



The Winnebago Lakes Council promotes the long-term sustainability of lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan and their connecting rivers.

The Council's mission is to protect and improve the ecological health and scenic beauty of the Winnebago lakes through citizen involvement in research, education, communication and cooperation.

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Winnebago Lakes Council

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Clean Boats, Clean Waters funded for 2008

For the third summer in a row, the Winnebago Pool lakes will participate in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program. Interns from UW Oshkosh have been hired to work at busy boat landings to inspect boats for vegetation, collect data on various boater characteristics and hand out educational material.

The program's intent is to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in and from our lakes. Funding comes from a state AIS education, prevention and planning grant awarded to the Winnebago Lakes Council for \$22,429. Total cost of the program is \$29,855.

Most of the work will be done by UW Oshkosh. In addition to training and hiring interns, the grant will pay for a part-time coordinator, scientific analyses of current infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil and hybrids, training sessions for volunteer watercraft inspectors and AIS monitors, and outreach at local events.

In the past two years, CBCW interns have had contact with thousands of boaters on the Pool lakes. They have spent a total of 1,920 hours checking over 6,019 boats for invasive species and surveying 10,350 boaters. At the landings surveyed in 2007, 42 percent of boats leaving

Volunteer to be a watercraft inspector and/or AIS lake monitor. Training is scheduled for May 31 at the Natural Shoreline Expo. Other sessions available. Sign up with Dr. Mike Lizotte at 920-424-0848.

the water, and 14 percent of the boats leaving the landing had vegetation on the boat/trailer. Five percent of the boats entering the water at the landing had vegetation on them. Of these, 37 percent had been used within the past five days, with 95 percent of those used in an infested water body. These results indicate the increased risk for aquatic hitchhiking.

Upcoming Lakes Council Events

Troll Fishing Workshop, May 19, 2008, 7 p.m. **Coughlin Center, County Y, Oshkosh**

Fishing guide Ryan Standke and Winnebago Lakes Council board member Jack Brauer present the ins and outs of trolling for walleyes. This is the final of four walleye workshops. It will offer new material and a brief summary of tips from previous workshops. Contact Jack 233-3536. **WLC members free.**

Winnebago Lakes – Past, Present and Future, May 20, 2008, 7 p.m. **Stone Toad Bar and Grill, 1109 S. Oneida, Menasha**

DNR Biologist Art Techlow III always has fascinating slides to share with his audience. Come early and enjoy a meal with other lake enthusiasts. Winnebago Lakes Council Speaker Series. No reservations needed. **Free and open to the public.**

Natural Shoreline Expo, May 31, 2008, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Sunnyview Exposition Center, County Y, Oshkosh**

The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department is hosting the second annual Expo with information for homeowners about native vegetation, shoreline restoration, wildlife habitat and yard care on or near waterfront property. Seminars, booths, plant sale, food., Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer training. Co-sponsored by the Winnebago Lakes Council. Contact Keith Marquardt 920-232-1950. **Free and open to the public.**

Around the Lakes

Calumet County hires AIS Coordinator

In response to increasing awareness of the spread of invasive species, Calumet County has hired Diane Schauer, Brillion, as its first Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. The half-time position, funded through a WDNR grant, was authorized by the Calumet County Board late last year. Diane, a former naturalist at the Brillion Nature Center, is well versed in managing AIS and in conducting information and education programs. Her priorities are to develop an AIS species early detection and control plan and a website. Diane also is charged with informing citizens and organizations about AIS, monitoring AIS in the county, and applying control strategies. Contact: schauer.diane@co.calumet.wi.us—Greg Keil

New resort planned for Lake Winnebago

Plans have been announced to turn the former Chaparral supper club site into a full service resort with a conference center, marina, restaurant and hotel with more than 180 rooms. Located in the Town of Friendship, the site will be annexed to North Fond du Lac before work begins. The village may create a TIF district to help the project along. Now it is working with the DNR to acquire permits.

Wind turbines visible from the west shore

Views from the west shore of Lake Winnebago now include at least 80 large wind turbines located on the east shore. Lake property owners have shown mixed reactions. Some accept them, believing renewable energy takes precedence over scenic views. Others, who may or may not support alternative energy, lament the industrial look and loss of the natural beauty of the Niagara escarpment. These responses are similar to those from throughout Wisconsin, where local governments are beginning to pass ordinances regulating placement of wind turbines. To counter local "interference," some Wisconsin legislators are trying to transfer control of all wind turbines to the Public Service Commission.

DNR to enforce fish virus rules

Expect to see more conservation wardens on the lakes this summer helping people understand and comply with new rules aimed at controlling the spread of VHS--viral hemorrhagic septicemia. Rules require people to drain water from their boats and remove any plant and animal material when they leave a lake. The rules also place restrictions on movement of bait. VHS was discovered in the Winnebago system last May. It is not dangerous to humans but can cause large fish kills and lead to declines in fish population. The DNR asks anyone who sees a fish kill to call 1-800-847-9367. For rule details, check <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/vhs/>

Grant supports lakes education program

A \$4500 grant from the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation will support the Winnebago Lakes Council's education program for the Winnebago Pool Lakes. Among the program's activities are:

- Updating and soliciting support from conservation and civic clubs, many of whom helped develop the Winnebago Lakes Council.
- Participating in large public forums, such as the Natural Shoreline Expo on May 31, 2008 and a Winnebago Lakes Conference in fall
- Expanding the public Speaker Series
- Leading the effort to develop a Lakes Education Center in the City of Oshkosh

Need a speaker for your group? Want to learn more about the lakes? We'll meet your schedule. Contact us at info@winnebagolakes.org

Specific use of the OACF funds will be to 1) improve the Council's technology for outreach; 2) promote the Council's website and newsletter; 3) develop promotional and outreach materials based on Council research in shoreland management practices and invasive species management; and 4) lead community discussions and planning for a Lakes Education Center in Oshkosh. Educational efforts also are supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Oshkosh to treat Millers Bay with herbicides and study plant species for future management

The City of Oshkosh has again this year decided to use herbicides to control troublesome aquatic plants in part of Millers Bay if they are causing problems for boaters. In recent years the plants have obstructed sailboat owners trying to get to their mooring sites. However, addressing the problem is difficult. Neither of the two main alternatives – herbicide treatment or harvesting the plants – is a perfect solution. City officials plan to delay deciding on control methods for future years until a study of the types of plants and a management plan for handling them are completed this year. The most recent study of plant varieties, conducted in 2002, found a mix of 10 species, both native and non-native.

Selection of the types of herbicides used is based on what species of plants are to be controlled. Especially a concern in area waterways is the non-native Eurasian water milfoil, which can spread dramatically. Elsewhere research is being conducted on the use of weevils that eat the milfoil.

The city had the plants harvested in 2005 and 2006, but they quickly grew back. In 2007 herbicides were used to kill plants in a small area near the boat docks. City officials said they plan to hold a public meeting later in the year to discuss study results and consider how to proceed with future control. Funding for treatment and study is partly from state grants. —Peggy Davidson

Peggy Davidson joins the Lakes Council's board

Peggy Davidson, a retired University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh journalism professor and a magazine writer for national publications, recently joined the Winnebago Lakes Council board. Peggy lives in a cottage overlooking Lake Butte des Morts in the Town of Oshkosh. In her role with the board, she is especially interested in the possibility of a Lakes Education Center in downtown Oshkosh. She co-chairs the Lakes Education Center's Facilities Committee and also serves on its Steering Committee. The Facilities Committee is now exploring similar centers in other areas.

SUCCESS! Walleye fishing workshops a first for the Winnebago Lakes Council

At a board meeting of the Winnebago Lakes Council, president Mike Lizotte commented that the Lakes Council should expand its programs to anglers. I'm sure he was thinking that fishermen spend a lot of time on the water and care about the future of the waters they fish on. I immediately thought this was a great idea and volunteered to investigate a means to reach fishermen and at the same time inform them of the Winnebago Lakes Council's mission to protect and care about the future of our lakes. I knew there were a lot of frustrated anglers who cannot catch fish with consistency like the tournament fellows. I also knew that the main difference between these two types of anglers was paying attention to details. A vehicle was needed to teach average anglers the more advanced fishing methods that pros use. Back in the

Last chance to attend a walleye workshop this year. Call Jack at 233-3536 to sign up for the Trolling Workshop on May 19
(details on p. 1)

70's I had the same challenge with deer hunters. The answer was a program called The World of the Whitetail. With that experience behind me, I thought why not try a program called The World of the Walleye.

Thus the World of the Walleye was born—workshops for anglers. We had no idea if veteran anglers would come to see if they could learn more, or if frustrated anglers would come realizing that perhaps there were "secrets" they needed to discover.

Our plan was to put on the first workshop in February just before river fishing heats up when walleyes make their annual trip to the spawning grounds. The first program was titled River Fishing for Walleyes. A news release was sent out and within one week we were sold out. Our classroom had room for only 96 people.

We wanted to present materials and methods that would help anglers become more successful. We wanted anglers to share ideas and information and to learn from



Red Caps. Each one of these anglers was awarded a red Quantum hat if he offered comments or asked a question at the Weed Fishing Workshop. Quantum provided support for the workshops.

each other, even though most anglers are very careful about guarding their secret spots where they catch fish. We didn't expect them to reveal their hot spots, we just wanted them to share their methods of basics: types of equipment, rigging up equipment, maps, lures, live bait, presentation and a few of the important "little details that make a difference".

The program was a huge success. Even experienced anglers told us they learned some new methods and ideas they wanted to try. Three more workshops were put together, all presented well before the season of the topics covered. These were weed fishing, structure fishing and trolling.

The Winnebago Lakes Council loves the idea of working with anglers because they can get the word out to them on lake concerns — invasive species, proper care of boats and trailers when leaving the water, use of phosphorus in fertilizers etc. The workshops also substantially increased membership in the Lakes Council. Members attended free; others \$10 a class.

As time passes our students will become accomplished anglers and we will be able to get into some really interesting subject matter. An example is schreckstoff, a German word for "alarm substance." Schreckstoff is an alarm pheromone released by specialized skin cells found in certain fish like perch, walleyes and even bluegills. Have you ever wondered what happens when you catch fish one right after another, and all of a sudden the bite ends? Those who attend The World of the Walleye workshops will know why.—Jack Brauer



Attentive Students. Fishing guide Ryan Standke was guest presenter at the walleye workshops. Ryan and Jack Brauer developed the material. Ninety anglers attended the first class.



From the Classroom to the Water.

Ryan Standke and two students from the fishing workshops display their catch of 15 walleyes, 50 white bass, perch and some crappies. In six hours of fishing, the students learned first hand about breaklines, current change, colors and many other details and techniques presented in the workshops.

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Spring 2008

WaterWays

Winnebago Lakes Council



Speaker Series. Local historian Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth describes the significant role area waterways played through good times and bad at a presentation attended by about 60 people at the Fin N Feather on March 25. In the early days of the city, waterways were the means for delivering logs to the flourishing sawmills; and during the Great Depression when food was scarce, Jungwirth recalled, fish from the waterways helped his family and others survive. The event was part of the Winnebago Lakes Council's Speakers Series —Peggy Davidson

Change in membership procedures

The Winnebago Lakes Council is simplifying its membership procedures. Members will no longer renew on the anniversary of the date they joined. Instead, all memberships will run from January to December. As we transition to this new format, some memberships may cover more than a year; others may be a few months shorter than a year. We ask that you understand this when you receive your renewal notice. Your renewal is important to us. Please continue to help protect and improve the Winnebago lakes.

What happened to these state bills?

The final day of Wisconsin's regular legislative session was March 13. Below is a brief summary of what happened to three bills affecting Wisconsin's lakes. Only one was signed into law. This information is from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes

Regulation of piers in navigable waters

(Companion Bills AB 297/SB169)

The subject of piers has been controversial in recent years. The legislature has considered bills regarding pier placement in navigable waters the past two sessions. This bill exempts certain piers and creates a pier permitting process. It was passed by the full Senate and Assembly and signed into law by Governor Doyle on April 1.

Statewide ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer

(Companion bills SB 197/AB 396)

This bill would have instituted a statewide ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer (with reasonable exemptions) modeled after Dane County's successful ordinance. It passed the Senate and was amended by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. The full Assembly failed to schedule a vote on the bill. The bill died in the Assembly.

Illegal to transport

(Companion bills SB 454, AB 821)

This bill would have made it illegal to operate motor vehicles and recreational trailers on highways if they have aquatic plants attached. It passed the full Senate and was referred to two Assembly Committees on Natural Resources. The bill died in the Assembly