

February 2014



Shore Line Demonstration Project

The Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association recently submitted a grant application to the Fond du Lac Area Foundation to build a demonstration garden along the west shore of the Fond du Lac River near the mouth of Lake Winnebago. The demonstration project will be over 100 feet in length and contain over 200 plants.



A natural shore.

The purpose of the demonstration project is to show lake shore property owners and the general public that using native plantings in their landscapes will reduce harmful runoff and be beautiful as well.

If the grant is approved it is anticipated that the project will proceed in the spring of 2014. Commonwealth Landscape graciously donated the design work and will also provide the native plantings at their cost.

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Next LWQIA Meeting:
Wed., March 5, 2014
7 p.m.
FDL City/County Building
160 S. Macy St.



A rain garden provides opportunities for stormwater to infiltrate into the ground, instead of running off into the sewer system.

Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are specially designed gardens designed to capture rain water. Rain gardens are generally located close to roof downspouts or in swales that capture the surface runoff from yards or parking lots.

They are designed so that the water that is introduced to them percolates down into the soil and thus removes many contaminants, keeping them out of rivers, streams, and lakes.

Find us at www.lwqia.org & www.winnebagoassociation.wordpress.com

A Milwaukee Project

An organization called Groundwork Milwaukee, an environmental business, is encouraging homeowners to replace at least part of their grass lawns with rain gardens. The gardens will soak up storm water and reduce runoff into area streams and storm sewers.

The Southeast Wisconsin Watershed Trust recently awarded over \$48,000 in small grants to 12 groups in the Milwaukee region. Monies from the grants will help pay for projects aimed to curb the flow of storm water off landscapes thus improving the water quality in rivers and creeks.

One group will use its grant of \$2,550 to plant 10 trees in a south side Milwaukee Park to slow the flow of storm water into the Kinnickinnic River.

Groundwork Milwaukee has already helped install nearly 50 rain gardens in the Kinnickinnic River watershed. Neighboring property owners, attracted by the aesthetic appeal of native flowers and grasses and the environmental benefits these rain gardens provide, have decided to establish their own.

Source: Milwaukee Journal, January 16, 2014

Lake Winnebago and White Bass

The 137,700 acre Lake Winnebago is estimated to hold more walleyes than the rest of Wisconsin's inland lakes put together. But walleyes are not the only fish in the lake.

Lake Winnebago is also known for its jumbo perch and more recently bass. The bass in the lake include largemouth, smallmouth, black and white.

White bass are common in the Winnebago chain. The spawning run up the Wolf and Fox rivers in early May is well known. White bass are among the few fish with no bag or size limit. White bass typically travel and feed in schools with shad as one of their favorite meals.

Frequently a small flock of herring gulls can be seen diving into a school of bait fish that boiled the surface. Often a school of white bass will attack the bait fish from below and drive them to the surface where gulls are waiting to feast.

Source: Wisconsin Outdoor News, October 18, 2013

Green Bay Dead Zones

It was reported in this newsletter in July that there was a massive "dead zone" in Green Bay. Area farmers are being asked to join a study on how to cut phosphorus loadings entering the bay which is causing a problem for fish and other wildlife.

For several years a number of states have been requiring farmers to use nutrient management and other phosphorus reduction techniques.

A \$1 million, five-year project, will involve land conservation departments from Brown and Outagamie counties to start a demonstration farm network in which a small group of area farmers agreed to experiment with abatement techniques. Other area farmers will get to see how the techniques work.

A Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District (NEW Water) monitoring program revealed that excessive phosphorus and sediment loading created the dead zone in Green Bay from Dykesville to Sturgeon Bay. Approximately 1/3 of the bay had been deemed dead because it no longer contained enough oxygen to support most fish.

The program hopes to get farms in the lower Fox River to participate in the demonstration projects.

The demonstration project would require water quality monitoring before and after improvement practices are put into place. This is necessary to get a measurement of the resulting reduction in phosphorus.

Source: Green Bay Gazette, January 14, 2014.

HISTORIC NEWS OF LAKE WINNEBAGO

On March 3, 1863 the ice harvest on Lake Winnebago for Chicago users got underway. Three new icehouses built in Fond du Lac.

It was reported on February 10, 1866 that an Army engineer says a canal from Fond du Lac to Horicon Lake would be cheaper to build than a railroad.

On September 12, 1868 a barge with 100 tons of freight left for Menominee.

Source: FDL library card file of local newspaper stories on microfilm and shared by Tom Grebe.