

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

May 2013

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Welcome back to the lake. As I write this article the ice still has a firm hold on the lake and even though it is mid April we can only find a few signs of spring. With a long winter also comes a long time since the GLPOA has updated you on what is happening with the GLPOA board.

Much of our time this winter has been spent working on a containment plan for keeping zebra mussels from entering Green Lake. Last summer and early fall the GLPOA worked out the details of a plan that if implemented would close three of our six boat accesses on Green Lake (see map on next page). In October we had the opportunity to meet with DNR leadership and present them with our plan. The result of that meeting was that we bring a bill to the legislature that could be voted on by the Minnesota House and Senate.

The Bill we have developed (house file 1209) has many moving parts and calls for commitment from several stakeholders to be successful. The major points of the bill are as follows:

1. The DNR, Kandiyohi County, Irving and Green Lake Township all have to be in agreement with closing three public boat accesses during ice out conditions (April - November) on the lake.
2. If number one happens the Minnesota DNR will expand the public boat access in the city of Spicer with more parking spots and another ramp to the lake.
3. The GLPOA will raise \$100,000 to fund an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Decontamination Station at the Spicer access.
4. If any of the above agreements are unable to be met the project will not move forward.

We are well aware that a decontamination station alone will not guarantee us that we can stop the spread of (AIS). However we are thrilled with the progress we have made as far to protect the lake that all of us in Kandiyohi County love so much. If you have the opportunity this summer, a big thank you needs to be expressed from all of us to Representative Mary Sawatzky and Senator Lyle Koenen for their leadership in filing the "Green Lake" bill in both the House and Senate. I am excited to update you on the progression on HF 1209 and SF900 (our bill) next month!

Until then, see you at the lake!



James Duinick
President, GLPOA

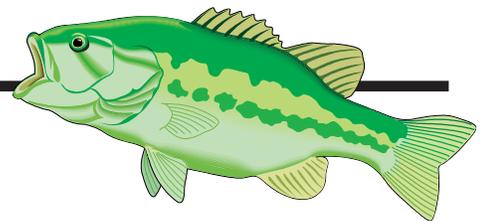


Green Lake Accesses



2013 Bass Fishing Tournament Dates

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| 6-02 | Sunday | 7:00 am - 3:30 pm | MN Pro Team Bass Trail |
| 6-29 & 30 | Saturday-Sunday | | SAILING REGATTA |
| 6-30 | Sunday | 7:00 am - 3:00 pm | MFBA Central Open |
| 7-21 | Sunday | 6:30 am - 2:30 pm | West Central Bassmasters/Green Mill Summer Classic |
| 8-03 | Saturday | 6:00 am - 2:00 pm | Fishers of Men, MN Team Division |
| 8-11 | Sunday | 7:00 am - 3:00 pm | Super Slam Bass Tour |
| 9-08 | Sunday | 7:00 am - 3:00 pm | West Central Bassmasters/Green Mill Summer Classic |



5 out of 6 tournaments are on a Sunday to allow pre-fishing on Saturdays.

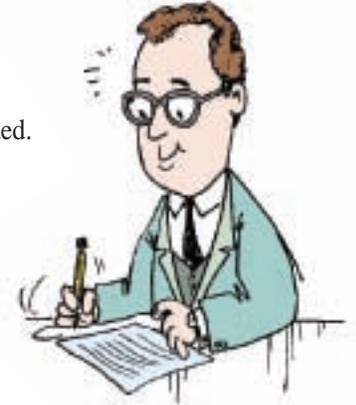


The Green Lake Initiative

Last spring, your Board concluded that it would be difficult for the Minnesota Legislature to come to a consensus on how to deal with the zebra mussel (zm) threat. We feared that zm would infest Green Lake and other county lakes before DNR and our legislative leaders would become motivated to adopt a control plan based upon containment of those lakes which are zm infested.

We did know this, and we shared our knowledge with all who would listen:

1. Any further delay in attacking the zm problem would mean that inevitably our local lakes would be infested.
2. Education of anglers concerning the relationship between migrating boats and a zm invasion was not the solution.
3. Information which DNR furnished to our legislature in February of 2012 made it clear that from the standpoint of both cost and effectiveness, a containment program, isolating infested bodies from non-infested bodies, was the route which would give Minnesota the “most bang for the buck.” The annual cost of a program based on “containment zones” would be approximately \$10 million.



Armed with this information the 2012 session went home and little happened.



With time and necessity running against us, we were encouraged by our lobbyist, Bruce Kleven, to take the initiative on House File 1209 and Senate File 900. If these bills become law, they will be compatible with a state-wide containment strategy.

After meetings with your Board and other local water conservation entities, our new legislator in District 17B, Mary Sawatky, informed the West Central Tribune that GLPOA's tentative offer of \$100,000 for a boat decontamination and inspection station may have been a factor in getting Governor Dayton's support for the project.

Rep. Sawatzky also took note of the negative financial impact that zm infestations have on lakes. Reduced property values are harmful to our tax base which we need to fund necessary local government services.

The containment plan, which is much broader in geographic scope than H.F. 1209, if adopted by our legislature, could require \$10 million annually and likely could not be fully implemented in 2013. On the other hand, smaller programs such as that envisioned by Rep. Sawatzky and Sen. Lyle Koenen, could be in place and functioning this spring.

As I write this note, I have before me information from Mr. Kleven, pertaining to other bills which could provide substantial funding, both for our Green Lake project and other AIS projects. Here are a few highlights:

1. ENVIRONMENT FINANCE BILL: contains \$18.57 million for AIS programs (this could be used to fund zm programs such as the Sawatzky - Koenen bill).
2. DEDICATED SALES TAX BILL - \$10.47 million for AIS programs.
3. LOTTERY PROCEEDS BILL - contains a total of \$9.3 million for AIS programs (including zm).

We hope that you will continue to support the effort to protect Green Lake both now and in the future, keeping in mind Dietrich Bonhoeffer's words: “The best test of a moral society is the kind of world which it leaves to its children.”



Ron Schneider
Vice Chair

Fishing Report



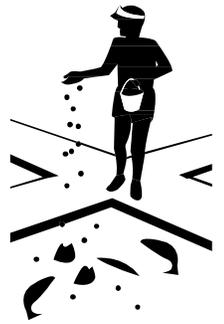
As of this writing, it is possible that the Green Lake ice-out date can go from the earliest on record (March 20, 2012) to the latest on record (May 7, 1951) in consecutive years. What are the odds of that?

Recent fisheries studies have focused on the impact that global warming and increasingly earlier ice-out dates have on fish populations. One finding suggests that ice-out is a key factor in determining when walleye spawn as opposed to water temperature, photoperiod, etc. Earlier ice-out could mean earlier spawning, but MNDNR fisheries folks will tell you that earlier spawning is usually not a good thing for walleye. The reason is it increases the likelihood of major cold fronts which can quickly knock out the critical plankton food supply for the vulnerable tiny fry. Well, I don't think we have to worry about early spawning this year.



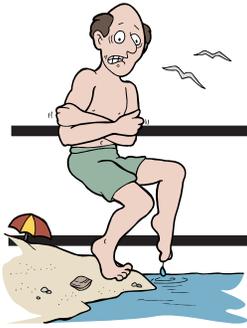
This year we may even find out if walleye will spawn under the ice on Green Lake! Each year we typically net/borrow (just for awhile) mature walleye from Green Lake and fertilize between 50-100 quarts of eggs (roughly 100,000 eggs are in a quart). If we can't set our nets until May, those walleye may already be spawned out, we'll see. Green Lake gets a minimum of 10% of the eggs we take stocked back as fry which we mark with a chemical called OTC in the otoliths (calcified structures near the brain). This mark allows us to tell if the young-of-the-year (YOY) walleye we capture in the fall with electrofishing were naturally reproduced or not. Turns out a surprisingly high percentage of those YOY walleye are from that put-back stocking from the egg take. That actually is not great news and may mean something, or multiple things are reducing egg survival (predation by egg eaters, siltation covering the eggs suffocating them, etc.).

Luckily, Green Lake is small enough that walleye fingerling stocking can make an impact on walleye abundance. We stock Green Lake with fingerlings when our fall electrofishing catches are below 30 YOY per hour of sampling. It turns out that it has been stocked annually for the past 12 years. The current Lake Management Plan calls for 3,000+ pounds of fingerlings that average 20 fish to the pound (6-7 inches long) or as near to that size as possible.



Each year we sample/monitor the entire Green Lake fish population as well. In 2012, things looked excellent once again for all game fish species, including walleye. Even the bluegill and crappie are nice sized and we know the bass fishing is top notch. The only down side is the lack of adult yellow perch. We did not catch a single yellow perch in last year's survey which can make it tougher for fingerling walleye to survive predation. The odds of catching ZERO yellow perch in a survey in a lake like Green are about as low as setting early and late ice-out records in consecutive years.

*Dave Coahran
DNR Fisheries Supervisor*



Green Lake Freeze Dates

Green Lake, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota 56288

| YEAR | ICE IN | ICE OUT | YEAR | ICE IN | ICE OUT | YEAR | ICE IN | ICE OUT | YEAR | ICE IN | ICE OUT |
|------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| 1897 | | 4/18 | 1950 | | 5/05 | 1969 | 12/01 | 4/20 | 1988 | 11/28 | 4/18 |
| 1904 | | 4/28 | 1951 | | 5/07 | 1970 | 11/24 | 4/23 | 1989 | 11/26 | 4/23 |
| 1915 | | 4/17 | 1952 | 12/2 | 4/26 | 1971 | 12/01 | 4/18 | 1990 | 12/04 | 4/06 |
| 1917 | | 5/01 | 1953 | 11/27 | 4/15 | 1972 | 12/02 | 4/29 | 1991 | 11/26 | 4/11 |
| 1924 | | 4/14 | 1954 | 12/04 | 4/16 | 1973 | 12/10 | 4/05 | 1992 | 11/28 | 4/10 |
| 1932 | | 4/16 | 1955 | 11/24 | 4/11 | 1974 | 12/02 | 4/21 | 1993 | 11/26 | 4/19 |
| 1933 | | 4/02 | 1956 | 12/07 | 4/25 | 1975 | 12/01 | 4/29 | 1994 | 12/06 | 4/15 |
| 1934 | | 4/05 | 1957 | 12/04 | 4/24 | 1976 | 11/26 | 4/10 | 1995 | 11/24 | 4/16 |
| 1935 | | 4/12 | 1958 | 11/30 | 4/13 | 1977 | 11/26 | 4/22 | 1996 | 11/22 | 4/25 |
| 1940 | | 4/26 | 1959 | 12/01 | 4/07 | 1978 | 11/28 | 4/22 | 1997 | 11/24 | 4/25 |
| 1941 | | 4/12 | 1960 | 12/08 | 4/19 | 1979 | 12/02 | 4/30 | December 4 - Open | | |
| 1942 | | 4/14 | 1961 | 12/08 | 4/13 | 1980 | 12/03 | 4/21 | January 3 - Closed | | |
| 1943 | | 4/13 | 1962 | 12/12 | 5/01 | 1981 | 12/10 | 3/28 | 1998 | 12/20 | 4/07 |
| 1944 | | 4/18 | 1963 | 12/10 | 4/12 | 1982 | 12/09 | 4/22 | 1999 | 12/17 | 4/06 |
| 1945 | | 4/16 | 1964 | 11/29 | 4/17 | 1983 | 12/01 | 4/14 | 2000 | 12/01 | 3/24 |
| 1946 | | 4/17 | 1965 | 11/29 | 5/02 | 1984 | 11/29 | 4/18 | 2001 | 12/25 | 4/26 |
| 1947 | | 4/16 | 1966 | 12/02 | 4/05 | 1985 | 11/23 | 4/17 | 2002 | 12/03 | 4/16 |
| 1948 | | 4/16 | 1967 | 11/28 | 4/11 | 1986 | 11/21 | 4/15 | 2003 | 12/02 | 4/13 |
| 1949 | | 4/14 | 1968 | 12/06 | 4/01 | 1987 | 11/23 | 3/22 | 2004 | 12/14 | 4/03 |



Green Lake Water Quality Update

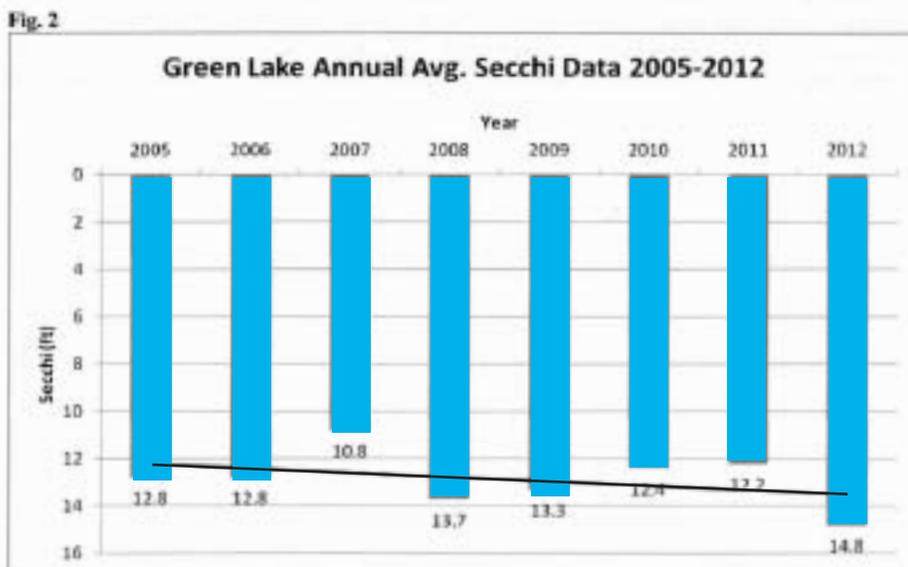
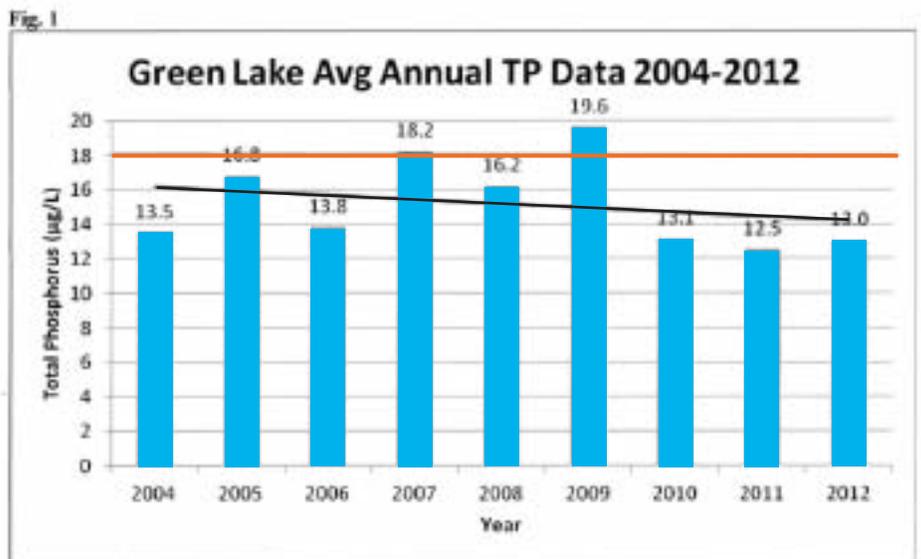


In 2012, the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District continued a partnership with several Green Lake volunteers and the GLPOA to monitor water quality on the lake and one of the inlets that flow into the lake. Thanks to the help of Val Sechler, Jill and Riley Nelson, and Bob Hodapp, 2012 was another successful year of monitoring.

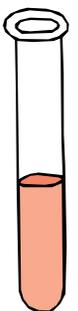
Figure 1 (below) shows average annual total phosphorus readings on Green Lake over the past nine years. A decrease in total phosphorus was observed from 2009 to 2011, from 19.6 to 12.5 micrograms per liter (ug/L). However, 2012 experienced a slight increase in total phosphorus from 12.5 to 13.0 ug/L. The overall trend for the last nine years shows that phosphorus levels in the lake are decreasing and are meeting the non-degradation standard of 18 ug/L. This is important because phosphorus in the lake encourages algae growth, and consequently affects the ecological, recreational, and aesthetic benefits Green Lake provides.

In 2002, a non-degradation water quality goal was established for Green Lake. To meet this 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, but has improved in the past three years. These efforts will require continued involvement from all local entities, as well as increased efforts by property owners in reducing the amount of phosphorus from entering the lake.

Green Lake water clarity is a valued asset. Our volunteers measure lake clarity with the use of a secchi disk — a circular disk attached to a rope that is marked for measuring water 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. Deeper depths recorded with the secchi disk indicate clearer water. A graph of average annual secchi disk readings over the past eight years is shown in Figure 2 below. Water clarity for Green Lake increased from an average of 12.2 feet in 2011 to 14.8 feet in 2012. Note that zero feet on the y-axis represents the lake's surface, and higher values indicate increased water clarity. Secchi disk depths over the last eight years have indicated improvement.



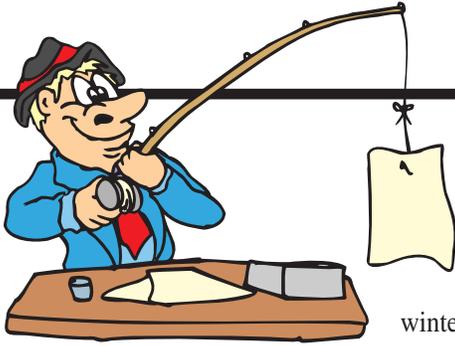
Staff and volunteers were also able to collect several samples on the inlet from Alvig Slough in 2012. Results continue to indicate the need for the implementation of best management practices to reduce sediment and nutrient loading into the lake. The successful implementation of these practices is very important in meeting the aforementioned defined water quality goal of non-degradation.



**A full copy of our 2012 Monitoring Report is available under the Reports section on our website (www.mfcrow.org)

Vanessa Glieden Henjum and Mike Behan
Technicians, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District Monitoring

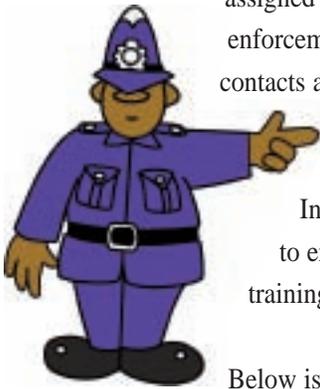
Concerns of AIS



Greetings to All Green Lake Residents,

Well, as I write this we are officially in spring time according to the calendar however I am still able to walk on water...that is ice water and plenty of it! It definitely has been a long winter season!

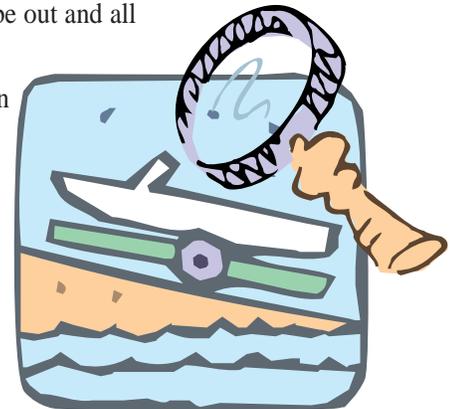
One of the major concerns for our area lakes is the AIS issues (Aquatic Invasive Species). Kandiyohi County is working hard to address these issues to prevent the spread of these species to our Kandiyohi County lakes. I would like to say thank you to the Green Lake Association for the donation of \$1,000 to the sheriff's office to help with enforcement efforts on Green Lake during the summer of 2012. In 2012 the county board authorized the sheriff's office to have two part-time deputies to enforce water related laws and ordinances. Every weekend two part-time deputies, along with a full-time deputy, worked the lakes in Kandiyohi County. One of the part-time deputies was assigned to work AIS enforcement. In 2012 the deputies worked a total of 112.25 hours on AIS enforcement, which involved working at the access on the lake. The deputies recorded 693 contacts and issued 18 citations and four warnings. The majority of the citations were for failing to remove the drain plug from the boat.



In 2013 the sheriff's office will again have two part-time deputies and a full-time deputy working the weekends to enforce water related laws in Kandiyohi County. In April the majority of all of the deputies will be receiving training on AIS laws and will be watching for violators.

Below is a reminder of the regulations regarding aquatic invasive species:

- 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 baffled 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.



Working with all of you to make our lakes safe!

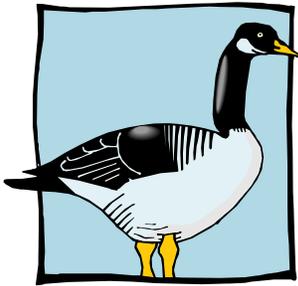
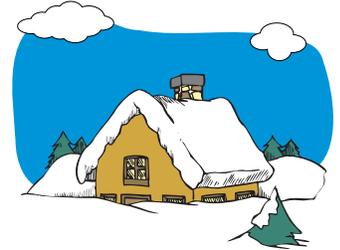
Sheriff Dan Hartog

Nature Observations



Let's back up to 2012 for a moment, December 10, in fact. Although there was some open water on the north/northwest side, the 90% rule came into play and we considered that was the day Green Lake froze over. By the next day no open water was seen. The beautiful part was that it froze like a mirror. It was not long before skaters shoveled the ice to form miniature hockey rinks, ovals, circles, you name it. The air was warm enough for them to skate comfortably, too.

The rest of the winter went by in a whirl of wind and snow. Eave high drifts formed in the wind tunnels between houses, especially on the east side with the prevailing southwest, west and northwest gales. Even when the easterly winds hit several days in a row, they built up new drifts. Ground blizzards were frequent-blue skies up above, but visibility almost nil on the ground. The snow on the lake received the full brunt of the winds and soon buried snow fences, shrubs and the like on land. Oh, yes, seldom a dull moment at Green Lake in the winter.



The week of St. Patrick's Day and the first day of spring began with "wind and snow." So what else was new? A friend on the north shore called midweek to say he'd seen swans and Canada geese at the outlet. Sure enough- the next day there were "six swans a-swimming" and scads of honkers on the ice or swimming stately along. My son and I parked and watched the swans for half an hour. They were dabbling, sometimes four or five of them at once but always with one alert guard, watching for danger. I learned this is typical of geese in the fields as well. If a person lives long enough, all sorts of new information-or reinforcement of old-comes to one. The swans didn't stay many days—the geese are still there, pairing up as usual. Five or six snow geese made an appearance on April 5th though.

Bird feeders were kept busy with chickadees, nuthatches, house finches, purple finches, gold finches in their olive green coats. Juncos hopped in large flocks under the feeders. Downy woodpeckers, hairy woodpeckers and red-bellied woodpeckers divided their time between the sunflower seeds and suet; the pileated was content with the suet. Blackbirds and crows in profusion serenaded (?) in the trees. Eagles soared by almost regularly. Others saw blue jays and cardinals - I missed them, same with the wintering robins until the migratory ones returned. I think I saw a gull soar over the Millpond in New London yesterday. Maybe it was wishful thinking.



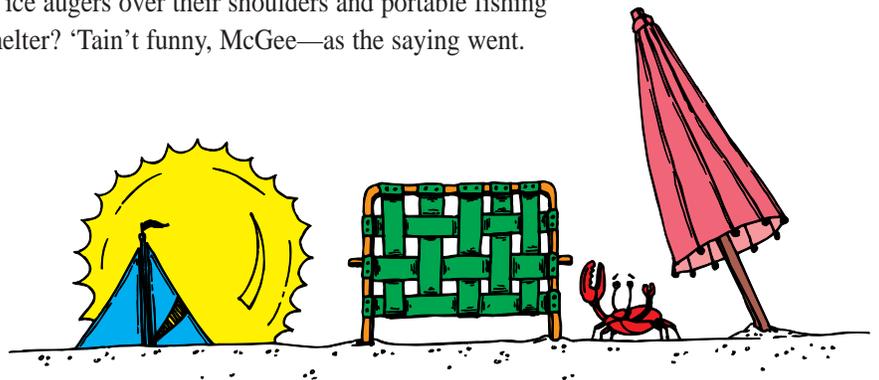
On March 30, my family and I saw ripples on water on the lake. Checking it out, they found that the warm sun had melted snow on the ice to the extent that it was forming little "ponds" and flowing in rivulets, then under the ice, eddying in swirls as it disappeared again. The intrepid adventurers were fascinated by the sight.



According to records I have, the latest ice-out dates were in 1950-May 5 and 1951- May 7. Any guesses as to what it will be this year? As long as nights dip down to 18 degrees and days are reluctant to go above the 40's, the ice remains thick-someone mentioned 23" at last count. Can't you just imagine fishermen going out on the opening of fishing season on May 11 with ice augers over their shoulders and portable fishing houses for shelter? 'Tain't funny, McGee—as the saying went.

May warm spring and summer breezes come our way.

Gloria Benson



The Green Lake Breeze
Green Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 362
Spicer, Minnesota 56288
www.greenlakespicer.com

Return Service Requested

Milfoil Management

The Minnesota Department of DNR has issued Green Lake a permit to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil two times during the summer of 2013. Bob Schemel, Chairperson of the Milfoil program, has been working with Haug Implement of Willmar, MN for the past two years as Haug Implement has offered to provide the technology available to improve the stewardship of Green Lake. In other words, it has helped to get the chemical to the correct areas and in the correct amount.

Schemel stated, “We are treating to eliminate the milfoil in the correct amount, while not overspending the dollars.” If Kandiyohi County does not get a decontamination unit it also will help to keep many of the other AIS from getting into the area lakes.

