

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.21, NO. 1

SPRING 2018

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HOLLISTER MADSEN

Well, winter is finally over and spring is on its way. Looking at the lake, you might not feel it, as the lake is still iced over, but we are all hoping for a fast thaw and ice out before the fishing opener on May 12th. The ice on the lake this winter was thick and the late snow made it challenging for the ice fishermen, but there was still ice fishing activity on Jessie.

It's time to start planning for the summer activities, spring cleaning at the cabin, yard work chores, getting boats and fishing gear ready so once the ice goes, we can enjoy the lake.

This year is an important one, as Jessie Lake will have a Standard Fish Survey completed this summer by the DNR (the last one was done in 2009) and we are looking forward to seeing the results and working with them in developing the fisheries plan moving forward. I'll make sure to keep everyone updated on the timing of this activity. The DNR is planning to complete the Standard Fish Survey for Little Jessie in 2019.

As mentioned in the Fall Jabber, Marn Flicker and Jim DeConcini are stepping down as co-chairs of the Share The Lake event. We are looking for a volunteer to take over this worthwhile event. Anyone interested should contact Marn Flicker or me. Both Marn and Jim are willing to assist the new coordinator in getting up to speed on this event.

There have been several new homeowners on the lakes in the Association this past year and I want to extend a warm welcome to them. For those existing JLWA members, who have new neighbors, please extend an invitation for them to join the JLWA. I look forward to meeting all of you during the JLWA summer events. As always, if anyone has any concerns or ideas on how the Association can better benefit the members, please drop me a note or give me a call.

JLWA 2018 Calendar of Events:

- May 3, 2018 – Spring Roadside Cleaning
- July 4, 2018 – 4th of July Boat Parade on Jessie and Little Jessie
- July 7, 2018 – Summer Picnic/Spring meeting
- July??, 2018 – Share the Lake Day – TBD (need volunteer to chair this event)
- July 21, 2018 – Jessie Lake Northern Fishing Contest-more details to follow
- Sept. 1, 2018 – Fall JLWA annual meeting
- Oct. ??, 2018 – Fall roadside cleanup-date to be decided

2018 4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADES

By Hollister Madsen

Once again, we will be having our 4th of July boat parades on Jessie Lake and Little Jessie Lake.

- Jessie lake parade - Because the holiday falls on a Wednesday, we decided to hold the parade on Wednesday, July 4 at 1:00PM, meeting in front of Loons Landing Resort on the SE side of Jessie Lake. Everyone is welcome to come over to the Madsen's house after the event for food and refreshments. For more information, contact Hollister Madsen at 952-221-0143

- Little Jessie lake parade will be on Wednesday, July 4 at 12:00PM, meeting at the east point on Little Jessie. For more information, contact Dick Schedin at 218-832-3171.
Decorate your boat or just show up, either way we look forward to great weather and a fun event.

JLWA DIRECTOR'S SPRING MEETING

By Teleconference at 6:30, April 19, 2018

By Secretary Gin Anderson

Attendees: Chuck Klinger, Craig Johnson, Tina Jorgenson, Jason Jorgenson, Hollister Madsen, Don Ojanen, Gin Anderson

Business Items:

Approval of Secretary JLWA - Motion made by Chuck, seconded by Don to approve Gin Anderson as secretary and it was approved by the Board.

Membership Update -Tina gave an update on membership status. Approximately 80 members have renewed so far as a result of the first notice. The second notice has not been sent out yet. We usually get 15-20 more with the second notice. Last year there were 103 members. The numbers may be down slightly this year. Most are returning members, but there are also a few new members. Donations are at \$360 so far, which is running behind last year.

Membership Database - Gin will be taking on the membership database after Tina and Hollister have a chance to train her. Exact timing of the transition will be worked out.

Spring Creek cleaning - will take place around ice out time or a little before. The water temp needs to be in the upper 40's for spawning. Jason agreed to help Hollister and other volunteers. April 28th was set as the date to walk the creek. Volunteers should meet at the bridge at 10:00AM.

Beaver trapping - no bills have been received for trapping so far. Tina said that Jerry Kaczor hasn't been paid for 2 years. Hollister will check with him to see if they have taken any beavers.

Walleye counting will begin in early May. The week of May 13th is the mostly likely date. Go out to count about 10:15PM. It takes about 1/2 hour to get from the bridge to the rock beds. Then they will look at Tillys creek, then south on 134, and then to Pools creek by the landing. Will play it by ear for the exact timing. Hollister and Chuck will send a note out when the date is decided.

Roadside cleanup - Don will coordinate. Spring clean up will be May 3rd, a Thursday at 3:00 PM. We will meet at Jessie View Resort and it takes about an hour and then the group will go to Riley's for Hamburger night. Fall date is yet to be determined.

DNR Fish Survey - Hollister will talk with Dave Wetzel on when fish survey will be conducted and ask if he would present results at the fall meeting.

Summer/Future Events

- **Summer Picnic/Spring Meeting:** Date is Saturday, July 7th. Hollister will check with Rhonda to see if she can host at her place.
- **Northern Fishing Contest:** Plan is to have a Northern fishing contest to encourage people to keep more northern from the lake. We need someone to coordinate it. There will be prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd) and what they will be is yet to be determined. We will need to check with DNR to see what if any type of permit is needed. Jason will check into what needs to be done. Time frame being looked at is about 21st of July and will likely run from 10:00AM until 3:00PM.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

By Harold Goetzman

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR DOCK AND LIFT FOR ZEBRA MUSSELS BEFORE INSTALLING IN OUR LAKES – ALSO CHECK YOUR BOAT AND TRAILER. REMEMBER NO ONE ELSE IS GOING TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE FOR YOU. IT IS UP TO EACH OF US AND TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THERE IS NO CURE FOR AIS.

For the 17 types of AIS, there are now nearly 1300 entries so you can see the magnitude of the invasive threat to our precious resources. A list of the MN infested waters for all types of AIS is given in the new 2018 Fishing Regulations Booklet and on the DNR website so you can check on a lake if you are fishing other lakes. Many of the infested lakes are in Crow Wing County our neighbors to the south. There were 54 new cases of zebra mussels in MN lakes and streams for 2017. In Itasca County we had new zebra mussel sightings in North Star and Dora Lakes. Also, zebra mussels were now found 17 miles down stream from Little Winnie on the Mississippi River. The first sighting of starry stonewort was in 2015, in 2016 there were 7 and now 2 new lakes infested. This past year this new invasive species showed up in Lake Winnie, which is a grass-like algae with a small star-shaped structure called bulbils that are less than ¼ inch in diameter. It is spreading fast in Winnie.

Recently, I asked Chris Evans (SWCD AIS Specialist) what his AIS crew did on our lakes last summer and this is his reply: “we had some early detection devices on both Jessie and Little Jessie in 2017 and plan to do the same this season.



We did walk/canoe the shores of both lakes in 2016 and 2017 physically inspecting as many rocks, sticks, plants, and water related equipment (docks & lifts) as we possibly could for the presence of all AIS, but especially Zebra Mussels. There were of course no AIS found. Our 2018 plan is to continue thoroughly inspecting as many high-risk lakes as we can. The Jessie lakes are definitely on our radar although we are working through the list of lakes that we haven't gotten to yet before we return to them for the next survey. In the meantime, you could ask lakeshore owners, via your newsletter, to periodically inspect their shoreline by examining their docks and equipment as well as rocks and sticks etc. for attached mussels. The more eyes we have out there the better. Picture shows Waylon Glienke holding a tire that we pulled from the bottom of Sand Lake that is covered with zebra mussels.”

As reported several years ago, zebra mussels have been found in Sand Lake, Little Sand, Winnie and Little Winnie in Itasca County (our close neighbors). Now add Dora and North Star Lake to the list. The adult mussels have been found attached to docks and lifts. If you fish in these lakes remember it is the law to remove all aquatic plants, zebra mussels and other invasive species from your boat and trailer. All water from bait containers, livewells, bilges and the boat hull (remove plug) must be drained before leaving the boat landing. This is very important for JLW lakes with the normal back and forth travel to our neighboring lakes that a lot of fishermen use when they are not biting on Jessie. Also, Bowstring Lake is now listed as having faucet snails, which have caused large duck kills on Lake Winnie. They are about ½ inch long and light brown to black in color. Take extra care when leaving these lakes.

Here is the dilemma for our Lake Associations. These Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are an existential threat to local lake-based economies and way of life. **Humans spread AIS** even though some people claim that ducks, turtles and other critters spread it. So far there is no scientific evidence that they have. But even more to the point, if AIS were spread via natural means, we would be measuring the spread in terms of centuries, not summers. In 2012 there were 30 lakes designated as zebra mussel infested. Today there are well over 200. Of the 181 lakes with only DNR carry in access,

none of them are designated as zebra mussel infested. Four have Eurasian milfoil. Many of these lakes are near infested lakes with waterfowl moving freely between them.

Last summer we established an early detection program for zebra mussels in our JLWA lakes. I have made some simple pipe detectors to give to members to place under their dock during the summer season. Monitoring the pipe occasionally to check for small mussels that have attached to the surface is all that is required. No one having a detector reported anything, which is good. If you are interested in helping with early detection let me know by email (hgoetzman@yahoo.com) or call 832-3139.

NEW NORTHERN PIKE FISHING REGULATIONS COMING FOR FISHING OPENER

DNR news release-April 24, 2018

New regulations for catching and keeping northern pike will be the most significant change anglers will see when they open up the 2018 Minnesota Fishing Regulations Booklet being distributed throughout the state. “Anyone who wants to keep pike in Minnesota’s inland waters needs to take a close look at these regulations and be prepared to measure the pike they want to keep, starting on the Saturday, May 12th, fishing opener,” said Al Stevens, fisheries program consultant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. “It’s almost go-time and we’re happy to be at this point after years of discussion on these issues with pike,” Stevens said. “This has been a long-running topic of conversation and is becoming reality in the 2018 fishing season. “The move toward new regulations was a response to anglers’ concerns about the over-abundance of hammer-handle pike in much of central to north-central Minnesota; the low numbers of pike present in southern waters; and a desire to protect large pike in the northeastern part of the state.

You'll find this voracious predator in nearly every Minnesota lake and stream. It's one of the easiest fish to catch because it so willingly bites lures or bait. And – big or small – they're one of Minnesota's most fun fish to catch. But the comparatively small fish often landed cause problems in much of Minnesota, especially in the north area. Too many of these fish, generally less than 22 inches long, in a lake can reduce perch numbers to unhealthy levels, tip the balance toward smaller panfish and reduce the effectiveness of walleye stocking.

The new fishing regulations have three distinct zones to address the different characteristics of pike populations in Minnesota. While not designed to manage for trophy pike, the new regulations are meant to restore pike populations for better harvest opportunities across the state for sizes that make good table fare, up to around 28 inches or so.

Too many small pike plague the north-central area. There is moderate to high fishing pressure and high harvest of large and medium size pike. Pike grow slowly here, and an over-abundance of small pike is the result. When new regulations take effect in spring 2018, the majority of the state will be in the north-central zone, where the issue is overpopulation of small pike. The objectives are to allow more harvest of abundant small pike and shift population size structure to more medium-sized pike. The advantage of growing larger pike is twofold. While protected these medium sized pike will eat small pike, helping to reduce the abundance of small pike. When they eventually grow out of the protected size range they will be a more desirable size for keeping. The north-central regulation zone will start on a line stretching roughly from Hastings to just south of the Twin Cities and over to Ortonville; and in the north from Duluth along U.S. Highway 53 until it reaches International Falls.

The new pike harvest regulations apply to inland waters of the state.

- North-central: Limit of 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by darkhouse spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches or two larger than 26 inches
- Northeast: Two pike; anglers must release all from 30 to 40 inches, with only one over 40 inches allowed in possession.
- South: Two fish; minimum size 24 inches.

SPOTLIGHT ON NORTHERN PIKE

Minnesota Darkhouse & Fishing News

What Do They Eat?

The northern Pike is a lie-in-wait piscivore (fisheater). Most often it lies still in the weeds waiting for a fish to swim by. Then it lunges quickly and grabs the startled fish in its huge, toothy jaws. Young pike start out feeding on water fleas, copepods and aquatic insect larvae, but once they reach about 2 inches long they switch to fish. Adult pike have been known to add the following to their basic diet of fish: frogs, sandpipers, ducks, red squirrels and full-grown muskrats.

What Eats Them?

Numerous other fish that share the same surroundings, for example bluegills and perch prey on the larvae and fingerlings. Silver lampreys in Lake Superior attack adult pike, but the largest predators for them are humans and bigger northerns.

How Do They Reproduce?

Northerns spawn in April or early May as soon as the ice melts. They move up into small streams during the night hours or select shallow, flooded marshlands or grassy lake margins as their spawning sites. Northerns spawn in groups of one female and one to three males. As they swim over the vegetation the males slap the female with their tails and she releases 5-60 eggs, which the male fertilizes at the same time. The spawning act is repeated every few minutes for an hour or more. The fertilized eggs stick to the weeds. Females leave the spawning areas as soon as they have released all their eggs, but males may stay for a week or more. They do not protect the eggs after spawning. Over a period of a few days a single female may lay 8,000-100,000 eggs, depending on her size and health. The eggs hatch in 12-14 days, but the newly hatched embryos attach themselves to the vegetation using an "adhesive organ" on the tops of their heads. They continue to develop their mouth and fins for another 5-15 days before they swim free and begin to feed. Due to predation by insects and other fish the number of eggs and fry will be reduced over 99% in the months that follow spawning.

Northern pike grow most rapidly during the first two years of life, although the rate of growth will vary from lake to lake. Males may mature in 1 year, always in 2, with an average length of 16 to 18 inches; females may mature in 2 years, always in 3, at about 20 to 22 inches. Northern pike usually live for about 7 years with reports of some surviving over 20 years. The average 3-year-old fish is 25 inches and averages over 30 inches after 5 years. The record northern caught in Minnesota is 45lbs 12 oz taken from Basswood Lake in 1929.

ITASCA WATERS

By David Lick, President Itasca Waters

So, what's happening in Itasca County? Well, since its beginnings in 2006, Itasca Waters (previously known as Itasca Water Legacy Partnership) has worked collaboratively on water issues and mobilized on-the-ground actions that encourage diverse and sustainable use, protection, recovery, and enjoyment of Itasca County's world-class water and shoreland resources.

As a citizen-driven organization working on the frontlines of water quality issues in Itasca County, Itasca Waters leverages a unique blend of partnerships. As a whole, the organization works to implement, support, and promote research, education, and public outreach activities, all with the goal of maintaining abundant clean waters in the county.

In furtherance of our public education role, Itasca Waters has just published the Itasca County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship. The Shoreland Guide is a wonderful resource for the public and organizations that may have questions about how to preserve our County's water resources. In it, residents will find excellent information on most aspects of living on, or near, one of our lakes or

rivers. The Shoreland Guide is on our website, www.itascawaters.org, and will soon be available at several venues around Grand Rapids.

Speaking of our website, we have designed and just launched a totally new site, www.itascawaters.org. We have collected major web resources about shorelands and other issues and put them all in one place, to make it easy for you to research your lake questions. Our new website is a significant tool for Itasca County lakeshore property owners and we invite you to use it often, and to tell others about this wonderful resource.

In late March, Itasca Waters learned we received a significant grant from the Blandin Foundation that will support our work over the next three years. This is a very important step for us as we concentrate on good shoreland practices, AIS, our economy and many public outreach programs.

JESSIE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2017

By Kim Yankowiak, SWCD

As of 2017, twenty consecutive years of water quality data have been collected on Jessie Lake since 1998, which provides insight as to the health of Jessie Lake's aquatic ecosystem. Water quality was good overall for the summer of 2017 with average or better readings for phosphorus, chlorophyll-a (algae) and secchi (water clarity). All parameters sampled in 2017 aligned quite closely to the 2013, 2014, and 2015 sampling data. While phosphorus concentrations were above average in 2016, the 2017 open water season saw a return to below average Phosphorus concentrations in the epilimnion (top). There was a very high TP concentration in the August sample for the hypolimnion (bottom of the

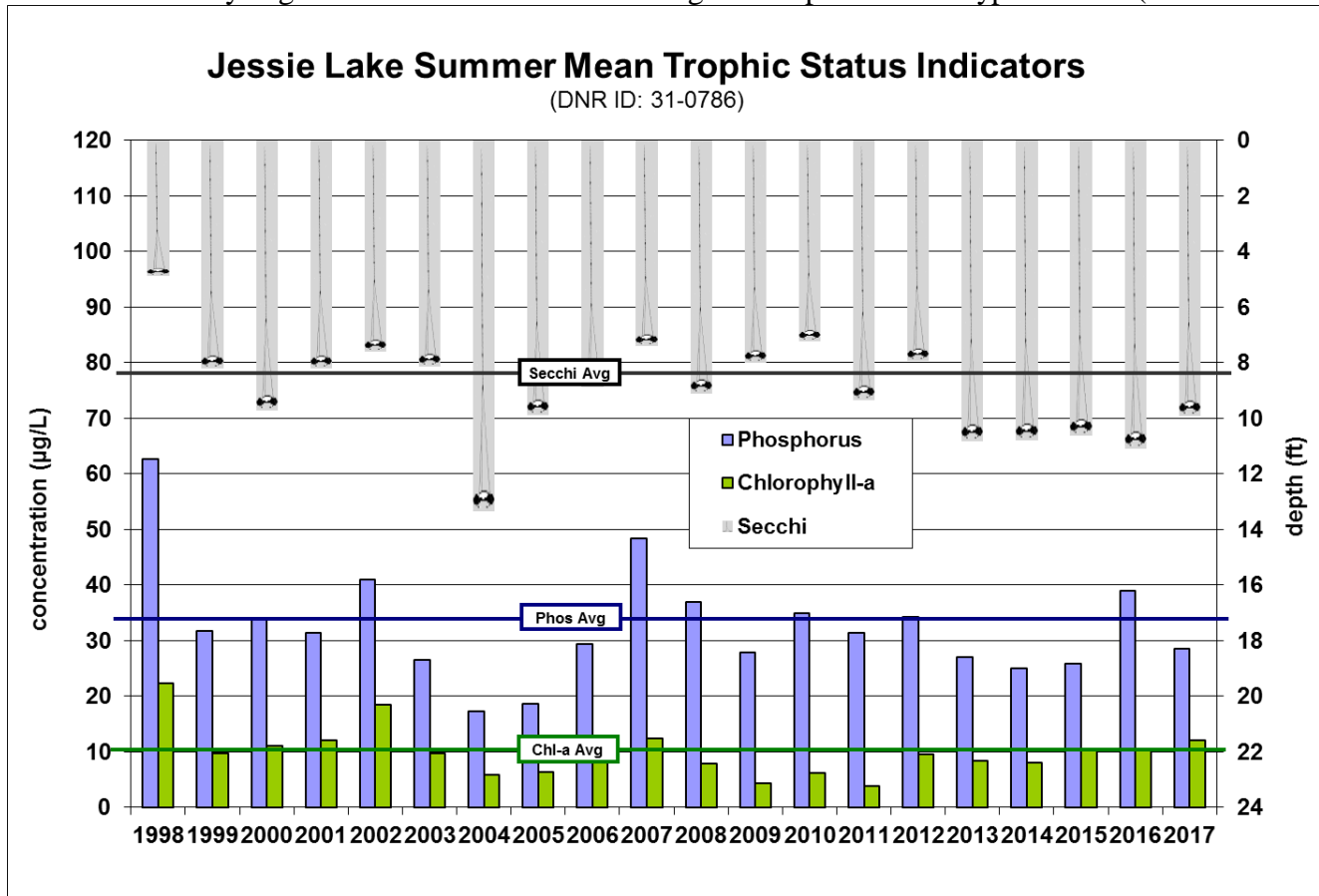


Figure 1 - Recent trends in Jessie Lake including the somewhat anomalous data from 1998.

water column) that was the highest ever recorded. This may have been attributed to an inch of rain within 48 hours of the sample being taken, or just anoxic conditions at the bottom of the lake, resulting in sediment flux of Phosphorus. It is also possible that an error in the analysis occurred since the value is twice what we normally see for that month.

When reviewing data since 1986 and looking for trends in the more recent (1998-2017) continuous data set, it is encouraging that the data shows Jessie Lake's condition is very stable with no negative trend in water quality, meaning amidst the yearly ups and downs the lake appears to be remaining mostly stable, and even showing some slight long-term improvement. The data from 1998 appears to be a bit anomalous and does skew the averages when compared to using 1999 as the starting point. Above is a figure showing data and averages from 1998-2017, which shows the trend remaining stable. The 2017 data show the average Phosphorus concentration (28.6 ppb) was below the long-term average of 33.5 ppb, Chlorophyll-a was just above the average concentration and Secchi disc readings were better than the average expected for Jessie Lake. Itasca SWCD would like to extend our utmost appreciation for the Lake Association and volunteer commitment to protect and preserve the health of Jessie Lake for future generations to come. This data is annually reported to the MPCA and becomes part of their database for Minnesota lakes, which is why it is important to continue monitoring the lake.

ITASCA COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Info from Bill Grantges, County AIS Coordinator

The MN Legislature approved a bill in 2014 to appropriate \$10 million annually from the general fund that goes directly to counties for local AIS work. The counties can make grants from these funds to lake associations or other groups to reduce the threat of AIS such as zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, rusty crayfish and Eurasian milfoil. The money will be doled out to the 87 counties based on how many boat landings and trailer parking spaces are in a given county. Itasca County received the second largest appropriation in the state of about \$596,954 for the 2017-18 seasons.

Last year the county crew completed about 25,263 (19,884 inspection hours) boat inspections at 35 landings on 26 lakes. Under 5% of the boats were in violation of state law with boat plug violations being about half of the total. The AIS inspectors were at the Jessie Lake access 16 times last summer spending a total of 283 hours and completed 349 inspections. Two power washing decontamination units has been purchased by the county to travel to various landings for use during inspections so contaminated boats can be washed with heated water that will kill the zebra mussels.

TEAM EFFORT TO STOP SPREAD OF AIS, PATROL WATER BODIES

By Britta Arendt, Grand Rapids Herald-Review

“The Itasca County Sheriff's Office has agreed to step up enforcement of the AIS regulations and participate in enhanced enforcement waves over the summer,” explained Itasca County Sheriff Vic Williams. “This is a very difficult and unique problem and we simply need to work together to do whatever we can to stop the infiltration of invasive species. Some may say we will never stop it, but we must try and do our part as stewards of our quality of life.”

According to Itasca AIS Program Coordinator Bill Grantges, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have become a very real threat to life in the Northland clogging lakes and becoming a detriment to fishing and other water sports as well as affecting the resort industry. Grantges said that the spread of AIS is not inevitable, as “no new AIS have been introduced into the Great Lakes since regulations to stop their spread were put into effect and enforced in 2006.”

In 2012, a coalition called Itasca Waters instituted an aquatic invasive species education and inspection program with funding from Itasca County to patrol the area's busiest lakes in an effort to stop any spreading. Two years later, in 2014, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds to each

county based on number of water accesses in each county. To date, Itasca County has received nearly \$2 million of these funds.

Recently, the Itasca County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service and Leech Lake Band of Ojibwa have agreed to partner with Itasca Waters and the Itasca AIS Program to reduce the possibility of infecting more lakes and other water bodies.

"This partnership is a fine collaboration showing how organizations and agencies can work together to leave our fine outdoors in the best of condition," said David Lick with Itasca Waters. "Preventing the spread of unwanted species is worth everyone's time and effort. This is how healthy communities work together. Maybe we can maintain our quality of place."

SPRING CREEK CLEARING

By Hollister Madsen

Several JLWA members met at the bridge on the north end of Jessie Lake on April 28th for the annual creek clearing to ensure the walleyes have clear access to the spawning beds. Don Ojanen, Jason Jorgenson, Craig Johnson (shown in picture) and Hollister Madsen worked for a couple hours, walking the creek with waders and walking poles. The weather was warm and the water was not too cold, however, we did see a lot of beaver activity, more than we have seen in the past couple years.



Three beaver dams were also removed along the creek and the water is now flowing nicely over the rock beds. Jerry Kazor is continuing his trapping activity on both Spring and Tillys creek. Last fall he took out 6 large beavers and from the looks of the beaver activity this spring we will have an increased number to trap next fall.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

By Harold Goetzman

Increase in Hunting and Fishing License Fee. The DNR was seeking fee increases for hunting and fishing licenses to prevent budget shortfalls of over 3 million dollars. An increase of \$3 for fishing and \$4 for hunting was approved by the legislature to start in 2018. This would be the first license increase since the \$2 raise in 2012. Fishing and hunting annually generate about \$5.5 billion in economic activity and support 48,000 jobs in Minnesota. Most outdoor groups or clubs have supported this legislation and for lakes like ours relying on stocking, we need to support it by buying a license.

Rising Eagle Resort. The Rising Eagle Resort on the north end of Jessie Lake now has new owners and this quote is taken from the resort website. "Meet Your Hosts! Welcome to Rising Eagle Resort from our family to yours. We are the Lambrecht family, Adam, Rhonda, Josie - eldest, Sammi - middle, and AJ - youngest. Rhonda and I were born and raised in Southeastern Minnesota and moved to the Grand Rapids area 14 years ago. It was a great move for us and was a great stepping-stone to purchasing Rising Eagle Resort and fulfilling a lifelong dream for both of us (and the kids!!)."

Jessie Lake Fish Survey. Dave Weitzel, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, reported that they plan to do the fish survey on Jessie Lake starting on August 13th. The survey usually includes placing 15 nets at different locations over 5 days. Each day when the gill nets are pulled the fish are counted and measured for each type. The nets are 250 ft. long with 5 different mesh panels, which are 50 ft. long each with mesh from 0.75 to 2 inches.

Outdoor Heritage Fund. The Legacy Amendment was passed 2008 for a sales tax increase to provide funds for protecting and restoring lakes and land. Since inception there has been \$741 million in projects funded and this years projects total over \$114 million.

DNR Volunteers. Nearly 23,000 volunteer citizens donated services valued at \$7.4 million during 2017 to assist the DNR in accomplishing its conservation mission.

ICOLA. The Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations continues to meet five times a year under the direction of a new president and vice-president. The Association works together with other organizations such as SWCD, DNR, Itasca Waters and the County to protect and maintain our lake resources through education and support public outreach activities.

ITASCA SWCD. Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District has a new website that contains a lot of information regarding our lakes. The County AIS program is now directed by SWCD with Bill Grantges as the Program Coordinator. He can be contacted at 218 326 3905 if you have AIS questions.

Quotable. –“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. ” Gandhi

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- About 500,000 people are expected to fish the opening day of fishing on Saturday, May 12th.
- Protecting Minnesota’s waters: if you don’t get involved, the job won’t get done.
- There are over 200,000 lake home and cabin families in MN.
- The ice went out May 5th on Jessie, which is about 10 days later than the average on April 25th.
- Our website (**www.minnesotawaters.org/Jessielakewatershed**) is updated regularly by our Webmaster Hollister Madsen with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

MEMBERSHIP

The JLWA presently has 83 paid members. If you have not paid your 2018 dues, please send your \$15 to Tina Jorgenson, 20756 Field Crest Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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

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