



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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Conference launches update of lake management plan

Our first Winnebago Lakes Conference attracted 70 area residents and resulted in more than 100 suggestions to improve the lake system. Held on March 13 at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh, the theme was to celebrate our lakes and help plan for their long-term sustainability.

A broad range of topics was addressed. Eight speakers presented at the morning session: Art Techlow and Ron Bruch, WDNR biologists; Bart DeStasio, associate biology professor at Lawrence University; Mike Lizotte UW-Oshkosh and WLC executive director; Rob McLennan, Upper Fox River Water Basin team leader; Greg Keil, Menasha community development director;



Capt. Geoff Carman, U.S. Power Squadrons and Pete Chisholm, Mercury Marine.

Art Techlow describes improvements to the Winnebago Pool during the past 20 years

During the afternoon session, participants discussed their responses to two questions: identify your three top issues and three top actions related to management of fish, wildlife and water resources of the Winnebago lakes. The top three areas most mentioned by the group were water quality, including algae growth and groundwater issues; shoreland erosion, particularly from boat traffic on the Wolf River; and aquatic invasive species. The next frequent groups were habitat and shoreland restoration, water levels and boating safety and noise.

DNR biologist Art Techlow, who led the issue discussion, said some of the issues and suggested actions are already part of either a DNR or another agency's responsibility, and will be shared appropriately. Others will require various legal permits, possibly legislation, or at least further study. Ultimately, input from the conference will help update the Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan, and guide its future implementation. Presentations and other conference material are available at www.winnebagolakes.org

Lake Winneconne Shoreland Buffer Tour

Monday, July 26, 11 a.m. Three sites and lunch

You are invited to tour three shoreland restoration sites on Lake Winneconne. Lakeshore residents installed these native vegetative buffers with technical assistance and grants from the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department (LWCD). LWCD staff Chad Casper and Keith Marquardt will lead the tour, with property owners present to answer questions. Tour sponsors are the Winnebago Lakes Council, the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County, and Fox Valley Area Chapter-Wild Ones. The tour is free and open to the public, with lunch afterwards from the menu at the Fin 'n' Feather (optional).



All three residences are located on the eastern shore of Lake Winneconne. First stop is at the Kuhns residence.

- Gene and Anna Kuhns, 6869 Sunset Trail, Winneconne,
- Diane Hanson, 6861 Sunset Trail, Winneconne (located next door)
- Tom and Karyn Schmitz, 6465 Paulson Road, Winneconne.

Native vegetative buffers act as a filter strip between lawn and water, prevent erosion, and provide wildlife habitat. They also provide a biological barrier to deter geese.

Directions: Approximately 1 mile east of Winneconne is Cty M; north to Indian Shore Rd, west on Indian Shore Rd. to Sunset Trail, north on Sunset Trail to 6869 Sunset Trail (our 1st site).

Around the Lakes

Town of Winneconne approves Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

On June 17 the Town of Winneconne passed an Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. The ordinance applies to lighting throughout the town, but our interest is its relevance to shoreland lighting. Research has shown excessive night light often negatively impacts fish, aquatic vegetation and other wildlife. Light glare may also spill over to neighboring properties, creating various nuisances and interfering with the beauty of the night sky. The town's ordinance states all outdoor lights must be turned off between 11 p.m. and sunset with some exceptions related to agriculture, security, safety illumination and late closing commercial enterprises. It also states efforts should be made to eliminate light trespass, with additional shielding required if requested by an affected party. For exact provisions contact the town: (920)582-3260.

Heckrodt Wetland Reserve wants help

Invasive species are not only a problem in the water but also in our wetlands. Heckrodt Wetland Reserve recently hired an intern to manage invasive species in their wetlands. She is looking for volunteers to help remove common and glossy buckthorn and Japanese knotweed. It's a daunting task. Volunteers are welcome Tuesday through Friday, and sometimes on Saturdays. Contact Luke at heckrodtwetland.luke@tds.net

Walleye meetings scheduled

DNR is holding four meetings to provide information about the Winnebago System's walleye population and collect additional public input to update the Winnebago Walleye Management Plan. A broad range of topics will be discussed.

July 13, Shiocton, 7 p.m., River Rail, N5547 River St.
August 10, Menasha, 7 p.m., Germania Hall, 320 Chute St.
August 11, Quinney, 7 p.m., Quinney Fishing Club, Quinney
August 12, Fond du Lac, 7 p.m., Marghael's Hall, N7688 Van Dyne Rd.

More information: Kendall Kamke (920) 424-7880

Menasha Lock stops boat traffic briefly

Ever wonder how much boat traffic there is between the Menasha Lock and Lake Winnebago? It seems the Menasha Lock handles about 150-200 openings a week. A number of boats were stranded after the lock gate failed on May 29. A problem with the upper gate hinge assembly caused it to go out of alignment, preventing it from operating. It took awhile, but the lock was fixed and is working again. The Menasha Lock is the first lock between Winnebago and the Lower Fox River. Visit it on land and walk over the Fox Cities Trestle, the 1600 foot long lighted pedestrian bridge. Urban and water views are unique.

Missed "Mysteries of the Great Lakes"? Here's an opportunity to see it

In the last few months the Winnebago Lakes Council has shown the film "Mysteries of the Great Lakes" to more than 300 people in five showings around the lakes. Board member Dick Snyder was particularly struck by the beauty and message of the film and purchased a copy. He has shown it to numerous friends and now has scheduled it at all five care homes where he plays piano for sing-alongs: Park View in Oshkosh, Woodlands in Fond du Lac, Island Shores in Neenah, Maplewood in Sauk City, and St. Clare Meadows in Baraboo.

Dick is a retired engineer from Mercury Marine, but continues as a consultant on boat safety issues. He also lives on Lake Winnebago, so it's no wonder he is so taken by the film. "I love this film," Dick says. "It covers the entire history of the Great Lakes and contains such an interesting story featuring the oldest fish around, our magnificent sturgeon. It was made for IMAX theaters and has beautiful music and breathtaking scenery. It covers the rise, the painful fall, and the uplifting recovery of the lakes, as well as the sturgeon. Many scenes are shot in Wisconsin, particularly on the Wolf River." Dick has offered to show the DVD to any interested group, and says all you need is a good, high definition screen with a fine sound system. Contact him at dick_snyder@mercmarine.com, or call him at (920) 233-6407.



Niagara Escarpment is in the news

Eric Fowle, director of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, was presented with this year's Northeast Wisconsin Natural Resources Award for his vision in forming the Niagara Escarpment Resource Network (NERN) 12 years ago. NERN's mission is to promote balanced land use decisions and an appreciation for the unique ecology of Wisconsin's Niagara Escarpment. Residents of Fond du Lac and Calumet counties are familiar with the Escarpment, a portion of which runs along the east shore of Lake Winnebago. It's called the Ledge in Fond du Lac County. High Cliff State Park lies along it in Calumet County. The entire escarpment stretches 650 miles across Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario and New York. The year 2010 is designated the Year of the Escarpment, and numerous events are taking place in celebration. For more information: www.escarpmentnetwork.org/



Think boating. On a cold day in April, folks on the east shore cut the ribbon of the newly refurbished Brothertown Harbor. - Photo by Kelly Nieforth

State and Lakes Council work to control aquatic invasive species

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to be a top priority in the state, with new rules, funding and signs to help protect our lakes. The Winnebago Lakes Council is doing its part as it implements a state grant to prevent and control AIS in the Winnebago Pool.

Decision makers learn about AIS

The Lakes Council, in collaboration with the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance, hosted a full-day educational session on aquatic invasive species on April 29 in Kimberly. The session was part of FWWA's 11th annual Stormwater Conference. Speakers included:

- Bob Wakeman, DNR, State Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Erin McFarlane, UWEX, Clean Boats Clean Waters State Coordinator
- Mike Lizotte, Executive Director, Winnebago Lakes Council
- Diane Schauer, Calumet County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- Ted Ritter, Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator
- Brenda Nordin, WDNR, Regional AIS Grants Coordinator

Presentations covered case studies, state programs, regional and local issues, and experience in working with municipalities and organizations. Presentations are available at <http://www.fwwa.org/2010-Presentations.html>.

Invited were area decision makers on boards or governments of all towns, cities and counties associated with the Winnebago Pool Lakes. A grant from WDNR covered costs of travel, meals, or conference registration. Attendees came from the cities of Appleton, Fond du Lac, Menasha, and Oshkosh; the towns of Oshkosh and Winneconne; and the counties of Calumet and Fond du Lac. - Mike Lizotte

Clean Boats, Clean Waters continues boat inspections on the Winnebago lakes

This summer Clean Boats, Clean Waters has six interns from UW Oshkosh to greet boaters who launch at busy public boat landings around our lakes. The interns are wearing their familiar blue shirts and checking boats for vegetation, collecting data on various boater characteristics and handing out educational material about aquatic invasive species and new laws to protect our lakes. Funding is from the state and the Winnebago Lakes Council, in cooperation with the Center for Community Partnership. This is the fifth season the program has been operating on the Winnebago lakes and the interns are doing their jobs well. Analysis of the 2008 and 2009 seasons show a combined total of 4544 boats were inspected, 8651 people were contacted, and 1481 hours were spent at the launches.

Citizens can watch for invasive species

One of our citizens did just that. She noticed Parrot Feather in a nursery and politely pointed out to the retailer Parrot Feather is on a list of state prohibited invasive plants, so they threw it into the trash. True, identifying invasive plants is one of Diane Schauer's responsibilities as AIS Coordinator for Calumet County, but any knowledgeable citizen could have done the same under NR 40.

NR 40 is a new DNR rule classifying certain invasive species as prohibited or restricted. It regulates the transportation, including importation, possession, transfer (including sale) and introduction of these species. It also establishes preventative measures to minimize the accidental spread of certain invasive species. Its major purpose is to educate Wisconsin residents about invasive species and actions they can take to minimize their spread and damage. The rule lists a large number of species as prohibited or restricted, statewide or in particular counties. Most are terrestrial plants and animals, but a few are aquatic invasive species. Find the list at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving **YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the spread of invasive species. It's the law.



*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."

New AIS sign warns of law change

Look for the new Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker signs posted throughout the Winnebago Pool. This new sign was designed to remind boaters and anglers it is now against the law to launch or leave the launch with aquatic vegetation attached to boats, trailers, or other equipment. - Diane Schauer

Diane Schauer is professional "Invader Crusader" for 2010

We're not the only ones who think Winnebago Lakes Council board member Diane Schauer is an asset to the Winnebago area.



The state recently recognized her with the 2010 "Invader Crusader" award for a professional individual. Diane has been Calumet County's Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator since 2008, but her work and enthusiasm reach far beyond aquatics. She is concerned about impacts any invasive species may have and is always ready to educate. Among activities cited when given the award are articles in *On Wisconsin Outdoor*, mapping of invasive species on rights-of-way, encouraging her county highway department to attend a workshop on rights-of-way management, and educational efforts at hunter education classes, garage/garden sales, farmer's markets and libraries. She also shares her expertise with various groups and at public events.

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Spring - Summer 2010

WaterWays

Winnebago Lakes Council

New state laws impact our waters and perhaps you

NR115—Wisconsin's Shoreland Protection Program is an administrative rule that went into effect February 1, 2010. This rule imposes minimum standards on lakeshore properties like setbacks of structures from the Ordinary High Water Mark, what you can do with nonconforming structures, impervious surfaces, mitigation, to name a few. Confusing? Unfortunately, it is. Counties, the governmental units that implement and enforce NR115, have until February 1, 2012 to incorporate the new standards. If you have questions about shoreland regulations, contact your county zoning administrator.

2009 Wisconsin Act 9 restricts the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus. This law took effect April 1, 2010. The law restricts the use of lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorous. This is an easy law to follow. When you buy your lawn fertilizer, make sure that the middle number in the three numbers rating fertilizer is 0 (zero), e.g. 5-0-5, not 5-5-5.

2009 Wisconsin Act 31 restricts the operation of motorboats to slow-no-wake speeds within 100 feet of the shoreline. This law took effect February 1, 2010. This law provides extra protection to the shoreline by reducing erosion caused by wakes of

motorboats. It also provides added safety to those recreating along the shorelines. Water skiers should take particular note of this law because water ski boats cannot operate at greater than slow-no-wake speeds inside a pickup and drop off area closer than 100 feet from the shore unless a special permit for a buoyed pickup and drop off area is obtained from the DNR.

2009 Wisconsin Act 55 restricts the transport of aquatic plants and animals. This law took effect October 8, 2009. For most of us, this law means that we must absolutely be sure there are no plants or animals on our recreational equipment—boats, trailers, seaplanes, etc.—when they are being transported on public highways. Just like speeding, any law enforcement officer may issue a ticket for a boat and trailer traveling along a highway with 'weeds' attached.

2009 Wisconsin Act 63 restricts the amount of phosphorus in machine dishwashing products for household use to a very small amount. This law took effect July 1, 2010. You probably won't need to worry about this law so much; grocery stores should not be offering unlawful dishwashing products.

—Earl Cook, President, Wisconsin Lakes. An excerpt from an article in *The Lake Connection*



Algae growth this summer on the west shore of Lake Winnebago near Fond du Lac

- photo by Wayne Risvold

Natural Resources Board oksays new phosphorus rules

Excess phosphorus in lakes causes algae blooms, excessive weed growth, and decreased water quality. It has negative impacts on fish, plants and recreation. New rules addressing phosphorus and other nutrient pollution, as well as erosion and sedimentation that degrade water quality, were approved on June 23 by the Natural Resources Board. These rules cover various potential polluters, including factories, municipal water treatment systems, agricultural sources, and urban and suburban stormwater run-off. For the first time, science based numerical water quality standards for phosphorus are established. Watch for more news about these rules in the local media. They are important.