JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

JESSIE JABBER

VOL. 5, NO. 1 SPRING 2002

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the new lake season, I hope this finds you all well and starting to enjoy the spring weather. The start of this year finds us for the first time without an active grant committing a large number of volunteer hours for specific project activities. However, this does not mean nothing will be happening as there are plans to continue monitoring walleye spawning, keeping Spring Creek free of debris, building loon nesting platforms, water sampling, developing the web site and hopefully an installation of more rock for walleye spawning habitat. Depending on the results of the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant work we may also be applying for a Phase II grant this fall.

We hope the detailed assessment of our lakes during the CWP will provide a strong basis for management of the watershed to maintain or improve the quality of our valuable natural resources. It is becoming more and more apparent to resource managers that the best way to manage lakes is on an individual basis. Each lake has its own capacity for development before the water quality is measurably affected. The best way to manage a lake is by getting the local citizens involved, which is why it is important to maintain a healthy and active watershed association. Members should maintain an interest in what is happening in the watershed and express their views on the issues. For instance, we know that a lake is merely a reflection of its watershed. Land use that results in poor water quality could make quality fishing nearly impossible.

The one thing that is apparent from the past few years of water quality testing is that we definitely have a lower quality now than what we had fifteen years ago. What is most disturbing is that we are getting to a level that is more susceptible to small changes in nutrient input causing a noticeable change in the water quality. This is mostly observed as green algae blooms coming more frequently during the peak summer season which affects our swimming, fishing and recreational enjoyment. These nutrients are mainly phosphorus and nitrogen, most of which comes from the forest streams feeding our lakes or is recycled from the bottom sediment. However, as I pointed out in the recent mailing of septic information, there is a portion of these nutrients that comes from the cultural development around the lakes and it is important that we keep that to a minimum. Last summer I counted eight new septic systems being installed, which to me indicates a high level of stewardship and caring by our members.

I would also like to thank those members who donated extra funds with their dues this past year to help us carry out our activities without raising the annual dues. This again shows the concern people have for our association. Last, I want to again thank those members who have donated their time, boats and mileage to complete the many projects we carried out this past year. I am reminded of a statement I heard recently, "volunteers are not paid--not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless".

Hope to see you all at the spring meeting at 10:00 a.m. on May 25th. Come early and have coffee with your neighbors or meet someone new.

CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP GRANT - UPDATE

By Harold Goetzman

This year we completed the second year of the work on the CWP grant and efforts are now underway to evaluate the information generated and make recommendations for the future. A Phase II grant was not applied for until the data can be fully evaluated, but recent discussions suggest we may proceed this fall. A meeting of all the contributors was held last fall and a brief summary of the areas reported on was given in the last newsletter. Unfortunately, the progress since that time has been delayed while waiting for water chemistry and an analysis of the water flow data collected by the automated instruments.

JLWA-The Association volunteers spent over 800 hours in 2001 on various activities in the watershed including planning, habitat improvement, walleye spawning monitoring, water sampling, developing a historical review, watershed property mapping and completing a septic survey. Educational mailings to shoreland property owners in the watershed were also completed this spring, which were funded as part of the grant

SWCD - Efforts are being made to develop the water and nutrient balances for the past years. The SWCD is responsible for coordination of all the information and administration of the project. Preparation of the final report is in progress.

USFS -The U.S. Forestry Service carried out sampling on the three upper lakes in the watershed and will assist with data organization and evaluation relating to the lake modeling. Based on Secchi Disk readings the data indicates all four lakes have been fairly stable in water quality the past three years. In addition, the U. S. Forestry Research Station conducted a study on water and phosphorus transport in the watershed based on information collected at the Marcell Experimental Forest. This will be useful in the modeling of the lake.

NRRI- A paleolimnology study is being conducted by Dr. John Kingston that includes diatom analysis and radioisotope dating on a 40cm core taken in March (only 80 years were represented) and on a longer core that was taken in early November. The diatom information dating back 150 years indicates that the decline in water quality has been slowly taking place.

U of M - Dr. Miki Hondzo, Dr. Hong Wang and Brenda Stauffer have submitted a final report on the information they obtained relating to the benthic boundary mixing and phosphorus dynamics. This data shows the effect of phosphorus cycling in and out of the bottom sediment. Their model indicates this nutrient loading plays a significant role in the green algae blooms taking place in Jessie Lake during late summer. The sediment in Jessie Lake appears to have a low phosphorus affinity, which results in a low holding capacity of phosphorus in the sediment. Thus, a substantial amount of dissolved phosphorus was released from the sediments to the water column under low oxygen conditions. The findings conclude that the amount of internal phosphorus being released will double over the next 30 years unless something is done to reduce the input. Several suggestions for future study on remediation of this problem were given.

JLWA IS NOW ON THE WEB

By Jim Anderson

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, The Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA) has developed a template for lake association members to use in developing

their own web sites, and will host these sites at no charge for MLA members. Since JLWA is a MLA member, the Board of Directors chose to take advantage of this service, so we are on line.

Our web site address is: **www.mnlakes.org/Jessie.** The site construction is an ongoing process, and there will be updates and changes to meet the needs of our association. Currently the site consists of the following pages:

- Member Alerts - Timely information such as zoning issues, environmental issues, criminal activity in the area, or other topics the Board believes should come to the attentions of members.
- Board of Directors - A directory of the current Board of Directors.
- Calendar - Notice of meetings and other association activities.
- Photo Album - Interesting photos of the lakes and surrounding area.
- Projects - A summary of Association projects.
- Lake Data - Freeze up and ice out dates, water clarity and other water quality data.
- Links - Links to other informative and interesting web sites.

In addition, our home page contains a link to the DNR "Lake Finder", through which you may access lake data for not only our lakes, but also other lakes throughout Minnesota.

The web site is intended as an informational site not only for our members and property owners, but also for visitors and others interested in our area. If you have any suggestions for the improvement of the site, please contact one of the Association officers, or email us at jessielake@yahoo.com.

UPDATE ON MANAGEMENT PLANS

By Harold Goetzman

In the fall newsletter I mentioned we would have some input on the new management plans that were being written in the USFS, DNR and Itasca County. At this point in time there continues to be activity in completion of these plans. To keep you informed on this work the following is an update of the current status.

The Chippewa National Forest is revising the 1986 Forest Management Plan and a copy was sent to JLWA for review in early February 2002. Plans to close about 11 miles of forest road and the proposed timber harvest schedule for 3790 acres are outlined as part of this plan. Comments were due back by Feb 7 and a letter was sent the USFS to advise them regarding the areas of interest to the JLWA. Our major concern of course, is any activity near the watershed lakes and wetlands that would create any disturbance or erosion affecting our water quality. A public open house was scheduled on March 18th in Grand Rapids to provide an update on the revision process. A draft Environmental Impact Statement will also be completed later this year.

The DNR has drafted a fisheries lake management plan for Jessie Lake, which identifies the activities planned for the lake during the next 10 years. Lake management plans are used by fisheries managers to describe the past, present, and future conditions of the lake. The plan was available for public review at the DNR office in Grand Rapids and comments were accepted until April 5th. A copy of the plan was sent to the JLWA for our review and comments were returned to the DNR. Karl Koller, our area fisheries manager, will complete the final version of the plan later this summer.

The new Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan was adopted in 2000 and at present the County is working on revising the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance. A committee of

ICOLA members has been reviewing the ordinance and proposing changes that will help protect our valuable water and shoreland resources. Also, Neil Gustafson of JLWA has reviewed the proposed changes and prepared comments to be submitted to ICOLA. An important focus of the revision includes setting new standards for the development density that protect lakes from over development in the shoreland district. It is essential that lake association members share in the effort to bring about improvements in shoreland management across Itasca County. Public hearings on the third draft will be held during June and July this year so attend if possible and voice your concerns.

Also, The Itasca County Water Plan has been recently been completed by SWCD and will be published later this summer. This is a 5-year plan that updates the last ten-year plan.

As you can see the association has been recognized as the organization to provide citizen input to these management plans. Thus, it is essential that we maintain a healthy and active JLWA to help us develop the best management practices for our watershed.

ELECTRIFICATION!

By Neil Gustafson

A century ago, the Jessie Lake Area was being cleared of trees and hopeful pioneers were building homes and learning to live off the land. Summer days were long and arduous and winter nights were long, dark and cold. Wood provided heat and candles made from moose or bear tallow provided light. Kerosene lanterns were an improvement, but fuel supplies were difficult and costly to bring in, whether by rail, tote road, or strong backs. Chores were physically demanding and time consuming before electricity. Washing clothes, for example, was an all day job once a week year-round. Water was pumped by hand, carried, and then heated on a wood-burning stove. Clothes were scrubbed by hand on a washboard and hung out to dry.

There was great celebration and hopefulness in Grand Rapids when a small generator brought electric lights to the new Pokegama Hotel in 1894. This event signaled the beginning of the electric age for Itasca County. Over the next two decades small independent producers sprang to life in Itasca County from Deer River to Keewatin and on up the Iron Range. But it would be more than a half-century before power lines reached the Jessie Lake Area. Gradually the larger and more successful power companies bought out the smaller ones and centralized power production, linking the various communities and mining companies together with power lines. In this process of growth and acquisition, Minnesota Power and Light emerged as the dominant surviving company in Northeastern Minnesota. By 1923 the more densely settled communities and mining operations along the Range were tied into an extensive power grid. Electricity came to Bigfork in 1930 when George Holt first provided power to 32 customers with a small gasoline generator. But vast rural areas between the islands of light were still in the dark, literally and figuratively.

How to bring electric service to scattered rural farms and residences was an issue - not just in Itasca County, but across the state and nation. Existing power companies argued that it was not profitable for them to extend power lines to low density rural locations. In addition, they reasoned, farms had neither the means to purchase electrical power nor the need for it. Some power companies were willing to extend service to rural areas if they adjoined existing service areas or if rural residents would pay in advance for poles and lines. Even if poles and lines were secured in rural areas, electric rates were usually higher because of added maintenance costs. Private power companies concerned about profitability were unlikely to risk serving rural areas. Furthermore, utility companies felt that government should not interfere with the private distribution of electric power, declaring this to be a matter for private enterprise. If rural areas wanted electricity they should pay market rates like everyone else, they reasoned. As they saw it, the first responsibility of private utility companies was to make a reasonable profit to benefit their stockholders.

The unavailability of electricity in rural areas put farmers and other rural residents at a distinct developmental disadvantage in comparison to urban communities. Rural areas lacked the conveniences found in most American homes: refrigerators, washing machines, water heaters, radios, and a wide range of other electrical appliances. Most of the new appliances and laborsaving tools that appeared on the market in the1920s were not available to rural America. By the mid-1930s only about 10% of farms in the US were receiving electric power, whereas in many European countries 85% or more of farms had been electrified. In 1920 the Canadian Province of Ontario had authorized the formation of rural power districts. Meanwhile, American farmers wondered why the US lagged so far behind. Prominent citizens and national political leaders began seeking answers.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt brought the issue of rural electrification to the federal agenda as part of the New Deal. As a result, Congress included rural electrification as part of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, and Morris L. Cooke was named administrator. This Act established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as an emergency agency to bring electric power to rural areas. The REA was considered to be a work opportunity program with at least 90% of its workers to be hired from among the unemployed. Loans were offered to private companies, power districts, municipalities and cooperatives. Mr. Cooke and Congressional leaders assumed that existing utilities would eagerly seek the low cost money and construct facilities to serve rural areas. But that did not happen. After a few months not a single electric company had submitted a loan application. The first loans went to three cooperatives and one municipality. This caused the administration to reconsider its strategy for rural electrification and in 1936 the REA changed its primary purpose from a short-term emergency employment program, to a longer-term economic development program for rural areas.

Under the leadership of Senators George Norris of Nebraska and Sam Rayburn of Texas, Congress authorized 410 million dollars for a ten-year program to electrify American farms. The REA then offered low interest-rate loans specifically to cooperatives to construct electrical supply infrastructure in rural areas. Cooperatives were to be established as not-for-profit, consumer-owned and managed organizations for the purpose of providing electricity to member customers. To qualify for a loan, farm people were required to take the initiative in setting up their own organizations. The REA offered administrative assistance in setting up these cooperatives and provided low-cost loans for constructing electric power systems.

Getting the cooperatives organized was a huge undertaking. Some farm leaders argued that cooperatives were an unsuitable structure for such a program. Furthermore, very few farmers had experience in building and operating a public utility. In spite of these obstacles this ambitious endeavor forged ahead. In Itasca County, County Agent Art Frick was the point man that organized publicity, drafted letters, arranged for meetings and completed the necessary paper work.

REA plans for Itasca County called for a single countywide rural electric cooperative that would serve about 1600 rural homesteads. However, REA fieldmen felt that the southern portion of the county had a much better chance of supporting a cooperative than the entire county and recommended that it be separated. The southern rural area of the county formed the Dairyland Cooperative, whose lines were first energized in January 1941. It was proposed that the remainder of the county be split into two units. But because of its lower population density, remoteness, and soil conditions, this proposal seemed destined to fail. At a joint meeting of these two prospective units held in Effie in August 1940, Art Frick recommended that the two become one, giving them a better chance to qualify for a loan from the REA and survive. A week later, the determined farmers rallied in Bigfork to support a merger and elect a nine member Board of Directors, including Albin Nelson of Jessie Lake. Five committees were established to carry out the various tasks of the new organization.

The first challenge was to sign up a sufficient number of members to make a cooperative feasible. The REA required a minimum of three members per mile of line. But because of the sparse population in northern Itasca County the REA reduced that requirement to two members per mile. Volunteer organizers visited each residence to sign up members one by one and collect five dollars per share. Some offered two or three dollars for their membership. Others offered tamarack logs or labor in lieu of cash. Critics were certain that the area was too poor and too thinly settled to support a cooperative. It was admitted later that the sign-up crew counted some abandoned or unoccupied homes and tax-forfeited properties as potential future customers. One board member reportedly joked that some creative sign up crewmembers had imagined haystacks to be houses in their zeal to meet REA requirements. Finally, in April 1941 the REA recognized the North Itasca Electric Cooperative (NIEC) and granted a loan to begin construction.

Line construction began in the fall of 1941. "Force account labor" was used - meaning that members of the cooperative did the work. This saved the cost of paying for an outside contractor. Several miles of line had been constructed and a few homes had been wired when the outbreak of World War II brought construction to a halt. The line utilized copper wire, but all strategic metals were confiscated for the war effort. Construction resumed after the war. A contract was signed with Minnesota Power and Light and electricity first surged through the lines in October 1945. By the end of that year, 304 miles of lines had been energized serving 272 farms and rural residences. Expansion into the Northome, Mizpah, Funkley, Orth and Haupt areas nine years later helped boost customers to 1728 and brought income and stability to the cooperative.

Electric consumption had a compounding effect: the more you used, the more you "needed." The availability of new appliances stimulated consumption of electricity and attracted new users each year, including non-farm rural residences, businesses, resorts, and seasonal residences. The new growth brought more demand for electricity and financial strength to the NIEC, and an increasing quality of life for all across northern and central

Itasca County. In the years since its humble beginnings, the NIEC has experienced steady growth, serving more than 4800 customers by the end of 2001.

Electricity not only extended the work day, saved labor, and helped make people more productive, but brought life style changes as well. Refrigeration was one of the most important benefits of electricity, recalls lifelong JLW resident Willard Lind. With refrigeration, perishable foods could be kept fresh longer or frozen for later use. Before electricity, meat, milk, and eggs could be kept only for a few days in an icebox, cellar, or cold spring. Blocks of ice were cut and hauled from the lake during winter, packed in sawdust and used in iceboxes during the warmer months. Electricity made that kind of work unnecessary. It created leisure time and brought cultural changes. Electricity made people more independent of one another and interdependence less important. Butchering, for example, had been an important community affair. It was a big job for one family and there was too much fresh meat for them to use before it spoiled. So the community gathered to participate in the ritual butchering. Soon after it was cut, much of the meat was eaten fresh, and some was smoked or salted to preserve it. Most everyone in the community participated and everyone benefited. With refrigeration, such community events soon disappeared.

The REA became the largest capital investment project of the New Deal and one of the most significant economic successes in the history of federal policy-making. It not only met critical needs for electric power, but also brought demands for the growing number of electrical appliances. Electricity brought new modes of communication and sources of information to rural America, beginning with radio, followed by television and now computers. A half-century after electricity's arrival in the JLW, the urban - rural gap has closed forever. Electricity made it happen!

Sources:

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THE LOON FACTS

By Harold Goetzman

Minnesotans love the common loon. The haunting call of this state bird evokes comforting thoughts of the outdoors. In 1961 the State legislature passed a law adopting the common loon as Minnesota's official state bird. Not surprisingly, Minnesota now has more nesting loons than any of the lower 48 states. Seeing loons as watchdogs of the State's water quality, Minnesotans protect them diligently. Approximately, 12,000 adult loons are concentrated in the northern two-thirds of the state where water quality is good. Since loons fish by sight, lakes with good water clarity and healthy fish populations – which also correlate well with good water quality – are the most abundant homes to loons. They feed primarily on fish such as perch, ciscoes, suckers, and minnows. An occasional northern or walleye is also enjoyed in addition to leeches and frogs.

Loons do not begin nesting until their third or fourth year. The male, who migrates earlier in the spring, establishes a territory and awaits arrival of a potential mate. It is debatable whether or not the same loons return to the same site year after year, but there appears to be continued use of a good nesting site. Many scientists believe that loons maintain the same mate, although it is known the pair does not stay together during the winter season. Loons began nesting in late April and early May depending on ice-out dates. Both male and female build the nest and then the female lays 1 to 3 eggs. Parents take turns incubating the eggs for 28-30 days. The chicks leave the nest within a few hours of hatching and will begin diving within 10-13 days. The chick relies on the adults for food for the first 4 weeks and will reach adult size in 6-8 weeks. A full sized loon will be 8-11 lbs and 25-30 inches tall with a 5 ft wingspan. The dense bones allow them to dive to water depths of 200 feet for 3-5 minutes. A loon can swim 300-400 yards underwater. Males and females are identical in appearance although males tend to be slightly larger. Their black heads glow iridescent green in the sunlight while the black and white feathers form intricate patterns of stripes, squares and rectangles across the back, wings and tail. Their drab

winter plumage is similar to that of the juvenile's feathering of gray above and whitish below. The loon's red eyes are a special adaptation to filter light when under water and allow better vision while diving. A salt gland located under the skin above each eye makes it possible for loons to change their body physiology when they move from the freshwater to saltwater environment in the winter. The average life span is believed to be 15 to 30 years.

The loon has four distinct calls:

- Only males give the yodel, apparently warning others to stay out of his territory.
- The wail is a long, mournful call that may indicate separation from the mate or chick.
- The hoot seems to indicate curiosity or contentment given between family members.
- The tremolo, or "loon laugh", signals aggression or warning.

Several loon-monitoring programs are conducted each year in Minnesota to detect a change in the loon population. Current data indicates the population is stable as is chick production. On Jessie Lake we only have a couple years of data showing 9 to 11 adults, but it appears only 1 or 2 nesting pairs are normal. Since only one chick was raised last year, the JLWA is building two nesting platforms (in addition to the ones built by Zweber/Zerban) to be installed this year as a means of improving the nesting habitat. Let's hope it works so we can continue enjoying our loon watching (anyone interested in counting loons on Peterson, Spring or L. Spring?).

In the words of outdoor writer Siguird Olson reflecting on loons, "This was the symbol of the lake country, the sound that more than any other typifies the rocks, water and forests of the wilderness."

WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

By Harold Goetzman

Septic tank systems have been widely used for the treatment of domestic wastewater in rural areas for over 100 years. Residents near lakes and streams have been struggling with how to effectively treat sewage for many years and the problem came into the limelight in the 1990's when regulators discovered over two-thirds of the systems weren't protecting the environment. At the same time there is increased pressure to develop land that is unsuitable for traditional on-site septic systems. It seems nearly everyone wants a house or cabin near water or in the woods.

Many new systems, including mound systems that filter sewage through sand, now work well even in tight quarters. But some systems may need help if the local soil won't filter wastewater, such as clay or rock, or if there isn't enough soil before reaching ground water. A new `alternative' system developed in Ireland (Bord na Mona Puraflo System) that uses peat as a filter for wastewater reduces the amount of space needed for effective treatment. In some cases an owner may decide to preserve the trees that would need to be cut to allow space for a mound system. This system uses a plastic vat of peat and sewage water from the septic tank is pumped into the vat and evenly distributed over the surface of the biofibrous peat. The peat grabs nearly all the bacteria and pathogens, which are biologically degraded by aerobic microorganisms. The wastewater then trickles out into underground soil where some of the phosphorus is removed. A peat system costs slightly more to install than a mound system, but except for changing the peat every 8-9 years there is little maintenance. Septic promoters say the key is ongoing inspection to occasionally make sure the system is working. Often the contractor will do this as part of the cost along with a guaranteed performance.

Another choice for some cabin owners is the use of a composting toilet where there is no toilet or an outhouse. This can be combined with a gray water system if other water treatment is required. The composting toilet has existed for over 25 years and transforms waste by natural

decomposition and evaporation in an environmentally friendly manner. These systems come in many sizes and are capable of handling families of 8 people. Biolet and Sun-Mar are two brands I know can be purchased at Ace Hardware or L&M in Grand Rapids. It is particularly a good low-cost option to consider for the infrequently used cabin.

One of our shoreland owners, John Lichtscheidl has opted for the Puraflo peat system and it was installed last year as the first in Itasca County. At this point he is very satisfied so give him a call if you have any questions. This may lead the way for others interested in an alternative technology when considering a new mound system. Looking at all the options allows the best choice to be made for each situation.

FOREST TENT CATEPILLARS (FTC) ARE COMING BACK

By Neil Gustafson

Last summer forest tent caterpillars (commonly, but incorrectly, called army worms) ate the leaves off 7.7 million acres of Minnesota trees, according to the DNR. Defoliation acreage was nearly double that of the next highest year in 1989. Aspen are their favorite food, but when hungry FTC will eat birch, oak, basswood, ash, apple and various shrubs as well. Among the broadleaf trees, only the red maple elude their ravenous appetites

The hardest hit area in the state last summer was between Grand Rapids and International Falls. According to DNR forest entomologist Jana Albers, heavy defoliation is expected in 2002 in NW Itasca County, SW Koochiching County and eastern Beltrami County. The JLW lies on the SE edge of this expected area of defoliation.

FTC are always around, but outbreaks occur every 10 to 15 years and last for 2 to 4 years. FTC hatch from eggs in May, eat until they're stuffed, then cocoon. The caterpillars go through five stages of growth, each seven to ten days as they grow up to 2 1/2 inches in length. After intensive feeding for several weeks, the caterpillars spin cocoons, emerging as inch-and-a-half wing spread buff-colored moths in about 10 days. After mating, female moths lay eggs in trees which hatch the following spring.

The caterpillars were so numerous last year that people walking through the woods claimed they could hear them chewing. Actually the rain-like sound was not chewing at all but frass, or excrement, falling to the ground. FTC populations may reach a peak of as many as 4 million FTC per acre. At that density the insects run out of food and succumb to starvation. At night thousands of FTC clump together for warmth making them a convenient food source for bears. During the day grosbeaks, blue jays and ruffed grouse dine on FTC one at a time. Birds may eat half their body weight in a day. Trees may be weakened by this onslaught, and made vulnerable to other insects and diseases, but rarely killed just by the FTC. Trees usually produce a second set of leaves in July after the caterpillars have completed their eating frenzy.

There is no truly effective way to control FTC. They are a nuisance as they crawl en masse over trees, buildings and everything else looking for food. Roadways are slickened from their crushed bodies. There just aren't many good ways for people to defend themselves. Some people try to spray them, but the numbers are overwhelming and spraying can be costly.

The DNR offers some advice on protecting yourself <u>after</u> the attack:

1) Sweep FTC from your house with a broom, or wash them off with a stream of water. This might have to be done several times a day.
2) You can use an approved insecticide on your concrete foundation. Avoid applying to painted or stained surfaces, as the insecticide might cause damage.
3) Dispose of dead caterpillars by burying them or mixing them into your compost pile.

There are ways to prepare yourself <u>before</u> the FTC attack:

4) Hand pick the egg masses from plants before they hatch.
5) Construct a barrier of duct tape, aluminum foil or tarpaper around the trees you want to protect and coat it with grease (such as Tanglefoot or Vaseline).
6) Some homeowners claim success with a 24-inch high enclosure of plastic sheeting secured along the bottom edge to prevent FTC from crawling underneath and spraying the sheet with vegetable oil to prevent climbing.
7) Keep your trees watered sufficiently, and do not fertilize. Do not use a weed and feed product on your grass. Fertilizers can deplete a tree's energy reserves.
8) FTC moths are attracted to lights - so keep your yard light off in July. This might reduce egg laying in nearby trees and next year's crop of FTC.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- Two new books on the history of the Jessie Lake area were published in the fall of 2001.*The Itasca Lumber Company – A History of Logging and Settlement on the Marcell Ranger District Chippewa National Forest* was written by Keith Matson and *Jessie Lake the First Fifty Years* was written by Olga Lindgren Wise. Both are available for loan from the JLWA if you are interested in reading them.
- Two trumpeter swans were seen flying over the ice on Lake Winnie on March 24th. These rare birds can have wingspans of over 7 feet and weigh up to 35 pounds. Only about 100 of the swans are known to reside in Minnesota.
- Loons are the oldest living birds with an ancestry dating back 50 - 80 million years. The oldest loon fossils date back twenty million years.
- About 25% of the existing and 33% of the new homes in the USA have septic systems.
- William H. Brown homesteaded Verlon Anderson's property on the west side of Jessie Lake in March of 1899.
- John Lichtscheidl and Bill Nichols watched and fed a pair of eagles all winter on Jessie Lake.
- There were 448 bald eagles observed returning to the North Country this year on April 12th and 13th from Duluth's Hawk Ridge, but even more impressive was the sighting of 2,222 red-tailed hawks on the 12th and 2,012 red-tails on the 13th.
- In 1930 Leo Hayslip bought Hoover's Corner store and changed the name to Hayslip's Corner. In 1933 after prohibition ended he installed a mahogany bar with a brass rail obtained from Fitger's Brewery in Duluth that is still used and is the "oldest bar" in MN.
- The complete freeze up of Jessie Lake on December 20th, 2001 was the latest on record.
- The ice went out on Jessie Lake this year on April 24th.

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MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 76 paid members. If you have not paid your dues please send $10 to Neil Gustafson, 47521 Tilly Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.

SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the JLWA will be held at the Bowstring Town Hall on May 25th at 10:00 a.m.. Following the business meeting there will be a guest speaker, but we do not have confirmation on the subject at this time. Come early (9:00) to have a cup of coffee and visit with your Directors and fellow members before the meeting.