

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

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GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As I write this letter I am amazed that four years have gone by since we started the Watershed Association. A lot of work has been completed during that time and I would like to thank everyone in the Association for their support. I have been blessed with a great Board of Directors and they deserve much of the credit for the successful years we have completed. This year over 600 hours of volunteer work have been expended on Jessie Lake Watershed Association (JLWA) projects as part of the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant. We also need to remind ourselves how fortunate we are in these efforts to have such great partners as the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ICSWCD), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), U. S. Forest Service (USFS), and the University of Minnesota (U of M). This year we also had staff from the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) and the USFS Research Station involved. An update on the CWP project can be found in a following article.

Previously, I have mentioned that the results of the current work will provide the basis for future planning and to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan. Additionally, we met this summer with the DNR fisheries staff to provide input on the development of management plans for the lakes in our watershed. Through our involvement in the Itasca Coalition of Lakes Association (ICOLA) we also had input on the new Itasca County comprehensive land use plan that includes a new zoning ordinance and an updated water plan. Earlier we were contacted as the USFS was working on a new plan for the Chippewa National Forest, which also impacts what happens in our watershed. Maintaining our awareness of all these plans that are underway is an important part of what our Association can do to sustain the future of our valuable natural resources. Once the evaluation of our CWP data is completed we should have some recommendations on what options we have available to us for maintaining or improving the water quality of our lakes and if warranted we will apply for a Phase II grant.

At the spring meeting we discussed the possibility of increasing the dues for our Association since we are currently close to breaking even with expenses and income. Our major expense is for printing and mailing the newsletter, which is sent to all shoreline property owners. Since those that pay dues support the total cost we considered reducing the mailing to one newsletter to non-members. This option was tabled and it was decided to reduce our expenses this year by eliminating beaver trapping. Another means of increasing income that is used by other lake associations is to solicit contributions above the regular dues. Those who do not have the time, or are unable to work on projects for the Association may still help by contributing additional funds. In your next dues notice you will see an option for these donations and if sufficient funds are contributed we will continue with the present mailing practice. Many of us feel this communication about the watershed is important for everyone to read, so hopefully, we will see an increase in both membership and contributions.

I hope you all have a great Holiday Season and a prosperous, healthy New Year. If you have any comments or suggestions for new projects please write a note or contact me via email (haroldg@cpinternet.com), as we are always interested in what you think is important for our Association.

ANNUAL MEETING

President Harold Goetzman welcomed the 51 property owners who attended the September 1 meeting and introduced the officers and directors. He reviewed the tragic drowning of member Lyle Zweber that occurred in Jessie Lake and reminded members to be careful when boating.

Bill Nelson read the minutes of the spring meeting and after Harold made a correction regarding the cost of sending the newsletter to members, the minutes were approved.

Neil Gustafson provided an amended Treasurer's Report for last spring as well as for September 1, 2001. Receipts since May 26 were \$60 and expenses \$220.55 leaving a present balance of \$1,812.65. The report was approved as presented.

Jim Anderson stated the Association has 76 members out of 139 lakeshore property owners in the watershed. Eight property owners joined for their first time this year and eight previous members have failed to pay this year's dues.

Jim Anderson reported he counted nine adult loons on Jessie Lake with one pair raising a single chick. Harold mentioned that to increase loon reproduction another nesting platform should be constructed and placed in the lake next spring.

Bill Nelson reported the current water level of Jessie Lake is 1324.4 which is a foot below the Ordinary High Water Level and about 18-inches lower than the level was on May 1. For anyone interested in obtaining the water levels they can go to the DNR Division of Waters web page. By using the code for Jessie Lake, 310786, the information can be rapidly accessed. (The code number for Spring Lake is 310789, Little Spring Lake is 310797, and Peterson Lake is 310791). The same code number can be used at the web site for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to obtain water quality data.

Harold reviewed the status of the CWP project and the water quality monitoring that has been conducted on all the lakes in the watershed this summer. Preliminary modeling of the data for Jessie Lake indicates a major source of phosphorus in the lake is from bottom sediments recycling into the water column. The cores taken last spring of the bottom sediments for the paleolimnology study only included the period back to 1920 so additional sampling will be done this fall to ensure that the period back to 1850 will be covered. The equipment and marker buoy installed in Jessie Lake by the U of M in early August to monitor water temperature and currents was removed September 4. Harold is presently summarizing the results of the septic survey which was sent to property owners last spring. A total of 93 households responded to the survey. The Associations Directors recently voted not to apply for a Phase II grant from the MPCA until all the past water quality data have been analyzed.

Harold mentioned that anyone that is interested could hike Spring Creek and remove any debris or fallen trees that could block fish migration.

The Association will not hire a beaver trapper this fall, but if anyone would be interested in trapping beaver the Association would purchase traps for them and if necessary provide training.

Harold reviewed the results of a meeting with staff from the Fisheries Office of the DNR pertaining to developing fisheries management plans for the lakes in the watershed. The results of this meeting are presented in this newsletter in an article by Karl Koller.

Jim reviewed the activities of the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) during the recent legislative session. Jim also reported that the MLA has received a grant for establishing web sites for lake associations and we plan to have a web site for the JLWA by the first of the year.

Jim continues to work on developing a map showing lakeshore property ownership in the watershed. He has identified all the owners of property on the west side of Jessie Lake and asked anyone in the audience who was familiar with owners on the east side of the lake to see

him after the meeting to identify owners on the east side. Gloria Dallas is identifying the owners on Peterson Lake.

Harold reported that the present officers have volunteered to serve another year. Ed Bick's term as a Director expires and Roger Van Gorp has agreed to serve in this position. The slate of officers and Directors was unanimously approved. Ed's service as a director for the past four years has been greatly appreciated and was acknowledged by Harold and the members.

Sarah Nelson mentioned that the Bowstring Store had provided the hot dogs and buns for the Potluck and requested that members thank Randy Harju when they are in the store. Harold adjourned the meeting at noon and the attendees enjoyed the potluck and visiting with their neighbors.

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR

Roger Van Gorp My wife Nancy and I moved to our home on Jessie Lake June 1, 2001 after being weekend occupants for 1-1/2 years. We have lived several places with our longest residence being in the Kansas City area where I was vice-president of the North Region for Farmland Industries before moving to Minneapolis as President and General Manager of Atwood, a grain brokerage firm. Our two grown sons still reside in the Kansas City area. After deciding to make a life-style change we now live here full-time and enjoy the life "up north". We are anxious to work keeping Jessie Lake the quality fishing lake it has been in the past.

CWP GRANT - UPDATE

By Harold Goetzman

This year we completed the second year of the work on the CWP grant and efforts are now underway to evaluate the information generated and make recommendations for the future. Since the water quality data had not been analyzed prior to the October application deadline a Phase II grant was not submitted. A meeting of all the contributors was held recently and each group gave a progress report. A brief summary of these reports follows.

JLWA-The Association volunteers expended over 600 hours on various activities in the watershed including planning, habitat improvement, walleye spawning monitoring, water sampling, developing a historical review, watershed property mapping, and completing a septic survey. The septic survey was mailed to 139 property owners in the watershed and 93 were returned, or 67%. This is a very high level of returns and shows people have an interest in lake

stewardship. The results were tabulated and the following is a summary of some of the information obtained. In general, over 50% of the systems are less than 10 years old and about 80% would probably meet the current code. A fair number still have privies, which are acceptable if they are built according to code. Since the survey at least 8 other systems have been updated.

Septic System Type	%
A - Septic Tank and Drainfield	58.1
B - Cesspool	2.2
C - Septic Tank and Seepage Drywell	5.4
D - Privy	15.1
E - Septic Tank/Drywell and Drainfield	9.7
F - Direct Discharge to land	0
G - Holding Tank	3.2

Dwelling	%
Seasonal	59.1
Permanent	32.2
None	8.6

System Age	%
0-5 Years	30.5
6-10 Years	20.7
11-20 Years	17.1
+20 Years	31.7

Distance to Water	%
100-150 ft	46.6
150-250 ft	23.3
+250 ft	30.1

ICSWCD -The water quality samples collected this year are still being analyzed and efforts are being made to develop the water and nutrient balances for the past years. The ICSWCD is responsible for coordination of all the information and administration of the project.

USFS -The Forest Service collected water samples on the three upper lakes in the watershed and will assist with data organization and evaluation relating to the lake modeling. Based on Secchi Disk readings all four lakes have been fairly stable in water quality the past three years. In addition, the Forestry Research Station based on information collected at the Marcell Experimental Forest conducted a study on water and phosphorus transport in the watershed. This will be useful in the modeling of the lake.

Paleolimnology - Diatom analysis and radioisotope dating on the 40-cm core taken in March indicated only 80 years were represented. A longer core was taken in early November to obtain information back 150 years and that core is now being analyzed.

U of M - Dr. Miki Hondzo and Dr. Hong Wang reported the information they obtained relating to the benthic boundary mixing and phosphorus dynamics. This data shows the effect of phosphorus cycling in and out of the bottom sediment. Their model indicates this nutrient loading plays a significant role in the green algae blooms taking place in Jessie Lake during late summer.

HISTORY OF FISH STOCKING IN THE WATERSHED

By Bill Nelson

I recently obtained the records of fish stocked in the four major lakes in the Jessie Lake Watershed from Karl Koller, Fisheries Specialist for the DNR. I was surprised to learn that stocking dates back to 1912, and that fish have also been removed: in 1944 and 1945, 1,825 pounds of bullheads and in 1950, 9,000 pounds of perch were removed from Jessie Lake.

Although carp have never been stocked some other unexpected species have been released. For example, in Little Spring Lake 24,700 rainbow trout fingerlings, 1,000 brown trout fingerlings and 10 cans of brown trout fry were stocked between 1916 and 1944. During these early years unknown numbers of fish fry were commonly placed in cream cans and loaded on railroad cars for transportation to lakes where they were released. From 1916 to 1944, 1,600 largemouth bass fingerlings and 1,750,000 walleye fry were also stocked in Little Spring Lake. In Spring Lake about 500 largemouth bass fingerlings were stocked annually during the 1940's. In 1959, 37,332 walleye fingerlings and in 1962, 98 northern pike fingerlings were stocked in Spring Lake. Stocking was then discontinued in Little Spring and Spring lakes because they do not have a public access.

Fish stocking in Peterson Lake did not begin until 1954 and was restricted to warm water species, Table 1. Fingerling largemouth bass were the most common species released with adult

Table 1. The number of fingerling (fgl), yearling (yrl), and adult fish stocked in Peterson Lake.

YEAR	LM BASS		BLACK CRAPPIE		BLUEGILL	
	NUMBER	SIZE	NUMBER	SIZE	NUMBER	SIZE
1954	7,800	FGL				
1957	15,000	FGL				
1958	11,600	FGL				
1961	9,990	FGL				
1963	1,014	FGL				
1978	308	YRL				
1986	787	FGL+YRL				
1996	20	ADULT	300	ADULT	275	ADULT

black crappies and bluegills also being stocked after the lake winterkilled during the winter of 1995-96.

The most extensive fish stocking in the watershed has occurred in Jessie Lake. From 1912 to 1946, 24 cans of lake trout fry, 8,060 largemouth bass, 300 crappies, and 300 bluegill fingerlings, and 300,000 northern pike and 12,555,000 walleye fry were released. No stocking occurred from 1947 through 1951 and since 1952 only walleye and northern pike have been released. Changes in walleye stocking policy with time are evident in Table 2. In the 1950's and early 1960's walleye fingerlings were stocked. Then from 1966 through 1977 walleye fry

Table 2. The number of fry, fingerling (fgl), yearling (yrl), and adult (ad) fish stocked in Jessie Lake, 1912-99.

YEAR	WALLEYE		N. PIKE		YEAR	WALLEYE		N. PIKE	
	NUMBER	SIZE	NUMBER	SIZE		NUMBER	SIZE	NUMBER	SIZE
1952	86,160	FGL			1973	1,000,000	FRY		
1955	88,400	FGL			1977	2,000,000	FRY		
1958	52,440	FGL			1977	17,035	FGL		
1960			1,988	YRL	1978	12,264	FGL		
1960			77	AD	1979	9,288	FGL		
1961	80,136	FGL			1981	1,800,000	FRY		
1963			820	FGL	1983	1,800,000	FRY	3,210	YRL
1964	63,202	FGL	25	AD	1983	56	YRL	5	AD
1965			1,008	FGL	1985	1,800,000	FRY		
1966	2,000,000	FRY			1987	1,800,000	FRY		
1967	2,000,000	FRY			1989	1,800,000	FRY		
1968	2,000,000	FRY			1991	1,800,000	FRY		
1970	1,000,000	FRY			1993	1,800,000	FRY		
1971	2,000,000	FRY			1996	1,592,850	FRY		
1972	1,000,000	FRY			1999	1,750,000	FRY		

were released almost annually but the DNR then returned to stocking walleye fingerlings annually from 1977 through 1979. Since 1981 the DNR discontinued fingerling stocking and has only released fry. Besides stocking smaller walleyes in Jessie Lake the DNR was stocking them at three-year intervals rather than in alternate years as they did from 1983 through 1993.

WHAT DOES THE DNR HAVE PLANNED FOR YOUR LAKES?

By Karl Koller, DNR Fisheries Specialist

One of the main functions the DNR Fisheries Division performs is to assess fish populations and to develop management plans for each lake. In a past newsletter, I described our techniques for assessing fish populations in lakes; we use gill nets and trap nets to capture fish so we can compare the average number of fish per net to previous assessments. This allows us to detect any changes in abundance of the various fish as well as evaluate our current management. We also look at lengths and weights of fish to determine their size ranges and collect scales and other bony parts to age fish. Aging allows us to determine how fast fish are growing and also determine what percent were born in years that were stocked versus years in which no stocking took place. From this, for species we stock, like walleye, we can estimate the relative contribution our stocking is making to the adult population versus what natural reproduction provides.

The next step in the fishery management process is to develop lake management plans. Individual lake management plans are the DNR's way of compiling and analyzing all the data that has been collected in the past. This information is used to make informed decisions on goals and proper management of the lake. We met with members of the Watershed Association Directors and a concerned angler earlier this summer to discuss goals and future management of Jessie Lake.

Prior to summarizing the outcome of our meeting, I want to cover a little history about what we know about the fish community in Jessie Lake and some of the information we use to make decisions on the best management for a given lake. Since walleye is the primary species we manage for, I will mainly focus on them at this time.

Jessie Lake supported an abundant walleye population in the 1950's despite very little stocking. Natural reproduction provided most of the walleye anglers caught. Historically there was a large spring spawning run of walleye up Spring Creek on the north end of the lake. As beaver dammed the stream, the run declined and the stream likely became wider and shallower resulting in degradation of the spawning habitat. By the 70's and 80's, the run had dwindled and we began to see less fish in our nets born in years in which we hadn't stocked, suggesting that stocking was beginning to replace natural reproduction as the main source of walleye in Jessie Lake. However, stocking was occurring frequently (every other year in most cases) so it was difficult to determine stockings importance. A recent study by the University of Minnesota suggests that stocking in a given year suppresses the number of walleye that survive the following year. Add to this the effects weather can have on survival of young walleye in a given year and since there is no way to distinguish between stocked and natural walleye born in a year, the picture became very murky. So after the 1993 assessment was completed, the DNR decided to reduce the frequency of walleye stocking to once every third year to better evaluate natural reproduction. In 1998 and 1999 the DNR worked with the JLWA to restore walleye spawning habitat in Spring Creek.

During our 1999 assessment, walleye were sampled at the highest rate ever seen in Jessie Lake and one of the highest rates observed in the Grand Rapids Area. Some of the likely reasons for this high walleye catch were high perch abundance and unusually low abundance of northern pike and black crappie, some of the known walleye competitors. (Perch are our best indicator of the amount of food available to walleye in a lake.) However, this is also not the first time that reducing stocking has been followed by increases in walleye abundance in lakes in the area. In fact, on Jessie Lake, some of the highest walleye catch rates were from assessments that were preceded by the least amount of stocking.

So how do we make a decision on future management? First we set a goal for how abundant we would like walleye to be in the lake. The current trend in the DNR is to set a high goal, which might not be maintainable over a long period of time, but can potentially be reached in several assessments. In discussing possible goals with members of the Watershed Association, it was decided that 12 walleye per gill net would be the goal. Out of nine assessments in the past, walleye have exceeded this abundance twice.

Next we needed to determine our stocking frequency. Citizens on the lake had expressed a valid concern that by stocking only once in three years, there was a risk that poor weather conditions in a stocked year could result in poor survival of stocked fish and therefore a big gap in years in which walleye were abundant. To avoid such a problem, one proposal was to sample young walleye in the fall with electrofishing to determine the survival of the walleye fry during stocked years. (Electrofishing is a technique in which an electrical current is passed through the water that temporarily stuns fish, allowing them to be netted.) If survival of those fish appeared to be poor, we would stock the lake again the following year. There were a few reasons that justified continuing to stock at a rate of once every three years; First, as mentioned earlier,

reduced stocking rates had not appeared to harm walleye abundance; Second, yellow perch abundance had declined by over 50% between 1993 and 1999 so there was likely less food available for walleye and increasing the number of predators could drive perch abundance lower; Third, by leaving larger gaps between stocked years, we could more easily identify naturally produced fish to determine if our spawning restoration project was successful on Spring Creek.

After a lively discussion on the various benefits of different stocking rates, it was decided that stocking frequency would be increased. Current political conditions in the state favor increasing stocking where possible and there are anglers who felt that an increase in stocking in Jessie Lake would create a more stable walleye fishery. So the current proposal calls for walleye fry stocking in two out of four years. The stocked years would be back-to-back, thus maintaining a two-year gap to better measure the amount of natural reproduction. The stocking rate will continue to be 1,800,000 fry. The first attempt to assess the success of this stocking plan will be in 2004 when we will conduct the next population assessment (although the subsequent assessment will probably provide a clearer picture).

As for the three other major lakes in the watershed, no specific management has yet been proposed at this time. Management plans will be written for these lakes in the next couple of years. While we will set goals for some fish species and determine a date to return to the lake to assess fish abundance, stocking will not be an option for either of the Spring Lakes since the DNR can not spend public funds to stock lakes without a public access. However, while Peterson Lake is not suited to produce walleye, if necessary, the DNR will continue its policy of stocking to re-establish native fish populations following winterkills. (Lake residents can help us by letting us know if they see large numbers of dead fish following ice-out.) And while Little Spring Lake won't be stocked, the clearing of debris and beaver dams in Spring Creek allows better movement of fish from Jessie Lake. There could also be a similar benefit if the stream could be cleared of obstructions all the way to Spring Lake. However, the DNR should be consulted before such an endeavor is attempted. Much of the debris in a stream is actually very beneficial so care must be taken to only remove obstructions to fish passage.

Finally, I would like to mention that once the first draft of the management plan is written, there will be opportunity for public comment. Watch for an article in the Grand Rapids Herald Review announcing the start of the comment period. We will also send a copy to the president, Harold Goetzman, so that members of the association can contact him if they want to see a copy as well. The comment period generally extends for 30 days.

ICOLA UPDATE

By Harold Goetzman

The JLWA is a member of the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) that meets monthly in Grand Rapids. Currently, there are over 30 lake associations in Itasca County and most of them are members of the coalition. This group allows for the exchange of ideas and information between the various lake associations in the county. As a cooperative unit they represent lakeshore property owners at the county level and work together to protect the future of Itasca County lakes. The ICOLA has worked with the county on lakeshore development issues and encourages improved enforcement of the current zoning regulations. Educational seminars such as the one last year on exotic species are an important part of the ICOLA mission as well as outreach to help other lakes form new associations.

This year the ICOLA will be assisting in revising the county water plan and working on implementation of the comprehensive land use plan. A grant from the DNR will provide funds to produce an informational booklet that will be sent to all county lakeshore owners. Another grant will be used to provide leadership training to a group of lake association officers from eight lakes and assist them in working on developing lake management plans. Continued involvement on

other issues such as real estate taxes, county zoning for shore land alteration, septic regulations, maintaining water quality and establishing wetland laws will help protect our important natural resources.

A NASTY INVADER: RUSTY CRAYFISH

By Harold Goetzman

Rusty crayfish could soon be another exotic species problem in northern Minnesota. They have been found in 42 lakes in Minnesota including Pokegama, Big Island, and Turtle Lakes in Itasca County. These nasty invaders, native to the Ohio River basin, are slightly larger than our native crayfish and look as if someone has picked them up with rust-colored paint on their fingers. Rusty crayfish are an aggressive species that can displace native crayfish by out-competing them for food and will harm native fish communities by feeding on the fish eggs and larvae. They become so heavily infested in some areas that aquatic plant beds will be clear-cut and swimming is deterred as they pinch your toes. The rusty crayfish have a higher metabolic rate than other crayfish, eating much more. Therefore, they feed longer, grow larger, hide less, and attain high population densities.

While you can collect and eat them, selling live crayfish for bait is illegal in Minnesota. Crayfish taken from a water body can only be used as live bait in that same water body according to DNR regulations. Unfortunately, there is no environmentally friendly way to eradicate an established rusty crayfish infestation. Some work is being done on the problem by the Minnesota Sea Grant group in Duluth, but a solution is not likely in the near future. The best method of control is to prevent their introduction into new lakes. Actually, harvesting the crayfish for food may be the only way to keep them in check once they become established.

WILDLIFE WATCHING - ON GOLDENEYE POND

By Harold Goetzman

The recreational activity of wildlife watching is growing each year and over 1.3 million Minnesotans are estimated to enjoy this pastime. This year Minnesota even hosted the first National Watchable Wildlife Conference in St. Paul. Actually, I think almost everyone enjoys seeing wildlife whether it is at the bird/squirrel feeder or deer in the woods. We certainly had several unusual and memorable events this summer.

As you know, one of our Association projects the past couple years has been to install duck houses in the watershed as a means of increasing the watchable number of wood ducks and goldeneyes. This year we had the wonderful opportunity of watching eight little goldeneyes come tumbling out of the duck house we put up near our cabin. Mother duck waited on the ground and then led them all down to the water. Later we heard some peeping coming from the duck house and on inspection found one was left behind. After some thoughts on what to do, we decided to put it in a bag and release it on the beach. Much to our surprise, mom and the other eight came by a couple hours later and picked up the orphan. Later in the summer we were taking some bird-watching friends around the lake and we saw numerous goldeneye families, which indicates the duck house program is successful. In fact, after seeing so many ducks our friend finally said, "wow, we really are on goldeneye pond." As a footnote to that experience, Bill Nelson asked a DNR wildlife expert where all the goldeneyes go in the early fall as he did not see any while duck hunting in the area. Apparently, the mortality rate of young is extremely high.

Another experience happened early this spring when we saw a number of large holes dug in the road by the bridges on Pooles and Spring Creeks. Several days later at sunset we were lucky enough to see what was making the holes as a very large snapping turtle was in the process of laying eggs on the side of the road. However, the best part was about two months later we

were out for a walk and we observed a number of tiny new snappers (not cute) along the edge of the road near the bridge. The next day they were all gone, probably another once in a lifetime experience.

So get out there in our great outdoors and walk on the wild side! You may be surprised at what you see as one day this summer we saw a three-legged deer come up on the beach after swimming a half-mile across the lake. At other times we have seen baby eagles, pilated woodpeckers, baby loons, baby geese, bears, foxes, martens, otters and wolves. Nature is wonderful to watch at the lake and surrounding area so enjoy and then share it with the rest of us.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- The DNR carried out their fish-shocking project this fall on Jessie Lake and found only five fingerlings, which indicates 2001 was a poor spawning year.
- Charlie! 'Well did he ever return, no he never returned and his fate is still unlearned!' (MTA, Kingston Trio 1960) Sad to say, we observed no swans on Jessie Lake this year.
- One acre of wetland can store about 1.6 million gallons of water.
- More drain tile is installed every year (20,000 miles in MN alone last year), which hastens the speed of flushing nutrients out of soil and into the rivers.
- There are no natural predators for wood or deer ticks as no creature feeds strictly on ticks.
- To protect songbirds, Federal law prohibits collection of most bird feathers.
- The US Forest Service outlawed permanent deer hunting stands in national forests including the Chippewa starting in 2001. Only portable stands that are chained, belted, or tied with rope that do not damage the tree are permitted and must be removed at the end of the season. Permanent stands have been increasing and presenting more problems.
- Minnesota has more acres of public wildlife lands than any state east of the Mississippi River.
- The multicolored Asian lady beetle was introduced into the southern USA in the 1970's to control aphids and other pests. This exotic species was first reported in MN in 1994. The black-spotted orange beetle (bug) likes to cluster in bright spots and does not bite or do destructive things in your house. They do, however, emit a foul odor when touched.
- Until the 1960's most anglers simply gutted and scaled their catch. Filleting fish caught on in 1967 with the first mass marketed fillet knife (The Rapala).
- More than 500 million Rapala lures have been sold worldwide and 20 million more will be sold this year. No other lure has caught as many record size fish.
- Over 1.3 million wildlife watchers in MN spend \$385 million, yet the Nongame Wildlife Fund received only \$1million in donations through the loon check off on tax forms.
- The predator that kills about 30 million songbirds in America each year is the house cat.
- The best winter feed for many bird species is black sunflower seeds.
- The largest Bald Eagle nest ever measured was located near St. Petersburg, Fl. The nest was 9.5-foot wide, 20-foot deep, and weighed 6,000-pounds.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 76 paid members. If you have not paid your past dues or would like to pay your upcoming 2002 dues send your \$10 to Neil Gustafson, 47521 Tilly Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.