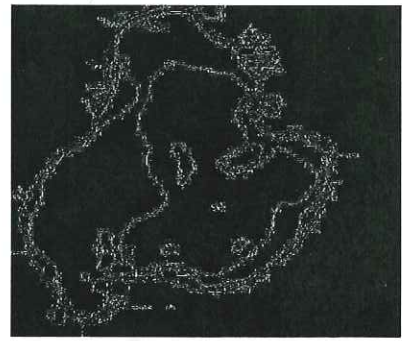


What's Happening!!

Lake Jennie Improvement Association August 2009 Newsletter
Visit our website at www.lakejennie.com



Quarter In Review

Lake levels were down nearly 11 inches. Lake Jennie seemed to have an "umbrella" over it until August 7 & 8th when we received a 5 inch drenching.

Two changes of ownership. Lake Jennie Improvement Association (LJIA) welcomes David & Donna Stresemann who purchased the Albrecht's cabin on the SE side. Steve and Renee Pawlyshn (who already owned property on the north side) purchased the Shulte's house north of Eagle Point.

Memberships have increased considerably from 41 families in 2008 to 55 families in 2009. The annual picnic/fish fry nearly doubled in size from last year. The board would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

Summer of 2009 has seen some of the best water quality (lack of algae blooms) even with high winds and favorable boating conditions. Unexplainably, the curly leaf didn't explode this summer nearly as bad as other years past. Continued good fishing for walleye and northern pike along with lack of weeds has made the lake one of the busiest in many years.



July 4th parade contest winners Karen Kirby and her family - most patriotic boat

Thank you to Jack Gersdorf, who retired from the LJIA board as President at the annual meeting. Jack's contributions to the Lake Association and Marion's cookies at the board meetings will be sorely missed.

Treasury Report

As of the August 1 board meeting the LJIA balance is \$4,612.45. The main expense came from the annual meeting (\$180) and the July 4th parade prizes (\$200).

Summer Accomplishments



The Lake Jennie Improvement Association's annual meeting attracted nearly 50 people. Old friends had a chance to catch up, some met new neighbors, and some shared whopper fish stories. Rob Collett, DNR Waters, gave a presentation on lake shore stewardship and lake changes over time. Water quality is heavily dependent on what happens in the watershed. The watershed (the total land that drains into Jennie) is approximately 11,000 acres. While the lakes water quality is dependent on the whole lakes watershed, it all starts on our shores- the most efficient contributing portion of the watershed. How we manage our properties has the greatest effect on the health of our lake. Rob mentioned some of the following key points: lawn maintenance, pet waste disposal, fire pit locations, ice heaves and septic systems. Both Rob and the board members have brochures on these topics for a more detailed description. The DNR web site also has many resources at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/index.html>

Summer Accomplishments (continued)

- There were spectacular fireworks displays from all sides of the lake.
- Despite numerous setbacks, the 2009 Lake Jennie directory has finally gone to press and is being distributed with this newsletter. Use it and please support the advertisers within it.
- "Thank you!" goes to Jim and Karen Meyer who gave a \$75 donation to LJIA. The board decided to use this money to pay for more "lake clean-ups". We will be removing trash regularly from the road ditches and public accesses. The south access has seen a great increase in use this summer with more trash being deposited from this increase.
- The aluminum can recycling trailer at the south access is doing very well. With your can donations, the association has profited nearly \$200 in 3 months.



- Mark Latt's family won the best decorated dock for the fourth of July contest.

Blowing in the Wind

The fishing pier was moved to the inlet by the south access. A few lakeshore owners were concerned that "too many" fish could be caught at the new location. After talking with the DNR, the board supports its new locations because of the popularity of its use, how catch & release is increasing and they are not just "our fish" but everyone can enjoy the renewable resource.

A new handicap accessible "porta-potty" will be installed at the south access near the pier in 2010. The LJIA board will be erecting a pad and fence this fall in preparation of the project.

The topic of better panfish (sunnies, crappies) fishing was discussed. The board is going to have a representative from the DNR come to the Oct or Nov meeting to tell us whether slot limits, limit reductions, etc. might improve Lake Jennie's pan fishing to the way it was 10-30 years ago.

At the August board meeting there was a discussion about reinstating the light at the south public access. The lake has seen a lot of increased use this summer. It was felt if a light would better illuminate the boat landing it would lessen the possibility of spreading an exotic weed such as Eurasian milfoil. This would be well worth the cost to all property owners. More information will be gathered for a decision this fall.

Catch and Release Family Fish Diaries will be picked up with this newsletter or could be dropped off at the Nass' on the east side by Sept. 10. Thanks to all who made an entry in the diary. The winners will be posted at the south landing bulletin board, our website, and the next newsletter.



Steve Pawlyshn's family won the best decorated boat.

"Don't knock the weather; nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation if it didn't change once in a while." - Kin Hubbard

The Meeker County Association of Lakes meeting was held in Litchfield in July. Randy Nass represented LJIA and reported a favorable outlook for water quality and lack of weed growth (curly leaf pond weed) compared to years past. Most associations present reported this was the worst year ever for curly leaf on their lakes and blamed it on low water levels. Our thoughts were the lack of weeds was due to the heavier ice and snowfall this past winter allowing less to penetrate to the lakebottom. We've all seen the curlyleaf growing taller as the ice fishing season progresses. A discussion of grants and grant requirements were discussed. The Southwest MN Initiative will be giving lakes in the area a grant to develop a lake management plan to determine our short and long range problems and goals. More information is needed about Jennie's property owners before applying for the grants. Enclosed you'll find a short survey. PLEASE take a couple minutes and fill it out. Either drop it off or mail it to Randy Nass 17224 720th Ave. Dassel MN 55325 A good response may really help us secure grants to improve the water quality.



Recent low water levels have encouraged bulrush and other native vegetation around the lake. This vegetation absorbs nutrients headed for the lake, provides habitat for panfish and northern pike spawning, and limits ice heaves and wave erosion. Let it grow for the sake of our lakes health!

Give us your input

We have been thinking about pursuing the costs of a natural gas pipeline around the lake (already nearby).

A recycling company (bottle, cans, glass, etc.) has started service on some area lakes. Is there an interest for Lake Jennie?

We are looking at possibly having a lake vegetation study. This might help answer the question of why some lakes are having a bad year with weeds and Lake Jennie is not.

Much like the Meeker Coop Light & Power Assn newsletter, we would like to include an ad section for this newsletter. What better way to meet your neighbor than by selling a canoe you no longer use or by buying a boat lift from them? Call any board member with your treasures to sell, or an item you may want to buy.

Wildlife Sightings

The DNR has taken several calls of mountain lion sighting near the lake in June. No verifying tracks or photos have been found.



A pair of swans were resting on the lake in May and June and were not camera shy.



Hundreds if not thousands of Monarch Butterflies are starting to stage on the east side in preparation of their fall migration



Election of Officers

At the August board meeting, new officers were elected. With Jack Gersdorf stepping down as president, Randy Nass was elected the new president. Scott Lahr was elected new vice president and Mike Kotila and Tom Gallett will continue their roles as secretary and treasurer, respectively. A search is on-going for one or two more board members from either the north or Eagle Point areas of the lake. The board would like to make an appeal for someone willing to meet the challenges in making Lake Jennie a top tier lake in the area. The groundwork is now being laid and we need participation to make lasting results.

Dry Hydrant

A dry hydrant grant has been approved and installation permits are being finished with a hopeful installation date of Sept/Oct on the north public access. The hydrant will allow fire departments to refill tankers quickly from the lake.

Lake Jennie Improvement Association
17224 720th Ave
Dassel, MN 55325

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Grant Opportunities:

Clean Water Partnership Funding

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is accepting proposals for Clean Water Partnership (CWP) grant and loan funding as of July 20, 2009. Proposals will be accepted from local governmental units interested in leading a nonpoint source pollution control project to protect or improve water bodies. Priority for funding will be given to projects preventing degradation of unimpaired waters. For a project to be considered a protection/prevention project, proposers will need to document that the water body(ies) being addressed is currently meeting state water quality standards for a particular pollutant of concern, or has not been assessed but is known to be support beneficial uses.

MPCA anticipates allocating more than \$2 million for grants and about \$2 million for loans this year. Eligible applicants for CWP grants and loans include watershed districts, tribal authorities, cities and counties, and watershed management organizations.

MPCA will accept two types of proposals:

1. Resource investigation/diagnostic study projects monitor, assess and develop a diagnostic study on the status of a water body(ies), and also develop an implementation plan to address the needs of the water body(ies). Resource investigation projects are only eligible for grant funding.
2. Implementation projects will implement activities identified by a comprehensive assessment and planning process in the watershed or around the water body of concern. Such assessment must consist of an MPCA-approved CWP Phase I, or equivalent diagnostic study and implementation plan. Implementation projects are eligible for both grant and/or loan funding.

There is a \$250,000 limit on each grant funding request. There is no limit for a loan request. The due date for proposals is 4:30 p.m. CDT September 18, 2009. Proposals must be sent electronically to the CWP Proposal Mailbox: CWP-319.grant.program@pca.state.mn.us. CWP Grants will be administrated via standard three-year grant agreements. Proposers who are awarded funds will be able to begin project work as early as the beginning of 2010. For more information, send an email to CWP-319.grant.program@pca.state.mn.us or call Pete Fastner at 651-757-2349.

Lake Jennie Improvement Association 2009 Members Survey

Do you consider your "lake place" seasonal or year round?

Seasonal cabins: Why do you come to Lake Jennie?

Year round residents: What made you first choose Lake Jennie?

What do you like best about being on Lake Jennie?

What would you suggest or do to improve the lake?

What do you like least about Lake Jennie?

What would you change, if you could, on or around the lake?

What year round recreational activities do you make use of on the lake?

Rate the following in order of importance in maintaining the environment of the lake?

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Invasive species control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoreline management | <input type="checkbox"/> Big Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abundant Fish | <input type="checkbox"/> Education (LJIA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing property values | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor relationship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> weed control | |

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