

February 2016



LAKE WINNEBAGO

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

of Fond du Lac County

Water Quality Award

LWQIA is launching the first annual *Mathias-Lesczynski Water Quality Award* to publicly recognize Fond du Lac County farmers that go beyond the government minimum good management practices to prevent runoff of sediment, nutrients, and harmful chemicals.

Three awards will be presented in the amounts of \$1,000, \$250, and \$100. The 2016 award will acknowledge improved water quality practices that were implemented in 2016. The financial portion of the awards will be sponsored by a select group of corporate citizens or organizations with connections to the agricultural community and/or an interest in the health of Lake Winnebago. The awards will be presented to the recipients in July 2017. The award applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of experts in the agricultural field working outside of Fond du Lac County.

Additional information and the Award Application can be found on the LWQIA web site at www.lwqia.org



The Urban Waters Learning Network

This website has a lot of good articles, grant announcements, peer models and other information that may be useful and interesting for you and for the local partners you work with. Not just for water-mission organizations: <http://urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org>

Submitted by Jordan Skiff, Director of Public Works, City of Fond du Lac

Find us at www.lwqia.org

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Next LWQIA Meeting:
Wed., March 2, 2016
7 p.m.
FDL City/County Building
160 S. Macy St.

"The public is welcome"



Supple's Marsh Water Quality Testing

In 2015 biologist Andrew Sabai was contracted by LWQIA to monitor for water quality in Supple's Marsh at the southern end of Lake Winnebago. The following are excerpts from his full report which is available at www.lwqia.org

Supple Marsh is the largest wetland complex (approximately 277 acres) of Lake Winnebago, and therefore it is important to the water quality, wildlife and fishery of the lake. It is a degraded eutrophic system in need of restoration. The habitat of the marsh includes emergent and shallow water ecosystems. The emergent marsh is dominated by invasive cattail species, and invasive Phragmites is taking a firm hold. An important factor in addressing these two invaders is reducing nutrient content. Lowering nutrient inputs slows the expansion of cattails and gives the native vegetation more of a chance to compete. As the first step in restoring the marsh, the nutrient inputs into the wetland via a small inlet under Hwy 45 and the Fond du Lac River were monitored for nutrients and water clarity. LWQIA sponsored the research with membership fees, a generous donation from the Peters Family Foundation and additional donations from Jim and Anne Thomas and The Winnebago Lakes Council.

The water of Supple Marsh is highly eutrophic, and of poorer quality than that of the nearest water quality monitoring station on Lake Winnebago. The likely causes of the excessive phosphorus concentrations are run off from the land throughout the watershed. There may also be release of phosphorus from the sediments of the marsh.

The flow in and out of the marsh from the Fond du Lac River monitoring station was variable. The actual percentage of the days of flow in vs out of the marsh is not known. Because of this variable it is very difficult to determine the effect the marsh has on water quality, or how the marsh is affected by the water of the Fond du Lac River.

Water quality monitoring of the marsh can continue to develop a better understanding of the marsh's water quality over time. Further study would help understand the water flow and nutrient dynamics of the marsh, but such a study would likely be of minimal benefit to the management of the marsh. The next steps in the management of the marsh could be an inventory of the aquatic plant life, creation of a management plan, and control of invasive species.

More Goby News

The goby incident is...information told to me by the DNR warden who made the stop and issued the citations...The warden stopped an individual in Southeast WI who had 47 live gobies in water in a cooler to take to "Winnebago" to use as bait for catfish. Andrew [Karleigh] is the one who told me that the location where he encountered the most shore anglers and the most Milwaukeeans was Fraser Point. When I mentioned it to Rob McLennan [of the DNR] he concurred that that might be a likely location. We don't know exactly where on Winnebago that the individual and his buddies planned to fish.

*Submitted by Diane Schauer,
AIS Coordinator for Calumet County*

Trailer for New Movie "Felled"

Felled is a feature length documentary film about urban lumber and how it affects us all. Following the death of an Aleppo Pine tree, Silas and James embark on building a family dinner table to bring renewed meaning to the wood, which would have otherwise gone into the landfill. From coast to coast our cities are full of trees and when they die they're most often treated as trash. But there are some people who want to see these trees used for their highest and best purpose and their message is starting to take hold. www.felledthemovie.com

Submitted by Jordan Skiff, Director of Public Works, City of Fond du Lac