

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)

Russ Gohl - Vice President

Lorrie Pesheck - Secretary

Tim Waldschmidt - Past President

Dave Holmgren - Treasurer

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

Webmaster: Gretchen Quiggle

Lake Plan Coordinator: Pete Pesheck

April 2021 Newsletter

Dates to Remember

Event	Date/Time	Location
Albion Township Clean-Up Day	May 1, 2021 7:30 – 11:30am	Albion Town Hall
Granite Lake Annual Meeting	August	Granite Lake Park
Granite Lake Meet-n-Greet	Postponed due to COVID	
Granite Lake Boat Party	Postponed due to COVID	

Hello Granite Lake Neighbors!

Spring is here! And it is time for another newsletter.

As per our email, the board has decided it is best to **postpone our annual board meeting** until the risk from COVID is further reduced. However, the board has been hard at work and there are multiple updates to share.

We continue to field complaints about the lake level. As noted last fall, the complaints have changed from "It's too high" to "It's too low". Please be reassured that the lake association has repeatedly checked for any man-made causes and found nothing. There also appear to be no beaver dams currently impacting the lake level as was the case a couple years ago. This current change in the lake level seems to be driven by Mother Nature. It seems we have not had as much rain as we have had in past years. The good news is that it rained yesterday and it is raining as I type this so maybe the lake will come up some.... But not too much. 😊

The Lake Association also continues to stay in close contact with the Wright County Soil and Water team who have gone the extra mile to check our lake multiple times to confirm that the culvert under County road 5 at the south end of the lake is set correctly and that everything else seems to be functioning as expected.

We are also **looking for a volunteer** to monitor our lake water quality. More details are listed below, but please consider volunteering. This takes maybe 1 hour per month and provides invaluable data that is used to improve our lake.

Finally, please note that we have a new email address: granitelakewatershed93@gmail.com
Please feel free to contact us via this email.

And read below to hear about **Venmo** and **PayPal** donations!

Stay Healthy Everyone!

Aquatic Invasive Species **Eurasian Watermilfoil**

In 2020, we treated 6.9 acres for Eurasian Watermilfoil and a spot treatment for Flowering Rush. This marks the 6th consecutive year that we have treated for milfoil, with the treatments ranging from a high of 17.4 acres (2015) to a low of just half an acre (2017).

In 2020, PLM treated the lake on July 9th. In previous years, the treatment dates have ranged from June 17th to August 1st.

The total cost of our 2020 treatment including the lake survey was **\$9,806**.

We were approved for a MN DNR grant of \$1,500 as well as a Wright County grant of up to \$4,000. Therefore, the total grant money received in 2020 was \$5,500.

Granite Lake Watershed Association had a total net cost of **\$4,306** in 2020.

I cannot **THANK YOU** enough for your continued contributions year after year. Without these treatments our lake would most likely be completely over-run by milfoil.

For 2021, We have again contracted with PLM to treat our lake. PLM has already submitted permit requests to the DNR which have been approved. However, as in past years, PLM will resubmit them after the lake survey is complete and we agree on the exact treatment plan for 2021. We have also requested and received a signature waiver from the DNR. This means that we do not need signatures from every lakeshore owner but instead notify everyone via, posting in local paper, email, and posting on our website.

Additionally, we have again submitted grant requests for matching funds to treat the lake for AIS.

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!** In 2021, we expect to resume monitoring for zebra mussels after suspending the effort last year due to COVID. Scott and Gretchen have again volunteered to inspect the monitoring kits throughout the summer. We plan to use the same docks as we have in the past. If you have volunteered your dock in the past, but prefer to opt out this year, just let us know.

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

- Please inspect your dock, boat lift, boat, etc. as you remove it from the lake this fall. 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).



Individual Lakeshore Treatment

The Granite Lake Association Board encourages each homeowner to research the benefits and impacts of managing your individual lake front for weeds and AIS. There are multiple chemical options available as well as mechanical options such as rakes and weed rollers, and even manual methods of hand pulling weeds. In most cases, we would encourage you to create a management plan and method that works for you. Not only will that help to catch any possible localized AIS that is not caught by the Associations treatment plan, but it can also address native weeds which can be a nuisance for recreational use of the lake. Don't forget to obtain a permit from the DNR if necessary.

PLM has been a great partner for us in treating AIS, and they have also worked individually with many of us to treat our individual lakefronts with positive results. You will see below that PLM has also agreed to make a donation to our association and become our newest “Friend of the Association” If you decide to treat your individual lakefront, we would recommend you consider PLM.

David has been great to work with. Their contact information is: <https://www.plmcorp.net/> David Hillstrom davidh@plmcorp.net



Water Quality

Granite Lake Association has taken many, many actions to improve water quality over the years and we are confident in saying that it has made a positive impact!



Our projects have stopped hillsides from collapsing, prevented soil and sediment from entering the lake, restored shorelines, constructed berms to hold rainwater runoff until sediment can settle out of it and reduce nutrients. We have even planted hundreds of trees! If you travel around the lake, you can see our projects on just about every side of the lake. West side off County road 5, Kimball Ave, Southeast corner, Northend retention pond, Schwebel Park, etc.

Pete Pesheck has also been doing fabulous work analyzing our water quality and has provided the following info:

Water quality can be assessed in several ways. The **Average Trophic State Index (AvgTSI)** is used most often (more detail below). TSI values range from 0 (totally clear) to 100 (very cloudy): clear lakes have TSI under 40 while lakes not "suitable for recreation" have TSI values in the 70-80 range. Granite **yearly AvgTSI** values generally fall between 53-60.

I began studying Granite's lake monitoring data in 2008. RMB Labs maintains a [database](#) of lake monitoring data and in ~2012 I began to compare Granite's data with similar nearby lakes. By early 2017 (using data from 2002-16) Granite looked to be **among the best** relative to other nearby eutrophic lakes.

An updated version of that graph is attached and tells the same story: **Granite (and Bebe) are doing relatively well vs. similar nearby lakes.** I've also plotted data for some larger, deeper, cooler lakes for comparison and--as expected--their TSI values are significantly lower, i.e., better water quality.

The data for each lake is plotted in colored symbols connected by matching color dotted lines so you can follow its data over the years. I've also included a trend line (linear regression) to clarify the "main story" for each lake relative to other lakes.

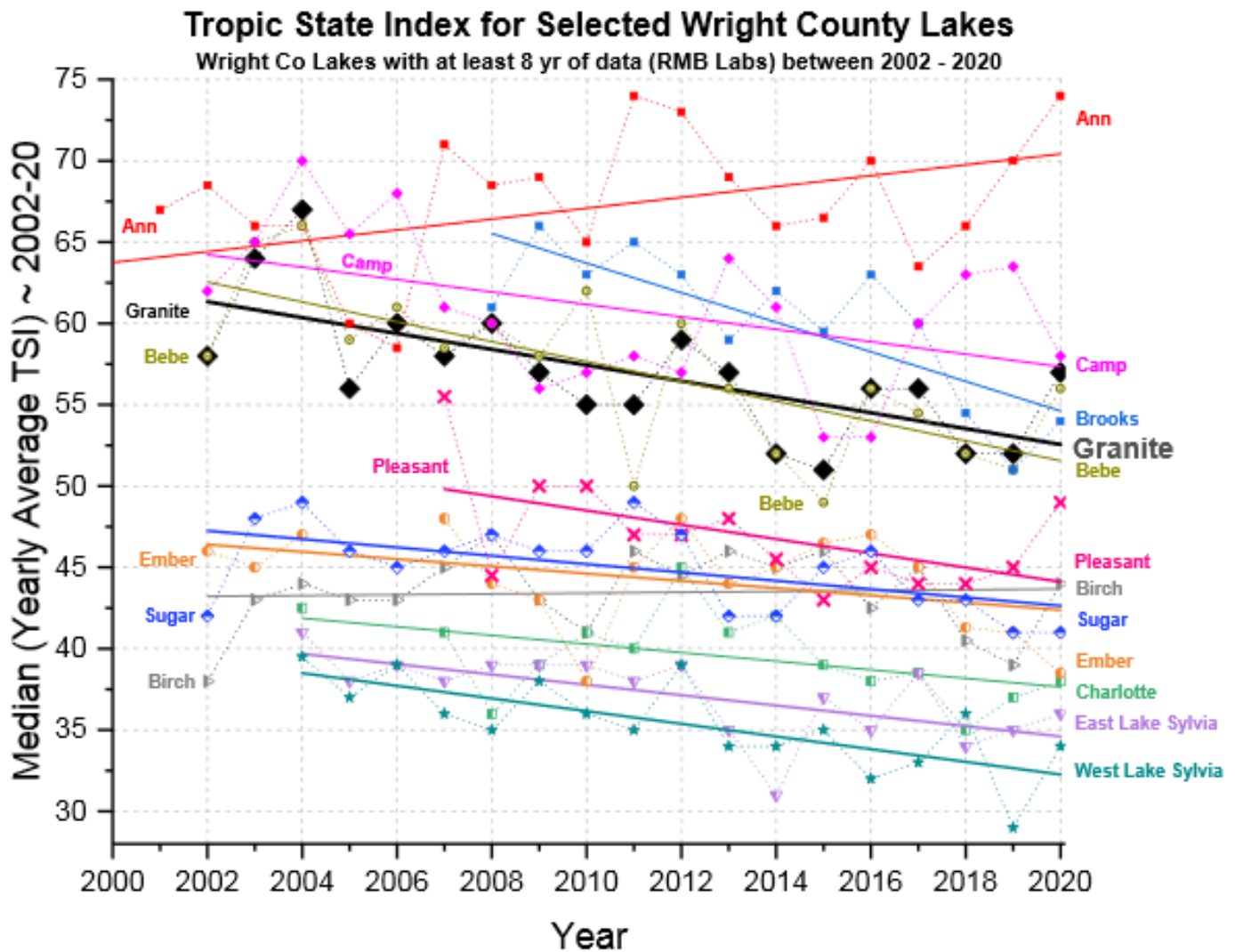
When you look at Pete's chart, you might be tempted to think "*Granite is stuck in the middle of the pack*" or "*Granite's black line didn't improve that much*". Let me try to address these thoughts:

First as Pete says, comparing lakes is not a fair apples to apples comparison. There are so many factors that impact lake water quality. Sylvia for example is larger, deeper, and at least partially spring fed. That is just some of the reasons Granite will never match Sylvia on this chart.

Next, if you look at Granite's black line of improvement and think "*that is not much improvement*". Please consider this:

1. Granite improved by roughly 16% in going from an approx avg score of 62 down to 52! That is huge!
2. But consider this, if we had done nothing Granite black line would likely have gone up instead of down as all of those sediments and run-offs poured into Granite Lake unchecked. Our black line might look more like Lake Ann and our score would likely be about 72 today. **From this point of view, the Granite Lake watershed work has improved our water quality by a whopping 32%!!**

This progress would not have been possible without your support, both financial and the physical labor that many of you have contributed as well as our tremendous partnership with Wright County Soil and Water and the land owners. Thank You All!



How can I help improve water quality?

1. **We need volunteers** to monitor the lake quality and collect samples for Wright County Soil and Water. This only takes a short time to take Secchi depth readings and collect samples that then must be delivered to Wright County Office. Jerry Jones and Dave Holmgren have been doing this activity and are looking to pass the torch to at least one new volunteer in 2021. **If interested please let me know.**
2. Continue to monitor your own septic systems. Run-off from septic systems can be one of the largest contributing sources if they are not operating properly, regular maintenance will insure this is not a problem.
3. Manage rain run-off on your own property – if possible consider a natural barrier between your open lawn and the lake. Lawns are poor at filtering out contaminants in runoff water. Lawn fertilizers and herbicides often wash into the lake and degrade water quality and contribute to algae and weed growth. Please consider skipping the fertilizer if possible.

Granite Lake Park

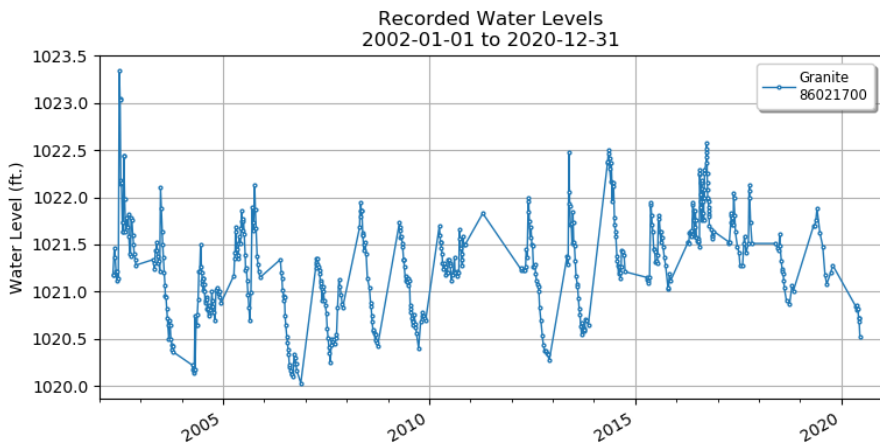


We all love Granite Lake Park!

And what an amazing gift it is! Our association pays only a \$10 annual lease fee and a few gallons of gas for the lawnmower and in return we get to enjoy this incredible park! I am so excited that we plan to hold our annual lake association in this wonderful location this year!

It continues to be an outstanding benefit to our Granite Lake Watershed Association. The park would not be possible without the generosity of Jim and Mary Schwebel and also the on-going efforts of our Park Ranger, Tim Waldschmidt! There are too many on-going maintenance tasks to list them all here. However, a few things that Tim does himself or coordinates with others include: lawn mowing, installation and removal of docks and other seasonal equipment, mosquito treatments, electricity payments, swimming beach treatment, removal of fallen trees, etc. Of course, Tim would be the first to point out that thanks should go out to all who lend a hand to help out when possible. Please consider volunteering your time to help mowing the lawn or seasonal install/removal of dock, picnic tables etc. Thank you to Tim and all who have volunteered in the past!

Water Level



The above graph provides a little more information on the lake level. We do not have consistent lake level data going back much further than this, but we do have some additional information:

- Photo from the 80's showing dry ground on our current "island" of cattails.
- A 1954 film showing large sandy beaches at what is today Granite Lake Park.
- Lowest lake level reading on record is 1020.03 ft above sea level taken on 11/30/2006.
- 1020.3 ft on 12/18/1984
- 1020.62 ft on 8/27/1971
- Culvert requirement for a setting of 1019.9 feet above sea level has remained unchanged since 1971.
- A survey in 2017 recorded a culvert setting of 1019.5 and noted the culvert was showing signs of deterioration.
- The culvert was recently replaced and set at 1019.9.
- The culvert has been checked multiple times this past summer/fall with the most recent reading taken on Saturday 10/10/2020. All readings confirm the culvert is set correctly and working as expected.

New ways to Donate!



Please send donations and dues to:
Dave Holmgren
2600 County Road 5 NW
Annandale, MN 55302

Or use Venmo **@Granite-Lake-Annandale**
 or PayPal

This is very exciting! Gretchen Quiggle and Dave Holmgren have worked very hard to set up our Granite Lake Watershed Association to receive payment via Venmo and PayPal. We hope this convenience makes it easier for everyone to contribute. We will of course continue to accept payment via check as well.

Also, please note there is a small fee associated with collecting payments through these apps and we encourage you to consider covering the cost of that fee so that the association does not need to absorb this additional cost. Follow this link for more details:

<https://minnesotawaters.org/granitelakewatershed/annual-dues-and-donations/>

Please Donate to Fight Aquatic Invasive Species!

List of 2020 Aquatic Invasive Species Fund Donations (As of March 18, 2021)

Badger	\$40	Gunderson	\$100	Mattson	\$940	Stevens	\$40
Bainey	\$100	Hackenmueller	\$40	Nelson	\$60	SUCHY	\$40
Bellows	\$100	Henderson	\$40	Nelson	\$40	Tracy	\$30
Coon	\$100	Holmgren	\$100	Oppegaard	\$50	Waldschmidt	\$100
Evenson	\$40	Marchel/Hamersley	\$80	Pesheck	\$200	Welter	\$40
Fitzhenry	\$100	Jones	\$50	Peterson	\$40	Wengatz	\$500
Fleming	\$40	Kaufhold	\$40	Poe	\$40	Wentzel	\$200
Foss	\$40	Knutson	\$200	Quiggle	\$40	WILDE	\$100
Gerlach	\$40	Koltjes	\$100	Robinson	\$140		
Gohl *	\$200	Maikkula *	\$40	Schwebel	\$500		

List of 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species Fund Donations: (As of Mar 18, 2021)

Bainey	\$100	Fleming	\$40	Holmgren	\$100	Stevens	\$40
Coon	\$100	Hackenmueller	\$40	Koltjes	\$300		

Annual Dues: \$60.00

Just a reminder, being current with your annual dues is required to use Granite Lake Park. And remember, it is never too late to pay for previous years. Not sure, please contact Dave.

List of 2020 Dues Paid: (As of Mar 18, 2021)

Badger	\$60	Gohl	\$60	Knutson	\$100	Quiggle	\$60
Bainey	\$100	Grindle	\$60	Koltjes	\$60	Robinson	\$60
Bellows	\$100	Gunderson	\$60	Looft	\$60	Schwebel	\$60
Barker	\$60	Gunderson	\$60	Mackie	\$60	Sloan	\$60
Class	\$60	Hackenmueller	\$60	Maikkula	\$60	Stevens	\$60
Coon	\$60	Henderson	\$60	Mattila	\$60	Suchy	\$60
Evenson	\$60	Hammer	\$60	Mattson	\$60	Tracy	\$60
Fischer	\$60	Hecksel	\$60	Nelson	\$60	Waldschmidt	\$100
Fitzhenry	\$60	Holmgren	\$60	Nelson	\$60	Welter	\$60
Fleming	\$60	Marchel/Hamersley	\$120	Oppegaard	\$60	Wengatz	\$120
Foss	\$60	Jones	\$60	Pesheck	\$100	Wentzel	\$60
Gerlach	\$60	Kaskinen	\$60	Peterson	\$60	Wilde	\$60
Gerlach	\$60	Kaufhold	\$60	Poe	\$60		

List of 2021 Dues Paid: (As of Mar 18, 2021)

Bainey	\$100	Hackenmueller	\$60	Koltjes	\$60		
Coon	\$60	Hecksel	\$60	Looft	\$60		
Fleming	\$60	Holmgren	\$60	Mackie	\$120		

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.

Friends of the Association (\$50 Annual Donation)



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