

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

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

September 2012

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As I write this article for the last Green Lake Breeze of 2012, I would like to share a few things that I have been hearing as a member of the GLPOA board this summer. One comment that I have heard from lake owners is “can we do anything about all of the outdoor concerts at Zorba’s and the noise they create?” The GLPOA board does not believe this is an issue that the board should take up. However, if this is an issue for you we encourage you to call the city of Spicer and discuss this with them.

The most common comment I have heard this summer is “how are we going to keep zebra mussels out of Green Lake?” The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issue is the number one challenge that we deal with. Zebra mussels happen to be the big concern currently because they have been invading Minnesota lakes the last several years and continue to get closer to Green Lake every year. Zebra mussels are now as close as Lake Minnewaska - just 40 miles from Spicer! The GLPOA board understands that Aquatic Invasive Species are here to stay and we have to find ways to contain them in areas that they currently exist and protect the lakes that are not infested from infestation. We are committed to the following.



1. We will support the lobbying efforts in St. Paul to help insure that AIS is understood and funded at the appropriate level.
2. We will partner with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on education and programs that can contain and prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.
3. We will continue to have monitoring and boat washing available at the Spicer boat landing for fishing tournaments and busy weekends.
4. We will work with Kandiyohi County and the townships that represent Green Lake on the best ways to protect Green Lake from Aquatic Invasive Species for generations to come.
5. We will continue to treat the Eurasian Water Milfoil that is in the lake. We are having great success at this! It seems like every time you open a newspaper these days there are new issues that threaten our way of life. The GLPOA board will continue to work hard over the winter to educate ourselves on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Warm wishes,

Jamie Duinick  
President GLPOA



# Why Hasn't Our Legislature Followed DNR's Advice?



Until we have a law which requires that zebra mussels (ZM) be contained in those waters which are known to be infested, the rate at which we lose our most popular lakes will accelerate and inexorably we will lose these irreplaceable gifts. We now know enough about protecting our uninfested waters so that the risk of losing them to ZM has been significantly reduced. But without adequate funding from the state we will not be able to do that which must be done.

The history of lake protection-what works and doesn't-is largely understood. Our legislators are not ignorant of what lies before us, yet inertia in the form of political dogma has overwhelmed them.

A few years ago, one of our nation's more honored historians, David McCullough, recommended that we look to the past for guidance when making political decisions. He points to our nation's second president, John Adams, as an example of knowledge and fortitude gained from history. President Adams and his wife, Abigail, maintained a voluminous correspondence. In one of his letters written to her during the Revolution, he evaluates the potential for a successful outcome and concludes "We can't guarantee success in this war but we can do something better. We can deserve it."

Are we more likely to be successful in our campaign to curb the spread of ZM if our efforts are based upon an examination of our values, goals and the application of adequately funded, sound science? McCullough observed that Adams understood that how the war would conclude was in the hands of God-we can't control that, but we can control how we behave. We can deserve success.



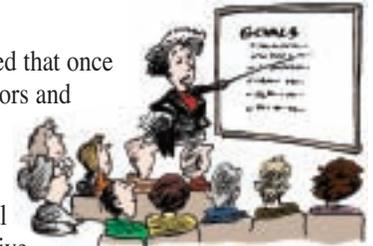
Even though our legislature has made progress in re-writing the law of Minnesota as it pertains to the responsibilities of DNR in the battle to stop the proliferation of ZM, the hard reality is that state government has largely ignored the fact that no ZM program can succeed without adequate funding. Your board has asked candidates for seats in the Minnesota State House and State Senate who would represent us in legislative District 17 for their written opinions on funding of containment zones for our ZM infested lakes. Unfortunately, for our lakes, legislators who had the power to fund containment zones apparently decided that \$10 million was too much to invest in protecting our lakes from ZM. When this decision was made it was an acknowledgment that in their minds, the lakes of Minnesota did not deserve success.

**DNR HAS CONCLUDED THAT \$10 MILLION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR A LAKE PROTECTION PROGRAM BASED UPON CONTAINMENT ZONES.**

In 2011, our legislature ordered that "By January 15, 2012, The Commissioner of Natural Resources shall report to the House of Representatives and Senate Committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources policy and finance on the long term funding needed to implement and enforce 84D, including recommendations on the appropriate amount of the watercraft surcharge."

Pursuant to the above legislative order, DNR, on January 15, 2012, duly submitted its report, along with a warning that "The spread of (aquatic invasive species) is one of the top conservation challenges facing Minnesota today."

In its January 15th report, DNR explored the various options for statewide AIS prevention programs and concluded that once the report on statewide prevention options is finalized, it would have a more thorough discussion with the legislators and interested citizens about choosing the best prevention program for Minnesota (p. 6 of report).



The elements of an anti-ZM campaign and the funding of such a campaign was reported by Minnesota Outdoor News on February 25, 2011. According to this publication, the leader of the House Environment, Energy, National Resources Policy and Finance Committee pledged that nothing was "off the table" when it came to fighting invasive species, including having boat wash stations at every public access. Such stations are an integral part of any ZM containment zone law.

DNR issued a final report (Feb 14, 2012) intended to "...educate the state's citizens on some ways of extending (its) AIS prevention strategies. (Final Report to Identify Options and Costs for Implementing Statewide Measures to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). This 71 page document allows the conclusion that the most meritorious and financially feasible concept for limiting the spread of AIS, including ZM, is the creating of containment zones around infested waters (p.66).



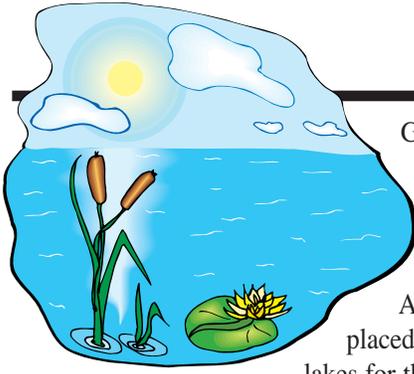
Doug Smith, writing in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Feb. 15, 2012, observed that the Legislature will ultimately decide whether or how to boost efforts to stem the spread of AIS, such as ZM and who will pay for it.

In an effort at limiting the spread of ZM, Township officials in Becker County have closed seven boat ramps on land owned by the Township on Lake Melissa and nearby Lake Sallie. Zebra mussels have infected Pelican Lake about six miles away.

Given the relatively low cost of state-wide ZM containment zones (approximately \$10 million annually), or the equivalent of approximately \$12 per year for each boat registered in Minnesota, one would expect that the Minnesota Legislature will address funding containment zones at the first opportunity during its next session.

*Ron Schneider • AIS Committee Chair*

# Kandiyohi County Lake Base Rates



Green Lake is located in four separate taxing districts and two school districts. Each township and city has its own budget resulting in varied taxes in each district. The approach to valuation is the same in each district and the values placed on each parcel are arrived at using the same approach, rules and regulations. Lakeshore values are based on a per-front-foot valuation. Area lakes have a base rate that is adjusted annually as needed based on sales that have occurred in the previous cycle. Additionally, each lakeshore property is looked at individually to ensure that specific adjustments are placed on the base rate as warranted. The following is a list of the base rates on some Kandiyohi County lakes for the 2011 and 2012 assessment.

## KANDIYOHI COUNTY LAKE BASE RATES

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Green Lake	5500	5000		Nest Lake	1300	1300
Lake Florida	2300	2450		Big Kandiyohi Lake	1200	1200
George Lake	2200	2200		North Long Lake	900	900
Lake Andrew	2000	2100		Calhoun Lake	900	900
Eagle Lake	1700	1700		Elkhorn Lake	800	800
Diamond Lake	1650	1650		Lake Carrie	600	600
Henderson Lake	1600	1600		Lake Elizabeth	600	600
Games Lake	1600	1600		Swenson Lake	600	600
Norway Lake	1400	1500		Crow River Frontage	400	400

Properties in Kandiyohi County are viewed at least once during a five year period. In 2011, properties on Green Lake in the districts of New London Township and Green Lake Township were viewed. We thank all of you who invited us in or phoned our office to help us update and maintain our records. Any information provided to us helps us fairly and equitably place values on properties, which is in the best interests of all taxpayers. We encourage you to call our office with any questions concerning your property.

A sales study will be compiled using sales monitored by the State of Minnesota from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 to establish values for the 2013 assessment, for taxes payable in 2014. Sales data is collected during a specific window of time. Because markets are constantly changing, assessed values are a reaction to the market and may not always reflect the current trend.



In March of 2013, the assessor's office will be mailing valuation notices reflecting value changes for the 2013 assessment. These notices will be in the same envelope as the current year tax statement. Every taxpayer has the opportunity to appeal their valuation and classification at the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings that are held each year. Those meeting times are listed on the valuation notices. We encourage you to call and speak to your district's assessor about any concerns before the meeting. Our responsibility is to conduct a fair and equitable assessment of properties and we welcome your questions and assistance. Our office can be reached at (320) 231-6200 Monday through Friday. We are located at 400 Benson Avenue SW in Willmar.

*Jennifer Halverson, Val Svor • Kandiyohi Co. Assessor's Office*

## BASE PER-FRONT-VALUE FOR GREEN LAKE OVER THE LAST 21 YEARS

1992=1250	1996=1550	2000=1950	2004=3800	2008=5600	2012=5000
1993=1350	1997=1700	2001=2250	2005=4600	2009=5700	
1994=1400	1998=1850	2002=2475	2006=5500	2010=5700	
1995=1475	1999=1950	2003=3000	2007=5600	2011=5500	

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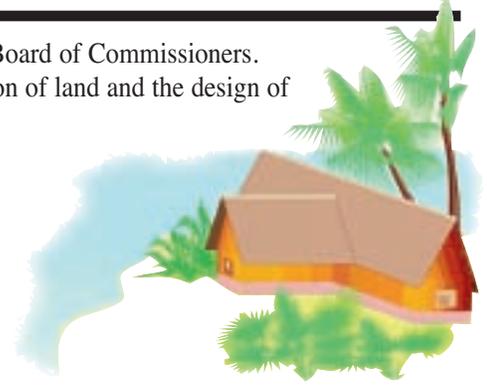
# 2012 Kandiyohi County Subdivision & Zoning Ordinance Amendments

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Recently several subdivision and zoning ordinance amendments were approved by the County Board of Commissioners. The amendments offer additional options to homeowners and greater flexibility in the subdivision of land and the design of structures. Below is a brief summary of those amendments.

## SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

- Minor Subdivision procedure adopted. This allows for the administrative approval of plats, (i.e. no Planning Commission or County Board approval) provided the subdivision delineates existing parcels, or does not require the dedication of additional right of way requiring road construction, or other major public improvements.



## ZONING ORDINANCE

- Non-conforming structures are now allowed to be replaced, but cannot be expanded.
- Detached accessory structures maximum sidewall height is 16 feet, (was 14).
- Detached accessory structure can be a maximum of 1 1/2 stories, (was single story).
- Detached accessory structure bonus room space can now be finished, (was cold storage only).
- Water Oriented Accessory Structure setback from the ordinary high water mark is 5 feet, (was 10).
- For new platted lots the minimum lot depth (190 feet) has been deleted. Lot sizes will now be regulated by lot width and total square footage.

## ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

- The zoning staff will continue to stress the importance of proper erosion control measures, impervious surface limitations and shore land alteration permitting. Zoning staff will continue to work with local DNR and watershed project staff to encourage natural landscapes and native species as appropriate and beneficial features, especially in close proximity to surface waters.
- The zoning staff looks forward to the opportunity to work together to provide for the development, use, and enjoyment of shore land areas while insuring that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the same quality water resources that we enjoy today. Please call the zoning office at 320-231-6229 if you have questions or desire to schedule an on-site consultation.

*Gary Geer • Kandiyohi County Zoning Administrator*

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## District 4 County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

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*District 4 County Commissioner Candidates Roger R. Imdieke and Alan Welle have been asked to complete a questionnaire on their position regarding Aquatic Invasive Species.*



### 1. What is your plan to prevent the spread of invasive species (AIS)? Please be as specific as possible.

**Roger R. Imdieke:** Unfortunately I am not qualified to suggest solutions to the spread of AIS. Though I am flattered that you think I might have the answers, I have to defer to those that have technical knowledge in this area. Even these folks don't seem to have a clear understanding and plan of action. At this point it would seem that what is currently in place is our best chance for prevention. Education of boaters and enforcement (with strong deterrents) of existing laws will be important. If resources are identified, more monitoring and more enforcement could be effective.

**Alan Welle:** Throughout our 34 years on Eagle Lake, I have worked hard to preserve and improve the quality of our lakes and waterways, including serving as president of our lake association, working with SWC to prevent nutrient runoff, working to prevent gravel pits from locating too close to our lakes, etc., however, AIS, especially mussels, is the biggest threat to our lakes in that 34 years. Recreation, property values, water quality, fishing, tourism, boating, etc., will all be negatively impacted. Nothing should be off the table from my perspective. This includes limiting points of access to our lakes, limiting times of access, better signage at all our accesses, and establishing and sanctioning permanent sites, including private businesses, where boaters can go to decontaminate their boat. Right now, it is very difficult for someone who wants to clean their boat to even know where to go. In addition, we need to investigate the possibility of a local county ordinance that goes beyond what is required by the State of Minnesota for people transporting MS. It must be a collaborative effort on the part of lake associations, watershed districts, all units of government, and sacrifices by individuals to accomplish our objective. The benefits will be good for everyone involved. This is especially true for County District 4, where such a large portion of the population live, fish, and play on the water.

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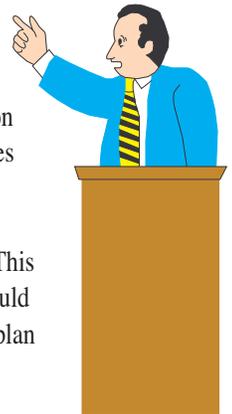
# District 4 County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire continued

## 2. What amount of state funding/county funding is appropriate to stopping the spread of invasive species?

**Roger R. Imdieke:** That too is a question beyond my pay grade. Before funding is appropriated, effective measures of prevention must be identified. While an effective plan of prevention may be conceived for individual lakes through strict monitoring, controlled access and limited hours of operation, is that practical, legal or fair? Contamination can take place via other bodies of water upstream in the watershed. Kandiyohi County could exercise all the power allowed by law, and it could still be too little, as the lakes in the county are contained in more than one watershed. And these watersheds do not respect county lines. As you state in your opening paragraph, "A comprehensive solution will need to originate at the state level, both from the necessary legislation and sufficient funding to support any statewide effort." At this time, dependence on education, monitoring and enforcement will be our tools locally. Hopefully these efforts will buy us time until more is learned about the prevention and management. Since I received your letter, research on Lake Carlos has begun to determine if the compound "Zeqaunox" is effective in controlling or killing of the mussels.

**Alan Welle:** Clearly, starting at the State level (\$8 million dollars), the effort to stop the spread of AIS statewide has been grossly underfunded and shortsighted. The State DNR cannot begin to adequately address the issue without a substantial increase in state funding designated to fight AIS. Without a change at that level, it is going to be increasingly difficult for local units of government and lake associations to fight the battle. With a budget year coming up at the Capitol, it's imperative that an organized lobby effort is formed to get the increased funding in the Governor's budget and in the House and Senate budgets. I believe my 12 years of experience in the legislature will enable me to help and/or lead in that effort. In addition, I know from that experience that whoever is elected to our House and Senate seats needs to be more assertive on this issue in St. Paul.

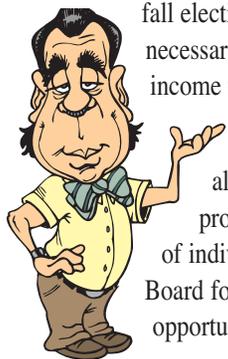
From a county perspective, it would have been preferable from my perspective to have the Kandiyohi County Lakes Association request a line item in the County budget for 2013. It appears it is a little late for that; however, the proposed County budget does include \$15,000, up from \$0 in 2012, in waterways funding that potentially could be accessed to fight AIS. The application for those funds, as it stands now, would be through a request to the County Water Planning Commission, who would make the recommendation to the County Board. In addition, the County has hired two part time deputy positions to aid in enforcement. This effort by the current County Board is certainly a move in the right direction. Looking forward to the 2014 County budget, I would like to see the recent task force formed to fight AIS come up with a financial proposal that would more specifically define the plan and the amount of local resources necessary and practical to fight AIS.



## 3. What do you propose as the source of this funding and would you work aggressively to acquire this funding at both the state and local level?

**Roger R. Imdieke:** Assuming a practical prevention and treatment protocol is found, I would work vigorously to lobby for funds from all sources to execute the protocols. As I stated earlier, the threat of aquatic invasive species to our property values, economy and outdoor recreation is a mutually inclusive challenge. It behooves property owners, sports-persons and even citizens that don't live on the water or use the water, to make an investment to protect this important economic driver in the county. Those investments may have to come in the form of; DNR funding, legacy dollars, increased state and local taxes, increased watercraft licenses or the shifting of resources through re-assessment of priorities (some have suggested we have fewer deputies on the roads, and more vigilance of the waters).

**Alan Welle:** I have stated above that I will work more than aggressively to secure adequate funding for the fight. It is clear from my knowledge and experience as a legislator that it was not elevated to a high priority by the legislature in the last budget cycle. We need to begin immediately after the fall elections to strongly encourage our local legislators, other key legislators, and the Governor to provide the DNR with the funds necessary to fight AIS on a statewide basis. Clearly, the majority of the funds must come from the state general fund through sales and income tax collections; however, dedicated fee increases should also be examined.



Once that amount is determined, we will have a better idea of what gaps need to be filled at the local county level for 2014, although the local property tax, which increasingly has been forced to fund programs, should be the last resort. The substantial proposed increase by the County along with the additional deputy positions for 2013 is a result of the diligent effort of a number of individuals from our watershed districts and lake associations, as well as the acknowledgement and receptiveness from the County Board for their efforts. The results show that things do not happen without people making them happen. Thank them if you have the opportunity.

# Minnesota Senate & House of Representatives Candidate Questionnaire



*Minnesota Senate Candidates Senator Joe Gimse (IR), Senator Kyle Koenen (DFL) and House Representative Bruce Vogel (IR) did NOT respond to our questionnaire.*

*Minnesota District 17B House of Representatives Candidates Zachary Liebl (IP) and Mary Sawatzky (DFL) positions regarding AIS are noted below.*

## 1. What is your plan to prevent the spread of invasive species?

**Zachary Liebl:** In the 2011 legislative session they took this issue very serious and did take action in reforming and updating legislation. I believe this is a step in the right direction. I do not like to see fines increasing for individuals, however with the threat we have seen and the possibility of species being able to work their way into our bodies of water we need to enforce standards and remain cognizant of the issue. As a result, by doubling the fines it forces individuals to be more mindful of the issue and the seriousness of it. Also, I believe the new rules of water equipment having a 21 day waiting period before moving to another body of water and having boat clubs, yacht clubs, marinas and other similar organizations be considered lake-service providers, the requirement of permits for the clubs and staff working there to take MS certification training will be beneficial in stopping invasive species. In addition I support having each water craft owner, operator, or transporter take the on-line educational class that goes into effect in 2015. I feel these steps should be looked at and evaluated after the 2012 season and beyond to see their effectiveness. I do not believe more government and more government authority is always the right answer, but in an area that has the ability to dramatically make changes to our ecosystem we need to be firm. Furthermore, though our lakes in the area are not connected to the Mississippi River we need to continue looking at legislation and funding to help reduce the chances of Asian carp gaining access to the Great Lakes. I am proud to be a member of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and this Corp has been ordered by Congress to develop a study on effective methods of preventing the spread of Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels that were introduced in the ballast water of ocean-going ships. My plan is for us to continually monitor and evaluate these new laws to see their effectiveness and to look at making changes when needed. If more enforcement or new technologies is needed down the road we should keep an open mind as to how to address the issue.

**Mary Sawatzky:** Research is essential to not only slow the spread of AIS, but to eradicate them from affected areas. Eliminating AIS needs to be the goal. We need more scientific research into finding biological weaknesses to prevalent varieties of species threatening our waters. Funding AIS research at the U of M would be an excellent way to utilize state resources to address the issue.

Looking at ways to keep carp out of the MN River Basin is also necessary. Continued support of the DNR's efforts to prevent and manage AIS can only be achieved through appropriate funding. Keeping people aware of the seriousness of AIS is important for obtaining support to fund these programs. We should also look to increase penalties and enforcement for violating AIS laws.

## 2. What amount of state and/county funding is appropriate to stopping the spread of Invasive Species?

**Zachary Liebl:** The DNR currently has its spending set at \$8.6 million for this year. That is double than what was previously held. The \$8.6 million comes from a variety of areas; various fees, \$1.3 million from the general fund, and a one-time amount given from the state lottery totaling \$4.5 million. In Kandiyohi County I know they have allocated over \$3,000 to help, at times, staff boat-landings within the area. I do believe that defending from invasive species is a collaborative effort and is a state-wide benefit and so a majority of funding should come from the state level, but each community has its own needs and therefore some local funding should be expected too. This is an area I am not an expert in but I believe we should see how this funding is used this next year and make sure it is going to the right resources, and if not, shift where needed.

**Mary Sawatzky:** According to a study done by the DNR on funding levels, approximately \$8.6 million in FY 2013 is needed to prevent and manage AIS. County funding should be on a case by case basis according to the respective need for enforcement and the potential economic impact that AIS would have on its property values and tourism. In Kandiyohi County, we take pride in our lakes area tourism and recreation. County officials and property owners need to decide those priorities.

## 3. What do you propose as the source of this funding and would you work "aggressively" to acquire this funding?

**Zachary Liebl:** I feel this should be a mix of funding from various areas. I feel the current fees, some from the general fund, and a portion from the state lottery. Also, I believe funds could be tapped into from the revenue generated from the Legacy Amendment. I would work very hard on this issue to ensure it is properly funded because we cannot allow something to hurt our environment and have economic implications on our community when it is an issue we can handle and deal with.

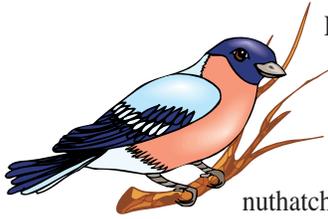
**Mary Sawatzky:** A source of funding would be increased boat registration fees as well as increased fees for docks, rafts and other water equipment. Fishing licenses could be increased as well. All of these ideas will likely be unpopular with the public but it is important to raise additional funds from those people who are the primary users of lakes and rivers as well as the populations being economically affected. I will work hard to ensure that we can reach funding levels in line with the DNR's proposal and to work with Minnesota's universities to conduct research. Locally, property taxes are the primary funding source for local units of government. However, the state limits their ability to levy additional forms of taxes. I would encourage collaboration between state and local levels on this issue.

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# Nature Observations

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Your observer relied on the report of a faithful neighbor for this latest report. For most of the last five weeks my view has been of corn fields and wild turkeys in southern Minnesota, not far from Rochester.



Fascinating at Green Lake has been the passing through of the colorful cedar waxwings.

From their perky crest to the yellow strip at the bottom of their tail, they are a delight to

watch. Interesting this year, however, was the turmoil they caused among our usual finches, chickadees and

nuthatches. They did not like their territory being invaded and let the bystander know in no uncertain terms with

their fluttering about and scolding. Perhaps their food has been in short supply and they felt threatened. Who knows?

That might also explain the orioles and even the woodpeckers going after the hummingbird feeders. Grape jelly and the sugar water vanish in a trice. Keep those feeders up as long as you see the hummingbirds. They need the nourishment for their long flight south. They will not linger beyond their time.



Has anyone else noticed the dearth of colorful flowers this month? After the wild phlox and roses bloomed, the geraniums along residents'

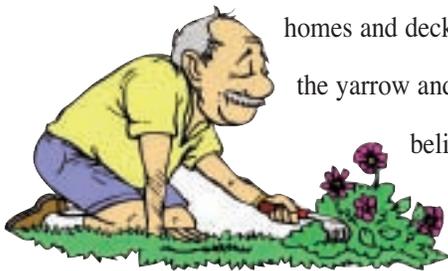
homes and decks, Russian sage, petunias black/brown eyed Susans are mostly in evidence. I haven't even seen

the yarrow and bird's-foot trefoil I observed all along the freeway and highways those five weeks. Would you

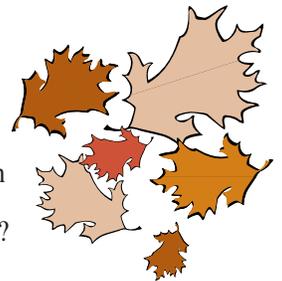
believe I actually had to buy a book of Minnesota wild flowers to identify the latter? I thought the

colorful yellow plants were butter-and-eggs until I looked at them up close. It shows that

someone is never too old to learn something new...



The big question this fall is how colorful the leaves will be. Spring and summer were two weeks early; it looks as if autumn will follow suit. Already some maples are turning bright red. Other trees have brilliant yellow leaves on some boughs. At least here the sumac is waiting to turn red, unlike a few "down south." Did we receive enough moisture this summer to bring out the colors, or will many leaves just turn brown and fall, as some have predicted?



We had our heavy winds that caused damage earlier. May the autumn winds come gently and the Green Lake breezes blow gently on the waters and our souls.



*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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## **Patrol To Begin October 1st**

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If you paid for membership, along with the patrol service you will notice that the “PATROL SIGNS” will be placed on your residence shortly after the 1st of October.

The bi-monthly patrol will begin near the middle of October.

The person who does the patrol will be identified this year by a vest with the words “GREEN LAKE PATROL” on the back. If further I.D. is needed an identification card with the picture of the employee has been issued by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff’s Office.



Post cards will be mailed to your home residence during the six month period, as we do not know when you leave for your winter home. Please advise your postmaster to forward your PATROL CARDS as they do your regular mail.

September 15th is the deadline for signing up for patrol service.

Thank you and have a wonderful winter season!

