

December 2013



# LAKE WINNEBAGO

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

*of Fond du Lac County*



# Happy Holidays



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**Next LWQIA Meeting:**  
Wed., January 8, 2014  
7 p.m.  
FDL City/County Building  
160 S. Macy St.  
“The public is welcome”

## *Dredging in Lakeside Park*

The City of Fond du Lac is planning to dredge the channels in Lakeside Park. Presently there are parts of the channels that are only 6 inches deep with water. Following the dredging project the channels will be about 8 feet deep. The cost of dredging is estimated to be close to \$1 million. The last major work on the channels was completed almost 50 years ago.

For years the channels have been filling with sediment. The past two years they have filled to the point where boats participating in the Walleye Weekend Fishing Tournament could not navigate the shallow water so the preferred registration area had to be moved.

The city decided dredging would improve recreational opportunities in Lakeside Park plus enhance boat navigation for Walleye Weekend fishing participants. The channels are approximately 1 mile long. Many people participate in fishing from the lagoon banks.

The Winnebago Land Conservation Alliance is planning to partner with the city to provide fish habitat structures in some of the channels. The structures are being donated by the Alliance with no cost to the taxpayers.

Some trees in Lakeside Park will be removed to make room for the dredging project, but will be used to build the fish habitat structures.

There are 15 identified sites next to parking areas where handicap assessable fishing structures will be built.

Dredging is anticipated to start after the soil on either side of the channels freeze and are able to support the dredging equipment.

*Reference: Wisconsin Outdoor News,  
Sept. 6, 2013.*

*A large-scale dredging operation in Panama.*





## *Fish Line Receptacle Project Update*

Boy Scout Chris Anderson of North Fond du Lac recently completed the assembly and installation of 9 fish line receptacles at boat landings and favorite fishing spots along Lake Winnebago in Fond du Lac County.

Members have adopted 6 of the receptacles. The 3 un-adopted receptacles are located in Lakeside Park at the boat landing on Harbor Drive, North Park Ave. at the road to the light house and at the east boat landing near the Yacht Club. If you would like to adopt one or more of the receptacles and clean it several times a year please call Larry Kent at 920.450.7167.

## *Silver Carp*

The carcass of a silver carp has been found on the abutment near Winona, Minnesota, near the Mississippi River Lock and Dam #5. This is the northernmost location that one of the exotic silver carp has been found. It was thought that the carp was trying to jump over the dam. This is about 20 miles further north than the previously located most northern silver carp had been found.

The fish was about 30 inches in length. DNR officials believe that the fish was too big to be carried there by an eagle or some other animal.

The DNR spokesman reported that there is a lot of fishing below the dam and no one has seen a silver carp in the area thus far.

*Reference: Wisconsin Outdoor News, Sept. 20, 2013.*

## *Rare Blue Walleye In Lake Winnebago*

Jeff Kelm, Van Dyne, caught a rare blue phase walleye while fishing in Lake Winnebago on July 27, 2013. Jeff was fishing north of Van Dyne in about four feet of water along the west shore of Lake Winnebago. The walleye was 18 inches in length. Blue walleye are uncommon in Wisconsin waters but have been found in Minnesota, Michigan's UP, New York and Vermont in recent years.

A professor, who has been studying the blue walleye for more than 15 years, said that the blue phase is occurring farther south for some unknown reason. Some walleye lack the yellow pigmentation found in most walleyes while others produce a blue pigment. The professor further reported that the color variation in walleye is fairly common but to find one with no yellow pigmentation is really unusual and one with blue pigmentation is even more rare.

*Reference: Wisconsin Outdoor News, Aug. 9, 2013.*

## *Jumping Sturgeon*

Fishermen have observed sturgeon breaching the calm waters of lakes up north.

Ron Bruch, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Services Section chief, stated that one theory of why the sturgeons jump is to shake off lampreys, which are native in Lake Winnebago and most inland waters. He thinks this is possible because in handling sturgeon, lampreys have fallen off.

Ron commented that sturgeon will often "porpoise" and sometimes jump during the spawning season. This activity could be part of the spawning ritual.

He also has observed sturgeon belly up feeding on surface forage. The jumping may be a means to deflate the swim bladder and create proper ballast for the fish before it swims to the bottom of the lake.

Another less feasible theory is that the sturgeon is trying to escape a predator, but this seems unlikely because sturgeon of the size seen jumping do not have many predators. Another theory is that it's a means of communication between the fish. One senior fishermen offered this simple explanation when asked why the sturgeon jump, "Because they like to."

It appears most of the jumping occurs in July and August.

*Reference: Wisconsin Outdoor News, Aug. 23, 2013.*



*photo: Jeff Kelm*