design a comprehensive program to protect and improve water resources within the Middle Fork watershed, including Green Lake.

## Data Collection Program:

- Two years of flow monitoring data for 9 tributaries.
- One year of lake monitoring on seven lakes: Calhoun, Elkhorn, George, Green, Long, Monongalia, and Nest.
- Incorporation of previously collected information compiled by Tom Bonde-Green Lake, Skip Wright-MnDNR, and Bruce Wilson-MPCA.
- Shoreland inventory of Green Lake shoreline conditions.
- Eurasian watermilfoil management plans produced based on newly collected sediment and plant conditions.
- Special monitoring and data analysis for Monongalia and the winter sulfide generation episodes.



## Important Findings of This Study

- We found four of the seven major lakes in the watershed are in good shape and need to be protected from water quality degradation. They are Elkhorn, George, Green and Long.
- Three other lakes, Calhoun, Monongalia, and Nest are not within Ecoregion parameters and improvement programs would improve lake water quality.
- Several areas within the watershed generate above average phosphorus loads in stormwater runoff situations. This adversely impacts downstream lake water quality. Some of these areas include: the north end of the watershed around Belgrade, an area north of Calhoun, and another area between the New London dam and the Crow River crossing at County Road 40 (outside of New London).
- Stormwater management programs and projects will be of critical importance to prevent further lake water quality degradation.
- Shoreland ordinance enforcement and possible new ordinances will be key to protecting watershed water resources.
- In mid-September, a study headed by University of Minnesota researchers, is ongoing. They are exploring the cause of winter hydrogen sulfide generation at the New London dam and potential remedies.

## Conclusions

The Middle Fork of the Crow River watershed implementation plan has a number of project areas that involve either protection or improvement of water quality conditions. The major project components are summarized below.

- Continue implementing shoreland projects, wetland restoration projects, and watershed agricultural management practices
- Implement new watershed projects
- Implement new shoreland projects
- Implement new lake projects
- Continue information and education programs, and publish new material.



A 3-year implementation period with a possible 3-year extension is proposed. The budget is in draft form at this time (mid-September) but a grant request from MPCA will be over \$150,000. Other agencies, and lake associations will be involved as well.

Although the cost for the whole program is substantial, costs are distributed over a wide number of participants over several years, with a variety of protection items to be ongoing.



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# About Green Lake

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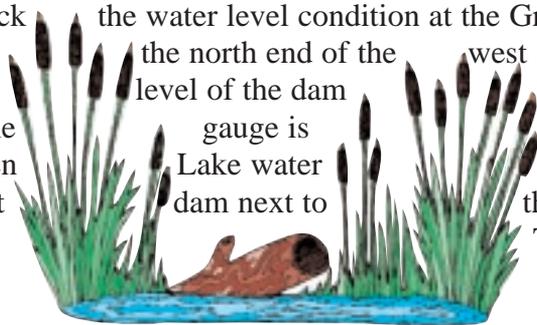


**WATER MANAGEMENT STUDY** - About two years ago a Water Management Study was initiated of the Green Lake Watershed Area. Phase I of this study is now complete and a Phase II Study Proposal is being prepared for submittal to the MNPCA(MN Pollution Control Agency). A decision on Phase II funding should be made by Spring 2003. A brief summary of Phase I and the Phase II proposal is included elsewhere in this issue.

**EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL** - As was presented at the GLPOA annual meeting in June, the MN DNR changed their approach towards Milfoil presence in Lakes from eradication to management control. Since Milfoil presence (surface level matting) was not located in a July 23 check by the DNR/Kandiyohi County, no treatment was done this year on Green Lake.

Proposals for a Milfoil Management Plan for Green Lake and Norway Lake have been received by Kandiyohi County. Representatives from both Lake Assns. met with Jeff Bredberg, Director of Environmental Services for Kandiyohi County, to review the proposals. It is expected that a contract will be awarded shortly that will allow for a Green Lake Management Plan for exotic species (plants and other) to be prepared in time for implementation in the summer of 2003. We expect a priority part of the Management Plan will be to properly educate the lake property owners on the issues; so we as lakeowners can do our part in being good stewards of Green Lake.

**LAKE WATER LEVEL** - 2002 has been a most unusual year for rain and the resulting high level in Green Lake this late in the year. If you periodically check the water level condition at the Green Lake outlet, you will notice the level is very high. There is a gauge on the north end of the west side of the bridge. At level 3.1 on the gauge the lake is even with the amount level of the dam at the east side of the Roland Lange Water Management Area. Presently, the gauge is reading above 5.4 and I recently read it at 5.6. At the 5.6 level the Green Lake water level is 2 1/2 feet about the amount level of the lake. If you check the inlet dam next to the Olde Mill Inn, you will see the water is still flowing over the dam. The water here is draining from the 100,000 acre watershed upstream of the dam.



Gary Broman

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## Patrolling Around Green Lake

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Dear Green Lake Residents,

Another summer is gone by, and overall it was a safe summer. I met with the Green Lake property owners association board of director's on August 17, 2002, and talked about concerns regarding individuals driving over the speed limits around the lake. The Sheriff's department is continuing to patrol around the lake and issuing citations to those who are violating the speed limit. I would like to also pass on information concerning the cost of a speeding ticket. The courts set the fines and they are as follows:



- 1-10 MPH OVER = 90.00
- 11-14 MPH OVER = 100.00
- 15-20 MPH OVER = 110.00
- 21-25 MPH OVER = 120.00
- 26-30 MPH OVER = 150.00

We all can do our part to make the roads safer by obeying the speed limit and by driving defensively. Traffic Crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children and adults up to age 33. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call the Sheriff's Department at 320-235-1260



Thank You,  
Dan Hartog, Chief Deputy

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# Education/Web Site

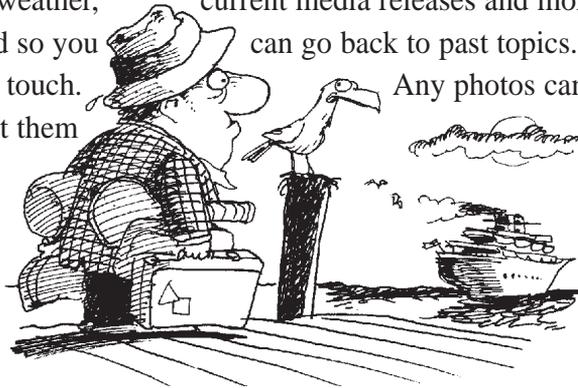
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The GLPOA Board met with Deputy Dan Hartog regarding the roadways and lake concerns. Speed around the lake is a major concern along with safety with school starting. The feeling of the majority attending the meeting was that patrolling the areas would send a message, as the majority of the violations involve local residents. The area where campers cross at the Bible Camp was discussed. Suggestions for painting of pedestrian stripes and flashing lights were proposed. Bike path traffic is with the traffic in the bike path. Service and construction trucks are not to park in the bike path. The board felt that continued patrolling along the lake roads would send a strong message to adhere to the posted speed limits and no passing zones. Some areas on south Lake Avenue could have additional speed signs. Deputy Hartog thanked the board for their suggestions and would follow up on the concerns shared. Any regulations and rules will be included in the Sheriff's web page on the GLPOA web site.

The monthly Sewer and Water District board meeting minutes are available. Check the Sewer and Water web pages for information regarding shutting off your water supply if you are closing down for the season or are leaving for the winter months. Contact Ron at [glswd@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:glswd@co.kandiyohi.mn.us) with any questions regarding the sewer and water.

During the coming months many residents will be leaving as snowbirds to various locations. The web site will continue to add the weather, current media releases and monthly features in the History section. All of the History pages are archived so you can go back to past topics. Place the web site [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com) on your desk top and keep in touch. Any photos can be sent via email to [info@greenlakespicer.com](mailto:info@greenlakespicer.com) and the webmaster can put them on the photo gallery. Snowbirds enjoy pictures of snow without the real thing at their feet!



*Bonnie Haug*  
Education and Web Site Chairperson, GLPOA

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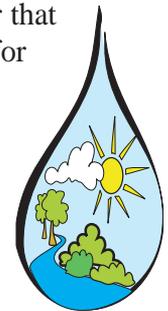
## Green Lake Sewer and Water Project

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All sewer and water hookups are now completed for residences (lakeside) - for those units that declined but later request a hookup, the full costs will be assessed. The sewer board recognized that a number of residences are using water for their lawns and gardens and therefore should not be receiving a charge for that portion of the water. This can be resolved by installing a second meter (at owner expense) for the lawn and garden portion and the rates will be adjusted from the dual meter readings.

In the first five months of the year the Green Lake portion of the water system was experiencing an extremely high water loss (water pumped /billed). In late May, ten leaks were repaired and the loss dropped to 21.8%. In July the rate increased to 35.8% and a new testing was initiated, but in Aug. the loss only dropped to the 27% range. The testing program continues and recently a new main line break was discovered and repaired. Testing will continue until the sewer board feel the design perimeters have been met.



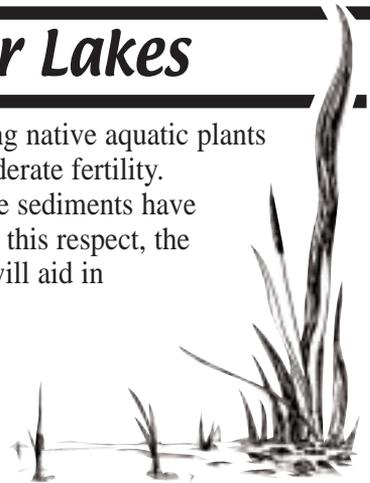
A number of new residential subdivisions near our sewer and water lines have requested and received permission to hookup at their expense. Each addition helps spread the costs.



*Richard Baken, Chair*

# The Role of Lake Soils in Managing Our Lakes

As lake management programs move into the next century, a hot topic is preserving and enhancing native aquatic plants in lakes. Aquatic plants are essential for sustaining clear water conditions in lakes of high to moderate fertility. Green Lake can benefit from beds of native aquatic plants. Because plants are important, the lake sediments have a key role because they provide a substrate for rooting and provide nutrients for plant growth. In this respect, the lake sediments act like a soil. Understanding the connection between lake plants and lake soils will aid in managing aquatic plants as well as sustaining good lake water quality in the long term.



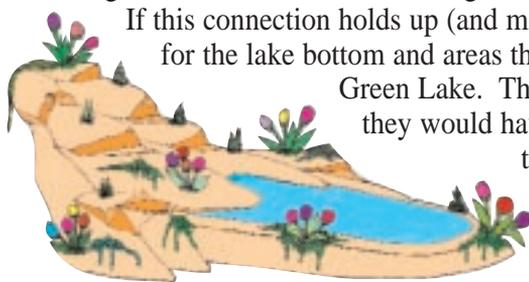
**The phosphorus** - algae connection is well documented for lakes in our region.

The more phosphorus that is available in a lake, the greater the algae growth.

Another nutrient — plant connection that is not as well documented but seems to be important is the nitrogen - aquatic plant connection. There is evidence that high nitrogen levels can promote nuisance growth of rooted plants that are high nitrogen specialists. For aquatic plants, an example of a high nitrogen specialist is Eurasian watermilfoil. At high nitrogen levels in lake sediments, Eurasian watermilfoil growth can really take off. On the other hand, it appears that many of our native pondweed species act like native prairie grasses and are probably low nitrogen specialists, meaning they compete and grow well at low soil nitrogen concentrations. At low nitrogen concentrations, Eurasian watermilfoil also grows with native aquatic plants, but it does not exhibit nuisance growth.

In the last few years, ways have been explored for conducting routine lake soil fertility surveys and relating results to aquatic plant growth. Standard agricultural soil tests are being used to evaluate fertility of littoral lake sediments [the littoral zone is the aquatic plant growing zone in lakes which typically goes out to water depths of about 15 feet].

One of the ways lake soil testing is being used is for Eurasian watermilfoil management. In lakes where Eurasian watermilfoil is matted at the surface (which represents nuisance growth conditions) sediment nitrogen has been high. In the same lakes, where milfoil has been present but not a nuisance, sediment nitrogen levels have been lower. For other nutrients, including phosphorus, concentrations were not correlated to either nuisance or non- nuisance milfoil growth. These results indicate nitrogen may be the limiting nutrient for nuisance milfoil growth.



If this connection holds up (and more testing is needed) then results from lake soil sampling can generate fertility maps for the lake bottom and areas that should support nuisance milfoil growth could be estimated. This has been done for Green Lake. This can help lake associations like Green Lake plan for a milfoil control program since they would have an idea of how many lake acres may support nuisance milfoil growth and where they will be in a lake. For example, if milfoil is found colonizing in areas of low sediment nitrogen, you could leave it alone since it should not produce nuisance growth that would interfere with recreational use of the lake.

We found low nitrogen concentrations in Green Lake sediments. It is estimated Green Lake has the potential to support a very small area of nuisance growth of EWM;

less than 40 acres out of the 5,000 acre lake. So, what can be done to maintain low lake soil fertility? Lake homeowners can indirectly influence nutrient concentrations in lake soils in front of their property. They can manage for low lake soil fertility by either not using fertilizer or only using the amount of fertilizer required to maintain turf and lakeside vegetation. Lakeside vegetative buffers also can reduce nutrient runoff into a lake. Because excess nitrogen that runs off your lot may produce excessive aquatic plant growth in your nearshore plant beds, you could reduce plant related headaches by reducing both phosphorus and nitrogen use.

*Steve McComas, Blue Water Science*



## 2002 - 2003 Financial Conditions



|                             | MEMBERSHIP |            |         |            | 8-31-02 |         |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------|------------|---------|---------|
|                             | ASSOCIATE  | GREEN LAKE | IRVING  | NEW LONDON | SPICER  | TOTAL   |
| Possible Membership         |            | 132        | 202     | 213        | 169     | 716     |
| Members Paid Dues           | 11         | 86         | 144     | 134        | 83      | 458     |
| Percentage of Members       |            | 65.15%     | 71.28%  | 62.91%     | 49.1%   | 63.96%  |
| Patrol Paid Members         |            | 29         | 53      | 28         | 7       | 117     |
| Percentage Paid Patrol      |            | 21.9%      | 26.2%   | 13.1%      | 4.1%    | 16.34%  |
| Caterpillar Paid Members    | 1          | 56         | 102     | 92         | 32      | 283     |
| Percentage Paid Caterpillar |            | 42.4%      | 50.5%   | 43.2%      | 18.9%   | 39.52%  |
| Average/lot                 |            | \$46.34    | \$45.29 | \$54.45    | \$41.09 | \$48.14 |



## ***Construction Repair Work to Your Property***

At the Green Lake Property Owners Association Annual Meeting held on Friday, June 21, 2002, Mr. Brad DeWolf of the Bolton and Menk Engineering firm stated that each property owner on Green Lake would be contacted to make sure that their property had been restored to its original condition prior to the construction work.

In speaking to Mr. DeWolf this past week, he asked that any person, living on Green Lake, who still needs repair work done due to the construction of the sewer, road, water project contact him as soon as possible.

You may reach Brad in the Willmar office at 1.320.231.3956.



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Green Lake Property Owners Association  
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