

# JESSIE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



# JESSIE JABBER

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## GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT PAUL CHRISTL

What a mild winter we experienced this year so we are excited to see the activity on the lakes as spring emerges around us. The JLWA is a resource as an organization of individuals who come together, committed to protecting our precious natural assets. As members of the community within our watershed, we are entrusted with the responsibility to maintain the integrity of these beautiful waters. I want to take this opportunity to thank you as a member for your contribution and commitment thus far.

As most of you know, Zebra Mussels were found on Jessie Lake as of late last year. Zebra Mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can be unintentionally introduced into lakes via boats, trailers, bilge pumps, live wells, docks, lifts, rafts, float planes and recreational vehicles. We can help by maintaining the practice of **Clean, Drain, Dry**. Inspect your boat when you launch or land. Remove weeds and mud and drain all water. When you leave a lake with AIS, dry your boat thoroughly in the sun for at least 5 days prior to launching in another lake.

We had an opportunity to meet with the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) and learn about their project to install 50 cleaning tool stations at public and private water locations across Itasca County. Pleased to announce that stations will be placed at Jessie View Resort, Rising Eagle Resort and the public landing on Jessie and Little Jessie Lakes. Multiple studies have shown the effectiveness of these stations to increase the likelihood someone will stop to clean their boat when provided with instructions and tools. Together we can prevent the spread to other lakes and prohibit other species from entering Jessie and Little Jessie as well as the other lakes. Let us be the example of responsible stewards concerning invasive species.

Additionally, we are actively looking to fill the role of the Treasurer, if interested please contact Joe or myself and we can answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

The Spring meeting and picnic will be held at Rhonda Nichols, 47030 Tillys Rd, Talmoon on July 26 @5pm. More summer events will be posted on our website <https://jessielake.mnlakesandrivers.org> soon. Active membership and your participation in meetings and planning determine the success of our efforts and attending our events are a great way to join us as a community to celebrate the beauty around us. It is important to involve all voices and transfer knowledge to others about watershed concerns.

I invite you to share your ideas, concerns and feedback with us and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and events.

### 2024 JLWA Calendar or Activities:

- **Boat Parades – Jessie Lake** - July 1st<sup>at</sup> 1 PM, Little Jessie – July 4. More details to come later.
- **Summer Picnic/Meeting** – July 26<sup>th</sup>. Additional details to be published later.
- **Fall Meeting** – August 24<sup>th</sup>. Coffee 8:30 to 9:00. Meeting from 9:00 – 10:00. Additional details to follow.
- **Fall Roadside Clean Up** – Date to be determined.

## **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. 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, Jessie, Turtle) prior to a JLW lake unless the equipment has been properly cleaned. Please hire Five Star Service providers to keep AIS out.

There are 16 types of AIS and they are now found in over 8% of our Minnesota 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 Jan. 25th, this year, the DNR has listed confirmed Zebra Mussels in over 250 lakes, rivers and wetlands. Another 200 bodies of water are listed because they are closely connected to confirmed lakes. In Itasca County there were 2 new confirmed lakes (Jessie, Turtle) with Zebra Mussels. There are 9 types of AIS found in Itasca County on 85 lakes with 34 of those having Zebra Mussels.

Zebra Mussels are now found in four of our big lakes including Red Lake, Mille Lacs, Leech and Winnie. Adult zebra mussels were found in Winnie in 2016 and now they are found everywhere in the lake. 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. 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, but the ecosystem has definitely changed.

The first sighting of Starry Stonewort in MN was in 2015 and now there are 28 lakes infested. One new lake (Dora) was infested in 2023 in Itasca Co. Upper Red Lake and Winnie are already on the list for starry stonewort, which since the 2016 discovery in Winnie, the starry stonewort has been spreading fast and a big worry is the frequent travel between Winnie and nearby lakes. No successful treatment to stop the spread has been found. For 2023 there were no new lakes with Eurasian Watermilfoil, faucet snails or flowering rush in Itasca Co. No new Eurasian Watermilfoil or faucet snails since 2016.

### **General**

One thing to remember if you take your boat from Jessie to another lake is that you should clean and wash your boat so you don't transport zebra mussels to that lake.

### **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 Grantges, manages the Itasca County AIS program of about \$637,580. He can be contacted at 218 328 3095 if you have AIS questions. A report by Bill on AIS activities for 2023 can be found on the SWCD website.

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 2024 season will be a busy one, much like in past years. We will try to hire 30-32 inspectors this year and will station inspectors at Jessie this season. I do not know how many hours yet.

One new project I have in the works for this year is to install AIS tool cleaning stations at every access point, public and private, on Winnie by the end of the season. I am also going to offer these tool stations for sale to lake associations to purchase for their public water access sites and even for resorts. Jessie Lake will have one at the public access and at each of the resorts with boat landings. Also, one will be installed at the Little Jessie access.

The AIS prevention program includes the watercraft inspection and decontamination at public water accesses. During the 2024 summer months there will be 32 boat inspectors and many volunteers (113 in 2022) carrying out boat inspections. This activity in 2023 totaled over 37,000 boat inspections (116 on Jessie) and 422 decontaminations completed at 34 landings on 18 lakes. About 1.0% of the boats inspected had drain plug violations (plugs not removed). The County (SWCD) now has 6 decontamination units (5 mobile and 1 stationary) that will be 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. Also, there are decontamination units located at Deer Lake and Wabana landings that have been purchased by their Lake Associations. AIS inspectors were also present at major fishing tournaments in Itasca County. 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 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 is one of the highest causes of Zebra Mussel spread.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- **Clean** watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Never release** bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- **Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days** before moving them from one water body to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

- **Decontaminate** watercraft and equipment – find free stations on the [courtesy decontamination webpage of the DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/decon) (mndnr.gov/decon).
- **Spray** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water or **rinse** with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another water body.

People should [contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist](https://mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html) (mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html) if they think they have found Zebra mussels or any other invasive species that was not already known to be in the water body.

## **Control and Monitoring Program**

**By Chris Evans, AIS Specialist, SWCD**

The Itasca SWCD will, again in 2024, have a four-person AIS Control & Monitoring crew that will be focusing on invasive species early detection surveys and rapid response management projects on over 75 lakes and rivers in Itasca County. This crew will be continuing to implement biological, mechanical, and chemical (herbicide) control measures for Purple Loosestrife, Flowering Rush, and Curly Leaf Pondweed on approximately 61 waterbodies where management projects are already established. This

year, our program will be incorporating the ability to SCUBA dive into our survey process which will increase the efficiency and accuracy of our results and we will be developing many new techniques.

Jessie Lake was one of three waterbodies found in Itasca Co. to have a newly established Zebra Mussel population in the fall of 2023 along with Turtle Lake in Marcell, MN and Trout Lake in Coleraine, MN. The invasive species survey methods for Jessie Lake will change a bit going forward. Now that Zebra Mussels are established, the focus will be on monitoring how the population develops throughout the lake. As a somewhat eutrophic lake, we can expect to see the water clarity increase substantially as time goes on, potentially followed by increased plant and algae growth. Our surveys will still be focused on the early detection of other invasive species like Starry Stonewort, Eurasian Watermilfoil, and Flowering Rush.

Little Jessie Lake – Our crew found two Zebra Mussels in Little Jessie in the 2021 season. We made visits to Little Jessie again in 2022 and 2023 to try and locate a breeding population of the invasive mussels and there were none found. We will continue to survey Little Jessie in 2024 and future seasons, but at this time it appears good that they have not spread to other areas of the lake.

As time allows, many of the higher profile / high risk lakes in the area will be surveyed twice during the season. For any specific information on the 2024 Operating Plan for the AIS Control & Monitoring Crew, please contact Chris Evans at [chris.evans@itascaswcd.org](mailto:chris.evans@itascaswcd.org) or (218)328-4701.

## WHAT YOU AND YOUR GUESTS CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES

**By Bill Grantges, Itasca AIS Program Manager**

Several local lakes (Jessie) and rivers now include zebra mussels, starry stonewort, or other aquatic invasives (AIS). **We all have a prevention role** ... property owners, guests, recreational boaters, anglers, visitors, and the businesses that serve us, including resorts, camps, campgrounds, lake service providers, bait shops, and marine dealers. **You and your invited or paying guests can help!**

AIS are not moved by waterfowl or other wildlife. *They're moved by us.* We move AIS from one lake or river to another, via boats, trailers, bilge, live well, bait water, fishing and other water gear, docks, lifts, swim rafts, float planes, and recreational gear.

To stop the spread of AIS, ALWAYS do the following:

1. **Know which lakes and rivers are already infested.** If you have a choice, use waters that are not already infested. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>
2. **Do you hire a lake service provider (LSP) to install/remove your dock/lift?** **NEVER** use an LSP that is not certified by the DNR. It's the law that anyone doing business in the waters of MN must be certified as an LSP by the MN DNR. This simple certification class teaches the LSP how not to spread AIS and what laws they must follow. Always ask your LSP if they are DNR certified for LSP work.
3. **Always ask your lake service provider what the last lake was they were in** and what they did to decontaminate all their equipment before coming to your lake. If they can't answer both questions, find a new LSP.
5. **Practice Clean, Drain, Dispose, and Dry** before leaving any water access or shoreland. Watercraft, trailers, and similar gear coming from infested waters need careful inspection and may require hot-water decontamination to keep lakes and rivers safe. Thermal decontaminations are provided free by the Itasca AIS Program. Call them at [218-256-4243](tel:218-256-4243)
6. **Do you rent a trailer** to launch or land your pontoon or other watercraft in spring and fall? Learn where the trailer was before you. Make sure it has been decontaminated prior to using it.

# LAKESHORE ICE RIDGES

By Harold Goetzman

I noticed after ice-out that our shoreline has some pretty good ice ridges as do other properties on Jessie Lake and many other northern lakes. This year the lack of snow and above average temperatures are to blame. The lake ice pushes material from lake beds and the shore up onto the shoreline. These ice ridges or ice heaves in the existing shore are common in years where there is little snow cover on the lake ice as in the past year of 2023-2024. Cracks form in the ice with water rising to fill the gaps expanding the ice sheet as it freezes. As temperatures warm, the sheet expands further, exerting what the DNR describes as “a tremendous thrust against the lake shore” moving soil in the process. County rules allow for “an annual ice ridge” to be regraded back to their original elevation without a permit if the earth is graded back away from the lake. That is if the resulting ridge is moved in the calendar year of formation. Removal of a historic ice ridge requires a permit.

## JESSIE LAKE WATER QUALITY 2023

By Matt Gutzmann, Water Resource Specialist, Itasca SWCD

In 2023, Jessie Lake completed its 26th straight year of volunteer water quality monitoring! The amount of awareness and vigilance that the members of the Jessie Lake Watershed Association have continues to remain one of the highest in the state.

Looking at the water quality data, there are three main things that we look at to get an idea of the water quality of a lake: phosphorus (the food for algae), chlorophyll-a (algae), and Secchi disc readings (water clarity). Basically, algae use phosphorus as food to grow and the more algae usually means less water clarity. It’s all related to each other and 2023 had some of the lowest phosphorus and chlorophyll-a values in years with lower Secchi readings (water clarity).

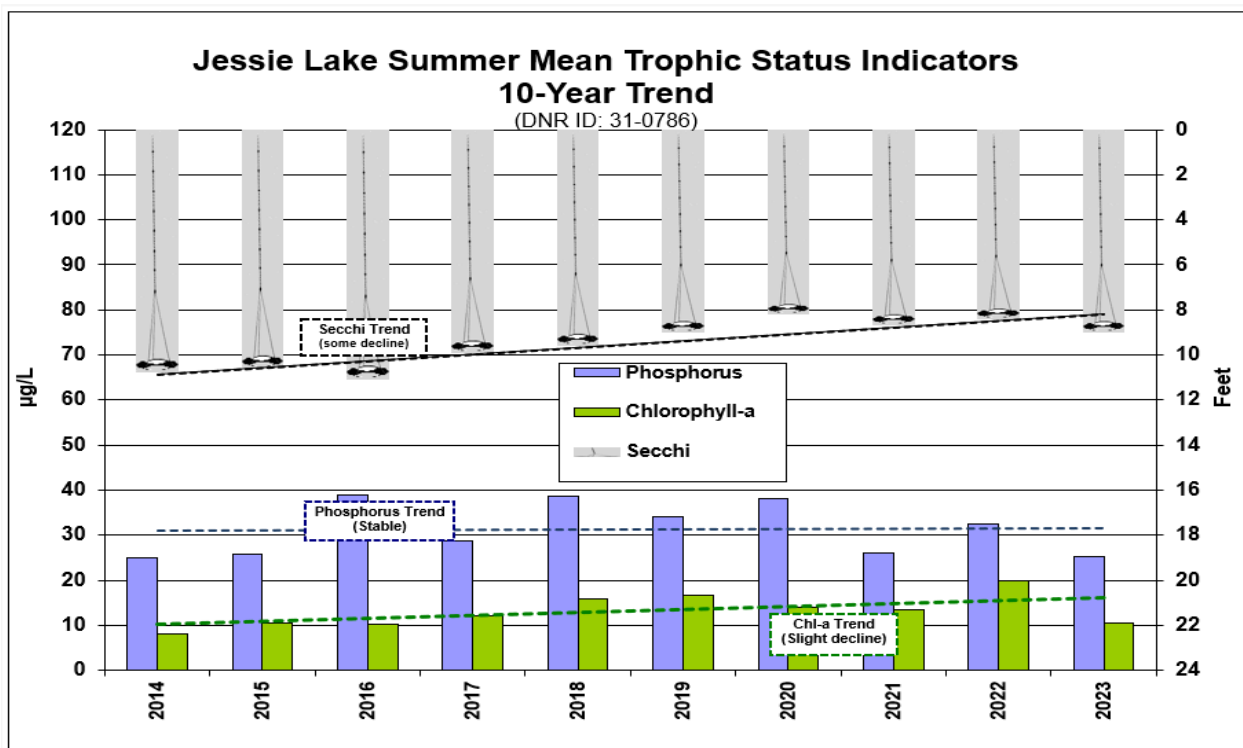
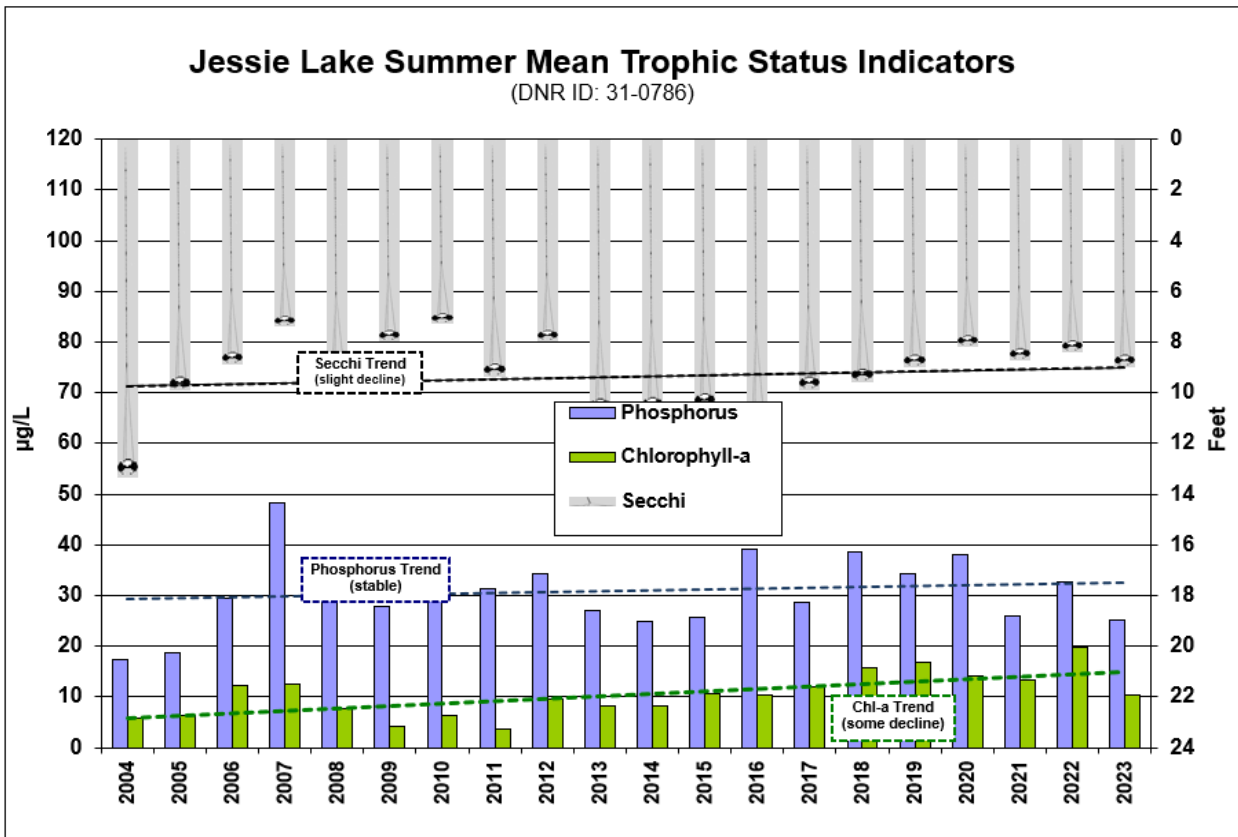


Figure 1-10-year trends in Jessie Lake 2002-2023



**Figure 2 - 20-year trends in Jessie Lake 2022-2023**

One of the benefits of keeping such a robust water quality history is the ability to look at trends over a relatively long period of time. Since monitoring began 26 years ago, the trend for all three indicators has been quite stable. However, in Figure 1 and Figure 2 above looking at the last 10 and 20-years of data it shows fairly stable phosphorus numbers with a slight increase of about 10%. The graphs show some increase in chlorophyll-a values and lower water clarity values a causing a steeper trend in the last 10-years. This makes sense since more green algae in the lake will lower the water clarity.

In this region of Minnesota, the amount of phosphorus in the lake is a large part of what determines its quality and water runoff from the yard is a common way for phosphorus to enter the lake. It is estimated that one pound of phosphorus can grow 500lbs of algae, which eventually can make the water look like pea soup and reducing clarity. In addition to growing a vegetation buffer as mentioned above, there are other things people can do to reduce the amount of phosphorus getting into the lake. Make sure there is no bare soil around your yard, clean up waste from your dog, shovel out the cooled ash that contains phosphorus from the fire pit, add a rain barrel to your gutter to catch some of the rainwater coming off the roof and use it to water plants later. Also, avoid using fertilizer containing phosphorus, nitrogen and potassium on your lawn. We might not be able to control all the sources of phosphorus, but with a little bit of effort people can make a positive impact on water quality.

If you are interested in a project on your property that might reduce erosion or improve water quality, our SWCD office might be able to help pay for part of your project. Call our office for more information at **218-326-5573**. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about water quality.

## TICK FACTS

Taken from the Duluth Tribue Article, April 20 2024

The following facts were taken from a two-page article in the Duluth paper so if you want to read the entire article go to “No-Snow Winter causes Year-Around Tick Season”. While ticks normally are reduced in the winter season, that didn’t happen this year. Thus, it is expected that this will be a bad year for ticks so be sure to watch for them.

- 1) Tick peak activity is getting earlier as they are out as soon as the snow melts.
- 2) The common name deer ticks are now called blacklegged ticks.
- 3) MN and WI are considered hotspots for Lyme disease.
- 4) Deer ticks that carry diseases like Lymes are smaller than wood ticks.
- 5) About half of the deer ticks are now carrying Lyme disease. If we include all the other pathogens, we know about they have found at least one of those in 87 percent of the ticks studied. Many doctors now say that any bite from a deer tick should be treated usually with antibiotics.
- 6) Small mammals such as mice and birds are the main carries of disease, not deer.
- 7) Deer ticks require a blood meal at each stage of their life – larval, nymph and adult.
- 8) Other tick-borne diseases such as Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Powassan encephalitis can all have severe long-term symptoms.
- 9) After a known tick bite, watch for symptoms for a month including a red spot often shaped like a bullseye target or rash near the site, neck stiffness, muscle ache or joint pain.
- 10) Tick prevention is best with Deet concentrations up to 30 % can be applied to the skin and Permethrin that can be applied to clothing. Long pants and long-sleeved shirts are recommended. Check your clothes and skin after coming indoors.
- 11) Remove buried ticks as soon as possible by grasping close to the skin with tweezers or tissue. Pull the tick slowly to avoid breaking off mouth parts. Clean the wound with germicide such as iodine. Save the tick in a small container or plastic bag to be identified later.
- 12) Experts say ticks are more numerous in open areas such as fields and yards and less numerous in deep woods.

## HOTEST WINTER ON RECORD

By Harold Goetzman

Warm weather in early spring is shrinking ice and causing an early maple syrup season. The USA has just experienced the hottest ever winter with record breaking temperatures. MN, Wisconsin and Iowa all set new record heat levels for the winter season (end of Feb.) Overall, the winter was 5.4 F hotter than the long-term average and 0.8 F hotter than the previous record. Data shows the coldest regions are generally warming at the fastest rates. In general, we are trending towards warmer winters. February was also the hottest ever recorded globally. We should expect to continue breaking heat records for years to come. The ice on Lake Superior was near record lows and ice cover on the Great Lakes was at a 50-year low. This hotter weather will also cause more wildfires and tornadoes.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**Plastics Contain Thousands of Chemicals** –These chemicals are potentially hazardous to human health. They may also leech into the environment or food and the vast majority are not currently registered according to a new report. The data base was funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The report released just weeks ago expands the known number of chemicals in plastics from 13,000 to

16,000. Despite about 6 % of these being subject to global regulations, more than a quarter are thought to be toxic according to the researchers.

**Birds are Beacons of Hope** – Cornell Lab of Ornithology believes in the power of birds. Birds are a vibrant part of our world. Their colors, songs and behaviors bring us joy, peace and wonder. They connect us to the cycles of nature and they remind us of the awe-inspiring variety of life on Earth. You can gain solace from them and a deep, clean breath of hope.

**Blue Jays** -- It turns out Blue Jays aren't actually blue. Not in pigment anyway. It's all light fracturing and scattering — the same science that makes the sky or the ocean blue. It's actually incredibly rare to find the pigment blue in nature. In fact, fewer than 1 in 10 plants produce blue flowers.

**Youth Water Summit** -- The popular Youth Water Summit for Itasca County fifth grade students will take place at the County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids on May 21st for kids from Bigfork, Deer River, Coleraine and Grand Rapids. Over 400 students will attend. Volunteers are needed that day for various tasks such as helping to direct the groups of ten to the various educational exhibits. For more information, or to help out, contact the sponsor Itasca Waters at [info@itascawaters.org](mailto:info@itascawaters.org).

**Quotable**. “It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” Henry David Thoreau

### DID YOU KNOW?

By Harold Goetzman

- Ten bird species were officially declared extinct last year.
- Last year about 48% of the nation’s honey bee colonies collapsed. This is one of the largest losses ever recorded. Most of this die off is due to insecticides. Also, they need habitat so plant pollinators.
- Barotrauma is the physical damage done to fish caused by expanding gases when fish are caught in deep water and reeled up quickly usually killing the fish.
- Earth’s 9 warmest years have occurred during the past 9 years.
- The ice went out on Jessie Lake on April 6<sup>th</sup>, which is 17 days earlier than the average of April 23. Last year the ice went out May 6<sup>th</sup>, about 7 days before fishing opener and 13 days later than average.
- Our JLWA website (<http://jessielake.mnlakesanddrivers.org/>) is updated regularly by our Webmaster Paul Christl with meeting notices and the latest issue of the Jabber. Please note that this is a **new** website.

### MEMBERSHIP

If you have not paid your 2023 dues, please send your \$15 to Harold Goetzman at 1010 Pine Ridge Circle, Grand Rapids MN 55744.

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## **DUES REMINDER**

Since the dues collection has slowed, this is a gentle reminder to find the notice you received (or just send the dues and your address) and return it to Harold Goetzman, 1010 Pine Ridge Circle, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Also, add your email if you want to receive the Jabber by email. The \$15 dues are needed to operate your Association, but more important being a paid member shows us that you support the efforts of the Association. I would like to see the Association grow back to +100 and be a healthy organization. A community of lake people can be fun to be with as you meet a lot of nice folks. Thanks.

## **NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED TO REPLACE HAROLD GOETZMAN**

Since the beginning of the Association 27 years ago, I have been writing and editing the Jessie Jabber twice a year. Now I am in my 80s and find there is a need to pass on this duty to someone else or we will no longer have a Jabber after this Fall. Thus, I am looking for someone else to assume this duty and become the editor. I hope one of you or even two people together will volunteer to take over this fall. I can work with you on the Fall issue, which I usually send out early December. Some people say they could never write it like I do, but that is OK as you can do whatever fits you. I have a technical background and most people will not, but you can get information to use from a lot of places. Many of the Associations put their newsletters on the ICOLA website and you can look to see the variety of formats they use. Also, they don't mind sharing information. Some members say I put too much technical info in the Jabber so maybe a new format with pictures would be welcome.

If you have an interest in writing the newsletter please contact me at [hgoetzman@yahoo.com](mailto:hgoetzman@yahoo.com) or call my cell 218-256-3603. Thanks