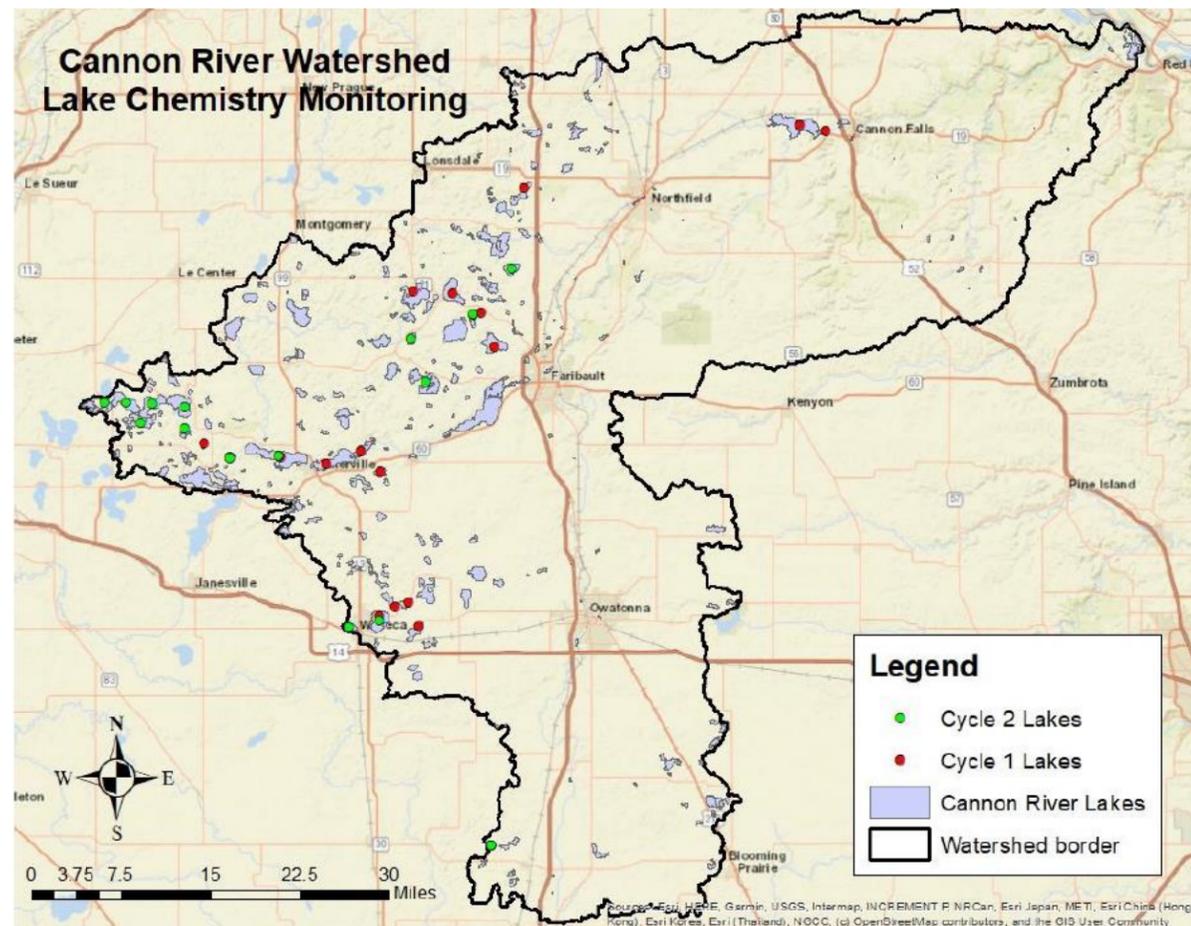


For sampling lake chemistry, there are multiple sites that are located within Le Sueur County (see map located below). The Jefferson-German Chain, Fish Lake, Roemhildts Lake, Tetonka Lake, and Upper Sakatah Lake will all be sample for lake chemistry. All lake sampling sites will have monitoring efforts only in 2022.

Since Le Sueur County is a part of the Cannon River One Watershed One Plan, the traditional partnerships of monitoring efforts for Local Government Units and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency have been amended to a more focused watershed approach.



<https://www.jgla.org>

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Spring Newsletter 2022

Let's keep up the hopes and positive vibes that for the first time in three years we have our

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING !

of the Greater Jefferson-German Lakes Association, Inc.

May 28, 2022 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon

Marysburg Church Hall, 27528 Patrick St, Madison Lake

❖ Come hear about updates from our MN DNR and Le Sueur County Environmental Services partners, what's happening on the County level to our Chain-of-Lakes area, and MORE!

In this newsletter you'll find a continuation of additional chapters in **A Brief History of the Jefferson-German Lakes Area** and hope you will enjoy learning more about our lake area. Many more chapters are in the works to be featured in future newsletters, and can also be seen on our Website, www.jgla.org : Resources, Brief History. There also is a re-printed article from the Environmental Services Spring Newsletter about lake water testing.

At our Annual Meeting we will also have an election for a soon-to-be open At-Large Director on our GJGLA Board of Directors, with the Middle Jefferson slot still open for a member to take. The final terms (two 3-year terms) for two of our Directors end on May 28th: Ralph Redding representing Middle Jefferson and Dave Tripp, an At-Large representative. Your Board of Directors has a number of newer, experienced, motivated and ambitious Directors: Carol Burns (Swedes Bay/East Jefferson), Jill Steffen (German), Jamie Swenson (At-Large), Angie Jahr (West Jefferson), and Pam Hrubes (At-Large). Thanks to Dave Tripp for his service as Treasurer and membership chair. A very special **Thank You** to Ralph Redding for his tireless work as President these three past years. Starting with a substantial role in the 2018 Summer Splash and the Phosphorous Reduction Project, Ralph has been a leader with the AIS Weed Treatment Program and has built solid partnerships with the German Jefferson Sportsmans Club, Le Sueur County's Soil and Water & Environmental Services & Sheriff's departments along with our lake's Commissioner Gump Rohlfing, our local Mn DNR folks, the Cleveland Fire Dept ... the list goes on! We are a stronger Association because of Ralph's leadership.

How Beaver Dam Got Its Name

The following was written by Ted Roemers, a retired postmaster from Madison Lake who collected many stories from our area; his article - *How Beaver Dam Got Its Name* - was published in the Winter 1998 Jefferson-German Lakes Newsletter and has been slightly edited for clarity. His interview with Edmund Roemhildt was believed to have occurred in the mid 1970's.

Scores of tourists and lake property owners have for years asked if there really was a "beavers' dam" at one time. Ted Roemers talked to many old timers but got nothing concrete until a letter from Leonard Geldner sent him over to Edmund Roemhildt. (FYI: Leonard Geldner owned a good section of property on the southern shore of East Jefferson, and developed what is now the Geldner's Addition; he also was a family member who owned and operated the Geldner Saw Mill.

Edmund Roemhildt got this true story from his father, Edward Roemhildt. The year was 1877, and Edward was seven years old at the time. Edwards father, Wilhelm, and two other pioneers, all native Germans, had land and timber holdings south of German and Jefferson lakes and wanted to find a crossing between the two lakes to facilitate trading and social communications with the country to the north. They went through the heavy timber and they did find a way – only it was obstructed by a beaver's dam. This dam was ½ mile south of the present narrows where the East Jefferson Public Landing and water connection between the two lakes is now located.

This dam was a scant one hundred feet in length. They promptly cut oak and elm logs from the trees which thickly covered the high ground to the south and with their oxen dragged them into place making a corduroy road across the top of the dam. The first few layers sunk out of sight after a few crossings with their heavy ox carts, but they filled with earth and cut more logs. Then they fell a cart-way of timber through the thicket northward and emerged to where present Beaver Dam Resort now stands. They had their road! This road eventually went up to the Lutheran Church on the north shore of German Lake (presently St. Paul's Lutheran Church on German Lake) and then a road was cut to connect with the old Dodd Road running west to east approximately 5 miles north of the Church.

When the corduroy oxcart trail was completed after several weeks of hard labor by Wilhelm and his partners, Edward, then only seven years old, heard his father, Edmund say, "Well, we had to cross a beavers' dam to get here. We should call this place **"Beaver Dam"**". And so the name stuck!

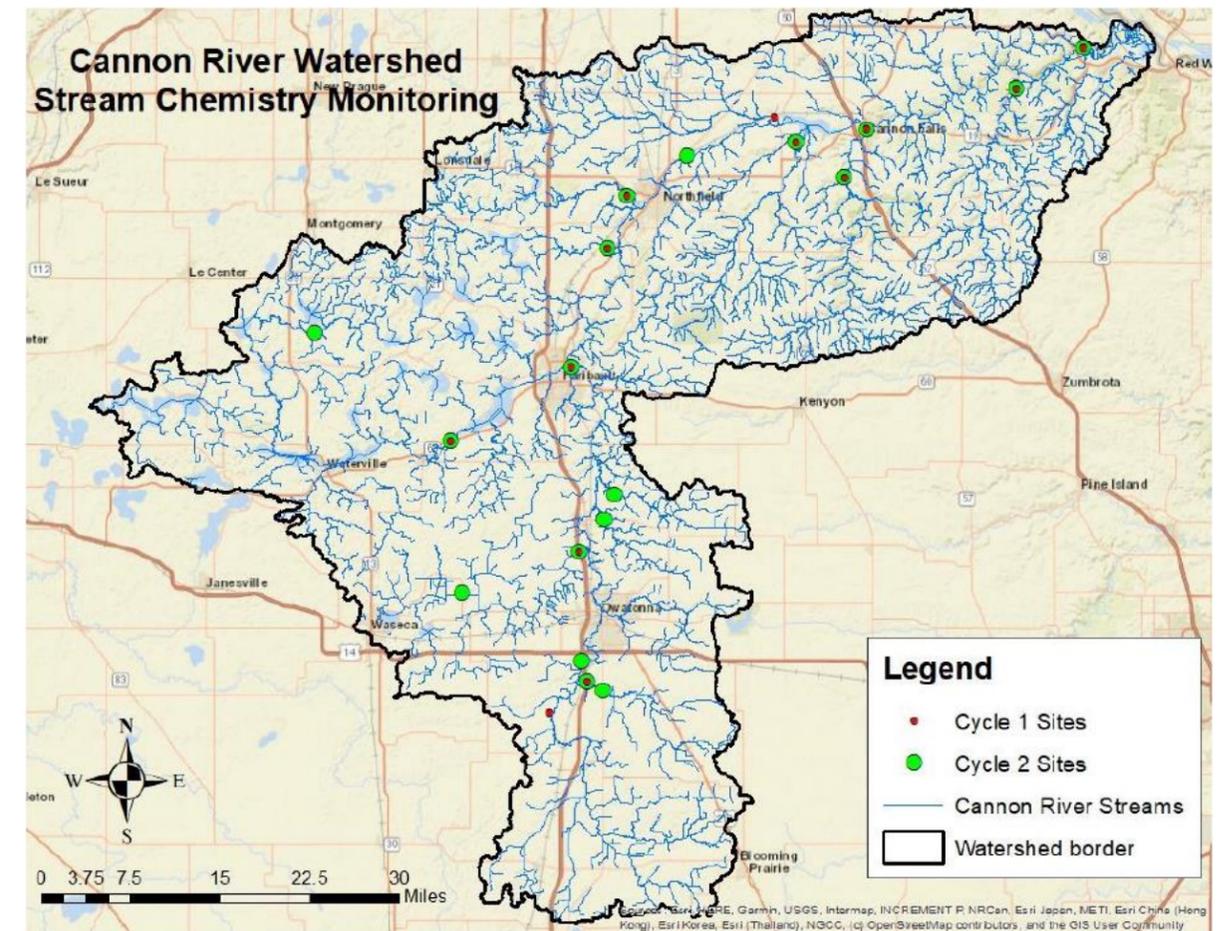


The dam and the making of the old corduroy road is ½ mile south of the Public Landing on County Rd #13 and 1/10th of mile north of Arrowhead Trail road to Jefferson Heights. Traveling south you pass the Geldner Saw Mill and just before you come to a small hill on the left you'll see a slough to the right and a little further south a large slough to the left. This little stop-gap the wily beavers had located, and at one time there were hundreds of beaver houses in the Geldner slough on the right hand side.

Water Sampling Cannon River Watershed

Le Sueur County and Le Sueur County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be sampling streams and lakes from May-September of 2022. Sampling efforts are a part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) efforts towards starting the second cycle of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Report. The first WRAPS report that was completed for the Cannon River Watershed was back in 2016. The data that is collected from both lake and stream sampling is a critical piece in determining existing conditions of water resources, and also, critical for prioritizing and targeting future efforts to help improve and protect those water resources.

All sample sites are considered Cycle 2, and are identified in the maps located below as a bright green dot. For sampling stream chemistry, there is only one site that is located within Le Sueur County (see map located below). All stream sampling sites will have monitoring efforts both in 2022 and 2023.



Expert Gives Tips for Crappie Fishing

Reprinted by permission of St. Peter Herald, St. Peter, MN from 2010

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 spots 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."

Klondike Hill/aka Jesse James Hill

A most interesting historical attraction in the Lakes region is Klondike Hill, also known as Jesse James Hill, located northwest of Elysian off of Elysian Road/243rd St, and 3 blocks south on Lake Francis Road. As the James/Cole Younger Gang left Mankato in late August of 1876, they camped at Klondike Hill and utilized the CGW route (Cannon River Improvement Co. Railroad), now the 39 mile-long Sakatah Singing Hills bike trail, and parts of the Dodd Road to make their way to Northfield for the infamous foiled bank robbery on September 7, 1876.

Geocaching.com is a popular site for hobbyists who use their cellphones GPS to explore historical and geographical sites around the U.S: <https://www.geocaching.com>. The following describes their route: On Thursday, September 7, 1876, eight notorious bandits rode into Northfield in an attempt to rob the First National Bank; they miserably failed, leaving two bandits dead on the street and fleeing back southwest at 2:07 p.m. They reached Dundas at 2:30 p.m., Millersburg at 3:00, Shieldsville at 4:00, and spent the night – Night #1 - in a barn near Calvary Cemetery in Kilkenny. Friday morning the gang traveled south and west paralleling the Sakatah railroad but on the north side of the Cannon-Sakata-Tetonka-Elysian-Frances chain of lakes. They encountered a large posse near Waterville but were able to escape on the north side of Tetonka. The gang headed towards Klondike Hill. The posse, realizing that the hill would make a great lookout and figuring the gang was there, surrounded the hill and decided to wait the gang out. And they waited, and waited. Finally in the morning they closed in. No gang. Either the gang gave them the slip or they by-passed the hill. Friday evening settles in. The rain increases as the gang headed north and west towards **Lakes German and Jefferson**.

Saturday, September 9th – 12th. Having had several near misses, the gang takes some diversionary tactics and is not seen for several days. About three miles northwest of Elysian (although their goal is southwest) they abandon their horses. Friday night #2 and Saturday night #3 are spent alternately creeping and resting in the woods and marshes heading along the south-side of the **German-Jefferson chain of lakes**. On September 10th, Sunday morning, as they approach Marysburg they hear the bells of the Immaculate Conception of Marysburgh Church, and circle south around the village to avoid detection. Marysburg was much bigger in 1876 than it is now; what remains is the Church, the bell, Parish Rectory and Parish/Marysburg Hall, and several nearby homes. A few miles west of town the Gang finds an abandoned farmhouse where they spend the next three nights recuperating, drying out and resting.

Meanwhile the posse, numbering over a thousand, the biggest in the history of the U.S., is becoming increasingly discouraged, disorganized and discontented. Rewards encourage many members to go their own way rather than to follow orders. Glory-seekers start taking chances. Rumors fly. Any innocent stranger is likely to generate a report that an outlaw has been spotted and the posse splits off to pursue every lead. The rain is incessant making tracking impossible and posse members shirk their duties.



Klondike Hill as seen heading west on Elysian Road/243rd St,

Present-day Klondike Hill is an area set aside for hiking and enjoying nature; it is owned by the MN DNR. It is the highest point in three counties, offering a slightly obstructed panoramic view of the surrounding area. A parking lot adjoins Lake Francis Road and unmarked trails will take you to the top. More information can be seen at <http://www.northfieldhistory.org/the-bank-raid/> and the aforementioned geocaching.com website.

Lake Jefferson-German: Ice up/Ice Out

Most of us would probably admit that we've had a "disappointing" Spring, and maybe wondering whether or not our Ice Out was normal or abnormal. Here's the historical dates and it's fun to see just how varied our good-ole Minnesota frozen water behaves itself from year to year! Earliest Ice Up was November 8th in 1986 (8 days after Halloween!) and latest Ice Out was April 30th in 2018.

Year	Ice Out	Ice Up	Year	Ice Out	Ice Up
1978	April 7	x	2003	March 26	Nov 24
1979	April 18	x	2004	March 28	Dec 14
1980	April 12	x	2005	April 4	Nov 30
1981	March 14	x	2006	April 5	Dec 1
1982	April 2	x	2007	March 27	Nov 30
1983	April 3	x	2008	April 16	Nov 20
1984	April 12	x	2009	March 25	Dec 11
1985	April 3	x	2010	March 30	Nov 23
1986	April 3	Nov 8	2011	April 10	Dec 7
1987	March 8	Dec 4	2012	March 15	Dec 11
1988	March 28	Dec 3	2013	April 23	Nov 24
1989	April 8	Nov 16	2014	April 13	Nov 15
1990	March 16	Dec 4	2015	March 20	Dec 28
1991	April 4	Nov 4	2016	March 15	Dec 10
1992	April 5	Nov 27	2017	March 7	Dec 13
1993	April 15	Nov 26	2018	April 30	Nov 20
1994	April 2	Dec 3	2019	April 7	Dec 2
1995	March 24	Nov 11	2020	March 31	Dec 25
1996	April 14	Nov 11	2021	March 25	Dec 8
1997	April 5	Nov 15	2022	April 6	
1998	March 28	Dec 7			
1999	March 27	Dec 16			
2000	March 7	Nov 21			
2001	April 14	Dec 17			
2002	April 7	Nov 25			

The definition of Ice Out is to be able to take a boat down the middle of the lake from one end to the other. Ice Up is for the lake to be frozen from the middle of one end of the lake to the other. The above dates may vary by one or two days depending upon the conditions of the 5 lakes.

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We were able to expand our Mailing List to all five lake property owners via Beacon (thanks to Mike!), and many of you did not receive our recent Spring '21 and Thanksgiving '21 newsletters. There'll be paper copies of these at our Annual Meeting, or you can see them on our Website www.jgla.org

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