



## *Five Counties Lake Project Presentation*

Mark your calendars for April 17, 2013. Michael Lizotte, President of the *Winnebago Lakes Council* will provide an update on a new project studying ways to improve cooperation and collaboration in managing the Winnebago Pool Lakes. The presentation will take place at the Fond du Lac Public Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

The project, initiated by county governments, will analyze current plans and information about the ecological, social and economic conditions of the lakes and surrounding communities. This will provide a snapshot of current lake management. There will also be a significant effort to gather input from stakeholders to determine the issues most pressing to lake users.

This project will provide a foundation for future work to coordinate lake management by local governments by helping them find approaches that are politically, socially and environmentally feasible.

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## *Fish Line Receptacles*

The *Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association* is sponsoring the construction and installation of fish line receptacles at eight boat landings and major fishing locations in Fond du Lac County.

The purpose of the receptacles is to keep unwanted fish line out of the water where it can be a problem for fish and other aquatic creatures, birds, mammals and become entangled in boat propellers.

An area Eagle Scout candidate is coordinating the project with the help of many volunteers. JF Ahern Company, headquartered right here in Fond du Lac, has volunteered to supply the materials.

The fish line receptacles are constructed from 6 inch diameter PVC pipe and fittings and will be attached to a kiosk located at each of the eight boat landings.

It is anticipated that Association members living close to one of the boat landings will volunteer to monitor and empty the receptacles throughout the fishing season as needed.

## What Are Zebra Mussels

Anyone familiar with Lake Winnebago is also familiar with zebra mussels which are a filter feeder. Zebra mussels have had density measurements of 10 to 150 individuals per square foot. Just 60 zebra mussels per square foot can filter a water column 20 feet tall in less than a week.

Zebra mussels are a small bottom dwelling clam native to Asia, specifically the lakes of southern Russia.

By about 1800, zebra mussels had spread from Russia to all major drainages of Europe following the widespread construction of canal systems. Zebra mussels first appeared in Great Britain in 1824 where they are now well established. Zebra mussels then expanded their range into Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Italy and the rest of Western Europe.

Zebra mussels are between 1/8 inch to 2 inches across and have three features: they have the ability to filter about a quart of water per day, they are prolific reproducers and they have razor sharp shells.

Zebra mussels are small clams with a "D" shaped shell and are yellowish or brownish in color. They usually have alternating dark and light colored stripes which gives them their name. Some zebra

mussels are solid colored and have no stripes and range from light to dark in color.

Live zebra mussels are easy to distinguish from other mussels. When placed on flat surface zebra mussels will be stable on their flattened underside while other mussels will fall over. Zebra mussels are also the only fresh water mollusk that firmly attaches themselves to solid objects.

Zebra mussels are filter feeders which mean they filter out microscopic algae and plankton-like creatures for nourishment. Since great quantities of zebra mussels can reduce the amount of nutrients in the water there is less food available for native fish larvae and other native aquatic creatures. As the native fish larvae and other aquatic species decline so will birds and mammals that depend on them.

Since zebra mussels are such efficient filter feeders they often clean up the water so much that sunlight will penetrate to a greater depth permitting the growth of underwater plants.



## Membership Dues

Please be reminded that annual dues for membership in the Association start July 1 and run until June 30 of the following year. Watch your U.S. Postal Mail for your renewal notice.

## Presentations

Several members of the Association have given presentations to area service groups regarding the Mission and Vision of the Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association. The presentations have been well received.

If you know of an organization that would like someone from the Association to speak at a service or social group meeting contact Larry Kent at 920.450.7167.

The presentations typically take 20 to 30 minutes and are based on either a PowerPoint slide show or a paper flip chart. Ideally the group will have a vested interest in Lake Winnebago.

If you are interested and would like to volunteer to be one of the presenters give Larry Kent a call at 920.450.7167. Some presenters work as teams. As mentioned earlier, we have PowerPoint slides, projectors and flip chart for use by presenters and we can provide training.

## Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the *Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association* will be August 3, 2013. The meeting will be at the Pavilion at Lakeside Park in Fond du Lac. Details for the meeting are still being worked out and information will be released as it is finalized.

## Cleanup Day

Cleanup day for the Fond du Lac River and Lakeside Park is going to be Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 9 to 1 p.m. This is an opportunity for numerous groups to work together for a good cause that will be appreciated by thousands of park users. LWQIA member Andrew Karleigh is coordinating this year's cleanup and is requesting your participation. See you at Lakeside Park on the 27th.