JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



VOL.14, NO.2 FALL 2011

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARN FLICKER:

Where did they go? I am talking about summer and fall now that I gaze out the window at the snowy landscape and ice-covered pond. The open water fishing is done for the year and the venison is in the freezer. The gray wolf pack that was living in our watershed area the past several years has moved on and the deer are safer again in our woods. Not sure what caused the walleyes to have lockjaw the past 4 months, but this means better fishing in the future.

The 2011 cabin season was both interesting and sad. The interesting part was the lake level stayed fairly steady and clearer than the past several years as the graph from Jim Anderson shows in this issue. Interesting is the algae bloom of September and October collected heavy mainly on the southeast shore. Interesting also in that the beavers built two more dams on Spring Creek below our leveler.

The sad part of the 2011 season was that we said "goodbye" to several long time lake residents. One of the goodbyes was to Bill Nelson who helped organize the Association and served in many capacities in the Jessie Lake Watershed Association. Another sad event was the loss of two summer places and a lake home to fires. Please keep these friends and neighbors in your thoughts and prayers.

I want to say "Thank you" to Jim Deconcini (Deke) for his years of service as a director and for his continuing volunteerism on chairing the "Share the Lake" event. Please try to assist Deke and the Association in keeping this lake-sharing event for area seniors an annual fun day. Also, a special thank you to Skip and Lynn Olson for hosting the 9th annual picnic. My welcome then goes to Jerry Loney for joining the JLWA Board as a director and also volunteering his expertise to head the Media Committee. Jerry will now be the "go to" person when we have events and photos to share with the area media. A reminder that we are currently in need of a volunteer for Secretary as Rhonda Nichol's schedule does not allow her to attend many of the meetings. Please call or email if anyone is interested or would like more information.

During the November ICOLA [Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations] meeting, I heard reports from Pokegama and Johnson lakes on how they were instrumental in assisting the county officials and agents on enforcing variance agreements. They both expressed the importance of lake associations working together on issues affecting your lake area environment. We have much more influence on lake area issues as a group than as individuals. Former Governor Pawlenty sent the new Shoreland Rules policy back to the drawing board last year in hopes of allowing more local control of shoreland issues. Let your Commissioners know your feelings and thoughts about Itasca County's Comprehensive Plan that can affect the future of our environment in a positive way. Help the county strike a balance between protecting the environment and imposing over reaching shoreland rules.

In conclusion, I would like to say Thank You to each and every member of our Association for your support in funding and volunteering your time and talent to accomplish the many tasks and events of JLWA. Please note the event dates from the fall meeting minutes on your new 2012 calendar.

Your President,

JLWA ANNUAL MEETING

By Rhonda Nichols

President Marn Flicker called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on September 3rd following the coffee hour. Thirty-two members and one guest attended the meeting. Our guest Mike Fairbanks, area Conservation Officer, was the speaker.

OLD BUSINESS

Business Items - The minutes of the spring meeting were read by Rhonda and approved. Treasurer, Mike Raymond reported that the JLWA treasury contained \$5,882.64 as of the end of August. A motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report. Mike also reported that the membership was currently at 95 members.

Loons - Jim Anderson reported there were 7 loons counted, but no chicks.

Water Level - Jim Anderson reported that the lake difference between May and now is only ³/₄ of an inch. (See article)

Volunteer Committees - Marn thanked the people who have signed up for the volunteer committees. There are still openings for historian and media coordinator. Please contact Marn if you are interested. *Roadside Cleanup* - Krista Hagen reported that the fall roadside cleanup day will be Tuesday, October 4th, weather permitting, with an alternate date of Thursday, October 6th. Those interested should meet at Jessie View Resort at 10 a.m. Jim and Rita Anderson will host the post cleanup picnic. The spring lake cleanup did not take place. A date will be set for next spring.

Culvert - Marn reported for Harold Goetzman that the culvert on #135 for Tillys Creek has been ordered and should be placed this fall. The forestry service funded the culvert and the County is doing the work.

Share the Lake Day - Deke Deconcini reported that there were 44 attendees at share the lake day. This includes residents, staff and volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the pontoon rides, food and entertainment. The Marcell Family Center has offered to be our back up in case of a rain out. They will do this at no charge. Jim Anderson made a motion we send the entertainer \$50, Krista Hagen seconded. Motion carried. Rhonda Nichols will send a thank-you to North Itasca Electric for the \$150 they gave for share the lake day.

Picnic - There was a lower than normal turnout of 20 people for the summer picnic, but those attending had a good time. The picnic was on a Saturday this year and was hosted by Skip and Lynn Olson. Thanks go to Skip and Lynn for doing a great job with nice weather and bearable bugs. It was decided that perhaps we should consider moving the picnic day back to Thursday to improve the attendance.

Award - Marn reported that he nominated Harold Goetzman for MN Waters volunteer of the year. Harold was recognized, but he did not receive the award.

NEW BUSINESS

Election - Jerry Loney has volunteered to be a director on the Board, replacing Deke Deconcini. There being no other nominees, the attendees unanimously approved the election of Jerry to the Board.

TMDL - Grants are available for shoreline restoration. Harold would be happy to help with the paper work for the matching funds.

Event Changes - After discussion, Barb Lewis made a motion that the Share-the-Lake Day should be the second Wednesday in July and that the summer picnic should be the third Thursday of July. Melody Bolin seconded. Motion carried.

Jabber - If you would like to get the Jabber by email, let Marn know. He will get the lists to Jim Anderson. We will continue to do 4 mailings at this time. Please update your email if it changed.

Scholarship - Val Conner drafted and presented guidelines for a scholarship. After much discussion, Val made a motion to establish a scholarship. Jim Anderson seconded. Motion failed.

Mailbox - Mike Raymond suggested we get a PO Box. After discussion Deke made a motion we get a PO Box. Diane Sievers seconded. Motion carried. Mike will make the arrangements.

Other - Emerald Ash Bore is not a problem here, but we should be aware and watch out for problems. Jim Anderson reported that the Neighborhood-Watch does work. Be on the lookout and report any suspicious behavior at your neighbors.

Thanks - A warm thank-you was extended to Sarah Nelson in recognition all of Bill Nelson's contributions to the watershed over the years.

A thank-you was extended to Deke for being a director on the Board.

Meeting - The spring meeting will be Saturday, May 19, 2012 at the Jesse Lake Lutheran Church.

DOOR PRIZE – John Horsch won the door prize, which was a cooler.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a potluck lunch.

MEET YOUR NEW DIRECTOR-GERALD LONEY

I was born and raised in Osceola, Wisconsin where I spent a lot of time on my grandfather's hobby farm, which turned into my families as time went by. The highlight of my memories was having our own airplane and runway. After receiving a degree in Architectural Commercial Design, I also got my pilots license along with becoming a flight instructor as a hobby only. I worked downtown Minneapolis for a number of years for Architectural Engineering firms until meeting my wife (Shelly) who grew up in Grand Rapids. With her knowledge of Jessie Lake and her spending time fishing up here with friends and family, we purchased our cabin on the east side. Considering that we enjoyed the lake so much, we decided to move up here and build a year-around-place where we currently live. I am presently working for North Itasca Electric Cooperative as the Energy Management Specialist and Shelly works at the nursing home in Bigfork.

I have two adult step-children (a daughter and a son). Our daughter is married and living in Braham, MN and has been blessed with a boy and a girl (Jase, 3 and Audrina, 1). Our son will be finishing his last year of college this spring and receiving an electrical engineering degree finishing in the top 5% of his class from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

We love our neighbors and the area around us and I am sure both Shelly and I will be active in serving you around the lake as JLWA Director. (If I can get her out of the boat)!

TILLYS CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT

By Harold Goetzman

This spring a grant application for replacing the Tillys Creek culvert on County Rd. 135 was submitted by SWCD to obtain funds from the USFS, which was awarded through the Chippewa Resource Advisory Committee in June of this year. This project has a total cost of \$44,000 of which the Chippewa is paying \$18,000 for the culvert and Itasca County/SWCD are paying the \$26,000 required for design and installation. The County will complete the construction design work this winter that is necessary to obtain the permits needed from the DNR and SWCD for stream and wetlands work. The plan is to replace the culvert next summer in July or August when the water flow is down.

The project will replace the current 3.5-foot culvert with one that is 9 feet in diameter that will allow for unrestricted water flow and fish passage. Our consultant in his 2006 evaluation of Tillys Creek Restoration recommended this size culvert, which should help reduce the periodic nutrient loading of Jessie Lake due to sediment transport. This usually happens during storm events when high flow may cause upstream beaver dams to fail and debris plugs the culvert. Three times in the past fifteen years this has happened with water even backing up enough to overtop the road eroding the

road surface and side slopes. In the storm event of 2003 it was estimated by the consultant that the road washout and slump erosion contributed about 5,600 yards or around 7,800 tons of sediment to Tillys Creek and Jessie Lake. It appears this material is still coming into the lake as a large island is building in the lake at the creek inlet.

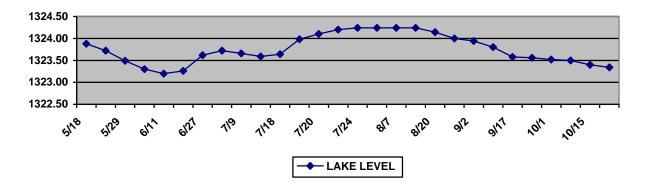
This project is the first part of a multi-faceted approach identified in the Jessie Lake TMDL Implementation Plan to reduce excess nutrients in Jessie Lake. Further restoration efforts can be considered in the future once this phase is completed.

JESSIE LAKE WATER LEVELS

By Jim Anderson

The "water gods" were favorable this year. Unlike recent years, the lake level was up and stayed up pretty much throughout the summer, thanks to some July rains. The lake level was at 1323.88 feet above mean sea level on May 18th. By June 11th it had dropped about 8 inches to 1323.20 ft. and then rose about a foot to 1324.25 ft. by July 22nd, which was close to the long-term average of 1324.26 ft. msl. When the gauge was pulled on Oct. 23rd, the level was still at 1323.33 ft., only down 6.5 inches since spring. The readings taken for this past year are shown in the Figure below. **Editor's Note**-As you can see this article was written by Jim Anderson who now has the official DNR measuring gauge at his house. After many years of installation at Nelson's, Jim has agreed to do the lake level monitoring and will answer any questions you might have on lake levels in the future. I think we are all so used to the dry-years we have had recently that this year it seemed like we had high water when in reality we were pretty close to normal and the long-term average.

2011 JESSIE LAKE WATER LEVEL



WATER QUALITY

By Harold Goetzman

The water quality in Jessie Lake for 2011 was one of the better years we have had over the past few years based on the Secchi disk readings for water clarity. The Secchi disk readings averaged 9.4 feet compared to the 7.2 feet we had in 2010. Due to the cooler weather in May and June we did not get as much algae growth in August as usual, but the algae blooms were frequent in September and even well into October as the water stayed warmer in the fall.

However, those people living on the east side saw a much different water quality situation than the rest of the lake as the August blooms of algae seemed to pile up on that side and for a couple months there were heavy mats of algae locked in by the weeds. My observation of the situation was that the weed growth was worse and they extended out further than in most years due to the clearer water. Then when the water level went down the coontail weeds laid on the surface holding the algae in that

area since most of the southeast prevailing winds were not breaking it up. It definitely was a problem that can occur when weather conditions and water levels are just right.

Once a bloom occurs, the only option available is to wait for weather changes, such as significant rainfall, wind shifts or cooler temperatures to disrupt the algae's growth. The key to solving algae problems long-term is to improve water quality by decreasing the amount of nutrients that are carried into the lake. Shoreline buffer zones of native plants and rain gardens can be used to slow the runoff. Also, erosion of the shoreline will continue to bring phosphorus-laden material that contributes to our continually rising lake phosphorus concentration.

This fall the Board asked me to sample the sediment outside of Tillys Creek in front of Bill and Lilli Baird's house to determine how much phosphorus might be in that material. Currently, there is a sand island of eroded material coming mostly from Tillys Creek during the spring thaw and heavy rain conditions. You may remember that back in March of 2003 we had a project to remove about 1500 tons of sediment from this area and it appears in the past 8 years that about much material has returned again. The current island is estimated to be about 110 feet by 95 feet and 3 feet deep, which would contain about 90 lbs of phosphorus based on the new sediment analyses. In addition, a composite sample taken from the stream bank showed a phosphorus level 10 times higher than the in-the-lake sediment. This material was rather fine and mostly clay, which would probably travel further out into the lake and not be in the new sediment samples. I think this shows how important it is for all of us to prevent shoreline erosion as much as possible either with natural vegetation or rock.

JESSIE LAKE TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

We are reminded by our consultant at Wenck, Inc. (Rebecca) that based on the TMDL data and modeling, the Jessie Lake background is 25-29 ug/l and is now averaging 35 ug/l. She recommends the first steps for future management should be focused on protection via external load reductions, which include shoreland buffers, erosion reduction, septic upgrades and no net P increase from property development. Alum treatment could follow later.

Thus, we need to reduce all anthropogenic (human) sources of phosphorus, even if the sources are minor, as their cumulative reduction will help improve or maintain Jessie's future water quality. As external sources are reduced the internal loading will become less over time. One phosphorus reduction method for homeowners is to use low-phos soap, shampoo, cleaners and other household products. In addition, reducing the use of a garbage disposal and reduced well-water consumption lowers the phos input to the septic system and ground water. Dog piles, deer piles, wood ashes, leaves, lawn clippings and garden fertilizer all contain phosphorus and should be kept away from the water.

MINNESOTA WATERS AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) PREVENTION POSITION

Minnesota Waters has received a groundswell of support for strong AIS advocacy and actions, which are helping to guide program development. Minnesota Waters' 2011 position statement outlines the key statewide strategies needed for an effective AIS prevention system across Minnesota. The position statement explains that Minnesota Waters believes:

- •Every watercraft and piece of equipment leaving a known infested water body must be decontaminated.
- •Every out-of-state watercraft entering Minnesota should be decontaminated before launching on any Minnesota lake or stream.
- •AIS enforcement is a critical element of the AIS protection system and must be expanded.
- •AIS inspections must be expanded.
- •A sustainable, adequate funding source must be created to support statewide AIS prevention.
- •The above programs must be private enterprise-friendly and state endorsed.

View the Minnesota Waters AIS position statement, the 2012 work plan and what you can do to support the effort on their website.

OUR BILL By Harold

Since the loss of our good friend Bill Nelson to leukemia on July 28th this summer I have felt a big hole in my life. However, when I started preparing this newsletter it hit me that we all in JLWA have lost someone who has been an integral part in the history of this Association. Bill and I were the founders of the Association when we first met to discuss the subject of forming a lake association with the DNR in late 1997. The motive for the DNR was to get local people on the lake to cooperate on installing a rock bed in Spring Creek to improve walleye spawning. After obtaining addresses and sending out a letter to the property owners on our four lakes we held the initial organizational meeting in Feb. of 1998 with about 30 people who agreed that a watershed association would be a good thing. This was the beginning of a wonderful friendship and a great person to work with on our lake association activities.

When I agreed to be our first president Bill said he would be the secretary and also volunteered to be the newsletter editor (that is how bad he did not want to be president). We worked together on the newsletter until 2003 when Bill found Betty to take over as secretary and he moved to a director's spot on the Board. Then he moved to the vice president position in 2004 for a year until he decided in 2005 that he should retire from the officer/board altogether. However, he remained active in the Association as he served on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with me until this past year. He also helped with the monthly water sampling, the secchi disk readings and the lake water level readings for many years. Since Bill was a fishery biologist by trade he was invaluable in working on the establishment of our spawning beds, walleye monitoring and counting egg baskets. In dealing with the DNR, MPCA, USFS and the SWCD agencies Bill was always respected and most of all well liked. Last year he was finally recognized for his great shoreland restoration project when he and Sarah received the Shoreland Stewardship Award. His service to our community and lake association played a big part in the development and accomplishments of JLWA. His legacy and love for Jessie Lake will be long remembered and he will be missed by all of us. As Bill used to say "Cheers!"

POTPOURRI

By Harold Goetzman

<u>Jessie Lake Watershed Association Logo</u>. 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 purchased for \$25 and a T-shirt for only \$10.

<u>Walleye Spawning.</u> The walleye-spawning run in Spring Creek was monitored for 7 days in early April this year. The run was late due to cool temperatures and after a short period of spawning fish it stopped with the advent of a cold spell. Most of the fish were less than 20 inches and a total of 217 fish were counted. This is 23 lower than last year, which was the lowest number since 2004 after 5 years of good results ranging from 390 to 840. The Board voted this fall to stop the monitoring project in the future since we have 12 years of data and know the fish are using our rock beds under good conditions.

Beaver. The advent of two new beaver dams below the old one will require some future management if we are to maintain access for the walleye to reach our rock spawning beds. The last dam is below the third spawning area, which has been one of the areas used most by the walleye. Trapping and dam removal will need to be resumed with this latest development in the beaver saga.

<u>Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</u>. The AIS bill that was included in the Omnibus Environment Policy Bill was signed into law by Governor Dayton on May 27th this year. In a DNR News Release,

Commissioner Tom Landwehr said, "the law is aimed at slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species into the lakes and rivers that are so valued by Minnesotans. With the support of Governor Dayton, legislators and water resource users, we are ramping up the battle to stop the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species."

The new AIS laws are based on some of the prevention recommendations resulting from a series of statewide stakeholder meetings held throughout the fall and early winter. Increased penalties for violations of state invasive species laws, which were included in the Governor's original bill, were stricken in committee. The new AIS laws address water related equipment, inspections, boating, property owners, service providers and bait harvesting.

<u>Pull the Plug Law.</u> The new DNR access signs regarding the "Pull the Plug Law" have been installed this year by JLWA volunteers at the public access on Jessie and Peterson Lakes. Signs were also placed at the resort landings. Boaters are required by law to:

- Remove aquatic plants and zebra mussels from boats and trailers.
- Drain all water from bilges and live wells including pulling the boat drain plug and open water draining devices. The drain plug has to be removed or open when transporting your boat on public roads.
- Drain bait buckets when exiting lakes that have been designated as infested with spiny water flea or zebra mussels. Anglers can keep unused bait when leaving infested waters if they replace the water with tap or spring water.

<u>Share the Lake Day.</u> This was the fifth year for our Association to host a day of sharing with those not able to visit a lake. The perfect day was planned by chairman Jim DeConcini to host guests from Deer River Nursing Home on August 10th using the lawn at Carol Wood's. Deke reported that there were 44 attendees at share the lake day, which includes residents, staff and volunteers. Everyone enjoyed the pontoon rides, food and entertainment.



Share The Lake Day guests enjoying a pontoon ride on Jessie.

<u>Shoreland Rules Update</u>. Your legislature, the DNR Commissioner and Governor Dayton need to hear from you that renewing these rules is important. The message is simple: renew the DNR's authority to protect shorelands through rulemaking. During the next session, the legislature should restore DNR's rulemaking authority so they can finish the shoreland rules. The DNR's authority to move forward must be renewed now if we want counties to update their ordinances in the next few years. Let your legislators know that citizens, agencies, nonprofits and businesses throughout the state have been working on these rules since 2004, which have not been updated for over twenty years.

<u>Roadside Clean Up.</u> On October 4th we had 14 members meet to pick up litter on 3 miles of County Rd 35 between Highway 6 and County Rd 133. This was followed by lunch at Jim and Rita Anderson's (thanks much Jim and Rita). The County provides garbage bags and vests so it is a good public service event for JLWA. We will also need to pick up litter in the spring. Think about helping out next year, which will be year eight for this program.



Some of the gals enjoying lunch at Anderson's after the fall roadside cleaning.

<u>Quotable</u>. "The ultimate question is what kind of a world do we want, involving man's whole relationship to the Earth, what he does to it and how he feels about what he has done." Sigurd Olson, "Open Horizons."

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- Minnesota has 105,000 miles of rivers, 12,000 plus lakes and 10.6 million acres of wetlands.
- The Minnesota Citizen Lake Monitoring program (CLMP) is the longest running volunteer lakemonitoring program in the nation. The University started the program in 1973 with 74 lakes. By

2008, there were 1187 volunteers and 1263 lakes in the program that was taken over by the MPCA in 1978. Now volunteers also monitor 831 sites on streams and rivers.

- Ospreys have zygodactyl talons, three in front and one in back. One of the front talons can swing to the back to enable an osprey to carry fish, its primary food, in a headfirst aerodynamic position.
- The Chippewa Forest is now 103 years old (1908 2011).
- The lowest air pressure reading ever recorded in MN was 28.4 inches in Bigfork on Oct. 26, 2010.
- New research suggests that, thanks to global warming, there is now more ragweed and it is more potent than ever. Increasing temperature and carbon dioxide levels are extending the ragweed season. This year golden rod seemed more plentiful also.
- Recycling adds about 3 billion dollars to Minnesota's economy each year. The saved energy is enough to power 400,000 homes for one year.
- How do you tell the difference between bear scat (droppings) and wolf droppings? The bear droppings have all those little bells.
- Jessie Lake froze over on Nov. 29th, which is six days past the long-term average of Nov. 23rd.
- Our website (<u>www.minnesotalakes.org/Jessie</u>) 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 2010 to the JLWA: David Bernardson, Tom and Deanna Boysen, Bill and Melissa Coleman, Fred and Cleo Conrad, Doug Dusbabek, Robert and Sandra Ebert, Ben Edwards, Marn and Marie Flicker, Harold and Diane Goetzman, David Goodall and Anne Lind, Tom and Nancy Hackler, John Horsch, Randy and Kristine Imker, Brad Kuehn, David Kuhn, Gerald and Shelly Loney, Dale and Cheryl Macklanburg, Hollister and Jerril Madsen, Don and Marcie Majerle, Roger and Jill Meyer, Mike and Janet Nystrom, Tim and Rita Onraet, Jerry Ostergren, Bruce and Lorriane Paatela, Mike Raymond and Val Conner, Wally and Marilyn Russell, Clint and Lesli Sand, Gary and Carolyn Scherer, Stephen and Barb Schmit, Albert and Julie Schuna, Mike and Peg Selander, Duane and Norma Storrs, Richard Thurston, and Denise Zaske. Thanks also to the many unnamed volunteers who have spent many hours during the year, which are priceless.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 95 paid members. Treasurer Mike Raymond will send out an invoice for dues in early January.

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Our JLWA website iswww.minnesotawaters.org/Jessie				
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