



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

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Winnebago Lakes Council

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Lakes Council locates events around the lakes

The large size of our lakes makes it difficult for the Lakes Council to schedule events conveniently located to all members. This year the Board is making a special effort to expand our Speakers Series and other events to areas north, south and east, in addition to our usual Oshkosh and Winneconne locations. Some events may entail traveling more than usual for our regular attendees. We encourage members and guests to attend these events and perhaps discover new information and interesting places on our lakes.

Safe Boating on the Winnebago Lakes

Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 7 p.m.

Schmitt's Oar House Bar and Grill

N7044 Winnebago Drive, Fond du Lac

Deputy Aaron Rauls of the Fond du Lac Sheriff's Department will talk about boater safety, boat patrols and law enforcement on Lake Winnebago. This talk will follow the Lakes Council's Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited.

All About Sturgeon

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7 p.m.

Stone Toad Bar and Grill,

1109 S. Oneida St., Menasha, WI.

Just prior to sturgeon season, Ron Bruch, DNR Fish Specialist and local angler Dick Koerner will talk about the biology, management and sport of the surgeon fishery. The public is invited.

Fishing Workshops

Thursdays February 12, 19, 26, 2009, 6:30-9 p.m.

Fox Valley Technical College, 150 Campbell Road, Oshkosh

This is the second year for this popular series. Topics include fly fishing for walleyes, seasonal movements of walleyes, and setting up sonar/gps units. Presenters are Ryan Standke, Rob Teske and Chris Gasser. Members only (see p.4).

New staff to help with membership and outreach

The Lakes Council recently contracted with **Barb Standke** and **Margy Davey** for part time positions.

Barb will manage membership and other databases. She has worked in the Waushara County Department of Human Services for 39 years and is considering retiring in spring 2009. She is also Treasurer for the Village of Lohrville and Association Manager for both the men's and woman's local bowling associations. Both she and her husband Bill love the waters of the Winnebago system, having fished and boated there for the past 37 years. Barb lives in Redgranite and has two sons and three granddaughters.

Margy will be scheduling talks about our lakes by board members to local service and conservation groups and setting up a Winnebago Lakes Conference for early summer 2009. A UWO graduate, she and her husband Mike have lived in Oshkosh since college days. Margy has held a variety of administrative positions in both the public and private sectors and has also coordinated local petition drives for the Oshkosh smoking ban and Winnebago County board reduction. She currently works for the Oshkosh Area School District and serves on the Oshkosh Energy and Environment Advisory Board. Contact Margy at info@winnebagolakes.org to book a speaker for your group.

Annual Meeting set for November 12, 2008 in Fond du Lac

Attend the Lakes Council's Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Schmitt's Oar House Bar and Grill, N7044 Winnebago Drive (the lake road) and stay for the Speaker Series with Deputy Sheriff Aaron Raul at 7 p.m. Program for the Annual Meeting includes a brief report of the year's accomplishments, election of board members and an opportunity for members to discuss issues of concern. The Oar House has a casual dinner menu, so come early and enjoy a nice meal on the lake. The public is invited.

Around the Lakes

Endangered terns successfully nest

The Butte des Morts Conservation Club reports that this summer 11 pairs of the state endangered Common Tern nested on several small islands on Lake Butte des Morts built to attract the birds. The terns' hatch was the first successful Common Tern hatch in this area in over ten years. The small islands, about 30 x 40 feet across the top and 3.5 feet above the lake surface are remote unvegetated and predator free, just what the terns like. They were built as part of the Terrill Island restoration project and funded from a settlement reached by companies that released PCB's into Fox River and Green Bay several decades ago. Terns are just one of the species impacted by these toxins. Discover more about the Common Tern and the Terrill Island project at www.bdmcc.org.

Water levels set for Winnebago Pool

Interested in water levels on the Winnebago Pool? Check out the Army Corps of Engineers Web site at www.lre.usace.army.mil/greatlakes/hh/lakewinnebago/ for a wide range of related topics. The Army Corps held this year's regulation meeting on October 22. The Corps considers the needs of all Winnebago Pool and Lower Fox River users, so management of water levels is always a compromise, sometimes with a negative impact on habitat and water quality. Expect to discuss water levels at the Lakes Council's Winnebago Lakes Conference anticipated for early summer 2009

Groups support Council's mission

The Winnebago Lakes Council welcomes memberships from organizations and municipalities. Two groups recently joining were the Sheboygan Walleye Club, a group of anglers who sometimes fish Winnebago, and the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department. Groups often join after hearing one of our speakers. Contact us to schedule a talk for your group.

Learning from lakes in Antarctica

Mike Lizotte, President of the Winnebago Lakes Council, shared photos and stories of his recent trip to Antarctica at the Fin N Feather, Winneconne, on September 23. Professor Lizotte's research focused on what can be learned from simple lakes in a remote area of Antarctica. This was a Speaker Series event.

- Jerry Lopas; photo by Jack Brauer

AIS grant funds billboard project

A View From the Quiet Side of the Lake by Diane Schauer

As Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Calumet County, one of my greatest concerns is the health of Lake Winnebago. We've heard about the destruction done by quagga mussels and gobies in Lake Michigan, and must do everything possible to keep them out of Lake Winnebago.

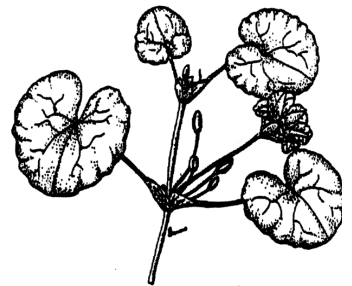
I partnered with Tom Ward, the AIS Coordinator for the Manitowoc County Lakes Association (MCLA), to write a successful grant to cover two or more billboards in Manitowoc and Calumet counties with the message "**Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.**" The billboards, aimed at people trailing boats, will be located on the primary highways between Lake Michigan and Lake Winnebago. You will see them in spring.

This initiative has created partnerships between the Winnebago Lakes Council, Friends of High Cliff State Park, MCLA, and the Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association, all of which are donating money to match the grant funding. We appreciate everyone who is supporting this effort, and we especially thank all of you who take the time to help **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers.**

Protect our lakes from water garden escapees

Increasingly, non-native escapees from backyard water gardens are invading Wisconsin's waterways. Flowering Rush already has a foothold on the Winnebago lake system. Recently a new invasive, Yellow Floating Heart, was found in Wisconsin lakes. This is an extremely aggressive plant from parts of Europe and Asia introduced here as an ornamental pond species.

Currently it is sold for water gardens and can establish if carelessly discarded into a water body. Yellow Floating Heart resembles a native small yellow pond lily, but its flowers are larger and more showy. If you think you see it in our lakes, take a sample to your DNR Service Center for identification.



Yellow Floating Heart

Rob McLennan, DNR Basin Supervisor, says just because you can buy a plant at a nursery or through the mail doesn't mean it's safe for our waters. Best to use native plants for a water garden and shoreline plantings.

Safe bacterium found to kill Zebra mussels

Zebra mussels have been invading the Winnebago lakes since 1999. Now U.S. scientists say they've created an environmentally safe bacterial toxin to control both zebra and quagga mussels. The new bio-pesticide was derived from a common soil bacterium by researchers at the New York State Museum Field Research Laboratory in Cambridge, N.Y. Scientists in the U.S. Department of Energy-funded study said that when ingested in large quantities, the bacterium is lethal to zebra and quagga mussels but harmless to non-target organisms, including native freshwater mollusks. Officials said the bio-pesticide achieved a 98 percent kill rate of zebra and quagga mussels in water systems at a New York power plant. The addition of the bacterium to the plant's water supply showed no effects on humans. Research continues with a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to improve the bio-pesticide for an even higher mussel kill rate. - 2008 United Press International, Inc.



Winnebago Lakes Council 2008 Annual Report

Now in its third year, the Winnebago Lakes Council has established itself as an important player in protecting and enhancing the ecological health and scenic beauty of the Winnebago Pool lakes. In 2008, membership surpassed 260 and the Board of Directors reached its goal of 11 members--the size dictated by its by-laws. Two major projects were completed, a number of new programs were initiated, and three part time staff positions were contracted. With increased membership support and several public and private grants funding the 2009 work effort, the Winnebago Lakes Council is set to broaden educational opportunities and undertake a variety of projects to protect and improve our lakes.

Community Education

Speakers Series. The Speakers Series, managed by Jerry Lopas and held every few months, featured local historian Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth, DNR biologist Art Techlow III and UWO Aquatic Lab Director Dr. Michael Lizotte. Dan Rudibeck narrated a dinner paddleboat tour on the Wolf River.

On the Water Magazine. Each issue of this free magazine reaching 12,000 waterfront property owners contained an article written by a Board member or one of our advisors. Among the topics featured were global warming, light pollution, boating safety, burning on shore, phosphorus reduction, shoreland vegetative management, and the importance of lake associations.

Fishing Workshops. New this year was a series of four workshops entitled "World of the Walleye." Fishing guide Ryan Standke teamed up with board member Jack Brauer to present comprehensive information on various aspects of walleye fishing. The popular workshops were sold out and the Lakes Council gained a substantial increase in members.

Community Talks. Talks of various lengths about the Winnebago Pool lakes were given to more than a dozen community groups during the year. The Lakes Council purchased its own lap top and projector and currently is scheduling similar talks.

Web site and Newsletter. The Lakes Council's Web site (www.winnebago-lakes.org) and quarterly newsletter *Water Ways* continued to keep residents informed of lake projects and activities.

Programs and Projects

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Regional Plan. After 18 months of work, Phase 1 of an AIS plan for the Winnebago Pool lakes was completed with assistance from AIS Coordinator Candace Mortara, a 15 member Advisory Group and UWEX and DNR. Five public meetings were held last September and October to gain broader input from area residents. This fall the Lakes Council submitted a grant proposal to the state for Phase 2: developing partnerships for AIS plan implementation.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters. For the third year in a row, the Lakes Council cooperated with UWO on an AIS boat inspection and education project funded by a state grant. UWO hired summer interns to check boats and distribute AIS literature at busy boat landings on the Winnebago system.

Lake Butte des Morts Shoreland Management Survey. With assistance from UW-Extension, a 2007 survey of 609 Lake Butte des Morts property owners was tabulated and published. The survey asked about shoreline landscaping practices. Findings indicated property owners could benefit from more education about phosphorus reduction and shoreline buffers. Several publications and talks to various community groups explained the findings.

Natural Shoreline Expo. The 2008 Expo was held in May by the Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department. For the second year the Lakes Council was a co-sponsor, mailing 12,000 promotional post cards and providing a speaker and display.

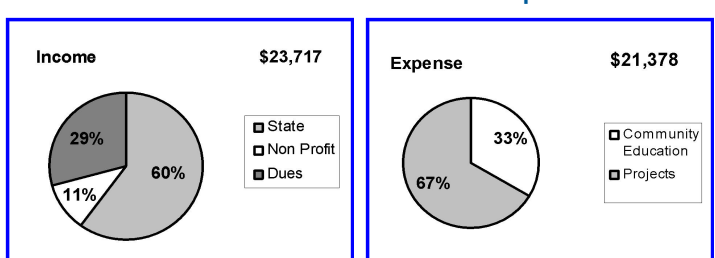
Lakes Education Center. The Lakes Council took the lead in exploring development of a waterfront education center in downtown Oshkosh to focus on the Winnebago system. A public meeting was held and several committees established. Similar centers in other areas were visited, sites examined and talks given to various groups. The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation provided a grant to continue exploration. Peggy Davidson chairs.

Fox-Wolf Partners Network. The state grant supporting this effort expired in June 2008, with the Lakes Council successfully reaching its goal of participating in five projects with multiple partners. A UWO intern was hired to complete the inventory of conservation organizations for the Web site, in expectation that future lake projects might generate sufficient interest from local groups to warrant going on line.

2008 Board of Directors

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Ken Friedman, C. Oshkosh, *Attorney*
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Dick Snyder, T. Black Wolf, *Consultant, Mercury Marine*
Bob Wojcik, V. Malone, *Owner, Pro Motorsports, FDL*

Financial Statement - August 2007 to September 2008



The Winnebago Lakes Council is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization funded by dues, donations and grants. Thanks to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW Extension, CNRA and UW Oshkosh for their assistance.

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*If you receive a complementary
copy of this newsletter, please
consider becoming a member*

Register now for 2009 Fishing Workshops

In 2008 the "World of the Walleye" Fishing Workshops were so successful that the Winnebago Lakes Council has decided to sponsor this series again in 2009 with a whole new lineup.

Mark your calendars now if you plan to attend and make sure you renew your membership or join the WLC before the end of January 2009. (**Note: All memberships expire on Dec. 31, 2008.**) Because of the popularity of these workshops, only paid members of the Winnebago Lakes Council can attend.

The Fishing Workshops will be held at a new location in 2009—the Riverside Campus of Fox Valley Technical School, 150 Campbell Rd. Oshkosh, WI. (Located by the Senior Center, just west of the Wisconsin Ave. bridge, on the south side of the river).



Workshops in 2009 will be held on Thursday nights February 12, 19 and 26. (March 5 is a snow date in case of bad weather) Time is from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

February 12. Fly Fishing for Walleyes.

This workshop will cover everything you need to know about using flies for walleyes in a river: fly fishing, materials used to make flies, how to make leaders for fly fishing, and the proper method to pull flies in a river current including boat control. Speakers will be Ryan Standke and Rob Teske.

February 19. Seasonal Movement of Walleyes in the Winnebago Pool.

Once the seasonal movement of walleyes is understood you increase your ability to locate walleyes anytime of the year. Ryan Standke and Rob Teske will be the speakers. An added bonus will be a presentation by DNR Fish Manager, Kendall Kamke, who will present the results of his population studies from shocking and trawling operations on the Winnebago Pool.

February 26. The ABC's of Setting Up Sonar/GPS Units for Walleye Fishing.

Chris Gasser, Lowrance representative, will present this workshop. Chris is also the President of the Sheboygan Walleye Club.

WLC member L. Hawley with a nice catch of walleyes using tactics he learned at the 2008 fishing workshops.



Space is limited to 100 people. If you want to be sure to be admitted, send in your membership renewal now or join the Lakes Council by filling in and mailing the form on the top of this page. More information about WLC can be found on our website www.winnebagolakes.org.

In 2008 these walleye workshops were sold out in a few weeks. I would suggest that you make sure your membership dues are paid, then call in your reservations to me, Jack Brauer, at 920-233-3536. Have your name, address, phone and email address ready when you call.—Jack Brauer