

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.15, NO.2

FALL 2012

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MARN FLICKER:

Having the honor of being your current president, I want to tell each of you just how proud I am of the many members that served in the past and those that continue to serve on the board and committee positions. Thanks also to the members who assist through financial means or sharing their time and talent. The annual fall meeting was inspiring as members Steve Bowers, Harley Steinbrenner, Diane Sievers and Dave Anderson stepped up to fill the vacated director seats of Jim Anderson, Jerry Loney, Mike Raymond and Tim Onraet who was taken from us by cancer earlier this year. Get to know your new directors through the introduction articles in this Jabber edition. Other volunteer positions filled were Diane Sievers as co-chair of “Share the Lake” committee and Gin Anderson as assistant Jabber editor. This Association has had deeply dedicated volunteers ever since its inception and continues to be a leader in Itasca County for achieving the mission of not just maintaining, but improving our local area environment.

I will attempt to cover the major events and highlight some of the projects that have been completed since your Spring Jabber edition. This spring started strong with 104 JLWA volunteer hours and over \$2500 in state cost share assistance through Itasca SWCD used to design and implement the Tillys Creek Stabilization project. This was followed by the annual spring roadside clean-up and the Association’s first lake shore clean-up. This summer we hosted another successful “Share the Lake Day” with Deer River seniors enjoying a picnic lunch and rides on the Let’s Go Fishing specially equipped pontoon. The long awaited co-operative project of Tillys Creek culvert replacement on County Road 135 was completed in late summer. These Tillys Creek projects assisted in our Association’s ability to receive a \$10,000 RAC funded grant through Itasca SWCD for 2013 projects that will reduce nutrient flow into Jessie Lake [See separate article]. Then, I assumed that the fall roadside clean-up completed the 2012 events cycle, but I was wrong. I received a call in late October that forest road 2475 on the west side of Jessie Lake was closed off with a berm and trees across the road. I’ll explain the negotiations and outcomes of that issue in another article of this Jabber.

As the hard water season welcomes in the holiday season, I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year in 2013.

JLWA ANNUAL MEETING

By Rhonda Nichols

President Marn Flicker called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on September 1st following the coffee hour. Twenty-eight members attended the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Business Items - The minutes of the spring meeting were read by Rhonda and approved. Rhonda reported for Treasurer, Mike Raymond that the JLWA treasury contained \$6,917.15 as of the end of August. This includes \$695 donated by thirty-one members. A motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer’s report. Rhonda also reported that the membership was currently at 96 members.

Youth Water Summit - Harold Goetzman and Marn Flicker reported that the water summit at the fairgrounds with over 290 fifth-graders was a big success. There were 27 presentations and the students were very involved.

Water Level - Jim Anderson reported that the lake difference between May and now is almost one foot lower. (See article)

Water Quality - Harold reported that there is no oxygen below 20 feet now and water temperature remains higher than usual. The water is greener this fall and visibility is only 3.5 to 4.5 feet.

Lake Clean-up - Rhonda reported for Mike on the lake clean-up. The lake clean-up project took place between May 30th and June 13th. The volunteer participants included: Don Ojanen, Walt Hagen, Mike Raymond, David Litchke, Harley Steinbrenner, Larry Johnson, and Rhonda Nichols. The project was primarily aimed at public shoreline. Each person covering a designated area of the shoreline collected various amounts of garbage, which was a real improvement to the lake. It was suggested that having a spear stick along next year would be helpful getting some items off the bottom of the lake.

Share the Lake Day - Jim Deconcini reported that there were 34 attendees at Share the Lake Day and it was a big success again this year. This includes residents, staff and volunteers. The Deer River Nursing Home Residents and volunteers enjoyed good weather, pontoon rides, sharing stories and a picnic lunch at the home of Carol Woods on the east side of Jessie Lake.

Picnic - The summer picnic was cancelled this year since no host volunteered. In the future, the JLWA summer picnic will be held permanently at Rhonda Nichols, unless someone else would like to host.

Roadside Clean-up - Krista Hagen has set roadside clean-up for October 2nd at 10am. Those interested should meet at Jessie View Resort. Rita and Jim Anderson will host lunch following the clean-up.

NEW BUSINESS

Organization - The future of the JLWA was discussed. There are several board positions open and we have no volunteers to fill them. Everyone agreed that the Association is an important organization and should continue. Organizational strength makes things happen. The discussion included: 1) Have a paid staff person replace the President. 2) Have part-time members on the Board. 3) Talk to members in person or on the phone (Peg Deconcini and Harold Goetzman said they could help with this task). 4) Ask everyone to reach out to their neighbors letting them know about the Association and inviting them to meetings. 5) The Board needs help as there can't be an organization without officers and volunteers. Results of the volunteer survey sent this spring were discussed. There were no volunteers for officers. Eight people were willing to help where needed and the current committee chairs offered to stay on as chairs. 6) Changing the spring meeting from May to early June was discussed. It was suggested a survey be sent out to the membership. 7) Everyone should notify Marn with other suggestions on how to improve participation in the organization.

There was also discussion about inviting people on Little Jessie Lake to join the organization as a means of getting some more active members. Sarah Nelson made a motion we invite Little Jessie to join the JLWA. David Anderson seconded and the motion carried. Harold will contact residents of Little Jessie this winter and others will talk to people they know who live on the lake.

Election - After some discussion a slate of officers and board members for the next year was agreed upon and nominated. The attendees unanimously approved the following slate of officers and directors: President - Marn Flicker, Vice President - Harley Steinbrenner, Treasure - Diane Sievers, Secretary - Rhonda Nichols---Board of Directors: 2-year terms - David Anderson and Steve Bowers, 1-year term - Harold Goetzman, continuing 2nd year of term - Ardie Sheplee and Krista Hagen.

Budget - Marn presented the proposed budget. A motion was made and passed to accept the budget. It was suggested that next year a side-by-side year-by-year budget be presented for comparison.

Erosion Control - Harold talked about the Tillys Creek bank stabilization project. The JLWA received the Outstanding Conservationist Award for the Tilly's Creek project from Itasca SWCD and will be representing Itasca County at the state competition in December. We also received the Shoreline

Stewardship Award from ICOLA for this project and it will be presented at the September County Board meeting.

Grant - Harold reported that he and Catherine McLynn were again appointed to serve on the Chippewa National Forest's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). At a recent RAC meeting a \$10,000 grant was given to SWCD for Jessie Lake shoreline restoration and improvement projects in 2013.

A motion was made to adjourn and the members enjoyed a potluck lunch.

JLWA 2013 Proposed Budget

Expenses:

Postage	\$350
Printing	\$300
Share the Lake	\$350
MN Waters [dues & hosting web]	\$250
Meeting rentals	\$100
Mileage/Education	\$200
ICOA [dues]	\$ 50
Lab water testing	\$300
Supplies [office/operating]	\$100
JLWA Picnic	<u>\$ 75</u>
Total	<u>\$2075.</u>

MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

HARLEY STEINBRENNER

I came into this world in February 1940 during a severe snowstorm so I was born at home. I grew up on a farm and went to a one-room schoolhouse for 1st and 2nd grades. Starting in 3rd grade and on through 12th grade, I attended school in Fosston, MN. I went to the University of Minnesota for 2 years concentrating on classes in Math and Sciences. Lack of money forced me to quit school thinking I would be back later. I apprenticed as a machinist and after 2 years I was back at the University working in a machine shop in the Physics department. I worked primarily on NASA funded space research projects for 18 years before I transferred to the Chemistry machine shop where I worked primarily on Physical Chemistry projects. I took over as shop supervisor after 6 years and finished my career in 2001.

During the last few years at the U of M, I worked part time for the Billy Graham Organization as a contract employee managing the stage props for a children's play that was developed to augment the Shoebox ministry of Franklin Graham. The play took me to 11 different countries around the world where the play was presented to over 750,000 children.

Betty and I moved to Jessie Lake in 2001 as our permanent residence after living in the Minneapolis area all our married life. We have owned a lot on Jessie since 1976 and spent many happy times here with our two daughters during this time. Both of us stay very busy with various hobbies and projects. I enjoy rebuilding old cars and dabble in some woodworking projects. Both Betty and I are active in the Itasca Vintage Car Club. I enjoy helping others and there is never a lack of things to do. We are both involved in Marcell Community Church and I am also currently helping out at Olson Auto in Deer River.

We enjoy living on the lake and seeing all the wildlife that is so abundant. I am looking forward to serving on the JWLA Board next year.

DIANE SIEVERS

I was born in Faribault, MN and grew up there with my large family of 8 siblings. I graduated from high school there and later met Dave Sievers who I married. We moved around the country a lot due to the requirements of his job. After settling in Kenyon, MN, I was lucky enough to be a stay at home mom when our two daughters were young. I then worked as a bank teller in Kenyon for 10 of the 20 years we lived in Kenyon.

Later we moved to the cities where I worked as an executive administrator for a bank in Shorewood, MN. Since then we moved to our current home on Jessie Lake where I have worked for the Bigfork Hospital in administration and as a part time para for District 318. Both Dave and I are now retired and enjoying life on the lake.

STEVE BOWERS

Steve was born in Frankfort, Indiana. He and his wife, Patsy, have been married for 41 years and lived most of their lives in the small town of Windfall, Indiana. While living in Indiana, Steve worked many jobs from selling insurance, manufacturing fire trucks, being a heating and air service technician and being an over-the-road truck driver. He also worked many years as the director of plant operations and maintenance supervisor of a 120-bed nursing home/assisted living facility. Being an avid fisherman, many family vacations over a 30-year period were spent coming to the Marcell area, staying at different resorts and fishing many lakes. In August 2008, Steve, Patsy, and their daughter Angie and son-in-law Terry purchased the old Aspen Springs Resort on the upper northwest part of Jessie Lake. They renamed the resort in 2009 to Rising Eagle Resort and continue to see and experience growth and new life. Steve's background in maintenance has definitely been a plus at the resort. Steve and his family enjoy their quiet, peaceful setting on the lake as well as watching the wildlife. He actually prefers the Minnesota winters to Indiana's freeze/thaw routine where a damp 20 degrees can feel colder than a dry 20 below here. Steve welcomes the opportunity to serve on the JLWA Board with the efforts to protect and maintain Jessie Lake.

DAVID ANDERSON

I was born and raised on a small farm in Sac City, Iowa. I have been married to Virginia (Gin) for 38 years. We live in Corcoran and have three daughters and two sons. My oldest daughter Shannon (married to Brad) resides in Rochester, Jessica (engaged to Keith), our middle daughter, lives in New Brighton, and our youngest daughter, Erin (engaged to Garrett) lives in Rogers. Our oldest son, Nathan (married to Wendy) lives in Hanover and Matt lives in Rogers. We have two granddaughters and another grand baby (not sure boy or girl yet) due in January. They all LOVE the lake!

I retired last year after 23 years as a Sr. Director at ConAgra Foods, 10 years in Finance and then 13 years in I.T. Gin retired in 2010 after 5 years at Ameriprise and 25 years at ING/Reliastar. We are now enjoying babysitting our grandchildren at our home in Corcoran and started a small business buying and renting out townhouses.

In 1969, my parents, Verlon and Wilma, bought the cabin on Jessie Lake and retired there in 1973. Gin and I bought the cabin in 2003 and replaced the badly worn cabin in 2005. We love our lake/fun place on Jessie and really enjoy our neighbors. I look forward to joining our lake association board and will work hard to continue the great accomplishments by current and past members so that Jessie Lake continues to be enjoyed by all now and by our children and grandchildren.

TILLYS CREEK - 2012 SHORELAND STEWARD AWARD

By Andy Arens, Forestry /Shoreland Specialist SWCD

A Jessie Lake Watershed Association private land project was one of three in Itasca County recognized with the Shoreland Steward Award in 2012. The award is funded by the Itasca County

Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) and cosponsored by the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Tillys Creek bank stabilization project was completed during spring 2012 and is described as follows: approximately 100 feet of bank on an outside bend of Tillys Creek, just upstream from where it dumps into Jessie Lake, was stabilized with brush bundles, erosion control blanket and native plantings. The brush bundles serve as a layer of protection between the bare soil, eroded bank and fast moving water during high water periods.

This project benefits Jessie Lake by reducing the soil sediment and phosphorus input into the lake, which is a contributing factor to algae blooms. Lake association members especially active in the planning and installation of this project included: Jerry Kaczor, Marn Flicker, Harold Goetzman, Bill and Lili Baird, Gary Lees and Roger Meyers.



Installation of brush bundles and erosion control blanket by SWCD on May 9th.

TILLYS CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT

By Harold Goetzman

A grant for replacing the Tillys Creek culvert on County Rd. 135 was approved for SWCD to obtain funds from the USFS, which was awarded through the Chippewa Resource Advisory Committee. The total cost of the project was \$44,000 with the Chippewa RAC paying \$18,000 for the culvert and Itasca County/SWCD paying \$26,000 required for design and installation. This summer in early July the County road crew replaced the current 3.5-foot diameter culvert with one that is 9 feet in diameter that will allow for unrestricted water flow and fish passage. The culvert was about 74 feet long and required two large backhoes to complete the installation. Our consultant in his 2006 evaluation of Tillys Creek Restoration recommended this size culvert. It should help reduce the periodic nutrient (phosphorus) 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 as it has done three times in the past fifteen years. It is nice to finally have this project completed after many years of study.

Culvert installation by County workers on CR 135 in July

SWCD FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL WATERSHED PROJECTS

By Jim Gustafson, District Manager ISWCD

The Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the JLWA and the Kaczor/Anderson family for a job well done on the recent stream bank and slope stabilization project along Tillys Creek. It was a great collaborative effort.

With the recent successes of the Tillys Culvert replacement and stream bank stabilization project the SWCD was able to request additional funding from the U.S. Forest Service through the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). This grant for \$10,000.00 will be used to implement additional action items that were identified through the Jessie Lake TMDL process. There are many ways to reduce nutrients entering the lake, which promote the growth of green algae blooms that inhibit recreation in the summer. The reduction of one pound of phosphorus will decrease the algae growth by 500 pounds. That's a lot of algae!!!, and a prime example of why every bit counts.

With this new round of RAC funding, the Itasca SWCD and the JLWA are looking for potential projects within the watershed. The type of projects that will be considered for implementation and funding include the installation of native plant buffers along the lakeshore, brush bundle installation to decrease erosion and aid in the establishment of native plants, installation of water diversions, and the creation of infiltration rain gardens. All of these practices help reduce the nutrient inputs associated with erosion and sediment transport. Stabilized shorelines with native plants not only reduce nutrients entering the lake, but also improve the associated wildlife and fisheries habitats. Please contact Jim Gustafson at the Itasca SWCD (326-0017) or JLWA President Marn Flicker [326-0811], if you have any additional questions or know of a potential project area.

Editor's Note-If you have any concerns about your lakeshore or storm water management you should contact Jim or Marn as there is no commitment required to have SWCD look at your property and make suggestions as to what could be done with these funds. You will not be pressured to do anything if it does not meet with your thinking. SWCD is not an enforcement agency, but rather a resource available to landowners who would like professional assistance. The main thing is to get everyone thinking of how they could help to reduce the phosphorus input into Jessie Lake.

JESSIE LAKE WATER LEVELS

By Jim Anderson

This year the water level started out at 1323.69 feet above mean sea level or only 4 inches above the level in the fall, which was due to the low snow levels we had last winter. The gauge was put in on April 14th and the level rose another 6 inches by the end of April to 1324.19 ft., which is the maximum it reached for the year. This was still about an inch below the long-term average of 1324.26 ft. msl. After that we lost about 6 inches to the end of May and then the level stayed within 3 inches of that until the end of July giving us a nice stable summer level. For the rest of summer and fall the water level declined steadily to reach a level of 1322.59 ft. on Oct. 12th when the gauge was removed. This was a drop of 19 inches total from spring and about 20 inches less than the average. Hopefully, we will have a large amount of snow this winter to bring the lake back to normal next year.

FOREST ROAD 2475 CLOSURE

By Marn Flicker



This is the new look of the 2475 forest road on the west side of Jessie. One of our resident members alerted me in late October of this issue and he also contacted the forest service to try and find some answers. That is when I got involved and together we met with Jason Kuiken, the District Ranger at the site of the berm. This is one of the many hundreds of miles of roads in the national forest system of which some were scheduled to be “Decommissioned” back in 2004 through the directive of the Chippewa National Forest 10-year plan. The plan calls for some of the no longer needed roads to close and go back to natural vegetation of

the forest area around them.

The decommissioning is achieved by swapping timber sales in exchange for the labor of closing and plowing-up the road surface to allow natural seed growth to take place. The plan has to be approved by various divisions of the forestry service including the fire service. Once approved, the decommissioning has years to take place as the timber sales and contract labor for road closing must fall into place for a logging company.

The current District Ranger, Jason was assigned to this district just a couple of years ago and was not aware of the closure on this widely used forest road for residents berry picking, hiking, hunting and nature walks. Jason was very cooperative in working with us and after some fruitful conversations as to what can be done to make the best of this situation we agreed on these four points to assist in the future use of the area.

Clear a walking path parallel to the fallen tree closed area.

Widen forest road 3231 off of Co Rd#133 to allow vehicle traffic access to the berry picking area past the berm. [This will happen by 2013 spring/summer]

Stop the closing of another Forest Rd where we access our beaver leveler for cleaning or repairs if needed.

Note in the forest service procedure guidelines that JLWA gets notified when there are activities in our watershed that could impact our normal land use.

I hope this brings some understanding to those who were impacted by the lack of access to areas for hunting and nature walking. We cannot undo the decommissioning and the road will level more by next year after winter snows and spring rains have their impact on the soil.

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP

On Tuesday October 2nd we had 13 members meet to pick up litter on 3 miles of County Rd 35 between Highway 6 and County Rd 133. The project was organized by Krista Hagen and she even included a perfect sunny day. 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.



Ardie Sheplee
Dave Sievers
Fran Sheplee
Diane Sievers
Betty Steinbrenner
Harley Steinbrenner
Rita Anderson
Rhonda Nichols
Jill Meyers
Krista Hagen
Diane Goetzman
Lowell Nystrom
Harold Goetzman
(not shown)

Roadside clean up
volunteers this fall on
CR 35

Tim Onraet

By Harold

On June 20th we lost a good friend and long-time director of JLWA. Tim passed away after a courageous battle with renal cancer. Tim served as a Director for the past 13 years and was always able to give us the resort perspective of how things on Jessie Lake were doing. He had a vested interest in maintaining and improving Jessie Lake fishing and water quality since he and his wife Rita purchased the JesieView Resort in 1998. The JLWA always received support from them whenever they were asked to help out with raffle prizes or use of the facility. Tim offered to participate with the resort in one of the early shoreline restoration projects in 2000. Both in the water and on shore plantings were done to improve storm water management and reduce erosion.

Tim was a fun-loving, competitive guy that enjoyed all sports, especially softball, baseball, football and golf. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and loved talking about fishing and sports with resort guests. His greatest passion in life was youth sports especially softball.

Our memories of Tim will always be that he made a positive difference to Jessie Lake.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- Mike Fairbanks is our area Conservation Officer. If you need to contact him on an enforcement issue he can be reached by phone at 218-999-7091 or at michael.fairbanks@state.mn.us by email.
- MN has the second highest bald eagle population behind Alaska in a 2005 survey.
- In the past 40 years we have had only 8 years when Jessie Lake froze up after Dec. 1st and the latest date was Dec. 20th in 1996 and again in 1999.
- Since 1992 the cases of Lyme Disease have doubled, according to the CDC, and more than 21,000 cases are reported each year. Check those deer tick bites for the red ring indicating Lymes.
- Jessie Lake froze over on Nov. 29th, which is six days past the long-term average of Nov. 23rd.
- Our website (www.minnesotalakes.org/Jessie) is updated regularly by our Webmaster Jim Anderson with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Our sincere thanks to the following households that made financial contributions in 2012 to the JLWA: David Bernardson, Tom and Deanna Boysen, Orrin and Ruth Baumgardner, Bill and Melissa Coleman, Gloria Dallas, Robert and Sandra Ebert, Marn and Marie Flicker, Harold and Diane Goetzman, David Goodall and Anne Lind, Tom and Nancy Hackler, John Horsch, Larry and Pat Johnson, Greg and Ruth Kirkevold, David Kuhn, Gerald and Shelly Loney, Dale and Cheryl Macklanburg, Hollister and Jerril Madsen, Don and Marcie Majerle, Roger and Jill Meyer, Rhonda Nichols, Mike and Janet Nystrom, Jerry Ostergren, Mike and Theresa Peterson, Mike Raymond and Val Conner, Wally and Marilyn Russell, Stephen and Barb Schmit, Albert and Julie Schuna, Mike and Peg Selander, David and Diane Sievers, 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 96 paid members. Treasurer, Diane Sievers will send out an invoice for dues in early January.

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

Our JLWA website is ---www.minnesotawaters.org/Jessie

JLWA OFFICERS

President – Marn Flicker

PHONE

326 0811

EMAIL ADDRESS

mmflick@hotmail.com

Vice President –Harley Steinbrenner

832 3175

steinbre@bigfork.net

Treasurer – Diane Sievers

832 3351

dianesievers@gmail.com

Secretary – Rhonda Nichols

218 259 9220

rinnieboo69@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Anderson

832 3351

theandersons7@comcast.net

Krista Hagen

832 3570

rkhagen@arvig.net

Harold Goetzman

832 3139

hgoetzman@yahoo.com

Ardie Sheplee

832 3256

afsheplee@hotmail.com

Steve Bowers

832 3955

getaway@risingeagleresort

JABBER EDITOR

Harold Goetzman

326 3908

hgoetzman@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER

Jim Anderson

832 3175

jimmreet@bigfork.net

