

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.

Website coming soon:
www.winnebago-lakes.org

Email:
winnebago-lakes@yahoo.com

Winnebago Lakes Council
P.O. Box 100
Winnebago, WI 54985

Interim Board of Directors

Bob Beckstrom, Town of Black Wolf
Paul Fowler, Town of Black Wolf
Greg Keil, City of Menasha
Michael Lizotte, City of Oshkosh
Jack Quigley, Town of Winneconne
Nile Roeder, Town of Oshkosh
Jan Scalpone, City of Oshkosh
Dani Stolley, City of Oshkosh
Bob Wojcik, Village of Malone

Inside This Issue

- 2 Critical Habitats I. D.
- 3 2006 Annual Report
- 4 2006 Membership

Members, friends -

Commemorate our first year at two October events

Winnebago Lakes Council's First Annual Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2006, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Fin 'n Feather, Winneconne

11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting. Come hear what we've been doing to protect our lakes. Help elect our board of directors. Participate in a session to identify issues and projects for 2007. Only members can vote, but everyone is welcome. If you care about our lakes, this is your chance to share your ideas.

12 Noon Buffet Lunch. Enjoy good food and a view of the lake. Meet like-minded folks who understand the importance of citizens working together to sustain our lakes.

1:00 p.m. *Sustaining Our Fishery is Good for the Economy:* Catherine

Neiswender, UW Extension. How do you measure the value of taking care of our lakes? We are just beginning to develop tools to accomplish this. Catherine Neiswender will report on findings of a recent survey indicating anglers generate over \$221 million to the Winnebago area economy. Get the facts about this important survey, funded by more than a dozen local groups.

Please register with Tiffany Nytes at 920-527-1464 or winnebago-lakes@yahoo.com by October 22. Registration and lunch: \$15 collected at the door. Don't have three hours to spare? Come for an hour or two.

Earth Charter Community Summit

Friday, October 13, 2006, 9:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

UW Oshkosh Reeve Union, Room 221



Environmental Economics: Fishing the Winnebago Pool Lakes

As part of the week-long Earth Charter Community Summit, the Winnebago Lakes Council is sponsoring two talks and a panel discussion about the recently completed economic studies of the value of angling on our lakes. Keynote speaker, resource economist Dr. John Stoll of UW Green Bay, will be joined on a panel by representatives from government, business, and conservation interests.

The theme of the Earth Charter Community Summit is local and global sustainability. Another event of interest during the week will be a presentation on Wednesday evening, October 11, by author, attorney and corporate philosopher, David Korten, founder of YES! magazine. Korten will be speaking about his new book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community*. All Summit events are FREE and open to the public. For specific event dates and times, please visit: www.uwosh.edu/earthcharter.

Around the Lakes

Two new educational and data collection projects are aimed at helping citizens protect the ecological health of the Winnebago system.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Student interns from UW Oshkosh contacted 2,051 people and inspected 1,669 boats during the first summer of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program on the Winnebago lakes. Following advice of the Wisconsin DNR and county parks staff, they spent most of their time at busiest boat launches on busy weekends. They also worked at boat launches in days leading up to fishing tournaments, which tend to attract boaters from outside our region.

The main goal of the interns was to educate boaters about how they can prevent the spread of invasive species from lake to lake. They also collect data on vehicle license (in-state or out), type of boat, engine size, whether boats entered or left the lake with vegetation on them, last water body visited, whether they followed prevention steps, and prior knowledge of invasive species. This will provide us with a lot of data to analyze over the winter, but here are a few statistics we have now:

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Contacts - 2006

Lake	# Boats inspected	# People contacted
Butte des Morts	189	226
Poygan	24	24
Winnebago	1,205	1,500
Winneconne	251	301
Total	1,669	2,051

- Mike Lizotte

Critical Habitat Identification

Wisconsin DNR fisheries, wildlife and water resource biologists have identified critical habitat features on lakes **Winnebago, Poygan, Butte des Morts and Winneconne**. These include near shore areas important for fish spawning, brood rearing, water pollution filtration, critical "places of living" for fish and wildlife, unique physical features, and shore areas with outstanding natural qualities. Most often these are areas with abundant aquatic and wetland plants.

The critical habitats are mapped for future reference, allowing improved review of proposals for marina development, aquatic plant control, or shoreline straightening. A draft report will be presented at a public forum when completed. For more information, contact Mark Sesing (920) 485-3023.

Jingle Belly Fish

Apolodinotus grunniens
Sheepshead
Croaker
Thunder Pumper
Drum

Noisy grunting
Bullfrog croaking fish

Lake Winnebago bottom feeder
Slurping up larva,
Crayfish, and minnows

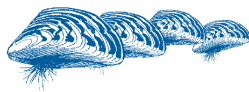
These belly-bottom-bumpers gobble
Zebra mussels:

Eastern European invaders

Polluters of lakes

Clingers to piers and
rocks

Stickers on boat
bottoms



Garbage fish like the taste
Go for more and
More
Double, then
triple in size.

These trash fish--
Tasty to too few
Tossed back into the lake by
fishers--

Now bulk up their image
As "environmentalists"--
Ridding the lake of
Zebra mussel invaders
Til their tummies,
Filled with undigested mussel
shells,
Jingle like bells on Santa's sleigh
Heralds of glad tidings.

- Frankie Mengeling

Frankie Mengeling, Oshkosh writer and teacher, wrote this poem in response to a local newspaper article reporting sheepshead are growing larger from eating zebra mussels, and, if you shake one, you can hear the mussel shells jingle. Sheepshead, or freshwater drum, in the Winnebago Pool are part of a research study looking at natural controls for zebra mussel populations

Invasive Species Tip

Make a Habit of Cleaning Equipment - The three main steps for cleaning boats, trailers and other equipment are: 1) remove all visible mud, plants, fish/animals; 2) eliminate water from all equipment before transporting anywhere; and 3) clean and dry anything that came in contact with the water.

Your equipment has many places where water can collect and harbor invasive species. Remove water from motors, jet drives, live wells, boat hulls, scuba gear, boots, waders, bait buckets, decoys, or floats. Cleaning can start with high-pressure water, but thorough cleaning for invasives will take hot (< 40° C or 104° F) or salt water (2/3rds cup salt for five gallons). Small equipment such as fishing line can be soaked in vinegar for 20 minutes or salt water for 24 hours. Finally, drying for at least five days before entering new waters will kill most aquatic invasive species.

Special Note of Caution for Anglers – Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Do not transfer bait or water from one water body to another. Larval zebra mussels or other invasive species could be present in the water with the bait.

Invasive Species Tip is a regular feature of Waterways to remind lake users they have a role in protecting the Winnebago system.

Winnebago Lakes Council Annual Report 2006

The idea for a citizens' lake organization to promote the sustainability of the Winnebago lakes originated in spring 2003 at a meeting hosted by the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Two years and many meetings later, the Winnebago Lakes Council was incorporated as a private, not for profit corporation. We are pleased to dedicate our first Annual Report to the many individuals, agencies and organizations that helped define our mission and continue to support our efforts to involve citizens in protecting and improving the ecological health and scenic beauty of the Winnebago lakes.

Organizational Development

Membership. Membership grew from 30 to 160 members in 2006. Our goal is to triple membership by the end of 2007.

Board of Directors. Ten people served on our Interim Board. Eight of these members have agreed to stand for our first elected board. The new board will have at least 11 members representing a range of geographic areas and lake interests.

Funding. Support from community and agency advisors helped us obtain over \$60,000 in grants to fund our programs and part-time positions for a Program Assistant and an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator.

Tax-Exempt Status. Our application for a 501(c)(3) exemption was delayed eight months because the IRS was certifying numerous new non-profit organizations to deal with Hurricane Katrina disaster relief. With help from Senator Kohl's office, in June we qualified.

Community Education

Newsletter. Our first step in building "a voice for our lakes" was to develop a logo and a quarterly newsletter *Waterways*. We distributed over 10,000 copies of our first four issues to area residents. Topics ranged from how water levels are set to what citizens can do to protect and improve the lakes.

Events. We held four events aimed at informing citizens and communities: February presentations in Winneconne on lake monitoring results; March presentations in Menasha with East Central Regional Planning on land use and water quality; a July picnic in Oshkosh with talks on aquatic invasive species, and an October panel in Oshkosh on the economic value of the fishery.

Website. In the construction stage is a web site to consolidate information about the lakes and allow interactive communication among lake users.

Outreach. Three presentations to area organizations, a story in *On the Water Magazine* and several newspaper articles reached thousands of area residents.

Programs and Projects

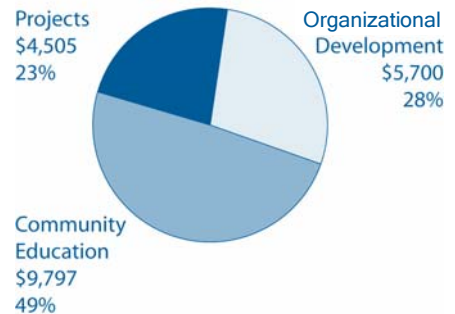
Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. In cooperation with UWO and UWEX, we helped recruit over 100 citizen lake monitors who take Secchi disk readings to measure water clarity on all four lakes. Our goal is to improve communication among monitors as they increase the sophistication of their measuring tools.

Aquatic Invasive Species Planning and Education. Just beginning is a program to educate, plan and protect against invasive species in cooperation with UWO and UWEX. This summer a Clean Boats, Clean Waters project was initiated. An Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator position is being filled.

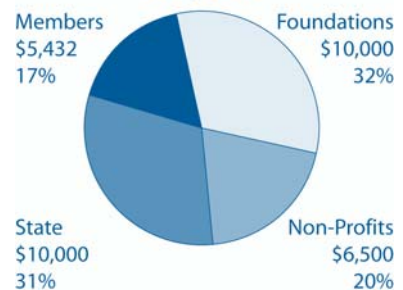
Network Building. We are identifying local conservation organizations, civic groups, businesses, industries, agencies and governmental units to work together to develop and fund lake protection and improvement projects.

Financial Statement August 2005 - August 2006

Expenses \$20,002



Income \$31,932



Grant Assistance

Buttes des Morts Conservation Club
Citizens Natural Resources Association
University of Wisconsin Extension
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Oshkosh Southwest Rotary
Poygan Sportsmen's Club
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Interim Board of Directors

LuAnn Bird, T. Oshkosh
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Retired, Mid-State Technical College
Paul Fowler, T. BlackWolf
Farmer, conservationist
Greg Keil, C. Menasha
Community Development Director
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Director, Aquatic Research Lab UWO
Nile Roeder, T. Oshkosh
Pres, Butte des Morts Conservation Club
Jan Scalpone, C. Oshkosh
Retired, East Central Regional Planning.
Dani Stolley, C. Oshkosh
Director of Annual Giving, UWO Foundation
Jack Quigley, T. Winneconne
Chair, T. Winneconne Planning Commission
Bob Wojcik, V. Malone
Owner, Pro Motorsports, Fond du Lac

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4

Fall 2006

WaterWays

Winnebago Lakes Council

2005-2006 Memberships

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Elizabeth Kimbrough
Shawn McDonald

Protector

Mike Arrowood
Helen Briwa
Tink Callan
Paul Fowler
Ross Fuller
Tom Hughes
Michael & Suzette Lizotte
Bill & Natalie Raaths
Jan Scalpone
James & Ann Thomas
Jeff & Sue Wincinsky

Guardian

Lee Hartjes
Toivo & Beatrice Kallas

Family Members

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Lurton & Carolyn Blassingame
Tip & Dawn Brown
Mark & Joan Breitung
Brad & Anita Cannaday
Chuck & Mary Demunck
Hy & Shirley Gehrt
Denise & Phil Hahn
Larry & Gail Johnson
Richard & Jan Keene
Greg & Janet Keil
Tom & Kathy Larkin
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Robert & Diane Wojcik
Jacob & Kathleen Propp
Jack & Marisue Quigley
Jim & Chris Rescheske
Perry & Donna Schaack
Todd & Merrie Schambe
Jim & Sally Sharpe
Kenneth & Dawn Stolzman
Kenneth & Joan Stuehn
Eric & Linda Tipler
Jack & Marilou Touchet
Paul & Betty Ulrich
Mr. & Mrs. Vander Werff

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Christine Barnish
Bob Beckstrom
Donna Berg
LuAnn Bird
Richard Bradley
Jack Brauer
Roger Brey
Bob Bruce
Gary Bushman
Jim Clapper
Louise Coumbe
Margaret Davidson
Jim Flaherty
Doug Foley
Nancy Graham
Anne Hintz

Harry Hochrein
Dixie Jarchow
John Jens
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Thomas Meyer
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Mark Specht
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Dana Stolley
Dani Stolley
Christie Swartzell
Leslie Taylor
Anita Vissers
Larry Verzal
Leonie Vrtilek
Robert Wertsch
Tom Young

Organizations

Citizens Natural Resources
Association of WI
City of Fond du Lac
Black Wolf Wildlife Association
Butte des Morts Conservation Club
East Central Wisconsin
Regional Planning Commission
Radke Contractors, Inc.
Rotary of Southwest Oshkosh
Van Dyne Lions Club
Walleyes for Tomorrow
Winnebago Conservation Club