

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.11, NO.2

FALL 2008

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the start of our twelfth year for the JLWA, I have agreed to remain as President for another year and hope that we will continue to have success in doing what is best for our members and the Jessie Lake Watershed. If you remember last year our membership reached 100 members, which has fulfilled one of my long-term goals and this year's 99 members indicates we have a stable organization. Some people may recall a few years ago that I made the statement I would retire as Association President when I saw the membership reach 100 members. To make good on that election promise, I guess the time has come for me to step down as JLWA President after this year. As I recently pondered our country's current political climate with a demand for change I am sensing that our organization perhaps also needs a change in leadership and the opportunity for a new direction. A new President will bring new ideas and more input from the membership. After 12 years of consuming a great deal of my time I will certainly feel a loss, but I would hope to remain involved in helping the organization continue to grow and be successful in the future. My goal in sharing this plan with you now is to allow time for everyone to consider stepping forward to assume the leadership role or think about whom you would like to take the position. I am sure someone will step up to the challenge.

This year we have re-elected all our past officers and directors, except Board member Skip Olson who will be replaced by Jim Anderson. My thanks go to Skip for his several years of service and we expect to see him return after he finishes his full time employment stint. Many people have helped in various ways this year, but a special thanks to Jim DeConcini and Peg Wood for a great job of hosting our sixth annual picnic. It continues to be our social event of the year so put it on your to-do list next year. Thanks again to Carol Wood for hosting our fourth annual Share the Lake Day to share a little bit of what we all take for granted. We all know that living on a lake or going to the cabin is a real blessing. Getting out and having a picnic on the shore is something our visitors from Bigfork really enjoyed and the pontoon ride was particularly appreciated.

I also continue to be impressed by how our members have responded to giving monetary contributions with their dues. This year we had thirty-five members contribute; many of these members have also given in previous years when they can't volunteer their time. This indicates to me that our members really care about the future of our Watershed and is a tribute to the continued success of JLWA. It allows us to continue being an effective association and helps us carry out some extra projects in addition to our annual water quality monitoring. This year we continued to have very low water levels, but the water quality was quite good due to the colder weather. However, fishing seemed to move in the other direction with the cold spring and was one of the worst years I can remember in my 30 years on Jessie Lake. Working with the DNR on improving the fishery and with the MPCA and SWCD on water quality via the TMDL project will be our priorities for the coming year.

We all need to continue thinking 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.

JLWA ANNUAL MEETING

By Betty Steinbrenner

President Harold Goetzman called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM on August 30th. Harold introduced new members and the association's officers and directors who were in attendance; 41 people attended the meeting.

BUSINESS ITEMS - The minutes of the spring meeting were approved. Dale Hertle reported that the JLWA treasury contained \$4,391.07 as of the end of August. There are also two expense invoices for about \$550 that were just received today. Dale also reported that the membership was currently at 99 members.

PROJECT REVIEW

Picnic - The summer picnic, hosted by Jim DeConcini and Peg Wood, was well attended and a great event on a beautiful night. We need a volunteer to host the 2009 picnic.

Water Level - Bill Nelson reported that the water level of Jessie Lake is presently at an elevation of 1322.21 feet (1323.5 average). This level is down 18 inches since May 12 and a few inches better than this time last year when we had a record low.

Loon Survey - Jim Anderson reported that during his loon survey on Jessie Lake he observed 12-15 adults and two chicks that hatched on the south end of the lake.

Share the Lake Day - This summer the association hosted seniors from the Bigfork Nursing Home during our annual "Share The Lake Day" on August 13 at Carol Wood's home. Nineteen association members assisted the seniors for a picnic and an opportunity to enjoy a pontoon ride as well. Marn will be looking for another senior facility to work with for next year's event.

Logo Wear - Wearing apparel and hats with the JLWA logo may be ordered through Marne & Marie Flicker and order blanks were available.

TMDL Study - The Pollution Control Agency has provided funding for the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to hire a consultant (Wenck out of the cities) to model the water quality of Jessie Lake. Hopefully, this will be completed within a year to provide the data required to estimate the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Level of pollutants, i.e. phosphorus) for Jessie Lake. Upon achieving this requirement, remedial action and a management plan can be developed to remove Jessie Lake from the impaired waters list.

Roadside Cleanup - Cleanup day is scheduled for September 16th. Meet at 10:00 AM at Jessie View Resort if you can help.

NEW BUSINESS

Invasive Species - Purple Loosestrife is present in Turtle Lake as well as Bowstring and Sand Lake and is currently being treated by introducing a specially developed bug, which attacks the weed. Jessie Lake and Little Jessie Lake were checked this summer and no loosestrife was found. Harold stressed the need to make sure to check boats that have been in other lakes to insure that the weed isn't brought into Jessie Lake.

Creel Survey - Jim Anderson asked for the Creel Survey Sheets to be sent to him following the end of the fishing season so he can finalize results.

DNR -- Harold reported that Karl Koller has taken a new position and Dave Weitzel is our new lake specialist at the DNR Fisheries. They plan to do fingerling shocking this fall to check the lake's natural reproduction.

Shoreline Standards are currently being looked at for revision by the DNR on a statewide basis rather than only the five counties previously involved.

A dock survey was done on Jessie Lake and all docks were in compliance with DNR rules.

Zoning - Catherine McLynn reported that the Zoning Ordinance adopted this year by Itasca County is not in compliance with the state ordinance and we need to fix our zoning ordinance to comply. She also reported on the "Get the Lead Out" project relative to old lead-based fishing lures.

Spring Meeting – After discussion regarding elimination of the spring meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to change the spring meeting to the Saturday of the weekend prior to Memorial Day weekend in the hopes that this will improve attendance.

ELECTION - All association officers and members of the board of directors consented to continue serving with the exception of Skip Olson to be replaced by Jim Anderson for a one-year term. The attendees unanimously approved this slate of officers and directors.

DOOR PRIZE – John Horsch won the door prize of an annual membership in the Association.

BENEFIT DRAWING - Bob Lewis Painted Wood Slab – Betty Steinbrenner; Marlys Burton Doll – Jerry Ostergen; Harold Goetzman Framed Photo – Rhonda Nichols; Jessie View Resort Shirts – Carol Wood and Brenda Bailey, Jessie View Visors – Rita Anderson and Brenda Bailey, Jessie View Beverage Cozy – Rudy Grounau, Jerry Swenson, Diane Goetzman and John Horsch; JLWA hat – John Horsch and JLWA T-shirt – Janet Nystrom.

NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be May 16th, 2009. Thank you to everyone that donated items and to the Bowstring Store for donating hot dogs for the potluck.

JESSIE LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD STUDY

By Harold Goetzman

Jessie Lake has now been under study for ten years to develop a management plan that would improve or maintain the fishery and water quality. After completion of a Clean Water Partnership grant in 2002, the lake was placed on the impaired waters list by the MPCA in 2004 due to increased levels of nutrients (phosphorous). Last year a grant was awarded to the Itasca SWCD to start a project that would develop the allowable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of phosphorous. This project has been discussed previously and the last update can be found in your spring newsletter. A new work plan calls for SWCD to complete a Phase I study, which will basically get the new data compiled and on a website, determine the scope of work for hiring a contractor to assist in lake modeling for completion of the TMDL and finally preparing a request for proposal (RFP) to be sent out to contractors. The state of Minnesota (MPCA) has budgeted state dollars to complete the TMDL.

The final RFP was sent out to nine qualified contractors in May and five responded with proposals. A committee of people from SWCD, DNR, JLWA and MPCA reviewed the proposals and invited the top three to give presentations in early July. Following that meeting a contract for \$75,000 was awarded to Wenck Associates, Inc of Maple Plain, MN. The contractor's experience with other TMDL projects and with lake modeling was a major factor in the selection. Completion of the TMDL by the contractor is scheduled for October of 2009. A public meeting with a formal presentation by the contractor will be part of this project.

The Wenck staff has currently been working on evaluating the existing data, developing the lake model, quantifying the phosphorous load and developing load reduction scenarios as required in Task 1 of the project. The results of this phase will be reported to the Jessie Lake Technical Advisory Committee (JLTAC) and others in early December. This meeting will give us an opportunity for input in the reduction scenarios to be evaluated for the implementation plan.

A \$12,000 grant has also been approved by the MPCA to conduct additional Jessie Lake sediment sampling. This will provide data on the organic/inorganic forms of phosphorous present and distribution of phosphorous at different depths. Weather permitting; a total of 23 samples will be obtained by SWCD on a very cold Nov. 20th, which probably will be the last boat on the lake in 2008. This sediment information will be used in the new TMDL study being conducted by Wenck.

The Jessie TMDL website has been setup by Noel Griese (SWCD), which contains a brief background section and reports with additional data being added regularly. You can visit this site by accessing the home page for SWCD or by going to www.itascaswcd.org/Jessie_Lake_TMDL.htm.

WOLVES BACK ON THREATENED SPECIES LIST

DNR News Release

Minnesota's wolves have returned to the federal threatened species list following a federal judge's ruling on September 29, 2008 that rescinded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2007 decision to delist the western Great Lakes population of gray wolves. The gray wolf, commonly referred to as the timber wolf, was removed from the threatened species list in March 2007 and management of the wolf population became a state responsibility. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) managed wolves under the terms of a federally approved state wolf management plan. The ruling places wolves back under federal protection and management.

"As a result of this ruling, Minnesotans need to know there is no legal way for an individual to kill a wolf except in the defense of human life," said Dan Stark, DNR wolf management specialist. "Taking wolves to protect domestic animals may only be done by agents of the government. This was a technical legal decision that focused on federal rule-making procedures and will require the federal government to revisit its processes," Stark said. "The ruling had nothing to do with the status of Minnesota's wolf population or the adequacy of state management."

A survey last winter showed that an estimated 2,921 gray wolves live in Minnesota, which continues to rank second only to Alaska in wolf population among U. S. states. Minnesota's wolf population surpasses the federal delisting goal of 1,251-1,400 wolves. The state has one of the highest wolf densities recorded anywhere, indicating that Minnesota's wolf population is fully recovered, according to the DNR.

All wolf damage complaints should be reported to a local conservation officer, who will make appropriate contact with federal authorities. Only an authorized agent of the government is authorized to take wolves that cause damage.

CLEAN WATER, LAND AND LEGACY AMENDMENT

Information from Duluth and Minneapolis Newspaper Articles

On November 4th all Minnesotans had a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment that will provide dedicated funds to protect our natural resources. The final results of the election showed 56% of the people favored this amendment that was stated on the ballot to read as follows:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?"

In an economic downturn Minnesota voters overwhelmingly voted to raise the sales tax a fraction to pay for clean water and other conservation needs. It shows the voters believe our outdoors is a top priority even in lean times. If you want evidence that protecting our lakes, our land and our way of life is more important than politics, this vote is it. After years of legislative neglect, more Minnesotans voted for the Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment than for President-Elect Obama.

"Spending on conservation and environment is at a 30 year low as a percentage of the state budget," said Charlie Poster, Communications Director for Vote Yes Minnesota. "In 1999, the state spent \$239.4 million in general funds for conservation and environment. This represented 2.18 percent of a total general fund budget of \$10.98 billion. By 2009, the state allocated only \$174.8 million in general funds for conservation, barely 1 percent of a total general fund budget of \$17.4 billion," he said. The current lottery provides \$25 million a year for the environment, while the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment should provide \$243 million a year to clean water, the outdoors and parks. An additional \$59 million a year would go to arts and culture. It is estimated the average Minnesota household will pay less than \$60 more a year in sales tax.

The proceeds will be allocated to four areas: the Clean Water Fund – 33%, the Outdoors Fund – 33%, the Arts Fund – 19.75% and the Parks and Trails Fund – 14.25%. The Clean Water Fund will invest about \$100 million per year to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation that will protect drinking water sources. The Outdoors fund will invest about \$100 million per year to provide funds for the purchase and protection of fish and wildlife habitat and natural areas, enhance or restore prairies and wetlands, forest conservation and other measures important to the state’s outdoor legacy. A fund of about \$43 million a year will be used to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. The Arts Fund will invest \$59 million per year for arts, art education and to preserve Minnesota’s history.

My favorite writer in the Duluth Tribune, Sam Cook, had a recent column on the amendment that I think covers the issue pretty well. Sam wrote: “I voted yes on the amendment. I think it’s worth increasing my taxes slightly to provide the funding we need to create or enhance wildlife habitat. It’s worth the sacrifice to improve water quality and parks and trails. And, yes, I value the arts enough to share some of that funding with those groups, too.

I am not doing this for myself. I’m doing it for my kids and for their kids. Because if they don’t have places to hear pheasants cackle or watch avocets sitting along a shoreline or catch walleyes clean enough to eat, then something will have gone out of us as a people.

Some people would say that in difficult economic times, we cannot afford to assess ourselves in the name of fish and wildlife and art. I say that especially in these difficult times, we cannot afford to forsake our natural world, where so many of us seek solace from the forces we cannot control. We need the quiet places to sit or walk or gaze upon soothing landscapes. We need the silences of undeveloped land, the resonant calling of Canada geese and natural places that remind us why we call Minnesota home.

Some people whose values I respect disagree with me. They do not think it’s wise to allocate funds by constitutional amendment. They would prefer that our legislators decide how to appropriate our tax dollars. While I respect that position, I would say that’s what we’ve been doing all these years. We have tried that approach and natural resources keep coming up short. They suggest we continue down that same path. We know where it leads. It leads to state parks where resources cannot keep up with hiking boots on the ground. It leads to public hunting lands that cannot hold up to hunting pressure. It leads to stormwater runoff in Duluth that fouls lake Superior. A dedicated source of funding should shore up many of the areas where we’ve just been getting by. Yes, these are tough times. But this may be the only time we have the chance to say “yes” to what we love about living here.”

“I think Americans always understood as part of the American dream that we wanted to leave more to our children than we ourselves inherit. The longer we wait, the worse the situation is going to get and it’s also going to be more expensive.” - Arne Carlson, former Minnesota Governor.

CITIZEN INPUT WILL SHAPE UPDATED SHORELAND STANDARDS

DNR News Release - October 21, 2008

When it comes to construction and development activity near the lakeshore or riverbank, citizens share common concerns. This is according to input recently received at advisory committee meetings held by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Brainerd, Grand Rapids, and Fergus Falls.

“We heard a lot about shoreline development and that changes are necessary to the existing rules,” explained Peder Otterson, project manager for the DNR’s Shoreland Rules Update Project. “The committees represent a broad cross-section of interests and viewpoints and are providing us with valuable feedback.”

Development standards in the use of the shoreland have not changed since they were established in 1970 and revised in 1989. “Our goal is to arrive at policy recommendations that are reality-based and recognize good science,” Otterson said. “It is about striking a balance and creating reasonable new standards for lake and river conservation.”

There are ways to mitigate development impacts on water quality, explained Paul Radomski, a research scientist with the DNR in Brainerd. One way is through shoreland planned unit developments (PUDs). Called cluster developments in the original rules, PUDs were designed to allow greater housing densities with the expectation of protecting natural areas for wildlife, recreational use, and shoreland buffers. The current standards have not achieved the open space amenities originally intended.

“Many citizens are seeking higher standards for planned unit developments that local communities can add to their ordinances - standards that define clustering, characterize the quantity and quality of open space, encompass provisions to protect water quality and allow residential housing densities to be more consistent with the neighborhood,” explained Radomski.

The Shoreland Rules Update Project, which commenced in January at the request of the Legislature, includes extensive public participation. For more information, visit www.mndnr.gov and enter shoreland rules update project in the search box.

POTPOURRI

By Harold Goetzman

Jessie Lake Watershed Association Logo. We have gone to one order per year after the spring meeting. So if you have an interest in purchasing logo sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts or hats please let Marn or Marie Flicker know. The style has now changed to a screen-printed logo, which is lower cost than the embroidery style. A sweatshirt can now be had for \$25 and a T-shirt for only \$10.

Share the Lake Day. This was the fourth year for our Association to host a day of sharing with those not able to live on a lake. Thanks to Carol Wood we had a great place to host 20 guests from the Bigfork Nursing Home and Pine Tree Villa on August 13th. Carol, Marn Flicker, and Jim Deconcini did a good job of getting things organized and we had a great turnout of 19 JLWA volunteers to help out that day. This year we had rides on the handicapped accessible pontoon boat provided by the Let's Go Fishing organization, which was the highlight of the day. The guests and our members also enjoyed a traditional picnic together with hot dogs, beans, chips, and bars. Sitting on the shore enjoying the sunshine, socializing and some pretty good stories make it an interesting day. We gave out notepads and Marn took a picture of each person that was framed for a memento. This year we also had a \$280 grant from the NIEC Round-up program to cover most of the expenses involved.

Roadside Clean Up. On September 15th and 16th we had a record 16 members meet to pick up litter on 3 miles of County Road 35 between Highway 6 and County Road 133. This was followed by a hot dog lunch at Bill and Sarah Nelson's. The County provides garbage bags and vests so it is a good public service event for JLWA. We will also need to pick up the litter in the spring. Think about helping out next year.

Volunteer Award. This year JLWA member Jim Anderson was recognized by the DNR Fisheries Dept. for his volunteer efforts in coordinating the monitoring of the walleye spawning riffles use in Spring Creek. Jim was given a framed Certificate of Appreciation from Area Fisheries Supervisor Chris Kavanaugh who stated “without the help of volunteers such as yourself and the others who assist you, the DNR would not be able to accomplish as much as we do. Our staff is very busy each spring with other activities that prevent us from having the time to do the kind of monitoring the JLWA has provided. The data you and the other volunteers collect is invaluable for assessing the success of our habitat improvement projects to evaluate the contribution of natural reproduction in Jessie Lake.” Thanks also, Jim, from the members of JLWA for your ten years of volunteer effort on this project.

DNR Fisheries Representative. The new contact person for Jessie Lake Watershed at the DNR Fisheries in Grand Rapids is Dave Weitzel who has replaced Karl Koller. Karl has left the Fisheries Department after serving as our representative since the inception of JLWA and we wish him well in his new job. We will miss him as he has served our Association very well over those years, but now we will look forward to working with Dave on improving the fishery.

Dave was promoted to his current position of Assistant Area Fisheries Supervisor in 2007 at the Grand Rapids Area Fisheries. Prior to that transfer he was assigned to the DNR Fisheries station in Waterville, MN. Dave received a BS degree in aquatic biology from Bemidji State University in 1999 and a MS degree in Biology from Ball State in Muncie, Indiana in 2004. While in graduate school he conducted a biological monitoring in the Wabash River and did his thesis research on walleye movement in the Wabash River. Dave has worked at several positions with the DNR, the Minnesota Conservation Corp, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. After graduation from Ball State he worked as a temporary research biologist on Mille Lacs Lake until joining the DNR permanently. If you want to contact Dave, you can call him at 218-999-7827 or email David.Weitzel@dnr.state.mn.us.

Walleye Shocking. The fall walleye assessment was carried out in September by the DNR and Dave Weitzel reported the following results. Jessie Lake was electrofished this fall as part of a continued effort to document young of the year walleye abundance. Only two walleye fingerlings were captured, resulting in a catch of 1.26 per hour. This catch rate was below the mean and median values for Jessie Lake of 38.4/hr and 4.0/hr, respectively. Jessie Lake is stocked with walleye fry in two consecutive years followed by two years of no stocking. Walleye were not stocked in 2008 and the shocked fish should indicate the success of the natural spawning. However, the low catch of young of the year walleye was consistent with other lakes that were sampled this fall. Apparently, the effect of an unseasonably cold and late spring resulted in a poor walleye year class strength in many lakes, even lakes that were stocked with fry. Next year will be the second no stocking year, which will allow another assessment of the natural spawning success.

DNR Alert on Transport of Snails from Winnie. In the fall of 2007, an estimated 7,000 lesser scaup and an unknown number of coots on Lake Winnibigoshish (Winnie) died from eating snails that were infected with parasitic trematodes (small worms). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) surveys of Winnie this summer revealed the presence of the faucet snail, the invasive species, which carries a parasite that can infect and kill ducks. The faucet snail is not native to the area and, fortunately, has not been discovered in neighboring lakes. The DNR is urging anglers and waterfowl hunters to be especially diligent in cleaning boats when leaving Lake Winnie, to prevent the spread of this snail and parasite.

When leaving Winnie or any other lake:

- Remove all vegetation from your trailer, boat, and fishing or hunting equipment (anchors, decoys and lines).
- Drain all bilge, live well, and bait water.
- Remove any snails that may be attached to your boat or trailer (snails can live out of water for several days).

Conservation. The words conservationist and conservative do not have the same meaning. Both liberals and conservatives can be conservationists. This is such a beautiful world – we really need to take care of it for future generations and can all work together on the common goal of conservation.

Wetlands. The Nature Conservancy publication recently reported that agricultural and urban developments, as well as dam building, have destroyed more than half the nation's original wetlands. More than 113 million acres have been lost and in some states the wetland losses have been over 90%. In terms of biodiversity, wetlands are disproportionately important in relation to their size, sustaining ecosystems over a scale that ranges far beyond the wetland themselves.

Horseshoe Crabs. A bit of interesting trivia for your memory bank is the fact that Horseshoe Crabs predate the dinosaurs and have remained basically unchanged for 245 million years. It has not needed to evolve because it is basically perfect already. The crab is considered by many to be right up there with the mosquito in terms of value to people. However, the horseshoe crab eggs are a food source for the rufa, a shorebird famous for its 9,000-mile migration from the tip of South America to the Arctic.

Quotable. “If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping in a room with a mosquito.” Anonymous

One of my favorites seen recently “It used to be that people robbed banks--now banks rob people.”

GROUND WATER SUPPLY IN DANGER

Information from DNR Conservation Volunteer Article March-April 2008

Water-rich Minnesota cannot afford to take its underground water supply for granted. “The only time people worry about conserving water is when they don’t have it,” says well driller Earl Drussell. Minnesota has always been associated with water in lakes, streams and rivers. Yet one aquifer alone, the Mount Simon, stores trillions of gallons of water a 1000 feet below ground. More than 70 percent of Minnesotans get their drinking water from underground. About 1.25 million of them draw water from private wells and drink that well water straight from the ground, whereas surface water requires treatment to make it potable.

Minnesota gets 90 percent of its irrigation water from underground. In 2006, a drought year, 116 billion gallons of water were pumped for irrigation. The number of irrigation permits increased by more than 45% over the past 10 years for commercial landscaping, golf courses, crops, orchards, cemeteries and nurseries. It is not surprising that a growing population (expected to grow 26 percent by 2030) and a demand for more consistent watering of plants have put increased pressures on ground water. However, the fastest growing user of ground water in the state—ethanol plants—has caught a lot of people off guard. As of 2007, Minnesota had 17 ethanol facilities. Six more are being built and 11 more are on the drawing board according to the MPCA. Such plants average 4-5 gallons of water for each gallon of ethanol produced. During the past decade the industry’s volume of water use has increased more than 250 percent. Most new plants are targeted for the western part of Minnesota, which is an area rich in corn but poor in water. The impact of biofuels production on groundwater is finally starting to concern some government agencies.

Today, Minnesotans are using more water per capita than ever before. Increased municipal water use and industrial uses such as ethanol production are putting new demands on aquifers. Development is stressing aquifers too, especially on hot summer days when homeowners turn on lawn sprinklers and crank up air conditioning—causing peak electrical demand from power plants, which use large amounts of surface water. All these demands for water—plus land use changes that pave miles of impervious surfaces, and possibly climate change—are disrupting the recharge cycle that is key to the sustainable use of ground water. The trends in water use and projected future needs, makes it clear that Minnesotans can no longer afford to ignore the comings and goings of underground water.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- Itasca County has dedicated \$100,000 of the Environmental Trust Fund for use as low-interest loans for septic installations.
- Itasca County Commissioner Catherine McLynn has been re-elected as our Dist. 2 representative.
- Mosquito eggs on dry land can last 2-3 years before they are covered by water and hatch. That is why it may seem like a sudden explosion of bugs during a wet year.
- Dry land is only 30% of the Earth’s surface.

- Using a gas lawn mower for an hour pollutes air the same as driving a car 340 miles.
- The EPA estimates that Americans accidentally spill 17 million gallons of gasoline a year while filling small engines. More than the petroleum spilled in the Exxon Valdez, Alaska disaster.
- Wind produces about 1% of the electricity used worldwide.
- A forest area about the size of New York State is cleared every year.
- Deforestation is now the third-leading cause of climate change, just behind energy generation and industrial emissions from factories. Deforestation causes 17% of global carbon dioxide emissions.
- Worldwide over 500 billion plastic shopping bags are produced each year.
- Americans fill enough garbage trucks every year to stretch half way to the moon.
- Scientists say more than 150 invasive species have entered the Great Lakes feeding on native species and multiplying rapidly.
- Tornadoes are most common in southern and western MN, but every county has reported tornadoes since 1950. Cook County had the fewest in the state at 2 and 2007 had the fewest (18) since 1990.
- Thunderstorms, hail, straight-line winds and heat waves cause extensive damage in Minnesota every year. The annual toll from hail alone is about \$1 billion nationally.
- Anything that burns produces CO including natural gas, LP gas, diesel, charcoal and wood. Cars, burning barrels and smoldering fires are three big producers of CO.
- One type of material that should definitely not be burned in a barrel is discarded material resulting from the handling, processing, storage, preparation, serving or consumption of food.
- An average of 83 people die from lightning every year in the USA.
- Lake Erie is known for giving up a lot of large walleyes. Collectively, anglers in a recent tournament caught 1,716 walleyes that averaged 5.6 pounds.
- Bees do not have ears.
- Jessie Lake froze over on Nov. 21st, which is two days off the average of Nov.23rd.
- Our website (www.minnesotalakes.org/Jessie) is updated regularly by our webmaster Jim Anderson with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our sincere thanks to the following households that made financial contributions in 2008 to the JLWA: Bill and Lily Baird, David Bernardson, Keith and Melody Bolin, Tom and Deanna Boysen, Orrin and Ruth Bumgardner, Bill and Melissa Coleman, Fred and Cleo Conrad, Ken and Kathy Dinkel, Ben Edwards, Marn and Marie Flicker, David Goodall and Anne Lind, Rudy Gronau, Tom and Nancy Hackler, Bret Hartley and Susan Bach, Jerome Hoepfner, John Horsch, Greg and Ruth Kirkevold, David Kuhn, Gerald and Shelly Loney, Hollister and Jerril Madsen, Roger and Jill Meyer, Loren and Bev Novak, Lowell and Lynn Nystrom, Mike and Janet Nystrom, Skip and Lynn Olson, Tim and Rita Onraet, Jon and Teresa Peterson, Wally and Marilyn Russell, Gary and Carolyn Scherer, Stephen and Barb Schmit, Al and Julie Schuna, Mike and Peg Selander, David and Diane Sievers, Duane and Norma Storrs and Denise Zaske. Thanks again to Bob Lewis, Harold Goetzman, Marlys Burton and Jessie View Resort for the raffle prizes donated and thanks to all those volunteers who have spent many hours, which are priceless.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 99 paid members. Treasurer Dale Hertle will send out an invoice for dues in early January. Welcome to new members David and Elayne Anderson, Tom and Deanna Boysen, Joe and Shelley Durbak, Robert and Sandra Ebert, Greg and Ruth Kirkevold, Phil and Kathy LaRoche, and David and Ricki Leslie, Glenn Weismann.