

# Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

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

August 2014

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The Green Lake Property Owners were recently informed, and the DNR has confirmed, that one adult zebra mussel was found by a Green Lake homeowner on a southeast shore dock. With measured optimism, we also want to report that a more extensive search of the area turned up no additional zebra mussels.

The appearance of this lone zebra mussel is very concerning, especially because the Green Lake Property Owners Association has been working diligently to fight the spread of all aquatic invasive species for several years. While we don't know the final outcome of more searching and more testing for zebra mussels, rest assured that our battle against ALL aquatic invasive species continues and remains a top priority. We take comfort in knowing that we are still in the fight and now offer public washing station for all boats that enter and exit Green Lake. Please help us spread the word about this important community resource.

Why? Because we don't know the outcome of this recent news, and there are many other aquatic invasive species to watch for and be concerned about. July 1, 2014 the State of Minnesota released dedicated funds to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in the lakes of Minnesota. This is good news and the GLPOA will work hard to benefit from these available funds.



Hopefully, this zebra mussel scare is an isolated find. But if not, we will work hard to educate ourselves on the best ways to live with zebra mussels in Green Lake. Either way, it should be a wakeup call for all of us to take action and spread the word about proper preventative care. Aquatic invasive species are coming and they are here to stay. We cannot win this war without working together and forming partnerships with all concerned residents of our community, our region and our great state. We can stand back and watch it happen or we can work together to find unique ways to deal with it.

Rest assured that the Green Lake Property Owners Association and our partners will stay focused on our mission to Protect, Enhance, and Restore Green Lake and all of the wonderful lakes we have been blessed with in our state.

Jamie Duinick, 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 2015.

We would like to ask for your assistance to make sure that we have your name and address spelled correctly. Please check the 2012 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**



# Battle Against Aquatic Invasive Species

It's August already! Before too long, school will be back in session and docks will be coming out of the water. We should also see the high waters of the spring and early summer receding- one less problem to deal with! Still, we're facing the battle against aquatic invasive species (AIS) as long as we have open water.



This summer has been an interesting one in the AIS world. Over winter, the Green Lake Property Owners decided to purchase a decontamination unit to be placed at the City of Spicer public access in Spicer. A partnership with the Middle Fork of the Crow River Watershed District and the City of Spicer was formed and it has been in operation since early June- a true win for Green Lake and the greater Kandiyohi Co. area! Also this summer, the big news was revealed that the State legislature passed as part of its tax bill, dedicated funding to counties for AIS prevention efforts. Over \$4 million was

distributed to the counties in July, with another \$10 million going out in 2015. Kandiyohi Co. fared very well with the allotments, receiving over \$115,000 in 2014 and is expecting nearly \$260,000 in 2015! Kandiyohi Co. has formed a committee that will determine how to distribute these funds. Green Lake is well represented on the AIS Committee, with one GLPOA board member, the City of Spicer, the MFCRWD, and the Kandiyohi Co. Lakes Association all represented as voting members.

On the management side of things, we entered another year of treatment for Eurasian watermilfoil. Last year, the permit issued was for a little more than seven acres. This year, a similar permit was issued, though an inspection in late June (later than usual, delayed by the high water) yielded very little milfoil growing in the lake. On July 3, two areas were treated with Renovate MaxG. We're still waiting to see what kind of control was achieved with the herbicide this year. I can't really explain the drastic decrease in acreage of dense milfoil in the lake. High water could have something to do with it, as could the second long, cold winter in a row. The good news is there should be less interference with recreational boating on the lake this year!



By now you've no doubt heard that a zebra mussel was reported on Green Lake on July 21. Beginning July 22, we at the DNR put into motion our Rapid Response Plan, beginning with an interview of the individual reporting the specimen and a thorough search of the area where it was initially found. After several hours of searching that area, along with others in the lake, no more zebra mussels were located. We will continue our monitoring, but we also would like to ask the property owners around the lake to act as another set of eyes for us. With a lake the size of Green Lake, it would be difficult for us to check every rock, dock, and raft, so please do report to me if you see anything that you suspect might be a zebra mussel - it would help us greatly! In the meanwhile, more information will come out on what will happen next - I'll do my best to keep you all informed.

*Nick Brown*  
*Invasive Species Specialist*

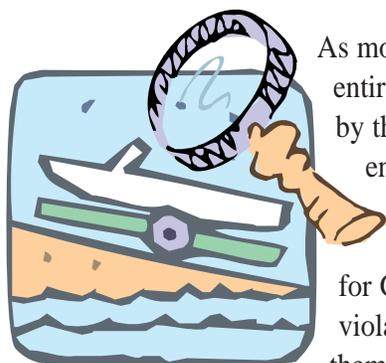
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# The End Of Summer Already?

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Hello Green Lake,

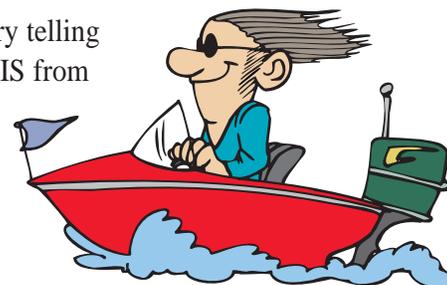
I've looked up from correcting all the paperwork that streams across my desk and have noticed something quite disturbing. It's already the end of July and my interns are beginning to turn in their last day notices in order to return to their respective universities. I don't know about you, but that concerns me, since I have not had near enough time to enjoy water related activities with friends and family. In light of the staggering reality that the summer is quickly closing in on us, I have been asked to provide some brief feedback and insight on how the summer has gone in relation to the Watercraft Inspection Program.



As most of you have probably observed, I've had one intern working exclusively on Green Lake for the entire summer. His name is Chase and he's a local kid from Spicer. If you haven't met him yet, stop by the landing and say hello, before he disappears back to school. He tells me he has thoroughly enjoyed working with Green Lake boaters and has been impressed with the attitude of everyone. After looking up his current surveys, they show the following: he has currently conducted 2,848 surveys between the Spicer and County Park 5 access. There have been 3,327 total inspections for Green Lake. There were 24 incoming boats that had their drain plugs in which only puts the violation rate at less than 1%. Eleven entering watercraft were found to have plant material or mud on them. All eleven were placed back into full compliance.

This is only a snapshot of what has been happening on Green Lake, but I think it is a very telling snapshot. Green Lake and its boaters are very conscientious of their part in preventing AIS from spreading. Just remember to Clean, Drain and Dry before moving to a different water body. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

*Evan Freeman*  
Watercraft Inspection Supervisor, MN DNR



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## Milfoil Update

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On June 30th Nicholas Brown of the DNR and I spent the day looking for eurasian milfoil on Green Lake. The amount of milfoil found was vastly less than in previous years. We may attribute that to mother nature. Because of thick ice and heavy snow cover photosynthesis was not able to take place. Many of the locations where milfoil had been present in the past were no longer found to have milfoil. New locations of milfoil that are unknown at this time will need to be brought to the attention of the Green Lake Property Owners Association board if found so that they may be treated this fall. On July 3rd all of the known locations of milfoil were treated.



*Robert Schemel*

# 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 2013 and 2014 assessment.

## Kandiyohi County Lake Base Rates

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Green Lake	5000	5000	Nest Lake	1300	1300
Lake Florida	2450	2450	Big Kandiyohi Lake	1200	1200
George Lake	2300	2300	North Long Lake	900	900
Lake Andrew	2100	2100	Calhoun Lake	900	900
Eagle Lake	1700	1750	Elkhorn Lake	800	800
Diamond Lake	1600	1700	Lake Carrie	600	600
Henderson Lake	1600	1600	Lake Elizabeth	600	600
Games Lake	1800	1800	Swenson Lake	600	600
Norway Lake	1500	1500	Crow River Frontage	400	400



A sales study will be compiled using sales monitored by the State of Minnesota from October 1st, 2013 through September 30th, 2014 to establish values for the 2015 assessment, for taxes payable in 2016. 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 2015, the assessor's office will be mailing valuation notices reflecting value changes for the 2015 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.



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# Are You One of the 3,723?

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Have you recently opened the websight [www.greenlakespicer.com](http://www.greenlakespicer.com) lately? Then, you are one of only 3,723 visitors since May 31, 2013.

Did you know that the minutes for all Board meetings are posted 24 hours after the meeting?

Have you read the *Green Lake Breeze* posted on this sight in its entirety? They date back to 1999.

Have you browsed the web's index to find other important committee reports?

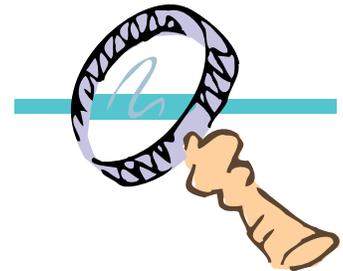
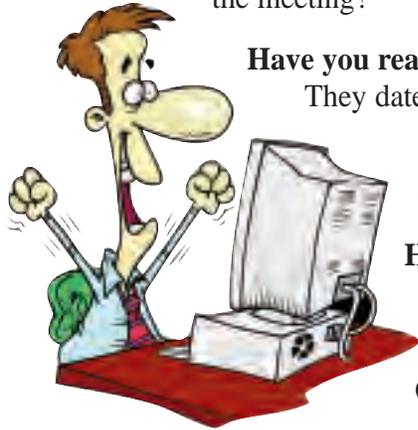
Have you seen the beautiful pictures of Green Lake or the picture postcards that can be sent to friends around the Internet?

Have you reached out to the "Links" and read about other happenings in our area? Or you can also read minutes of other Boards that are pertinent to every one of us.

Do you share Spicer's true history with guests in your home? The Spicer History, as well as Green Lake's, is also found in the Index.

Well, are you really up to date and knowledgeable about what is happening and what you need to know about your home - Green Lake?

If not, then now is the time to investigate!!



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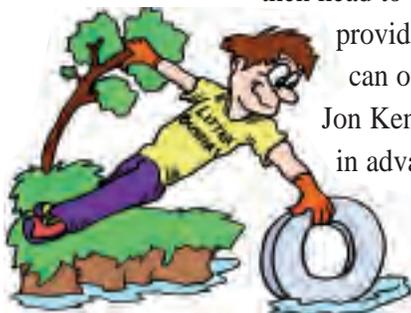
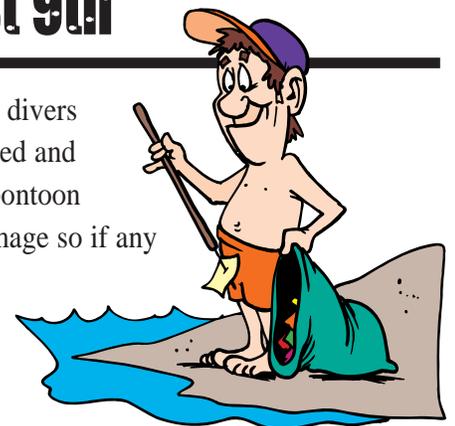
## Mark This DATE!



## Clean Up Day, Saturday, August 9th

We are looking for certified divers, support boats and spotters for divers for cleanup day on Saturday, August 9. The divers must be certified and they must have their own equipment. Any type of boat works but pontoon boats are the best. There has been a lot of high water and June storm damage so if any property owners know of items in the water they should let us know and we will send someone to remove them. We also need boaters willing to help go along the shoreline and pick up floating debris. The plan is to meet at Saulsbury Beach at 7:00 a.m. on the 9th. We will have a small meeting and

then head to the busy spots before weekend boaters arrive for the day. West Central Sanitation will provide a dumpster for garbage at the boat landing in Spicer but we suggest you have a garbage can on your boat as well. Any divers, dive support boats or shoreline boat help can contact me, Jon Kennedy, at 320-212-1504. If the weather is bad we will reschedule for another day. Thanks in advance for your help in keeping Green Lake clean!



Jon Kennedy

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# High Waters Across the Board

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## Some Kandiyohi County Lakes Set Records...

By Tom Cherveney, West Central Tribune

WILLMAR - June rains swelled lakes in Kandiyohi County to new record levels.

In some cases, the waters were so high that those reading the gauges had to reset them. The gauges were underwater, said Ethan Jenzen, regional hydrologist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Spicer.



Recorded water levels on Foot, Eagle, Nest, and Calhoun lakes this June set all-time records. Lake level readings date back to the 1940s and late 1930s. The previous high-water records on these lakes were set in 1965 and 1986.

Fortunately, none of the 2014 lake levels exploded the previous records. They were usually an inch or two above the all-time high marks.

Nonetheless, they were certainly high enough to cause erosion and problems for property owners. The county imposed a no-wake advisory on all of the county's lakes for much of June. It wasn't lifted until last weekend.



Tribune file photo

**Water levels rose to all-time record highs on Foot, Eagle, Nest and Calhoun lakes, while coming within a few tenths of a foot of the record on Green, Andrew and Norway lakes. Water levels are coming down.**

High water was the rule: Water levels were uniformly above "normal" high-water levels on most lakes, Jenzen pointed out. Most of the records were made on June 19 and 20, or a few days after some of the heaviest rain events.

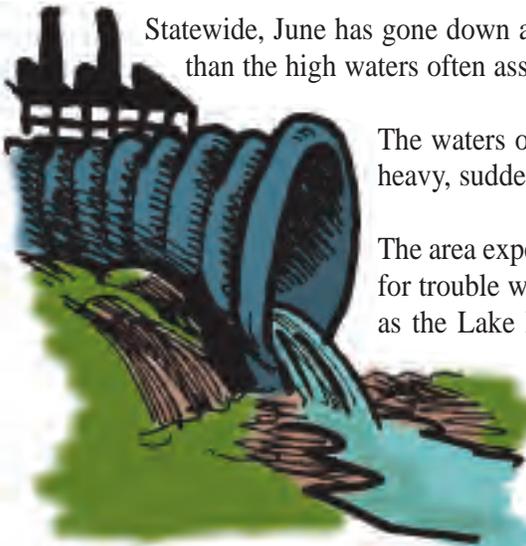
Where the records did not fall, they were close. The water level on Green came within 0.3 of a foot of the all-time high. Diamond Lake came within 0.2 of a foot and the Games/Norway Lakes system were 0.25 of a foot of the all-time high.

Statewide, June has gone down as a record setter for precipitation. The June rains proved more problematic for lakes than the high waters often associated with spring snow melt.

The waters of April and May generally rise at a slower, and more predictable pace. June brought heavy, sudden downpours that bounced lake levels up fast, Jenzen noted.

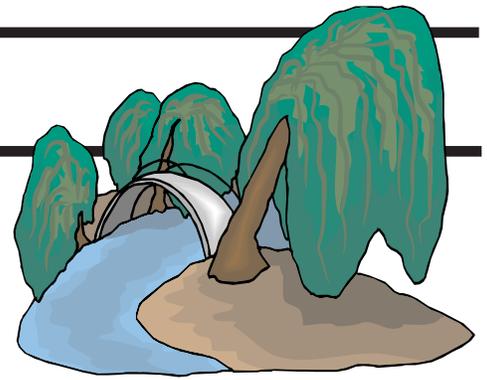
The area experienced higher than normal precipitation through the spring, and that had set the stage for trouble when heavy rains continued in June. The head water basins, including large pools such as the Lake Monongalia area, were full. There was no opportunity to hold back the additional waters from June rains.

Lake levels are receding this month, and that is encouraging, he added. Some of the lakes are anywhere from 4 to 5 to as many as 8 inches lower than the high water levels recorded in June.



# Nature Notes

With the air redolent with basswood blossoms, the sky blue and the humidity dropped, we could quote the poet who wrote, "What is so rare as a day in June?" Oh, that's right, it's the fourth week in July. The waters are receding after being unusually high; winds have abated their tempestuous waves; damages are being repaired.



At breakfast time one Sunday early this month, a bird flew into my window with a tremendous blow, and I thought I saw it fall. Looking at the ground I saw a bird with its buff colored stomach aimed at the sky, little feet curled up. While I watched, a male Baltimore oriole came hopping up within inches of the downed bird. Within moments a female oriole also approached. The male left and quickly returned with his beak full of insects, as though to encourage the fallen bird to eat something. After a few more moments of no activity, the two healthy birds flew away. I had never witnessed a follow-up to a downed bird before. Often the bird down has just been stunned and after a few minutes of recovery flies away. I have seen a collie/part wolf just nose a little bird, then walk away to let it get its wind back.

I have not received many reports of loon sightings this summer, though their plaintive calls can be heard day and night. Neighbors, however, out in their boat to read and laze away the afternoon came upon nine loons together, communicating softly with each other. As the boat neared, the loons dived; two came up behind them, the other seven in front of them. The latter proceeded to perform an aquatic ballet, diving as one... then shortly coming up together... diving again, then surfacing. The two "watchers" stayed behind the boat the entire time. On the return to their dock, the friends saw at least three or more individual loons. A solitary loon had kept their neighbor entertained the day before. I must not be watching at the right time; all I see is the solitary pelican swim by - but that's better than nothing!



Has anyone else seen frogs lately? Two days ago while we were on the bank assessing damaged dock sections, a huge green frog jumped out of our way. It startled us and the adjustor commented that it was the biggest frog he'd seen in years. I agreed. Later that afternoon while I was weeding the miniature hostas, another large green frog jumped from his hiding place. Maybe it was the same one, for all I know. I didn't ask its name. A moment later the tiniest brown frog I'd ever seen was trying to reach the hostas. I've seen little green tree frogs but never a brown one. What are the odds that I'd see two of such disparate sizes at almost the same moment?

Let me know of sightings you see. Shared experiences help to keep us together.

Welcome showers refreshed the grass and flowers last night.  
The winds have been mercifully gentle.

May the Green Lake breezes refresh us the rest of the summer.



*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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## **Green Lake Breeze Music in the Park on Sundays**

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### **SCHEDULE 2014**

- |           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| July 13   | Great Times Band                 |
| July 20   | Peace Lutheran Bluegrass Army    |
| July 27   | New London/Spicer Community Band |
| August 3  | Roger Kodet Jazz Quartet         |
| August 10 | Millpond Jazz Quartet            |
| August 17 | Green Lake Bluegrass             |



We hope you will join us from 4 to 6 pm in the Spicer City Park Deck area. Bring your own chairs. This event is funded in part by the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council and the MN Legacy Fund.