

Granite Lake Watershed Association
2309 Kimball Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302
www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelake

Officers:

Tim Waldschmidt-Pres.	Michelle Leifeld-Secretary
Scott Quiggle-VP	Bob White-Treasurer
Sheryl Hagstrom-Past Pres.	Ray Rau-Lake Plan Coordinator

Shoreline Representatives

Marge Sundberg (Kimball Ave), Sharri Rau (Kimball Ave). Dave Hagstrom (Kimball Ave). Laura Jones (Knowles),

Paula Mackie (Lawrence, CR 5), Brad Kessler (Lawrence, CR 5), Bonnie Hammer (Kraft), Mary Holmgren (North of boat landing to Kraft)

April 2007 Newsletter.

Mark your calendar!

4/28	10 AM Annual Meeting. Albion Township Hall. Guest from Minnesota Extension Service.
5/19	Albion Township Clean up Day.
5/20	Lake Monitoring 2PM.

We have an exciting meeting planned and hope you can make it! There's nothing like seeing a "live presentation" and getting information first-hand. If you've never attended before, please make this one your first. Don't forget to bring your neighbor with you!

Plant trees and shrubs:

For those attending the meeting, we'll have 200 trees and shrubs available. A donation is optional, but the most important thing is to get them planted. Here's a list of what we purchased from Soil & Water for less than \$1 each. Nanking Cherry (25), Chokecherry (25), Green Ash (25), Red osier Dogwood (25) American Plum (25), Red Maple (25), Elderberry (25), and June berry (25)

The Board approved/ordered the following for replanting on Jim Schwebel's Tree Plot where most of last year's planting was lost due to the drought. Balsam Fir (25), Red Norway Pine (25), White Pine (25), Colorado Spruce (25)

Guest Speaker:

We are pleased to have Brenda Postels, Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Educator from the U of M Extension Service, as our guest speaker. She'll be discussing buffer strips, upland vegetation, and water gardens.

We are also allocating \$125 to two different lakeshore owners, one for a rain garden, and the other for planting upland vegetation. (\$250 total)

How to win \$125 to support your project:

Bring a sketched plan to the meeting. The Board will review each plan and make arrangements to get the vegetation required for the project. Be creative! We will award \$125 for an upland vegetation project and \$125 for a rain garden. We would like these to be models for others to follow. Please sketch out a plan. We don't need anything fancy. If you are a winner and physically cannot do the project on your own, we'll pitch in and help.

DVDs.....Minnesota's Lakes at Risk:

The Association purchased 75 DVDs. Pick up your copy at the meeting or let me know and I'll mail you a copy.

Project updates:

Several projects are in the works. If you live on Kraft, you'll want to hear about the project that should be underway this year in the field in back of you. Soil and Water had an engineer out last week to review two other projects. More details at the meeting.

We're getting some Walleye;

The DNR has informed us they'll be stocking Granite with some fingerlings this year. Come to the meeting and we'll give you the details on how many and when!

Barley Straw Project April 14th: Thanks to all of the following who helped! Greatly appreciated!

Dave & Sheryl Hagstrom, Brian & Mitch Hedman, Bob & Jeff Henry, Mary Holmgren, Jerry Jones, Van Mackie, Scott & Mary McPherson, Merle & Phyl Mattson, Bob Peterson, Scott & Gretchen Quiggle, Ray Rau, Denny Sunde, Bob White, and Tim & Ann Waldschmidt. (See pictures on the website)

We also want to thank Merle and Phyl Mattson for purchasing and donating 70 bags. They have been involved in every project and attend all meetings. They are always there to help! Thanks to my lovely wife, Ann, for convincing Target to sell us bags for \$2.50 vs the \$3.99 from last year. Her negotiating skills are better than mine.

Barley Bag Instructions:

Put in the water ASAP, preferably before the water temperatures reaches 55. We realize not everyone has their dock in early, so put the bags in when you do. We have enough bags for 3 per household. The best is to attach securely to you dock where there's wave action in 3-5' of water. Please keep your bags for next year. Most of the bags were delivered on April 14th. If you see the bags laying around, they are for you.

Website update:

Mission accomplished! A special thanks to Gretchen Quiggle for the many hours of work she put into our new website. It's not only GREAT, but it's FREE, one of the benefits of belonging to Minnesota Waters. Gretchen has refreshed the site quite often so you will probably see a new look every week or so. She has also added a Lost and Found and Trading Post section. I also want to recognize Jenny Hagstrom who worked so hard developing our original site which became the framework for the new one. Thanks Jenny!

Curly Leaf Pondweed:

As many of you are aware, we had Tom Snook from Lake Restoration speak to the Board at our meeting on March 31st. Since most of the curly leaf pondweed is within 150' of shore, individual landowners must apply for their own permit. Lake Restoration needs a minimum of 15 landowners to participate in order to do the treatment. If you are interested, please let Tom know ASAP as the application process can take 4-6 weeks. His number is 763-428-9777 763-428-9777 .
The forms are on the Granite Lake website.

I also contacted a DNR-approved harvester about cutting and removing the curly leafy. They have a minimum fee of \$5,000 which the Association can not afford. We would also have to make our own arrangements to dispose of the curly leaf. Folks, I wish I had an answer, but your best bet is to contact Lake Restoration, and make sure you remove the curly leaf pondweed from the water when it dies off.

Lake Monitoring:

We will start monitoring in May. We are pleased to have Jerry Jones join the Team for the Citizens Lake Monitoring Program. We will be certifying anyone interested during the May monitoring. Please let me know. Our Team now consists of Ray Rau, Jean Peterson, Jerry Jones, and me. We can use a couple more volunteers.

Minnesota Waters to feature Granite Lake in upcoming article:

We are very proud of the Lake Monitoring Plan which Ray Rau spent so many hours on. Others were also impressed, and a freelance writer contacted Ray, Paul Diedrich from the DNR, and me for an interview. We understand the article will be published soon. I also want to thank Tom Ferry for attending the training and assisting with the Plan.

Granite Lake Management Plan used as the model at Initiative Foundation training session:

Paul Diedrich used the Granite Lake Management Plan as a model to follow when he spoke to about 8 Wright Co. lake associations that are beginning the lake management planning process with the Initiative Foundation.

Thanks to all those who paid their 2006 dues:

As promised in the last newsletter, here's the list of those who have paid:

Mary Andersohn, Richard Anderson, Tom Anderson, James Bateman, Bill Bellows, Rich Brettingen, Allyn Ebert, Tom Ferry, Phillip Gerlach, Gary Grindle, David Gunderson, James Hackenmueller, Dwight Hammer, Dave Hagstrom (\$50), Brian Hedman, Bob Henry, David Holmgren (\$50), Sandra Hymer, Bill Johnson (\$100), Jerry Jones (\$50), Galen Johnson, Charles Kaufhold (\$50), Brad Kessler, Clifford Koltes (\$50), Darlene Lavallo, Frank Linnel, Vandon Mackie, Cynthia Maikkula (\$250), Merle Mattson (\$50), Glen McKenzie, Scott McPherson, LeRoy Mehr (\$100), Bev Noble, Scott Quiggle (\$150), Curtis Opegard, Orin Parady (\$50), Bob Peterson, John Pearce (\$100), Gerald Prescott, Ray Rau, Bill Rassmussen, Howard Reeves, Johnathan Robinson, Jim Schwebel (\$250), James Stevens (\$100), Don Sundberg, Denny Sunde, David Sturgeon, Taro Tanaka, Mike Thul, Richard Tracy, Theodore VanKemper, Tim Waldschmidt (\$100), Mark Welter, Bob White, and Kathleen Wenngatz (\$50)

It's never too late to send a check for 2005-2006.....Make your check payable to Granite Lake Watershed Association and mail to Bob White 2345 Kimball Ave NW, Annandale, MN 55302.

Thanks also to those who have paid so far in 2007. We'll acknowledge in future newsletters.

Albion Township Cleanup Day May 19th.

Please contact Sharri Rau, the Project Lead, if you can help. Since this has gone to an every-other year event, the junk is probably piling up. Let's give Sharri a helping hand. Details are posted on the website and it will also appear in the Annandale paper.

How to Monitor Lakes and Rivers for Road Salt;

Ray Rau and I attended the workshop on April 3rd in Hamel. As I told Ray, I can't believe I'm even starting to take notes at these things. The concern for us is the salt from County Road 5. Did you know: Minnesota has the highest concentration of chloride in the US? Salt never settles out when in water. Canada classifies road salt as an environmental toxin. Road salt causes an excess in chloride and we cannot get the chloride out of water. Too much in the lake, and the lake will not turn. Most of the road salt is applied when the salt is dry with 30% bouncing off the road and into the ditch. If the salt is wet, 78% stays on the road.

We are going to ask RMB labs to include a chloride analysis during the first sampling of each year.

Election of officers:

This is the chance you've been waiting for. Ask any Board member and they'll tell you how interesting and fun it has been. We are very fortunate at having maintained such a dedicated Board for the last several years but it's time for a change! I've enjoyed the past 3 years as President but will not be running this year. I'll still be on the Board as Past President and will stay active in the Association. Bob White has been our Treasurer for many years and it's time we give him a break. We'll also need to elect a new VP, and Secretary. These positions require little time. The only requirement is having an email address, and if you don't have one, we can help with that also. We have a very active Association that has an excellent relationship with all our partners. We're proud of the progress you've made but need your involvement to continue. Please consider running!

Thanks for your support:

Please join me in thanking the Board for their passion and support they've given the Association over the years. I especially want to thank Ray Rau for the thousands of hours he's volunteered. No one can match the time and energy that Ray spends each and every year. Sheryl Hagstrom led the organization through the Visioning Process as President, and has been actively involved ever since. Bob White has never missed a beat when it comes to helping out, and has been the Treasurer for years. He always responds at a moment's notice and does a great job keeping the books in order. Scott Quiggle and Michelle Leifeld were newcomers to the Board this year but got involved immediately and supported in any way they could. Scott chaired the Annual Boat Tour, mapped aquatic vegetation, and kept me on-track at meetings. Michelle developed a process to keep the mailing list up-to-date, assisted with mailings, and was great with the notes. Michelle will be moving from the lake and will be missed as a Board member and a friend. I also want to thank the shore reps for all the work they've done, especially in keeping the names and addresses current....Sharri, Marge, Mary, Bonnie, Paula, Brad, Laura, and Dave---Thanks! Marge Sundberg has been doing this for about 11 years! Last, but not least, I want to thank Ann for handling the printing, stuffing, and mailing of the newsletters for the last three years.

I hope to see you all at the meeting!

As always, feel free to contact me or any of the Board members with comments or questions.

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Remember: Don't use the lake as a bathroom, keep the grass clippings and fire pit ashes out of the water, and keep your septic system well maintained. If you fertilize, use only phosphorous-free. Be nice to your neighbor! Have fun, but stay safe this summer. Attend the Annual meeting on 4-28-07 @ 10AM.