JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

JESSIE JABBER

VOL.9, NO. 1 SPRING 2006

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HAROLD GOETZMAN:

As we look forward to the new lake season, I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the spring weather. I feel very fortunate to be thinking about my favorite place for fishing and recreation, the cabin at Jessie Lake. As we go into April, I realize there is a newsletter to prepare and JLWA business waiting. However, I am again energized by the fact that people are paying their dues, contributing and offering comments.

Usually at this time of the year, I struggle with what the goals of the Association should be for the next year and how do we get there? At the start of this season we still plan on monitoring the walleye spawning, keeping Spring Creek free of debris, doing the roadside cleanup, water sampling for phosphorous, and taking Secchi disk readings for water clarity. We are also looking forward to a second year of the share the lake day, involving a pontoon ride and picnic day for seniors from Deer River. Also, remember to save the time for our fourth annual members picnic on July 27th with hosts Jim and Rita Anderson on the northwest side of Jessie Lake.

This year we also have two grants that will fund projects involving Jessie Lake Watershed. Last fall the MPCA approved a grant for $23,000 to fund work at the SWCD to establish limits for a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) based on the groundwork laid out by the earlier comprehensive Clean Water Partnership (CWP) study. Since the MPCA placed Jessie Lake on the 2004 impaired waters list for excess nutrients (phosphorous), they will be required to come up with an action plan in three years. Upon completion of writing the TMDL for Jessie Lake by SWCD and approval from the EPA in 2007, funding will be sought to begin implementing management practices to achieve and maintain the TMDL water quality goals. You can read more about this project later in this issue.

The second grant approved is for about $10,000 to complete a study on the erosion of Tillys Creek entering Jessie Lake (also called the NW Inlet). This grant combines monies from the DNR and the Itasca County Environmental Trust Fund that will pay for a highly skilled consultant to develop a restoration plan to determine, what if anything, should be done in the future on this creek. Details of this project are outlined in one of the following articles.

As you can see, water quality still remains a high priority for JLWA. Fortunately, we enjoyed a better water year in 2005 due perhaps to the lack of big wind events (a theory) through most of the summer (details in the water quality article).

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

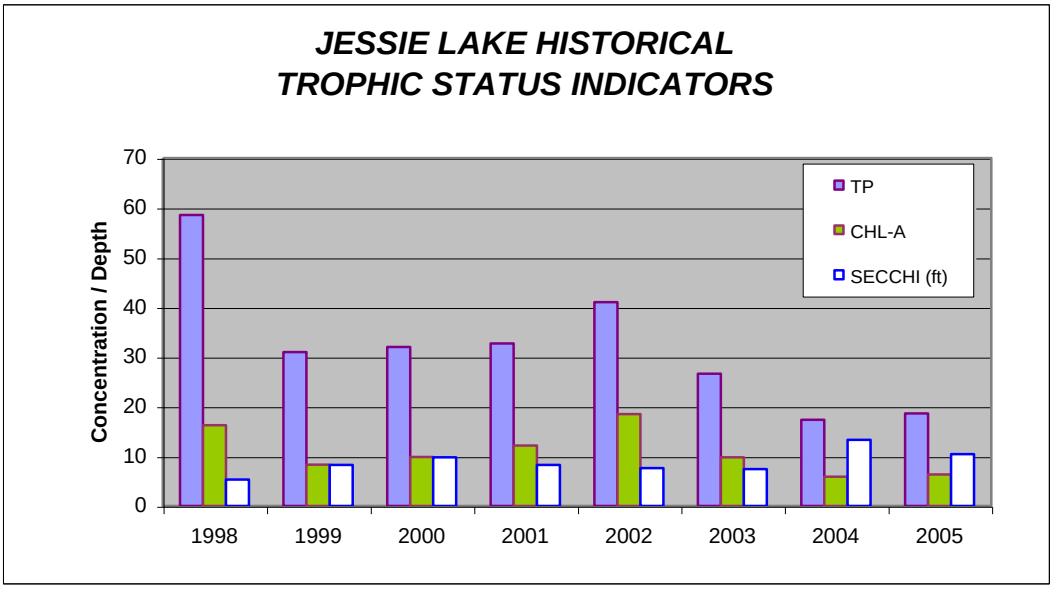
Hope to see you all at the spring meeting at 10:00 a.m. **on Saturday May 27th.** Please note that we **will meet at the Talmoon VFW hall**. The VFW is located about a mile south of Hayslip's on Hwy 6. Come early **(9:00 a.m.)** and have coffee with your directors and neighbors or maybe meet someone new. The speaker after the business meeting will be Catherine McLynn, Itasca County Commissioner District Two on the "Economics of Water Quality".

WATER QUALITY 2005

By Noel Griese, Lakes Specialist, SWCD

During the summer of 2005 the JLWA continued to monitor the water quality on Jessie Lake. Equipment was borrowed from the SWCD and the lake was sampled once a month from May through September, or five times. This is the minimum sampling program recommended by the MPCA to give a reasonable summer average. They also measured the Secchi disk transparency or water clarity (underwater distance a white disk can be seen) every two weeks.

The summer of 2005 completed the eighth consecutive sampling season of Jessie Lake and was overall the second best year monitored since 1998, with 2004 being the best (in terms of the lowest average phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations and deepest secchi readings). Phosphorus and chlorophyll-a (measurement of algae) have been exceptionally low the last two years in comparison to the previous years. Phosphorus concentrations averaged 19 ug/l, while normally averaging 32 ug/l and chlorophyll-a averaged 6 ug/l, while it usually averages 10-12 ug/l. The exceptionally low chlorophyll concentrations and increased water clarity of 2004 was attributed to the cool short growing season, but 2005's climate and precipitation were relatively normal. A potential explanation could lie in the stratification period of Jessie Lake. According to temperature-oxygen profiles, Jessie Lake appears to have remained stratified until sometime in September when the lake mixed. If in fact the lake remained stratified during most of the growing season and sediments relatively undisturbed, this would have prevented the internal loading of phosphorous from the lake bottom sediments to be made available for algae growth.



Since 1998 trends have been towards reduced phosphorus concentrations and algae production along with improved water clarity, but further study is necessary to substantiate these findings. Even though the past two years have seen improvements in water clarity and reductions in algae production, it should be understood that Jessie Lake is a dynamic and complex system. Under the right weather conditions another poor water quality year similar to 1998 could be close at hand.

Yearly assessments of Jessie Lake's water quality have continued through the efforts of the Jessie Lake Watershed Association, and 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 protect Jessie Lake.

TMDL STUDY

Jessie Lake has been under study for a number of 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 phosphorous. Last fall, a study was approved by the EPA that would develop the allowable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of phosphorous. A $23,000 grant was awarded to the Itasca SWCD to start this project in 2006 and continue the study over two years. The very extensive Jessie Lake Clean Water Partnership study will be sufficient in satisfying a large part of the TMDL study, but additional steps will be needed to determine whether the impairment is natural or unnatural. If deemed unnatural, the goal is to develop loading rates for phosphorous from all the sources and to identify areas where reductions in phosphorus loading can occur. If the nutrient sources are natural, the outcome may be to simply remove the lake from the impaired waters list. Public meetings are planned this summer to explain the process and outline the plan.

Upon completion of the TMDL, a work plan will be developed for reducing phosphorous loading to protect the future of Jessie Lake and the next step will be to acquire funding to implement the TMDL plan.

EROSION STUDY ON TILLYS CREEK (NW INLET TO JESSIE LAKE)

By Harold Goetzman

In January the JLWA was awarded a grant from the Itasca County Environmental Trust Fund to match some funds from the DNR to complete an erosion study on Tillys Creek. The total project will only be about $10,000, but should provide some valuable information about the potential for restoration of the creek to reduce erosion of the creek banks.

During the past few years, it has been the goal of the JLWA and our public agency partners (DNR, SWCD, USFS) to minimize phosphorous input to Jessie Lake in order to maintain water quality. In 2002 there were several 6-inch rainfalls that raised the level of the lake and caused severe erosion to the creeks and shoreline. The NW Inlet creek (Tillys Creek) had a beaver dam failure that washed out County Road 133 and deposited over 1000 yards of sediment into Jessie Lake. During the spring of 2003 there was a cooperative project undertaken by the JLWA, DNR, SWCD and Itasca County to remove 1000 yards of stream sediment from the lake. This material, which likely contained a substantial amount of phosphorous, was loaded into trucks and taken to a nearby field for disposal. The Itasca County Environmental Trust Fund funded that project. Over the past several years the bank erosion has continued and additional sediment has entered Jessie Lake. Tillys Creek appears to be unstable and will likely continue to dump tons of sediment annually into the lake until it reaches a stable state. It is likely that continued sedimentation will result in high phosphorus loading from this source. Modeling done by the Water Resources Institute at the University of Minnesota predicts that even small increases in phosphorus loading into Jessie Lake could significantly degrade water quality. Therefore, to protect the health of Jessie Lake it is important that a restoration project be developed for Tillys Creek to reduce future erosion.

In 2004, a survey of the creek was carried out by the USFS Research Station in Grand Rapids that was coordinated by Dr. Sandy Verry. The analysis and design of a restoration plan for the creek was never completed due to lack of funding at the time. In order to proceed with developing a restoration plan for the lower section of the creek, a second survey will be required in order to obtain the information necessary to compare with the previous survey. Dr. Verry has been contracted to provide consultation on this project, complete the survey, obtain sediment characterization for analysis and design of a restoration plan to prevent future erosion. His study will involve bank full velocity, discharge and shear stress modeling for bank full and the approximate 25, 50 and 100-year flows. Dr. Verry is one of the pre-eminent hydrologists and stream geomorphologists in the state.

The benefit of developing a professional plan and design for the stream restoration is to provide us with a cost estimate for the actual implementation of the restoration. Without a detailed physical survey and rigorous analysis based on geomorphology principles, any effort to restore the stream or stabilize the banks would likely be ineffective or short-lived. Prevention of further erosion will help maintain the long-term water quality in Jessie Lake, as this sediment is a source of phosphorous entering the lake. It is important to develop this plan now so the results can be integrated into the TMDL study being conducted by the SWCD. The goal of the TMDL is to develop loading rates for phosphorus from all the sources and to identify areas for reductions in phosphorus loading. Without the information obtained from this survey and restoration design, the TMDL would be incomplete.

ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

By Jim Anderson

In 1998, the Jessie lake Watershed Association, in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the United States Forest Service, embarked on a project to improve walleye spawning habitat by means of stream maintenance and the installation of rock riffles in Spring and Pooles Creek. The goal of this project was to increase natural walleye reproduction by providing a receptive environment. We subsequently installed a second riffle in Spring Creek in 1999 and two more in 2003. This project was an effort to meet the objective of "providing a quality fishery", as part of the goals of the Association's Clean Water Partnership Grant. Although the Grant period has expired, the Association is continuing to monitor the "spawning beds" in Spring Creek, as well as continuing with other projects associated with the Grant.

In April of 1999, we began to monitor walleye activity in both tributaries. After three years of monitoring, although many walleyes were observed staging in the lake at the mouth of the creeks, little or no walleye activity was observed in Pooles Creek. We therefore abandoned the monitoring of Pooles and concentrated our efforts on Spring Creek. For the past seven years, every night over a two-week period in April, we have recorded air and water temperature, measured creek water levels, and counted and estimated the size of walleyes on the "spawning beds" and other locations in the creek. In addition during three years, egg baskets were placed in the creek in an effort to determine if the fish were spawning. The Association is fortunate to have a member, Bill Nelson, who before retirement, spent 34 years with the federal government conducting and administering fishery's research. In addition to placing the baskets, Bill followed up by sitting on the creek bank counting eggs in the baskets and determining the percentage of eggs that were fertilized. Although the results were not overwhelming, Bill determined that eggs were being deposited and were being fertilized. Since those samplings, we have seen increased activity on the "beds" and, although the numbers are not what we would see in areas such as Cut Foot Sioux, they are encouraging.

So, what have we learned from seven years of monitoring? Spawning activity is primarily determined by water temperature and water level in the creek. We have monitored the creek, for one-half to one hour, for an average of fourteen nights during each spawning season. Walleyes were observed when the water temperature was between 43 and 56 degrees. The highest concentration was when the temperature was an average of 51.3 degrees. Average water levels have ranged from 0.7 ft. to 1.54 ft as measured by the permanent gauge mounted on the CR 135 bridge piling. In the three years that the water level was above 0.90 ft., a total of 1127 walleyes were observed. The four years it was below 0.90 ft., only 271 were seen. Temperature is beyond our control, but we can have an effect on the water level, and therefore spawning activity, by our activities in keeping the creek clear of debris.

Are we making a difference? The first two years we counted a total of 174 walleyes. The last two years we counted 797. We hope the increase, is in part, due to the efforts of our members on stream maintenance and releasing the big spawning size fish. Only time will tell.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE JESSIE LAKE RESORT BUSINESS

By Harold Goetzman

For several years I have been collecting bits of information about the various resorts that have been in business on Jessie Lake over the past seventy years with the intent on writing an article for the Jabber. Thus, I have decided the time has come to briefly summarize what I have found with an upfront qualifier that this information is correct to the best of my knowledge and perhaps corrections will be required in the future.

It appears from my research that there have been 6 resorts on Jessie Lake over the years with a maximum of 5 operating at one time. Generally speaking, there were 3 on the east side, one on the south, one on the west side and one on the north end. At this point in time we are essentially down to two resorts still operating in 2006.

The oldest resort property was the Jessie Lake Resort (white cabins) on the east side that was run by the Woods family since 1946. Business slowed down the past several years and in 2005 all but two of the cabins were removed. This property first became a resort in 1935 when Herb Dewitt, who owned the store, moved two cabins from Turtle Lake and called it the Jessie Lake Store and Resort. He sold it to Brian Dale who added two more cabins before Roscoe Woods took over in 1946. Several more units were added later and Ken and Carol Wood now own the property.

Also on the east side, a man by the name of Oscar Lindgren bought 36 acres on Jessie Lake where he built a house in the 30's and later added 3 cabins which were rented out as were fishing boats. The Lindgren Cabin's were sold in 1947 to Vanderweil/Cleveland and with a couple additional cabins were operated by them as Van Cleve Resort until 1968. The resort was sold several times after that until it finally closed in the late 1990's and the land was split up and sold by Litner with one cabin remaining.

In 1940 the Joyce Lumber Co. sold a 40 acre parcel of land that was homesteaded (Wm Brown) in 1899 on the west side of Jessie Lake to John Magerus who built several cabins for rent. These were sold to Frances DeGroote and operated by him as DeGrootes Resort until 1961 when he sold it to Charles Stone. Stone added a lodge with a cabin above it that burned down in 1968. Having been divorced that same year he gave up the resort business and sold the cabins on three lots. Verlon Anderson who had stayed at the resort a number of years bought one of the cabins, which was torn down last summer by his son David. Two of the original cabins still remain.

On the north end of the lake, Lora Bellin and Annette Bingham currently run the Aspen Springs Resort. They purchased it in 2002 from George and Sarah Jaconety who had purchased it in 1994 and changed the name to Aspen Springs. Prior to that it had operated as Birchwood Resort with 5 cabins in the 1970's and by 1985 had 6 cabins and a restaurant. The resort was started sometime around 1955 by Harry Longer and was later owned by Etter, Baron, Butzlaff and Cummings/Robinson.

The resort on the south end of the lake was started as Brook's Resort in 1962 with 3 cabins. Jim Ayers bought it and changed the name to Ayers Resort in 1970. He added a cabin and purchased the adjacent land with the house in 1974 so that he could start an RV park. The current owners, Tim and Rita Onraet, purchased the resort in 1998 and changed the name to Jessie View Resort. The resort was recently expanded to 5 cabins and 44 camping sites.

The Three Cedars Resort on the east side was established in the early 1970's and was sold in 1979 with 5 cabins and boats to Jerome McClellan. The resort was operated by Stoltenbergs in the 90's and sold to Reibel's in 2000. It had been upgraded to 8 cabins, but in 2006 will no longer operate as a resort. It is being converted to a Common Interest Community with 7 individually owned units.

As you can see the development of Jessie Lake over the years has always included small family resorts that primarily rented to people interested in fishing. Due to changes in tourism and the inflation of lakeshore property values, the economics of operating a small resort have made it difficult for them to remain in business.

WORKING TOGETHER, CITIZENS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS CAN DO GREAT THINGS!

By Catherine McLynn, Itasca County Commissioner District Two

In response to citizen demand four years ago on the campaign trail, Governor Tim Pawlenty established a Clean Water Cabinet as soon as he took office in 2003. He asked the Department of Natural Resources and other top-level agencies to coordinate a Clean Water Initiative.

During the first year citizens from five counties in the North Central Lakes area began working together in coordination with the DNR. They came to all agree that their communities were facing overwhelming pressure on their lakes. OVERDEVELOPMENT was a major threat. Members of the North Central Lakes Project, as it came to be called, began to work in five specific ways to help citizens and public officials cope with skyrocketing land prices and influx of people who wanted to build on waterfront property. These five action areas were:

1. Education: increasing the understanding of decision makers as to the impact their decisions have on the water resources.
2. Conservation easements: providing better information and follow through for citizens who wished to leave a legacy of undeveloped lakeshore.
3. Improved wastewater treatment options: more efficient individual septic systems or cluster systems, more effective management and upgrading, grant seeking.
4. Revising the DNR Shoreland Standards.
5. Providing technical assistance to the efforts of the above four groups.

Citizens with varied backgrounds worked with public officials from each of the five counties. Over the past three years, the work of these five groups has gained statewide attention and has made significant accomplishments in each of the five counties. Specifically, a citizen's advisory committee that met every month reviewed the DNR Shoreland Standards while the DNR provided technical assistance. The Alternative Shoreland Standards were finished in December 2005.

These standards are now available to any government agency to adopt any part or all. Here in Itasca County, our ordinance actually provided many model elements of the Alternative Standards. Itasca County has already taken some positive steps to ensure the quality of our lakes. Other counties contributed good ideas that had worked well in their counties. Developers, realtors, fishing organizations, lake associations, building contractors, realtors and county commissioners all worked together to develop these Alternative Shoreland Standards. Many of these representatives will be working to gain acceptance of the standards by helping citizens understand the need for them.

Resort owners, for instance, have already asked their lobbyist and legislators to consider the parts that would be especially helpful to the "ma and pa" resorts. A bill was considered in the Tourism committee a few weeks ago. No action is expected this session, but interest is growing in the win/win solutions proposed. Other counties outside the North Central Lakes area are interested.

For instance, a buffer strip of natural vegetation is an effective means of preventing degradation of our lakes. Landowners who plant or allow regeneration of natural wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and trees increase their property values by reducing erosion from wave action, creating a barrier against unwanted geese on their lawns, provide themselves with more privacy and enjoy a variety of birds and wildlife. Screening and buffer strips allow people to enjoy their lakeside homes while mitigating the impact of development on the lake. While buffer strips are not yet required by ordinance, voluntary shoreland restoration by landowners is gaining in popularity. Excellent resources are available from county and state agencies to help landowners nurture native vegetation and enjoy the benefits. Local shoreland restoration businesses will contract to provide materials and do the work. There may be some financial assistance through local grant programs

The Alternative Standards are tools for local officials to use. Local city and county officials are likely to be the first ones to use these tools and adopt them as ordinance. Itasca County adopted minor language changes last fall.

There are already many regulations that provide for public health, safety and welfare. Citizens accept regulations that prevent raw sewage or other poisons from polluting our lakes. Most understand the value of fishing regulations and enforcement that prevents poachers from stealing a public resource. Many support fair regulations that protect investments and property values. Lake association members are some of the best informed citizens because of their interest in learning and working together with their neighbors all of whom share the same front yard: the lake. Keep up the good work!

GOVERNOR'S CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE: SHORELAND RULES UPDATE PROJECT
DNR NEWS Summer 2005 - Article Number 4

Your Lake, Our Lakes: Where Does the Rainwater Go?

By Paul Radomski and Russ Schultz,DNR

If you are concerned about lake water quality, then you should ask, where does each raindrop go once it falls in the lakes area? How many raindrops are infiltrating into the ground near where they fell? The more raindrops infiltrate where they fall, the better water quality will be for our lakes.

The Pollution Control Agency has estimated that about a quarter of the area lakes do not fully meet aquatic recreational use criteria due to excessive nutrients running into them. Nationally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that poorly managed rainwater is responsible for 15 percent of lake impairments. Rainwater runoff originates from our roads, parking lots, roofs and lawns. Rainwater that does not infiltrate into the ground or evaporate runs down hill to our lakes or lake inlets. Runoff carries pollutants, such as oil, pesticides, suspended solids, pet waste and nutrients. However, if the water infiltrates into the ground, the soil and plants can clean it.

Nutrient additions to a lake increase with the intensity of land use. When nutrient levels increase in a lake, water clarity decreases due to an increase in algae. One predictor of nutrient runoff to our lakes is the amount of impervious surface coverage. Your home's roof is an impervious surface, as is your paved driveway and other constructed hard surfaces that prevent or retard rainwater infiltration. These surfaces inhibit recharge of groundwater, and provide an express route for pollutants to our lakes.

As impervious surface coverage increases on a lot or in a watershed, the amount of nutrients entering our lakes increases linearly. Hydrology research consistently shows that when impervious surface coverage exceeds about 12 percent, water quality is negatively impacted. In areas with low amounts of imperviousness, only 10 percent of the rainwater runs off.

Around our more developed lakes, 50 percent of the rainwater becomes runoff. There are two ways to manage rainwater. The traditional way has been to move water off fast. The "five C's" were the predominant rainwater management philosophy: collect, concentrate, convey, centralize and control. This approach uses stormwater sewers, pipes and ponds. Unfortunately, after we used this expensive approach across many areas, civil engineers found that the approach did not work well. Often, the only outcome was the creation of larger problems downstream or downhill. The traditional way is now seen as a failed system.

The new way of managing rainwater is to get the water into the ground near where it falls. This approach uses infiltration basins, rain gardens, grass overflow parking areas, grass swales, porous or pervious pavers, parking lot infiltration islands and overall less imperviousness. The key principle of this new way to deal with rainwater is to get back to infiltrating most of the rainwater where it falls, with only 10 percent running off. This approach reduces pollutants and nutrients entering into our lakes, thus protecting the lake water quality.

This new way is small-scale and decentralized, and it mimics the natural hydrologic cycle. In addition to infiltration basins, rain gardens and other practices, the approach also includes protecting natural areas important for water transport and filtering, such as wetlands, streams and vegetated buffers near water.

Homeowners can use rain gardens to manage rainwater on their property. Rain gardens are landscaped areas planted with wild flowers and other native vegetation that soak up rainwater coming right off the roof and driveway. The rain garden fills with water after a rain, and the water slowly infiltrates rather than contributing to the runoff problem. Cumulatively, numerous rain gardens in a neighborhood can have substantial positive environmental benefits. They can reduce drainage problems and pollutants entering lakes and streams, and they can recharge groundwater and create bird and butterfly habitat. In the lakes area, many governments and people concerned about degrading lake water quality are looking for more effective, less expensive rainwater management systems.

CATCH AND RELEASE

With the Minnesota fishing opener coming soon, we all need to consider the practice of releasing the bigger fish. As you remember, Jessie Lake was not selected for implementing the slot regulation of releasing fish 17 to 26 inches last year, but we can still consider putting those spawning size fish back. This year a new statewide regulation goes into effect where keeping only one walleye over 20 inches (instead of 24 inches) is allowed, which is about a 3 lb fish. Be sure to squeeze the tail from tip to tip for measuring. We all need to do our part in maintaining the future quality of fishing and it really does feel good to watch a big one swim away. Also, remember that only one northern over 30 inches is allowed. The DNR offers these tips for releasing fish:

- Set the hook quickly, which usually results in hooking the fish by the mouth rather than too deeply.
- Play the fish quickly.
- If fishing in deep water, plan to keep what you catch as fish pulled from deep cool water are usually too stressed for survival.
- Unhook and release a fish while it is still in the water if possible.
- Support the fish, if out of the water, with both hands or a landing net.
- Use needle-nose pliers or similar devices to remove hooks.
- If a fish is hooked too deeply, cut the line so at least an inch hangs out of the mouth. This is a change from the practice of clipping the line as close to the hook as possible. Some line on the hook helps it lie flush when the fish takes in food.
- Be ready to take photos to minimize the time a fish is out of the water.
- Never release a fish by tossing it back into the water. Return it gently.
- Don't plan to release fish that have been on a stringer or in a livewell as they have less chance for survival. Make the decision to release or keep right away.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

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

Lake Maps. The final version of the lake parcel maps showing all property owners on the four lakes are available free of charge for Association members. Copies are on 11 by 17 sheets. The directory of parcel ownership will be updated every two years. However, you can make the following changes to your copy as these property sales were recorded the past year on Jessie Lake: Parcel #5 – John Cavanagh, Parcel #14 – David and Cheryl Ritter and Parcel #75 – David and Diane Sievers.

ICOLA Web site. The Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations now has a website coordinated by Tom Nelson of Deer Lake. Here it is: www.mnlakes.org/ITASCACOLA so please take a look at it.

Owl Update. Last year Bill Nelson reported on the influx of Grey owls that had moved to Minnesota from Canada due to lack of their food source. There had been some thoughts that a number of these owls would take up residence here and perhaps nest this year. However, recent reports by the birding community have indicated that essentially none of those owls have remained and there is no sign of any nesting. Hopefully, you observed the great owl "irruption" last year as the birders refer to it.

Boating Fatalities Up. A total of 23 boaters died in boating accidents in Minnesota last summer, according to figures released by the DNR. That compares with 15 in 2004 and 17 in 2003. In 18 of last year's boating deaths, the victim was not wearing a life jacket. In addition, 45 non-boating drownings occurred, which was the most in the past four years.

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- The DNR will stock Jessie Lake in 2006 with 1.75 million walleye fry.
- Since becoming a state, Minnesota has lost more than half of its original 18.6 million acres of wetlands to farming and development.
- The 2006 fishing season for walleye and northern will be extended to Feb. 25th, 2007.
- Newer dishwashers use significantly less water than hand washing – about one-half less. A recent study, also showed the dishwasher got the dishes cleaner than hand washing.
- Northern lakes are now covered with ice three weeks less than they were 150 years ago.
- Global temperatures in 2005 were 1.36 degrees Fahrenheit above the 30 years average from 1950 to 1980. It will go down as the warmest year on record.
- Between 1981 and 1999 the horsepower on new boats registered in Minnesota has doubled, while the number of personal watercraft on Minnesota lakes has also increased from 6300 in 1990 to 42,000 in 2004. The long-term impacts are yet to be determined.
- The fishing harvest in Minnesota is about 35 million pounds of walleye, 3.2 million pounds of northern and 64 million pounds of panfish.
- The government can force private landowners to maintain habitat for endangered animals, but private landowners can cut down as many endangered plants, as they want.
- Minnesota is first nationally in sales of fishing licenses per capita.
- Plants make up more than half of the 1290 plant and animal species on the federal endangered or threatened list. However, animals get 97% of the money.
- There are over 1000 lakes in Itasca County, but only 164 are larger than 145 acres.
- The morel mushroom was selected as the State Mushroom in 1984.
- The 3rd highest deer harvest in Minnesota was in 2005 following the 2nd highest in 2004.
- There are only 177 Conservation Officers in the state of Minnesota.
- The Minnesota Dwarf Trout Lily is the state's only endemic plant (a species that grows in MN and nowhere else on earth).
- In May of 2006, Red Lake will be open to walleye fishing. A limit of 2 fish will be allowed on State water with a protected slot of 17 to 26 inches that must be returned.
- The ice went out this year on April 13th, which is ten days earlier than the average on April 23rd.
- Our website (www.mnlakes.org/Jessie) is updated regularly containing meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 87 paid members. If you have not paid your dues, please send your $10 to Dale Hertle, 47104 Bellamy Road, Talmoon, MN 56637.