



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

[www.winnebagolakes.org](http://www.winnebagolakes.org)

#### Email

[info@winnebagolakes.org](mailto:info@winnebagolakes.org)

#### Winnebago Lakes Council

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## Winnebago Pool Lakes Conference

### *Celebrating our lakes and planning for their future*

Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh

Join us on March 13 for an all day conference aimed at giving area residents an opportunity to celebrate our lakes and help plan for their long-term sustainability. Hear expert speakers and contribute your ideas on topics you care about.

DNR biologists Art Techlow and Ron Bruch will present accomplishments of the 1989 Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan and begin discussion of what should be included in an updated plan. Other confirmed speakers are Bart DeStasio, associate biology professor at Lawrence University, speaking on water clarity; Michael Lizotte, former director of the Aquatic Research Laboratory, speaking on aquatic invasive species; Rob McLennan, Upper Fox River Water Basin Team leader, speaking on economic and aesthetic concerns and Greg Keil, Menasha community development director, speaking on community lake issues.

Afternoon sessions will address water quality, wildlife habitat, the fishery, recreational boating, aquatic invasive species, aquatic vegetation, algae, water levels, shoreland development, property values, economic impacts, rules and regulations, noise and nuisance complaints, channel concerns, tourism and other issues relating to the four lakes and river system.

"This conference is a celebration of the success of the Winnebago Comprehensive Management Plan," said WLC Executive Director Mike Lizotte "But it will also take a constructive look at where we are now and serve as a launching point for a new management plan."

The conference is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Registration is not required, but to help us plan for lunch, please RSVP to [info@winnebagolakes.org](mailto:info@winnebagolakes.org)

## Winnebago Lakes Council Speaker Series Event

### Great Design for Your Shoreline

Wednesday, April 7, 12 noon (lunch from the menu)  
*Fin 'n' Feather, Winneconne*

Melissa Netzer will review parts of NR115 and give expert advice for enhancing shorelines within the rules. Netzer is a freelance landscape designer and consultant, certified in RSVP (Revitalization of Shoreland Vegetation Project) through the DNR. She lives on Lake Winnebago in Fond du Lac. The program is free and open to the public.



## 2010 Stormwater Conference and Aquatic Invasive Species Conference

April 28-29-30 *Liberty Hall, Kimberly*

This year the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance's annual Stormwater Conference will overlap with the Winnebago Lakes Council's Aquatic Invasive Species Conference. The first two days will focus on stormwater; half of the second and all of third day will address aquatic invasive species. A strong roster of presenters has been invited. These conferences are directed toward public officials, staff and other professionals. For AIS attendees, grant funding is available. Watch our Web site for registration information. **SAVE THE DATE!**

## Around the Lakes

### **Livestock Facility Siting Rule, ATCP 51**

**Tuesday, March 2, 3:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Coughlin Center, Co. Rd. Y, Oshkosh**

#### **Listening sessions about CAFO permits**

Area residents have an opportunity to attend a listening session on the Livestock Facility Siting Rule, ATCP 51, which sets the standards local governments must follow when issuing a permit for Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs). This rule went into effect in 2006, along with a requirement for a rule review in four years. Comments will be presented to the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) in May. Send written comments by March 10 to [Michael.murray@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Michael.murray@wisconsin.gov). For more information check <http://midwestadvocates.org>

### **Permits issued to Rosendale Dairy**

The Livestock Facility Siting Rule above impacts facilities such as the Rosendale Dairy, a CAFO located on CTH M in Pickett. Less than a month ago the DNR issued permits to allow it to expand from 4,000 to 8,000 dairy cows and to increase its area for spreading manure to 12,000 acres. Hundreds of people and numerous environmental groups had protested the permits, concerned about contamination of ground and surface water from the dairy operations.

### **Boating Skills and Seamanship Course**

**March 15 - April 29, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Fond du Lac Yacht Club, 705 Mohawk Ave.**

Beginning on March 15 and for seven consecutive Mondays, trained instructors of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, using official Coast Guard training aids, will cover such topics as Boat Handling, Boating Safety, Marine Equipment, Trailering, Navigational Aids and Legal Compliance, plus an introduction to VHF radio usage, Marlinspike skills and GPS navigation. This course also satisfies the Wisconsin law requiring boaters born after Jan. 1, 1989 to complete a boat safety certification program. A \$35 fee will cover books and materials. Starting on April 13, a popular DNR Safe Boating course for youth will follow. To register or obtain additional information for these programs call (920) 921-0045 or check on line <http://a0950401.uscgaux.info>.

### **Wisconsin Lakes Convention**

**March 30 - April 1**

**KI Convention Center, Green Bay**

Plan to attend this year's Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay. Focus this year is on restoring Wisconsin shorelands and shallows. Experts will present numerous workshops and sessions on a wide variety of topics. Single day rates are available. Register before March 8 and save. More information at [www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/conventions/](http://www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/conventions/)

## AIS laws affect ice-angling too

AIS laws are in effect in winter too! To stop the spread of VHS and aquatic invasive species, Wisconsin law requires that you inspect your ice fishing equipment, remove any attached aquatic plants or animals, drain all water from equipment, and not move live fish away from a water body.



Bait rules apply too. Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer, and use leftover minnows only in the same water or if no other waters were added to their container. Two gallons of water is allowed for transporting minnows. Smelt and other dead bait must be preserved in a way that does not require freezing or refrigeration. Get free copies of a new publication WT-923 explaining these rules from [DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRAISinfo@wisconsin.gov).

## Buoys come under scrutiny

Navigational aids on the Winnebago system became an issue after the Coast Guard discontinued service when the locks were closed in the 1980's. In 1988, Winnebago County assumed responsibility for buoys on its share of the system, and in 2005 entered into a five year contract with Radke Contractors Inc. to perform buoy maintenance and related work. Buoys are placed in the spring and removed at the end of the boating season. Buoy 100 at the mouth of the Fox River in Menasha is the only permanent buoy. Responsibility for maintenance of this buoy came under scrutiny this winter when the buoy had a faulty light mechanism and several snowmobiles (two fatalities) and trucks went through the ice near the site.

Last year Winnebago County indicated it spent about \$82,000 for buoys in Lake Winnebago and other waterways in the county. Some of the funding came from boat launch fees. Expect to discuss this and other safety issues at the Winnebago Pool Lakes Conference on March 13 at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh. RSVP to [info@winnebago-lakes.org](mailto:info@winnebago-lakes.org).

## Sign welcomes public to Terrell's Island Fund drive continues for expansion

A new sign now identifies the entrance to Terrell's Island, a 1200 acre wetland purchased by the Butte des Morts Conservation Club 12 years ago for preservation and restoration. The area is open to the public. Over



the years \$2.5 million worth of habitat improvements have been made to enhance the property. More improvements are planned once the club raises funds to purchase an additional 18 acres to give unrestricted access to the mouth of the Fox River. So far \$235,000 of the needed \$300,000 has been raised, including a \$200,000 grant offered by the state. Find out what you can do to help at [www.bdmcc.org](http://www.bdmcc.org)

## What's happening at Picnic Point

*Three years ago a group of citizens, local organizations and state legislators successfully lobbied to stop a private sale of state-owned Picnic Point and transfer it to the DNR for preservation. The 117 acre parcel in Oshkosh, with 3700 feet of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Winnebago, was one of the largest remaining natural parcels along the lakeshore. Byron Woodbury, the site's current DNR property manager, reports what's happened since.*

Prior to the transfer to the DNR, an Advisory Committee was formed to develop a property management plan in conjunction with the DNR and solicit public comment on the plan. There was general agreement that the property be kept in a natural state for the benefit of wildlife, fish and public enjoyment through nature-based recreation. The Advisory Committee defined the primary purpose of the property "To function as fish and wildlife habitat, to preserve the local archeological sites, and to provide an area for the public to enjoy Lake Winnebago and the surrounding shoreline through non-



With 3700 feet of natural shoreline on Lake Winnebago, Picnic Point is open to the public for non-motorized and nature based recreation.



Community conservation and youth groups will be called upon to help remove invasive plants and reseed with oak, hickory and native prairies.

motorized, nature-based recreation".

Since the transfer of Picnic Point, a Draft Land Management Plan has been developed and is currently being review by the Advisory Committee. Here are some highlights from the draft plan.

- The DNR and the Department of Family Services (DFS) developed a Memorandum of Understanding to address the use, policies and maintenance of the cemetery, ropes challenge course, paved road, and camp/shelter buildings located on the property. The DFS will continue to operate, maintain, and schedule these facilities according to their current use policies.
- The Draft Management Plan incorporates the 56 acres of the Asylum County Park adjacent to the property.
- The property is open to non-motorized outdoor recreational and nature-based activities. Dogs must be on a leash no longer than eight feet at all times. Picnic Point is located in the City of Oshkosh; therefore, hunting and trapping are not allowed.
- Between two and four hiking trails are being proposed for development.
- The agricultural fields will be converted to either tall-grass, short-grass prairies or an oak savanna.
- The forested areas will be improved by removing competing/invasive plants including garlic mustard, box elder and glossy buckthorn, then replanted with oak and hickory seedlings.

The community, local scout troops, civic and conservation organizations and school groups can provide invaluable support to accomplish some of the recommended land management practices in the draft plan.



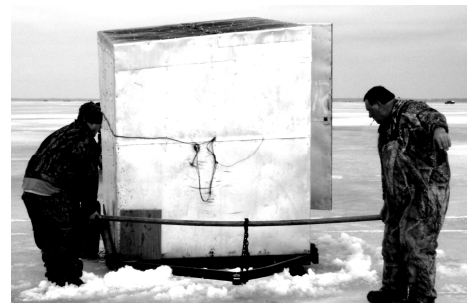
The Draft Management Plan incorporates the 56 acre Asylum County Park adjacent to the property. The lighthouse in Asylum Bay is located nearby.

## Diane's sturgeon story Highlights of my day

Ever been sturgeon spearing? I hadn't, not until 2009. But I came away ready to go again, impressed with the teamwork, camaraderie and friendship that emerged as my group sawed, shoveled, slid and swore to prepare for opening day, then reaped the fruits of their labor.



**The Hole.** After finding a clear spot, we cut the ice with a home made cutter. Then, with great effort, we used long spiked poles to push the cut-out chunk underwater.



**The Shanty.** A few strong guys jockeyed it into position. Snow had to be trucked onto the ice to heap around the edges to block out light so we could see better into the hole.



**The Hunt.** Inside, the hole was dark, the water murky, the heater cranking and the beer chilling. Outside, fresh snow was falling along the nearby Niagara Escarpment.

**The Catch.** Jenny, 21, spears her first ever. She smiles, laughs and dances. Ken and Mike get one too. What a day.

Diane Schauer is Calumet County's AIS Coordinator. A longer article appears in *On Wisconsin Outdoors*, Jan/Feb 2010.



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Winter 2010

WaterWays

Winnebago Lakes Council



Randy Lee of Discover Mediaworks interviews area resident Marie Cooper on Lake Winnebago.

### Discover Wisconsin to feature program on sturgeon season

On opening day of the sturgeon hunt, Discover Mediaworks shot footage on Lake Winnebago for an episode of *Discover Wisconsin* to air in February 2011.

Sturgeon are well worth the footage, both for the interesting culture of sturgeon spearing and their extraordinary characteristics. One of the largest freshwater fish in the world, they have survived virtually unchanged for over 100 million years. They can grow to weigh 300 pounds and live to be nearly 200 years old. Current sturgeon population in the system is estimated at 58,000 fish, the largest in North America. Annual economic impact is \$3 million in the Winnebago region.

### Clean Boats, Clean Waters Story Hour - New for 2010

The 2010 Wisconsin Summer Library Program theme is "Make a Splash". To tie in with this theme, area libraries have available to them a story hour program aimed at engaging kids in learning about keeping lakes free from invasive species.

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters Story Hour was developed by Judy Ruch, a former kindergarten teacher and Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer in Vilas County. Judy presented the story hour at libraries across Vilas County. Now it is available statewide.

In Calumet County Diane Schauer is offering the story hour at local libraries. Librarians, early childhood educators or elementary teachers who would like to present a story hour can view a video demonstration at <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/aquatic/cbcwstory/> or request a free DVD version from 608-266-0061 or [Christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Christal.campbell@wisconsin.gov)

### New invasive species web site

For more about the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Story Hour and for information about invasive plants and animals, laws, resources and volunteer opportunities in Calumet County, visit the new Web site [www.calumetinvasivespecies.com](http://www.calumetinvasivespecies.com)

### Thanks to our volunteers

Wayne Risvold, Wayne Mueller, Diane Schauer, Mike Lizotte and Ellen Balthazor presented showings of the film *Mysteries of the Great Lakes* to more than 350 area residents in the communities of Appleton, Chilton, Fond du Lac and Winneconne.



Jerry Lopas staffed a table at Sportsman's Day in Chilton, where he had an opportunity to reach nearly 800 attendees with information about the Lakes Council and the upcoming Winnebago Pool Lakes Conference on March 13.

Dick Snyder obtained and sent a copy of Town of Black Wolf shore lighting regulations to member Carolyn Hensler Fixmer who is compiling information of value to lake communities about best practices for lakeshore lighting.

- Photos by Diane Schauer