

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

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

May 2012

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Did you know this spring's ice-out on Green Lake was the earliest since 1940? GLPOA has access to ice-out records going back at least that far. In fact, Green Lake has only opened up by March four times since 1940, and this year's March 19 ice-out date was officially the earliest in the last 72 years! That's incredible.



I've also been thinking back to last July when the GLPOA met with the DNR to talk about high water levels on the lake. Ironically, the lack of significant moisture since that meeting now has us facing the opposite problem - very low water levels for this time of the year. With that kind of track record, we may have to meet with the DNR just to get it raining again!

This year, the GLPOA has made the decision to raise association dues to \$100. I am thrilled to report that \$40 of those dues will go towards fighting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and all \$40 will be tax deductible.

Our fight against AIS continues at the capital. You should know that the GLPOA has been working hard this winter with "Stop Zebra Mussels" and their lobbyist. We have been encouraging everyone from the townships that represent Green Lake, to the County Board, to our Legislators, to take the Aquatic Invasive Species issue seriously and do all they can to protect Green Lake and all of the non-infested lakes in Minnesota!



On a final note, please consider joining us at the GLPOA Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 9. It will be held at the Green Lake Bible Camp and is always a great opportunity to meet fellow lake owners, talk with our GLPOA board and educate yourself about Aquatic Invasive Species.

I look forward to seeing you this spring and summer,

Jamie Duininck

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamie Duininck".

President GLPOA



## PLEASE ASSIST US!

The Board of Directors, of the Green Lake Property Owners Association, will print a new directory, to be mailed when dues are paid, starting in May 2012.

We would like to ask for your assistance to make sure that we have your name and address spelled correctly. Please check the 2009 directory to see that this information is the way you wish to have it printed.

We wish to ask you to inform anyone new to the neighborhood about the directory so their names may be printed. We need to hear from you, as we do not know the changes! 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 it to: **Green Lake Property Owners Association • P. O. Box 362 • Spicer, Minnesota 56288**



# AQUATIC SPECIES ENFORCEMENT

Thirty-one years ago, when I went into law enforcement, I knew that I would be enforcing many different laws that are on the books; traffic laws, criminal laws, etc. and going after the people that break them. But as you stay in a career for many years, things change and now we have other “bad guys” to go after and that is the aquatic invasive species. Two of the aquatic species that we have been focused on are the Eurasian water milfoil and the zebra mussels.

The Eurasian water milfoil has been in some of our area lakes for the past several years; Green Lake, Norway Lake, Lake Calhoun and Lake Florida. It is very important that individuals with boats and other water recreational equipment check their equipment prior to and after leaving the body of water they were on to look for the Eurasian water milfoil. The Eurasian water milfoil is spread easily when a portion of the plant is broken off and its ability to reproduce from that fragmented piece of plant. That is why it is so important that all vegetative material is removed from boats, boat trailers and other water equipment. Eurasian water milfoil typically has 12-21 pairs of leaflets.



The other aquatic invader that is causing serious problems is the zebra mussel. It was first discovered in 1988 when ships coming from Europe into the Great Lakes, discharged their ballast tanks, water which contained the zebra mussels. The first lake to have the zebra mussels was Lake St. Clair, which is located east of Detroit, Michigan, between Lake Huron and Lake Erie.

Once the zebra mussels were in the Great Lakes they then spread to the Mississippi River, its tributaries and inland lakes. Currently there are more than 230 lakes containing zebra mussels. They are then spread primarily by attaching to boat hulls, aquatic plants, fishing equipment, or in water. Adult zebra mussels can survive out of the water for days under conditions that are moist and humid.

Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish or brownish D shaped shell, usually with dark and light stripes.



They can be up to two inches long, but most are less than one inch. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters and are found in shallow (6-30 feet) waters, on smooth surfaces. Young zebra mussels feel like fine sandpaper and are about the size of peppercorns.

To stop the spread of zebra mussels we must all work together. The best way to do that is to be responsible boaters and to check over equipment for zebra mussels and to not transport water from one lake to another.

Minnesota has now passed regulations to help stop the spread of invasive aquatic species. Some of the new regulations are:

- Drain plugs must be removed from bilges and live wells at the water access. Drain plugs must be out and all other water draining devices must remain open while trailering or transporting boats. Portable bait containers must be drained when leaving all waters. If you want to keep your live bait when leaving a lake or river, you must replace water in bait containers with tap or bottled water.
- Clean visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other prohibited invasive species off watercraft, trailers and equipment before leaving any water access. It is illegal to transport them once you leave the water access.
- Dispose of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches and worms in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a body of water, release worms on the ground, and to release aquatic animals from one body of water into another.
- Display an aquatic invasive species rules decal, issued by the DNR, on watercraft before launching, entering into, or operating on any waters of the state.

Violation of these regulations is a misdemeanor. It is going to take all of us working together to stop the spread of these aquatic species.

Have a fun and safe boating season!

*Sincerely,  
Sheriff Dan Hartog*

# STATUS OF GREEN LAKE WALLEYE POPULATIONS 2012-2011

Results of the 2010 and 2011 lake surveys indicate that the walleye population is improving, due at least in part to the new stocking plan adopted in 2008. Although fingerlings were being stocked annually before that, poundage quotas were sometimes not met and the fish were often too small for good survival or too large, meaning that adequate numbers of fish were not stocked even though the poundage quota may have been met.

Another reason for the improvement is the return to statewide regulations in 2006. The special regulations adopted in 1997 were protecting too many smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and northern pike, resulting in increased predation on young walleyes.

**Gill-Net Results.** 2010 gillnet results (11 walleyes/net) were well within the goal range of 9.5 to 13.5/net. The improvement continued in 2011, with a catch of 14.4/net, the second highest on record (Fig. 1). This is the first time in more than a decade that we have seen two consecutive years of gill-net counts within or above the goal range. There are plenty of walleyes in the 12- to 20-inch range, explaining why anglers are reporting good fishing.

**Electrofishing Results.** Fall electrofishing is conducted annually to assess walleye reproductive success. Prior to the onset of special regulations in 1997, electrofishing captured an average of 32 young-of-the-year walleyes/hr. From 2001 to 2009, however, the count was less than 10 and in two of those years it was zero (Fig.2).

In recent years, stocked fry have been chemically marked so it is now possible to determine if a fish was stocked or produced naturally. The 2010 electrofishing count showed a marked improvement at 11/hr, and the majority (55%) were natural.

The 2011 count of 31/hr was even more encouraging. But the fish have not yet been checked for chemical marks, so we do not know how many were produced naturally.

**Stocking.** The new stocking plan adopted in 2008 calls for annual fingerling stocking of 1.5 pounds per littoral acre (3,081 pounds) if the fall electrofishing count is below 30 young-of-the-year walleye per hour. The minimum number of fingerlings stocked is 46,215 fish at rate of 15-30 fish per pound. The plan was reviewed during the winter of 2010-2011 to determine if any changes were necessary, and no changes were made. While the electrofishing count reached 31 in the fall of 2011, stocking was done anyway because the program has been working so well, fingerlings were available, and there were concerns that the higher electrofishing count may have been an anomaly.

Table 1 shows that prior to the new stocking plan, fish of the ideal size (15-30/lb) were stocked in only one of the previous 8 years. More consistent stocking with fish of the right size since 2008 is a major factor in improvement of the walleye population.

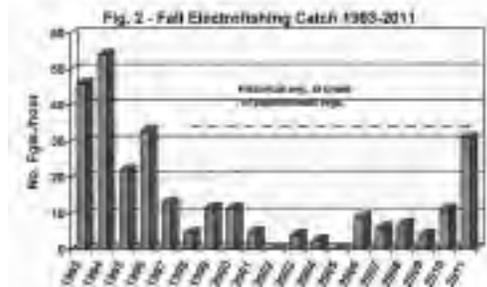
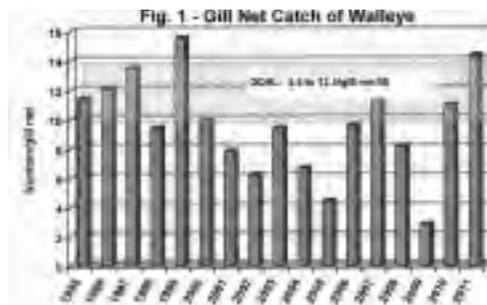
Table 1 - Green Lake Walleye Stocking, 2000-2011

Year	No. Fgls	Lbs. Fgls	No. Carryover	Lbs. Carryover	Total No.	Total Lbs.	Rate (mult)
2000	103,453	2,056	0	0	103,453	2,056	60.03
2001	144,400	4,132	0	0	144,400	4,132	29.00
2002	5,979	432	0	0	5,979	432	13.93
2003	12,680	454	12,687	3,591	25,367	4,044	3.98
2004	63,180	2,382	1,486	162	64,620	3,305	10.09
2005	9,465	264	12,212	4,106	17,682	4,370	4.95
2006	29,346	1,283	29,942	3,467	59,288	4,670	10.93
2007	48,677	2,465	0	2,193	50,870	4,648	11.00
2008	56,657	3,814	6,015	209	61,671	3,623	17.01
2009	74,054	3,067	0	0	74,054	3,067	24.00
2010	70,717	3,081	162	250	71,029	3,331	17.40
2011	60,650	3,081	0	0	60,650	3,081	19.96

Legend:  = too small  = too large  = ideal size

and/or survival of stocked fry is occurring consistently and at a level high enough level to maintain a strong walleye population before any changes are made to the stocking plan.

The DNR agrees with this philosophy as evidenced by the following statement in their 2010 Lake Management Plan: "Until natural reproduction/recruitment is able to support a viable walleye fishery, walleye stocking will continue to be conducted." Should DNR see the need to make any changes to the stocking plan, the LMP states that "All stocking plan decisions will be coordinated with interested stakeholders." It is important that all of us stay involved to ensure that we protect the hard-fought gains that have been achieved for the Green Lake fishery.



**Conclusion:** With the improvement in the stocking program, the walleye population has responded nicely. The DNR should be commended for their efforts in attaining adequate numbers of fish of the right size for the new stocking program.

But excessive predation on walleye fry by the large panfish population remains a threat. If panfish consume too many stocked or naturally produced walleye fry, fingerling stocking will have to continue at present levels. Even though the fall electrofishing catch of 31 YOY/hr was a promising sign, we need to be sure that natural reproduction

# GREEN LAKE WATER QUALITY UPDATE

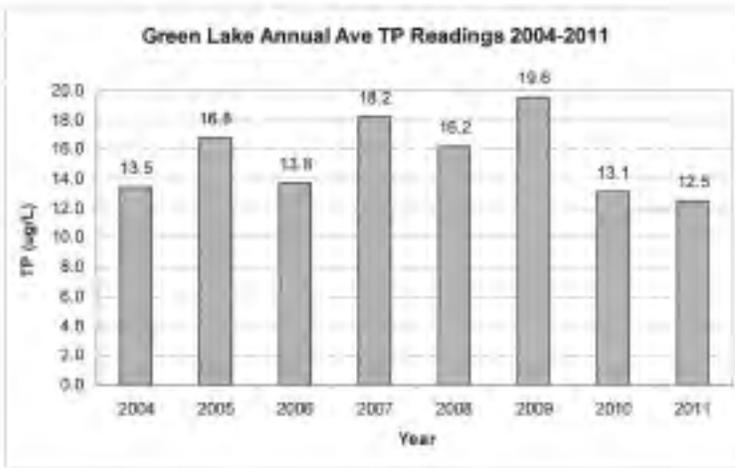
## Monitoring

In 2011 the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District was able to continue our partnership with several Green Lake volunteers and the GLPOA to monitor water quality on the lake and some of the inlets. Thanks to the help of Val Sechler, Jill and Riley Nelson, and Bob Hodapp, we had another successful year of monitoring.



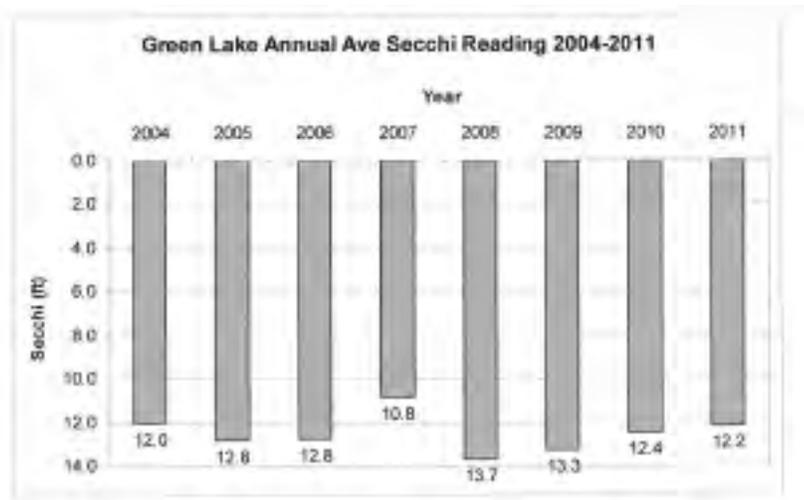
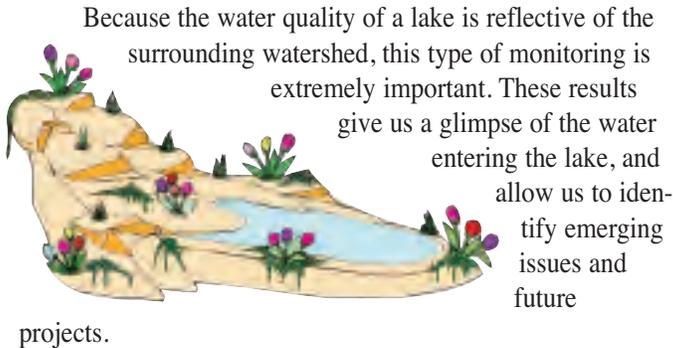
Some of the monitoring results are pictured below in graph form. The first graph — a depiction of average annual total phosphorus readings on Green Lake over the past eight years - shows a decrease in total phosphorus from 2009 to 2011, from 19 to 12.5 micrograms per liter (ug/L), or 12.5 parts per billion. 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.

In 2002, a non-degradation water quality goal was established for Green Lake. For the lake to be considered as meeting this water quality goal, average annual total phosphorus readings must remain at or below 18 ug/L. Green Lake exceeded the threshold of the non-degradation goal in 2009, 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.



One of Green Lake's many assets is its great water clarity. 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 eight years is shown below. Water clarity decreased slightly from an average of 12.4 feet in 2010 to 12.2 feet in 2011. 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.



Staff and volunteers were also able to collect several samples on the inlets in 2011. Results continue to 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.

\*\* A full copy of our 2011 Monitoring Report is available under the Reports section on our website ([www.mfcrow.org](http://www.mfcrow.org))

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# CLEAN WATER, LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT GRANT

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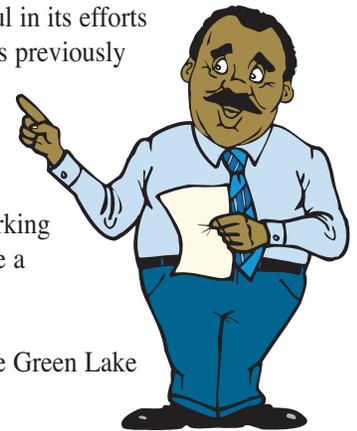


Many of you are aware of the efforts of the Green Lake Stormwater Inlet Partnership, a unique, multi-entity team established in 2008 to identify high priority projects that have the potential to improve the water quality of Green Lake. This collaborative group contains representatives of the Green Lake Property Owners Association, the Watershed District, DNR, MNDOT, Kandiyohi County, and the City of Spicer.

I am pleased to announce that the Watershed District was successful in its efforts to procure a grant to make the water quality improvement activities previously identified by the Inlet Partnership a possibility. The project budget is \$318,300: \$252,125 of which is a grant from the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment; it runs through the end of 2014. The proposed activities include the daylighting of a newly

developed riffle and pool-lined channel, a raingarden/biofiltration program to accompany the channel, a parking lot retrofit designed to treat first flush pollutants, a biofiltration cell and hydrodynamic separator to enhance a previously installed project, and the stabilization of a heavily eroded channel due to stormwater influences.

The Inlet Partnership will help guide all grant progress, and I will be sure to provide periodic updates to the Green Lake Breeze as progress is made.



*Chad Anderson, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District*

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## 2012 GRANT APPLICATION FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS

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During the winter months, the GLPOA Board applied for and has been granted a matching DNR Water Craft Inspection Project. This is a matching grant which we will receive 250 hours of inspection time at the six boat access on Green Lake. The total grant application is for \$3,750.00 which the GLPOA will be responsible for \$1,875.00 dollars.

The DNR has granted four fishing tournaments on Green Lake this summer, being 17 June for the Big Bass Bonanza, up to 49 boats; on the 23rd of June the Fishers of Men Minnesota Team Division up to 50 boats; on the 14th of July the Super Slam Bass Tournament of up to 50 boats; and WC Bassmasters/Green Mill Summer Classic of up to 50 Boats.

In working with the DNR, there are no fishing on “Zebra Mussel lakes” scheduled prior to any of these tournaments. The DNR will provide extra monitors, up and beyond the 250 hours, for these four tournaments.



The GLPOA Board has been working with Luke Skinner of the DNR office of providing for a decontamination unit for each of the fishing tournaments so all boats will be power washed prior to entering into Green Lake.

Your Board of Directors has also applied for a Grant for AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES on Green Lake. We have been advised that we will receive the \$150.00 per acre for treatment of the lake based upon the number of acres which milfoil is found up to a maximum of \$2,000.00.

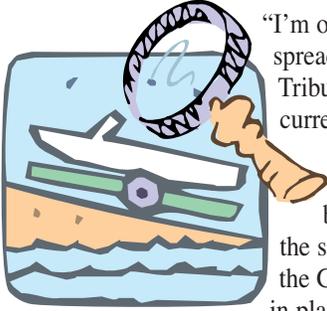


We wish to call your attention to that in 2011 year treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil came to \$18,000.00 as we continue to try to control this plant within Green Lake. Last year, 2011, we had 192 members, of the 819 families who live on the lake contributed to stopping this A.I.S. plant from spreading. These 192 people, who make up 24% of the lake families, contributed over \$14,000.00 to contain the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

We should like to ask for your total assistance in helping the containment of Eurasian Water Milfoil in 2012.

*Bob Schemel,  
Lake Management Chairperson*

# GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR AIS TREATMENT



"I'm optimistic we can do something to slow the spread of [zebra mussels]. I don't think we'll be able to totally stop the spread, but I think we can do better." (Steve Hirsch, director of DNR Division of Water and Ecological Resources, Star Tribune, February 15, 2012, p. C8.) The cost of containing or restricting zebra mussels to those lakes which are currently infested would be a surcharge of \$40 per licensed boat. (Containment requires inspection and decontamination of all boats leaving "containment zones".) The total cost would be \$10 million per year, according to DNR/Star Tribune, Feb. 15, 2012, p. C8). Last month, the legislature came close to passing a bill which had the support of both hunter and angler groups and would have raised fishing license fees from \$17 to \$22; it also would have raised the small game license fee from \$19 to \$22 and a \$26 deer license would increase to \$30. Without those fee increases the Game and Fish fund will go into the red by 2012. If these fees were to be adopted, a containment program could be in place this year. But the Senate bill didn't receive sufficient support in the House. (Star Tribune, 3-25-12, p B1)

There is currently a \$5 surcharge on boat registration which hasn't been raised since 1993 (19 years ago). The governor proposed raising this fee to fight invasive species. (Star Tribune, 3-25-12) The 2011 Minnesota Legislature ordained that the DNR should determine "...the long-term funding needed to implement and enforce Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 84D, including recommendations on the appropriate amount of the watercraft surcharge." On January 15, 2012, DNR submitted its response in a six-page report, which included this recommendation: "...at a minimum, the watercraft license and non-resident fishing license surcharges need to be increased enough to maintain current AIS program levels. This would require raising fees to increase annual revenues from \$1.6 million/year to \$8.6 million/year." On February 14, 2012, DNR made its final proposals regarding costs and the measures required to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Most significantly, it concluded that the treatment most likely to yield the "biggest bang for the buck" is containment of infested waters. Dennis Anderson, who writes for the Star Tribune, reported on April 22, 2012, that the prospect that funding will be obtained is not by any means a "sure thing." Anderson suggests that the fees needed to finance enforcement of any meaningful aquatic species law lack the support of a handful of Representative who oppose any new taxes. On a more positive note, GLPOA has in recent years had success in controlling the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil through the use of herbicides. We may be more challenged by this weed in the summer of 2012 because growing conditions for this weed were ideal with little snow cover on the lake.



A final note: many of us have not yet installed our docks and boat lifts. Keep in mind that Minnesota law now requires that all "service providers" must apply for a permit from DNR before installing or moving any water-related equipment from public waters. Service providers can obtain a permit upon application to DNR, along with a \$50 fee and completion of a DNR aquatic invasive species training course.

## AN ADDITIONAL NOTE:

Shouldn't each of us contact Senator Joe Gimse and Representative Bruce Vogel at 651-296-3826 and 651-296-6206 respectively and let them know that the DNR invasive species bill (M.S. 804D) needs to be passed with adequate funding?

*Ron Schneider, AIS Chairperson*

## NEW FOR 2012 BOATING LAWS AND RULES

### - Aquatic Invasive Species -

**Watercraft owners or operators must display an Aquatic Invasive Species Rules Decal, issued by the DNR, on watercraft before launching, entering into or operating on any waters of the state. (Begins in 2013)**

Stand up paddleboards must be registered as a watercraft, display registration decals and carry a USCG approved life jacket for each person.

### - Free - Check the Drain Plug Sticker -

**You will receive with your dues statement during the month of May, 2012, the sticker which must be displayed. If you have more than one boat, you should contact the local DNR office or send a request for as many decals which you will need to:**

**MN DNR - BOAT AND WATER SAFETY DIVISION  
500 LAFAYETTE RD - ST. PAUL, MN 55155-4046**

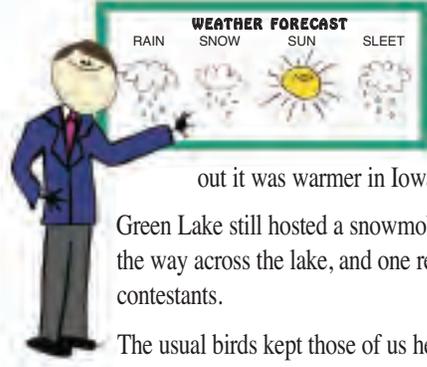
**••• THESE DECALS ARE FREE - YOU MUST HAVE THEM ON YOUR BOATS •••**

# NATURE OBSERVATIONS

I came to the end of my first draft of this writing and realized that before speaking of the winter, I should have mentioned that the lake froze over on December 2, 2010, the same date as our records indicated it did in 2009. It was a still day and night so the ice formed in a smooth sheet. I thought of the year we had a similar event and people, Gay Gloege and Verna Patrick were two of them, skated from the north shore to Spicer, unimpeded by ridges or rough ice. This year by mid-winter expansion of the ice cap piled up large slabs of ice along the shore, not as formidable as those of about 20 years ago farther from shore, but rather impressive nevertheless.



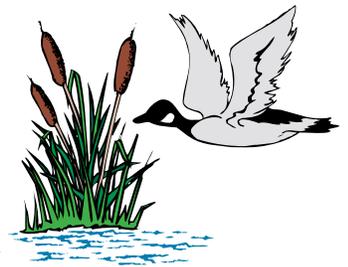
Plenty of articles and columns have been written about this Minnesota winter that never was. Three nights below zero; 22 inches of snow - at least around here; temperatures way above normal in February and March - all had the weather people scratching their heads in bewilderment. 'Twas lovely for those who don't like driving or walking on ice. For the winter sports enthusiast, not so good. Friends on a cruise in Hawaii called home to find out it was warmer in Iowa than it was in Hawaii.



Green Lake still hosted a snowmobile race - one for older - in some cases really older models and a winter sailboat regatta. The sails could be seen all the way across the lake, and one resident put on his Yak-trax and hiked across the lake from the east shore to the west to take pictures and visit with the contestants.

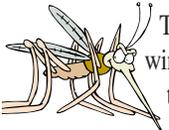
The usual birds kept those of us here company: pileated woodpeckers attacked a large tree, drilling a large hole in the trunk, along with several smaller ones - they still visited the suet feeders; the rest of the clan-the downies, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers - were very much in evidence; chickadees started sing their songs in December around Christmastime; nuthatches continued to go head first down tree trunks; gold finches in their olive coats, and house finches and purple finches aplenty visited both feeders and bird baths. The horned larks were darting along the roadsides in early January. One could hear the cardinals' sweet song more often than see them. With lack of snow cover, birds found plenty to eat on their own. The winter robins put in their appearance and the first migrants were on the lawns the first part of March. One morning the red-winged blackbirds sang a chorale with the robins - all were in enthusiastic voice.

On February 22 scads of Canada geese were swimming at the outlet, accompanied by a couple of swans. The next day they were still there. Swans were also sighted more often this spring, especially in the smaller bodies of water like the outlet and the millpond in New London. It did not take long for the geese to pair up and start their homemaking.



On March 17 the temperature in the Cities reached 80 degrees. Our natural air conditioner, the ice on the lake, kept it a bit cooler here. As it had been unusually warm even prior to that day, we shouldn't have been surprised when the ice - much of it anyway--left the lake on Monday, March 19, the earliest ice-out date on record. A great deal of ice still extended out from the north shore (strong south wind) and around to the west, but most it went out by midnight. Interesting how we say "went out"; we could as well say melted or evaporated. We know it doesn't sink, as it's lighter than water. Ice cubes float in a cold drink, after all.

Two days later the first mosquitoes invaded the house—they were BIG. They were not as welcome, of course, as the eagles that kept us company all winter nor the great blue heron that skimmed by above the water recently. The returning loons visited the north side before they came to see me, though their calls filled the night. This morning (April 14) they must have been calling roll to see how many returned. This would be the first time some of the young who'd left two years ago returned - the oil spill in the Gulf had not captured them.



With the unusually warm temperatures, the forsythia bloomed in March, cherry and plum trees joined them, and a few lilac bushes burst out with green leaves and swelling buds. Tulips shot up through their cover of leaves and the leaves were huge. With the dryness, however, some buds were small with subsequent small blossoms. I heard that on the south side of a house near Willmar, tulips were blooming in February.



Welcome rains fell April 16; colder winds blew in; but the budding trees in their spring green finery brightened the landscape. With the return of more residents, the fox and deer will seldom, if ever, run across our yards until next fall and winter.

As we launch our boats and take to the water, fishing, waterskiing, and otherwise re-creating, keep a sharp eye out for the aquatic invasive species we do not want spoiling our lake - the ubiquitous Eurasian milfoil and the as yet absent zebra mussels. Let's do our very best to keep it that way.

Until next time, may gentle Green Lake breezes welcome back those who missed the winter here and softly touch the spirits of those who remained all winter.



Gloria Benson

**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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## **INCLUDE GREEN LAKE IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING**

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Planned giving can be an important part of your estate plan. You can realize significant financial benefits while taking pride in having helped to save Green Lake for your children and your grandchildren.

### **Benefits of planned giving:**

- \* Significant income and estate tax savings
- \* The knowledge that your assets will continue to work for a healthy Green Lake.

### **Options for including Green Lake planned giving:**

- \* Include a donation to Green Lake in your will
- \* Make a bequest of appreciated stock or other property
- \* Establish a charitable remainder trust or charitable annuity.

You will need to consult your tax estate planning and financial advisors to determine which planned giving vehicle is appropriate for you.

Thank you.

