



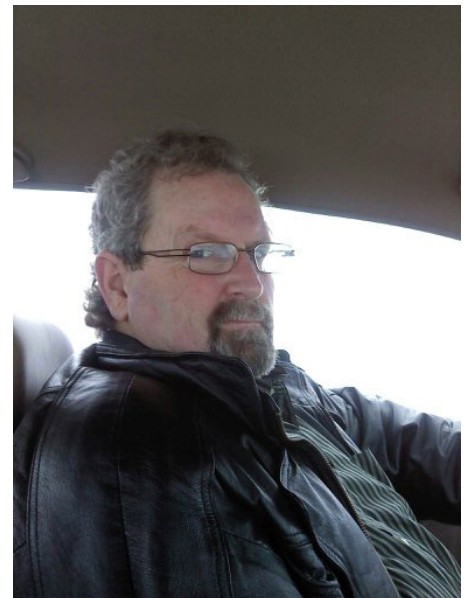
# The Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association

Spring 2017

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

## Dear Fellow lake dwellers:

As another summer slowly progresses to us we should take a few moments to reminisce about the days gone by, the days current and think about the days to come. To me it is hard to believe that on the 3rd of July we will celebrate living on Lake West Jefferson for 27 years. It's hard to believe that it has been that long ... 27 times I have pushed that heavy dock into the lake only to pull it back out a few short months later. It seems like just a couple of years ago I remember the Halloween blizzard and my dock being frozen into the ice by Sunday morning. We walked on the ice and with a chainsaw cut the ice around the dock and pulled it out. What really got to me was that by Thanksgiving that same year the lake had warmed and the ice was gone; I had worked my tail off for nothing had I just waited. 27 years, 3 boats and 4 pontoons later and we still follow the yearly ritual for what seems to always be just a big handful of days actually on the water. There is always something to do on the lakeshore like mowing, spraying, trimming trees, fixing the dock and or the lift, painting the house, or raking the leaves. Now that I think about it was not long after we moved out here that we joined the Greater Jefferson German Lakes Association. For a minimal price of twenty dollars a year we were part of the largest home owners association in LeSueur County and perhaps even in the state for that matter. The one thing that the 800 residents had in common was that we all owned a piece of paradise. At that time many of the residents traveled from their (real) homes in town or even neighboring states for the summer filled with fun.



I remember taking the boat up to the dock at Halls resort for a huge cinnamon roll and coffee on the morning of opening fishing. After all we went out at midnight looking for the elusive walleye, and seemed to always settle for a meal of sunfish and crappies.

I remember in '98 when St. Peter was nearly removed from the map by an early tornado. That brought out our neighbors in great numbers in favor of installing early warning sirens. We begged, scraped and fought to fund and install three civil defense sirens for our Chain of Lakes. We did that knowing that in many cases we would be indoors and may not hear them but it felt great knowing that any unsuspecting fisherman or family on a boat ride could have warning and be safe.

I remember that the lakes association worked twice with the DNR and funded the dredging of the boat passes between Little Jeff and middle Jeff and Big Jefferson to German and even a little cleaning between Big Jeff and Middle and at Swede's Bay The money for these cleanings came from the dues and donations that we as neighbors and friends donated to the association.

We as a group cared about our little paradise and worked at trying to keep the lakes clean and

healthy. We even pledged five thousand dollars to be matched in funding to clear up a major drainage issue from hundreds if not thousands of acres of farmland north of Middle Jefferson and east of Lake Henry. This project stretched out over several phases and thousands of dollars in grading and installed best methods and practices, and now the running water at that inlet runs clean.

We are a great bunch of people, and sometimes when faced with issues that all do not feel the same about, there becomes controversy and hard feelings along with taking sides against each other; when pointing fingers we forget that everyone is entitled to their own opinion. Many of our members have for unknown reasons decided to stop paying dues and donations to the association not thinking about what good work we as a group have and still can accomplish.

I personally do not believe anyone around these great lakes of ours wants to neglect the lake or the quality of the water, however without education about best methods and practices we have been left living on declared impaired waters. We now have identified areas of invasive species of vegetation such as millfoil and curly leaf pond weed overrunning our lakes. Zebra mussels and flying carp may not be far away.

Your association has worked with areas on the lake and procured grants and permits from the DNR to treat the heaviest areas of infestations. These grants are not available to individuals and through working with lakeshore residents we have been able to treat up to fifty acres of the worst areas to create better boating and more enjoyment on the water. Just ask anyone on Middle Jefferson how the last three years compare to 4 to 7 years ago.

It takes many individuals and families to keep an association like ours going. It takes funds, volunteers, hands on hard work, and cooperation to make things happen. The Board of Directors would like to thank each and every one of you, the faithful contributors, for sticking it out through good and bad times. Things are turning around a little as the economy improves but there will always be a need around the lakes to protect the shores and waters.

Please consider asking all your neighbors to join or rejoin this great group. Also think about how you personally can help. It doesn't cost anything to volunteer to be on a committee or to supervise one of our mini-libraries at the public accesses, or to volunteer to listen for the sirens at one o'clock in the first Wednesday of every month. Your seven board members can't do it all.

In the past 4 or 5 years we have been blessed with a new group of Directors that have great vision on where we can go in the future but we need funds and many hands to get it done.

Please consider what you can afford to preserve these lakes and then think of what will happen to them if we all sit on our hands. Please meet with us on the 27th of May at the Marysburg Church. There will be education, fellowship, coffee and pastries, and most of all, the information on what we need for Volunteers and what those positions have for duties.

I hope to see you all there. Let's fill the hall with enthusiasm and excitement for the future!

Thanks for reading,  
Larry Wasmund  
President GJGLA

P.S., please give us an email so we can send you information. We do not and will not share your email address.

# Board Adopts 2017 Budget

By: Dave Tripp

The GJGLA Board of Directors at their December 2, 2016 Board Meeting formally adopted the Association's 2017 Budget after reviewing the Actual 2015 Budget, the projected 2016 Budget, and discussing the plans and initiatives for the coming year. The abbreviated table below shows the final Actual 2016 and Adopted 2017 Budgets:

<b>Cash Receipts (Income)</b>	12/31/15	12/31/16	2017
Annual Dues	\$4,000.00	\$4,050.00	\$4,500.00
Siren Donations	500.00	2,000.00	2,450.00
Sponsorships	0	200.00	1,800.00
Weed Spraying	9,236.75	600.00	1,500.00
Other	365.20	0	0
Grants & Contributions	5,000.00	400.00	0
<b>Total</b>	19,101.95	7,250.00	10,250.00
<b>Cash Disbursements (Expenses)</b>			
Weed Spraying	14,130.00	600.00	1,500.00
Software	1,080.00	2,160.00	0
Siren Expenses	390.90	3,845.41	2,525.00
D&O Insurance	0	846.00	870.00
Newsletters/Printing/Meetings	1,373.32	813.23	950.00
Professional & Legal (501(c)3)	2,064.39	964.00	100.00
Match for Clean Water Projects	0	0	2,000.00
Other	313.08	340.83	590.00
<b>Total</b>	19,349.69	9,569.47	8,535.00

Certain features of the above Budget table include:

- Past substantial weed spraying programs due to State grants; future is uncertain
- Sizeable siren expenses in 2016 due to battery system failures in 2 sirens
- "One-Time" legal expenses in 2015/6 for creating our 501(c)3 status
- Two year lock-in purchase of our software/internet pkg in 2016
- Re-instatement of Director's & Officer's Insurance in 2016
- Anticipated future Inter-Governmental clean water projects
- Critical siren donations from Le Sueur County and Cleveland Townships
- Re-invigorated effort to obtain Sponsorships starting in late 2016
- Membership DUES are slowly increasing but are still lagging from pre-2015 levels

The Board is committed to raising our Membership ranks; currently there are only apx. 135 paid -up members - - compared to over 850 total lake properties in the Jefferson/German chain of lakes. We cannot achieve our clean water goals without a larger membership base. PLEASE CONSIDER a \$25 dues payment if you're not already a member; a higher payment (\$50 Guarantor and \$100 Benefactor) is tax-deductible since we now are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Agency.

# The importance of Leadership and Lake Home Owners' Participation For the Present and Future Welfare of our Lakes

By: Arne Jessen

Both the Jefferson German Lakes Association, Inc. and COLA, the Tri-County Coalition of Lake Associations (Le Sueur, Blue Earth and Waseca Counties) will be offering the opportunity of leadership to people who live on, and care about the lakes, and the quality of our waters. By electing new members to their respective board of directors this spring the lake associations will increase the possibility that we might have a better chance of making a positive difference that will benefit our lakes. We are among a growing number of Minnesota lakes that have deteriorated so much they are identified as "impaired lakes". If lake owners are not willing to try and work together making those changes that are needed, our lakes will continue to deteriorate with ever growing adverse effects for fishing, boating, and all water sports, and property values. Every healthy community or association must clarify what matters most, not just for our individual lake homes, now, but what matters most for the whole water-basin, for the future. The day will come when we can no longer act. What legacy for good or ill do we leave as a heritage for our posterity? Leadership is not authority, it is not a set of personality traits. Leadership is responsible and sensible activity carried out by caring and committed people working together. We have the opportunity to make a difference in the quality of our lakes and in the lives of those who use them. Can we count on you? Will you give thought to persons you think would responsibly engage in the mission of either our association or COLA, and speak with them about it? Not much positive gets accomplished without good leadership.

About a year ago, the president of Tri-County COLA (of which Jefferson German Lakes Assn is a member) resigned and moved away to take a new position. No one representing the lake associations in COLA would agree to be elected to the presidency, so COLA has floundered somewhat without presidential leadership. Your lake association board, chaired by president Larry Wasmund, not wanting to see COLA decline or end, voted to ask me to volunteer to serve as interim president, and help COLA revisit its mission and purpose with the hope of recovering enthusiasm for the things the lakes in the three counties can do together or in concert, that we cannot do separately. So, Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR), who was one of our speakers at our annual Fall Education Meeting in November, was invited to come to the February meeting of COLA to help lead a discussion of our values as a Coalition of Lake Associations and come up with a new mission statement everyone could enthusiastically support. At the well-attended meeting the group came up with this mission statement: "Tri-County COLA is a coalition of lake users in Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Waseca, Counties that increases the power of its partners to protect and improve water quality in the Tri-County region for future generation by leveraging communication, sharing success stories and collectively pursuing a long range plan." At the April 13th meeting goals for the year were adopted, and two candidates, committed to serving if elected, were nominated for president. One candidate is from Madison Lake, the other is from Lake Washington. At the June 8th meeting a president will be elected, and Jeff Forester from MN Lakes and Rivers will lead a strategic planning process.

A project that potentially could benefit the largest body of water in southern Minnesota, the Jefferson German Lakes, is the development of passages between German and East Jefferson Lakes, and between Middle Jefferson and West Jefferson Lakes, that would allow larger boats like pontoon boats to travel between all four lakes. Your board, some months ago voted to begin the process of exploring, with lake home owners, the county commissioners, and other public leaders, the desirability, feasibility, and costs of building new bridges for those two water passages. In our discussions at our member meeting last May and November, there are lake home owners who oppose it, wanting to preserve individual lake access. There are other lake home owners who favor it, pointing out the value of making the whole lake chain accessible to all boats, and believing that that would also increase property values. We need some good thinking, some good listening to each other, openness to learning from each other, and by identifying and sharing our values concerning the lakes, determine what direction to proceed and the process to get there. Will you be a responsible participant? Will you entertain the idea that the quality of our lakes is dependent on what each of us do and what we do or do not do together. Responsible participation and committed leadership are two important elements of a successful strategy to improve our lakes for the enjoyment of everyone.

# Siren Repair Project

By: Dave Tripp

In December of 2007 the Greater Jefferson German Lakes Association, after a special fund raising campaign supported by many lake property owners and interested parties, purchased and installed three Civil Air Sirens located at:

Cty Rd 18 just east of the Cty Rd 15 intersection

Cape Horn Road

Cty Rd 12 in front of St. Paul's Lutheran

The three Sirens went through a maintenance check this summer, and upon testing it was found that two Sirens (Cty Rd 18 and Cape Horn) failed because the trickle charging systems malfunctioned causing the back-up batteries to go dead. The two Sirens were subsequently repaired with by replacing the trickle charging systems and replacing four new batteries in each unit. The cost to repair and upgrade the two sirens (new chargers, new batteries and technical services) was \$ 2,117.00.



This critical repair project was paid for using GJGLA funds, along with a most gracious \$500 donation from the German-Jefferson Lakes Sportsmen Club. The Club contributed funds during the initial installation in 2007, and now again this year requesting that their donation support the siren by the corner of Cty Rds 15/18. GJGLA thanks them for their continued support!

In addition, GJGLA wishes to thank the following individuals and businesses that assisted in these repairs: GJGLA Board Member Ralph Redding for the many hours of testing and replacing batteries and working with the following companies that assisted in these repairs.

Jon Schabert Construction. St. Peter, Mn. - Scaffolding

Alfa Wireless, Mankato, Mn. - Testing battery chargers

G & L Auto, Mankato Mn. - Batteries

Your GJGLA has primary responsibility for maintaining these three Sirens for the safety and protection of lake residents and lake users. We must pay monthly electrical fees to Minnesota Valley Electric, and must maintain physical damage and liability insurance coverage besides performing the necessary repairs and battery replacements (the German Lake/Cty Rd 12 siren will have battery replacements soon). Alongside your important annual dues, the County of LeSueur provides an important annual Siren contribution of \$1,500 and Cleveland Township has for many years provided an important annual contribution of \$500; we are extremely grateful for the support and partnership from these two governmental units!

# Lake Spraying Project

By: Ralph Redding

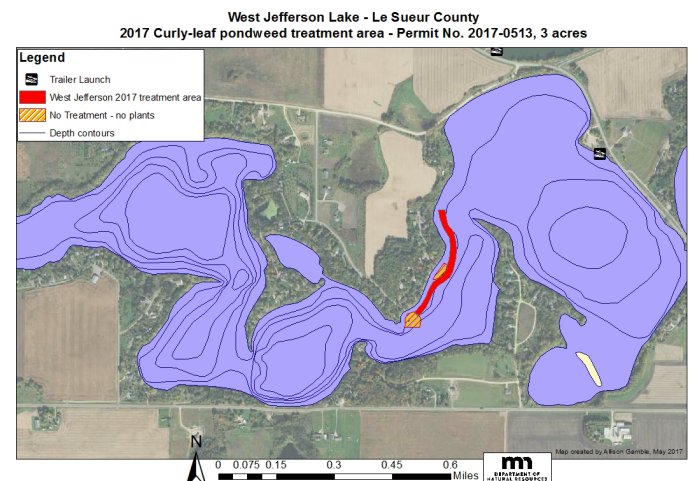
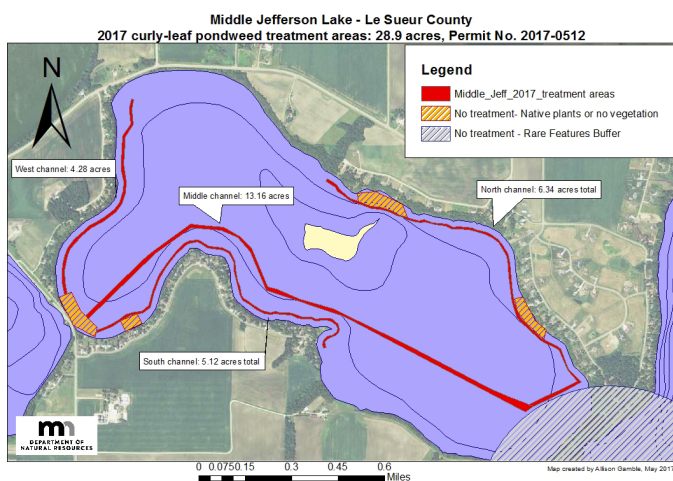
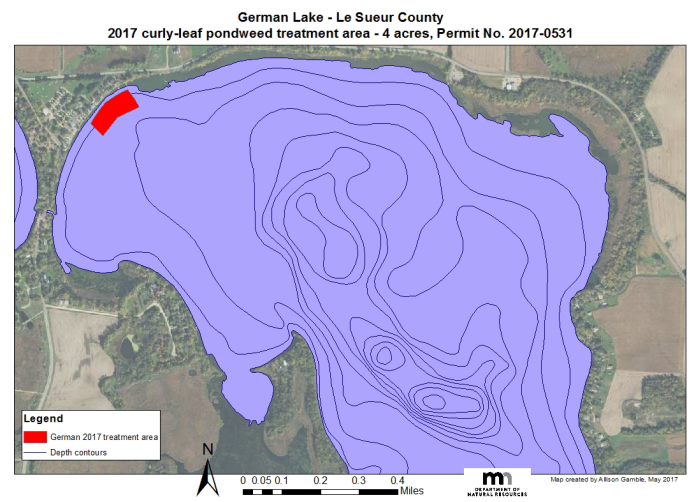
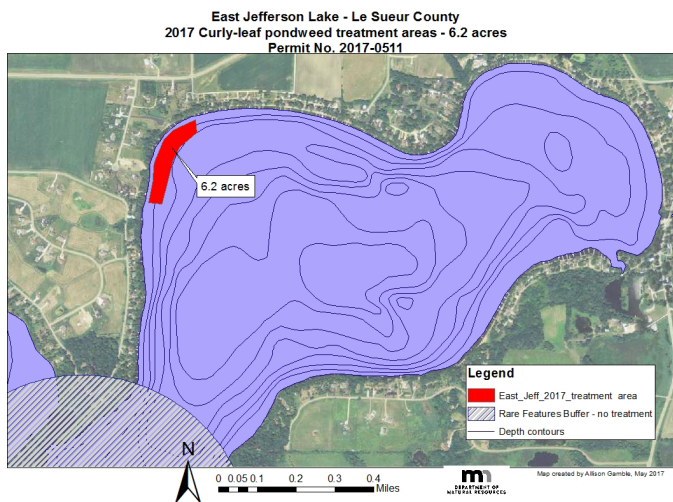
The 2017 AIS Curly Leaf grant dollars and the enthusiasm amongst the Jefferson/German land owners is having an amazing impact on the weeds this season. This is the first year that the entry chain of lakes is contributing towards this effort. The \$4,500 in grant dollars and the known fact that the cost will be under \$100.00 per landowner is making that difference. If we all work together, we can control the AIS Curly Leaf in our chain of Lakes.

Three years ago Middle Jefferson land owners started the effort with just a path down the middle. (between East and West Jefferson) Two years ago, it expanded to an opening 150 feet from the shore along with the path down the middle. And, this year, it will be the same path down the middle and 100 feet from shore. The difference was realized last season when the pontoons started to enter Middle Jefferson and enjoyed a leisurely cruise around it.

The other lakes, West, East and German also have specific areas that will be sprayed this year. To accommodate these other lakes, a Lake Coordinator is assigned to work closely with the landowners to meet their needs.

If we continue to work together, commit ourselves in controlling the AIS Curly Leaf Pond Weed in our lakes, we will make a difference. And by joining the GJGLA, they too will work on continuing their efforts toward grant money for this project.

Below are maps where the spraying was applied on Tuesday May 9th.



# Protecting Minnesota's waters: If you don't get involved, the job won't get done

What's needed is a new paradigm in managing our resources. By: Jeff Forester

Much has been written about the divided electorate, the us vs. them story. But in Minnesota, there is one area where the electorate is unified.

On the Saturday after the election I spoke at a lake association in southwestern Minnesota, in a Lutheran church beside a lake. The coffee was weak, the lemon bars delicious.

President-elect Trump had won the surrounding county by 30 percentage points. As the meeting advanced, some issues began to emerge: Agricultural runoff and drain tiling practices were harming both water quality and fishing. Aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and starry stonewort were a huge worry. Grants to help fund treatments to manage Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pond weed had been cut; association members had paid for partial treatments themselves.

Those members complained that while they were constantly reminded they did not own the water, they did seem to own the problems. They were angry that they lacked the authority to make changes.

Later that same week I met with environmental groups in the Twin Cities, an area that Hillary Clinton won by 35 percentage points. At a fine restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, the coffee was bitter and the wild mushroom flatbread delicious. As the meeting advanced some issues began to emerge: Agricultural runoff and drain tiling practices were harming water quality, aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and starry stonewort were a huge worry. Funding had been cut. Citizens lacked authority to make changes.

At the rural lake association meeting one of the members, in a U.S.-flag cap, had railed at me, saying we needed to "get the government to do their job," to provide the services required to keep the lake clean and healthy. He wanted more funding, more regulation and more enforcement.

The environmentalist in the cities cried that to protect water we needed more funding, tighter regulations, better enforcement.

In short, the rural lake association members and the urban environmental leaders had the same view. Budgets and spending are perennial legislative hot topics, and the overall trend now leans toward less spending, lower taxes, fewer regulations and looser enforcement.

We have the data, and everyone knows from personal experience that water quality and fishing have begun to decline. No white paper, outreach, education, marketing plan or protest is going to change anything. In the late 1970s, '80s and even '90s we saw the most egregious pollution end. Our rivers no longer catch fire. But the top-down efforts by large agencies seems to have stalled, and now the trends are reversing. Industrial pollution is still an issue, but the real threat is different now: non-point source pollution, the results of millions of small decisions made by millions of people that over time destroy our water. With the rise of large agencies to protect the public interest came a new paradigm — government should be run like a business. Citizens are consumers and we buy services from government, or even private providers, with taxes. Many government services became privatized, including our prisons, much of our military, and our schools.

The downside of this is that if citizens view themselves only as consumers, then they give up their jurisdiction to govern, to work with each other to advance the common good.



*Continued on Next Page*



**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 summer 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.***

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We need a new paradigm in resource management, and this is where Minnesotans may be able to have an effect. Minnesota's story is a "Chronology of Water," of Voyageurs, Ojibwe and Dakota paddling quiet lakes, of loggers driving booms down rapids to the mill, of grandfathers rowing canvass covered dinghies trolling for walleye, of learning to water ski, canoe and kayak, of the call of the loon.

Every Minnesotan has a memory of time on the water with family and friends. A cup of coffee early morning on the dock, or star gazing with the Milky Way reflected in the water below, or watching the roaring waters of Minnehaha Falls in spring, crossing the Stone Arch bridge at night or fireworks from Harriet Island in St. Paul.

In Minnesota water is bipartisan, central to the state's identity and economy. Minnesota has more than 183,326 miles of shoreline, more than Florida, California and Hawaii combined. Our \$12 billion annual tourism economy depends mostly on pristine lakes and rivers. There are more than 500 lake associations in Minnesota. The average length of ownership for a family cabin is 34 years.

Much has been written about the divisions among the electorate. But when it comes to water, rural and urban Minnesotans are singing from the same hymnal — they not only want to arrest the degradation of waters in our state, but to reverse the trend and leave our waters "better than we found them."

There is only so much government can do. We Minnesotans will have to do it ourselves. So contact a lake association near a body of water you love. Become part of the process. Work to elect local government officials, local boards of appeal, zoning boards and county commissioners who not only value water, but understand that success will come by including the public in the decision making process.

It will have an impact. It may be the only thing that will.

*Jeff Forester is executive director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.*

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122

[www.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org) ~ 952-854-1317 ~ [judy@mnlakesandrivers.org](mailto:judy@mnlakesandrivers.org)



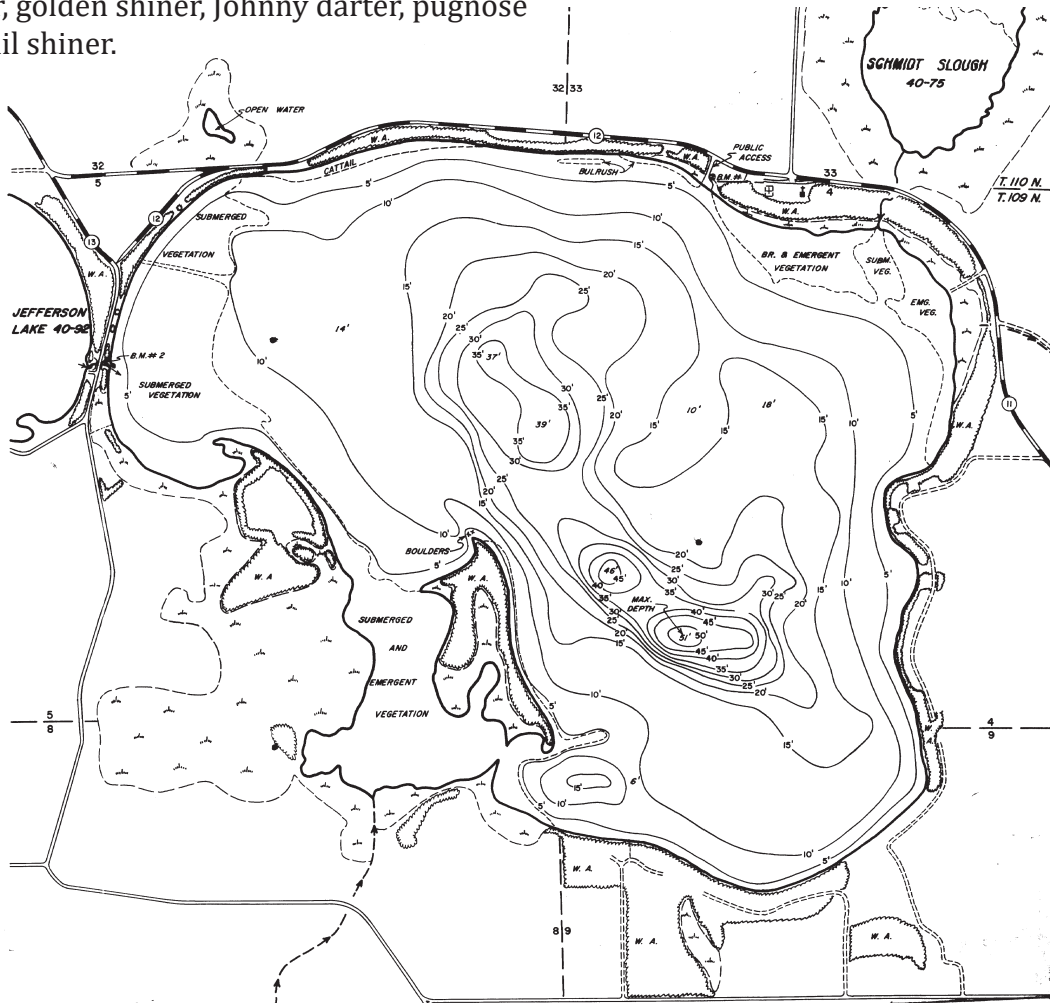
# Jefferson Lake Chain Lake Information from the Minnesota DNR

## German Lake

**Fish Species:** black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, white bass, white crappie, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, freshwater drum, longnose gar, shortnose gar, white sucker, blacknose shiner, bluntnose minnow, common shiner, golden shiner, Johnny darter, pugnose minnow, spottail shiner.

### German Lake Stocking

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2015	Walleye	fry	523,320	4.9
2013	Walleye	fry	523,575	5.0
2011	Walleye	fry	525,320	4.6



## East Jefferson Lake (Big Jeff)

**Fish Species:** black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, white bass, white crappie, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, freshwater drum, longnose gar, smallmouth buffalo, white sucker, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, logperch, spottail shiner

### East Jefferson Fish Stocking:

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2015	Walleye	fry	341,922	3.0
2013	Walleye	fry	335,088	3.0
2011	Walleye	fry	342,600	3.0
2010	Walleye	fry	347,698	3.0

## Middle Jefferson Lake

**Fish Species:** Fish Species: black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, white bass, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, freshwater drum, longnose gar, common shiner, golden shiner

## Middle Jefferson Stocking

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2015	Northern Pike fry		26,128	0.6
	Walleye fry		706,639	6.2
2013	Walleye fry		701,590	7.0
2011	Northern Pike fry		36,936	0.6
	Walleye fry		708,040	6.2
2010	Northern Pike fry		26,458	0.4



## West Jefferson Lake

**Fish Species:** black bullhead, black crappie, bluegill, green sunfish, hybrid sunfish, largemouth bass, northern pike, pumpkinseed, walleye, white bass, white crappie, yellow bullhead, yellow perch, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin (dogfish), common carp, freshwater drum, white sucker, bluntnose minnow, golden shiner, spottail shiner

## West Jefferson Lake Fish Stocking

Year	Species	Size	Number	Pounds
2015	Northern Pike fry		26,128	0.6
	Walleye fry		341,922	3.0
2014	northern pike fry		28,318	0.5
	walleyefingerlings		8,900	468.0
2013	Northern Pike fry		24,664	1.0
	Walleye fry		345,559	3.0
2011	Northern Pike fry		22,572	0.4
	Walleye fry		342,600	3.0
2010	Northern Pike fry		29,211	0.5
	Walleye fry		381,899	3.5

# Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association Membership List

Paid Up As Of May 1, 2017

## **Sponsor Level (\$200)**

Bruender Construction  
Christianson, Dan (RE/MAX)  
Lawns R Us  
Mankato Luther Honda  
Schabert Construction  
Schmidt Masonry  
St. Peter Well Drilling  
Lake Shores R Us, Christine  
Thomas

## **Benefactor Level (\$100)**

Corcoran, Dan & Mary  
Hometown Bank, Cleveland  
Jessen, Arne & Meryl  
John, Bill  
Johnson, Cully & Barbara  
Quiram, Wayne  
Summer Breeze, Scott Haas  
Tripp, Dave & Julie  
Wasmund, Larry & Paula  
Wetzell, Tom & Pam

## **Guarantor Level (\$50)**

Anderson, Randy & Deb  
Carlson, Grey & Diane  
Flaten, Mary  
Gardner, Doug & Julie  
Hauer, Robert & Judy  
Johnston, Mary & Ralph  
Luskey, William & Joyce  
Molski, Rosalia  
Parks, Sandy  
Peterson, Ronald & Marlys  
Rogers, Julie and Aaron  
Rohlfing, Steve  
Swenson, Julie

## **Regular Level (\$25)**

Aisenbrey, Shirley  
Anderson, Duane & Sally  
Anderson, Curtis  
Bastyr, Jerry & Shirley  
Bauer, George & Janelle  
Biehn, Chris  
Biedscheid, Diane  
Bisek, Ed & Sondra  
Bittner, Tom

Blaha, Tammejo  
Bode, Dave & Kelly  
Boehnke, Beverly  
Bohike, Kathryn and David  
Bratsch, Wayne & Willa  
Buckner, Cecil & Linda  
Chandonnet, Pat & Helen  
Christensen, Dawn  
Clemen, Curtis & Julie  
Clemens, Tim  
Collins, Bruce and Lori  
Conlon, Jim and Kathy  
Connors, Roland & Linda  
Derickson, Michael & Laura  
Doyle, Janet & Kevin  
Evans, James  
Ewert, John & Melinda  
Frederick, Mark & Lisa  
Frost, Linda & Bob  
Geldner, Ryann  
Gentz, Rob  
Graff, John & Janice  
Hanley, Leon & Wanneta  
Hale, Nate  
Hartman, Larry & Joan  
Heilman, Ruth  
Holm, Alan & Catherine  
Hunt, Marlene  
Jacobson, David & Carol  
Jameson, Kris  
Johnson, Joan & Gary  
Kinne, Matt & Caryne  
Kinney, Betty  
Klammer, Chuck  
Klein, Carol & Jeff  
Kopesky, Richard  
Krenik, Donald & Patricia  
Kruse, Mary & Rod  
Kveene, Michael & Missy  
Laing, Marlayne  
Larsen, Scott  
Lassiter, Scott  
Laufle, Francis & Roger  
Lindsay, Kerry and Jesse  
Lueck, Marlene (Memorial)  
Maus, Richard & Donna  
Menk, Jacque  
Morell, Nancy

Murphy, Tim & Lois  
Nichels, Nancy & Gary  
Nicholson, Bill  
Noltee, Dennis & Karen  
Paukert, Daniel & Barbara  
Peterson, Gary & Charlene  
Peterson, Phil & Susan  
Phillips, Brian & Connie  
Plonske, Lee & Vicki  
Purrington, Brian & Anne  
Rafferty, Charles & Betty  
Ranvik, Luke & Katie  
Redding, Ralph  
Roath, Gary & Alice  
Ross, Kurt & Becky  
Rosenberger, Rita  
Schiller, Kevin; Leroy & Clara  
Schuneman, Judy & John  
Schoof, David & Michelle  
Searing, Benjamin  
Sexton, Kevin & Becky  
Shamp, Steve  
Smith, Rick & Kathy  
Smith, Susan & Rick  
Starkweather, Douglas  
Stearns, James & Joan  
Stender, Dale & Susie  
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# Expert Gives Tips for Crappie Fishing

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Speaking at the Northwest Sports Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center, professional fishing guide Tom Nuestrom presented all kinds of tips on how to fish for crappies in Minnesota.

Crappie fishing or any type of fishing depends a lot on the fish! Sometimes they'll bite on anything almost anywhere and sometimes they won't bite on anything anywhere.

But Nuestrom, who lives in Grand Rapids where he runs Walleye Visions Professional Guide Service and is inducted as a Legendary Angler to the Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, gave ideas for anglers to increase their chances of catching crappies.

In the spring crappies congregate in shallow water, but's not a matter of "just going out to a shallow spot and catch crappies", Nuestrom said. "A lot of guys go to the north end where it warms up first. Nothing is for sure."

But in the early spring, Nuestrom recommended trying shallow back bays with muddy bottoms, associated with old reed beds. If there's weeds in the area, it makes it even better. But not too thick of weeds. It's better to have isolated sports of weeds with open areas mixed in. If the weeds are too thick, fish aren't there and it's tough to fish, Nuestrom said.

He recommends looking for target pockets in the weeds and casting into them. "Concentrate on the edges in the weeds, rock and gravel. They're cruising looking for bait. Keep casting and moving your bobber around. Don't just throw it out and sit there. You need to hunt down the fish."

Crappies look up to feed, so Nuestrom said the bait needs to be above them. For example, in 4 feet set the bait at 3 feet, so their eyes are looking up. They won't chase the bait down.

As for equipment, Nuestrom recommends a soft tip medium light rod that is 6 to 7 feet long. The softer tip absorbs the shock. A rod that is too stiff may rip the bait right out of a crappie's mouth. That's why they're called "paper mouths".

When setting the hook, pick up the slack and pull it in, Nuestrom said. "When you feel pressure, lift it up, pull and set the hook. Don't set it too hard. More people lose fish because they set the hook too hard."

Nuestrom suggests using monofilament line for crappies, not the stronger lines like Fireline. "The tougher lines will pull it out of their mouth."

For bobbers, it's best to have the least resistance for the fish to pull the bobber down. He suggests skinny, short bobbers. "You'll catch more fish," Nuestrom said. "When it goes down 6 inches, set the hook." For bobber stoppers, he said heavy cord works better and leaving some line left on the bobber stop so it can be retightened. Spring bobbers also make it easier to see light bites.

For jigs, Nuestrom said he used pink and white the majority of the time and a lot of glow for deep, dark water. He uses live bait such as minnows and worms, but not when he has a twister tail. Some of his other suggestions for jigs include: "Color hooks sometime out fish plain hooks. In the summer and spring, tinsel jigs and inverted spinners work."