



Spring Newsletter - 2015

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A Message from LJIA President:

I've got several exciting things to report. There's been a lot of activity by LJIA members the last several months on initiatives that are important to Lake Jennie and to you. You'll find articles with additional information on these topics within this newsletter - but I want to call out a few of them specifically and give thanks to the volunteers within our membership that have dedicated the time and effort necessary to make these things happen.

- *Curly Leaf Pondweed Control* - Last winter we had relatively low water levels and light snow cover so we expect the curly leaf crop to be healthy. With that, we expect that curly leaf pondweed will be a serious nuisance this season. To help combat the problem, we were able to secure grant dollars to cover the majority of the cost to exterminate 15 acres of curly leaf pondweed in the south bay where boat traffic to and from the public access is greatest.

- The LJIA website, www.lakejennie.com, has been reconstructed. Check it out! The new site will be easier for us to maintain and update. I hope you find it useful too. New features include the ability to buy "Jennie Gear" or pay your membership dues online.

- Check out the "LJIA Project Wish List" in this newsletter and on the web site. It identifies a range of lake improvement initiatives that we would like to move forward with if we had the resources (both time and funds). When you look at the list - you'll agree that there's a lot of work to be done. We now have several "building blocks" in place that will help us be successful. For instance, as reported in the last issue of this newsletter - our Lake Management Plan is done, we have a Lake Weed Inventory done, and we are a Non-profit 501.c.3 organization. All of these put LJIA in a better position to generate funds to deliver meaningful projects that help us achieve our goals to maintain and improve Lake Jennie as a scenic and recreational resource for the general public and for our members.

- To achieve more of our "Wish List" the Board of Directors approved an increase in annual membership dues to \$50.00. Please understand that this increase is directly related to need to deliver meaningful lake improvement projects.

If you'd like to get more involved with projects - please let me, or any other board member know. We can use the help! Thanks for your continued support and membership! See you on the lake!

/Mike Kotila

President - LJIA

South Bay Curly Leaf Treatment Project

It was determined following the lake weed survey last year that the curly leaf life cycle is one of the major contributors to the algae outbreaks during the summer. In addition, the south bay weed problem affects navigability, as well as lake and landing use for lakeshore owners and the greater community. The landing area gets choked off with weed and detritus during peak use times of the summer. This area was selected as a priority area by the board. The priorities were determined based on feedback from Association membership and through the lake weed study consult.



Earlier this year, the LJIA board approved funding a small treatment area in the south bay this year in order to affect the amount of fallen curly leaf that contributes to algae, the navigability of the waters, and the use of the landing. So on May 1st of this year, an area of 15 acres in the south bay was treated for curly leaf pond weed. This was the result of the board’s ability to obtain a grant from the SouthWest Initiative, and another from the DNR, as well as a aboard approved expenditure from the Lake Jennie Improvement Fund.

The area was treated with Aquathol Super K, a chemical treatment that is safe for fish and other habitat. Midwest Aquacare performed the application. They were able to provide this service at a lower cost than LJIA could have done by ourselves. Please note the treatment area in the diagram below, and see the Midwest Aquacare ad in this newsletter if you are interested in treatment for your own lakeshore area.

South Bay Curly Leaf Treatment Budget

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Southwest Initiative | \$ 1,400 |
| SWI via Lake Plan completion | \$ 800 |
| DNR | \$ 1,500 |
| Lake Jennie Association Fund | <u>\$ 1,760</u> |
| Final COST for treatment 5/1/15 | \$ 5,460 |

The DNR will consider permits for up to 15% of the littoral area of a lake for treatment. This would have allowed us to do a maximum of about 150 acres at Lake Jennie. The DNR grant covered \$100 per and the rest was derived from a “match” by the association. We completed our lake plan and received \$800, and the Southwest Initiative provided an additional \$1400. The lake association was left with the remaining amount. This remaining amount was pulled from the general association funds and through the generous donations of a group of members who made larger contributions in excess of their annual “dues” last year—**THANK YOU!**

Lake Jennie - Meeker Co.
DOW 47001500
2015 CLP Treatment



Ice Clean-up, Spring Ditch Clean-up

Volunteers were at it again this year with the spring ice and ditch clean up. In March, Mike Kotila, Randy Nass, Paul Nass, Isaac Nass and faithful dog Jenny, canvassed the lake to remove trash and debris left on the ice by fishermen. Two full trash bags of garbage were gathered. While its understandable that some trash left behind is accidental, much of it appears to be from carelessness. Please help us spread the word among fishermen on Lake Jennie and elsewhere that keeping our lakes clean is everyone's responsibility.

Thank you!

Septic Issues around Lake Jennie contributing to poor lake quality

Last year, the board approved a vegetation study to help us to determine the problem areas in and around the lake, and to complete the current edition of our Lake Management Plan for Meeker County. There were some interesting results, and they have been provided in earlier newsletters, indicating the curly pond leaf infestation. In addition to this invasive weed contributing to the phosphorous in the lake, Wenck and Associates noted that other sources of “internal load” are likely the largest contributors to the summer algae blooms. Internal load is described as problems inside the lake area proper—mainly, failing septic systems and other phosphorous producing elements entering the lake from problems in shoreline management.

Maintaining your septic system for better water Qquality

The Lake Jennie Improvement Board wants to bring some attention to septic systems for lake shore owners. We need help from all shoreline property owners to make sure all septic systems are functioning correctly to prevent lake pollution and help improve water quality. Lake Jennie has been identified as an impaired lake with high phosphorus levels.

Nutrients (especially phosphorus) from leaky septic systems play a major role in causing excessive weed and algae growth in lakes. Just a small amount of additional phosphorus in a lake can make a large difference in aquatic weed and algae growth. Excessive weed and algae growth affects the ability of fish to survive and makes boating, fishing, and swimming less enjoyable.

Here are some activities that can help prevent problems associated with having a septic system on shoreline property:

- Regularly pump and maintain your septic system.
- Conserve water in your home.
- Redirect surface water flow away from your absorption field.
- Plant a greenbelt between your absorption field and the shoreline.
- Have your septic system inspected regularly.
- Replace your septic system.

Effectively maintaining your septic system will help preserve and improve the quality of the lake and protect the health of your family.

Upcoming Dates:



Annual Meeting – June 20 at noon at Randy Nass’s home; all members and potential members are welcome! There will be some great food and information on association activities.



Fourth of July Boat Parade and contest -- July 4. Parade begins at 2:00 pm starting in the south bay

Prizes for the 1) most patriotic boat, 2) the most creative boat and 3) the best decorated dock
Come join in the fun at Lake Jennie for Independence Day!

Lake Jennie Gear

The new Jennie gear is available! Samples will be for sale and for order at the annual meeting, but you can now order your Lake Jennie Gear on the website!

Check out our new selection of Jennie Gear! A portion of your order goes to improvement projects around Lake Jennie. Show your support and pride by wearing or displaying items from the Jennie Gear collection!



lakejennie.com

Lake Jennie Improvement Project List

The “Wish List”

In January of this year, the board had a retreat to determine the priorities and “wish list”, This list was created with input from the general membership At the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Internal Water Quality and Weed Management Projects

- Lake Weed Management – Chemical treatment (herbicides) to reduce weed infestation and improve navigability. Treatment will target areas where navigability is most needed such as the south bay and public access area. Parts of the west shoreline, north shoreline and others would also be targeted to provide improved boat access to and from homes and cabins commonly enveloped by lake weeds.
- Water Quality Improvements - Phosphorous reduction for algae control and weed reduction. Apply chemicals such as Allum, Copper Sulfate or other treatments to be determined.
- Carp Management Project – Carp stir up bottom sediments contributing to turbidity and increased nutrients in the water column leading to algae blooms. Construct a carp trap.
- Sewer Inspection and Education Program – LJIA would educate home and cabin owners on the importance of properly operating sewer systems, provide a reimbursement program for sewer inspections, and facilitate access to grant dollars for sewer system improvements and/or low interest loans.
- Shoreline Improvement Projects – Lakescaping projects to restore eroded shore lines and reduce nutrients carried into the lake by filtering direct runoff with natural plantings and buffer strips.

External Water Quality Projects

- Settling pond in wetland feeding south inlet – Dredge an open water pond area within the existing wetland to serve as settling basin prior to entering the lake. The project would include grading of the adjacent cattle pasture area to reduce direct runoff into the wetland and inhibit cattle from the wetland. Solicit help from Ducks Unlimited for creating open water duck habitat.
- Buffer Strips Improvements – Identify properties in the water shed that are in violation of current buffer strip laws; Educate landowners of the 50 foot minimum buffer; Assist the landowner with restoration of the buffer area and/or follow up with enforcement actions through regulatory agencies if appropriate.

Recreational Use Improvements

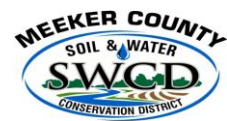
- Fishing Pier Accessibility Project – The fishing pier in the south bay becomes unusable each summer due to weed infestation and seagull droppings. Eradicate weeds in the immediate vicinity of the pier for improved fish-ability and deploy gull repellent devices.
- Boat Ramp Improvements – Dredge the ramp for improved access during seasonal shallow water conditions, extending the concrete planks into the deepened area. Consider replacing planks with a ramp design that is resistant to ice heaving.
- South Boat Landing Area User Improvements – Provide a portable toilet for fishermen at the public pier or boaters coming or leaving the public access. Provide a trash dumpster to discourage littering the landing area or improper disposal of trash in the lake.

Fishery Improvement Projects

- Cormorant and Pelican Management Program – Predator birds have severely impacted fish populations evidenced by DNR fish survey and stocking data. Proactive management is needed to restore fish populations and make restocking efforts more effective for the benefit of the public rather than for the birds.
- Panfish Stocking Program – Stock sunfish and crappies in the lake to re-establish population levels.

Invasive Species Projects

- Curly Leaf Pondweed Control – Apply herbicides specifically targeting densest areas of curly leaf. Rotate treatment locations around the lake each year.
- Boat Launch Inspectors – Lake Jennie receives heavy fishing pressure especially in May and June. Inspectors would monitor boats and trailers to for compliance with state laws, educate boaters and guard against spread of invasive species.



TO: Lake Jennie Lake Association

FROM: Joe Norman, Meeker County SWCD

The Meeker County Soil & Water Conservation District offers a variety of services and cost-share options to local landowners to help improve water quality needs. Each year Meeker SWCD is allocated funds from the State of Minnesota for the implementation of conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.

Landowners can request financial and technical assistance for installation of state approved conservation practices. These approved practices include: Critical Area Stabilization, Diversions, Field Windbreaks, Waterways, Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control, Filter Strips, Sediment Basins, Streambank/Shoreland Stabilization, Roadside Protection, Strip-cropping, Terraces, Unused Well Sealing, or other approved practices.

In addition to the available state funds received by the SWCD, there may be additional federal funds, or funds available from watershed districts or other non-profit organizations. The SWCD office is a great place to start to get direction on available funding sources that fit the proposed project best.

The SWCD office also offers a low interest loan program through the Department of Agriculture for upgrading failing septic systems, along with other conservation minded efforts. The key in utilizing these available resources is identifying the problems that may be on the landscape. The SWCD employees are not aware of all the environmental issues that county residents are facing on a regular basis that need attention. It is important for landowners to work together with our office to identify environmental issues and create a solution.

Improving water quality does not happen overnight, it is the collaboration of multiple conservation practices, support from landowners, partnership among conservation groups, and time. If you see something that you feel may be an issue, or possibly are not sure if the issue has pollution potential or not, I encourage you to contact our office to explain the problem and schedule a site visit to investigate the potential problem. We can be contacted at 320-693-7287 extension 3, or email at joseph.norman@mn.nacdnet.net.

Joe Norman, Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District

916 East St. Paul Street - Litchfield, MN 55355

320.693.7287

Happy boating season everyone!



Our Facebook page has proven to be an asset for our part time residents, we have been able to keep everyone up to speed on ice on, ice off, etc. Our season for the migration pictures has begun, our sunsets are becoming more beautiful everyday. If you have pictures that you would like to share,

please feel free to post to the page, it is open for anyone to post to. This includes any Jennie related things that you think will be a benefit or enjoyment to our viewers.

I have posted links to MN Lakes and Rivers, and am always looking for helpful info to share with our followers.

We are up to 79 likes on the page, we would really like to grow that number to over 100. Tell your friends and family to "like" us and keep up to date!

We look forward to your posts!

Laura Baumberger

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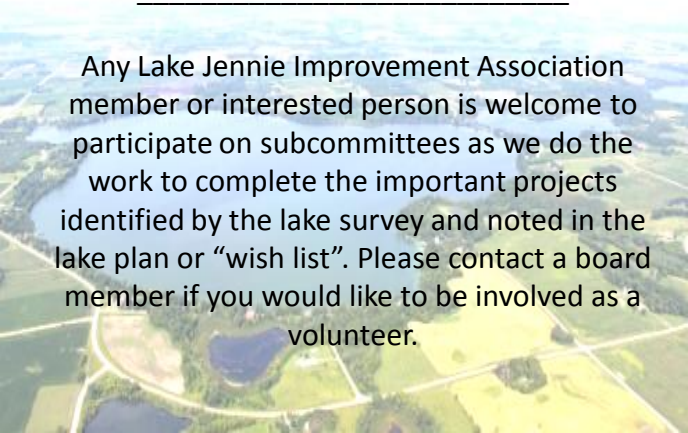
Please join the Lake Jennie Association!

Remember, your “dues” and any donations made to the LJIA are now tax deductible. The membership dues were increased this year, in order to increase the lake improvement budget. Please note that the suggested donation for members is \$50 this year. Memberships and gifts or donations can be sent to:

Lake Jennie Improvement Association

Laura Baumberger, Treasurer
71840 CSAH 18
Dassel MN 55325

VOLUNTEERS



Any Lake Jennie Improvement Association member or interested person is welcome to participate on subcommittees as we do the work to complete the important projects identified by the lake survey and noted in the lake plan or “wish list”. Please contact a board member if you would like to be involved as a volunteer.

Welcome to Lake Jennie!

The board and association would like to welcome the following new families to Lake Jennie:

- Mitch and Shelly Fabel with daughter Anna. They have moved into the Roskammers cabin along the south side. They currently live and work in Hutchinson.
- Brad and Kathy Thompson bought the Holien’s cabin in the southwest corner. They are recently retired from the Marshall, Minnesota area and will make Lake Jennie a year ‘round residence.
- Steve and Nancy Fangmeier purchased the Hamm place in the south bay. Steve owns Subway in Hutch and Nancy works at the Hutchinson Middle School.

We look forward to seeing all of you out enjoying the lake!

Your Donations Matter!

For those members who make their annual dues contribution– THANK YOU! The dues collected go toward supporting the light and porta-potty at the landing; cover a portion of the water testing costs; and help to cover costs of the annual meeting.

Many local lake associations recommend an annual dues donation of \$50, \$75, or more! This year the board passed a motion to increase the Lake Jennie dues to \$50. The increase will continue to help us support cleanup of the landing area and other maintenance costs—the work is done by volunteers.

Would you like to see more curly leaf treatments or other improvement projects around Lake Jennie? Association members have identified many improvements they would like to see around the lake. However, we have a very small budget for improvement, and rely on additional donations from members and others to help support lake improvement projects. Please note that even if we are able to secure grants for improvements, we need to find additional money, (usually from our own budget) to MATCH. The difficulty lies in raising additional funds to meet the match. You can help! Please consider adding an additional gift in your annual dues.

Let’s compare:
Lake Washington is the largest lake in Meeker County.
Lake Jennie is the second largest lake.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Shoreline Parcels | Lake Jennie | 100 |
| | Lake Washington | 400 |
| Annual Budgets | Lake Jennie | \$5,000 |
| | Lake Washington | \$100,000 |

Lake Washington had been infested with Eurasian Milfoil. Through an active board and the generosity of association members, they put up a brilliant fight, and currently, there is no milfoil to be found in the lake.

Jennie has become infested with curly leaf pondweed. This invasive species not only renders the lake un-navigable during spring, but when the plant drops and dies off, it contributes to the great amounts of phosphorous in the lake—producing the rounds of algae blooms. The algae makes the lake less attractive to recreational use for the greater part of the summer and into fall, and at times unusable for any recreation.

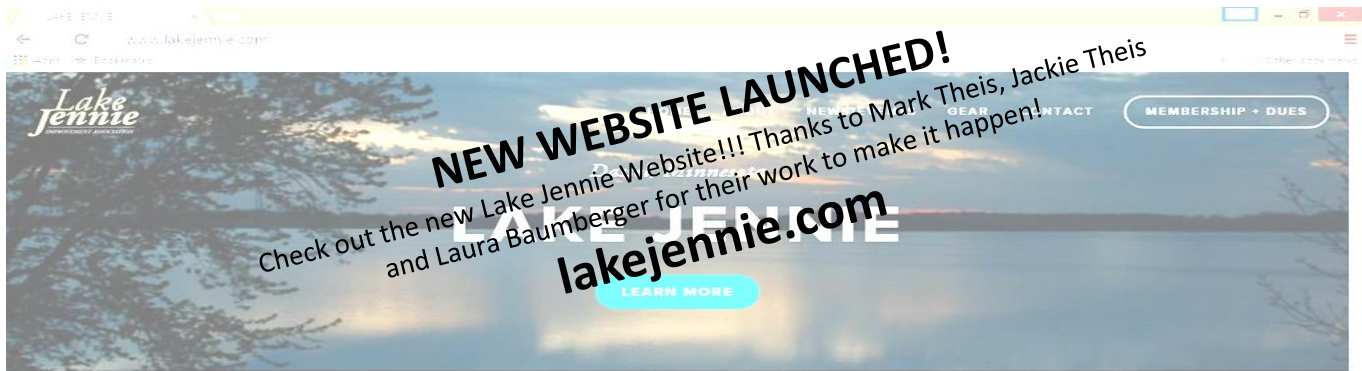
We need to do something to combat this infestation. Please consider a donation to your lake association’s improvement fund this year.

Young Conservationist is making a difference in Meeker County



Isaac Nass is a resident of Lake Jennie and a student at the Hutchinson Middle School. For his sixth grade science project, he invented what he calls "The Zebra Mussel Tracker". His research taught him that the invasive zebra mussels were first found in the Great Lakes on intake screens to power plants. He also learned that many Aquatic Invasive Species, first enter our lakes near the public access as hitchhikers on watercraft. He decided to build a screen and attach it to the dock at our public access. He secured permission from the Hutchinson DNR to hang it on all DNR public docks in Meeker County. Their only stipulation was to keep it out of the way of boaters, fishermen and people swimming. With weekly monitoring from a lake association member, he hopes for early detection of zebra mussels entering our lakes. With early detection a defensive plan can be executed to eradicate zebra mussels.

After presentation to the Meeker County Area Lakes (MCAL), their board requested that the Aquatic Invasive Species committee secure funding for installation on all county lakes. Isaac will have a busy Spring and early Summer welding up these Zebra Trackers.



And be sure to "like" us on Facebook!
Lake Jennie Improvement Association



What's Happening Around the Lake

by Randy Nass

- The DNR notes that there are less cormorants here this year. Randy has noticed that the northern's he has caught lately have looked as though they are starving...very slight for their length. It's likely that the reduction in the numbers of cormorants visiting is that there is just no food left for them (or the northern's) in the lake.
- The zebra mussel tracker has been installed on the south bay dock. We will be able to track and immediately treat for an appearance of this destructive invasive.
- There is no garbage receptacle in the south landing because when we had one, people began using it to dump their toxic waste such as car batteries, etc. However now, people continue to dump garbage in the area that was reserved for aluminum can donations, and Randy has had to haul some pretty disgusting stuff from the south bay to his own garbage receptacle. Please encourage people using the landing to bring their garbage home! The board is considering surveillance, so we can report findings to the DNR, who will fine the dumpers for littering in DNR land.
- The south landing porta-potty will be provided by the DNR/the Lake Jennie Association for the bulk of the summer.
- At the moment, the lake is clearer than it has been in a long time. Secchi readings were up to 10 feet before hitting the weed cover, and it's likely that the clarity extends to the bottom even in our deepest areas.
- The water is low this spring, but the recent rains have helped to bring the levels back up.

Aluminum cans-every little bit helps!

Among other things, Randy Nass volunteers his time to collect aluminum cans that he takes to the recycle center. The money from this project goes into the general Association fund and is used for paying for the light at the landing; to purchase supplies and food for the annual picnic as well as supporting the 4th of July boat parade with prize money for the best decorated boat, most patriotic boat and best dock.

Every little bit helps! Bring your cans to the recycling bin at the south landing, or drop them by Randy Nass's home. Randy has also offered to pick them up for Association members, so please call Randy if you have a good stockpile! As always, thank you for your donation.



Thank you to Crow River Press for printing the newsletter



Lake Jennie Improvement Association

c/o Mark Theis

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