

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2012

Lake Association News

GREATER JEFFERSON GERMAN LAKES ASSOCIATION

SUMMER FUN ISSUE

Website: <http://jgla.org> Email: lakeassociation@hickorytech.net



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Fishing Contest
Winners Ykema and Lake show off 4 of their five fish that totaled 23.9 pounds. The bass above were not big enough to win the "big bass" pot. The largest bass was a whopping 6.95 pounds! (picture on page 10)



"How do you explain the paradox of why people love lakes, but continue to do things that ruin them?"

Letters and Opinions

Jack Schuneman [<mailto:jackjudy5@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 5:01 PM

To: buster@hickorytech.net

Subject: RE: newsletter content

Thanks for doing such a great job at keeping everyone informed in your great newsletter. I don't have anything for you now. Jack

Hunt Fish Eat Sleep Oh Work

From: Lee Plonske [<mailto:siouxtrailgardens@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 7:25 PM

To: Buster West

Subject: RE: Lake Watch - Fish Kills

Buster,

One thing that could aid the condition of the lakes, especially middle Jefferson are higher lake levels. It would simply take an added height on the discharge of German lake. This is such a simple solution that the brains of the DNR cannot grasp it!!

Lee Plonske

From: Theresa Johnson [<mailto:johnson.theresa@mchsi.com>]

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 6:04 PM

To: Warren & Nina West

Subject: Re: Lake Watch - Fish Kills

Thanks, Buster, This was very interesting. I sure wouldn't want another fish kill like we had a few years ago.

Our part of the lake seems O.K. for swimming. What a summer!

....Theresa

P.S. you are doing a great job keeping us informed. Thank you

From: tedtr@q.com [<mailto:tedtr@q.com>]

Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 4:04 PM

To: Warren & Nina West; lakeassociation@hickorytech.net; arne jessen

Cc: others

Subject: Re: Lake Watch: How your legislators voted

all i know is.. caring about the lake isnt helping to get our elected board members to take a stand against the saturation contract poisoning being done here for the last five years..

nor is it doing any good toward getting the hundred or so cows removed from pooping directly into the lake all day long all summer long..

nor is it doing any good toward getting the tile pump water redirected into a marsh to clean it before it gets to the lake..

these ongoing gross lake pollution practices done by a few are blatantly abusive of us lakeshore home owners who dont and wont pollute our beloved lake and treasured food supply..

by not making a public policy stand against these gross pollution abuses of our east lake jefferson is to condone these destructive practices..

why care

ted redalen

Editor's note: I believe that the chemicals you are concerned about are done under a permit. Please check if they are following the rules of the permit.

I went to look for the cows in the lake. I am happy to report they were not there and there was no evidence that the area has been used as a pasture this year.

If you are talking about the pump in Swedes Bay that I think you are, the water coming from the pump has been tested and is not a source of pollution.

I want to make sure you are aware of a valuable service from Conservation Minnesota. It's a new website called www.CheckMyLegislator.org.

Lets face it...everyone is busy. It's hard to keep track of everything that happens at the Capitol to know if state leaders are protecting the lakes and rivers you love. Until now!

We track conservation issues at the Capitol and put the information in a new easy-to-use tool. From committee actions to floor votes to speeches and news reports, it's all part of CheckMyLegislator.org.

The information is personalized for your area of the state. Start by entering your address. CheckMyLegislator.org will find your elected representatives for you. Then click on your state senator or your state representative to see how they have voted on the issues that matter to you. The descriptions are all easy to understand.

Sharing with friends and neighbors or telling your representatives what you think is just a click away.

During the next legislative session, we will be adding votes and information as they happen. So you will always have the important information at your fingertips. CheckMyLegislator.org makes it simple for you to find out what your elected leaders are doing about conservation issues that affect you and your family.

I hope you find this new service useful. Please help us spread the word by telling your friends and family to visit www.CheckMyLegislator.org. Enjoy the summer!

Paul Austin
Executive Director



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The Buzz Outdoors
by Dave Connors

2012 Greater Jefferson-German Lake Association - Jig-a-Bass Tournament

Saturday July 21st started pretty early for me, 4:17 a.m. to be exact. Dad called and asked if i had any 2-cycle oil for his pontoon, "Of course i do" was my response. We got asked if we'd help out with this year's GJGLA Jig-a-Bass tournament, and to be honest i think dad was a little more excited than i was.

We set off across the lake at about 5:30, only to arrive at the access to find a bunch of anxious fishermen. 35 boats of 2-man teams had registered for the event that was to start at 7 a.m. We inspected all the boats for proper safety equipment and to make sure the live-wells were empty. Nobody likes to break rules in this kind of tournament, so were happy to see no infractions being made.

Ease-off was nothing short of amazing either, there's truly nothing like hearing all those boats with that kind of horsepower racing to their spots.

Once the roar of all those monsters calmed down, the guys settled into the hunt. We saw lots of smaller bass being caught on a couple patrol passes we took around the lake. Judging from what we saw, we knew the weigh-in was gonna be good.

While the fisherman were out on the chase, we got the chance to set up the weigh station and leaderboard with Steve Schulte, Denny Miller, and steve's son Nick. Once everything was all set up, it was time to play the waiting game.

Weigh-in is always the most exciting part of any fishing tournament, and boats started rolling in with limits. Lots of limits to be exact.

25 of the 35 boats weighed in 5 fish limits, and i wasn't surprised at all with what the totals were. Total weight of all fish taken was over 379 pounds, and we came up with an average weight of 3.4 pounds. The largest bass of the day went to Team Westberg(a husband and wife team), and it was a beauty at 6.95 pounds.(definitely one of the biggest bass i've seen come out of the Jefferson chain) Weigh-in got even more exciting when most of the guys were tallied up, and there was only 2 ounces seperating first and second place.

After all the fish were weighed in and totals posted on the leaderboard, it was time to hand out the prize money and door prizes. Huge thanks go out to all the sponsors that helped put this event on and made it a blast for all the kids and fisherman alike. All of the kids that fished got a door prize of a hat and/or a gift card.

The day ended like this:

1st Place - Team Ykema/Lake	5 fish totaling 23.9 lbs	\$1166.00
2nd Place - Team Westberg	5 fish totaling 23.7 lbs	\$877.00
3rd Place - Team Johnson/Schultz	5 fish totaling 20.45 lbs	\$622.00

All in all it was a great day, a few sprinkles to start off, but as the day went on it got hot and sunny. I think i even chuckled a little when dad talked about the guys that won and said "See Dave, it's not the boat that catches the fish" (referring to the little 14 foot fiberglass boat that brought back 23.9 lbs)

Thanks everyone, and we hope to see you the 3rd weekend in July 2013 for the next GJGLA Jig-a-Bass tournament.

Dave Connors

Lakescaping for clean water

by Beth Kallestad, Cannon River Watershed Partnership

I'm going "up north" this month with my family for a quintessential Minnesota vacation and I can't wait. Going to the cabin, even when it is a rented one, is something that so many of us do each year. Relaxing by the water's edge, swimming, fishing and boating make for some wonderful summer memories. A friend recently asked me what lakes around here I would recommend. Sadly, there are few I could honestly call good lakes - lakes that aren't clogged with algae where I feel comfortable letting my kids swim. Maybe my standards are too high, but I don't think so. If I can't see my feet in six inches of water something is wrong. The not so lovely algae blooms are caused by too much phosphorus in the water. One of the causes of the phosphorus is runoff from lakeshore lots. There is a solution to this problem. I've been out on a few area lakes lately and have noticed many lots that have a natural shoreline with trees and native plants. Some have wildflowers instead of a lawn. While there are those who would say this is unkempt and needs a mowing I think it's beautiful. This type of landscaping helps to filter runoff, hold the shoreline in place and provides habitat for wildlife. Plus it requires less work than mowing a lawn. Do you really want to spend your time at the cabin mowing? If I've piqued your interest in changing some of your "green asphalt" (aka - a lawn) to a more natural look and you are wondering where to get started there are many resources. Contact your county Environmental Services office and ask for the Water Planner. Go on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website (www.dnr.state.mn.us) and search under Shoreland Management. There you'll find a host of resources. If you are part of a lake association, bring this topic up with your members. There are grants available through the DNR and the Clean Water Fund that can help make these projects happen. While naturalizing some lakeshore lots won't solve the problems our southern lakes face, it is one small step that those who live on lakes can take to make them better. Have questions or want to know more - call me at (507) 786-3913.

It's not too late to sign up for free septic inspection

FINAL NOTICE letter for residents that have not signed up were recently sent. Wenck is finishing inspections in Late July and Early August. Now is the time to sign up if you are going to!

"Lake Watch" alerts

So far we have 256 valid email addresses who have signed up for our "Lake Watch" email alerts. Thanks for your interest.

If you are not receiving alerts, please let me know.

"Lake Watch" email list. Contact the Lake Association if you would like to be on the "Lake Watch" list. lakeassociation@hickorytech.net or buster@hickorytech.net

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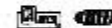


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**Lauren Klement
Le Sueur County Environmental Services**

**Tri County Shoreland Cost Share Project Presented to the Legislative-Citizen
Commission on Minnesota Resources**

On June 19, 2012, the planning team for the Tri County Shoreland cost share project was presented to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). We did a 10 minute presentation with 20 minutes of questions. We are excited to report that the LCCMR is recommending funding for our project! The recommendation is for funding of 2/3 (\$463,000) of the total we requested (\$695,405). This can be considered a phase I of the project. Remainder of the funding would be sought in 2013.

What does this mean to the shoreland residents of Jefferson and German Lakes who have been waiting for years for funding? It means that we will have to prioritize the shoreland projects based on watershed, slope and evidence of erosion. Those projects that rank high will be available for cost share next summer. Some of you who have been on the waiting list will rank lower and will have to wait until another round of funding in 2013 for 2014 funds. I'll let everyone on the list know where they stand when I get that far.

The process for funding is to complete a work plan, promote our project to the environmental committee members and then wait until the bill is signed into law by the Governor next spring.

Community Partners Clean Water Funding

The Clean Water Fund has a component of funding called Community Partners. This is funding that the county would apply for and make available as sub grants to non-government groups. This would include Lake Associations, neighborhood associations, non-profits, churches, school organizations (not schools directly though), sporting groups etc... Projects are to be implementation projects that hold water on the ground, reduce runoff and reduce nutrients and pollutants from reaching surface waters. The maximum that a group can apply for with the sub grant process through the county is \$25,000. I am on the county board agenda on July 24, 2012 for approval to apply for these funds. The time frame of this funding is 2013-2014.

Questions? Contact Lauren at lklement@co.le-sueur.mn.us or by calling 507-357-8540.

To do list:

- Participate in Septic Survey.
- Check my boat and trailer for exotic species every time I launch.
- Encourage county commissioners to move up the County 104 project.
- Encourage the County to take over the storm siren maintenance and insurance as a matter of Public Safety.
- Find out how my commissioner candidate feels about the lake issues that concern me.
- Check my own property for opportunities to prevent nutrient run-off into the lake.
- Send news and articles for future newsletters to Buster.



U left: Steve Schulte interviews one of the several youth who fished in the tournament.
 Above Westberg and Westberg caught the 6.95 big bass and finished 2nd in the contest at 23.7 lbs.
 Near left: 6.95 bass held by weigh-in assistant
 Far Left: Contest winners Ykema and Lake



Geese are even taking over the roads!



Here is a picture of a typical lake shore rip rapping with native plantings project on a local lake.
 Morgan Lloyd



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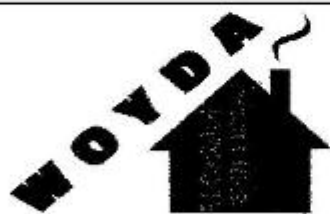


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West Jefferson Boat Parade



GIANT LYNGBYA **by David R. Bayne**

Bluegreen algae are primitive microorganisms that are more closely related to bacteria than to other algal groups (e.g. diatoms or green algae) and thus their scientific name Cyanobacteria. Like other algae their cells contain the green pigment, chlorophyll a, and they produce their own food through the process of photosynthesis using light energy and inorganic nutrients. However, beyond that there are few similarities. For example, bluegreen algae are virtually nonmotile and are incapable of sexual reproduction, unlike most other algal groups.

Lyngbya is a filamentous Cyanobacteria composed of a single series of cells surrounded by a tough covering or sheath. These hairlike strands or filaments can vary in size and length and may be crowded together in thick, tangled mats or occur individually suspended in the water (phytoplankton – see Bluegreen Planktonic Algae, Southern Ponds, Fall 2004). There are over 60 different kinds of Lyngbya most of which live on bottom substrates in fresh, brackish and marine waters. Most of the freshwater forms are not troublesome, consisting of relatively small mats of fine, soft filaments resting on the bottom or occasionally floating at the surface. However, in the mid to late 1970's a new, noxious form of Lyngbya began to appear in southeastern ponds and lakes. This lyngbya was huge, with filaments 6 to 10 times the diameter of most other freshwater forms and exhibited extremely aggressive growth resulting in literally tons of plant material per surface acre of water. Although there is still some debate as to the correct scientific name (most frequently referred to as *Lyngbya wollei*) the common name, giant lyngbya, is well known among aquatic resource managers and pond owners in the Southeast.

Figure 1. Giant lyngbya floating on the pond surface



In terms of aquatic weeds, giant lyngbya is a pond owners nightmare. In the first place the alga thrives in warm, slightly alkaline waters with abundant nutrients. Most managed ponds receive periodic applications of lime (an alkaline agent) and fertilizer to improve fish production. Giant lyngbya begins growth on the pond bottom down to relatively deep depths

(about 6 feet) in late winter and early spring. As the water warms in late spring and summer, the thick bottom mats trap gas produced during photosynthesis and float to the pond surface (Figure 1). By the time a pond owner notices giant lyngbya floating at the surface, it already has a head start growing on the pond bottom. Wind can blow the algal mats around forming thick blankets of plant material that block sunlight penetration into the waters below. These mats may persist for several years.

Giant lyngbya has few redeeming qualities. It interferes with practically all uses of a pond particularly recreational uses like fishing, swimming and boating. The plant hordes nutrients and prevents their use in the pond's food web that would otherwise benefit fish production. Reduced sunlight penetration into the water under the algal mats can degrade water quality (e.g. decrease dissolved oxygen) and threaten fish health.

Lyngbya produces volatile organic compounds that enter the air, water and fish and impart musty/fecal odors around the pond and off flavor to water and fish. In 1997, samples of giant lyngbya collected in Alabama waters were found to produce a potent, acutely lethal neurotoxin when tested in mammals. The ramifications of this in southeastern ponds is not at all clear but certainly is not a good thing.

Now that you have heard the bad news, here is the worst news! Giant lyngbya is almost impossible to control with the present physical, chemical and biological tools available for use in waters where fish are grown for human consumption. Copper compounds and diquat, two contact algaecide have been used with limited success both individually and in combination. The addition of certain adjuvants that help to hold the herbicide in contact with the plant mass can improve results. A relatively new algaecide, peroxyhydrate, has also been used with some success. However, the thick sheaths that surround the cells in the filament, the massive mats that prevent penetration of herbicides to underlying layers and the fact that a large portion of the plant biomass may be on the bottom of the pond, result in only partial control of the lyngbya with herbicides.

Grass carp do eat giant lyngbya and have had varying levels of impact on infestations. The most success with grass carp has occurred in ponds with little else for grass carp to eat but lyngbya. Mechanical harvesting of lyngbya is extremely expensive, may spread the plant (i.e. fragmentation) and does not affect lyngbya growing on the bottom.

Fortunately, there is research underway that looks promising at this stage and may result in an effective means of managing this noxious weed sometime in the future.

A comment from MPCA:

I would use the same caution as any blue-green algae. Don't swim by it if you question it at all. Since it takes so long from time of sample to determination of toxicity, that route may not be worth it...

Shaina Keseley, Watershed Division, MPCA-Rochester Office



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Clear Lake has success with fight against Curlyleaf

But a new issue arises — milfoil

According to the Mankato Free Press an effort to eradicate a noxious weed in Waseca's Clear Lake has been deemed a success, although another nuisance plant has popped up in its place.

"Milfoil has reared its ugly head this year," Waseca Lakes Association President Duane Rathmann said of a weed that is a common befouler of Minnesota lakes. But while Association members ponder what to do about that next year, Rathmann said they've received kudos from lake users on the group's \$7,500 effort to battle curly-leaf pondweed.

Curly-leaf pondweed fosters algae blooms in lakes, chokes out beneficial plants and is a hindrance to boating and swimming because it rises to the surface in smelly, mat-like form in late-June/early-July.

But this year the chemical Endothol was used to treat the weed in its early stages. That was done April 4, when lake water warmed to a requisite 60 degrees and treatment crews sprung into action.

"You either treat it quickly or you don't treat it at all," Rathmann said. The trick is to control the weed in its vulnerable stage but not kill other beneficial plants in the process.

The liquid herbicide was applied to 30 acres of the lake's weed-intensive south end. It did its job, then degraded after a couple of days, Rathmann said.

The stickler is that treatment isn't a onetime proposition, and successful long-term control requires annual programs that come with a cost.

Rathmann said the Association now is discussing options for next year that could involve raising funds for treatment of pondweed, milfoil or both.

Dry Year?

The Mankato Free Press says the normal precipitation up to July 29 is 19.04 inches. The West Jefferson rain gage has recorded 19.25.

Fun Fact:

Where does the water go? Normal evaporation for the lake is 35 inches per year!

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Don't forget to vote

- This is a big election for LeSueur County. The redistricting in the county means that we will have at least two new commissioners on the County Board.
- It also means that Commissioner Rohlring and Commissioner Wetzell are running against each other.
- Stay informed. Do your homework.

Lake Jefferson Turtles

You often see them sunning on a log or large rock near the water. They slide into the water as soon as you approach. But during nesting season, turtles come on land and allow you to get up close. Close enough to be in awe of their prehistoric leathery skin and menacing long claws. May and June is nesting season. In the early morning we have seen the unmistakable wide path of a turtle that made its way through the dew-laden grass. Or you'll see trails in the sandy beach from their heavy strong tails. Long before there were cabins or houses on Lake Jefferson, the turtles have called this lake home. Over the past eleven years, we've been fortunate to observe painted, snapping, and softshell turtles. Once we think we saw a Blanding's turtle – but didn't get a photo to confirm it.

We've watched turtles lay eggs on the beach, in the yard, even in the gravel along the edge of the road. Huge snappers that allow you to measure them while they intently dig a nest and drop white ping-pong sized eggs – one by one. Raccoons, opossum, skunks, or fox will dig up freshly laid nests leaving rubbery shell remains strewn on the beach.



About mid-August we'll find small holes on the beach or lawn where a nest has hatched. Several times we've been lucky enough to watch the last few hatchlings emerge, coated in dried sand particles. Slowly they make their way to the water's edge and scurry to the lake bottom. But not all are so lucky. Hungry seagulls spot the hatchlings and quickly swoop in or stalking great blue herons are always looking for a turtle snack.

Along the shore we have occasionally found baby painted and softshells, but mostly snapping turtles. This spring I found a quarter-sized hatchling while cleaning up the flower beds, a long way from the lake. I only noticed it because it flipped upside down and its bright orange underside stood out among last fall's oak leaves. I walked it to the beach for its first swim.

Notes from my nature diary:

~ June 11, 2008: Dark and misting, we come home at dusk as a large green-backed turtle heads toward our neighbor's pond. We grabbed the camera and headed down the hill, hoping she was still there. Jim brought a large flashlight, but she was so big we could see her in the dark without it. She hissed and lunged at Jim when he came too close. Considerably over a foot long from head to tail, the fringe of her shell was yellow. Massive neck, horny tail – we identified her as a snapper. She waddled into the tall grass, having had a little too much attention from humans.

~ June 14, 2008: Jim reports ten holes on the beach, likely turtle nests or attempts to nest. Some appeared empty. In the afternoon, a small mud turtle deposits her eggs underneath Matt's bedroom window. Turtles supposedly return to their birth place to lay their eggs. We know there have been other nests laid in this same spot.

~June 16, 2008: A large (15 inch) snapper crosses the back yard as we get ready for work. Can't tell where she nested, but she lets us take photos and measure her, seaweed hanging off her shell.

~ June 20, 2008: The beach is all torn up, empty turtle shells scattered, ripped to shreds. Perfect hand prints in the sand leave no question as to who this masked maurader was. Likely pregnant and desperate for food.

~Sandie Gibbs, West Lake Jefferson

~Photos: Sandie & Jim Gibbs



Turtle Facts:

(Source: James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History/Univ. of Minnesota)

- There are eight species of turtles native to Minnesota:
 - Snapping Turtles
 - Painted Turtles (also known as Mud Turtles)
 - Two species of Map Turtles (Common and False)
 - Wood Turtles (endangered)
 - Blanding's Turtles (endangered)
 - Two species of Softshell (Spiny and Smooth)
- Turtles hibernate at the bottom of lakes or rivers to avoid freezing in winter.
- Several species take 15 years to reach reproductive age.
- Turtles can live up to 75 years.
- Age can be measured by counting growth rings on Snapping, Wood, and Blanding's
- Larger turtles can lay 50 or more eggs in a nest.
- It takes approximately 60 days for turtle eggs to hatch.
- Predators destroy 80-90% of eggs laid.
- Some hatchlings overwinter in the nest and don't emerge until spring.
- It is being investigated as to how these overwintered hatchlings survive freezing.

Hatchling heads towards water.

Other resources:

Blanding's Turtles: www.mndnr.gov/magazine Jul/Aug 2012 issue
Turtles of Minn: www.dnr.state.mn.us/reptiles_amphibians/turtles
Turtles, Frogs, Snakes of Minn: www.mnherpsoc.com



Left: Hatchling
Right: Seagull enjoys a snack on a hatchling that didn't make it





Local wildflowers

Above: Yellow cone flowers, Prairie blazing stars, Cup plant

Below: Queen Ann's lace, Ox eye, Purple cone flowers, Wild bergamot.



Flooding in Cleveland Township?

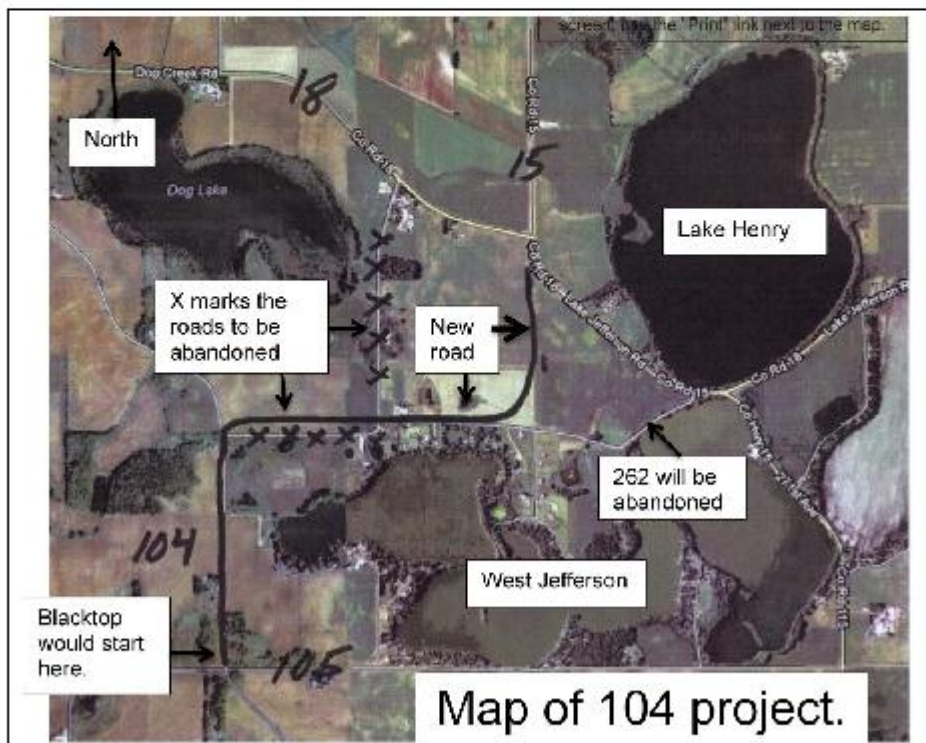
Apparently FEMA thought so. They awarded Cleveland Township with \$95,000 in flood relief to repair roads. \$50,000 went to the repair of 262 by West Jefferson and the other \$45,000 went to a road near Scotch Lake.

County Road 104 Project

This is the gravel road west of West Jefferson that is proposed to connect to County 15. It would finish

the ring of tar roads around the lakes.

- It was the number one project for the county in 2007, but got pushed out to 2014
- A gravel road can't handle the current traffic load.
- There will be no fixing County 15 between Middle and West Jefferson until 104 provides a viable detour.
- Don't forget to keep the pressure on for the county to upgrade County 104 in 2013. Contact your commissioner and Darrell Pettis.
- Elections are coming. Ask your commissioner candidates how they feel.



Thanks to everyone who sent pictures and articles for this newsletter!!!

2012 Dues

Please join the 300 plus property owners who have committed to improving the lakes by joining the Lake Association.

Name _____

Address: _____

Email address _____

___ Annual Dues	\$20
___ Guarantor	\$50
___ Benefactor	\$100
___ Corporate	\$1,000
___ Extra for Siren Fund	<u>\$20</u>

Total \$ _____

Please send this page and your check to:

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Make checks payable to:

Greater Jefferson German Lakes Association

Or to:

GJGLA

You may also register online at:
<http://jgla.org>

You may use your credit card to pay online.

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Mission Statement

The mission and purpose of the Association is to:

- Promote and coordinate water management, water quality, and water control in the Jefferson German lakes water basin.
- Further communication between members of the Association and other parties interested in the Jefferson German lakes water basin.
- And do all other things of common interest and benefit with regard to water management, water quality, and water control regarding the Jefferson German lakes water basin.