



Gleason Lake Improvement Association  
1299 Black Oaks Ct.  
Plymouth, MN 55447

*Your curb is a shoreline!*

Gleason Lake Improvement Association

## Gleason Lake Notes

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Produced in cooperation with the City of Plymouth—Thank you!

### What's your watershed address?



**Everyone is part of a Watershed.** A watershed is created by the flow of water within its basin.

We are part of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and are also part of the Gleason Lake watershed and it's sub-watershed. Our Gleason Lake watershed is bordered by 101 on the west, Vicksburg on the east, 394 on the south and

slightly north of highway 55 on the north. All of our waters flow through the Glenbrook area and Gleason Lake Creek, under Wayzata shopping center and into Wayzata Bay. From there, it moves through Gray's Bay, into Minnehaha Creek and onward to the Mississippi. The Gulf of Mexico is the eventual destination.

### The incredible beauty of Gleason Lake

We have had a glorious fall with memorable sunsets and glorious lake views.

Our whole wooded area with the Luce Line Trail, the bridge, the many wetlands and trails is very special.

We invite you to share your stories or wildlife sightings for our next newsletter.



**Gleason Lake watershed**  
Positive changes made by homeowners throughout the watershed can have a significant impact for the benefit of the lake. Some of those positive changes are highlighted on page 3.



# Gleason Lake Improvement Association Gleason Lake Notes

November, 2007

## Message from the Board President

### Take a tour!

**Page 2** - See the changes in your Lake and Watershed by GLIA and Partners

### Find your watershed address

**Page 4** - View of the Gleason Lake watershed

### Dick Gray honored

**Page 3** - G.L.I.A. member receives Watershed Hero Award.

### Member survey, exotics, meet the board and more...

**Page 3** - Your input is sought.

Your Gleason Lake Improvement Association consists of a seasoned Board of Directors who volunteer their time and talent. We made some real progress this year and wish to thank you for your support that has helped make this possible.

### Shallow Waters!

Perhaps some of you question why with a 200 member organization, an active Board of Directors and strong vital partners, we cannot achieve a clear lake free of exotic weeds.

Much has been written about shallow lakes. Gleason Lake is about 16 feet at its deepest point and almost 100% littoral. (Where vegetation breaks the surface)

Pre-European settlement, the lake was healthy with a phosphorous reading of 24 parts per billion.

Now, with development and large run-off, our phosphorous level is approximately 125 parts per billion. The Pollution Control Agency would like us to achieve a reading of 60 parts per billion.

### Two ways to reduce the nutrient content in the lake:

1. Treatment to our sub-watershed and improvement to water coming into the lake, and

2. In-lake treatment.

Elsewhere in this letter you will see the  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Meet our Environmental Ambassadors

The fourth grade class of Gleason Lake Elementary School toured the nature garden and wetlands with the school naturalist, Marleane Callaghan. They saw the erosion and sludge entering the lake.

Their class formed focus groups, brainstormed environmental ideas. They met with a publicist who guided them through successful marketing ideas. Five students stayed with the project. They designed Table Tents with environmental messages. They visited 12 restaurants and were able to install their table tents into five. The students, now in sixth grade, have been honored by the City of Plymouth as Environmental Champions of the year, written up in many area papers, and installed on the GLIA Board as non-voting members. At the end of October, they were honored by the MCWD with a Youth Naturalist Award.

They have attended many Plymouth functions with Woody, the Wood Duck and

hosted environmental games for education.

The funding for this project, a Cynthia Kreig grant from MCWD, allowed funds to buy Field Glasses and Binoculars for the students' nature walks. It also provided funds for us to partner with the City of Plymouth to restore the wetlands and build a small holding pond.

Woody, the Gleason Lake Wood Duck was created by Jim Jahoda, a GLIA board member and Kingswood resident.



**Congratulations to our Environmental Ambassadors**



## Tour the Gleason Lake watershed



1.\* The " Big Dig"! Our new holding pond at Black Oaks Crt. N. created to reduce phosphorous entering the lake. Landscaping by Prairie Restoration. We thank MCWD for their contribution of \$287,235.00.



2. The Rain Garden in the parking lot next to the Luce Line Trail. Built in 2002. GLIA in partnership with the Metropolitan Council.

3.\* The nature garden at Gleason Lake Elementary.

Wetland restoration and pond cleaning prevent erosion and filter water running into our lake. Work done by the City of Plymouth as part of a Cynthia Kreig Grant to GLIA from MCWD.

4.\* The ponding at the Wayzata Middle School. Dubbed " Lake Reilly" by students and staff. This will hold and filter stormwater before it enters our lake. This pond was enlarged from the school plan in conjunction with the ice arena Former Board member Ken Campbell successfully negotiated this with the School Board.

5.\* The Creek repair from 22nd to 24th Ave. North. A beautiful area restored by the City of Plymouth with a GLIA grant from BWSR.

\* All part of our Lake Management plan which was a grant from BWSR.

### Acronym Guide

#### BWSR

Board of Water and Soil Resources

#### DNR

Department of Natural Resources

#### GLIA

Gleason Lake Improvement Association

#### MCWD

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

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many things we are doing in the watershed to clean the water before it enters the lake. These strategies include ponding, infiltration, wetland restoration, filtering, diversion, and, very importantly, Best Management Practices (BMP'S) by lake-shore owners and all of the property owners in our watershed. The latter strategy requires continual education on all of our parts.

For **in-lake work**, there are very few tools for shallow lakes. The best one available, but not widely tested, is the three year treatment for exotic weeds with low dosage herbicides. In Gleason Lake we have completed our first year in treating curlyleaf pondweed. This treatment stops the growth of this

## Exotic Species

An exotic plant or animal species is identified as anything which came into the United States without its control factor. Today, we are mainly concerned with Eurasian milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed in the water and Buckthorn and purple loosestrife on the land. There are other threats, like zebra mussels, very close on the horizon.

It is vital for all of us to be vigilant and good stewards.

Boats moving from one lake to another, need to be cleaned thoroughly.

### Eurasian milfoil

Thanks to the vigilance of board member Lee Wallace, we have been able to curtail and manage the Eurasian milfoil plant in our lake. Every year the association has a survey, costing \$500, to identify any plants. When found, they are chemically treated and eradicated. Since it was first found in our lake, 8 years ago, we have managed, with your donations, to control this weed. ( You may have observed other area lakes covered with a late summer brown weed. We sympathize with their plight and are thankful we have not had heavy infestations.



invasive weed before it generates turions, (seeds), and dramatically reduces the weed mass and future growth. We are fortunate in having the expertise of the DNR and the scientific approach and funding of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District in this three year project. The first year has been deemed very successful and studies of the effect on native weeds, water quality and fish population are proceeding. We appreciate the contributions to this effort from all of you.

This three year effort, added to the ponding, creek repair, wetland restoration and your efforts and cooperation with BMP's should move us toward **a healthier lake for people, fish and wildlife.**

## On the GLIA two-year agenda

1.The intense launching of an **educational campaign, Best management Practices and "Keep your First Inch of Rain** for our association members and the homes in our Gleason Lake Watershed.

2. The continuation of our **in-lake Curley Leaf Pond Weed** treatment with continued monitoring and scientific study of the lake and its eco system.

3. **Measuring for phosphorous reduction.** We will be studying the phosphorous level as it enters and leaves the lake to see how our various ponds and wetland restorations are working toward reduction.

4. **Pond Cleaning.** Partnering with the City of Plymouth, we will be cleaning the pond off of Dunkirk Ln. at 19th Ave.

5. We will continue having a booth at the Plymouth Yard and Garden Expo and at the Environmental Fair when they are in our watershed.

6. We will focus on the acres in the *Wayzata/Minnetonka* area of our lake to observe the in-flow and wetland buffers.

7.Following our second generation Lake Management plan, we will be looking at other wetland restorations. In our plans with MCWD are the large wetlands south of the new shopping center off of Vicksburg and 55.

## Year one CLP treatment a success

As you know, we began a three year in-lake treatment for our most invasive weed, curlyleaf pondweed (CLP). With pledges from many of you, the expertise of the DNR and the cooperation of the MCWD we were able to launch this program. The watershed district is using this opportunity to launch a scientific study on the effect of the low dosage herbicide on native vegetation, fish and the ecosystem.

After this spring's treatment the lake has been beautiful throughout the year.

Some areas have experienced heavy growth of lily pads which are troublesome but not thought to be connected to this three year treatment.

During this scientific test, this will be the only chemical treatment permitted on the lake.

## Best Management Practices

**Keep your first inch of rainfall. Here's how.**

It is a somewhat startling thought but the rain that falls onto your property is **YOURS and you need to plan a way to keep it.** This can be accomplished by controlling the drainage off of your roof, installing cisterns or rain barrels, creating infiltration or diversion and many other ways. You will be hearing a great deal about this in the next months and information is readily available to you from GLIA, the City or your Watershed. We drain over 3700 acres in our Gleason Lake Watershed. This is a household to household challenge and you have the **POWER OF ONE!**

## Member survey

In a separate mailing, you have or will receive a survey designed to help us understand the environmental priorities of our members. Enclosed in the survey will be complimentary postcards with special views of Gleason Lake. The pictures are from the photographic collection of Don Patterson, former GLIA president and Board member..

**Please fill-out and return your survey promptly. We need your help.** You'll find some special drawings in the survey along with the complimentary postcards.

## Our Mailing List

Our mailing list has been updated by our membership chairman, John Cochrane.

We have a new computer program and John thinks we are close to having all of our members and friends with addresses, ready to increase our ongoing communication with each of you.

If you wish any change in your current listing, please contact John by email.

## Good news and not so good news

We were a pristine lake in the 1850's with a phosphorus reading of 24 parts per billion. Phosphorus readings now average 125 parts per billion. The goal is to reach 60 parts per billion.

All of our many projects are designed to reduce the amount of phosphorous and other excessive nutrients entering or in the lake.

## Dick Gray Honored!

Dick Gray, a GLIA Member and Kingswood Home owner has received honors from the **Gray Freshwater Institute**, which he founded with Richard Caldecutt and from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District for 40 years of dedication to Freshwater. Dick and Dick, received a **WATERSHED HEROS AWARD** at the 40th Anniversary event of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

## Register on our web site

[www.gleasonlake.org](http://www.gleasonlake.org) is our website, created and maintained by **Marc Agar, board member, weed chairman and web site master.** It is important for us to have all of our members signed on. It is a superb way for you to keep posted on the association events.