

JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



JESSIE JABBER

VOL.20, NO. 1

SPRING 2017

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HOLLISTER MADSEN

Welcome to another year of the Jessie Lake Watershed Association. We had a relatively good winter, a moderate amount of snow to allow snowmobiles to get out on the trails and 20-24 inches of ice on the lake to keep the ice fishing active. The warm weather allowed for an early ice out on April 10th, which is 15 days earlier than the average ice out date of April 25. For more information on Ice In/Out data for Jessie Lake checkout the JLWA Lake Information link on the website at <http://minnesotawaters.org/jessielakewatershed/lake-information> for the historical data.

On another note, we are mailing a copy of the updated JLWA Bylaws that were approved in the special meeting on Oct 6, 2016. If anyone has any questions on the Bylaws, let me know, as I would appreciate any input from members.

It's time to start thinking about getting the docks in, boats ready for opening fishing and the normal spring yard cleanup activity. We are all hoping for an early spring that will give us a jump on a long summer. I look forward to meeting with many of you this year. Have a great spring and summer

I would like to highlight some of the major events and projects coming up this year, please mark your calendars.

JLWA 2017 Calendar of Events:

- May 2 - Roadside Cleanup – CR35 – Meet at Jessie View Resort at 6:30PM.
- June 10 – Tentative date for JLWA Summer Picnic/Spring meeting. More information to follow
- July 1 – Jessie Lake 4th of July Boat Parade
- July 4 – Little Jessie Lake 4th of July Boat Parade
- July 12 – Share the Lake Day
- Sept 2 – Fall Annual JLWA Meeting – Election of Officers
- October – Fall Roadside Cleanup – Date TBD

2017 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 will be on Saturday, July 1 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 Tuesday, 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, Thursday, March 30, 2017
By Secretary Marie Flicker

All Members Present: Hollister Madsen, Don Ojanen, Tina Jorgenson, Chuck Klingsporn, Jason Jorgenson, Craig Johnson, Dick Schedin, Dave Anderson and Marie Flicker.

Bylaw Update: JLWA Bylaw changes were approved by members attending the Fall Roadside Cleanup. It was suggested by Dick to include bylaws in the Spring Jabber mailing to let members know of the changes.

JLWA Goals & Objectives: Discussed the purpose of the association and a desire to list it on the website and in the Jabber. The JLWA Bylaws has a purpose statement and several years ago a survey was mailed to members asking for lake goals and priorities. The Board agreed with the Bylaws purpose and the results of the survey's top three goals: 1) Water Quality 2) Improving the fishery 3. Aquatic Invasive Species
As of today, there are no known Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in the Jessie Lake Watershed. We will continue to maintain signs at the landings and promote education. AIS updates will be posted in the Jabber.

Membership: Treasurer Tina Jorgenson sent the first mailing and received 75 responses. She will send a 2nd mailing early April and will tabulate the responses and email the results to all board members.

Hollister has been approached about starting a Welcome Committee that would put together a packet of information for new members. Everyone thought it was a great idea. No one stepped forward to take charge of the committee, so Hollister will take the action to get a volunteer. A discussion was held on how to get the information about new homeowners on our lakes. Tina said she updates the lake database twice a year and she will give that information to Hollister so he can update the website roster.

Jabber: Harold Goetzman will publish The Jabber in April. If anyone has anything they want posted in the spring addition, please send to Harold within the next couple of weeks.

Roadside Cleanup: No dates or chairpersons have been set for the Spring and Fall Clean-up. Hollister will check with Harold Goetzman to see if he will chair the spring clean-up again this year. Don will check with Krista Hagen for fall clean-up chair. There was discussion doing the clean-up in the early evening instead of daytime, and possibly going to Riley's afterwards for burgers to entice more people to help.

Summer Picnic/Spring Meeting: Tentative date has been set for June 10th. Possibly start with a potluck lunch with a short (half hour) meeting to follow. Tina wondered if Little Jessie would be interested in alternating the picnic/meeting with Jessie. Dick will check with Little Jessie residents and get back to the board.

Boat Parade – July: Hollister will chair the boat parade/picnic again this year. Date set for Saturday, July 1st, 2017. Little Jessie traditionally has their boat parade on the 4th of July.

Spring Creek Clean-up: Hollister will coordinate a spring clean-up with Jason, Craig, Dave & Don. Date set for Saturday, April 1st, 2017. Meet at the bridge – 10am.

Walleye Spawning Count: Hollister talked with Jim Anderson about walleye counting during the spawning period. Jim had organized group for 13 years and forwarded all the data to the DNR. It was reported that the beaver dam leveler has been doing its job as the count has gone up since that has been added. No further counting has been done for several years and Hollister would like to get a group together to count this year. It takes 2-3 people to do the count. It is done every evening around 10p.m for 2-3 weeks. Jason, Don & Dick volunteered to help.

Share the Lake: Date set for July 12th. Jim DeConcini & Marn Flicker will coordinate. Hollister will post in the Jabber.

Beaver Extraction: Hollister will contact Jerry Kaczor for beaver information.

Other Business: Hollister would like to create an Information booklet that would give details about "lake knowledge". Such as who is the JLWA contact in the DNR office, or who to call for beaver extraction, etc. This will be discussed at future meetings.

Distribution of JLWA information by email instead of mailing was discussed in order to reduce postage. It was decided that Hollister could send out an email to all JLWA members with email addresses and ask if they would accept correspondence electronically instead of mailings.

Hollister will schedule our next teleconference and email the board with possible dates.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm by President Madsen.

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.

WE MUST TAKE ACTION TO AVOID MOVING THESE INVASIVE SPECIES TO OUR LAKES. RULES THAT ARE IN PLACE ON MOVING A BOAT FROM INFESTED WATERS NEED TO BE FOLLOWED. THERE IS NO CURE FOR AIS -- ONLY PREVENTION.

I am actually surprised there are still people who think the AIS threat is exaggerated. With the list of lakes already having zebra mussels growing by 29 new lakes in 2016 this is not an imagined threat. Plus the coming of a new invasive species last year called “starry stonewart”, the future for our lakes is in trouble. The DNR list for AIS infested water now includes 360 lakes, rivers, and ponds and wetlands having zebra mussels. For the 17 types of AIS, there are now 1233 entries so you can see the magnitude of the invasive threat to our precious resources.

As reported several years ago, zebra mussels have been found in Sand Lake, Little Sand and Winnie in Itasca County (our close neighbors). 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 in the past. They are about ½ inch long and light brown to black in color. This past year we also had the new invasive species in Lake Winnie called “starry stonewart”, which is a grass-like algae with a small star-shaped structure called bulbils less than ¼ inch in diameter. Take extra care when leaving these three lakes.

In December of 2016, the DNR confirmed that Leech Lake now has zebra mussels. Two samples of water taken miles apart were found to have larval stage mussels. The numbers of zebra mussel larvae indicate a reproducing population is present in the 110,000-acre lake.

A list of the MN infested waters for all types of AIS is given in the new 2017 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 are also 21 new cases of Eurasian watermilfoil and 1 spiny waterflea so all types of AIS are on the move. The first sighting of starry stonewart was in 2015 and in 2016 there were 7 new lakes infested.

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.

Owners of resorts, campgrounds and rental businesses required to take AIS training by DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is offering aquatic invasive species training to owners of lake service provider businesses, so they can legally work in lakes and rivers throughout the state. A total of eleven sessions are planned around the state. Lake service provider businesses include resorts, outfitters and campgrounds that rent or lease boats and other water-related equipment. Business owners must attend training, apply for a permit and pay a \$50 application fee every three years to comply with Minnesota law. That means resorts and campgrounds that offer equipment to

their guests like pontoons, fishing boats or kayaks and canoes as a part of their stay, need training on AIS and this permit.

Editor Note – Please thank our resort owners for helping to protect our lake. (and pay \$50 to do it)

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 \$572,000 in July, 2016 and will receive up to \$621,000 this coming year as we updated our parking data for the landings.

Last year the county crew completed about 18,500 (11,500 inspection hours) boat inspections at 26 landings on 17 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 twice last summer spending a total of 16 hours and it is expected that more visits to Jessie Lake will take place in 2017. A power washing decontamination unit 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. A second unit has recently been purchased.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DNR PROPOSAL FOR NORTHERN PIKE MANAGEMENT

By Dave Weitzel, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor

As many of you may recall from the previous newsletter, the DNR is working with the State Legislature to modify Northern Pike limits in Minnesota. Because pike populations vary across the State, there is no single regulation option that would likely work universally. Instead, DNR fisheries has proposed implementing a zone concept for Northern Pike. Such an approach could protect large pike in the northeast, increase pike populations in southern Minnesota and eventually help solve the problem of an over-abundance of small pike in north-central Minnesota lakes, such as Jessie Lake. The DNR worked closely with interested fisherman and dark house spearkers from across the State to develop proposals that makes biological and social sense.

I have recently received notification that the proposed statewide Northern Pike regulation change will not be implemented in 2017. The DNR was informed that the administrative law-judge (ALJ) reviewing the northern pike zone proposal could not, at this time, approve the rule change. This means we cannot move forward with the zone regulations this spring, but instead hope to implement the rule next spring, March 1, 2018.

Last year, our proposed legislation for the north-central zone would have created a 10-fish limit with a 22 to 26-inch protected slot and two pike longer than 26 inches allowed in that limit. The new regulation would have also rescinded the one fish over 30 inches regulation. The ALJ, however, could not sign off on the rule as written until the 1>30-inch is removed from statute by the legislature.

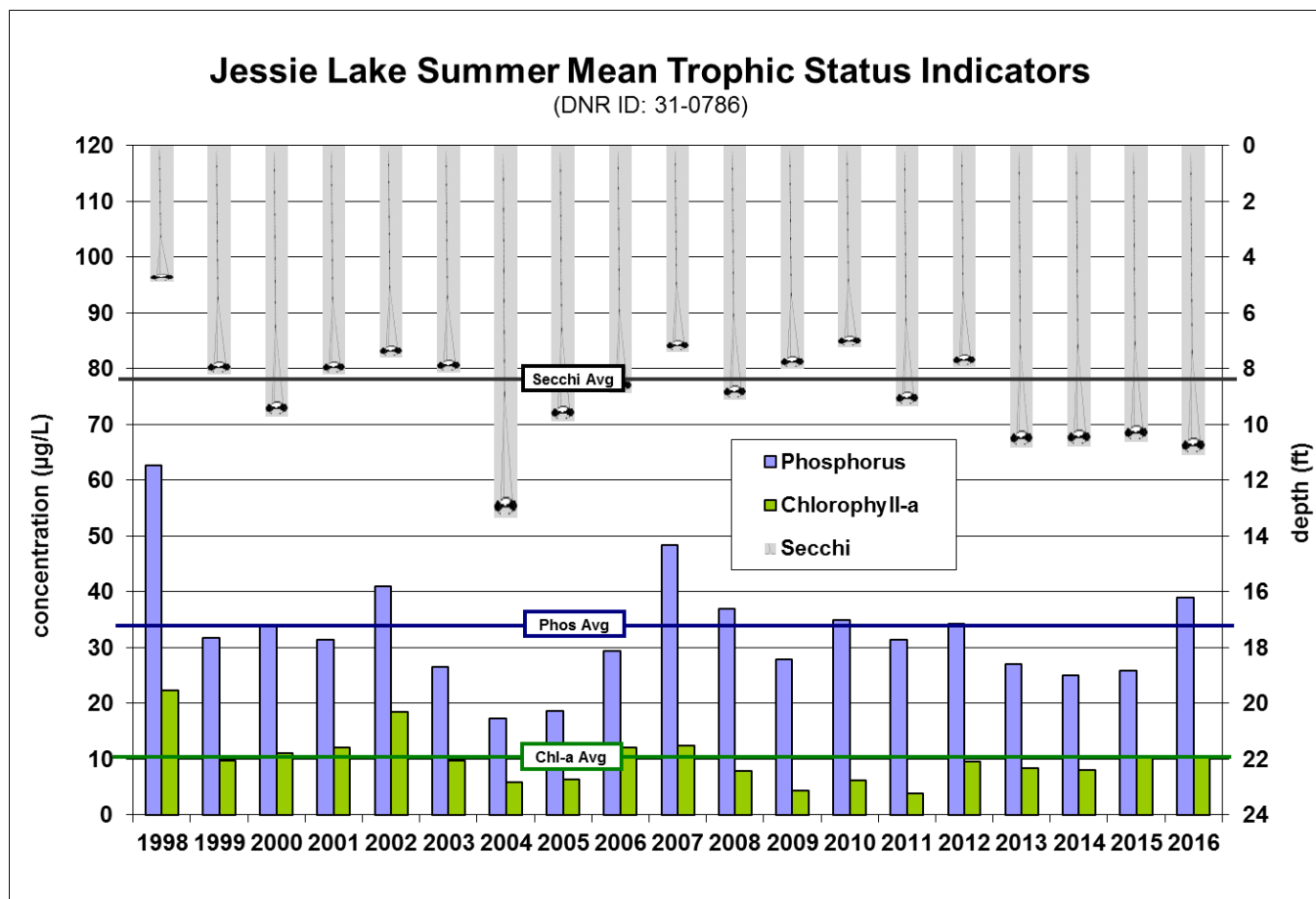
This means that most lakes in the Grand Rapids area will remain managed under the existing 3 fish bag limit (with one over 30 inches allowed). Following public input in 2016, the experimental regulation on **Bowstring and Round lakes was rescinded, and these lakes will now be managed with the existing 3 fish bag limit.** The current experimental regulation (9 fish bag with a 22-36 inch protected slot) on Sand Lake will remain in place and will be reviewed once the new statewide regulation is approved.

There remains strong public support to adopt the zonal pike proposals. We are working with state legislators to make this regulation a reality.

JESSIE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2016

By Kim Yankowiak

As of 2016, nineteen 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 2016 with average or better readings for chlorophyll-a (algae), and Secchi (water clarity). All parameters sampled in 2016 aligned quite closely to the 2013, 2014, and 2015 sampling data, with the exception of Phosphorus. Phosphorus concentrations were above average this year, and higher than they have been since 2007. There were some very high concentrations both in the May and in the September samples for the epilimnion (top of the water column) that drove this average up for 2016. This may have been the result of the lake turning over and not being quite as thermally stratified as the mid-summer samples.



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

When reviewing data since 1986 and looking for trends in the more recent (1998-2016) 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 stable, and even showing some slight improvement. The data from 1998 appears to be a bit anomalous, and does skew the averages when compared to 1986 or 1999 charts. Above is a figure showing data and averages from 1998-2016, which shows the trend remaining stable. The 2016 data shows, that while Phosphorus concentration (39 ug/l) was above average, Chlorophyll-a (10.3 ug/l) was at or below the average and Secchi disc readings averaging 11.1 feet was greater than the average expected for Jessie Lake. Normally, the Phosphorus correlates with the other two parameters so it seems amiss.

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.

SPRING CREEK CLEARING

By Hollister Madsen

On April 1, several JLWA members met at the bridge over Spring Creek on Jessie Lake to walk the creek and clear any debris that may impede walleyes from reaching the spawning rock beds. Dave Anderson, Craig Johnson, Jason Jorgenson and Hollister Madsen spend a couple hours at the creek, the



water level at that time was extremely high, making for a challenging time in certain spots. The result showed that the winter was good to the creek with minimal debris that required clearing and no beaver activity was present. The work that Jerry Kaczor did trapping beavers last year made a difference. We will repeat this effort in the fall before freeze up to minimize the work needed next spring.

JESSIE LAKE WALLEYE SPAWNING ACTIVITY

By Hollister Madsen

Spring Creek on the north end of Jessie Lake has been one of the primary walleye spawning locations for walleyes. 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. The first one was installed just south of the bridge on CR135, and another one about 100 yards south of the bridge and then two more beds further south in 2003. Also, a rock bed on Pooles creek was installed before the culvert on CR134.

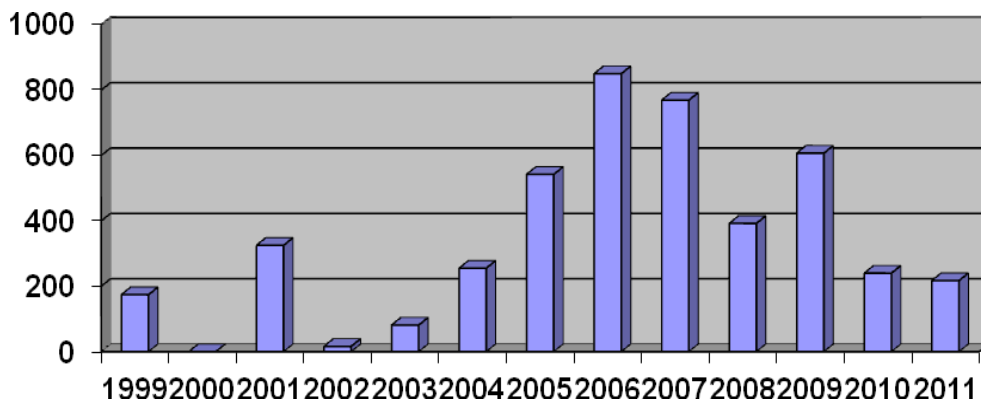
JLWA members monitored these beds for 13 years to determine the effectiveness of the beds with the results indicated below. It was determined that walleyes were only using Spring Creek, so no monitoring of Pooles Creek was done after the first couple years. Jim Anderson, one of JLWA's former board members, did much of the monitoring and kept careful track of all the data and forwarded it onto the DNR for review.

You can't draw many conclusions from this data, but what it does highlight is that spawning activity is taking place on Spring Creek and appears to be inconsistent, year-to-year, regardless of water temperature. Keep in mind although there are variables in this counting activity, this is just a snapshot on spawning activity in Spring Creek.

The current board members decided at our recent board meeting, to start monitoring the rock beds again to identify today's walleye activity. As of April 22nd, the number of walleyes counted at Spring Creek for the first 10 days was 65, with water temperature starting at 40 degrees and up to 51 degrees. I decided to checkout Pooles Creek during the same time period and was surprised to see it being used for spawning, counting 51 walleyes during the same 10-day period, so this is being actively used for spawning today.

I will be contacting the DNR this summer to revisit the prior data and get feedback on what their recommendations are and what if anything can be done to improve the natural reproduction of walleyes in Jessie Lake. I'll make sure to send out an update to all members on what I hear from the DNR. Improving the natural reproduction of walleyes in Jessie Lake will be to the benefit of all JLWA members and Jessie Lake landowners to allow us all to catch more fish is what everyone strives for!

TOTAL NUMBER OF WALLEYES COUNTED EACH YEAR



JLWA WEBSITE UPDATES

By Hollister Madsen

I have added a new selection called [JLWA Lake Information](#), which has several new links:

- DNR lake finder for Jessie, Little Jessie, Spring, Little Spring and Peterson lakes
- DNR Lake Water Level Report – Jessie Lake
- DNR Historical Ice In Information – Jessie Lake
- DNR Historical Ice Out Information – Jessie Lake

The Ice In and Ice Out links allow you to select the lake you're interested in, but only Jessie Lake has ice in/out information reported to the DNR by Jim Anderson.

For those who are not familiar with the DNR site, it contains a wealth of information about each of the lakes, including:

Lake Reports

- 1) [Fisheries Lake Survey](#)
- 2) [Water Access Sites](#)
- 3) [Fish Stocking](#)
- 4) [Fish Consumption](#)
- 5) [Water Levels](#)
- 6) [Water Quality](#)
- 7) [Aquatic Plant Survey](#)

Lake Maps

- 1) [Water Clarity](#)
- 2) [Lake Depth](#)
- 3) [Recreation Compass](#)
- 4) [Topographic](#)

If anyone has suggestions on what else could be added to the website, shoot me an email at hollistermadsen@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

By Harold Goetzman

Increase in Hunting and Fishing License Fee. The DNR is seeking fee increases for hunting and fishing licenses to prevent budget shortfalls of over 3 million dollars. It is hoped that an increase of \$3 for fishing and \$4 for hunting will be 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 are supporting this legislation and for lakes like ours relying on stocking, we also need to support it.

Lake Shoreline Clean Up. Remember our goal of volunteer lake cleaning and spend some time canoeing or kayaking around the lake and collecting visible trash in the shallow water or on shore. We would like to suggest that everyone consider the shoreline cleaning to be a Stewardship Challenge during the last week in May and the first week in June. Let's make all our Association lakes the cleanest in the county. We assume that people will pick up trash in the water or on shore along their private land, but this year the Stewardship Challenge is to also cover all of the public shoreline during this time. Our mission statement is to improve the quality of the environment in our watershed and this event will follow that purpose. As the kids always say "Just Do It".

Water Quality Website. There is a new website that contains water quality information on 30 Itasca County lakes. This site has been created by Moriya Rufer at the RMB Environmental Laboratories in Detroit Lakes, MN through a project funded by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) that is the state board overseeing the county SWCD's in MN. The website is www.rmbel.info/itasca where you can click on Jessie Lake or Little Jessie Lake to get the information available on those lakes. Hopefully, a second grant will provide information on another 30 lakes in Itasca County. Take some time to look at these reports as I think it is an impressive report on our lakes. We are still working with Moriya to get more Jessie Lake data in the report as we have 19 years of sampling data.

Jessie Freeze-up 2016. According to our freeze up/ice out record keeper, Jim Anderson, the official date for Jessie Lake freeze up for 2016 is Dec. 10th. In case you are thinking this might be a record for late freeze up, I looked at the past data and found that it comes in at 4th place. Previously, we had a Dec. 17th freeze up in 1997 and then on Dec. 20th in both 1996 and 1999, which remains the current record. Those late 1990's must have had pretty warm weather. That is also about the time when JLWA was formed as we now are entering year 20 in 2017.

WPIC. Harold Goetzman has been appointed to the Itasca County Water Plan Implementation Committee (WPIC) representing ICOLA. The appointment was approved by the County Board on March 15, 2017. This is a board that will be updating the county water protection plan as well as monitoring the activity of the SWCD staff.

Resource Advisory Committee. Harold Goetzman has recently completed his 8-year appointment to the Chippewa National Forest RAC and soon the USFS staff will be looking for new people to fill the vacant positions. If you are interested in representing our area with an interest in lake water quality and fish habitat please let me know. This committee meets several times a year to review grant applications and recommend projects that will improve our National Forest. The funds are received from the government in lieu of taxes on Federal Land as part of the Secure Rural Schools Act in Itasca, Beltrami and Cass Counties. The meetings are usually held in Walker. The RAC approved 11 projects in 2016 that total \$174,000 in grant funds. This includes a grant to SWCD to continue the purple loosestrife control project in Itasca County lakes.

ITASCA SWCD. Andy Arens became the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) District Manager and Water Plan Coordinator in 2016. Andy is responsible for office management, administration and implementation of the Itasca County Water Plan. Recently, his role was expanded as the SWCD has assumed responsibility for the Prevention and Inspection part of the County AIS program previously coordinated by IWLP.

Two new staff were hired recently by SWCD: Tim Frits – Forestry and Shoreland Technician. Tim graduated with a B.S in Natural Resource Management. His job with Itasca County SWCD is the forestry/shoreland technician. His duties include shoreland alterations, landowner cost-share programs, and forestry programs. You can contact him by email at tim.frits@itascawcd.org or call 218-328-3091. Paul Butler - Wetland Specialist. Paul graduated with a BS in Natural Resource Management. Paul will be responsible for wetland conservation decisions in Itasca County under the Wetlands Conservation Act in coordination with our state of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). You can contact him at 218-328-3091 or by email at paul.butler@itascawcd.edu.

Youth Water Summit. On May 23rd the sixth annual Youth Water Summit will be held at the Itasca County Fairgrounds. This event will be for about 400 5th graders from Grand Rapids, Bigfork, Deer River and St. Joe’s schools. This will be a daylong event with many hands-on water science activities. It is hosted by Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (IWLP) and staffed by environmentalists and volunteer teachers. Harold Goetzman and Marn Flicker will represent JLWA. The keynote speaker will be Justin Liles, meteorologist from WDIO TV in Duluth. The goal is to teach youth how important it is to maintain our clean water resources, as these young people are our future decision makers.

Quotable. –“When the well is dry, we know the worth of water” Ben Franklin, 1746

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- About 500,000 people are expected to fish on opening day of fishing on Saturday, May 13th.
- The past February was the countries second warmest in the past 123 years.
- You can learn to clean and remove the Y bones from northern pike by watching a video at www.lakewoodlodge.com with a demonstration by a local guide.
- The DNR has a zebra mussel-sniffing dog.
- This area is listed among the top in the country for Lyme’s Disease so watch for tick bites.
- 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 105 paid members. If you have not paid your 2017 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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