

# 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

## June 2021 Newsletter

### Dates to Remember

Event	Date/Time	Location
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade	12:00 Noon on July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Granite Lake
Granite Lake Annual Meeting	August 28 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am (Tentative)	Granite Lake Park

### Hello Granite Lake Neighbors!

June is almost gone which means it is time to plan for our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade. Again this year, decorate your boat to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and join us for a parade as we circle the lake together!

We are still **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.

The lake level continues to be the most discussed topic. As shared in our last newsletter, we continue to stay in touch with Wright County Soil and Water about this and they report the culvert under County Road 5 is set at the correct level.

Just a reminder that we changed our email address back in April: [granitelakewatershed93@gmail.com](mailto:granitelakewatershed93@gmail.com)  
Please feel free to contact us via this email.

*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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>. In previous years, the treatment dates have ranged from June 17<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

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. Our lake survey was delayed a bit this year because FreshWater Scientific needed to wait for the Curly Leaf to die down before it could get an accurate survey of the milfoil. We just received the results and will be sharing with all of you very soon. Just need time to pull it together and get the board's recommendation.

## 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](mailto: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.

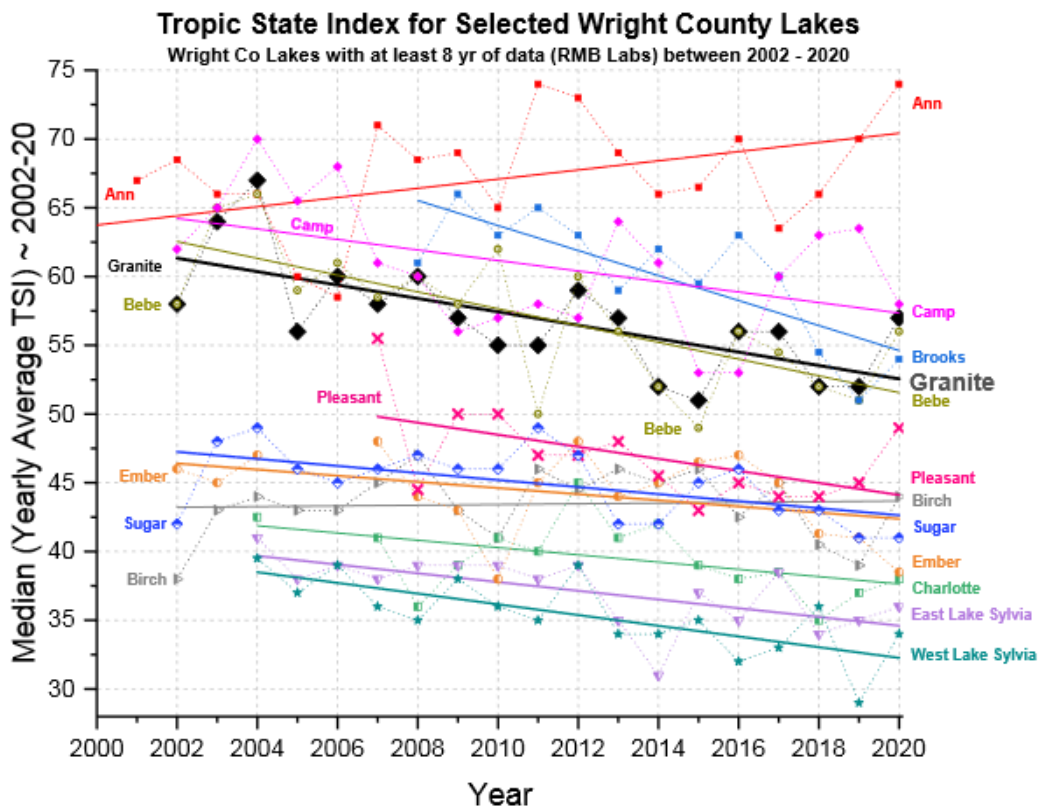
I began studying Granite's lake monitoring data in 2008. RMB Labs maintains a [database](#) of lake monitoring data and in ~2012 I began to compare Granite's data with similar nearby lakes. By early 2017 (using data from 2002-16) Granite looked to be **among the best** relative to other nearby eutrophic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

Pete's chart is good hard data that tells a very successful story. But equally important is the word of the experts from Wright County Soil and Water. In a recent meeting with Luke and Dan from Wright County Soil and Water, they remarked how impressive it is that Granite Lake is one of the few lakes in the area that is actually improving in water quality. These guys are the professionals, they work with all the surrounding lakes and to hear them echo what our data is showing us is really great news!

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

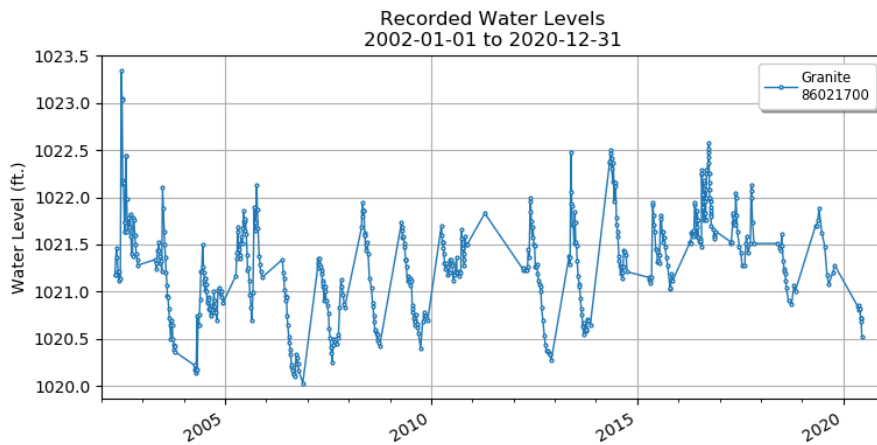


We all love Granite Lake Park!

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.
- **Most recent reading: 1020.38 ft on 6/14/2021**

## 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 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species Fund Donations: (As of June 20, 2021)

Badger	\$40	Fleming	\$40	Maikkula	\$40	Poe	\$40
Bainey	\$100	Foss	\$40	Mattson	\$1,040	Quiggle	\$50
BROWN	\$40	Gohl	\$304	McPherson	\$40	Robinson	\$140
Bellows	\$100	Hackenmueller	\$40	McClenathan	\$100	Stevens	\$140
CRYSTALS	\$40	Holmgren	\$100	Nelson	\$40	Suchy	\$40
Coon	\$100	Jones	\$100	Nelson	\$38	Tracy	\$40
Evenson	\$40	Knutson	\$240	Kuntz	\$100	Waldschmidt	\$100
Fitzhenry	\$100	Koltes	\$300	Pesheck	\$200	Wilde	\$100

### 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 2021 Dues Paid: (As of June 20, 2021)

Badger	\$60	Gohl	\$60	Mattson	\$60	Robinson	\$60
Bainey	\$100	Hackenmueller	\$60	McPherson	\$60	Sloan	\$60
BROWN	\$60	Hammer	\$60	McClenathan	\$60	Stevens	\$60
Bellows	\$100	Hayes	\$60	Meyer	\$60	Suchy	\$60
CRYSTALS	\$60	Hecksel	\$60	Nanoff	\$60	Tracy	\$60
Class	\$60	Henry	\$180	Nelson	\$60	Waldschmidt	\$100
Coon	\$60	Holmgren	\$60	Nelson	\$60	Wilde	\$60
Evenson	\$60	Jones	\$60	Kuntz	\$120		
Fischer	\$60	Knutson	\$60	Parady	\$60	Schwebel	\$5,000
Fitzhenry	\$60	Koltes	\$60	Pesheck	\$100		
Fleming	\$60	Looft	\$60	Poe	\$60		
Foss	\$60	Mackie	\$120	Prescott	\$60		
Gerlach	\$60	Maikkula	\$60	Quiggle	\$60		

## **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)**



#### **The Law Firm of Schwebel, Goetz & Sieben**

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