



Spring Newsletter~May 2023

Lake Jennie Improvement
Association Board

President: Mitch Fabel
(320)583-8933

Vice President: Laura Osborne:
(320) 455-2300

Treasurer: John Curtiss

Secretary: Mary Nass

Mike Kotila

Ryan Lovald

Randy Nass

Ross Portele

Mark Theis

Contact us at

lakejennieimprovement@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

June 24—Lake Jennie
Annual Meeting of the
membership and guests

July 1—Independence
Day celebration Boat
Parade contest and
Best Dock contest

A Message from the LJIA President

Finally, this winter is behind us and the open water season is here! This was certainly a crazy winter with record snow amounts, high winds, and a nervous ice out date. Fortunately, the Lake Jennie fish population survived the long ice-covered season. Some of our neighbors were not so fortunate. Lake oxygen levels were a hot topic with area lakes hoping for the best. Ice out brought great news and now we can switch gears to a great summer on our lake. There are a lot of exciting projects and events which will be included in this newsletter. The Lake Jennie Improvement Association had another busy fall and winter planning fun events and new projects to keep improving our lake. I look forward to getting out of my winter slumber and seeing everyone on the lake!

2022 LJIA Annual Meeting and Picnic

When: Saturday, June 24th

Time: 1:00 – Social Hour

2:00 – Meeting

4:00 – Music

Where: Jim and Karen Meyer residence

71568 CSAH 18 Dassel, Mn 55325

Details: Hot dogs, chips, fish fry, pork chops and water will be provided. BYOB for other beverages. There will be a silent auction and raffles being held during the day.

Discussion: We will be discussing all the projects, current and future that the association has been working on.

Memberships: This is a great opportunity to renew memberships for this season!!

Lake Jennie Bullet Points ...

- The Minnesota DNR took dissolved oxygen readings on Lake Jennie every month this winter and found the levels to be adequate for fish survival. The lowest reading in March was 6 ppm (parts per million). Partial die out begins at 2 ppm. Many of the smaller lakes around us reached these levels or lower and have severe winter die off.
- Lake Jennie ice off occurred on April 20, 2023 this spring. With a near record amount of snowfall lake levels are considerably higher. The inlets all have heavy flow which we haven't seen for the last two summers of drought. Multiple species of fish will have vastly improved spawning success with the higher water levels, by being able to move between surrounding lakes and wetlands.
- We are still working on our LJIA directory. The \$1200 collected for advertising dollars from sponsors will cover the printing costs. Still hoping for the new directory to be distributed in spring 2023.
- Recycling has been light throughout the winter. We hope it improves as members do spring cleanup.
- The Lake Jennie loon nesting platform was deployed in late April (installed by LJIA board). If you see loons near them this spring please keep your distance.
- Gardeners—remember to create a pollinator friendly landscape—<https://extension.umn.edu/lawns-and-landscapes/flowers-pollinators/>
- Nearby road construction for Meeker County CSAH14 from the county line north to Darwin is scheduled for asphalt overlay and bridge replacement (between Lake Stella and Lake Washington) later this summer.
- The Minnesota DNR Spicer office is hiring a new hydrologist for our area. Her name is Emily Jarens - Area Hydrologist.
- Historically, Lake Jennie has a reduced loading of curly leaf pond weed the summer that follows heavy snowfall winters, because of the lack of light penetration which is needed for growth. We'll see?

Lake Jennie Bullet Points continued ...

- Congratulations to Lake Jennie area residents Brett Oman and Brian Zeglen. Brett and Brian were elected to the Collinwood Township Board this spring. Brian was elected Supervisor and Brett as the Treasurer. Thanks go to Randy and Laura Holm for their years of service to our township. Township meetings are held every third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the town hall (just north of Collinwood public access). Minutes for the township board meeting can be read on the Meeker County website.
- The LJIA Board has a VERY SHARP “Y” cutter for assisting the mechanical removal of vegetation for your dock area, per the regulations below. It is stored at Nass’ by the aluminum can recycling trailer, borrow if you like, but please use the sign out sheet so we can track its whereabouts.

Control methods which **MUST HAVE** a permit

Destruction of any emergent vegetation (for example, cattails and bulrushes).

Cutting or pulling by hand, or by mechanical means, submerged vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet.

- ◆ Applying herbicides or algaecides.
- ◆ Moving or removing a bog of any size that is free-floating or lodged in any area other than its place of origin in public waters.
- ◆ Transplanting aquatic plants into public waters.

Use of automated aquatic plant control devices (such as the Crary WeedRoller).

Physical removal of floating-leaf vegetation from an area larger than a channel 15 feet wide extending to open water.

When a permit is **NOT** needed

If you are a lakeshore property owner who wants to create or maintain a swimming or boat-docking area, you may cut or pull submerged vegetation, such as Elodea, without a DNR permit under certain conditions:

- ◆ First, the area to be cleared must be no larger than 2,500 square feet.

Second, the cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of your shoreline, whichever is less. The 2,500 square foot area may also include a boat channel up to 15 feet wide, and as long as necessary to reach open water (the boat channel is in addition to the 2,500 square feet allowed). The cutting or pulling may be done by hand or with hand-operated or powered equipment that **does not significantly alter the course, current, or cross-section of the lake bottom**. Such control cannot be done with draglines, bulldozers, hydraulic jets, suction dredges, automated aquatic plant control devices, or other powered earth-moving equipment. After you have cut or pulled aquatic plants, you must dispose of them on land to prevent them from drifting onto your neighbor's property or washing back into the lake. In floating-leaf vegetation a lake shore property owner may maintain a channel 15 foot wide extending to open water by mechanical means without a permit. Any other destruction of floating-leaf vegetation requires a permit. If you have questions on control activities that do not require a permit, please contact your local aquatic plant specialist (PDF).

Membership ...

It's that time again! Please submit your 2023 LJIA membership dues or plan to pay at the annual meeting/picnic on June 24. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 so we consider membership to be that time, July 1 – June 30. Any dues received now will be applied to the 2023/2024 fiscal year unless you specify otherwise.

In the 2022/2023 fiscal year we had 68 (4 more than last year) paid members contributing \$8,010.54 (\$235.54 more than last year.) Our dues are set at \$50 but as you can see many members contribute much, much more than that. When we have this extra money, we can do more things like treat more acres of lake for weeds which makes the lake experience better for all of us. Also, some members direct their 3M Cares, Thrivent Choice and similar programs matching contributions to LJIA.

Our deposits this fiscal year are over \$25,888.70. We collected \$2,858.45 in dues since July 1, \$2,850 in raffle money, \$1147 profit from clothing sales, \$618 raised by collecting aluminum cans and \$1,200 in directory advertisement. This totals \$8674.70. Where did the extra \$16,925 come from? The board works very hard at securing grants to multiply the money you give. This past fiscal year that was \$15,590 or nearly twice what we as an association raised.

Please send in your dues!

Membership Goal 90%

Lake Jennie Improvement Association

Mail to:
John Curtiss
71749 178TH ST
Dassel, MN 55325
LJIA Financial Director

Name _____
Lake Address _____
Mailing Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone # _____
Email Address _____



The suggested donation for annual dues is \$50. Other suggested donation packages include:

- \$50
 - \$100
 - \$500
 - Authorize e-mail for LJIA purposes. E-mail will not be for other purposes.
- We are a 501c3, your contribution MAY be tax deductible.
You can pay online with PayPal at Lakejennie.com or Mail membership donation. Dues run from July 1st to June 30th.

Ice Out ...

After this VERY LONG WINTER, everyone is anticipating ice out and the boating season. The lake started opening on Sunday, April 16 with these two labs keeping a close eye.



How Lake Ice Melts

A wonderful description of how lake ice melts away appeared on the web blog "Air Mass", hosted by the Star Tribune's Bill McAuliffe. Ed Swain, of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency describes the process of freezing and thawing lakes.

In the late fall, the lake loses heat to the atmosphere, and then on a day or night when the wind is not blowing, ice forms. The ice gets thicker as long as the lake can continue to lose heat.

In most Januarys and Februarys, snow both reflects sunlight and insulates the lake. With a thick snow layer, the lake neither gains nor loses heat. The bottom sediment is actually heating the lake water slightly over the winter, from stored summer heat.

Around March, as the air warms and the sun gets more intense, the snow melts, allowing light to penetrate the ice. Because the ice acts like the glass in a greenhouse, the water beneath it begins to warm, and the ice begins to melt FROM THE BOTTOM.

When the ice thickness erodes to between 4 and 12 inches, it transforms into long vertical crystals called "candles." These conduct light even better, so the ice starts to look black, because it is not reflecting much sunlight.

Warming continues because the light energy is being transferred to the water below the ice. Meltwater fills in between the crystals, which begin breaking apart. The surface appears grayish as the ice reflects a bit more light than before.

The wind comes up, and breaks the surface apart. The candles will often be blown to one side of the lake, making a tinkling sound as they knock against one another, and piling up on the shore. In hours, a sparkling blue lake, once again!

From The Dock...

With the start of another boating season the LJIA Board would like to remind everyone to be attentive and careful out there. Lake Jennie has had a few boating accidents over the years, and we really hope for another safe boating season.

SEE THIS LINK FOR DNR WEBSITE ON BOATER SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE/OWN YOUR WAKE FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/> - go to Own Your Wake

TEN CAUSES OF BOATING ACCIDENTS:

Operator Inattention

Improper Lookout

Operator Inexperience

Excessive Speed

Alcohol Use

Machinery Failure

Navigational Rule Violations

Hazardous Waters

Weather

Force Of Waves and Wakes

Minnesota Personal Watercraft Laws

You Must...

- Wear a USCG approved life jacket.
- Travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers or any moored or anchored boat.
- Operate only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.
- Use the cutoff lanyard properly.
- Obey operator age/permit laws for those younger than 18 years old.

You May Not...

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Jump the wake of another boat within 150 feet of the craft.
- Operate a personal watercraft in a manner that endangers life, limb or property.

Protect Your Sport

- Respect your neighbors...don't operate for long periods in the same area or near occupied boats or shore.

This is only a summary of the laws as of January 2014 and is required to be visible to the operator on all personal watercraft in Minnesota. For more information contact:

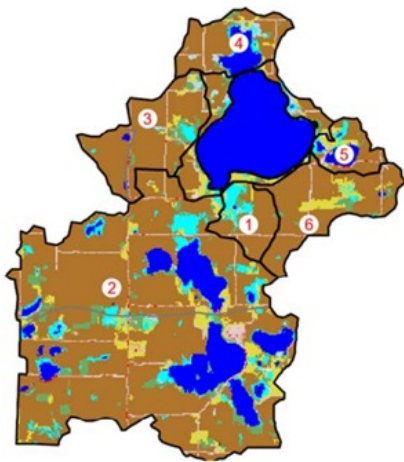


Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Boat and Water Safety Section
500 Lafayette Rd., Saint Paul, MN 55155-4039
651-259-5400, 1-888-646-6167, TTY 651-296-5484, 1-800-657-3929
mndnr.gov/boatingsafety

From The Dock continued...



Happily, the ice fishermen on Jennie this winter caught and released MANY of last year's stocked walleye fry. Most were in the 6-8 inch range. Crappies stocked from the year earlier were also aggressive biters. These ranged in the 8-10 inch range. Jennie was not clear enough for pike spearing this winter so there should be plenty to be caught off member's docks this spring. Unfortunately cormorants have been spotted dining on our newly stocked walleyes in the last week.



The LJIA Board is seeking member's input on possible water quality improvement projects. These do not need to be limited to the lake. At left is the watershed for Lake Jennie. If you know of a land owner within our watershed that is willing to discuss runoff and erosion enhancements, we would partner with them for grant opportunities. Contact any board member.



Eight bald eagles (could only get four in the picture at a time) found fishing to be to their liking on the east side of Lake Jennie on April 19 as the ice started to recede. Grab your bird book in late April and early May and enjoy the spring migration. Send pictures to lakejennieimprovement@gmail.com.



Who studies water movement besides the DNR hydrologist? The local beavers that's who. All of Lake Jennie's inlets and outlets have beaver activity. They will be monitored for dam building this Spring and Summer. Expect fluctuating and abnormal lake levels with our new neighbors hard at work.

MLR (Minnesota Lakes and Rivers)



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Join

After almost three decades, MLR is your trusted advisor and advocate for local lake issues. The reality is that what happens in St. Paul impacts you out on the end of your dock. Our lakes need lake lovers to come together and work for their protection.

- Do you want fair taxes on cabins, lakeshore and lake homes?
- Do you want Minnesota's lake heritage preserved for future generations?
- Do you want lakes protected from Aquatic Invasives (AIS) like zebra mussels?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, JOIN MLR.

WHY? Decisions that impact you **are made at the Legislature.**

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates provides professional organization and advocacy for our grassroots members. Together MLR members work to pass legislation to protect our valuable lakes and lake heritage.

Your membership in MLR is essential to guarantee your voice is heard in St. Paul. **Please join today.**

MLR (Minnesota Lakes and Rivers) continued ...

Lake Associations

Water Connects Us All

Research by Concordia College found that Minnesota has over 500 lake associations. When taken collectively, they are the largest (estimated 100k members), most philanthropic (\$6.25 million annually for lake projects) and most engaged (1.2 million volunteer hours annually) conservation group in the State.

Lake Associations, taken collectively, are the water conservation/fisheries powerhouse that most Minnesotans have not heard of.

Why not?

Because they have never been taken collectively. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates is working everyday to change that. MLR is working to build an advocacy base that can advance laws, raise funding, and provide support for lake associations and lake home and cabin owners.

We know that by supporting Lake Associations, and bringing lake association voices together, we can protect Minnesota's lake heritage for current and future generations. Lake Associations are the only ones doing this work.

The state cannot. The management of water is spread across multiple agencies, MN DNR, MN Pollution Control Agency, Bureau of Soil and Water Reclamation, BSWR, MN Department of Agriculture. Even within the DNR, the management of lakes is divided among different departments. Fisheries permits the treatment of native plants and fishes, EcoWaters the management of Aquatic Invasive Species, Parks and Trails the boat ramps.

Add to that the authorities of counties, townships and municipalities, and water management is a series of interlocking silos with our water running through the gaps.

Lake Associations are uniquely positioned to plug those gaps, form partnerships among the many agencies, and get work done on the ground that protects and improves water. With statewide lobbying, MLR can convince the legislature to put in place statutes, programs and funding that supports lake associations in their critical missions.

Welcome To The Lake ...



Please Welcome Nate and Mandy Baldry

Nate and Mandy Baldry live in Hutchinson. Mandy works at Citizens Bank & Trust Co and Nate is the owner of Branded Solutions. They have 3 children, Jackson, Cora (10) and Lucy (7).



Please Welcome Karl and Jeanne Baldry

Karl and Jeanne are residents of Hutchinson, Mn. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Karl is retired and works part-time for their oldest son Nate. Jeanne is the IT Director for a Rotational Molding Manufacturing Company headquartered in Mound, MN. They enjoy time with family and spending time at the lake.

MCAL Grant Updates ...

Septic System Care Project

The Lake Jennie Improvement Association is excited to announce our Septic System Care Project. The maintenance, care, and functionality of a septic system are crucial to water quality. This project is NOT a policing of lake septic systems but rather a cost sharing opportunity to improve and learn about your system. We will be launching the project at the Annual Meeting on June 24th.

What is it? - LJIA along with the help from local septic company A&T Septic will be working to educate, review, and have this year's tank pumping offered to lake residents. We will also be handing out information packages full of good information and maintenance tips.

Why Are We Doing This? - The LJIA Board has created working relationships and completed projects with area farmers around Jennie in our watershed. A common question the farmers ask us is "What are the lake shore owners specifically doing to improve water quality". To show our commitment to the lake we are hoping for a high participation level amongst our members.

How Does It Work? – LJIA will be offering 50% cost sharing for services of improvement for your septic system. The first service is the cost share of having your tank pumped which should be done every 1 to 2 years. The second service is to have a professional from A&T perform a review of your system also at 50% cost. This review includes running your pumps to ensure they are running correctly. Also, performing soil boring to ensure your system is using it's drain field. And finally using a tank camera to make the tanks contest are normal. This is not an inspection of pass or fail that requires improvements but rather feedback for you regarding your system.

What Does It Cost? – Once again LJIA will be cost sharing 50% of these services. For tank pumping, a standard 1500 gal. tank runs about \$200.00. Large systems with 2250 gal. tank will run about \$240.00. System reviews will cost about \$230.00.

This is a great opportunity to not only gain valuable information about your septic system but save some money on services. Getting your summer tank pumping and a system review gives great feedback about your system and may save thousands down the road!

Remembering When ...

The highlight of every Spring on Lake Jennie was helping HP Quade run his much anticipated sugar bush. The south side of Jennie was predominately farmed, and the east and west sides held large wetlands with willows and cottonwoods being the dominate trees. The north side of the lake had many large sugar maples. Quade's had a westerly facing sugar bush right behind their cabins. Bill Kuester was a friend of Howard's and assisted in drilling, installing the spigots and tubing that ran to the old galvanized ten gallon milk cans. The season usually started in mid-March and went to mid-April or until the sap no longer flowed clear like water. The largest maples had 2-3 taps each and would easily overflow the ten gallon milk cans on a good day. That is when Howard and Bill really appreciated us youngsters as we would "mule" the sap out of the woods to the cook stove. Our reward for helping was snowballs soaked in maple syrup, or Jennie snow cones as we used to call them.



The gravel roads around Jennie were always laden with soupy mud in the Spring. This made the job of a school bus driver difficult . I recall many times that the bus would be stuck and the bus driver nearly in tears. On more than one occasion she would have one of the students take over driving through the sink holes. With their farm background experience of digging out stuck tractors the kids were almost always able to remedy the situation and keep the bus nearly on schedule.



Remembering When continued ...

Eagle Point on the northeast side of Jennie jutted out a considerable distance into the lake. This made an ideal observation point for Don Casper. Don was the local game warden who covered Jennie many decades ago. He would sneak his car down between the two Quade cabins and pull out his powerful binoculars. From his vantage point he could tell what brand of cigarettes a fisherman was smoking. On his good days he would let us sit in the car with him to snoop and other times he would be eyeing to see what mischief we were up to. We were lectured multiple times by Don about being in a “gray” area. Spearing carp, harvesting snapping turtles, shooting invasive house sparrows and playing with fireworks, would always bring Don and I together for a face to face discussion on my questionable behavior. Next time I’ll reminisce how Don probably saved my life on numerous occasions.



The Summer of 1974 ended with my most tragic childhood memory!! Two runabouts full of happy teenagers, collided head on just off of Eagle Point. Sadly, a beautiful young girl lost her life, and the entire Lake Jennie community was stunned and went into mourning for her family. I recall this sickeningly horrible event very often and pray for it to never be repeated. My family thinks I go overboard on boating safety, but I don’t want her loss of life to go without a purpose.

PLEASE BE SAFE ON THE WATER.

