



The Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association

Fall 2017

<http://jgla.camp7.org/>

Its September and tree colors are just starting to show on the lake. Cool mornings of fall are here, as is the annual rite of pulling docks and water toys out of the water.

Your 2017-18 Lake Association Board has met twice now, and has set our agenda for the coming year. We believe that we have set a good foundation in the last two years, and financially are as sound as we have been for some time.

We have several contributors now that fund the sirens, thanks to the German Jefferson Sportsman Club, and Cleveland Township. We have our 501c3 in place which allows donation to be tax deductible. Our spraying program management was successful, and we covered our costs this year. We have revived our sponsorships from local businesses to help provide another avenue of funding.

We can now start to look forward to getting some projects underway. Big news is that LeSueur County representative Josh Mankowitz and Mike Schulze met with several GJGLA representatives to review their plan for over a dozen projects around the lake that will directly decrease the runoff going into our lakes, and increase the water quality.

This plan still awaits grant approval from the state, which tentatively is scheduled for the fall. As part of the plan, the grant requires dollars be committed as a match from stakeholders, including land owners, county sources, and our lake association.

The Board committed a contribution level of \$12,000 for our share of the match of \$100,000 towards the \$400,000 of projects. This is a small percentage considering the scope of the work that will get done from these project. Our planning has begun as to different avenues for raising this money in a capital campaign that we will fully detail as we flesh it out.

To that end, we have one well known sponsor that we are working with, to plan a MAJOR event sometime in the summer of 2018 that will be a lot of fun for everyone around the lakes. More on that as we develop those plans as well.

Enjoy what remains of our summer season. We would love to have more volunteers to help with our work. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

Bill John, President
on behalf of the 2017-18 GJGLA Board



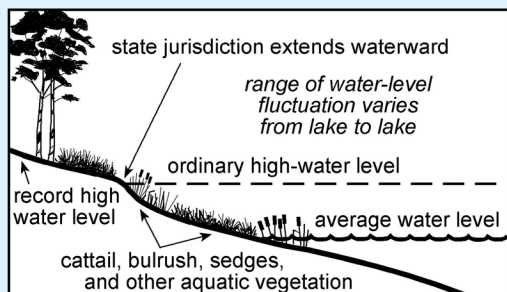
Shoreline Alterations: Ice Ridges



Is an individual permit required?

For most projects constructed *below* the ordinary high-water level* (OHWL) of public waters, an individual Public Waters Work Permit is required from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Ice ridges exception: An individual permit from the DNR is not required for the grading or removal of an ice ridge if the conditions outlined on this information sheet are followed.



Shoreline cross section

If you have questions concerning the contents of this information sheet, contact your local DNR Area Hydrologist. See contact information on reverse side.

Please note that local units of government and other agencies may require a permit for this project.

*For lakes and wetlands, the OHWL is the highest elevation that has been maintained as to leave evidence on the landscape. It is commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial. For watercourses, the OHWL is the top of the bank of the channel. For reservoirs and flowages, the OHWL is the operating elevation of the normal summer pool.

What causes ice ridges and what can I do about them?

Property owners occasionally return to their cabins in the spring only to discover they are dealing with property damage caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking". This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an "ice ridge". The result may include significant damage to retaining walls, docks and boat lifts, and sometimes even to the cabin itself.



Ice ridge formed along the shore of Shamineau Lake in Morrison County.

How do ice ridges form? Ice ridges are caused by the pushing action of a lake's ice sheet against the shore. Cracks form in the ice because of different contraction rates at the top and bottom of the ice sheet. This is especially true in years that the ice sheet lacks an insulating snow cover. Ice cracks also develop because the edges of the ice sheet are sometimes firmly attached to the shore. When water rises in the cracks and freezes, the ice sheet expands slightly. Rising air temperatures warm the ice, leading to additional expansion, which exerts a tremendous thrust against the shore. Alternate warming and cooling of the ice sheet leads to additional pushing action, causing the ice to creep shoreward and scrape, gouge, and push soil and rock into mounds (called "ice ridges", "ice pushes", or "ramparts").

What can be done about ice ridges *after* they form? Because ice ridges do provide ecological benefits (described below), the ideal reaction to the formation of an ice ridge would be to do nothing other than remove personal property from its zone of influence. However, this is often impractical. Ice ridges can impede use of the lake by a property owner or the users of public lakeshore facilities. Therefore, action may be taken to remedy the results of ice activity.

Shoreline Alterations: Ice Ridges

Lake access can be obtained by ramping over or cutting through the ice ridge. There are circumstances, however, when it may be necessary to remove or grade an ice ridge. An individual Public Waters Work Permit is *not* required from the DNR to remove or grade an ice ridge if the work meets the following conditions:

- The ice ridge resulted from ice action within the last year.
- The project is either exempt from local permits or is authorized by issuance of a local government permit.
- Not more than 200 feet of shoreline is affected.
- All ice ridge material that is composed of muck, clay, or organic sediment is deposited and stabilized at an upland site above the ordinary high-water level (OHWL; see sidebar on page 1).
- All ice ridge material that is composed of sand or gravel is removed as provided above or graded to conform to the original cross section and alignment of the lakebed, with a finished surface at or below the OHWL.
- No additional excavation or replacement fill material occurs on the site.
- All exposed areas are immediately stabilized as needed to prevent erosion and sedimentation (see Lakescaping information sheet).
- Local zoning officials, the watershed district (if applicable) and the soil and water conservation district are given at least 7 days' notice before beginning the project.

Removal or grading of an ice ridge must not disturb emergent aquatic vegetation, unless authorized by an aquatic plant management permit from the DNR's Division of Fisheries.

What can be done about ice ridges *before* they form? The simplest means of avoiding ice-related damage to shoreline property is to ensure that personal property is out of wrath's path. State and local shoreland regulations requiring setback limits not only lead to improved aesthetics but also help to minimize personal property damage from ice action and wave-induced erosion. Engineering solutions are sometimes pursued to remedy ice ridge problems, but they can be expensive and ineffective. If an engineering solution is pursued, property owners should seek the advice of a professional.

What are the benefits of ice ridges? Ice ridges are natural berms that have formed around Minnesota's lakes over thousands of years. These mounds of material provide the lake with ecological benefits by creating a barrier to nutrient loading. Nutrients collect on the landward side of the mound, producing fertile soil where plants and trees thrive. The root systems of this near-shore plant community help to protect the shore from erosion and soak up additional nutrients. Shade and habitat offered by near-shore plants benefit organisms along the shore and in the lake, thus supporting nesting and spawning fish.

Ice ridges also work to protect the shore from the lake itself. For example, a small ice ridge formed one year is followed by additional pushes in ensuing years. The ridge is fortified by jamming rocks into it. The roots of the near-shore plant community bind together the soil and rock to form natural shoreline protection.

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DNR Contact Information



DNR Ecological and Water Resources
website and a listing of Area Hydrologists:
<http://mndnr.gov/waters>

DNR Ecological and Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road, Box 32
St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 259-5100

*This information is available in an
alternative format on request.*

DNR Information Center

Twin Cities: (651) 296-6157
Minnesota toll free: 1-888-646-6367
Telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD): (651) 296-5484
TDD toll free: 1-800-657-3929

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DNR Seeking Feedback from Minnesota Fishermen

The DNR is holding several town hall meetings across the state over the next few months to get feedback from local anglers. Unfortunately for us southerners, the closest one is in Little Falls. If you can make it up north to one of the meetings to voice your concerns and provide feedback, you would be doing a good service to our state fishery and our local outdoorsmen.

As local residents of Jefferson Chain, it is critical to provide feedback to the DNR. The DNR wants to get your feedback so that they know what types of fish are popular, where stocking needs to happen, and what rules need to be changed. Al Stevens from the DNR mentioned that "We want to ensure anglers can find places with quality fishing in this state."

Most of these meetings will be focusing on specific lakes, species and local regulations. The DNR is also asking for feedback via their website and email.

Here is a list of the meetings.

- Aitkin County (Aitkin area fisheries): Review special regulations on northern pike on Long and Sissabagamah lakes, 4:30-7 p.m, Friday, Oct. 6, Aitkin Area Fisheries office, 1200 Minnesota Ave. South, Aitkin.
- Beltrami County (Bemidji area fisheries): Review special bass regulations on Balm, Big Bass, Deer and South Twin lakes, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21, Northern Township Hall, 445 Town Hall Road NW, Bemidji.
- Cass County (Walker area fisheries): Review special bass regulations on Portage Lake, and discuss a proposal for new walleye regulations on Little Boy and Wabedo lakes, 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 27, Woodrow Township Hall, 1133 County Road 11 NW, Hackensack.
- Clearwater and Hubbard counties (Bemidji area fisheries): Review sunfish, black crappie and bass regulations on Itasca, Ozawindib and Mary lakes; two concurrent meetings, one meeting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 19, in Itasca State Park Visitor Center, Park Rapids; the other 6:30 p.m. Sept. 19 in Douglas Lodge in Itasca State Park; address for both meetings is 36750 Main Park Drive.
- Cook County (Grand Marais area fisheries): Review trout management and special regulations on Kraut, North Shady, Peanut, Squash, Thompson, Thrush, Tomato and Turnip lakes; and review smallmouth bass regulations on Flour, Hungry Jack and Two Island lakes, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, Cook County Community Center, 317 W. Fifth St., Grand Marais.
- Crow Wing County (Brainerd area fisheries): Review the closed-to-fishing regulation on Moody Lake, 3-6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, upper conference room, DNR Brainerd Area Office, 1601 Minnesota Drive, Brainerd.
- Itasca County (Grand Rapids area fisheries): Review of existing northern pike regulations on Sand, Little Sand, Portage and Birds Eye lakes and connected waters, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, Sand Lake Community Center, 53020 N. Center Road, Spring Lake.
- Morrison and Todd counties (Little Falls area fisheries): Review existing northern pike regulations on Big Swan, Cedar (Upsula) and Bass (Trophy) lakes, 6-8 p.m., Monday Sept. 11, Burtrum City Hall, Burtrum.
- St. Louis County (International Falls area fisheries): Review of the existing bass and northern pike regulations on Pelican Lake, 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 17, the American Legion, Orr.

the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine

one of our greatest outdoor and conservation news assets in our State

by David Tripp

I know many of you are currently subscribers and/or readers of this JEWEL of a magazine, and for those of you who aren't familiar with the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer, hopefully this information will lead you to venture into the DNR's website to find out how you can begin receiving this bi-monthly treasure of informative articles and eye-catching photography. My father and mother were avid subscribers to MCV more than 30 years ago and signed me up for subscription (THANK YOU Mom and Dad!!); I now gladly contribute \$50 a year to have their names published annually in the Memoriam section of the magazine - - MCV is truly one of the anticipated arrivals in the mail. In fact, the July-August issue had a great article on freshwater sponges of which many of you perhaps experienced last late summer when you pulled your docks and boats out of the lake and found these "creatures" attached and feared the worse! MCV is FREE - - but of course they do ask for any contribution possible, which is tax deductible.

I've copied some info on the Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine from the DNR website:



Our Story

Minnesota Conservation Volunteer is your guide to wild Minnesota. This flagship publication of the Department of Natural Resources delivers in-depth, in-the-field coverage of the state's outdoor news and conservation issues. The *MCV* mission is to encourage conservation and sustainable use of Minnesota's natural resources.

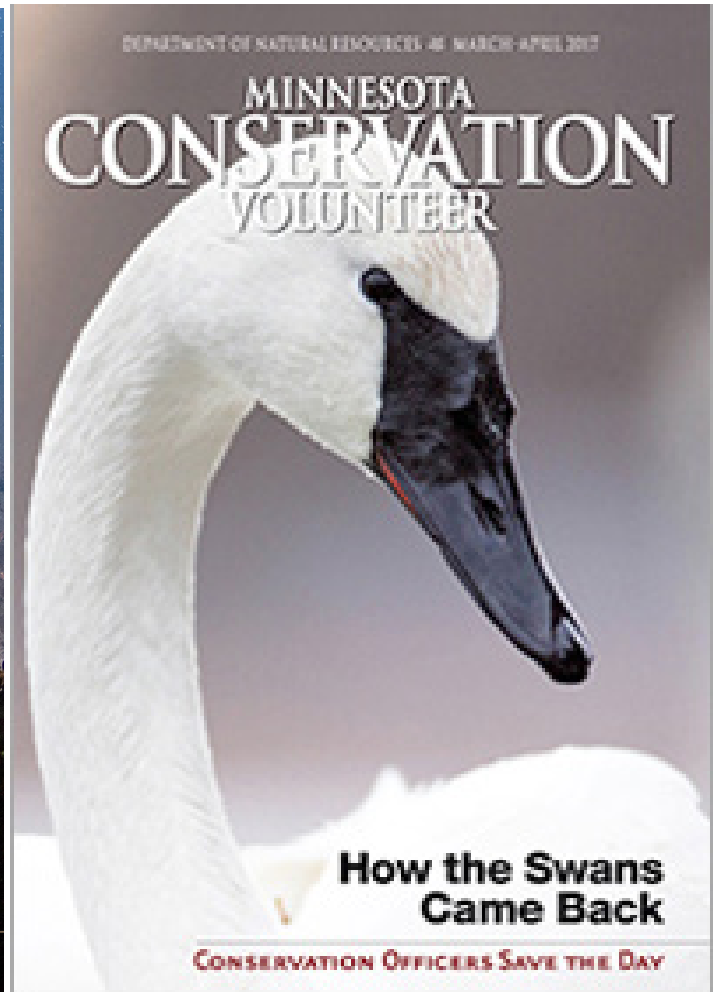
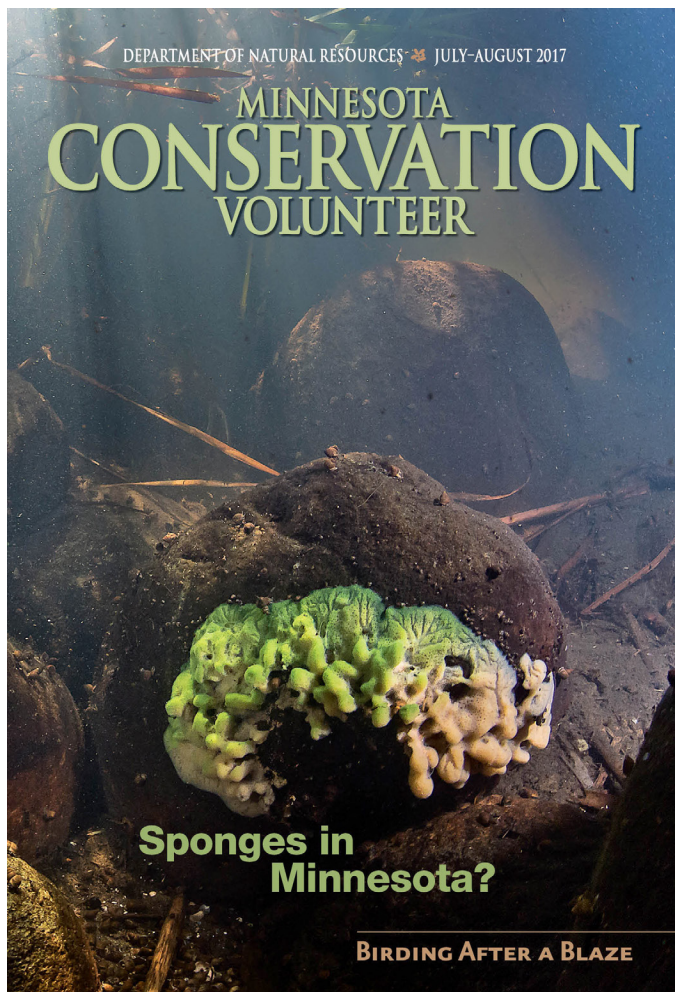
Who reads it? Published since 1940, this bimonthly magazine is a trusted source of outdoor information and ideas in homes statewide. With more than 120,000 subscribers and an estimated readership of nearly a half million Minnesotans, *MCV* magazine is one of the most widely read publications in the state. Readers include anglers and birders, hunters and hikers, bikers and paddlers, armchair adventurers and explorers. All public libraries and schools receive *MCV*.

Who pays for it? Reader contributions alone support *MCV* magazine and its education and outreach projects. No other state conservation magazine has this model of reader support. In 1980, due to a state budget shortfall, the magazine began asking readers for financial support. Since 1990 loyal readers had been contributing enough money to pay for printing and mailing about 1 million copies of the magazine each year. In 2003 the DNR cut funding to the magazine, so *MCV* turned to readers for additional support to cover the salaries and benefits of its staff members. Supporters came through. To sustain this magazine and its mission, we ask you—every household, business, and organization—to make an annual tax-deductible contribution.

Who creates content? This magazine reports on conservation efforts and outdoor recreation opportunities statewide. Well-known scientists, writers, photographers, and illustrators create content for *MCV*. Their love of the outdoors and their dedication to conservation and sustainable use of Minnesota's natural resources shines through in every issue.

Who puts it all together? The editorial team of four plans, coordinates, edits, writes, art directs, designs, proof reads, and oversees the entire production. Meanwhile, the circulation team of three handles subscription fulfillment, database management, and customer service—doing their best to get *MCV* to all the right places at the right time.

Questions? Contact us at www.mndnr.gov/mcvmagazine



Do I need a Permit??

By Scott Lassiter

The following items are questions that many of us lake shore owners ask every year when working on our property. Since recently moving to a lakeshore property on the Jefferson chain, I have had many questions about what I can do on my property. You can get the whole list here from the MNDNR 2017 public website - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit.html>. I thought the following topics are great for lake shore owners.

Beach sand blanket

Is a DNR permit required to haul sand onto my lakeshore to make a beach area?

A DNR public waters work permit is not required if the following conditions are satisfied:

- Does not cover emergent vegetation, unless already authorized by an Aquatic Plant Management permit from the Department's Division of Fisheries.
- Clean, inorganic sand or gravel, free of pollutants and nutrients.
- No more than 6 inches thick, 50 feet wide along the shore, or one-half the width of the lot (whichever is less), and no more than 10 feet waterward of the ordinary high water level (OHWL).
- Local watershed district and local zoning officials must be given at least 7 days prior notice.
- The site is not a posted fish spawning area.
- Installation of sand or gravel may only be repeated once at same location, not exceeding same amount and dimensions of the original sand blanket.
- Important: Other approvals may be required from federal, state, and local units of government, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, watershed districts, water management organizations, counties, townships, and cities.

Docks and structures along the shore

Is a DNR permit required to install a dock or swimming platform in a lake?

A DNR public waters work permit is not required to construct, reconstruct or install docks, floating or temporary structures, watercraft lifts and mooring facilities if the following conditions are satisfied:

- Will not be an obstruction to navigation or create safety hazard.
- Will not be detrimental to significant fish and wildlife habitat.
- Site is not a posted fish spawning area.
- Does not have a roof, walls or sewage facilities and is not used or intended to be used for human habitation or as a boat storage structure.
- Allows for the free flow of water beneath it.
- Is consistent with or allowed under local government zoning authority controls.
- Other than a seasonal watercraft lift or canopy, is not more than 8 feet in width, and is not combined with other similar structures so as to create a larger structure.
- Docks placed on rock filled cribs are located only on waters where the bed is incapable of accepting pilings.

Note: Temporary structures which do not extend from shore, such as: swim rafts, slalom courses, ski jumps or buoys of any kind, may not be placed in the waters of the state between sunset and sunrise without a permit from the county sheriff. Those structures not left in the water overnight are still required to be placed so that they do not create a hazard on the water body or obstruct navigation. Contact the water patrol unit of your county sheriff's department for permit information. Call the DNR Boat and Water Safety Section at 651-259-5400 for additional information.

Sometimes disputes regarding the installation of docks and other structures in front of adjacent properties occur. Such disputes are best settled by first discussing your concerns with your neighbor. If your neighbor is uncooperative, you may have to contact an attorney about the legalities of your neighbor's actions.

Vegetation removal

Is a DNR permit required to cut, clear, or eliminate the vegetation (trees and shrubs) along my lakeshore?

A DNR aquatic plant management permit may be required to remove aquatic vegetation (See Aquatic Vegetation.) However, no permit is required to remove debris below the ordinary high water level, such as trees, logs, stumps and trash as long as the original alignment, slope or cross section of a lake, wetland, or streambed is not altered, and the removed debris must be placed outside of public waters and public waters wetlands which may require local government approval.

Your property may be within the boundaries of one or more land use management districts and subject to vegetative cutting or removal requirements. For lands within a Shoreland Management District, no permit is required for limited clearing of trees and shrubs (10 to 20 percent) and cutting, pruning, and trimming of trees to accommodate the placement of stairways, paths, and water accesses and to provide a view to the water from the principal dwelling.

For lands within a Wild and Scenic Rivers District, the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, or the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor, requirements for vegetative cutting or removal may be more restrictive than for lands within the Shoreland Management District. Contact your city, county, or township local planning/zoning authority for information on district boundaries, requirements, and permits before undertaking these types of activities.

There are dead trees on my shoreline and in the lake. Is a DNR permit required to cut them down?

Your property may be within the boundaries of one or more land use management districts and subject to vegetative cutting or removal requirements. For lands within a Shoreland Management District, dead or diseased trees, limbs, or branches that pose a safety hazard may be removed as long as the structure remains adequately screened when viewed from the water. Diseased or dying vegetation may be removed along with selective pruning of branches to allow a view. If the lakeshore area includes a bluff, vegetation removal is more closely controlled through the local governments shoreland controls.

For lands within a Wild and Scenic Rivers District, the Lower St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, or the Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor, requirements for vegetative cutting or removal may be more restrictive than for lands within the Shoreland Management District. Contact your city, county, or township local planning/zoning authority for information on district boundaries, requirements, and permits before undertaking these types of activities.

Fall Educational Seminar Set for November 18

GJGLA has set the date for the annual Fall Educational Seminar for November 18, 10 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church - German Lake. The address is 22693 German Lake Road, LeCenter MN 56057.

We will have a series of speakers that will address the quality of our lakes, and how we can improved them.

Tentatively, we will have Mike Schulze from LeSueur Land and Water, to discuss the projects they are working on for 2018, and the financing/grants that will hopefully be available to pay for them. It's a wide ranging grouping of projects, and they will certainly make a big impact on the water quality.

The County has asked that the GJGLA contribute a match of \$12,000 (out of a total of \$100,000 in private funds) that will help to generate \$400,000 worth of projects. The Board has approved this match, and will also be discussing the fundraising efforts that we will undertake in 2018.

To this end, we are planning a summer Association picnic, together with a major sponsor, that should be an exciting event for next summer. More on that as we start to finalize details.



The Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association

Organized for the benefit of all property owners in the Jefferson-German Lakes watershed and for all those who use and enjoy the lakes.

Dear Property Owner,

We hope you are planning an enjoyable fall at the lake! Now, we need your support! Membership dues are the driver of any organization, allowing projects to happen and sparking advocacy with our partners. Please join the over 140 of your neighbors who have committed themselves to GJGLA. Dues can be paid by check or by credit card via our website: <http://jgla.org>.

With Your Membership You:

- Become an active partner in maintaining and improving lake quality, fishing, and recreational possibilities.
- Have a voice and vehicle to express your concerns about the lakes.
- Have an opportunity to join committees that actively help to improve the quality of life on the lakes.
- Help preserve and restore our lakes for future generations.
- If you have already renewed, THANK YOU! If you haven't, please join us today!

Cut and mail to: GJGLA, Box 286, Cleveland, MN 56017

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Lake Address _____ City _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____ H or C

___ Regular Dues \$25 ___ Benefactor \$100

___ Guarantor Dues ... \$50 ___ Sponsor \$200

GJGLA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization; contributions above the Regular dues are deemed charitable donations.

Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association Membership List

Paid Up As Of September 7, 2017

Sponsor Level (\$200)

Bruender Construction
Century 21 Lake Region Realty
Christianson, Dan (RE/MAX)
Lawns R Us
Kokomo's Restaurant
Mankato Luther Honda
Schabert Construction
Schmidt Masonry
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Thomas
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Jerry Lynch - Realtor, Weichert
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Quiram, Wayne
Summer Breeze, Scott Haas
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Wasmund, Larry & Paula
Wetzell, Tom & Pam
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Flaten, Mary
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Johnston, Mary & Ralph
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Luskey, William & Joyce
Molski, Rosalia
Parks, Sandy
Peterson, Ronald & Marlys
Rogers, Julie and Aaron
Swenson, Julie

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Anderson, Curt & Donna
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Wandersee, Tim & Kay
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Weber, John & Val
Wendelschafer, David
West, Nina and Buster
Wills, Dale & Jo Anne
Wills, Stanley
Woitas, Mike & Ward,
Barb
Woods, Nancy & John

If you do not see your name listed, PLEASE consider joining your neighbors and fellow Lake lovers to belong to our GJGLA as a member. With over 800 property owners in our five lakes - membership is critical if we are to become a progressive and effective voice and action agent for our Lakes.

If you do not see your name listed and believe that there is a mistake, PLEASE call Dave Tripp, 320.761.5065.

Catching Fall Bass with Crankbaits

By Scott Lassiter

Many of us living on the lake know that the Jefferson chain offers some great bass fishing. One of my favorite times of the year to fish for bass in Minnesota is in the fall, when the temperatures start falling into the 50s at night, just cool enough to get bass stacking up on points and suspending off the weed lines. Bass are looking to fill up with shad and baitfish when the temperatures start changing.

Crank baits come in many sizes and shapes and can run in various depths. For fall, chartreuse and natural colors work very well. When fishing a crankbait, you are trying to imitate an injured shad that has strayed away from the main school. Techniques for retrieval include cranking and stopping at different speeds, fast retrieval, and pulling down on the rod tip sporadically. It is good to try a variety of retrieves until you get a strike and then try to re emulate that retrieve again.

Fishing with crankbaits is very exciting because when you get a strike, it is usually hard and to the point. Bass do not typically nibble on a crankbait, they hit it at full speed and run. Don't forget that northern pike love crankbaits as well and will readily strike them. Some of the largest northern pike I have caught have been on small to medium cranks.

I recommend fishing in about 12-15 feet of water on a point or near a break or weedline on a nice fall morning. Fish are hungry and ready to slam your bait. Try different colors and different speeds and depths. All in all enjoy your time on the Jefferson Chain fishing.



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