

# JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



# JESSIE JABBER

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## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARN FLICKER:

I'd like to start my term as President by reminding all the members that we owe many "Thanks" to Harold Goetzman for all the years of dedication as president of JLWA. Harold has held the president position from the formation of JLWA, approximately 12 years ago. He will remain on the board as past president for a minimum of one year and will continue as the Jabber Editor. His knowledge and leadership has been a valuable asset to the Association.

For those members who do not know me, my wife Marie and I have owned a seasonal cabin on Jessie Lake for 15 years and we moved from Monticello to Grand Rapids just three years ago. We both enjoy the outdoors and wanted to live closer to where we play. I love to spend my early mornings at the cabin chasing the elusive Jessie walleyes. I have served on the board as director and vice-president for the past several years. I will do my very best to continue to move the Association in the direction that will enhance the water quality and improve the total watershed environment.

So, where do I go from here as the new captain of the JLWA ship? I will need the assistance of the membership to keep the ship afloat and on the assigned course. I understand that "none of us are as smart as all of us". We are all important parts of the Association with the same goal in mind. Just paying your annual membership dues tells me that you care about the watershed area environment. My number one goal is to broaden the base of involvement. I want to work with the board to form committees of members to address some important areas to the Association. We need the involvement of all the members to accomplish the tasks involved in keeping JLWA healthy and active.

I want to thank all the dedicated members who have served on the board in the past and also want to thank all the generous members who have volunteered their time and talent to tasks such as, installing spawning beds, monitoring walleye spawn beds, installing beaver dam leveler, road ditch clean-up, share the lake day with seniors, counting loons, water sampling, conducting secchi disc readings, hosting picnics, installing neighborhood watch signs and the list is endless.

With the board and sub-committee assistance, I hope to keep the membership informed through emails, the web page and newsletters on Jessie Lake Watershed issues and concerns.

Please feel free to contact me by email [mmflick@hotmail.com] or phone 218-326-0811 with your thoughts on what you would like the Association to do for you, as well as what you can do for the Association. I look forward to working with you and hearing from you with suggestions for the Association.

Thank you for your confidence in me. I'll see you on the water!

Marn Flicker

## JLWA ANNUAL MEETING

By Betty Steinbrenner

President Harold Goetzman called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM on September 5<sup>th</sup> following the coffee hour. Harold introduced new members and the Association's officers and directors who were in attendance. Thirty-two people attended the meeting.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

The minutes of the spring meeting were approved. Dale Hertle reported that the JLWA treasury contained \$5,061.78 after all expenses have been paid. Dale also reported that the membership was currently at 95 members.

### **PROJECT REVIEW**

*Picnic* - The summer picnic, hosted by Rhonda Nichols, was a great event and was attended by 40 people.

*Water Levels* - Bill Nelson reported that the water level of Jessie Lake is presently down 20 inches from spring and is only ½ inch above the recorded low.

*Loon Survey* - Jim Anderson reported that on his Jessie Lake loon survey he observed 9 resident adults and two chicks. This is close to the normal number of loons and chicks on Jessie Lake.

*Creel Survey* - Jim Anderson asked for the Creel Survey Sheets to be sent to him following the end of the fishing season. He gave a summary of the 2008 results.

*Share the Lake Day* - This summer the Association hosted seniors from the Bigfork Nursing Home during our annual "Share The Lake Day" on August 5<sup>th</sup> at Carol Wood's home. Twenty members assisted the seniors for this picnic and an opportunity to enjoy a ride on the "Let's Go Fishing" pontoon. Marn reported that the \$250 grant from the electric company covered most of the \$320 cost.

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

*TMDL* - The last meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was August 3<sup>rd</sup> with Harold Goetzman and Bill Nelson attending on behalf of JLWA. The consultant's draft report received comments and corrections by the TAC. The next step is a review by the MPCA and then the EPA. The public meeting did not happen in August and will be scheduled in the spring. An Implementation Plan will be prepared by the consultant for the spring meeting.

*Roadside Cleanup* - Cleanup is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> with a backup date of Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Meet at 10:00 AM at Jessie View Resort if you can help. Bill and Sarah Nelson will host coffee and lunch after we finish.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Invasive Species* - Purple Loosestrife is present in Turtle Lake as well as 18 other lakes. Jessie Lake has been checked and is currently safe. Harold stressed the need to check and wash boats that have been in other lakes to insure that noxious weeds aren't brought into Jessie Lake. All water needs to be drained on shore from live wells and minnow buckets to avoid transfer of zebra mussels.

*Wolves* - Harold reported that wolves in the Jessie Lake area have killed two dogs this season. During the summer there were 5 -7 adults and 11 pups observed in the gravel pit on CR #35. Federal trappers managed to trap 3 adults. If you experience problems with wolves you can contact a board member or John Hart (327-3550) of the US Dept. of Agriculture.

*DNR* - The DNR Fisheries completed the netting survey this past week, moved up a year from when previously scheduled. Although the count has not been completed there appeared to be an excellent quantity of fish in all sizes.

The state Shoreline Standards are currently being revised by the DNR. First draft should be out for public comment this fall.

*County* - Catherine McLynn and Lori Dowling were present and reported on various county issues.

*Beaver* - Marn reported that the Board has approved putting a Clemson Leveler in the beaver dam in Spring Creek at a cost of approximately \$600 for a basic kit. This should provide an increase in water flow that would help our spawning beds. Volunteers will be needed to help with the installation in October.

*Other Concerns* - A suggestion made at the Spring Meeting to hold a winter potluck was tabled for lack of interest. Marn gave a brief report on Watercraft Rules and Safety. Bob Lewis gave a report and distributed literature on the dangers of sun exposure and skin cancer.

A thank you to Harold Goetzman for his years of service to the organization as president was expressed by the membership.

### **ELECTION**

The following slate of officers and directors was unanimously approved by the attendees.

President - Marn Flicker, Vice President - Jim Anderson, Treasurer - Dale Hertle, Secretary - Betty Steinbrenner --- Board of Directors: 2-year terms - Tim Onraet and Krista Hagen, 1-year term - Harold Goetzman, continuing 2<sup>nd</sup> year of term - Jim DeConcini and Ardie Sheplee.

**DOOR PRIZE** - Jill Meyer won the door prize of an annual membership in the Association. Harold suggested that members give a heartfelt thank you to the Bowstring Store for donating the hot dogs for the potluck. The meeting was adjourned and all enjoyed the potluck.

### **MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR-KRISTA HAGEN**

I have been in love with Jessie Lake for 26 years and counting. My husband Dick and I bought our cabin on Pillar Road in 1983 when our kids were just toddlers. How quickly the years have passed. Our daughter is married and expecting her first child January 1<sup>st</sup>. She was a volleyball player at the University of Minnesota, but has given up the game for just a few months. Our son Jeff played basketball for the Gophers and in the NBA Developmental League before nagging knee pain put the game into the recreational area. He works as a financial adviser for Minneapolis Financial.

Dick and I were self-employed in a medical management and billing company for 25 years. We always dreamed about retiring up here, but didn't envision that time ever coming. Our permanent home was in Minnetonka, but the fun place was on Jessie Lake. Now we are thrilled to call this place "home sweet home".

Environmental issues are an interest of mine. Good fishing always keeps the men in the family happy and clean water for the swimmers helps bring company to the lake. I am looking forward to helping our lake association improve all aspects of our paradise in Itasca County.

### **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 contract for \$75,000 was awarded to Wenck Associates, Inc of Maple Plain, MN to complete the TMDL by October of 2009. The contractor's experience with other TMDL projects and with lake modeling was a major factor in the selection. A public meeting with a formal presentation by the contractor will be part of this project. The state of Minnesota (MPCA) has budgeted state dollars to complete the TMDL.

The Wenck staff has 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 Phase I part of this study was reported by Wenck to the Technical Advisory Committee

(TAC) in early May. This meeting gave us the opportunity for input in the reduction scenarios to be evaluated for the implementation plan. The participants made comments and suggested corrections to the report. We then convened again in July to review the draft of the report that would be sent to the MPCA by the end of October for comments by a peer review committee. After Wenck addresses the MPCA comments, the report will be sent to the EPA for their preliminary comments. Then a second draft is prepared, which goes out for public comment and those comments are incorporated in the final draft that returns to the MPCA and finally to the EPA for final approval.

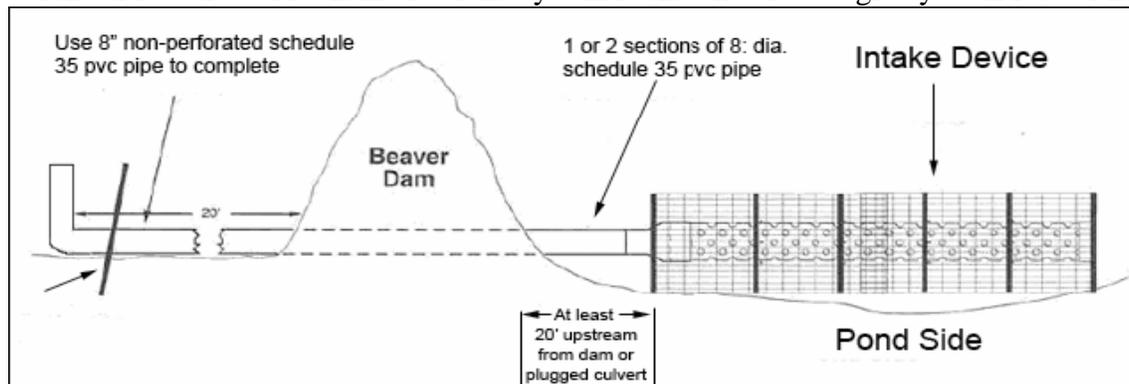
To complete the process we have one year after the report is accepted by the EPA to complete a detailed implementation plan as required by the MPCA. Completion of this plan is part of Wenck's current contract and will include estimated costs for carrying out the various load reduction strategies for Jessie Lake. These will involve both watershed load reductions to external sources and internal load reductions involving the lake sediment. At this point it is predicated the public meeting will take place in early spring and we will notify you and other stakeholders at that time.

## BEAVER POND LEVELER

By Harold Goetzman

The beaver and their dam at the outlet of Little Spring Lake have been a constant problem for the Association since we installed the rock spawning beds in Spring Creek in 1998-99. During the walleye spawning season in most springs we have needed to remove part of the dam to allow enough water for the fish to spawn. In addition, we have usually hired a trapper to keep the beaver population in check. This year the Board of Directors decided to try installing a beaver pond leveler (often referred to as a Clemson Leveler) in an attempt to get a constant flow of water on the rock beds. Next spring will determine if we have enough water and whether the leveler works satisfactorily. This was first approved by the DNR since they have control of the stream. The leveler is considered an environmentally friendly water control system that deals with problem beavers. It is an economic method of controlling water levels in the pond as it allows drainage through the dam.

During the week of October 12<sup>th</sup> a crew of 10 people assembled the leveler, put a hole in the dam and then kept it open for a week until the system was installed. After putting the pipe through the dam, the hole was partly repaired and then the beaver did the rest. The system is made of plastic pipe and a 24-inch diameter metal cage around the perforated intake to prevent the beaver from plugging the holes. The intake device consists of a 10-foot long piece of 10-inch diameter PVC pipe with many holes drilled into it. Attached to the Intake Device is rigid 8-inch PVC pipe that carries water at least 20 feet below the dam or culvert. Since the beavers are unable to detect the flow of water, they do not have the urge to build a dam. It is designed to handle about 10,000 gal/hr of water flow and cost about \$650 to purchase and ship the materials. Installation costs were nothing thanks to our valuable volunteer resources. A schematic of the system is shown below to give you an idea of how it works.



## **WOLVES AT JESSIE LAKE**

**By Harold Goetzman**

A survey last winter showed that an estimated 3000 gray wolves live in Minnesota, which continues to rank second only to Alaska in wolf population among U. S. states. The state has one of the highest wolf densities recorded anywhere, indicating that Minnesota's wolf population is fully recovered, according to the DNR and well in excess of the federal delisting goal of 1,250-1,400 wolves. Minnesota's wolves have returned to the federal threatened species list following a federal judge's ruling on September 29, 2008. 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 ruling places wolves back under federal protection and management.

Wolves came into the limelight this summer at Jessie Lake when two dogs were killed within a few days in our area. Both dogs were attacked in their yards and probably by the same large white/gray female wolf. This wolf and the larger dark male have been seen in the area for several years. These incidents were reported to the federal trappers with the USDA Wildlife Services, since only an authorized agent of the government is allowed to take wolves that cause damage. Trapping was done near the one incident and three wolves were removed as reported by John Hart, District Supervisor. John also confirmed that a pack of 5-7 adult wolves with 11 pups had been observed a number of times in the Federal gravel pit on CR #35. This is a rare situation with two sets of pups in the same pack.

The gray wolf or timber wolf is the largest wild canid in the area with some males exceeding 100 pounds. Height at the shoulder is often 32 to 33 inches. Wolves live in family groups called "packs" consisting of the "alpha" male and female, young of the year and often a few additional adults that may or may not be related to the alphas. Usually, only the alpha male and female have one litter of 3-7 pups that are born in April. Pups stay near the den site until late June when they are moved to what are commonly called "rendezvous" sites. They stay there through the summer and are fed by the adults. Apparently, the gravel pit was a rendezvous site for the Jessie pack during the problem time and many people reported sighting wolves in the area. In September and October, the pups join the family group to hunt and feed at the kill site. A pup has only a 50% chance of surviving to its first birthday, but that still leaves an ample number for our area in the years to come. Typically, a pack will travel and defend an area of 20 to 50 square miles as they feed primarily on deer, beaver and snowshoe hares.

As the population of wolves continues to rise we will experience more encounters with them since we are now living closer as we get more people living in rural areas. The problems will increase as the wolves find pet food, garbage and deer feeding in our yards. I look at it being similar to the bear problem where we soon learned to take in bird feeders and keep garbage cans in the garage. Now that we know there is a wolf problem it is our responsibility to keep pets close to home and not leave any food source in the yard. As John said "pet owners need to call the dog after letting it out in the evening within minutes and not hours. If wolves have been sighted near your home, confine pets in pens or move them indoors for a few days to avoid possible conflicts. Attacks by wolves on humans are rare, but not unheard of. In most cases of wolf/human conflict in North America, the wolves involved had been acclimated to humans beforehand. All incidents of wolves acting boldly and wolf damage complaints should be reported to a local conservation officer, who will make appropriate contact with federal authorities or directly call John Hart of USDA Wildlife Services at 218-327-3350.

## **STATUS OF THE FISHERY – POPULATION ASSESSMENT**

**By David Weitzel, DNR-Assistant Fisheries Supervisor**

This year the DNR Jessie Lake assessment was carried out and the data provide a preliminary summary of the fishery. A complete report of this assessment will be available by next spring as the fish are aged and the data are evaluated during the winter. Test netting on Jessie Lake was conducted this summer from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> and consisted of 12 gill net and 12 trap net sets. The

lake survey manual recommended 15 gill net and 15 trap net sets, but a decision was made to reduce the number of sets, as the gill net catch of walleye was high and a sufficient sample size was acquired with fewer nets. Reducing the number of nets was also helpful in reducing gill net mortality. The number of gill net sets was also reduced in 1999 when walleye catches were similarly high.

Yellow perch were the most common species captured in both the gill nets and trap nets. The gill net catch rate of 50.7/net was high compared to similar lakes, but was near the mean for Jessie Lake (47.7/gill net), which has a history of high yellow perch catches. Most perch were small and only 18% exceeded 8 inches. Given the relatively poor size structure, angler interest in the perch fishery is likely limited, but some incidental harvest may occur while targeting other species.

Walleye were the second most common species captured in the gill nets. The catch rate of 19.3/gill net was high compared to similar lakes and well above the median of 9.2/gill net for Jessie Lake. Walleye catches from Jessie have fluctuated considerably from a low of 3.9/gill net in 1978 to a high of 22.0/gill net in 1999. The 2009 catch rate is the second highest on record. Relatively small fish dominated the 2009 sample, as most (74%) of the fish were 12 to 15 inches long and were likely from an apparently strong 2006-year class. Some larger individuals were present, as walleye up to 27 inches were captured. Jessie Lake has the potential to provide good walleye angling opportunities for several years given the current walleye abundance, walleye size structure and prey base.

Northern pike were captured at a rate of 2.2/gill net, which is relatively low when compared to similar lakes and below the median of 3.2/gill net for Jessie Lake. Jessie Lake has a history of relatively low pike abundance as catches have only exceeded the median for similar lakes (5.1/gill net) once, in 1958 when a catch of 8.6/gill net was recorded. In 2009, size structure was relatively good as 58% exceeded a quality size of 21 inches, 12% exceeded the angler-preferred size of 28 inches and 8% exceeded 34 inches. Given the current density and size structure, good angling opportunities may exist for large northern pike. Given the low density, however, anglers should be encouraged to practice catch and release.

Tullibees were captured at a rate of 4.9/gill net. This catch rate is average when compared to similar lakes. Tullibee catches have varied considerably in Jessie Lake as catches have ranged from 0.7/gill net in 2004 to 18.5/gill net in 1974. The tullibee is important as a prey species and is often associated with the production of large northern pike and walleye.

Black crappie were captured at a rate of 0.1/gill net and 0.8/trap net, within the expected range when compared to similar lakes, but below average for Jessie Lake. Size structure was moderate as most individuals range from 9 to 10 inches. Crappie are difficult to sample in test nets and the low catch may not be indicative of abundance, but given the high walleye abundance, it is likely the crappie population is somewhat suppressed.

Other species captured include bowfin, rock bass, white sucker, bluegill, pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, common shiner and largemouth bass.

## **ITASCA COUNTY SHORELAND PROPERTY OWNERS SURVEYED**

**Mary Blickenderfer, U of MN Extension**

**November - December 2009 From Shore to Shore, Issue 94**

Which of these three shorelines do you prefer: a) Lawn b) Replanted shore c) Natural shore? This is one of several survey questions asked of Itasca County shoreland property owners on five “target” lakes. This survey is the first step in developing new, creative, and effective ways to promote natural shoreland buffers around lakes – a challenge taken on by Itasca County and collaborators\*.

Why conduct a survey?

Surveying is one of many tools used to better understand a target audience. In this case, project partners wanted to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of property owners regarding their shoreland. Surveying an audience is key to developing a successful program, but it is often

neglected in favor of making assumptions –often with negative consequences. For example, a sales pitch often used to promote shoreland buffers in Minnesota and other states is: buffers will reduce your lawn maintenance. However, a New Hampshire survey revealed that many shoreland owners liked being outside doing lawn and garden maintenance so this sales pitch turned out to be a disincentive to installing a buffer (Jeff Schloss, UNHCE; personal communication). What did Itasca County learn from the responses to this survey? Plenty!

Below are a few of the highlights:

- Property owners preferred natural shoreline (70%), followed by replanted (20%), lawn (5%) and 5% other shorelines.
- 82% of property owners maintain their own lawn, and 48% of these owners enjoy lawn maintenance.
- Greater than 80% of property owners liked the general appearance, view, privacy, lake access and maintenance of the natural shoreline.
- Lake associations are effective in recruiting and communicating with shoreland property owners. Most shoreland property owners (88%) are members of their lake association and 90% read their lake association newsletter.
- Shoreland property owners are most likely to seek lake information from their lake association (73%), followed by MN DNR (64%), county sources (64% combined county and SWCD) and their neighbor (63%).
- Approximately 2/3 of the shoreland property owners are seasonal. These seasonal residents are more likely than year-round residents to prefer a natural shoreline and participate in a natural buffer program.

Note: The above results are based upon 109 door-to-door and 103 mail-in responses of 331 total shoreland property owners surveyed on five lakes in Itasca County, Minnesota.

**Next Steps...** The results of this survey are being used to design marketing and incentive strategies, educational tools and experiences, training for technical and labor support of buffer installations, and citizen research protocols to measure the effectiveness of shoreland buffers. These will be “rolled out” in 2010.

**Stay Tuned...** Look for updates on the Itasca County buffer program and a similar program in Otter Tail County in this newsletter. These are pilot programs that may be useful to other lakes.

\*University of MN, MN Department of Natural Resources, Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District, Itasca County Environmental Services, Itasca Water Legacy Partnership, Action Media, Itasca Community College, Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations, and Itasca Water Plan Implementation Committee. Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the LCCMR.

## **CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES**

**Barb Liukkonen, U of MN Water Resources Center**

**November - December 2009 From Shore to Shore, Issue 94**

In the next two years, forecasters estimate that about \$150 million will be available from the Clean Water Legacy Amendment to protect and improve Minnesota’s ground and surface waters.

The U of MN Water Resources Center received an allocation of \$750,000 from the state legislature to develop a 25-year framework for the state, protecting, conserving, and enhancing the quality and quantity of surface and ground waters. That framework will contain an implementation schedule and associated benchmarks for policy, research, monitoring, and evaluation to achieve sustainable ground and surface water use. Leadership will be provided by the Headwaters Council and there will also be a Citizen Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Here's where YOU come in. We want to hear your insights, comments, and priorities as the framework is developed. There will be many opportunities for input during the next 6-8 months. One of the best ways to share your opinions is through our online survey. You can find it at [www.wrc.umn.edu](http://www.wrc.umn.edu). There will be clear links from that front page to the survey. The survey is short, about 10 questions, and you will be able to add your two cents worth, even if there is not a question about your favorite issue. Hearing from Minnesotans - about your priorities, your values, and your concerns - will be critical to ensuring that the framework reflects the perspectives of people from across the state and not just technical, agency, or legislative interests in St. Paul.

A short survey completed by 500 people at the State Fair in August indicated that they felt the most important use of water in Minnesota is for drinking, followed by use for ecosystem services (habitat, water flowage, wildlife). They felt the most serious challenge facing Minnesota's water is from non-native invasive species, followed closely by chemical pollutants (endocrine disruptors, petroleum products, pesticides, etc.).

## 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 25 guests from the Bigfork Nursing Home and Pine Tree Villa on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Carol, Marn Flicker and Jim Deconcini did a good job of getting things organized and we had a great turnout of 20 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. This year we also had a \$250 grant from the NIEC Round-up program to cover most of the expenses involved.

**Roadside Clean Up.** On September 15<sup>th</sup> we had a 13 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.

**Walleye Shocking.** The fall walleye fingerling assessment was carried out 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 and measure the success of natural spawning since there was no stocking in 2009. The electrofishing was conducted on the evening of October 23rd at 5 sampling stations. The weather was calm and relatively cold since the water temperature was 45 deg. F. No YOY walleye were captured. Juvenile walleye, presumably from the 2006-year class, were observed in the shallows along with large numbers of yellow perch and shiners. Northern pike, burbot, and YOY largemouth bass were also present.

**Shoreland Rules.** The project to update the DNR shoreland rules is still on track for completion the first half of 2010. It is likely that the revised public hearings will now take place late winter/early spring of 2010. For more information, visit [www.mndnr.gov](http://www.mndnr.gov) and enter shoreland rules update.

**Bird In the Window.** Ever have a grouse go though the window? Or a songbird hit the window? There are several reasons that birds fly into windows. They may see the reflection of the woods and think it is the real thing or they may think they see another bird (their own reflection) and try to chase it from their territory. In Toronto, university students and bird enthusiasts collected birds that were

victims of window crashes and found over a dozen species died by the thousands. They estimated that in Toronto about 5 million birds hit windows annually. Multiply that times all the other cities and it is not hard to understand that, next to natural predators, windows are a bird's greatest enemy. Since this is the time of year when we enjoy watching birds at the feeders, it makes sense to mark or hang something in your windows to alert the birds.

**Quotable.** "The greatest task in human history is to live on this planet without leaving an impact."  
Aldo Leopold - father of wildlife ecology.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**By Harold Goetzman**

- Tourism is an \$11 billion industry in MN and employs more than 250,000 Minnesotans.
- The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issue is among the most critical environmental issues confronting our lakes and rivers.
- There are more than 500 species of native bees in MN, WI and MI, but several species of bumblebee are declining and have not been seen since 2003.
- Native bees are suffering from habitat loss so you should plant more flowers.
- Snow comprises almost 20% of the annual precipitation in MN.
- The large, round, gray paper nests attached to a tree branch or house are the home of Baldfaced Hornets and are made of chewed wood fiber mixed with saliva. They are only used one year.
- The Jessie Lake Watershed Association received an award from the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ICSWCD) as Cooperator of the Year for 1999.
- About 33% of Minnesotans are active bird watchers ranking the state 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation for interest in this activity. The majority watch in their yard.
- A woodpecker can strike 10 to 15 times per second with its beak.
- Over 90% of the people in MN used seat belts in 2008.
- About 65% of the shoreland owners in JLW are members of the Watershed Association.
- An average beaver pond with one house generally has 6 to 8 resident beavers sharing the house.
- The beaver has many predators in MN such as wolves, black bears, fishers, coyotes and humans.
- Jessie Lake has not frozen over yet and will be about two weeks past the average of Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Our website ([www.minnesotalakes.org/Jessie](http://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 2009 to the JLWA: Bill and Lily Baird, Rodney and Ethel Benham, David Bernardson, Tom and Deanna Boysen, Jackie Calin, Bill and Melissa Coleman, Fred and Cleo Conrad, Frank and Gloria Dallas, Robert and Sandra Ebert, Ben Edwards, Marn and Marie Flicker, David Goodall and Anne Lind, Tom and Nancy Hackler, Bret Hartley and Susan Bach, John Horsch, Greg and Ruth Kirkevold, David Kuhn, Gerald and Shelly Loney, Hollister and Jerril Madsen, Don and Marcie Majerle, Roger and Jill Meyer, Lowell and Lynn Nystrom, Mike and Janet Nystrom, Skip and Lynn Olson, Tim and Rita Onraet, Jerry and Donna Ostergren, 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, Dale and Mary Willard and Denise Zaske.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The JLWA presently has 95 paid members. Treasurer Dale Hertle will send out an invoice for dues in early January. Welcome to our new member Don Ojanen.

### **NOTICE**

The JLWA has changed our policy regarding the mailing list, which was voted on by the members at the 2009 Spring Meeting. We will no longer be sending the newsletter to non-members who have not paid dues for the last 4 years. The cost for printing and postage has become too high to continue this practice. Anyone that becomes interested in supporting the mission of the watershed association and pays the dues invoice sent in January will be put back on the mailing list.