

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

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GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the new lake season, I hope this finds you all well and looking forward to the spring weather. Normally, I am thinking about my favorite place for fishing and recreation, the cabin at Jessie Lake. However, this year we had to deal with three feet of snow in April instead of getting out to rake the lawn. That has really put a damper on my lake attitude and as I started preparation of the newsletter, I suddenly realized we might be lucky to have the ice off the lake in time for the fishing opener. You may remember from the fall meeting our JLWA officers and directors remained the same, but we will have a couple changes in other positions. I have been fortunate to have the help of Gloria Dallas as the Public Relations person and Kathy Dinkel coordinating the Logo shirt and hat sales. Their help was really appreciated and I am sure that Marie Flicker will do well with the shirt business, but we do need someone to become the PR person. If anyone is interested let me know. Last year we also hit a milestone when we went over 100 members. Now we need to continue growing and I challenge you all to invite any neighbors that are not members. Also, I would welcome anyone reading this letter to join. I think after 10 years of existence we would all agree that the Association has many benefits. However, the main thing is that we all share the common goal of maintaining the water quality of our lakes and making our watershed a great place to enjoy these natural resources. The support that everyone on the lake gives can make the difference between whether our lakes continue to deteriorate or benefit from a dedicated preservation/conservation ethic.

While I am thinking of the Association changes, I want to also encourage all members who have Internet access to send me your email address. Those who have changed their email in the past year please send me the new one. I would like to create an email list to allow communication with you when we have important issues and keep you up to date on things happening. In the near future, I will send out a test email to check on the status of those addresses that I have currently. My email is haroldg@cpinternet.com so feel free to contact me on any concerns or issues of interest. Some day we may even be able to send out this newsletter electronically to those who are willing to receive it that way. Also, please note that our Association website has a new address due to the change in name of our state organization. It is now www.minnesotawaters.org/Jessie rather than "minnesotalakes". Going there first provides a number of links to other related organizations.

At the start of this 2008 season we still plan on monitoring the spring walleye spawning, keeping Spring Creek free of debris, doing the roadside cleanup, water sampling for phosphorous, and taking Secchi disk readings for water clarity. The work at SWCD to establish nutrient limits for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is still in progress. We are also looking forward to our fourth year of the Share the Lake Day, involving a picnic day for seniors from Bigfork. Also, remember to save time for our fifth annual members potluck picnic on July 30th with hosts Jim Deconcini and Peg Wood on the east side of Jessie Lake. I would also like to see everyone at our spring meeting on May 24th and our annual meeting/potluck on Aug. 30th.

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 24th**. Please note that we **will meet at the Bowstring Township Hall** on Co Rd 133. 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 Andy Arens, Forestry/Shoreland Specialist, Itasca SWCD talking on protecting our lakeshore with shoreland restoration, native planting of buffers, raingardens and other related topics.

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 fall newsletter of 2007. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met last summer and discussed the need for a revision in the SWCD contract due to new TMDL protocols and policies that have been recently put in place by the MPCA. In addition, the data collected since the completion of the CWP study in 2002 needed to be reviewed and added to the TMDL study. Therefore the 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 has budgeted state dollars to then complete the TMDL with a contract that would be awarded to an experienced consultant.

As part of Phase I, a second TAC meeting was held in November to review the existing technical data and review an example of a completed lake TMDL. The very extensive Jessie Lake Clean Water Partnership (CWP) study was considered sufficient in satisfying a large part of the TMDL study. Since historical data has deemed the lake to be impacted by man through logging, erosion and shoreland development, the goal is to develop loading rates for phosphorous from all sources and to identify areas where reductions in phosphorus loading can occur. Further evaluation of shoreline erosion, septic maintenance and in-lake treatment would also be considered for study.

The next meeting was held on Feb. 28th to continue with the preparation of the RFP, which will be sent out to contractors. A draft of the RFP prepared by SWCD and the MPCA was reviewed and the TAC people gave comments or suggestions for revision. The final RFP should be ready to send out to qualified contractors in early May and a contract awarded in June. The contractors experience with lake modeling will be a major factor in selection of the contractor. Completion of the TMDL by the contractor is expected to be by the end of 2008. A public meeting with a formal presentation by the contractor will be part of this project. The Jessie TMDL website has been setup by Noel Griese (SWCD) containing a brief background section and reports with additional data being added regularly. You can visit this site by accessing the home page for SWCD at www.itascaswcd.org and clicking on the Jessie TMDL link or directly by going to www.itascaswcd.org/Jessie_Lake_TMDL.htm.

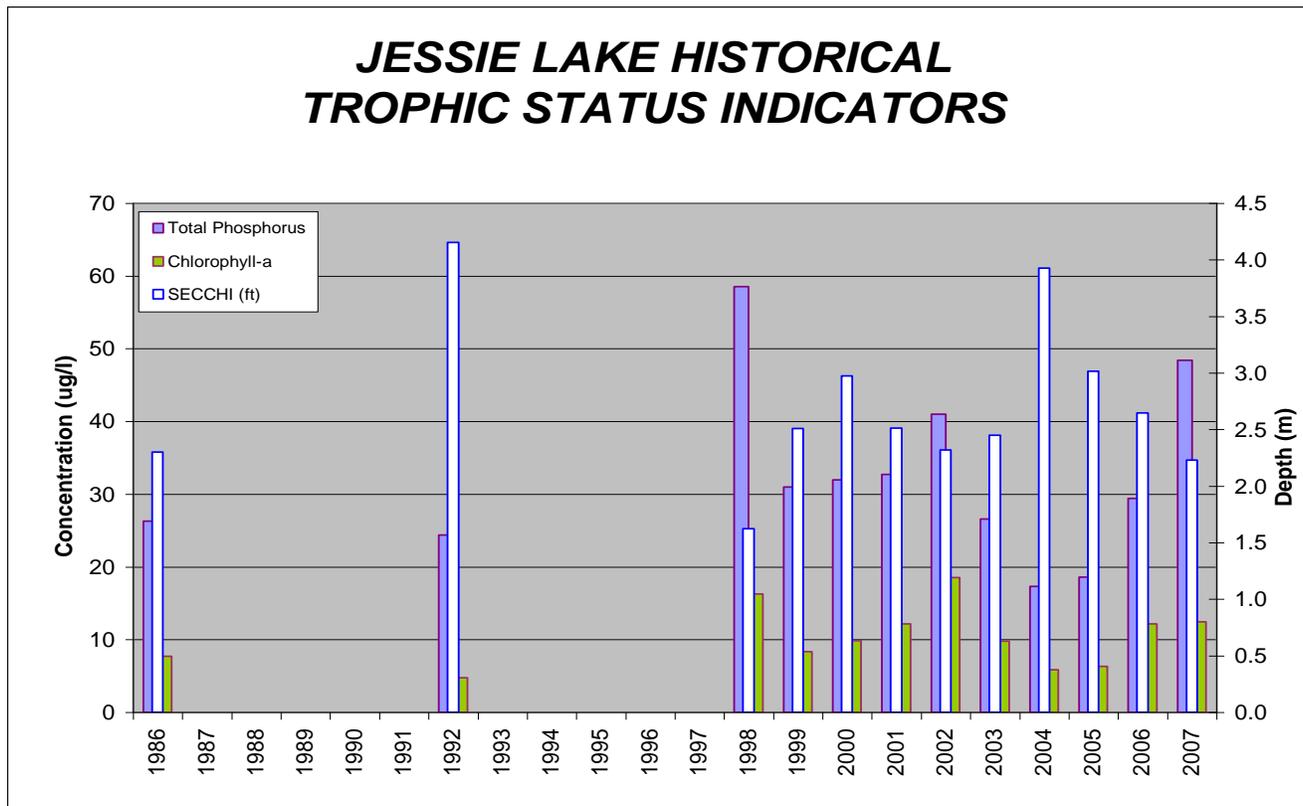
JESSIE LAKE 2007 WATER QUALITY YEAR END REVIEW

By Noel Griese, Lakes Specialist, SWCD

The year 2007 completed the tenth consecutive sampling season of Jessie Lake since 1998 and ranked as the second highest year for average annual total phosphorus concentrations. Phosphorus concentrations averaged 48 ug/l, which was considerably higher than the mean of 32 ug/l. Early on in the season phosphorus concentrations were fairly low, but from July-August remained around 60 ug/l.

Chlorophyll-a (measurement of algae) averaged 12 ug/l, and like phosphorus was fairly low early on and increased in concentrations as high as 22 ug/l in August. Secchi disk readings correlated well with phosphorus and chlorophyll-a concentrations with water clarity readings of 13.5 feet in June to as low as 3 feet in August with an average of 7.5 feet (2.3m). The CLMP program for measuring water clarity with the MPCA has continued on Jessie Lake with Skip Olson (JLWA) taking 15 Secchi readings last year. Also, this year Ardie Sheplee (JLWA) took the Secchi disk reading 14 times on Peterson Lake and they ranged from 6.5 to 13.0 feet with an average of 8.9 feet (2.7m).

Explanations for the annual fluctuations continue to lie in the hands of the yearly weather patterns, which can at times promote internal loading during a windy season. The temperature-oxygen profiles show Jessie Lake's water column never really stratified in 2007 and appears to have remained mixed for most of the summer. Continued internal loading from the lake sediments and other climate related issues created a season for increased algae blooms and reduced water clarity.



Since 1998 trends would suggest reduced phosphorus concentrations and algae production along with improved water clarity, but the data is highly biased by 1998. When looking at the last nine years (1999-2007) the data suggest no trend, meaning amidst the yearly ups and downs the lake appears to have remained fairly stable since 1999.

Once again, yearly assessments of Jessie Lake's water quality have continued through the efforts of the Jessie Lake Watershed Association, and they are to be commended because of their importance in helping track the health of the lake. The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to furthering the study of Jessie Lake and continues to look forward to working closely with the JLWA in our efforts to maintain or improve Jessie Lake water quality.

ENEMY OF THE LAKE

By Larry Baker, University of MN Water Resources Center, Minneapolis Star Tribune

Why is there so much P in my lake? Like most Minnesotans, you probably prefer to see your toes

when you're standing in your favorite lake. Unfortunately, many of our lakes turn green in summer, the result of too much phosphorus (P), making your toes disappear. More than 200 Minnesota lakes are actually considered legally "impaired" by excess nutrients (mostly P), requiring city and county governments to develop plans to clean them up.

We now know that lake clarity depends on two things: 1) the nature of the lake and its watershed; and 2) the amount of P that enters it during a year (its "loading"). For two lakes of the same dimensions, the lake with a larger watershed can handle a higher P loading than the one with a smaller watershed, because runoff from the larger watershed flushes the lake out. For a given lake, clarity depends on its P loading. If the P loading goes up, algal abundance increases and clarity goes down. If the P loading is reduced, the algal abundance decreases and clarity increases. A classic example is Shagawa Lake, near Ely. The lake was quite green in the early 1970s, until the installation of an advanced wastewater-treatment system that reduced P loading by 75 percent. Since then, clarity has more than doubled, from 5 feet in the late 1970s to 11 feet today.

We have taken major steps to reduce the amount of P entering surface waters. Banning P in laundry detergents back in 1977 reduced concentrations in wastewater by nearly half. In a few places, advanced treatment systems now remove more than 90 percent of P in wastewater. Farmers have learned to use P fertilizer far more efficiently. A Wisconsin study showed that in 1975 only half of the P added to cropland as fertilizer and manure became part of the harvested crop, while the other half accumulated in the soil. Twenty years later, farmers were removing 85 percent of the added P in their crops, leaving only 15 percent to accumulate.

Despite this effort, lake clarity hasn't improved much in recent years. An analysis of satellite images of lakes throughout the state conducted at the University of Minnesota shows virtually no change in average clarity from 1985 to 2005. Of the nearly 10,000 lakes analyzed, most did not show much change in clarity; of those that showed large changes, 5 percent had greater clarity and 6 percent had reduced clarity.

So why aren't Minnesota's lakes getting clearer? One reason is more development—there are simply more homes, more lawns and more impervious surfaces than previously. Failing septic systems may be another. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 40 percent of Minnesota's septic systems are substandard. Our research suggests there may be a cumulative effect. Year after year, more P is imported into watersheds (as a component of animal food, human food, fertilizers and other products) than is deliberately exported (for example, in the form of crops and animal products—good P!). The remainder of the P accumulates in the soil, year after year. Unfortunately, P cannot accumulate in soils forever—eventually it starts bleeding out, toward streams and lakes. We found strong evidence of continued P accumulation in about a dozen watersheds we studied and think that it occurs in most watersheds.

What needs to be done to keep P out of our lakes? First, we should tailor lake management based on sensitivity of individual lakes to P inputs. We now have the databases and computer tools to do this, at least for major lakes. Second, the MPCA should modify its P reduction strategy, which currently focuses mainly on point-source discharges (mostly municipal wastewater). We need to go beyond this, with the goal of reaching a balance between P that is brought into a watershed and P that is deliberately exported, with no P left over to accumulate. This would require expanding regulations of animal feedlots to include smaller operations, rethinking the use of septic systems on shorelines, decreasing the amount of sewage sludge that can be applied to crops, and in some cases, reusing treated sewage to irrigate crops or parks to "harvest" P.

This strategy wouldn't produce instantaneous change, but it would over time, so your kids' kids will someday be able to see their toes.

STUDIES REVEAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF ITASCA COUNTY LAKES

By Harold Dzuik, PhD (retired from U of MN)

Extensive review of research on the economic value of lakes is summarized below.

- 1) Protecting lakes and encouraging economic growth are compatible.
- 2) Research in 1996 to 2003 in Minnesota, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire shows that market values of shoreland property are greater when water clarity is greater. As water clarity decreases, market values decrease.
- 3) University of Wisconsin researchers reported in 2004 that lakeshore is more valuable when protected from degradation by legislated restrictions.
- 4) The Minnesota Office of Tourism has reported a method for estimating income from lakes in Minnesota that have a sustainable fishery.
- 5) Estimates are that 16.5 jobs are generated per each 1,000 acres of fishable water.
- 6) Direct consumer purchases, including groceries, lodging, boats, fishing tackle, bait, cabin and home sales, are estimated at over \$900 per acre of fishable water per year.
- 7) Direct consumer purchases plus indirect impacts on total income are estimated at nearly \$1,500 per acre of fishable water per year.
- 8) Real estate taxes yield less than one tenth of the total income from Itasca County lakes. The bulk of income is from jobs and consumer purchases. Itasca County can expect more income from jobs and consumer purchases if the water in Itasca County lakes is clean and supports healthy fish.
- 9) Jobs, consumer purchases and property taxes depend upon protecting and enhancing water quality, shoreland aesthetics and fish and wildlife habitat.
- 10) Vacationers and guests who visit family and friends in their shoreland homes account for the majority of tourists. These tourists spend large sums of money enjoying Minnesota's lakes.

FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS – WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

By Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant Program

Musky fishermen on Lake Vermillion pine for the “weed” beds that used to hold muskies, now gone because of hoards of plant-eating rusty crayfish. Some fishermen sing the praises of bass fishing along the edges of dense aquatic plant beds. Others recognize that many lakes' fish populations have changed as aquatic plants have disappeared due to lakeshore development. What is the relationship between aquatic plants and fish populations? Sounds simple enough to answer until you sit down to consider the issue's scope. There are so many species of plants and fish and variations in how they interact that it is an oversimplification to state that all fish depend on healthy native aquatic plant populations. Some fish species need aquatic plants sometime during their lives while others don't. I've spent most of my career focused on Great Lakes fishes. Many of those species don't ever see a rooted aquatic plant and they do just fine, such as lake whitefish, lake trout, coaster brook trout, lake herring and deepwater chubs. Other fish like largemouth bass thrive with more aquatic vegetation and have increased dramatically in some areas of the Great Lakes. Take Lake Erie for example – prior to the 1990s, poor water clarity in that very productive lake limited plant growth. But when the invasive zebra mussel and quagga mussel populations grew in the lake, they filtered the water and improved clarity to the point that aquatic plants began growing in areas that hadn't seen them in close to 100 years. As a result, largemouth bass and sunfish increased in numbers and size in those areas where the plants began growing again. What does this have to do with inland Minnesota? It reminds us that different fish species have different habitat requirements and that loss of critical habitat will result in loss of fish. As with Lake Erie, we may not know what we're missing because the habitat has been altered for so long that we've forgotten how it was. Or a gradual decline in aquatic plant communities results in an almost imperceptible change in the fish community that is difficult to detect during a

single generation. Changes may only become clear when you look through old photo albums at your cabin and realize your grandfather caught more of a particular fish species than you do.

One thing is sure – many fish species and other animals depend on healthy native aquatic plant communities for food, habitat, cover and spawning or nesting sites. What we don't know is how our individual actions add up to impact a lake. How many individual shoreland property owners (or rusty crayfish for that matter) each removing the aquatic plants on their shoreline does it take to change the lake's habitat enough to impact its fish? Without careful consideration about how our individual choices add up to impact lakes, we may soon sound like our grandfathers talking about the good old days. New fishery management tools and regulations and the catch and release practices of many anglers, combined with taking care of fish habitat could help ensure that the good old days of fishing in Minnesota are still ahead of us.

SWIMMER'S ITCH

Story compiled from MPCA and DNR information

Dear Professor: I went swimming in a lake the other day and now I've got these red bumps all over and they itch like crazy. What is it? Signed, Joe Curious

Dear Joe: Sounds like you have a case of Swimmer's Itch that is caused by a blood fluke common in waterfowl. Chances are the lake you were swimming in probably has a healthy population of ducks or geese residing on it as well as snails. The itching is caused when the fluke, while in the immature stage of its life cycle mistakes you for its primary host, the waterfowl. The microscopic organism burrows into your skin after being released from the intermediary host, the snails. The good news is that aside from being annoying, the rash is relatively harmless to people and should clear up on its own after a few days. If the itching gets to be too much, some over-the-counter or prescription medications offer relief. To learn more about the swimmer's itch and how to avoid getting it in the first place I visited the DNR's website for the following information and some prevention strategies.

There are actions you can take to help reduce the odds of getting swimmer's itch. To understand which actions make sense it is important to look at the organism's biology. The organism that causes swimmer's itch has a complicated life history. However, an important fact to consider is that the critter starts out in the intestinal lining of waterfowl, mostly ducks. So if you, or maybe your neighbors, are currently feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock--stop. If ducks like to loaf on your dock or yard, doing what you can to discourage them is Strategy No. 1. You can try an owl windsock or statue. Place the windsock or statue on your dock and move it around every other day, so the ducks do not become accustomed to it. If ducks don't hang out around your property, then the source of the problem may be elsewhere in the lake and this strategy won't help much. The swimmer's itch organism originating somewhere else is being brought to your shoreline by wave action or currents.

The life stage of the organism that causes swimmer's itch is called a "cercaria" that is the immature stage of a blood fluke common in waterfowl. The cercaria only lives for a day or so and typically inhabits the upper few inches of water, which increases its chances of coming into contact with a duck (its definitive host). This behavior makes it easy for them to be moved around the lake and tends to concentrate their numbers along the shoreline. Strategy No. 2 is avoidance, swim from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria. This strategy may not be practical if you don't swim or have children who play in the water near shore.

Although the cercaria can enter your skin while you are wading or swimming, you can also carry the critters out of the water with you. Thus, strategy No. 3 is to dry off with a towel immediately after getting out of the water if swimmer's itch is a problem. The organism in the droplets of water on your skin will look for somewhere to go as the droplet of water evaporates; into your skin is their next refuge. So you can reduce the odds of getting swimmer's itch by drying off with a towel.

If these strategies don't work for you there is the option of getting a permit from the DNR to use copper sulfate to kill the snails that are an intermediate host of the parasite. Infected snails release the

life stage (cercaria) that actually causes swimmer's itch. The copper sulfate will only kill the snails present at the time of application and any snails that enter the area afterwards will not be affected. The relief provided may be temporary and more than one treatment may be required. Usually only a small percent of the snails in a lake carry the infection and they may not be the ones around your dock. If nothing else seems to work, then applying the copper sulfate to kill the snails might provide some relief. Apply for a permit to use copper sulfate at your Regional Fisheries office. They can answer any additional questions you might have about using copper sulfate, application rates and how to apply it.

The good news is the blood fluke that causes swimmer's itch cannot complete its life history in the human body. Your body's immune system detects the cercaria as a foreign protein, attacks and kills it shortly after it penetrates your skin. The severe itch and accompanying welt is an allergic reaction to the infection, which the medications can help to relieve the discomfort.

Not everyone is sensitive to swimmer's itch. You may have noticed that some people show no symptoms of swimmer's itch even though others swimming at the same time and place break out severely. The literature indicates that only about 30 to 40 percent of the population is sensitive to swimmer's itch infection. However, much like poison ivy, your sensitivity to swimmer's itch will increase with each exposure.

SAFETY TIPS FOR FISHING OPENER

DNR NEWS - Tim Smalley, DNR Boating Safety Specialist

For many Minnesotans, the opening of the inland fishing season on May 10 also marks the beginning of a new boating season. Minnesota law requires a wearable personal flotation device for each person on any boat. For most boats there are requirements for lighting, signaling device, fire extinguisher and other equipment. Regulations and safety recommendations are listed in the Minnesota Boating Guide, available online at www.dnr.state.mn.us/boating or calling toll free (888) 646-6367. Lack of the correct number, type and size of flotation devices is the second most common boating law violation - right behind expired boat registrations. Not wearing a life jacket is the number one reason people die in boating accidents. Over the past decade, an average of 22 boaters have died each year in Minnesota.

LIFE JACKETS-Minnesota law requires a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD), more commonly known as a life jacket for each person on the boat. The vest has to be of the correct size and type for the person for whom it is intended. Also required is a throwable flotation device (called a Type IV) like a boaters' seat cushion on boats 16 feet or longer. Children under 10 are now required to wear a life jacket unless they are below decks such as in a houseboat or are swimming or diving from an anchored boat. Even though adults aren't required to wear a life vest on most boats, it is the one thing that could save their life, especially in a cold-water situation. Most boating fatalities involve capsizing and falls overboard, and almost all of the victims had swimming ability. Unfortunately, that ability wasn't enough to save them from the gasp that is brought on by entering cold water. If your head is underwater when you experience that sudden reflexive gasp, you'll draw water into your lungs and you're probably going to drown, unless you're wearing your life jacket.

NAVIGATION LIGHTS-After sunset and before sunrise, motorboats must be illuminated by red and green bow lights, and a white stern light visible from 360 degrees. While at anchor, motorboats are required to be illuminated by the white stern light.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER-Motorboats 16 ft or longer are required to carry a U.S Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher.

HORN OR WHISTLE-Boats 16 feet or longer must carry a whistle or horn capable of producing a sound for at least two seconds that can be heard for at least one mile.

NO ALCOHOL-Fatal errors in judgment brought on by beer and booze can cause trouble long before you reach the .08 level of intoxication. A conviction for boating while intoxicated goes on your auto driver's license record and may also affect your insurance rates.

With precautions for safety, boating can be safe and fun for fishing or just cruising the lake.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

JLWA Logo Shirts. The style of JLWA logo sweatshirts, polo shirts, T-shirts and hats is being evaluated at this time. For those interested in ordering this year, we will take orders at the spring meeting and then place an order. Marie Flicker will now coordinate the ordering and distribution. If you want to order or have questions about colors please call Marie at 218-326-0811(home) or 218-832-3154 (lake) or myself 218-832-3139. Colored order forms can be sent out to new members who have not seen the original form. Also, I do have 6 hats available if you are interested.

Discount Cards and Maps. Anyone who has paid dues should have received the lake maps and owners list. If you were a 2007 member and have not received one please call me at 218-326-3908. We will be sending out lake maps and an owner's list for new members this spring. You can update your owner's list for this year with the following changes: Jessie Lake Parcel # 50, Tom and Deana Boysen; Parcel # 73, Phillip and Kathleen Laroche; and Peterson Lake Parcel # 10, Dean Anderson. There will not be a discount card this year as ICOLA has decided not to continue that project in 2008. The expected goal of improving membership in our lake associations was not met by offering the card.

Creel Survey. At the Annual Meeting last fall Jim Anderson discussed the possibility of starting a partial creel census on Jessie Lake. Interested fisherman would keep track of the length of each walleye they caught (kept or released) during the summer. Jim believed if enough fishermen would do this a good estimate of walleye year-class strength could be obtained to help us with future planning and evaluation of the rock spawning beds. This information will not be made public. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jim for details at 832-3175.

Fish Length and Age-One of the questions we always ask is whether any of the walleye being caught are from stocked fry or naturally produced. I recently asked our DNR Fisheries Specialist, Karl Koller, to give me an idea of how long each year class fish would be around the opening of the fishing season in May. Since the fish are born in early May they would be about the size shown in the chart. However, most of the growth for fish takes place during the summer warm water months so by the end of summer a 2007 year class fish should be closer to an age 2 fish in mean length or 8.8 inches. Also, Karl mentioned that there is a lot of overlap, especially in the longer fish and there are variations in growth related to sex too since males are usually smaller. Last year, the 15 to 17 inch fish we were catching were probably 2002 and 2003 fish from stocked years. However, the 17 to 19 inch fish, which many people caught, were probably from the 2001 class and these were likely produced on our spawning rock beds in Spring Creek. It will be interesting to see what we catch in 2008. Hope you all have a great year for fishing, but remember to put those larger fish back.

| <u>Age (May), yr</u> | <u>Length, in</u> | <u>Year Class</u> | <u>Stocked</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 5.2 | 2007 | yes |
| 2 | 8.8 | 2006 | yes |
| 3 | 12.5 | 2005 | no |
| 4 | 15.3 | 2004 | no |
| 5 | 17.2 | 2003 | yes |
| 6 | 19.2 | 2002 | yes |
| 7 | 21.2 | 2001 | no |

Aquatic Invasive Species-AIS are plants, animals and viruses that are not native to our Minnesota lakes. The possible long-term ecologic, economic and recreational impacts are huge and not enough is being done to protect our lakes. Curlyleaf pondweed and common carp have been in Minnesota for many years, but Eurasian Watermilfoil has only been here since 1987. However, over 435 lakes in Wisconsin and 200 lakes in Minnesota have already been infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. Zebra mussels have spread to 100 Wisconsin lakes. In Minnesota 56 boat accesses are open to Zebra mussel infested waters. Aquatic invasive species are moving rapidly between lakes in the states with the promise of an explosive invasion happening soon. Wisconsin has reached the point of going from 2

lakes per year to more than 50 the past year. Eurasian Watermilfoil is a fast growing, aquatic invasive species that takes over native plants, grows at depths of up to 35 feet, and forms dense mats at the surface. It often severely impacts recreational use of a lake. Once a lake has been infested, only regular and costly control treatments with herbicides have shown to have some effect.

Recently, it was discovered that curlyleaf pondweed is in Little Jay Gould and Jay Gould near Pokegama Lake on the Mississippi chain. Rapid response is going to be necessary to prevent this from becoming a major problem in Itasca County.

Remember, you can make a difference at your boat launch in getting boaters to clean aquatics off before launching. It is not just a good idea, however, it is the law

Quotable. “This is the most beautiful lake country on the continent. We can afford to protect it. In the end, we turn to nature in a frenzied, chaotic world – there to find silence, oneness, wholeness and spiritual release.” Sigurd Olson, author of *The Singing Wilderness*.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- After two years of stocking, Walleye fry will not be stocked in Jessie Lake during 2008 and 2009.
- The state of Minnesota will be 150 years old this year.
- There is a seniors (over 65) dinner held three days a week (Tue., Wed., Thurs.) at noon in the Bowstring Town Hall for the mere price of \$3. Please call 832-3594 for reservations.
- The estimated moose population in MN is 6800 and with the high mortality rates seen currently they may be gone in 50 years. In NW Minnesota they have already declined from over 4000 in 1990 to about 84 remaining now.
- At the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) spring community involvement meeting in Grand Rapids the environmental water issues having the highest priority were wetland preservation, shoreland development (habitat loss), non-point runoff, septic compliance and mercury in lakes.
- Moose are the largest member of the deer family. In Minnesota they average 950 to 1000 lbs when full grown. Moose live to be 14-15 years old on the average.
- If you lined up all the plastic drinking water bottles that were purchased last year they would stretch around the world 9 times.
- The average American uses 328,000 gallons of water doing laundry in his/her lifetime.
- In 2006 Americans recycled 82 million tons or 32.5 % of the trash they generated. This is up from 15 million tons in 1980.
- Biologists classify ants as a special group of wasps. Minnesota has more than 100 ant species.
- Minnesota claims to have 850,000 people of Norwegian descent, far more than any other state.
- Only female mosquitoes bite and drink blood. Male mosquitoes do not bite, but rather feed on the nectar of flowers.
- For every person on earth, there are at least 200 million insects.
- Historically, 7000 plant species have been used for food, but today 20 species are 90% of our diet.
- The ice was not out at press time and is expected to be 5-7 days later than the normal April 23rd.
- Our website (www.minnesotawaters.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 77 paid members (101 fall 2007). If you have not paid your dues, please send your \$10 to Dale Hertle, 47104 Bellamy Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.