JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

JESSIE JABBER

VOL.23, NO. 1 SPRING 2020

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HOLLISTER MADSEN

What a year we have had, who would have predicted we would be in a pandemic situation in our lifetime. It certainly will test the resolve and determination of everyone to overcome this. It's important that we approach this situation wisely and exercise good judgment as the season opens and our summer population increases.

The COVID-19 will have an effect on our lake, as the DNR announced it has canceled the yearly walleye egg harvest activity in the state, which will result in no walleye fry stocking in our lakes this year. They have stated that missing one year will not cause long-term harm to the fish population of any waterbody. More info on this is available on the DNR website and on our JLWA website.

We have had a good winter with lots of early snow and no prolonged cold weather, which has made for a great season for all outdoor winter activities. The ground never froze completely last fall before our early snowfall, which is helping reduce the snowmelt runoff this spring and a lot of it is melting into the ground. The lake level on Jessie Lake appears to be much lower than last fall so we are hopeful there will be less shoreline erosion than we have experienced in past springs and it appears that the lake ice out will occur earlier than last year. This is something that we will be monitoring closely as the year progresses.

Peterson Lake appears to have experienced another winterkill and I have contacted David Weitzel, our DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, about the situation. He is planning to perform electrofishing this year on Peterson to determine the health of the lake and based on the results, JLWA will work with him on a plan to get the lake back on a healthy path.

We have canceled our spring roadside cleanup due to the Governor's stay at home order. Dates for all our normal JLWA summer activities are tentative and we hope things return to semi-normal so that we can still hold the events. We will keep everyone updated as soon as possible and I'll make sure to send out more info to everyone prior to each of the events. As usual, if anyone has feedback or suggestions, please drop me a note at hollistermadsen@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy lake season and hoping you get the chance to enjoy your lake this year! I look forward to seeing you this summer!

JLWA 2020 Calendar of Events

May – JLWA Roadside Cleanup has been cancelled.
6/20/20 – JLWA 1st Annual Northern Fishing Tournament – 10AM to 3PM
6/27/20 – JLWA Summer Picnic/Spring Meeting – 4PM – Rhonda Nichols home
7/4/20 – Little Jessie 4th of July Boat Parade
7/4/20 – Big Jessie 4th of July Boat Parade
9/5/20 – JLWA Fall meeting
October – JLWA Roadside Cleanup – Date to be announced

JLWA BOARD MEETING: APRIL 16, 2020

Gin Anderson; Secretary

Attendees: Hollister Madsen, Don Ojanen, Gin Anderson, Dave Anderson, Craig Johnson, Chuck Klingsporn , Will Layland and Joe Durbak

Business Items:

Membership and Finances Update: As of April16th, 86 people have submitted dues for 2020. The second dues mailing was sent out about April 9th. Numbers may be down slightly this year or about the same as last year. We will review where we are at in a couple weeks. Dave gave an update on financials. Also, in addition to dues we received an additional $735 in donations so far.

Membership Database: Gin will do a review of the database to see how many people want hard copies of everything and how many are okay with email.

2020 Events and Meetings

- **Spring roadside cleanup:** Due to COVID-19, we will not be doing the spring roadside cleanup. We will plan on doing a fall cleanup. Date of fall cleanup is still TBD. Expectation is that it will be in October. Don will coordinate.
- **Northern Fishing Contest:** Contest will be held June 20th. One boat at a time at the dock. Information on the contest will be put in the Jabber. Flyers will be put together. Instead of gift certificates, we will be doing some cash prizes this year too.
- **Spring Meeting/Summer Picnic:** Currently scheduled for June 27th assuming COVID-19 gathering requirements permit. It was recommended that we put the picnic address location on the notification, in case people are not familiar with Ronda's location.
- **Boat Parade:** Saturday, July 4th is the boat parade on both Jessie and Little Jessie Lake. Same format as prior years.
- **Fall Meeting:** Saturday, September 5th at Jesse Lake Lutheran Church, 9:00AM

Beaver Update - There was a beaver dam up by the second spawning bed that Hollister and others removed. There were beaver dams under 3 sections of the bridge on 35. Hollister, Will Layland and Mike Sommer took two of the sections out. Jerry Kaczor trapped 7 beavers and Dave submitted payment to him for trapping.

Walleye spawn harvest: DNR has cancelled the walleye spawn harvest this spring due to COVID-19. As a result there will be no fry stocking from the DNR this year.

Welcome Committee: Chuck stopped at the two new residences on the NW side a couple of times to welcome them and see if they were interested in a Welcome Packet. He left a letter for them and to date; they haven't touched base with him. Gin will email Chuck a list of the new owners she has from the search of the Itasca County Property database.

Peterson Lake Winter Kill: Joe reported that the DNR said it takes 3-5 years for a lake to recover from a winter kill. JLWA may be able to chip in some money to put some spawning stock in the lake. Once we hear back from Dave Weitzel on the DNR plans and whether or not they are okay with that.

LITTLE JESSIE FISH SURVEY REPORT

By David Weitzel, Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor

Little Jessie Lake provides a multispecies fishery in Itasca County, Minnesota. Walleye are a primary management species with a goal of maintaining catches near the upper end of the typical range for lakes with similar habitats. Northern Pike are also a primary management species, because they are well suited for the lake. Smallmouth Bass and Bluegill are secondary management species.

A standard survey was conducted in late July 2019 using 12 gill net and 12 trap net sets. The survey was conducted to evaluate Walleye stocking and determine the overall status of the fishery. This was one of nine surveys conducted to assess the fish population and Walleye stocking.

Little Jessie is managed for Walleye through biennial fingerling stocking scheduled in odd years and in the fall of 2019 was stocked with 13,246 fingerlings. It appears Walleye stocking has contributed to a catch within the expected range for lakes with similar habitats, and the 2019 catch of 6.3 fish/net was similar to the previous survey on Little Jessie. The ambitious management goal of 8.8 fish/net was not attained and likely reflects the difficulty in regularly attaining above average catches. Size structure was favorable and similar to previous surveys. Lengths ranged from 9.8 to 25.6 inches with a mean of 17.4 inches. Scale and otolith analysis identified ages of 2-4, 6, 8, and 10 years. Ages 4 and 6 comprised 73% of the sample and corresponded to stocking years. Growth was average. Walleye averaged 16.9 inches by age 5. The distribution of ages suggests a strong relationship with stocking and it looks as if good angling opportunities continue to exist.

The Northern Pike catch of 1.7 fish/net was the lowest observed for the lake, although catches have typically been at the low end of the expected range. Low density usually corresponds to favorable size structure and is desirable in healthy fisheries. In 2019, about a third of the fish caught were within the north central protected slot length (22" to 26"), but none exceeded 30 inches. Lengths ranged from 17.5 to 29.9 inches with a mean of 23.2 inches. Scale and bone analysis identified ages 3 to 7 and growth was average. Northern Pike averaged 22 inches by age 4. The lack of older fish suggests that the larger fish are being harvested faster than they can be replaced. Quality angling opportunities appear limited, but may improve after the north central regulation has had time to restructure the population. Anglers are encouraged to release fish over 26 inches to improve size quality.

A few Smallmouth Bass have been caught in most surveys, including a notable size structure as well. The five gill-net sampled fish averaged 17 inches. Anglers willing to put in time would likely be rewarded with quality size fish.

Bluegills were sampled at a rate of 3.2 fish/trap net just below the expected range and considerably lower than the previous survey (48.9 fish/net). Size structure was relatively poor and comparable to previous surveys, although a few fish over eight inches were sampled. Lengths ranged from 3.8 to 9.0 inches with a mean of 5.5 inches. Age analysis identified ages 2 to 6 years. Growth was average and slightly better than the previous survey where growth was slow. Given growth potential, moderate angling opportunities exist, but prospects for larger individuals is likely limited. Bluegills have a relatively short life span of 10 yrs and it appears most of the older/larger fish have been removed due to angling pressure.

Catches for Yellow Perch have typically been near average, except 2019, which was well below the expected range. The low density of predators suggests other factors are limiting perch numbers. Lengths ranged from 4.2 to 11.7 inches with a mean of 7.3 inches, similar to previous surveys. Fish over nine inches have occasionally been caught, which suggests a slight fishery exists.

Other species sampled included Bowfin, Hybrid Sunfish, Largemouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Rock Bass, Tullibee/Cisco, White Sucker and Yellow Bullhead. Little Jessie has the potential to produce a cyclical crappie fishery. Black Crappie was not sampled in 2019, but this may relate to the timing of the survey. Crappie are often under sampled in late summer surveys.

A detailed copy of the fish netting report for Little Jessie can be found on the DNR website.

UPDATE ON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS)

By Harold Goetzman

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR DOCK AND LIFT FOR ZEBRA MUSSELS BEFORE INSTALLING IN OUR LAKES – USE A CERTIFIED FIVESTAR LAKE SERVICE PROVIDER. 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.

MN law requires keeping docks and lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into a different body of water. There is also a new program for lake providers to help them know what to do to avoid spreading AIS while putting docks and lifts into different lakes. Make sure anyone you hire to put in a dock or lift has not been to an AIS infested lake (Sand Lake, Bowstring, North Star, Winnie) prior to a JLW lake unless the equipment has been properly cleaned and is a FiveStar Service.

For the 17 types of AIS, there are now 1380 entries (over 8% of our lakes and streams) 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 on the DNR website so you can check on a lake if you are fishing other lakes. As of April 8th the DNR has listed confirmed Zebra Mussels in 214 lakes, rivers and wetlands. Another 194 bodies of water are listed because they are closely connected to confirmed lakes. There were 35 new cases of zebra mussels in MN lakes and streams for 2019 with the majority found in Otter Tail County. New confirmed Zebra Mussels for Itasca Co. were in Pokegama, Jay Gould, Little Jay Gould, the Mississippi River from Winnie to Mississippi Lake and the Bigfork River below Dora Lake.

Upper Red Lake Zebra Mussels were found last summer so now four of our big lakes including Mille Lacs, Leech and Winnie are infested. Adult zebra mussels were found in Winnie in 2016 and now they are found everywhere in the lake. "It is amazing how they have just exploded in a couple years. They are on every smooth substrate down there," said Gerry Albert, of the DNR. The mussels filter algae out of the lake and that makes the water clarity increase. For Big Winnie, the water clarity increase has been rapid and astounding—more than doubling from the 6-7 ft before the mussels to more than 14 ft now. Each of those little mussels can filter one to four liters of water per day. What effect the mussels will have on Winnie's great walleye fishing is unknown yet, but the ecosystem has definitely changed.

The first sighting of starry stonewart in MN was in 2015 and now there are 13 lakes infested with no new lakes infested in 2019. Upper Red Lake and Winnie are already on the list for starry stonewart, which since the 2016 discovery, the starry stonewart has been spreading fast in Winnie and a big worry is the frequent travel between Winnie and nearby lakes. It can even displace Eurasian milfoil, which is really scary. No successful treatment to stop the spread has been found.

In addition, for 2019 there were 7 new lakes with Eurasian Watermilfoil, 3 new lakes with faucet snails and 2 new lakes with flowering rush added to the DNR's published AIS list.

General

One of the best preventative measures for our lakes is to recommend that our residents try to avoid going to an AIS infested lake. With the number of lakes available we can find good fishing other places. A list of AIS infested lakes is published on the DNR website.

Also, 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. So far 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.

SWCD AIS PROGRAM

The Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local agency in Grand Rapids, which provides access to conservation and resource management services. In cooperation with federal, state and local agencies, the SWCD provides technical assistance, cost-sharing and natural resource management information and education. The SWCD AIS Coordinator, Bill Grandges, manages the Itasca County AIS program. He can be contacted at 218 328 3095 if you have AIS questions.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have become a very real threat to our way of life in the northland. The Itasca County AIS Program was created to meet these threats. We all must do our part to help stop the spread of AIS. Everyone needs to take personal responsibility for not spreading AIS.

Prevention Program

By Bill Grantges, AIS Program Coordinator, SWCD

The AIS prevention program includes the watercraft inspection and decontamination at public water accesses. The past year 40 lakes with AIS and 40 highway AIS locations received control measures. During the past summer months there were 21 inspectors and many volunteers carrying out boat inspections. This activity totaled over 26,530 boat inspections (plus 144 by volunteers) and 250 decontaminations completed at 30 landings on 22 lakes. The County now has 3 decontamination units that were used during the summer by the County to travel to various landings for use during inspections. Contaminated boats are washed with heated water that will kill the zebra mussels. AIS inspectors were also present at 5 major fishing tournaments in Itasca County. The County AIS crew inspected boats at the Jessie Lake landing 16 times last summer and no infested boats or trailers were discovered. Itasca County received $649,000 in calendar year 2019 for the AIS program, which was up from funds received the previous year. However, the state funds for this coming year are about $5000 less plus the County has an increase of $30,000 for SWCD overhead costs leaving less for AIS work.

Watercraft decontamination is a free service provided by the Itasca County AIS Program. Anyone who is concerned about the potential of carrying an invasive species on or in their watercraft or any other piece of equipment like a used dock, boat lift or swim platform can request decontamination. It is now known that pontoons, docks and lifts that are purchased from people on infested waters and transported to non-infested lakes are one of the highest causes of Zebra Mussel spread. Adult Zebra Mussels attached inside the pipes or hidden areas are far more likely to get established in new waters than the veligers in residual water of boats and trailers. The main thing is allowing used docks and lifts to dry for 21 days before installing in a new body of water.

FiveStar Program Description

SWCD and the Deer Lake Association have created a "**FiveStar Lake Service Provider**" program that gives incentives to local dock and lift installation businesses. F**iveStar** is our strategy to move property owners away from illegal non-DNR-permitted dock-and-lift installers and toward AIS-savvy providers. **Itasca FiveStar** providers are DNR-certified, have signed a contract agreeing to apply additional specified AIS best practices and safeguards when moving from one lake or river to another. They are eager to earn new business. Additionally, FiveStar providers agree to allow the Itasca AIS Program to review their operations and make recommendations for improvement. A list of **FiveStar** Lake Service Providers can be found at -- http://bit.ly/FiveStarLSPs and more about what property owners can do to prevent AIS transport at – http://bit.ly/AISItasca.

If you hire a lake service provider to install/remove your dock or lift seasonally, choose an **Itasca FiveStar** lake service provider to help protect your lake. You should have received in the mail recently a postcard reminding you to use the FiveStar providers and a list of people in our area. Note that one of them is "Jessie Lake Services" (218-259-2482) who is a member of JLWA.

Control and Monitoring Program

By Chris Evans, AIS Specialist, SWCD

Our AIS Control & Monitoring Crew of 8 people performs full detailed surveys on 85 high-priority lakes and 5 major rivers in Itasca County. There were 662 miles of shoreline and 72.5 miles of river surveyed for AIS by SWCD staff. During the 2020 season, 40 of those lakes and one river will be the major focus of our AIS control efforts. Full Littoral Zone Surveys in search of all AIS were conducted on Jessie and Little Jessie in 2019 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 No AIS of any type was found. Also, Zebra Mussel Veliger Settlement Samplers (Zebra Mussel Traps or early detection samplers) will again be placed near the public accesses of Jessie and Little Jessie in May 2020. During removal in the fall they will be inspected for Zebra Mussels.

As you know, the covid-19 pandemic has created many uncertainties. Our AIS programs will still be operating this season, but we are unsure how many seasonal employees we can bring on. Although it's possible we could have our full crew of eight people, it is just as likely that I may be in the field by myself this year. We are waiting and watching the pandemic development before we make any decisions on our operating plan.

Our Control and Monitoring Program in 2020 is to continue installing Zebra Mussel Veliger Samplers on approximately 50-60 of Itasca County's highest AIS risk lakes. Some will be checked during the summer, but mostly in the fall. We will be conducting shoreline/littoral zone surveys for the early detection of all invasive plants and animals on 40 high-risk lakes and rivers in Itasca County (including Jessie, Little Jessie and Bowstring). This will include the usual intensive hands-on searches, as well as video surveillance using underwater cameras. If we can hire a full crew we will be able to do more lakes. Also, it would be good if 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.

New advancements in controlling AIS were incorporated into the program in 2019 and will be further refined in 2020. This will include the use of underwater camera surveys with definition pole cameras and a remote controlled drone to search underwater structures. We will also develop the technology for veliger/water testing by towing plankton nets in high-risk areas and analyzing the plankton samples for the detection of Zebra Mussel veliger's. We have acquired a high quality microscope and are being trained on analyzing plankton samples for the presence of veliger's. The plan is to analyze hundreds of samples at SWCD and possibly offer the service of analyzing plankton samples to lake associations and the public.

I did spend a large chunk of the winter analyzing the 2019 plankton samples. There was one potential Zebra Mussel veliger located in a lake not known to have Zebra Mussels. I am not at liberty to disclose which lake until we do a more refined search this summer and either find more veligers or adults. However, I can say that the lake in question would not be a surprise if there were Zebra Mussels found and no, it is not Jessie.

2nd ANNUAL JLWA NORTHERN FISHING CONTEST
"NOTHING BUT NORTHERNS" FISHING TOURNAMENT

(Nothing counts except Northerns)

WHEN: JUNE 20, 2020

WHERE: JESSIE LAKE

TIME: 10am – 3pm Weigh-in at Layland's dock located at the north end of Jessie Lake two docks south of Rising Eagle Resort. Tournament Host(s) will not be held liable for any death or injuries incurred. This is a casual tournament. Follow Minnesota DNR fishing regulations for slot size and limit. Rules also say no wanton waste so all game fish must be cleaned or given away and besides Northern is a delicious eating game fish.

WHO: Open to all JLWA members and their families. No entry fees! No registration! Just go fish!

PRIZES: Largest Northern by weight, Smallest Northern by weight, Heaviest stringer (10 fish limit) of Northerns, first Northern registered, last Northern registered. A digital scale that measures in ounces will be used for weighing. **All Northerns count** – even dead ones – as long as they resemble a Northern at one time. Any Northern registered qualifies for door prizes. Also, there will be prizes for kids. Judges decisions are final!

RSVP: craig.johnson11@arvig.net if you plan on attending.

JESSIE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2019

By Kim Yankowiak, SWCD

As of 2019, twenty-one consecutive years of water quality data have been collected on Jessie Lake, which provides insight as to the health trends of Jessie Lake's aquatic ecosystem. Since the data collected in 1998 had anomalies compared with the rest of the data to follow, 1998 and earlier data were left out of this chart so as not to skew the actual trend from the dataset. Only the past 20 years of contiguous data were compared for this assessment. Water quality was similar overall for the summer of 2019 compared to 2018, but with slightly higher amounts of Chlorophyll-a (algae and plant matter) and slightly lower transparency than in 2018. Comparatively, the Phosphorus level was slightly lower than 2018. In both years, however, there were higher than normal TP concentrations in the July and August samples for the hypolimnion (bottom of the water column) that likely contributed to the top level having higher phosphorus later in the summer as well as higher levels of the Chlorophyll-a. This may be attributed to longer anoxic (no oxygen) periods at the bottom, followed by wind or thermal mixing resulting in sediment release of Phosphorus. This release of bio-available Phosphorus can produce more intense algae blooms in the late summer and fall, as Jessie has shown recently.

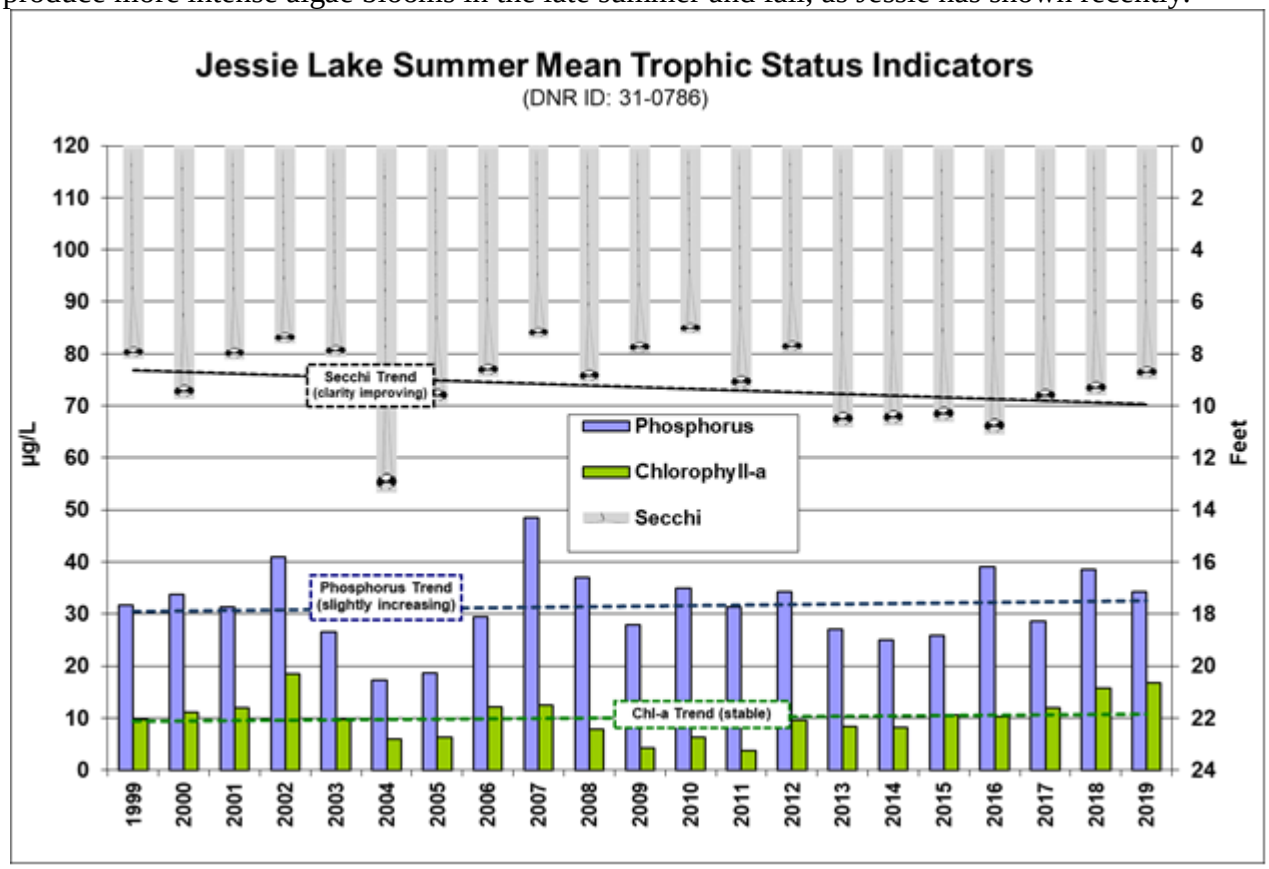

Figure 1 – Long-term (20 year) trends in Jessie Lake (excluding the anomalous data from 1998)

When looking for trends in the more recent (1999-2019) continuous data set, it is encouraging that the data shows Jessie Lake's condition is very stable with no strong negative trend in water quality. This means amidst the yearly ups and downs; the lake appears to be remaining mostly stable and even indicating some long-term improvement in clarity. Figure-1 above shows data and averages from 1999-2019, which shows the trend remaining quite stable, while the Secchi data is showing a significant trend of increasing water clarity. This year-to-year variability in water quality is often related to the changes in snowfall, rainfall and the lake water levels, though it can be indicative of a

major event such as a beaver dam failure. The 2019 data show the average Phosphorus concentration (34.2 ppb) was above the 20 year long-term average of 32 ppb, Chlorophyll-a (16.7 ppb) was also above the historical average (10.1 ppb) concentration and the Secchi disc reading average (9 ft.) was close to the average expected (9.3 ft.) for Jessie Lake.

As always, 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 annual data is reported to the MPCA, becomes part of their database for Minnesota lakes and informs watershed management planning for the Big Fork River Watershed and Itasca County, which is why it is valuable to see continued monitoring efforts for the lake.

ICE IN AND ICE OUT DATA

By Harold Goetzman and Jim Anderson

Since there was some question in my mind about the long-term ice in and ice out dates that we use for the Jabber. I asked Jim Anderson in the late fall of 2019 to look at our available data of ice-in data for 45 years and ice-out data for 80 years. We have always (since 1998) used April 25th for the ice-out date and November 23rd for the ice-in date, which we found is only the first 18 years of data starting in 1975. Jim calculated the long-term averages for several time periods to compare the averages.

Using the total data we have available, Jim calculated the ice-out average date for 80 yrs. to be April 25th. The average for 30 yrs is April 23rd and for 25 yrs is April 23rd, while the 10 yr average is April 21st. This indicates we have had some warmer spring weather in recent years.

For ice-in or freeze-up, the data we have collected for the last 45 yrs shows Nov. 26th as the long-term average for that period, while for 30 years it is Nov 27th, 25yrs Nov. 29th and 10 years is Nov 26th (this was affected by the record freeze up last year of Nov. 12th). Thus, it appears there is a change in the freeze-up date as the 25 and 30 year periods have been slightly warmer (about 1-3 days later).

It is hard to determine what the definition of long-term is, but the weather people at NOAA told me they use a 30-year period and currently they use data for 1981-2010. They plan to switch to a new 30-year term of 1991-2020 in a couple years. I am not sure why they don't update the term more often than every 10 yrs. For our Jessie Lake use, I plan to switch to using a long-term average for the last 30 years of 1990 to 2019 or April 23rd for ice-out and Nov. 27th ice-in.

SPRING CREEK CLEANING

By Hollister Madsen

Our ongoing struggle continues, as the beaver were very active this past fall. They created a dam on Jessie Lake in Spring Creek on top of one of our walleye spawning beds along CR 135 and also on Jessie Brook creek under the bridge on CR35. Several JLWA members volunteered their time in April to remove the dam on Spring Creek and also walk the creek to ensure it is clear for our walleyes to spawn. They also worked to clear out the beaver dam under the highway 35 bridge on Jessie Brook creek, both last fall and again this spring. A big thanks to Hollister Madsen, Will Layland, Mike Sommer and Adam Lambrecht for all their help.

Jerry Kaczor reported trapping 7 beavers last fall, 1 from Little Spring Lake and 6 from Spring Creek. There was no activity found in Tillys Creek, but there is still ongoing activity in both Spring Creek and Jessie Brook. Jerry will continue to focus on both those areas. If anyone has concerns about beaver activity in their area, please let me know.

Will Layland has agreed to coordinate the spring walleye counting activity on Spring Creek for the Association; anyone that is interested in participating can contact him directly at 763-438-5816 or antlers333111@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Stewardship. Whatever your outdoor activity is during the COVID-19 restrictions, always remember Dr. Seuss' advice from "The Lorax," "Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, It's Not". Thus, it is up to us to take care of our beautiful lakes, rivers and forests.

What Is A Buffer? According to the DNR a buffer, also known as a riparian filter strip, is vegetated land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland. Buffers help filter out phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment that are an important conservation practice for helping keep water clean. Studies by the MPCA show that buffers are critical for protecting and restoring water quality and aquatic habitat due to their immediate proximity to the water.

Peterson Lake Fish Kill. David Weitzel, Grand Rapids Area Fisheries Supervisor said he is aware of the Peterson Lake winter fish kill in 2018 and will try to investigate it this year. We know that partial kills on Peterson are common, but have not seen a complete kill in my time in Grand Rapids. Stocking is only useful if there is a complete kill. Otherwise the fish will come back on their own. When we do stock, it is only enough adults to kick start natural reproduction and the fish take it from there.

Snow Melt Around Trees. Have you ever noticed that the snow around trees melts faster than snow further away? Do you wonder why this happens? Recently, the Forest History Center in Grand Rapids had an answer on their website and the reason why is downright amazing. This is sap season, when huge volumes of fluid are being moved from the earth through the trunk and branches of the trees. The sap rising up from the root zone is significantly warmer than the ambient air temperature. This causes snow to melt around the trunk.

Quotable. **"**When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive – to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love." Marcus Aurelius, Roman Emperor (reigned from 161 to 180 AD).

DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- The average angler in MN spends $1500 per year on fishing.
- The ice went out April 26th on Jessie, which is 3 days later than the new 30 year average.
- Our JLWA website (www.minnesotawaters.org/Jessielakewatershed) is updated regularly by our Webmaster Hollister Madsen with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber.

MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your 2020 dues, please send your $15 to David Anderson, 19710 Hunters Ridge, Rogers, MN 55374.

CLIP AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

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

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