

Granite Lake Watershed Association  
2309 Kimball Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
[www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelake](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelake)

## December 2009 Newsletter



### Officers:

Tim Waldschmidt-Pres.

Paula Mackie-Secretary

Sheryl Hagstrom-Treasurer

Scott Quiggle-Past Pres.

Ray Rau-Lake Plan Coordinator

### Shoreline Representatives:

Laura Jones, Corinne White, Shari Rau, Deanna Hedman, Vivian Henry, and Phyllis Mattson

**Webmaster:** Gretchen Quiggle

### WRIGHT SOIL & WATER OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR FISCAL 2009.

I want to start off by congratulating the entire Granite Lake Watershed Association for being selected as the Wright Soil & Water Outstanding Conservationist of the Year Fiscal 2009. This is quite an honor, but we all know we would never have been considered for this award without the passion and dedication of Ray Rau. Ray and Sharri will be accepting the award during the state Convention in Duluth Dec 5-7<sup>th</sup>. We simply cannot thank Ray enough! I also want to thank Sharri for all the work she's done, including chairing the Albion Township Amnesty day for the first 5 years. They are two wonderful people, and great friends to many of us.

### **KIMBALL AVENUE PROJECT**

An article entitled "Small Lake, Big Results" appeared in the Annandale Advocate Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The Kimball Ave project was completed on November 28<sup>th</sup>.**

WOW! What a project we can all be proud of. I encourage everyone to go see it. You will be amazed. We have now completed three major projects, addressing the four largest inlets where

phosphorous loading was the greatest after rain events. In total, over \$40,000 invested to improve water quality.

SWCD cannot say enough good things about us. We get things done. We also want to thank our other partners, the Albion Township Board, and the NCRS. Without their support and involvement, the project would not have come together. We also need to thank farmer John Uecker, and landowner John Grotons for their support.

### **Thanks to the following:**

I don't know how I can ever thank these folks for volunteering their time in cutting down trees to make room for the berm/basin, and seeding/laying an erosion blanket on approximately 31,000 ft. This was extremely hard work, and there were some sore feet and backs at the end of these days. Keep in mind, a lot of work was done Thanksgiving weekend! Their efforts contributed \$1,530 in payment-in-kind towards the project. Since our cost-share cost was only 25%, the Association realized 75% of this.

In some cases we had a family affair.....Brother-in-laws, nephews, and grandkids, so here's how it broke down, by family:

**Ebent (\$66), Hagstrom (\$192), Henry (\$24), Jones (\$90), Peterson (\$54), Quiggle (\$324), Rau \$108), Sunde (\$129), Waldschmidt (\$450), White (\$93)**

**Website:**

We'll be updating the website so check it out:

[www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelake](http://www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelake)

If you have trouble getting on the site please contact Gretchen or Tim.

**ASSOCIATION DUES**

**Thanks to all those who have paid their 2009 dues: \$40.**

Some of you paid for last year and this year with one check. If you paid \$80, and we have no record of payment for 2008, we applied \$40 for each year. We have a spreadsheet showing who paid and how much each year. We also realize some people have fallen on tough times, but we also see too many neighbors who have never paid or not paid for several years.

Please contribute to the Association as we need everyone's participation.

**Thanks to everyone listed and a special appreciation to those who contributed more than \$40!**

M Andersohn \$40.00, T Anderson \$40.00, Bateman \$40.00, Bellows \$50.00, Ebent \$40.00, Ferry \$40.00, Gerlach \$40.00, Hackenmueller \$40.00, Hagstrom \$40.00, Hecksel \$40.00, Hedman \$40.00, Henry \$40.00, Holmgren \$50.00, Johnson \$40.00, Jones \$50.00, Kaufhold \$50.00, Koltes \$50.00, Looft \$40.00, Mackie \$50.00, Maikkula \$50.00, Mattila \$40.00, Mattson \$40.00, McPherson \$50.00, Mehr \$60.00, Meyer \$40.00, Noble \$40.00, Nolan \$40.00, Oppegaard \$50.00, Parady \$40.00, Peschek \$100.00, Peterson \$40.00, Poe \$100.00, Prescott \$40.00, Quiggle \$50.00, Rasmussen \$40.00, Rau \$50.00, Schwebel \$140.00, Sturgeon \$40.00, Sundberg \$40.00, Sunde \$40.00, Swedberg \$40.00, Thul \$40.00, Tracy \$40.00, Van Kempen \$40.00, Waldschmidt \$40.00, Wennatz \$40.00

**If you don't see your name on the list, please make your check payable to Granite Lake Watershed Association and mail to our Treasurer Sheryl Hagstrom 2131 Kimball Ave NW, Annandale, MN 55302.**

**It's never too late to pay for previous years. Not sure, please contact Sheryl.**

**FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION - \$50 DONATION**

**The law firm of Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben**

**51st Floor IDS Center  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
1-800-717-0281**

<https://www.schwebel.com/>

**Carefree Lawn**

**830 Elm Street East  
Annandale, MN 55302  
Phone 320-274-8999**

**"Irrigation and Lawn Maintenance Specialist"**

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

**BOB PETERSON REMAX INTEGRITY**

**2391 Kimball Ave NW  
Annandale, MN 55302  
320-963-6581 or 612-965-0351**

**ONE LAST ITEM....**

We are already working on initiatives for next Spring which will focus on the current state of the lake. We know none of us were happy with the condition of the water last summer. We have already been approached by SWCD as it relates to curly-leaf pondweed. You'll hear more about this after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

Happy Holidays! Stay safe!

Tim Waldschmidt

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Tuesday, December 01, 2009

## Small lake, big results

By Tim Waldschmidt

The **Granite** Lake Association was selected as the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District's Outstanding Conservationist for fiscal year 2009. This was exciting news, but I never knew such an award existed, or what we did to deserve this. I called Ray Rau, our lake plan coordinator, and said: "This is really your award." Ray's comment: "Without the Lake Association I'm nothing," but as anyone living on **Granite** Lake knows, it's the other way around.

He's our MVP and is well known and respected by agencies around the state. He's our resource manual and expert on lake dynamics. We don't need to Google it when Ray's around. Without his passion and inspiration, the association would never have been considered for such an award. He's not only an outstanding conservationist, he's a great person.

I've attended several workshops with Ray, and he could facilitate most of them himself. He's an engineer and technical writer by trade, and during our annual meetings he'll report monthly rainfalls as 4.245 inches. Ray doesn't round things off, leaves very little to chance and is fanatical about collecting data on anything measurable, all year around. Ray completed a five-year survey of winter activity. Minnesota Waters wrote a feature article a couple years ago entitled "Understanding **Granite** Lake-Winter and Summer." To my knowledge we are the only lake collecting winter data, and Ray did it all.

According to Paul Dietrich of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, Rau did not miss

collecting data a single day last winter. In another initiative, with the cooperation of SWCD, Ray collected two 100-pound bags of curly-leaf pondweed, a non-native aquatic plant that can show excessive growth, dried it, and sent to the lab for analysis for phosphorous content. It was determined that if each resident would remove two 30-gallon containers of the weed when it dies off, this would remove four to five pounds of phosphorous, reducing algae production by 2,000 to 2,500 pounds.

Granite Lake is only 339 acres and located about six miles south of Annandale. We barely fit on the Annandale area lake maps, and telephone numbers are split between 274 and 963. I think we're about on the fringe of Jimmy's Pizza delivery route. We have about 50 active members. They're fantastic, and we can usually count on about 20 to help on major work projects, and we'll get about 10 volunteers on very short notice. We'll have standing room only at the Albion Township Hall in May. Many of us are good friends, but that doesn't mean we always agree. We consult with our strategic partners such as the Soil and Water Conservation District, the University of Minnesota Extension Service, or the DNR. They support us and are a valuable resource on water quality issues. They've all made presentations at our annual meeting. We share our plans with the township board. They listen to us, offer solutions and are very supportive. We help them during Amnesty Day, so we feel we have a good partnership there also.

We like to get things done! We'll identify a project, research it and present to the general membership at our annual spring meeting. Most of these projects get 100 percent approval by the membership. In fact, I can't think of one that hasn't. We're in the process of completing our third major project, a water and sediment control basin. In total, over \$40,000 within the past few years. We're proud of that! We're not bashful about asking for grant money or membership dues either. A cost-sharing fund is music to our ears! We've applied for several grants we didn't receive. We accept that and realize someone else did a better job with their

proposal than we did. It does take patience working through governmental processes, and that's the most frustrating thing for us. We may have to adjust a timeline, but we don't drop a project on the high-priority list.

Our Lake Management Plan was finalized in May 2004 and was developed in conjunction with the Initiative Foundation Healthy Lakes Program. Participating in the IF training, conducting a visioning session and developing the plan took several months. The plan is our roadmap and outlines the actions we need to take. Like any plan, we've made some minor modifications, but all core initiatives are mandated by the plan. As you can imagine, Ray makes sure we follow specific standards to ensure reliable and accurate data. We've participated in the Soil & Water Citizens Lake Monitoring for eight years with samples analyzed by RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes. We've been told our Lake Monitoring Plan is the gold standard to follow. We've never missed a sampling date and collect two sets of samples each month during the monitoring period.

Members want to visually see water clarity improving. Building berms, basins and grassed waterways are something visible, but it's hard to see the benefits on the Fourth of July picnic at the lake. I may get a call from a member asking if we can do something, as they have guests coming and the water looks terrible. This past summer was a good example. I consult with Ray, who explains that lake dynamics is not simple, and how the lake level, overall weather conditions, and other variables impact this. It gives us the opportunity to remind everyone that there are things they can do also as individual landowners.

Our official name is **Granite** Lake Watershed Association for a reason. We are all linked together and we "can't fight the person we're fighting with." We want to get things done in the spirit of cooperation. It's not a one-way street, and we want our initiatives to benefit all the stakeholders. This is the moment of truth! We all need to be in agreement.

We value our relationship with Wright

County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Albion Township Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service and DNR. We are very thankful to neighboring farmer John Uecker and landowners John Grotons, Jim Schwebel, and Phyl and Merle Mattson. Without their involvement, support and approval our plan would be just a plan. We hope we've done as well by them as they have of us.

Tim Waldschmidt is president of the **Granite** Lake Watershed Association. The Life on the Lakes column will appear occasionally in the Advocate. Lake officials should submit their material to [news@annandaleadvocate.com](mailto:news@annandaleadvocate.com).