

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.6, NO. 2

FALL 2003

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the start of a new year for the Jessie Lake Watershed Association (JLWA), I have agreed to remain as President and hope that we will continue to have success in doing what is best for our members and the Watershed. The continued growth in membership and your supportive comments have made it a rewarding experience. Support from the people at the DNR, SWCD, USFS and Itasca County has been wonderful and our completion of the walleye habitat project was another example of how working together has made a project not only successful, but fun to work on as well. As I mentioned this spring, the sediment removal project completed in March was another case where our partnership with government agencies has been a great success. It is also worth noting that this year we had Wade Spang, District Ranger of the USFS speak at our Spring Meeting and our two County Commissioners (Russ Klegstad, District 1 and Catherine McLynn, District 2) attended our Fall Meeting. I think it is important for our organization to have that kind of first hand contact with our governmental partners to share information on things taking place that directly affect our area. As you know, the Forestry is revising the management plan for the Chippewa National Forest and the County was revising the zoning ordinance. We have had the opportunity to have input with our comments in both cases. Several of us also had the opportunity this summer to meet with a number of DNR officials including the Commissioner of the DNR, Gene Merriam.

Since I am on the subject of partnerships and cooperating organizations it is worth noting the support we continue to get from SWCD and the University Extension Service. The SWCD provided assistance with sampling equipment and water analysis in addition to helping on shoreline erosion problems, plant sales and education materials. The Extension people are a great resource for information on shoreland management and provide educational workshops on shoreland restoration and water quality.

As in past years, I have been blessed with a great group of officers and directors. I am grateful to all of them and in particular, Neil Gustafson and Bill Nelson who have served as Treasurer and Secretary since the Association was formed. I know Bill will continue to share his talents as he moves to a Directors position and Neil will be available in an advisory role. I also want to thank Roger Van Gorp for his two years service as a Director and wish he and Nancy the best in their new life in Kansas City. As we move into the next year, I look forward to working with Dale Hertle as Treasurer and Betty Steinbrenner as Secretary. It is this kind of support with new people stepping in and the past officers remaining active that make your organization run smoothly. Of course it is necessary and always gratifying to have twelve members participate willingly in projects like the rock installation. I am also grateful to Bill and Loretta Egger who stepped forward this summer and hosted our first JLWA picnic. It was a great success with thirty people attending on a beautiful, bugless, July day. It was there that our conversation resulted in Bob Lewis volunteering to do the logo artwork.

Now I remember why it is both gratifying and fun to be part of JLWA – it's the people! I hope you all will have a great Holiday Season and a very prosperous New Year! Wherever you spend the winter just remember, the ice will be gone come next spring

ANNUAL MEETING

By Bill Nelson

After calling the meeting to order at 11:10 on August 30, 2003, President Harold Goetzman introduced the Association officers and directors and asked any new attendees to stand and be recognized before the 56 people attending the meeting.

Business Items

Bill Nelson read the minutes of the *last* meeting. After Harold made three corrections (Dale Hertle was asked by the board of directors rather than by Harold to run for association treasurer, Bill Baird rather than Dale Hertle helped Bob Lewis install the loon nesting platforms, and there are 139 rather than 141 property owners in the watershed) the minutes were approved.

Dale Hertle reported the present association treasury has a balance of \$2,634.00.

Jim Anderson reported the association now has 79 members of which 3 are associate members.

Project Review

Jim Anderson reported that he counted 13 adult and 2 immature loons on Jessie Lake this summer.

Bill Nelson stated today's water level on Jessie Lake was 1322.45. The water levels have been very low and stable this summer. Earlier this summer a new record low water level was established that was a foot lower than the previous low observed in October, 1998; the water level has generally been about 28-inches below the normal water level.

Harold indicated that we will probably resubmit an application for a Clean Water Partnership Grant but other approaches may be taken such as Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative.

Two new walleye spawning beds were recently installed on Spring Creek. Harold estimated Association members donated over 140 hours of labor during three days of construction this summer. This project was designed and coordinated by the DNR while the USFS provided assistance and rock.

Beavers continue to block Spring Creek in spite of efforts to control their population. Harold has contacted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) about installing a Clemson Leveler to provide some stream flow. The members approved a motion for the purchase of a leveler if the DNR gives their approval.

New Business

Harold stated he would be providing some generic comments on behalf of the association to the U.S Forest Service on their proposed plan for the Chippewa National Forest. His comments will center on recommending that shorelines of the JLWA be included in the Riparian Emphasis Areas and that the riparian areas in our watershed be managed to exclude aspen that serves as a food supply for beaver.

Russ Klegstad and Catherine McLynn, the County Commissioners representing the watershed, briefly described some of the pertinent aspects of the newly approved Itasca County Zoning Ordinance. A lengthy discussion among the Commissioners and members ensued with the emphasis being on regulations pertaining to float planes, personal watercraft, and gravel pits.

Bob Lewis designed two potential logos for the association. The members voted for the logo featuring a golden eye in flight rather than a great-blue heron.

Harold mentioned the DNR Jessie Lake Management plan has been completed and had extra copies available for interested members.

Harold described proper septic system maintenance and recommended Barry Pigman's Honey Bear Service in Effie as one of the available companies providing good service.

Harold mentioned that the DNR has made available \$600,000 for shoreline restoration, but the projects must include aquatic planting, which is a problem for most of our members. These are matching funds requiring landowners to provide 25% of the cost. A sign-up sheet was provided for members to indicate their interest.

Election of Officers

The members approved the following slate of officers: Harold Goetzman - President, Bill Nichols – Vice President, Dale Hertle - Treasurer, Betty Steinbrenner - Secretary, and Tim Onreat and Bill Nelson for Directors.

Discussion of Other Concerns

The Eggers and Olsons mentioned they have been having problems with skunks and asked for advice on controlling them.

Harold mentioned that the wounded bald eagle found by Dale Hertle might not recover enough to be released so another may be released in its place.

Harold also described a recent meeting sponsored by Carl Bergquist dealing with the activities of lake associations that was attended by Gene Merriman, Commissioner, Ron Payer, Chief of Fisheries, and various regional staff of the DNR. Mr. Merriman stressed that the present administration has increased the emphasis on stocking lakes.

Door Prizes and Fund Raiser

Jim DeConcini and Maureen Kieren won baseball caps donated by the U.S. Forest Service. Fishing jigs donated by Russ Klegstad were won by Rhonda Nichols, Sarah Nelson, Betty Steinbrenner, Frank Willmert, and Marilyn Russell. Ed Bick and Bill Nichols won hand-painted canoe paddles donated by Bob Lewis. Harley Steinbrenner and Vanessa Sollars won diamond willow walking sticks donated by Dale Hertle. A photograph of showy lady slippers was donated by Harold Goetzman and won by Bill Nelson. Jessie View Resort donated a hooded sweatshirt, which was won by Sharon Hertle and a polar fleece vest, which was won by Chuck Sollars. Three Cedars Resort donated a sweatshirt that was won by Betty Steinbrenner and a baseball cap that was won by Jim DeConcini. Aspen Springs Resort donated a t-shirt that was won by Dale Hertle. Thanks to all these donations \$114 was raised for the JLWA. We also wish to thank the Bowstring Store for donating the hot dogs for the potluck.

Harold adjourned the meeting at 12:45.

INTRODUCING NEW JLWA OFFICERS

Betty Steinbrenner, Secretary: Betty was born and raised in Ypsilanti, Michigan and moved to Minnesota originally to attend college in Minneapolis, where she met her husband, Harley. Betty and Harley have owned property on Jessie Lake since 1977 but moved here full time the summer of 2001 when they both retired and built a new home on the lake. Before retirement, Betty worked 25 years initially for Honeywell and subsequently a spin-off company, Alliant Techsystems. She worked in a number of positions at both companies including Assistant to the Treasurer and Executive Assistant to the CFO of Honeywell and then at Alliant was Executive Assistant to the CFO. She spent the last years of her career at Alliant as an HR Administrator responsible for Relocation and Reward and Recognition programs. Betty has made the transition to retirement with no regrets and is enjoying “up north” living even more than anticipated. She has joined and become active in several organizations including the Edge of the Wilderness Book Club, and she and Harley are members of the Bowstring and Marcell Senior Clubs, the Itasca Vintage Car Club and the Marcell Community Church as well as JLWA. Betty and Harley have two married daughters and three granddaughters.

Dale Hertle, Treasurer: Dale spent his boyhood years growing up on his family’s farm near Waltham, Minnesota, enjoying the hard work and many experiences of farm life. After graduation from Austin High School and a short stint running a sheetrock taping business in the Austin area, he joined the Navy and spent his military time at Barin Field, Alabama. After discharge from the Navy, he and Sharon were married and moved to Minneapolis where he completed his schooling in Electronics. He and a partner started an electronics company, which did very well. After several years, he sold out and went into the financial planning business, marketing investments and doing retirement

planning. He and Sharon spent their working years in Minneapolis, involved in the community and church, and raising their family of one daughter and three sons. Their eldest son, Dan, works for DNR Forestry in Deer River. In 1976 Dale and Sharon bought 40 acres on the West side of Jessie Lake, where they built a log cabin from trees on the 40. Over the years they have worked their forest management plan and currently are building a second log cabin and starting to establish a system of trails. In 2000 they retired and were making plans to build a retirement home on the 40, but when they became aware that the Zweber property (formerly Bellamys) was available, they bought the property and moved to the lake – where Sharon really wanted to be. Over the years they have enjoyed all forms of outdoor activities and have developed a high regard for God’s creation. Dale says: “Being a land owner and resident in the Jessie Lake area has increased our sense of stewardship in this area. We are honored to serve on the JLWA board. My hope is that we can contribute to the strong sense of community, working together, caring for each other and this beautiful area we share.”

MINNESOTA LAKES ASSOCIATION SURVEY

Excerpts from MLA Reporter Volume 7, Number 1

The Minnesota Lakes Association in cooperation with the University of Minnesota conducted a survey of 532 lake associations in MN to get a better understanding of their operations and future needs. Of the 245 associations that replied 68% were members of MLA and 33% were formed less than 10 years ago. The respondents indicated that 83% have a newsletter and only 21% have a web site. (It should be noted that usually the president of the lake association was requested to fill out the survey.)

The survey asked what issues are most important to your lake association and 98% said water quality is the most important issue. Fishing, exotics, local zoning issues and development were the next highest scoring issues in that order.

Motorized recreation (boating and jet skiing) was the top activity of members in 55% of the lake associations while fishing was a close second as an important activity (54%). Swimming came in as the third important activity.

In the survey regarding functions of the lake association over 50% reported that environmental monitoring was the most important function of their association while education was the second highest function. Some type of lake monitoring ranging from simple bi-weekly clarity readings to more comprehensive chemical analysis is done on 91% of the lakes reporting. Eighty-three percent (83%) monitor water quality, 57% monitor water levels for the DNR and 29% monitor for the presence of exotic species.

Only 36% felt their lake association was “very effective” as an organization in accomplishing its goals while 58% felt their association was “somewhat effective”. The challenges of lake associations were listed as membership support, preservation of fishing populations, maintaining or improving water quality, lake management planning, property owner septic compliance, restoration for the shoreland, opposing second tier development and educating property owners on best management practices for lake protection. A high percentage thought that apathy of the shoreline owners was the main reason many did not join the lake association.

JLWA SURVEY

By Harold Goetzman

At the annual meeting a survey sheet was handed out with a list of eight subjects that are of importance in creating a watershed management plan. Each person was asked to number the items in the order of importance to them personally and what areas they would like the Association to concentrate efforts. After the meeting Bill Nelson helped me summarize the survey sheets to rank the

items in order of interest. The following is the results of our local survey: (1) Water Quality, (2) Fishery, (3) Land Use and Zoning, (4) Wildlife, (5) Surface Use, (6) Aquatic Vegetation, (7) Exotic Species, (8) Public Access. It should be noted that four and five were essentially a tie as the difference was only one point. Also, 83% of the people rated water quality either one or two, which is significant, but not as high as in the MLA survey where 98% ranked it number one.

It is interesting to compare our survey to the MLA results in the previous article. As you can see the two most important issues in our survey were water quality and fishing, which were also ranked as one and two in the state survey. Land use and zoning was ranked third in our survey and fourth in the MLA survey. Exotic species ranked higher in their survey because that is a bigger issue in the southern part of the state.

In general, the results of our survey are also very similar to other lake associations in Itasca County. During the Healthy Lakes Initiative last year the nine local lake associations that participated ranked the top four issues as water quality, fishing, land use/zoning, and surface use in that order. This information will be useful in the future management of our association.

ALMOST CANADIAN

By Neil Gustafson

In this 200th anniversary year of the Louisiana Purchase it is worth pondering what might have been. Two centuries ago the Jessie Lake Watershed was visited by native people and traversed by trappers, but was largely unknown to those who actually claimed it. At various times this 28 square miles of real estate was claimed by French, British and American interests. These competing interests focused on the US - Canadian boundary from Maine/New Brunswick in the east to the Oregon Territory in the west. This included the challenges of locating the international boundary between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods, the northwestern most point of Lake of the Woods, and the northern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase.

Settling border disagreements took three (almost four) wars and more than 170 years in one of the great sagas in North American history that extended from the French and Indian War beginning in 1754 to the Treaty of 1925 that fixed the boundary permanently. The Jessie Lake Watershed (JLW) would have become a part of Canada had the intentions of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 been interpreted accurately and pursued more vigorously by the British.

General border criteria west of Lake Superior were set forth in the Treaty of Paris in 1783 that concluded the American Revolution. But inadequate maps impeded resolving the details. These unresolved border questions contributed to the War of 1812 between United States and Great Britain. The Treaty of Ghent in 1814 concluded that War and set forth procedures for resolving the ongoing border dispute. This led to the Webster - Ashburton Treaty of 1842 that found a way to reach a compromise agreement.

In the 18th century, the British, French, Spanish and Russians contended for the occupation and exploitation of the resources of the new continent. In the settlement of the French and Indian War (or Seven Years War as it was known in Europe) France ceded its colony of New France centered in the St. Lawrence Valley to Britain, along with any claims to the Great Lakes Basin. Thereafter, the British assumed control of the lucrative fur trade operating out of Montreal, and for a time in the late 18th Century held almost the entire eastern half of North America. It was assumed by the Treaty of Paris that the Mississippi River would serve as the western boundary of the United States and that a line drawn westward from Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi would close any gap in the boundary.

The Treaty of Paris stated that the border between American and British interests was to extend "through Lake Superior Northward of the Isles Royal and Phelipeaux to the Long Lake; Thence through the middle of said Long Lake, and the Water Communication between it and the Lake of the Woods, to the said Lake of the Woods; Thence through the said Lake to the most Northwestern Point

thereof, and from thence on a due West Course to the River Mississippi, thus south along the Mississippi to the northern border of ...Spanish Florida and east to the Atlantic again." This boundary was intended to circumscribe the 13 original states.

The proposed boundary agreements were based on the highly regarded map of North America drafted by cartographer John Mitchell of Virginia in 1755. As with most maps drawn at that time, it was based upon landscape observations recorded in diaries and journals by travelers and explorers. These eyewitness accounts often viewed and described the same territory from different vantage points. Even with the best information available and five years of careful research, the Mitchell map proved unreliable for the purposes of the Treaty of Paris. The existence of an Isle Phelipeaux and a "long lake" could not be confirmed. More serious was the assumption by Mitchell that the source of the Mississippi lay somewhere west of Lake of the Woods. The Mississippi, in fact, arose not west of Lake of the Woods, but from Lake Itasca, some 115 miles to the south that was finally confirmed in 1832 by Henry Schoolcraft. These serious shortcomings caused much effort to be expended over the next 60 years in trying to interpret the intent of that Treaty in a fair and accurate manner.

As early as 1783, American political economist Benjamin Vaughan, alert to the possibility that the Mitchell map might not be accurate, suggested that the Treaty of Paris be amended to read that the boundary be the shortest distance between Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi River, without regard for the direction. But Mitchell's map prevailed. As confirmed later, Mitchell not only erred on the source of the Mississippi, but also misrepresented the Great Lakes watershed by assuming that Lake of the Woods flowed toward Lake Superior rather than Hudson Bay. The intent of the Treaty was to follow the St. Lawrence - Great Lakes waterway to its source and they assumed that to be Lake of the Woods. Had their information been accurate, they almost certainly would have extended the boundary through Lake Superior to its westernmost point at the St. Louis River, then westward, according to historian William Lass.

EDITORS NOTE: [This saga continued for many years and the historical details of the border dispute are contained in Neil's complete eight page article, which can be obtained by requesting a copy from the JLWA secretary, Betty Steinbrenner, 46130 E Nest Rd, Deer River, MN 55636.]

In conclusion:

After bitter conflicts and almost four wars, Lord Ashburton of Britain and Daniel Webster of the USA met to negotiate an end to the border dispute. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty (Aug. 9, 1842) was signed to establish reasonable international border with the area north and east of the Mississippi River becoming part of the United States and Minnesota. If British access to the Mississippi River had been a primary intent of the Treaty of Paris and pursued vigorously, the most logical boundary solution would have been to extend the line southward from Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi River and accept the St. Louis – Savannah – Big Sandy route as the best water access between Lake Superior and the Mississippi. If that had been the outcome, the area in the Jessie Lake Watershed would have been British and now a part of Canada. As it turned out, the greatest benefit of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty to the US was the inclusion of the vast deposits of iron ore on the Mesabi Range that were discovered three decades after the Treaty had been signed.

Accurate surveying was not completed on the last and most difficult section of the border between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods until the early 20th Century. The border agreement was not finalized until the Treaty of 1925, which fixed the present international boundary and located the northwestern most point of Lake of the Woods. Canada was granted independent Dominion status by Great Britain in 1931. Now the settlement of disagreements between the two nations through negotiation and compromise is regarded as a model in international relations and symbolized by the International Peace Garden that straddles the border between Manitoba and North Dakota.

POTPOURRI

By Harold Goetzman

Jessie Lake Watershed Association Logo. Last summer we had a discussion about developing a logo for the Association that could be used for printing on shirts and hats and perhaps an official letterhead. At that time, our resident wildlife artist Bob Lewis volunteered to sketch a couple of ideas that could be used for this purpose. The sketches of lake scenes with a great-blue heron and a goldeneye duck were presented at the Annual Meeting. The members present agreed it was an idea worth pursuing and voted for the goldeneye as the logo we would develop.

At this point the logo sketch is being digitized at Treasure Bay in Grand Rapids so we can get an estimate for printing and embroidered sweatshirts, tee shirts, and hats. These items will be available at the Spring Meeting for sale to the membership or we may take orders depending on the cost to keep inventory. Hopefully, the cost will be reasonable so we can purchase them for our family and friends.

Eagle Update. Libere hasn't been forgotten, but it has been a time of setbacks for her. "Libere" if you remember was the eagle discovered last summer with a bullet wound near Jessie Lake. Students at North School (Talmoon) and Murphy School (Grand Rapids), raised money to help with the female eagle's rehabilitation at the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center. Libere was going through a formal outdoor exercise program in July when she developed a swollen and infected right foot. She was put on antibiotic therapy to correct the wound problem. Libere was molting again in September so there was no flight evaluation. When she finishes molting her flight feathers, she will be able to get back into the reconditioning program so her potential for release can be evaluated. At this time, her foot was still doing OK, but bumblefoot is a common problem of captivity. We are still hopeful that someday she can return to her home area of Jessie Lake.

Shoreland Native Plants. Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ISWCD) will conduct its second annual native tree and plant sale for spring 2004. The program provides a variety of grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs and trees to private landowners in the county. All of the plants are native and are well suited for the local climate and growing conditions. Emphasis is placed on shoreland plantings where the benefits include aesthetics, increased privacy, and shoreland protection. It can also help to improve water quality by reducing the sediment load and nutrient runoff. The sale is intended to give citizens the option of buying smaller quantities of planting stock at affordable prices and the deadline for orders is April 1, 2004. For information or to request an order form, contact Andy or Kathy at the ICSWCD office at 1889 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 (218-326-0017).

For JLWA members who have a computer and are interested in learning more on this subject, the Association has two copies on CD of the DNR program *Restore Your Shore*. This is a guide to protecting and restoring the natural beauty of your shoreland that takes you through the process of design and implementation. Learn which plants to use and which to avoid while you create a customized plant list from a database of over 400 plants native to Minnesota. Call Harold Goetzman to arrange getting a copy to use.

Rain Gardens. Special wetland gardens can be planted near the downspouts to capture the excess rainfall or runoff from your roof. This excess runoff during heavy rains ends up very quickly in the lakes and streams creating problems with water quality. Sediment and nutrients that are normally washed into the lake can be directed into a shallow depression in your yard that is planted with native wetland or water-loving wildflowers and grasses. Sometimes a natural low area in the yard can be incorporated into the garden. These gardens are great for attracting birds and butterflies to your yard in addition to their unique beauty. Use your imagination and have fun designing your own special rain garden next summer with some of the plants available from SWCD.

Shocking Results. This fall on the night of September 14th you may have seen a boat with strange lights and a humming noise coming by your Jessie Lake place about 10:00 or 11:00 pm. The slow moving boat in about 3 feet of water was the DNR fisheries crew out making an assessment of

how well the stocked walleye fry survived this summer. By shocking and counting the walleye fingerlings, they can estimate their survival by comparing the results to other years where the values have been correlated with gill-netting catch data. This year the count was about 5 fish per hour, which is rather low for a stocked year. In comparison to the past stocked years, it is much lower than the 1996, 1999, and 2002 values of 63, 60 and 72 fish per hour, respectively. In the non-stocked years of 2000 and 2001 the values were 0 and 3 fish per hour indicating little natural reproduction. It was hoped the back-to-back stocking years of 2002 and 2003 would help reduce the boom-bust effect of stocking every three years. Since other lakes in the areas also showed poor fry survival it is suspected that weather and low water levels had a major effect on the results. Hopefully, the expanded spawning habitat in Spring Creek will improve the natural reproduction in the upcoming years to make up for the 2003 poor results.

Friendly Flies. First it was the forest tent caterpillars (army worms), then the moths, and finally the flies. The friendly flies filled the Northland skies this past summer and were a real nuisance. Fortunately, they don't bite and are killing off the army worms. The fly larvae fed on last year's cocoons, passed through their life cycle in the forest and then emerged this spring in great numbers. In some places there were hundreds landing on you at once. They like to land on arms and legs and keep coming back after they are brushed off, which is a little too friendly for most of us. One resort in Itasca County called the DNR for advice this past summer because his customers were all leaving and said they would never come back due to the flies.

The flies are native to this region, just like the army worms and not imported by the government. They are the major factor in the collapse of the forest caterpillar populations. During the final years of an army worm outbreak, which includes this year, these flies become very abundant because they use the caterpillar as their food source. In mid to late June the adult flies deposit live maggots on the cocoons. The maggots move into the cocoons, bore into the caterpillar pupae and eat the developing worm--end of worm.

The flies are usually diminished by July and should greatly diminish in number by next year since the army worms have peaked in number already. In fact, the army worm numbers will soon crash to hardly noticeable levels for several years until for reasons still not fully understood their numbers will begin to skyrocket once again—probably in about eight to ten years. Between the forest tent caterpillar outbreaks, the friendly fly population collapses and they survive in low numbers by depositing their larvae on carrion, dung and various decaying materials.

Ya gotta love Minnesota for its wildlife!

Laurentian Divide. Now that Highway 38 has been designated the Edge of the Wilderness Scenic Byway, one of the wayside rest stops is 20.9 miles north of Grand Rapids on the Laurentian Divide. At elevation 1524 feet you stand at the highest point on the Northern Divide, which is also called the Laurentian Divide as it crosses Minnesota. It is at this point where rain falling on the northern side will flow into the Hudson Bay and on the southern side into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Laurentian Divide runs across Minnesota from about Lake Traverse in west central Minnesota through the Boundary Waters in northeastern Minnesota. Not all the water falling south of the divide goes toward the Gulf of Mexico, though. There is a second continental divide in Minnesota that drains water into Lake Superior and from there to the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Atlantic Ocean. The point where all these Watersheds come together is just southwest of Hibbing at a point known as the "Hill of Three Waters".

Our Jessie Lake Watershed is a sub-watershed of the Rainy River Basin and since we are north of the Laurentian Divide, the water from Jessie Lake eventually runs to Canada via the Bigfork River.

Quote of the Day. "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." – John Muir (pioneering naturalist).

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- In 1850, the United States census recorded 97 people living in the area that would later become Itasca County, which was organized in 1891.
- That even if you don't catch any fish, a day spent on the lake is still better than a day at work.
- To receive a septic installation permit from the county you need a field evaluation and design by a licensed contractor.
- Minnesota has more than 90,000 miles of streams, creeks, and ditches.
- Hubbard County has the most lakes of any Minnesota county.
- Minnesotans use 10 tons/year per person of this commodity – gravel.
- One pound of phosphorus washed into a lake can produce up to 500 pounds of algae growth and a yard extending to the water's edge will put 700 percent more phosphorus into the water than a more natural lakescaped yard.
- Many soap products for dishwashers contain very high amounts of phosphorus. Cascade, for example contains 4.4% phosphorus. MLA campaigned to ban phosphorus in automatic dishwasher soaps, but it did not result in legislation last year.
- The oldest Minnesota angler this year was 102 years old. Floyd Doty of Glenwood topped the list with more than 50 others past 95 years old who bought MN fishing licenses in 2003.
- The showy lady slipper was named MN state flower in 1902.
- The walleye became the MN state fish in 1965.
- There are 9 Bass Lakes in Itasca County.
- You should pump your septic tank every 2-3 years as a good maintenance practice. This prevents solids from going into your drain field that reduces its ability for good drainage.
- On September 15th, 2003 a single-day record of 101,698 broad-winged hawks were counted at Hawk Ridge in Duluth. They were migrating south from Canada to South America.
- The Minnesota DNR did a giant Canadian goose count in the spring of 2003 and found we have a population of 304,000 of which about 20,000 live in the metro area.
- Lead sinkers have been blamed for the death of some loons and there is a movement to outlaw the sale of lead sinkers and jigs. So far the Minnesota legislature has not passed such a bill.
- The freeze up of Jessie Lake was on November 25th, 2003, which is two days later than normal.
- Our web site (www.mnlakes.org/Jessie) is updated regularly containing meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our sincere thanks to the following households that made financial contributions in 2003 to the JLWA: Fred and Cleo Conrad, Jeff and Kelly Goetzman, Dale and Sharon Hertle, Bret Hartley and Suzan Bach, John Horsch, John and Beth Sams, Mike and Peg Selander, Gary Sherer, Tim and Rita Onraet, Bill and Loretta Egger, Dave and Suzan Litchke, and Dale and Mary Willard. Thanks again to Bob Lewis, Dale Hertle, Aspen Springs, Three Cedars, and Jessie View Resorts for the fundraiser prizes and thanks to the volunteers who have spent many hours, which are priceless.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 83 paid members. We welcome new members that joined this past year: Adam and Helene Biedny, Bill and Lily Baird, Dan and Lynne Soderlund, Michael Raymond and Valerie Conner and John Harris. If you have not paid your dues send \$10 to Dale Hertle, 47104 Bellamy Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.