

Granite Lake



Granite Lake Watershed Association

2102 County Rd 5 NW

Annandale, MN 55302

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/granitelakewatershed>

Officers:

Andy Wilde - President

(651-895-6342 / andy.wilde@comcast.net)

Bob Peterson - Vice President

Tim Waldschmidt - Past President

Lorrie Pesheck - Secretary

Lucinda Ogden - Treasurer

Shoreline Representatives: Laura Jones, Vivian Henry, Deanna Hedman, and Ann Waldschmidt

Webmaster: Gretchen Quiggle

Lake Plan Coordinator: Pete Pesheck

March 2018 Newsletter

Dates to Remember

Event	Date/Time	Location
Granite Lake Annual Meeting	April 28, 2018 10:00am	Albion Town Hall
Albion Township CleanUp day	May 5, 2018 7:30-11:30am	Albion Town Hall
Granite Lake Meet-n-Greet	TBD	Dick and Diane Tracy's
Granite Lake Boat Party	June 23, 2018	Granite Lake in calm waters

Hi Neighbors!

Happy Spring! I hope everyone had a good winter and is ready for all the activities of summer! The Granite Lake Watershed Association has continued to be very active in its efforts to maintain and improve the watershed. This year's upcoming Annual Meeting will include a presentation from Alicia O'Hare, Water Resource Specialist at Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District. She has been an amazing partner with us and will share highlights of the recent intensive study of the Granite Lake Watershed. I look forward to the presentation and seeing all of you there!

Southeast Project

At our annual meeting earlier this year, we discussed the planning that was going into a project in the southeast area of the watershed to control water and sediment runoff into Granite Lake. We are very excited to share that the work has been completed. Berms have been built to hold the water back long enough for sediment to settle out before releasing into Granite Lake. We do recognize that this corner of the watershed is large and we will continue to work towards other opportunities in this area. However, we are very optimistic that the work completed will have a significant positive impact. I'd like to ask you all to join me in giving a hearty thanks to the landowner Doug Triplett for his partnership in this project! It could not have been done without him. Also many thanks go to Luke Johnson and the entire Wright County Soil and Water Conservation District who worked tirelessly to design a solution to benefit all impacted. And a special big thanks to our own Granite Lake volunteer - Jerry Jones! He stayed positive, persistent and optimistic through the multi-year effort. He built a Granite Lake advisory committee and partnered with landowners and government agencies to drive this project. Great Teamwork! Thank you all!



Granite Lake Outflow Project

As you know Granite Lake has many inflows of surface water entering the lake, but only a single outflow. Therefore, properly maintaining this outflow in the Southwest portion of our watershed is crucial to the overall water level of our lake. Lake levels have been high for years resulting in frequent and persistent no wake zones. Therefore, our association has been actively monitoring this area. In recent years we removed a beaver dam and cleared out fallen trees and other debris to allow water to take its natural path out of Granite Lake, under County Road 5 and into the North Fork Crow River. Again this year, a determined and hardworking crew were back for another cleanup effort to clear additional fallen branches and trees. Many thanks to this crew for their hard work to keep the water flowing!

Also in this area there are plans with Wright County Soil and Water to replace the culvert under Count Road 5. We don't have timing on this yet, but watch for more updates.

Park Update

Jim & Mary Schwebel have continued their amazing generosity – continuing to lease the park area to Granite Lake Watershed Association and donating for continued improvements to the park.

The progress has continued right through the winter. Multiple loads of sand have been delivered for the beach and the final foundation from the original “cabins” has been removed. This summer's list of planned improvements include the addition of a pedestrian bridge over the stream so that the children (and adults) can experience the joy of watching nature as the water flows underneath the bridge.



Many, many thanks to Jim and Mary Schwebel as well as Tim Waldschmidt and the many volunteers who continue to help with the ongoing maintenance and improvements!

NO DUES/NO WAIVER....NO PARK!

Just a reminder, this is a private park and only those current with dues and have signed waivers on file are allowed to use the new Park. This is a provision of our lease and required by our insurance company! Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the waiver that must be signed by you and your guests and emailed to (timwaldschmidt3@gmail.com) or mailed to Tim at 2309 Kimball Ave NW, Annandale, MN 55302, before entering the property. Please email or text Tim at 612-325-8042 with any questions, comments or concerns. He will give you the code for the gate after signed waivers received. Note: Please lock the gate and scramble numbers each time you enter/exit via the road. You will also be able to reserve the Park for a reunion, graduation, or family gathering. If that date is open, the BBQ grill, picnic tables, and game area will be for your use. The beach and dock are always open to other members. Members cannot reserve the park during holidays such as 4th of July, Labor Day weekend, etc. \$150 refundable deposit required.

Let Tim know if you would be willing to help with general cleaning up beach area, mowing, or just picking up branches!

Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian Water Milfoil

Our Eurasian water milfoil treatments have been very successful! The 2017 lake survey found only half an acre of treatable milfoil! This is tremendous progress from the 2014 survey which identified over 20 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil!

The 2017 cost was offset by grants received from the DNR (\$450) and Wright County (\$576) leaving our remaining cost at \$576.

The association will do another AIS survey this year and treat based upon those results.



Zebra Mussel Monitoring

Zebra mussels have been found in nearby lakes. However, we are happy to report that **NO zebra mussels have been found in Granite Lake!** The Zebra Mussel monitoring kits were inspected this summer by Scott and Gretchen Quiggle and fortunately, no signs of zebra mussel were found. We encourage you to stay vigilant as early detection of zebra mussels is extremely important if we are to have a chance to address an issue in our lake. Many thanks to Scott and Gretchen for their frequent inspections throughout the summer.

It is important to follow these steps to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other invasive species to Granite Lake.

- If you buy a used dock, lift, or boat you must check it for zebra mussels and Eurasian Water Milfoil before putting it in Granite Lake. The DNR also specifies:
 - Spraying the used equipment with high-pressure water;
 - Rinsing with hot water (120 degrees for two minutes, or 140 degrees for 10 seconds); or
 - Drying the equipment for at least five days (note that “best current science” suggests 21-29 days dry).



Starry Stonewort



Starry Stonewort is another AIS that is in nearby lakes. This is the worst of the current AIS threats. It spreads quickly and is very difficult to treat. Again, we are fortunate to **not** have this in our lake, but please keep alert for this as well and let us know if you see it on your equipment or in the lake.

Individual Lake Shore Treatments

Just a reminder that individual lake shore owners may still want to do additional treatments to prepare their immediate space for various recreational uses. There are many additional weeds; algae; swimmers itch; muck and other conditions that the association does not treat. We encourage you to get the appropriate permit and treat your individual lakeshore to meet your own goals. We are using PLM for our AIS management and they are also available for individual needs. Feel free to reach out to them or any of the multiple other vendors in the area. PLM: Patrick Selter patrick@plmcorp.net

Email Addresses

Do you have a new email address? Or are you aware of a neighbor with a new email address? We are still mailing copies of this newsletter to some members that do not have an email address on file with us; however, this is expensive and time-consuming. Please send us your current email addresses. Thank you!

Company Match Donations

Does your company provide “matching funds” for donations you make to Non-Profit charitable organizations such as Granite Lake Watershed Association? Please consider checking with your company to see if they will match your donation to the lake association. This is an easy way to increase funding for our lake projects. Thank you to all who are currently participating in these programs!

Please Donate to fight Aquatic Invasive Species!

We are continuing to collect donations to our Aquatic Invasive Species Fund. As stated above, costs were below expectations in 2017, but it is likely that we will not be so fortunate every year. If new Invasive species appear in the lake, our costs could spike dramatically. Please consider making a donation. It will go a long way towards fighting this problem. Thank you to all who have already sent in 2018 donations!

List of 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species Fund Donations:

Fitzhenry	\$ 100
Hackenmueller	\$ 40
Peterson	\$ 40
Stevens	\$ 25

Annual Dues: \$60.00

Just a reminder, being current with your annual dues is required in order to use Granite Lake Park. As in the past, you can send in your annual dues at the same time you make a donation to the AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) fund. Just specify on your check if your donation is for AIS, annual dues or both. And remember, it's never too late to pay for previous years. Not sure, please contact Lucinda at 320-963-5594.

List of 2018 Dues Paid:

Fitzhenry	\$ 60
Hackenmueller	\$ 60
Peterson	\$ 60
Stevens	\$ 60
Anonymous	\$ 1,000

Please send donations and dues to:
Lucinda Ogden/Treasurer
1885 Knowles Ave NW
Annandale, MN 55302

Friends of the Association \$50 Annual Donation

The Law Firm of Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben

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