

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.7, NO. 2

FALL 2004

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the start of a new year for the 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 Jessie Lake Watershed. The continued growth in membership and your supportive comments have made it a rewarding experience. This year we have two new Directors joining the Board and I look forward to having their ideas and input into the Association activities. However, it is with regret that I am seeing two of our past officers leaving the Board. After giving a great deal of their time to the JLWA, Jim Anderson and Bill Nichols have elected not to remain on the Board. I cannot thank them enough for the help and support they have given over these formative years. Jim has been involved with the organization and development of JLWA since the day we started so he will certainly be missed. I know that both of them will continue to be active in the association, but thanks guys for your time and dedication. Many other people have helped in various ways this year, but a special thanks to Bob and Barb Lewis for a great job of hosting our second annual picnic. I also have been really impressed by how our members have responded to giving monetary contributions with their dues. This year we had over twenty members contribute and some have also given in previous years. This indicates to me that our members care about the future of our Watershed and a tribute to the continued success of JLWA.

Reflecting on the changes in Board members caused me to think about other changes happening near the lake. It is inevitable that change happens as everyone wants to improve their property and enjoy time spent at the lake. However, we all know that development has an impact on the lakes water quality. Thus, it is important that we all try to minimize our impact and that some of the changes we make are positive or better for the lake. I know in our area of the lake I have seen eight to ten new septic systems or upgrades in the past few years, which certainly are positive changes. My memory is not the best, but I know personally that things have changed at our cabin – both good and bad. We used to have an old septic and now have a mound. Our shoreline has been returning to a natural buffer and we only remove weeds around the dock and the kid's beach area. We also used the burning barrel for many things in the past, but now only burn paper and we now remove the ashes (high phosphorous) from our bonfire pit close to the lake. However, we have had to cut down many trees due to Dutch elm disease, birch bores, and tornadoes that had a negative impact. We also built a garage and driveway so we have more impervious surface causing a faster runoff. Hopefully, the buffer will balance this effect. I am sure as we all think about our own situation we can see how we may have changed the amount of impervious surface on our property. Together with the loss of trees you can see how these changes can impact the speed that water and sediment reach the lake. I think this is one of the major reasons why we see the lake levels in our watershed change more often and quicker than we remember in the past. (I haven't forgotten about the beaver or the fact that we haven't had a normal rainfall in years.)

We all need to continue to think about the changes we can make that will have a positive impact on the lake to maintain that balance of our being there. Good stewardship is still the best thing we can do to preserve our natural resources for the future.

I hope you all have a good winter, a great Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year! Wherever you spend the winter just remember, the ice will be gone come next spring.

ANNUAL MEETING

By Betty Steinbrenner

After calling the meeting to order at 10:15 on September 4th, President Harold Goetzman introduced the Association officers and directors and asked any new attendees to stand and be recognized before the 45 people attending the meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Betty Steinbrenner and approved.

Dale Hertle reported the present association treasury has a balance of \$3,158.85 and that members made \$385 in contributions last year. Dale stated he preferred that people pay their dues when the invoice is received in January rather than at the meeting.

Jim Anderson reported the association has 86 members of which 3 are associate members.

PROJECT REVIEW

Picnic -- The second annual picnic was a huge success with 36 people attending.

Water Level -- Current level on Jessie is down 6 inches from spring and down 2 feet from mean.

Water Quality -- The water quality as measured by the Secchi Disk this year is the best in many years. We will have phosphorus data later next spring.

Loons -- Jim Anderson reported that he had counted 9 resident loons; one nesting pair hatched out two of which one survived.

CWP -- Harold reported that everything is status quo on the CWP Phase II Grant. If there is money for a study our application is on file.

Lake Parcel Map Update -- Jim DeConcini reported that there are several errors in the country records and he is still working on identifying all property owners.

Logo -- Sweatshirts, hats etc. are available to be ordered. Kathy Dinkle is the person to contact.

Walleye Slot Limit -- Harold reported that 31 responses were received from the survey. Harold has drafted a letter response from the Association, which will include a synopsis of comments received. Harold informed the membership of two DNR meetings relating to the Slot Limit coming up September 20th and 21st which individuals may attend to give input.

Beaver Control -- Still working on beaver control problem. The beaver continue to rebuild. The membership approved using JLWA funds to try to keep the beaver problem under control.

Eagle -- The bald eagle Libere, which was found by Dale Hertle, was put to sleep by the Raptor Center. It was deemed not suitable for release.

NEW BUSINESS

Test Netting -- The DNR conducted test netting to count fish during the last week of August. We've received no official report as yet, but were told there were roughly 6 walleye per net compared to the average of 8 -- the goal is 12 fish per net. We should have results in the newsletter. Shocking to check spawn fingerlings will occur during the middle of September.

Lake Access -- Spring and Little Spring. On request from some members, contacted the DNR about establishing accesses on the other two lakes in the watershed. There is no DNR land suitable to put an access on so it would have to cross Chippewa Forest land. Will try to explore options with the USFS.

Forestry Plan -- The new plan is out; it goes into effect in January. ATVs will not be allowed to go cross-country or on any trails not posted as open to ATV; 1500 miles remain open to ATVs. The timber harvest will be increased by about 1000 acres and aspen growth will be reduced from 44% to 30%.

Governor's Clean Water Initiative -- Catherine McLynn, County Commissioner District 2, reported that there is a 5-county group working to address this issue. The problem is that increasing development pressure on lakes in the 5-county area has raised concerns regarding the impact on water

quality. As part of this initiative the DNR is working on enhancing the shoreland standards for lake development in the 5-county area.

Minnesota Lakes Association – The MLA initiatives were discussed and in particular the new zero phosphorus fertilizer law, which starts January 1, 2005. Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be used on MN lawns unless tested or new.

Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners Coalition – A new MSRPO brochure was handed out. A major goal is maintaining the Limited Market Value on property, which affects tax increases.

Book – A new book is out related to the history of this area called “Timber Connection – The Joyce Lumber Story” by local authors Suzan Hawkinson and Warren Jewett. They had requested to speak at the meeting, but there was not time.

DOOR PRIZE AND FUND RAIZER

Bob Lewis won the door prize, which was a book by Jim DeConcini, a former police officer. Prizes for the benefit drawing were donated by Bob Lewis (handpainted canoe paddle), Diane Goetzman (quilted wallhanging), Harold Goetzman (framed photos), Rhonda Nichols (Christmas plate), Kathy Dinkel (walking stick), Three Cedars Resort (hat and T-shirt) and Jessie View Resort (polo shirt and T-shirt). A total of \$124 was raised.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The members approved the following slate of officers. Harold Goetzman-President, Bill Nelson-Vice President, Dale Hertle-Treasurer, Betty Steinbrenner-Secretary, and Directors-Gloria Dallas and Jim DeConcini for two year terms and Bob Lewis and Marne Flicker for one year terms. Harold thanked retiring officers Bill Nichols and Jim Anderson for their dedicated service.

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTORS

Bob Lewis, Director: Bob’s biographical information was printed in the last issue of the Jabber as our logo artist. He now will serve on the JLWA Board.

Marne Flicker, Director: Marne was born and raised in Pierz, Minnesota. After high school, he spent 4 years in the Air Force, two of them in Viet Nam. Returning home, he attended St. Cloud Vo/Tech and received a degree in Electronics and Appliance repair. He and wife Marie started a TV & Appliance store in Monticello and after 30 years of retail, sold the business in 2001. As owner and manager of a business, he still found time to serve 22 years on the Fire & Rescue Squad.

Marne and Marie have two sons, both of whom live out of state. Tom lives in Wisconsin and shares their passion for snowmobiling, 4’ wheeling and all kinds of water sports. Jay lives in Orlando, so come February; you may find them recovering from cabin fever down there.

They have owned a cabin on the northwest side of Jessie Lake since April 1995 after hunting in the area for 30 years. Hobbies include fishing, hunting and enjoying the cabin on Jessie with family and friends.

Recently they purchased land in Grand Rapids and hope to build a home in the next year or two. Marne looks forward to serving the JLWA as a board member.

DNR WALLEYE SLOT PROPOSAL - JLWA SURVEY RESULTS

On September 7, 2004 I sent the following letter to the DNR regarding the comments received from our members on the proposed slot limit for Jessie Lake. At this time it appears likely that the special regulation will not be instituted on Jessie, Sand or Bowstring as opposition exceeded support for these lakes. I think it is important that everyone sees the letter since it apparently influenced the decision made by the DNR fisheries. They felt many of the pro comments were marginal and somewhat against with their qualifying statements such as we don’t want to be only one without slot.

Mr. Chris Kavanaugh, Fisheries Biologist
Department of Natural Resources
Grand Rapids, MN

Dear Chris:

Last July I sent a questionnaire dealing with the proposed DNR slot limit for walleye on Jessie Lake to about 90 of our members in the Jessie Lake Watershed Association. Of the 31 members who replied to the survey, 21 favored and 10 opposed the proposed slot limit. At our recent annual meeting it was agreed by the membership that I should include the comments of the replies as it gives you more insight into what people are thinking. Eight of members favoring the proposal did not comment, but the other thirteen (slightly edited) commented as follows:

- The D.N.R will do what it wants to do.
- A slot will protect the lake from increasing pressure, but we can still enjoy an occasional meal of walleye.
- Very restrictive, rather see a limit reduction to 4 or even 3 fish with only one over 24". If everyone goes except Jessie then there will be too much pressure on Jessie. Another form of bondage by big government.
- Under conditions that there is Some Proof that it has worked in other lakes where walleye stocking is the main source of replenishing fish, why release if there is little or no natural spawn?
- I would prefer that one fish over 17 inches could be kept to allow for keeping badly hooked fish. It is such a waste to put back a dead fish and keep six live ones. This would be the same as a 5 fish limit as the dead one will do no good to the fishery. Over 30 % of the returned fish in Mille Lacs die.
- My son who is a catch and release fisherman agrees. That means he never brings me any fish!
- Ten years is a long time, surely we would know if this were a success after 5 years.
- We agree that if there is going to be a slot limit on other lakes in the area, then Jessie Lake must also be included. Otherwise, every fisherman in the area will come to Jessie and it will be fished out. However, we feel that 17" is too small and it should be 19" instead. We already release fish under 16" and over 20".
- No good to have a couple of hundred extra boobs fishing because we don't have a slot on Jessie, so if all the lakes around us have a slot guess we need one too so on that I vote for a slot.
- I would like to see slot start at 18 not 17-inches.
- The top end of the slot should be 24-inches, which would coincide with "Fishing Regulations" page 18. This would not hurt the brood stock. Also, I do not think the slot limit should apply for ice fishing.
- Along with the slot we will need: 1.) Education of people in the area of proper handling and release of slot fish; 2.) Enforcement of the slot limit by residents and the resorts. People who use the public access will fall under DNR Enforcement.
- Current plan is not working so time for change and try something else. Times have changed the fishing methods and pressure. This has always been a managed fishery and we are committed to getting more natural reproduction so we need more spawning stock. Our 2002 lake management plans states that JLWA has an interest in placing special regulations to reduce boom or bust fishing.

Of the ten members who did not favor the proposed slot limit, three did not comment and the other seven members commented as follows:

- Take more northerns, reduce the walleye limit.
- I might agree to an 18 or 19-inch minimum but 17 is way too small. Normally 15 or 16-inch and smaller we release so this only leaves about 1 or 2-inch slot. However, if this same slot is imposed on all the other major lakes, then we have to do it on Jessie to hold back the fishing pressure that would come to Jessie if such regulations weren't imposed.
- I would say yes if all other lakes in the Jessie area were also slotted. Has the DNR tried closing lakes on and off and on basis, like two years closed and one year open?
- We spend a lot of time now to catch the few fish we keep and do not want to throw back nice eating fish.
- Fish management plan completed in 2002 stated, "It would be difficult to determine the best regulations to achieve a given goal due to limited amount of data present". Therefore, proposed regulations are not based on any biological information or need. The proposed slot limit is too restrictive and will lead to violations. No evidence of significant natural reproduction since 1958 so why save large fish? The goals of RSD -P of 25 and RSD- M of 10 are arbitrary and not a part of the lake management plan.
- My reasons why: (1) Fishing pressure. I believe that one of the main reasons for a slot limit is due to fishing pressure. Lake Mille Lacs and Winnie get tremendous pressure so a slot makes sense. Bowstring is at that point. I don't see that on Jessie. I fish Jessie a lot and many times I see next to nobody fishing, at least not nearly the boat traffic on other lakes. (2). The slot size in my opinion is too confining. EXAMPLE: I caught a nice 1½ lb eater and measured it. Under the present restrictions I would have had to release it. I am all for protecting the bigger brood fish but they should expand the present maximum length to 18 or 19 " or at least you have one say from 17-20".
- Why put a protected slot on a fish population when there's no natural reproduction?

Although the sample size is small, I thought the similarity in many of the comments by both those favoring and opposing the proposed slot limit was interesting. The majority of comments from all the members believed the slot size of fish that must be released is too small or that Jessie Lake must have the same fishing regulation as nearby lakes otherwise pressure would be too intense on Jessie Lake. Few people stated the regulations as proposed would improve fishing on Jessie. I should also mention that some of our members chose to comment directly to the DNR, some stated they don't fish and some live on the other three lakes in the Watershed.

In summary, the majority of Association members returning the survey favored the DNR proposal, but considering the comments this support was definitely not over-whelming for the conditions proposed. It seems some compromise to the slot size or allowing one fish over 17 inches would be preferred.

Sincerely,
Harold Goetzman, President
Jessie Lake Watershed Association

THE DIRTY TRUTH ABOUT PHOSPHORUS

By Joey Robison, Cannon River Watershed Partnership

Who would have thought that having clean dishes would mean having green lakes? Phosphorus was once widely used in household detergents. It was a useful ingredient: phosphates reduce water hardness, suspend certain types of particulate matter, prevent them from being redeposited, and aid in killing germs. But over time it became clear that this seemingly beneficial cleaning product additive could have very detrimental effects on our environment. Phosphorus is a fertilizer, and automatic dishwashing detergents can contain as much phosphorus as all-purpose houseplant fertilizer. In aquatic systems, excessive phosphorus results in algae blooms. Overabundance of algae and the resulting microorganisms can be very detrimental to fish populations and other aquatic life. Removing phosphorus from wastewater is difficult and costly. On average, wastewater treatment plants remove about 40 to 60% of the total phosphorus that comes in with wastewater. That means that approximately half of the dissolved, immediately usable form of phosphorus is not removed and is deposited into our waterways.

In the 1960's it was estimated that about 50% of the phosphorus found in wastewater came from laundry detergents. In 1976, Minnesota passed legislation limiting the phosphorus content in laundry detergent (and all household cleaning agents intended for home use) to 0.5% phosphorus by weight. Automatic dishwashing detergents, however, were exempt from this rule. Because a dishwasher can have as many as five wash cycles (unlike a washing machine which only has one wash cycle), it needs something that will soften the water in each cycle. It was assumed that there was no other alternative to phosphorus for this task.

Thirty years ago, few homes had automatic dishwashers, so it wasn't thought to be a large source of phosphorus. Today, almost everyone has one - a Montana survey found that over 75% of the households surveyed had an automatic dishwasher. Now it is estimated that 8-15% or more of the phosphorus leaving a wastewater treatment plant is from automatic dishwashing detergent. Recent state legislative efforts have supported a bill that would set limits on or remove phosphorus completely from automatic dishwashing detergent. This small step would cost the state nothing but would save significant time and money by taking care of the problem at the source instead of treating it after the fact.

You can start today by purchasing phosphate free automatic dishwashing detergent. If your store doesn't carry it, ask them to. It may cost a few cents more per load, but our lakes are worth it. Visit Cannon River Watershed Partnership's website at www.crowp.net for a list of phosphorus free dishwasher detergents.

P.S. The state legislature chose not to ban phosphorus in dishwasher detergent during their past session, but rather to set up a study to identify and quantify all the sources of phosphorus.

*Editor's note: Reprinted from 'Shore To Shore' - U of MN Extension Newsletter

CITY FISH, COUNTRY FISH – WHAT MAKES GOOD FISH HABITAT?

By: Cindy Hagley, Great Lakes Environmental Quality Educator, University of Minnesota Sea Grant

Some of us prefer country living, with its lack of crowding, clean air and water, and wide-open spaces. Because in the country people are sparsely distributed, we tend to have to drive much farther to obtain the services we need. Others of us prefer the city, where high rise buildings make it possible for large numbers of people to congregate in relatively small spaces. In the "more productive" environment of the city, services are also concentrated in a small area and can be more easily obtained nearer to our homes. These services include shelter, food, water, medical care, security, and other basic human needs.

Fish are not so very different from us in terms of their basic needs, and, just like us, the number and variety of fish that occur in a particular lake are determined by the availability of essential

“services.” In the case of fish, these include places to spawn and rear young fish, places for adults to feed, fish migration habitat, and vegetative cover for protection from predators. The types of lakes we may enjoy most for swimming in are the least “productive.” In other words, they are less nutrient-rich and support less algae and fewer aquatic plants, fish, and the small aquatic animals (zooplankton) that many fish feed on.

Though not as much fun for swimming, a healthy, productive lake like this one is somewhat like our “city” environment. It can support high and diverse populations of fish.

What can you do to encourage good habitat conditions for fish in your lake? One of the most important habitat requirements for fish is aquatic vegetation. The following excerpt from *Through the Looking Glass* says it well:

“Any angler knows how important plants are to fish. Habitat created by aquatic plants provides food and shelter for both young and adult fish. Invertebrates living on or beneath plants are a primary food source. Some fish, particularly bluegills, also graze directly on leaves and stems.”

“Predatory fish cruise the shadowy plant beds in search of prey. The structure and density of the plant beds can determine whether predators will be well-fed or go hungry. Too few plants can limit the number of prey fish; plant growth that’s too dense can fence predators out.” (*Through the Looking Glass... A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants* by Susan Borman, Robert Korth and Jo Temte 1997)

Just as in a city, where poor management can result in pollution, overloaded services, and a reduced quality of life, lakes receiving high concentrations of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) from their watersheds can shift from being able to support high and diverse fish populations to a less stable, less diverse system. Excess nutrients can lead to the elimination of sensitive species, which are less able to cope with the adverse conditions that result from a lake becoming overly productive, or “eutrophic.” Long-lived species that reproduce slowly and require extended periods of stable conditions are most negatively affected in unstable, eutrophic lakes. Often, as lakes become more eutrophic, populations of the top predator species that we enjoy catching, such as walleyes, are reduced, and smaller less desirable species of fish increase.

Just as we work hard in our cities to develop effective comprehensive plans that will ensure a high quality of life in the future, we should work together to plan a healthy future for our lakes. Two of the most important steps we can take to ensure healthy fish populations are to maintain a healthy aquatic plant population and control nutrient inputs from the watershed.

*Editor’s note: Reprinted from ‘Shore to Shore’ – U of MN Extension Newsletter

POTPOURRI

By Harold Goetzman

Jessie Lake Watershed Association Logo. This year we developed a logo for the Association that could be used for printing on shirts and hats with the first order taken this summer. Thanks again to Bob Lewis for the artwork and Kathy Dinkel did a great job of keeping the orders straight. We had a second order in October and will include an order form in the spring newsletter for next year’s order.

Eagle Update. The following note was received from Sue Backe at the DNR- “It is with great sadness that I forward the letter from Dr. Ponder at the Raptor Center with regards to the eagle known as Libere. Due to complications from injury/illness, Libere has been euthanized.

In subsequent contact with the Raptor Center, I would like you to know that they grieve, as we grieve, for the loss of this eagle we came to know as Libere. A release of a different kind has taken place for this bird. Long may she soar in the heavens, and we thank her for the opportunity she gave us to come together as a community on a project that evolved and revolved around her. I extend my deepest sympathy to all. We continue to hope in light of this tragedy that we will be able to share the release of an eagle at a future date and celebrate life renewed and life that has passed.”

DNR Lake Assessment Netting. This year the DNR placed 15 gill net sets in Jessie Lake during the week of August 30th. A complete report on this assessment will be available by next spring as the data is evaluated during the winter. The following information is summarized from a discussion with Karl Koller, Fisheries Specialist. Karl indicated that the 2004 value of 5.5 walleye per net was somewhat below the 50-year average of 8.2 fish per net. The walleye gill net catch rate has fluctuated between 3.9 in 1978 and 22.0 fish per net in 1999. The northern pike catch rate was up to 4.1 fish per net this year compared to the average of 3.2. One of the most significant results was the perch catch, which was only 12.9 fish per net. This is much lower than the average of 47.4 fish per net and is in fact the lowest value in the previous ten assessments (50 years) where the numbers ranged from 14.3 in 1974 to 105.2 in 1983. Karl feels it is likely that the lower walleye catch rate in this assessment was the result of the decline in perch caused by the very high walleye abundance in the past (22.0 fish per net in 1999) and an increase in northerns. The lower walleye and northern abundance will allow the perch to recover and then walleye abundance will likely rise over the next assessment or two (8-10 years) with the rebound in perch. This is similar to the past such as the 1974 to 1983 period when walleye and perch rose and then declined in 1987. The following table shows the catch per net for walleye, northern pike and yellow perch for the years 1954 through 2004:

Year	1954	1958	1974	1978	1983	1987	1990	1993	1999	2004	Average
Walleye	7.0	12.7	5.0	3.9	11.1	4.3	4.1	6.4	22.0	5.5	8.2
N. Pike	1.6	8.6	2.5	4.5	2.8	1.8	3.7	2.5	0.4	4.1	3.2
Y. Perch	23.2	83.7	14.3	38.4	105.2	30.9	46.7	86.6	32.3	12.9	47.4

Shocking Results. This fall, one night in late September, you may have seen a boat with strange lights moving slowly along the shore. Our DNR fisheries people were doing the annual walleye fingerling count by shocking in certain areas to check the spawning success. This year it did not take much counting as they found zero. This was not a year that fry were stocked in the spring so a low count was expected, but not zero. Due to the cold spring this was a common result in other lakes also.

Chippewa Forest Plan. The new forest plan was issued in August and JLWA has received both a CD and a paper copy. The plan sets recreation, logging and other forest guidelines for the next 15 years. Under the new plan, ATV's will be banned from cross-country travel, more trees will be logged and decades from now, conifer will cover more of the land where aspen now grows. ATV's will be allowed only on trails and roads posted as open in the Chippewa. Clear cutting will be reduced from the current 69% to 38% under the new plan. Timber harvest will increase from 6700 to 7600 acres out of the total 660,000 acres of forest.

Appeals were due Dec.1st and currently a number of groups have filed appeals so implementation of the final plan may be delayed. A Grand Rapids-based group is challenging the ATV rules.

The Cormorants are Coming. Deer River fishing guide Tom Neustrom is worried about the steadily increasing population of cormorants in this area. Tom calls the cormorant a "Federally-protected eating machine that will decimate our walleye population if not controlled." The DNR agrees that there is already a problem on Leech Lake from an estimated 2500 pairs of cormorants. He has started to see them on Winnie and says they devastated a lake population in New York so it can happen here too. So far we have only seen a few on Jessie and hopefully, they won't find it.

Quote of the Day. "Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principle measure of how we live on the land." – Luna Leopold, former Chief Hydrologist of US Geological Survey and expert in stream geomorphology.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- “The two best times to go fishing is when it’s rainin and when it ain’t.” (Patrick McManus)
- There were 148 cases of West Nile virus in MN in 2003, including 4 deaths.
- There were 473 cases of Lyme disease from deer ticks in MN last year.
- August of 2004 was the sixth coldest August on record according to the observer at the North Central Research Station in Grand Rapids going back to 1916.
- The growing season for Itasca County was only 85 days in 2004 compared to the 30-year average of 124 days.
- There are more nesting pairs of loons in Minnesota than any other state in the lower 48.
- Loons do not mate until the 4th year that they return to the northland. One or two chicks are normal for a nesting pair.
- Only 10% of the mercury in MN waters comes from a MN source.
- The MN Department of Health has issued a statewide fish consumption advisory by placing 100% of the lakes and over 4000 miles of rivers on mercury alert for reduced fish consumption.
- In Minnesota, nearly 500,000 deer hunters spend more than \$250 million to bag those bucks.
- There are 1300 lakes containing 400,000 acres of open water in the Chippewa National Forest, which are part of 19 separate watersheds.
- There are 660,000 acres of forested land in the Chippewa National Forest.
- The highest elevation of the Forest is about four miles from Walker at 1631 feet above sea level. Jessie Lake is about 1325 feet above sea level.
- About 95% of the forest fires in the Chippewa National Forest are caused by human activities such as campfires, brushfires, burning grass and cigarettes.
- The Chippewa National Forest is the home to about 150 pairs of eagles, which is one of the places in the lower 48 states where the breeding population is the highest.
- The Chippewa was first made a national forest in 1922.
- In America, about 900 species of plants and wildlife including about one-third of the nation’s bird species; use wetlands at some point in their life.
- About 80% of Minnesota drivers wore seat belts compared to 69% nationally. The 20% who did not comply accounted for 62% of the fatalities in Minnesota.
- The freeze up of Jessie Lake was on December 3, 2004, which is ten 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 2004 to the JLWA: Orrin and Ruth Baumgardner, Fred and Cleo Conrad, Bill and Loretta Egger, Jeff and Kelly Goetzman, David Goodall and Anne Lind, Neil and Jeanne Gustafson, Bret Hartley and Suzan Bach, Dale and Sharon Hertle, John Horsch, David Kuhn, Roger and Jill Meyer, Skip and Lynn Olson, Tim and Rita Onraet , Jon and Teresa Peterson, John and Beth Sams, Stephen and Barb Schmidt, Mike and Peg Selander, Dale and Mary Willard, Denise Zaske, and Bob and Gail Zerban. Thanks again to Bob Lewis, Diane and Harold Goetzman, Rhonda Nichols, Kathy Dinkel, Three Cedars, and Jessie View Resorts for the prizes and thanks to those volunteers who have spent many hours, which are priceless.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 87 paid members. Treasurer Dale Hertle will send out an invoice for dues in early January.