



Winter Newsletter~February 2022

Lake Jennie Improvement Association Board

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Upcoming Events:

June 25—Lake Jennie
Annual Meeting of the
membership and guests

July 3—Independence
Day celebration Boat
Parade contest and
Best Dock contest

A Message from the LJIA President

Greetings! Spring is fast approaching, and we are preparing for another great lake season. We never know what mother nature will throw at us next, but one thing is for sure, no two years are the same! The LJIA board has continued to work on new ways to improve our great lake. This newsletter is full of good information and activities for the upcoming season. I hope everyone is excited and ready to enjoy another summer on the lake. As always, if anyone is interested in becoming involved just reach out to a board member. See you on the lake!

LJIA Exploring Alum Treatments for Lake Jennie

The LJIA board continues to explore the option of an Alum treatment in the lake. In the last newsletter the details of an Alum treatment were discussed. Since that time the board has dived deeper into the procedure, costs, and effectiveness of the treatment. We are currently working with the BWSR Clean Water board and their recommendations. More information on the challenges and feedback from other lakes that have used this treatment are being looked at. We will communicate progress at the annual meeting or through the newsletter as we receive more information.

Runoff Control Projects

The LJIA board has been working on identifying runoff projects around the lake. We have recently had a full commitment on a project which involves the development of 24 ½ acres adjacent to the lake to be enrolled into CRP. The board is committed to working on any project that reduces runoff into the lake. If you have or know of anyone who may have interest in improving runoff situations, please contact a board member!

Lake Jennie Bullet Points

♦ Annual Meeting

The Lake Jennie Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday June, 25 2022. Please plan on attending to hear about the latest projects, enjoy lake camaraderie, events, food, and etc. More details to come!

♦ July 4th Boat Parade

The Annual 4th of July Boat Parade will be on Sunday July 3rd. There were some great floats and participation this past year so let's keep it up!

♦ Membership Reminder

We finished the 2021 season with 62 members. We have a lot of exciting projects and lake improvement proposals on the docket, so your contributions are greatly appreciated.

♦ LJIA Committees

The board has identified some areas of interest and assigned members to action. These committees are as follows:

- 1) Welcoming Committee (John Curtiss and Randy Nass)
- 2) Membership Committee (John Curtiss)
- 3) Water Quality Committee (Randy Nass, Mark Theis, Ryan Lovald)
- 4) Fish & Recreation Committee (Mitch Fabel, Randy N., Ross Portele)
- 5) Grant Committee (Scott Rosenau)

Meeker County 2022 Tree and Pollinator Order Forms:

Many Lake Jennie residents have used Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District for ordering trees and shrubs with great success. Bare root species are sold in multiples of 25 for \$40 per bundle. They can be picked up in Litchfield in late April.

New this year in 2022 is the Pollinator Order Form that is offering seed mixes of wildflower kits, short prairie, shade garden, and a shoreline kit. These are all native within our planting zone and will withstand the Minnesota climate.

Order forms can be found at the following links.

<https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/308/Tree-Pollinator-Forms-Information>

<https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/5650/2022-Tree-Order-Form>

<https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/5649/2022-Pollinator-Order-Form>

Gardening at Lake Jennie

As the temperature outside remains frigid many Lake Jennie residents start dreaming of warmer temps ahead. Visions of flowers, new trees and pollinators in your garden will soon overtake your thoughts. While you start planning your gardening strategies, begin thinking on how you can incorporate native plants into your shoreline and contribute to making Lake Jennie healthier.

If you have interest in participating in a LJIA Garden Club send an email to maryjnass@gmail.com.

Proposed activities: Plant exchanges, building flower containers, shoreline restoration at our public accesses, and vegetable garden with donations to our local food shelf.



Restore Your Shore - <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/rys/index.html>

Here are some helpful resources to get you started.

Minnesota DNR Lakescaping and Shoreline restoration page: planning tools, examples, and grants.

Minnesota DNR Landscaping with Native Plants page: garden designs & native plant suppliers.

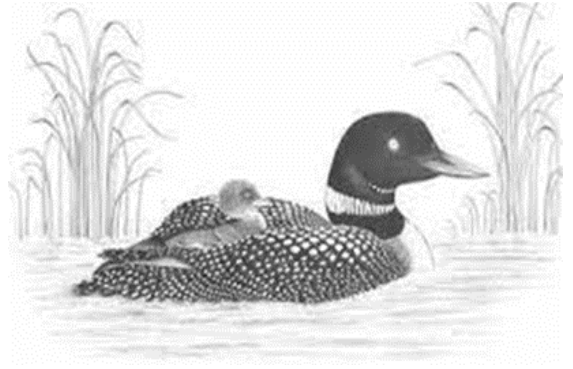
Blue Thumb: resources to create native gardens, rain gardens, and shoreline stabilization.

Minnesota Native Plant Society: field trips, monthly programs, and a quarterly newsletter.

Making Wildlife Habitat at Home: certify your native gardens through the National Wildlife Federation's Certified Wildlife Habitat™ program.

Loons On Lake Jennie

“It is thrilling to hear the checker boarded state bird calling on a calm summer night.”



Lake Jennie residents and visitors have been greeted with a pleasant surprise over the past few years. The sight and sound of Minnesota's State Bird, The Common Loon, has become common at Lake Jennie. With Lake Jennie's increased water clarity and abundance of perch, many loons have made Lake Jennie a destination as a part of their spring migration. Perhaps more surprising, many of the loons have stayed on Lake Jennie throughout the summer. At times, the loons can be heard flying and calling to other loons as they move to other area lakes.

In the spring of 2020, the LJIA board placed a nesting platform for loons on the south side of the lake near the Aquatic Management Area. Through monitoring we've noticed some interest in the platform, but to date we have yet to have a pair of loons nest.

Loons can be long lived. They eat fish and other aquatic organisms. These facts can make them good indicator of pollution or other red flags with our water. As they migrate, many loons across Minnesota head east to the Great Lakes to stage before migrating to the Gulf of Mexico or Atlantic Coast. Loons are susceptible to mercury and lead poisoning, predation by Bald Eagles and other birds of prey, and red tide in their wintering grounds. Many Minnesotans and loons spend their winters in Florida. They may not cross paths as the loons spend time up to 80 miles out from shore.

Loons like solitude! If possible, stay at least 200' away from loons and the platform when it is occupied. Crows, herons, mink, otters, and racoons all may hang around the platform waiting for the parent to leave so they can steal the loon eggs for an easy meal. This spring we are going to add a second platform on the west side of the lake to entice a pair of loons with more nesting options.

The Minnesota DNR has a monitoring program and is looking for volunteers to get an accurate loon count in the state. They hope to have a volunteer on each Lake to report loon numbers. If interested, please see the Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program - https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html

More about Loons

LOON FUN FACTS

- Loons are nearly 3' long with 5' wingspan
- Loons need several hundred-foot runways to lift off of the lake
- Approximately 10,000 loons breed in Minnesota (more than any other state besides Alaska)
- Loons mate for life like geese and swans
- 3 to 4 years old before breeding and nesting occur
- Both parents share the incubation period of 28-30 days
- Loons can stay under water up to 5 minutes diving for food
- Loons spend 7 months in Minnesota and 5 months on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts
- Loons are fast, flying up to 75 mph.
- Can live to be over 20 years old



Dick Nesvold and his friend Arrow deploy the loon nest platform in the cool spring water near the Aquatic Management Area on the south shore.

Dick constructed the platform with 4" PVC pipe and covered it with grasses and bull rushes.

The Lake Jennie Carousel



While this Lake Jennie crew didn't beat the world record for Ice Carousels, they successfully created the spinning ice patio on their first attempt.

Complete with a fire ring and a few warm drinks, the challenge helped break up the winter routine.

Ice carousels have a long history in Finland and are becoming more common in Minnesota. A Group in Little falls created a carousel that measured 508 feet across and holds the world record. This Lake Jennie carousel measured 33 feet across but held 20 people. It was created in shallow water- just in case! Chain saws were used to cut a perfect circle in the ice, and then a second circle was cut to create a 4 inch gap so it could spin freely. Pulling a rope anchored in the ice would get the carousel spinning in just a few steps. The carousel was surprisingly stable on the 6 inches of ice and would spin for 10 minutes or more with just a few pulling steps.

The possibilities for upgrades are endless. As the group sat by the fire and discussed next year's carousel, ideas were a-plenty. Perhaps an ice carousel could be the winter's boat parade? Picking a date is weather dependent, but the ice depth also impacts the date. Too thin, and the ice would not hold us. Too thick and the chainsaw work is far more difficult with more edge to catch. Adding lights, creating a bigger carousel, ice fishing, trolling motors to drive the carousel, making a doughnut carousel or other cut outs within the carousel, food and drink options, around the carousel...so many possibilities. Everyone who rode on the carousel thought the experience was much different than expected, very cool! To see an excellent Boyd Huppert report on the Little Falls world record ice carousel:

[Land of 10,000 Stories: Minnesotan builds world's largest ice carousel - Bing video](#)



Lucy Jennissen and her father Jason pulled in this Lake Jennie beauty in January 2022. . .shhhh. The 24 inch walleye was released so all you Lake Jennie Anglers have a reason to get out there. The fish was caught outside on an old-fashioned jiggle stick – pulled in by hand. No excuse for all of us with our fancy fish houses, rods, reels, cameras, and other electronics.

LJIA Paid Membership 2021-2022

Aaron & Lisa Amic	Douglas & Nancy Kerber	Bruce & Sandra Petterson
Noe & Julie Arteaga	Pete & Irene Kerber	Ross & Alecia Portele
Eric & Kris Bateman	Gerry & Karen Kirby	Hazel Prins
Mark & Marcia Betker	Scott & Jennifer Koenig	Kirk & Christy Quade
David & Barbara Broesder	Michael & Brenda Kotila	Jamison and Alison Reginek
Sean & Sarah Cady	Joyce Kragenbring	Scott Rosenau & Peg Truax
Ron & Mary Calhoun	Scott & Barbara Lahr	Audrey Roskammer
Marilee Callan	Leonard & Vicki Lasley	Cory & Jennifer Deuur Sheff
Dave & Connie Carlson	Mark & Trudy Latt	Ian & Kim Sing
Jean Carlson	Jeanne Lindee	Verdell & Vonnie Stengel
John & Vickie Curtiss	Michel & Mary Jo Locquegnies	David & Donna Stresemann
Shawn Davis	Kenneth Lovald	Gerald & Cynthia Tews
Gary & Kay DeSmith	Dennis McCormick	Mark Theis & Laura Osborne
Mitch & Shelly Fabel	James & Karen Meyer	Brad & Kathleen Thompson
Steven & Nancy Fangmeier	Jim & Rochelle Miller	Luke Thunberg
Daniel & Lisa Fischer	Alan & Karen Nagel	Stephen & Linda Tiebel
Tom & Charlotte Gallett	Richard & Nancy Nesvold	Janet Valen & Bob Stanstede
Gregory & Becky Gerscheid	Randy & Carolyn Newman	Richard & Carol Wagner
Douglas Hage	Mark & Carrie Senneseth Odegard	Jeffrey & Angela Weyand
Leland & Kerri Hoff	Stephen & Renee Pawlyshyn	
Jason & Gina Jennissen	Robert & Nel Peterson	
Brett Johnson	Mark & Karen Peterson	

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.

Lake Jennie Grant Applications 2022

Aquatic Invasive Species-Curly Leaf Pondweed Control Grants

Lake Jennie Improvement Association (LJIA) grant team has applied for the Meeker County AIS Task Force for treatment of curly leaf pondweed for spring of 2022. We have received a confirmation of an award and we will receive \$11,950 for treatment of invasive plants in Lake Jennie. This grant requires a monetary match, so in addition to other sources (DNR and in-kind resources) your generous contributions will be used to make that match this spring. Treatment areas are being discussed, and will be determined in coordination with the DNR to determine the final treatment areas. The DNR will also be selecting the herbicide that has the greatest impact on the problem but the least impact on the environment and fisheries.

Also, the grant team are working on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Program Grant. A successful application and award would allow us to treat more acreage for the invasive species, curly leaf pondweed.

Erosion and Runoff Grant

Lake Jennie has also received a grant from the Meeker County 2022 Lake Improvement Projects Grant Program in the amount of \$4,000. This is to be used for erosion control, rebuilding a berm and seeding the area to native grasses. This will be a 50% in-kind and/or cash match for the lake association.

Finally, Lake Jennie has received a grant for water quality testing. This \$400 grant will help us collect samples and get lab results in order to help us target “hotspots” for phosphorous and nitrates entering the lake.



Swan Song

Up close and personal with one of our young swan friends this summer. The swan cygnets were mostly by the western shoreline all year, and in the fall, they seem to be “recruited” by a larger group of about nine adult swans. We are hoping that they took to their new family and are doing well this winter.

MCAL Updates

Q: What does Lake Jennie have in common with Belle Lake and Lake Koronis?

A: All three lakes are part of Meeker County Area Lakes (MCAL).

Approximately two dozen lakes in Meeker County participate in this collection of Meeker County Lake Associations. Representatives of the associations meet quarterly. Meetings are held in Litchfield on the third Thursdays of January, April, July, and October. Guest speakers from the DNR, USFW, AIS-Water Planning task Force, County commissioners, and State Representatives and other organizations share information and provide updates on current issues and information that impacts our lakes or lake associations.

Forming stakeholder groups allows area lake associations leverage for group rates with contractors, lab work, and suppliers. Getting stakeholders involved with watershed projects makes it a win-win for all. The group, representing a larger collection of lakeshore owners, has a larger voice and influence with both county and state politicians on issues important to lakeshore owners.

At the most recent January 2022 meeting, MCAL decided to fund a water quality testing pilot group. Testing could start this April.

Testing would include four area lakes, including Lake Jennie. A “Hach Water Test Kit” would be provided - with 100 available test samples. This will allow board members to not only take the usual five inlet readings monthly, but now be able to test storm runoff events. Testing can qualify what we are seeing after significant rains or a surge in runoff. Our goal is to involve local high school biology departments by providing sample collections. We are hopeful the classes can use actual data from area lakes as part of their curriculum. Bringing more awareness and attention to our lakes and tracking emerging trends will benefit their studies and our lakes.



Contact Randy Nass if you'd like more information
or attend the April 21st meeting of MCAL.

From the Fish House:

LJIA reached out to the Hutchinson Area Department of Natural Resources this week to inquire how the Oxygen levels are doing in Jennie. They have not yet tested Jennie this winter.

Anecdotally, anglers and spearers on Jennie are still finding fish near the bed of the lake. Typically as oxygen levels get low, they are most reduced starting at the bottom of the water column. Seeing fish near the bottom is a good sign for our lake.

Remembering When:

Not only has Lake Jennie changed in our lifetime, but the great neighborhood around the lake has had many changes as well since the 1960's & 70's.

CSAH 18 was a narrow gravel road that hugged the south shoreline, and was continuously blown shut from lakeside winds and snow. Many waited for the milk truck to break a path before venturing out.

The Hutch DNR seined Lake Jennie every winter pulling 1/2 mile long nets under the ice towards a large opening on the south shore. School tardy kids on snowmobiles would "spook" the unsuspecting schools of carp and bullheads towards the nets. Ken Schuman (the DNR Supervisor) kept one eye on his monstrous sonar and the other directing the kids. The fish were loaded into huge tanker trucks and given to area churches and civic groups for Lenten spring fish-fry.

Rendezvous' of 40 snowmobiles or more would gather every winter Saturday afternoon. Before the trail ride would begin, the bravest would first climb the steep hills on the East and North shore of Jennie.

More than 100 fish houses would dot the lake seeking a tasty winter meal of walleye. Often there was an open water stretch from Valen's point outward, well into January. Most locals knew of the danger, but some anglers unfamiliar with the lake would drop their car or truck in every winter....thankfully, everyone clawed their way to safety.