

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.10, NO. 1

SPRING 2007

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the new lake season, I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the spring weather. I feel very fortunate to be thinking about my favorite place for fishing and recreation, the cabin at Jessie Lake. As I started on preparation of the newsletter, I suddenly realized when I wrote VOL.10, NO.1 that this is the tenth year of existence for our organization. Many people have contributed to the success of the Association over these past years and I hope that everyone feels good about what they have accomplished. The key is that we each try to do something small to make the world a better place. I think we have – good job everyone! Thanks for your participation and support.

If you are suddenly thinking what else can I do? I suggest you go back and read the article in the Fall Jabber on the top ten list of things lake residents can do from our state organization, MN Waters. In addition, read the articles in this issue on moving firewood, the three ways to reduce lakeshore pollution by the DNR and the burning garbage reduction plan in the county. You can do your small part and make a difference in maintaining our lake quality. It all adds up over the years.

At the start of this 2007 season we still plan on monitoring the walleye spawning, keeping Spring Creek free of debris, doing the roadside cleanup, water sampling for phosphorous, and taking Secchi disk readings for water clarity. We are also looking forward to a third year of the Share the Lake Day, involving a picnic day for seniors from Bigfork. Also, remember to save the time for our fourth annual members picnic on July 26th with hosts Skip and Lynn Olson on the south end of Jessie Lake.

It may seem like the winter months are slow for lake association activities, but often I find myself involved in a number of related things during that time. We still have monthly ICOLA meetings and this year we had a DNR Fisheries Stakeholders meeting, lunch with the MPCA Community Involvement Team to discuss environmental concerns, meetings to work on revision of the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Jessie Lake township meetings to establish future zoning rules, and County Board meetings on the crematory issue. We also held a public meeting in March to review the TMDL process for Jessie Lake with SWCD and the MPCA. As you can see, your Lake Association does make a difference and can have an impact on many of our natural resource issues.

This year we are continuing to work on two projects that involve water quality in Jessie Lake Watershed. The work at SWCD to establish nutrient limits for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is still in progress. SWCD will be working closely with a technical advisory committee made up of local, state and federal agencies in addition to the JLWA. Upon completion of writing the TMDL for Jessie Lake by SWCD and approval from the EPA in 2008, funding will be sought to begin implementing management practices to achieve and maintain the TMDL water quality goals.

The study on the erosion of Tillys Creek entering Jessie Lake (also called the NW Inlet) has been completed. A meeting will be held this spring to discuss a restoration plan and determine what should be done in the future on this creek. Once a plan is established we can apply for grants to assist in carrying out the necessary work.

In the meantime, we all need to enjoy the present time and events that bring lifetime memories. Being good stewards of the water and land can make these events happen and make one feel good about the legacy of our resources being left behind in the Jessie Lake Watershed.

SPRING MEETING

Hope to see you all at the spring meeting at **10:00 a.m. on Saturday May 26th**. Please note that we **will meet at the Talmoon VFW hall**. The VFW is located about a mile south of Hayslip's on Hwy 6. Come early (**9:00 a.m.**) and have coffee with your directors and neighbors or maybe meet someone new. The speaker after the business meeting will be Pat Medure, Itasca County Sheriff on the organization of a Neighborhood Watch program for our area.

JESSIE LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD STUDY

By Noel Griese, Lakes Specialist, SWCD

In 1972 the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program to address impaired waters. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is mandated to adopt and implement this program, which involves four phases: 1) assessment/monitoring of a waterbody and listing, 2) TMDL study – monitoring and assessment of impairment, 3) implementation plan development and implementation program to help correct impairment and 4) effectiveness monitoring.

Jessie Lake was monitored and assessed under a Clean Water Partnership study completed in 2001. Based on the findings of that study Jessie Lake was placed on EPA's Impaired Waters List in 2004. The MPCA is mandated to complete a TMDL study on Jessie Lake within 15 years of it being listed as impaired. The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (ICSWCD) was awarded a Third Party TMDL grant in 2006 to move the project forward. An important aspect of the TMDL process is public input and this past March a public meeting was held at the Bowstring Town Hall. The ICSWCD, Jessie Lake Watershed Association (JLWA), and MPCA gave an up-to-date report on studies completed on Jessie Lake and discussed the development of a nutrient TMDL for Jessie Lake. There was a lot of discussion by the 23 people attending about the length of the process and the need to start implementing projects now to help protect Jessie Lake and its future.

In April, the SWCD, MPCA, JLWA, and MN DNR met to discuss future direction for the project. There was discussion on the possibility of pursuing a delisting of Jessie Lake from the Impaired Waters list based on recent monitoring, which indicates that nutrient (phosphorous) levels have been below the earlier findings that placed it on the list. Other factors, however, may have contributed to the lower numbers, such as sampling frequency, and the significant role that weather plays on water quality. Possibly more monitoring will need to be completed before a decision to delist could be made and a summary of the 2006 water sampling data still needs to be evaluated. Discussion also focused around the need to begin implementing projects on Jessie Lake and sources of money to begin those projects. The Clean Water Legacy was determined to be a possible source as it gains momentum in the Legislature and funding should become more available. The MPCA also indicated that based on recent TMDL requirements that the ICSWCD may need additional funding to complete the TMDL. Further funding has been applied for from the MPCA, which may be used to contract with a private consultant that could assist with some technical aspects of the process. At the end of the meeting, it was decided that there is a need to get more technical input from previous agencies involved in the Clean Water Partnership to help steer the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). A TAC meeting has been tentatively scheduled for the later part of May to discuss the previously mentioned topics.

We appreciate your patience and continued support. The road has been a long one for some, but our goal is to look into sources for implementing projects in the short term versus waiting for EPA approval of the TMDL, which could be as late as 2009. For example, a plan to prevent further erosion of Tillys Creek will be evaluated, as this sediment is a source of phosphorous entering the lake. Since the goal of the TMDL is to develop loading rates for phosphorus from all sources and to identify areas for reductions in phosphorus loading, it is apparent that the information obtained from this survey and restoration design will be useful in the TMDL study.

IT'S ROUGH TO HAVE RIDGES – LIVING WITH ICE RIDGES ON YOUR SHORELINE

Cynthia Hagley, Minnesota Sea Grant

It's rough to have ice ridges and live with them on our shoreline. If you have ever heard the heart-stopping sound of lake ice cracking under your feet, then you have firsthand knowledge of the tremendous power contained in that sheet of ice. What you are hearing (and feeling) when the ice cracks and snaps on cold nights, is the ice contracting in response to cooling air temperatures. The opposite situation causes ice ridges to form – warmer air temperatures cause the whole ice sheet to expand with great force, pushing against the shoreline. Added to this are the impacts of wind moving ice around as lakes thaw. In some cases, such as along hard rocky shorelines, we get to enjoy beautiful pressure ridges in the ice, but quite often the result is a newly formed earth mound or ice ridge pushed up against the shore. Most ice ridge impacts usually occur in years with repeated temperature fluctuations and little insulation from snow.

Although property owners may be unhappy about this natural process, it is not something we can prevent. In fact, these natural ridges can be beneficial to the lake by collecting nutrients and sediments on the shoreward side of the ridge, preventing them from reaching the lake and harming water quality. In natural situations, plants thrive in these fertile ice ridge areas, helping stabilize the shoreline and creating habitat for birds and wildlife.

The easiest approach to avoiding ice ridge problems is to minimize disturbance of the natural vegetation along your shoreline and to keep your personal property out of harm's way. This is one reason why shoreland regulations include "setbacks" restricting development near the shore.

Unfortunately, many of us are living with already disturbed shoreline where ice ridge damage has caused significant problems. If your shoreline fits this description, what alternatives do you have? Note: As you consider alternatives remember that it is best to check with your local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Area Hydrologist and county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) or go to www.shorelandmanagement.org/contact/index.html for contact information. They can give you advice, and provide information if permits are required for some activities. Sometimes the solution is as simple as replanting shoreline vegetation or building a ramp over the ice ridge. More intensive (and expensive) solutions involve trying to over-power the force of the ice by installing rock rip-rap or an engineered retaining wall or similar structure. Both rip-rap and retaining walls are expensive alternatives that require ongoing repair and maintenance, and are most effective if professionally designed. Permits are required for many rip-rap projects and all retaining walls. Engineered solutions are discouraged by the MN DNR, but allowed in extreme cases. As with any big investment, it pays to do it right the first time, so take the time to check on permit requirements and consult with the experts.

Remember – the cheapest, most natural and sustainable, and most effective solution is to accept ice ridges as part of a natural shoreline, retain or plant native vegetation, and enjoy those amazing winter nights of cracking ice.

THREE WAYS TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM YOUR LAKESHORE PROPERTY

By Paul Radomski, DNR Research Scientist

Lakehome owners have a strong desire to protect their lake. Healthy lakes provide the recreational and aesthetic benefits lakeshore resident's value. In addition, healthy lakes enhance lakeshore property values. There are three ways we can reduce pollution and maintain healthy lakes:

- Reduce runoff from roofs and driveways by getting rainwater into the ground near where it falls.
- Reduce lawn size by reverting back to natural shorelines.
- Maintain our septic systems.

REDUCE RUNOFF

Rainwater runoff is a major source of water pollution. Nationally, runoff is responsible for up to 15 percent of rivers and lakes with poor water quality. Rainwater runoff comes from roads, driveways, roofs and lawns. Rainwater that does not infiltrate into the ground or evaporate becomes runoff. Runoff is not only occurring when streams are full after a rain, but it also occurs when small sheets of water flow over the surface of our lawns and head down to the lake. Runoff carries pollutants, such as oil, dissolved metals, pesticides, suspended solids, pet waste and nutrients, such as phosphorous, which can lead to algae blooms. Good rainwater management can help reduce pollutants and excessive nutrients from entering our lakes. When rainwater is allowed to infiltrate into the ground, the soil and plants can purify the water before it reaches the lake or river.

There are two ways to manage rainwater. The traditional way has been to move water off fast. This approach uses stormwater sewers, pipes and ponds. Unfortunately, civil engineers have found that this expensive approach does not work well. Often, the outcome is water quality and water quantity problems downstream or downhill.

The second way of managing rainwater is to get the water and the pollutants it carries into the ground near where it falls. This can often be a small-scale, decentralized and low-cost option. This approach uses infiltration basins, rain gardens, grass overflow parking areas, grass swales, porous or pervious paver blocks, parking lot infiltration islands and fewer impervious surfaces. Infiltration reduces pollutants and nutrients entering our lakes, thus protecting the lake water quality.

For lakeshore owners, a simple start to managing rainwater is to redirect gutter downspouts that run onto impervious surfaces, such as driveways and sidewalks so they run onto vegetated areas instead. Rain gardens are a good way to capture runoff when greater infiltration is needed.

REDUCE LAWN SIZE

Managing rainwater also includes protecting natural areas important for water transport and filtering, such as wetlands, streams, and vegetated buffers near water. A shoreline buffer of natural vegetation traps, filters and impedes runoff. The simplest and sometimes most effective way to recreate this buffer is to stop mowing down to the lake. A smaller lawn with a larger shoreline buffer will help infiltration and reduce runoff.

MAINTAIN SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Finally, for those lakehome owners who use septic systems to treat and disperse waste and recycle water, maintenance is critical. Sludge builds up in the septic tank and should be pumped out every two to three years. If sludge accumulates to the level of the outlet pipe, clogging will occur, which will damage the drainfield and reduce the life expectancy of the system. Drainfields can also fail when they are overloaded, either with too much water or too much garbage disposal waste. The average life of a drainfield is 10 to 20 years.

Lakehome owner management of septic systems is sometimes inadequate. Some government organizations and communities have developed septic system management programs that track routine maintenance and compliance with public health standards. The regular maintenance and inspection costs are much less than the cost to replace a failed system.

DON'T BURN YOUR GARBAGE

By Catherine McLynn, Itasca County Commissioner-District Two

The Itasca County Board recently approved participation in a Burn Barrel Reduction Campaign along with the eight other counties in northeast Minnesota. The campaign is an effort to reduce backyard garbage burning through education and enforcement. A grant application for \$20,000 has been approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to raise public awareness of the risks of burning. Billboards will be posted in each county this summer. Brochures will be distributed pointing

out the hazards associated with burning and providing a map of disposal and recycling centers in each county.

Backyard burning of household garbage has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969. It pollutes air, soil and water, and is one of the leading causes of wildfire. Minnesota DNR burn permits allow the burning of clean vegetative matter such as leaves, brush and wood that has not been painted, stained or treated. Burning garbage such as plastics, asphalt, rubber, or styrofoam generates hazardous air pollutants that are unhealthy for people and wildlife. Burn barrels emit unhealthful levels of carbon monoxide and acid vapors, carcinogenic tars, and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium. Inhaling these harmful chemicals and handling the ashes can be toxic. Garbage burned in a burn barrel emits twice as much furans (possible carcinogenic toxins), 20 times more dioxin (an endocrine disrupter) and 40 times more particulates than if that same pound of garbage were burned in an incinerator with air pollution controls. Burn barrels smolder at lower temperatures and don't contain pollution control devices. Reports show that backyard burning is now the largest source of dioxins in the United States.

Many items could be reused, recycled or composted, such as: newspaper, yard waste, used oil, bottles, magazines, cardboard, food scraps, office papers, cans, and lumber scraps.

- Reduce trash. Buy in bulk and demand less packaging.
- Reuse items.
- Recycle newspapers, office paper, cardboard, magazines, aluminum, metal and plastics.
- Shred personal papers and legal documents for disposal.
- Compost leaves, plant clippings and food waste.
- Chip brush and clean wood to make mulch or decorative chips. Loggers have invested in chippers and are looking for sources of brush and woody debris to chip and sell.

Keep your family safe and healthy. Enjoy a clean environment and remember:

DON'T BURN GARBAGE! REDUCE WASTE AND RECYCLE!

ALGAE – ESSENTIAL FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

Mary Blickenderfer, University of Minnesota Extension Service

At the base of the food web, algae support nearly every aquatic creature. They are essential to a diverse and productive fishery and the overall health of our lakes. Many species of algae occur in lakes. The exact species and their population within a given lake reflect the available nutrients, water clarity, temperature, acidity, time of year, and abundance of algae grazers.

Many Minnesota lakes have algae “blooms” – the mats of vegetation or “pea soup” green water that occur on hot, calm days. On rare occasions blue-green algae blooms can produce toxins that are harmful to fish and other animals, including cattle and dogs.

Algae “blooms” occur under conditions that favor algae growth or when algae grazers are scarce. Turn up the water temperature and add some phosphorus and you have the perfect recipe for algae soup! The small amount of phosphorous that naturally occurs in our lakes is usually insufficient to support large algae blooms. However, phosphorus entering our lakes from the surrounding watershed (the large land area that drains to a lake) or resuspension of phosphorus that has settled on the lake bottom will fuel algae blooms – under optimal conditions, additions of only one pound of phosphorus can lead to 500 pounds of algae! Fishing pressure on a lake can add to the problem. The saying, “tug on one part of the food web and you’ll affect all the other parts” holds true. Excessive removal of northern pike, walleye, bass, and other game fish from a lake affects populations of small fish and grazers and can ultimately lead to a greater abundance of algae. The most cost-effective strategies that produce long-term results involve reduction of phosphorous inputs to a lake. Phosphorus commonly enters a lake attached to soil particles, dissolved in runoff, in seepage from failing septic systems and

through resuspension of lake bottom sediments. On-land strategies to reduce phosphorus loading to your lake include maintaining septic systems, planting vegetative buffers along streams and lakes, and re-routing runoff into rain gardens and storm water ponds. In-lake strategies to reduce phosphorus re-suspension include maintaining or restoring the native aquatic plant population, removing/ controlling carp (if they exist in your lake), reducing motorboat speed in shallow water and eliminating other activities that “stir up” sediments.

Lakes with high phosphorus levels will benefit from the strategies listed above, but may also require additional efforts to reduce existing phosphorus. These are best determined with the assistance of a limnologist or lake consultant (not a product sales representative). Your local Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) office may provide direct assistance or help you find a consultant. Examples of treatments to consider are: phosphorus inactivation, sediment removal, artificial circulation, algae harvesting, foodweb manipulation and algaecides. Keep in mind, implementation of these treatments will require planning, substantial funding, and may require a Minnesota DNR permit. Depending on the method used, repeated treatments are often necessary, some may have negative impacts on a lake, and none of them alone will be effective in the long-term restoration of your lake unless phosphorus inputs from watershed and in-lake activities are also controlled.

EVOLUTION OF ANGLER ETHICS

By Paul Radomski, DNR Research Scientist

Over a lifetime, many anglers’ views on fish and fish habitat change. This is similar to the change in values a hunter may experience with the accumulation of hunts gone by. Respect for game and fish and the habitat they need for survival changes with increased experience in the field or on the water. And, these values influence public opinion on how fish and wildlife should be managed.

Today, many hunters lament the loss of good habitat and available hunting land from what they experienced when they were young. As wild lands make way for housing and commercial areas, our attitudes and opinions change on how natural resources should be managed. As hunters learn more about the long-term rewards of wildlife habitat management, they call for the protection, restoration, and acquisition of natural lands.

Because the loss of the wildlife habitat is often easier to see than the loss of fish habitat, many anglers have not sought habitat protection until more recently. Trout anglers and their organizations (such as Trout Unlimited) were among the first to promote the concern for fish habitat. Wading in a stream connects one to the problems of poor land management. Trout anglers see the sediment that enters streams because of improper treatment of rainwater and muddy waters that are the result of poor erosion control.

Many anglers are seeing the value in managing and protecting fish habitat. They know that fish are dependent on the shore or shallow water at one time in their life. They understand that managing shorelands to reduce or eliminate runoff of water that has fertilizers and pollutants in it will help fish populations. So will natural shorelines.

For many fish species, a sand beach and a large dock do not provide desirable habitat. Walleyes select clean, wave-washed gravel and cobble shorelines for spawning, and northern pike depend on aquatic vegetation for spawning and nursery areas – areas that are natural, not human altered. A lawn-to-lake shoreline diminishes fish and wildlife habitat, reduces water quality, and degrades the scenic quality of the lake. Many anglers are now asking what can be done to restore the shoreline and nearshore fish habitat (see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt>). Many of those who own river or lakeshore lands are working to minimize the impact of their activities on nearshore, shallow water areas. Angler enthusiasm and affection for fish evokes both the conservation of harvested fish and the protection of habitat. Hydrologists and chemists have found interesting differences with the lawn-to-lake style of shoreline compared to a native vegetated shoreline. Rainwater runoff from lawn-to-lake

shoreline was 5 to 10 times higher than forested shorelines. The lawn-to-lake shoreline also allows 7 to 9 times more phosphorus to enter the lake than a more natural native vegetated shoreline. Phosphorus is plant nutrient, and more of it entering the lake means more algae, which in turn results in lower water clarity and poorer fish spawning habitat.

The Alternative Standards ask that all lakehome owners preserve or establish a native forest shoreline of sufficient depth along the lake. The timber harvest industry and farmers must leave a vegetative filter along lakes to protect water quality. It is fair to require the same of lakehome owners. The maintenance of a healthy shoreline depends on all landowners that care about fish habitat.

THE JUNE MAYFLIES

By Harold Goetzman

In late spring an interesting event occurs on many area lakes – the “Mayfly Hatch”. According to a Chippewa National forest flier, the mayfly nymphs spend their time burrowed in the lake bottom feeding on small aquatic organisms. When the water warms up to a certain point, millions of these nymphs swim to the surface, provoking a feeding frenzy among fish and birds. Mayflies are an important food source for many species. If you remember last year (2006) in mid-June we had very large hatch of mayflies on Jessie Lake. If you observe closely, there are usually two types of mayfly with one being slightly larger. Normally, there is a lull in the fishing success at that time. Also, while winter-fishing you will often find after squeezing a walleye, perch or crappie that they leave a pile of oatmeal looking substance at your feet, which is mostly mayfly larvae.

At the water surface, each nymph struggles to shed its old exoskeleton and emerge as a winged adult. From there it flies to shore to molt again the next day. After the last molt, the adult mayfly “swarms” with other mayflies, flying up and down in a type of dance before mating. The female then lays her eggs on the water. The eggs sink to the bottom, hatch and begin the cycle anew. The mayfly dies after depositing her eggs and falls to the water as a “spentwing” often providing a meal for a waiting fish, sea gull or swallow.

Did you know that the adult mayflies don’t even have a mouth? Since they live only one or two days after emerging from the water they have no need (or time) for food.

The numbers of adults that gather on trees and buildings along the shoreline is staggering at times. Shaking a bush or tree can produce clouds of mayflies. Though harmless, sheer numbers of these insects sometimes cause a nuisance especially on bridges and roads have even needed plowing. The accumulation of empty skeletons along the shore may also be unpleasant.

Mayflies are an important part of the food chain in our lakes. They live in only the cleanest water and are among the most sensitive of species to pollution. If their numbers dwindle as had happened in other places where pollution is a problem it is an indication that our waters and fishing could be in trouble. We are fortunate that the mayfly still finds Jessie Lake clean enough to thrive.

PROTECT OUR FORESTS FROM “BAD BUGS”; DON’T MOVE FIREWOOD

By Mike Albers, DNR, Division of Forestry, Forest Health Specialist

Most cabins and lakeshore homes are nestled into forest settings because Minnesotans like trees and feel at home in the woods. We burn up the wood from dead and diseased trees and even bring firewood from home to fuel bonfires and woodstoves while up north. Did you know that firewood harbors insects and diseases and that they can be inadvertently spread to new locations by transporting it? Moving firewood around the state, Midwest, and even country has never been too much of an issue. News about yet another exotic insect or disease in this country seems so distant to our experience because we are so removed from the usual points of introduction; until now. Finding that firewood is the primary means of spread of emerald ash borer (EAB) out of quarantined areas in Michigan has changed our views about firewood movement and, hopefully, our actions here in Minnesota.

Transporting firewood is problematic. Firewood travels at 55 mph and so do the forest pests hiding inside. EAB is not the only “bad bug” lurking in firewood. Oak wilt, Asian longhorned beetle, Sirex woodwasps, gypsy moths and “bad bugs” we don’t even know about can hitchhike on firewood from New York, Michigan and from our own backyard. So, in just a few short hours, EAB or another forest pest could be unknowingly spread into the forests of Minnesota.

Emerald ash borers spend most of their life cycles hidden between the bark and the wood. If the tree dies or is cut down, the EAB will survive and adults will emerge during the growing season to start the life cycle over again in nearby live ash trees. Currently, the entire lower peninsula of Michigan, parts of Maryland and all of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio are under EAB quarantines.

Wisconsin officials have imposed limits on the movement of firewood into and within the state because they recognize the economic and ecologic risks that EAB and other bad bugs pose. Where states have attempted to eradicate EAB, removing all ash trees within a ½ mile of the site, the cost has been about \$1 million per site. Where EAB is established, it has eliminated all ash trees; cities and towns have been stripped of their street trees and lowland forests were decimated. State and federal quarantines restrict the transportation of infested nursery stock and forest products, but restrictions on firewood do not address the vast amounts of firewood moved by the public and may not be effective in protecting our state’s resources.

In light of this information, Minnesota DNR is proposing to restrict firewood brought into state campgrounds and onto DNR administered state lands in order to protect our forests from EAB and other exotic pests that cause harm. The DNR is requesting that campers, hunters, anglers and other recreationists use “approved” firewood while on DNR lands. Approved firewood is:

- Purchased from an approved dealer (approved by Dept of Agriculture or Natural Resources).

- Purchased/ provided at the state facility.

- Clean, untreated dimensional lumber.

Moving personal firewood supplies from your home to your cabin or lake home is not regulated like transporting them into state campgrounds. It’s up to you to prevent the “bad bugs” from moving into the trees and forests near your land. So, leave your firewood supply at home and make sure that your firewood supply is purchased or obtained from an approved source near your destination.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

JLWA Logo Shirts. The JLWA logo sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts and hats are still available. For those interested in ordering this year, we will take orders at the spring meeting and then place the order in June. Kathy Dinkel will again coordinate the ordering and distribution. If you want to order or have questions about colors please call Kathy at 763-754-2234(home) or 218-832-3535(lake) or myself 218-832-3139. Colored order forms can be sent out to new members who have not seen the original form.

Discount Cards and Maps. Anyone who has paid dues should have received the lake maps and the new discount card. If you are a member and have not received one please call me at 218-326-3908. We will be updating and sending out a new map list for land owners this spring.

Pet Crematory. The long awaited decision on the location of a pet crematory (animal incinerator) has finally been made. At the County Board meeting on April 10th the applicant withdrew his application for a conditional use permit to relocate his business in Jessie Lake Township. We had the support of our county commissioners to request an EIS for this facility and in view of that he chose to withdraw. Since we also have a new zoning moratorium on this type of business in Jessie Lake Township, which was passed last month by our Township Board, there will be no new applications accepted. I think we all agree that property zoned farm/residential in the Chippewa Forest near Jessie Lake was not the proper place for such a business. It was not compatible with the recreational/resort area in our rural community that we are trying to preserve. The risk of fire and environmental damage to our natural resources was too great to allow that kind of development. Local citizens, our Association, township

supervisors and county commissioners have put forth a great deal of effort on this issue since July 2006 and in the end, the right result was achieved.

Concern About Lake Water Quality. The Pollution Control Agency has estimated that about 25% of the area lakes do not fully meet aquatic recreational use criteria due to excessive nutrients running into them. Rainwater runoff originates from our roads, parking lots, roofs and lawns. Runoff carries pollutants, such as oil, pesticides, suspended solids, pet waste and nutrients.

Quotable. “The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations, whose words of thanks will not be heard.” – Gaylord Nelson, Former Governor of Wisconsin and Founder of Earth Day

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- The DNR will stock Jessie Lake in 2007 with 1.75 million walleye fry.
- About 2% of the fish eggs hatch to fry under natural conditions compared to over 60% in a hatchery according to the DNR.
- Almost half of the fish consumed in the country last year were raised in a fish farm.
- In Minnesota, we have observed changes in climate that include higher temperatures and more frequent heavy rainfalls with an increase in flooding.
- One of the first bills passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor was a nation-leading renewable energy standard that will require 25% of Minnesota’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2020.
- The number of Minnesota resorts has declined from 3600 in 1973 to only 900 now.
- A new global warming report recently issued by the United Nations predicts we will see an increase in ticks, mosquitoes, tree pests and poison ivy.
- The Forest History Center in Grand Rapids has recently updated the visitor center and has had a lot of new activities beginning with the creation of a Woodland Stewardship Plan written by Dan Hertle, DNR-Forestry.
- Dead trumpeter swans found near Annandale Minnesota were killed from ingesting lead shot from shotgun shells.
- American’s toss out enough paper and plastic cups, forks and spoons every year to circle the equator 300 times.
- The Mercury Reduction Act of August 1, 2006 is new legislation that requires mercury reduction from six units of Minnesota’s dirtiest power plants. In the end, improving these six units by 90% will reduce the mercury emissions from state power plants by 70% and the total Hg by 30%.
- A recent DNR study says that MN anglers are getting older and young people don’t seem interested in taking their place. It is clear that fewer young people are getting involved in fishing.
- Energy consumption in Minnesota has increased 41% from 1985 to 2005.
- Each Minnesotan now produces 1.16 tons of garbage every year, up from 0.88 tons in 1991.
- The Federal government has delisted the timber wolf from the endangered species list in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.
- The ice went out 100% on April 25th only two days later than normal.
- Our website (www.minnesotalakes.org/Jessie) is updated regularly by our webmaster Jim Anderson with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 94 paid members. If you have not paid your dues, please send your \$10 to Dale Hertle, 47104 Bellamy Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.