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Protecting the Great Lakes From Asian Carp

Over the past 15 years, thirteen different invasive species have been discovered in the Great Lakes Basin. The most threatening to the welfare of the lake is the Asian Carp. Asian Carp are quite dangerous when they jump into the air. They also are a threat to good species of fish because of their voracious eating habits. Asian Carp grow to full adulthood in just one year. They are not good to eat because they are very boney. When these carp are caught, they can be ground up and put into fertilizer.

Several ideas have been put forward to try and stop the carp from reaching the lake as they get closer along the Illinois River, such as building a

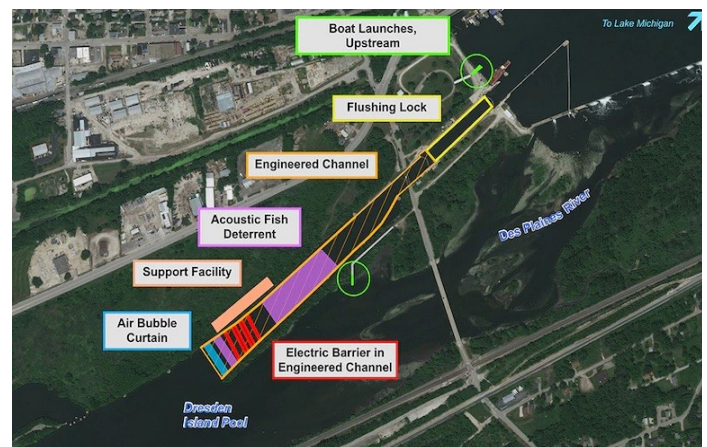
channel to alter their direction or trying to shock them with electric barriers. Other solutions include air bubblers and sound waves to disturb their habitat. Electric barriers in the Illinois River have been the most successful means so far to keep the carp from entering Lake Michigan. Many industries are potentially at risk if these fish do invade the lake as well as wildlife damage and destroying sport fishing. Billions of dollars are potentially at stake.

The US Army Corps of Engineers and state of Illinois are heading the charge. The location that has been chosen to be the best chance to stop the invaders is Brandon Road Locks near Joliet, Illinois. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers fully supports adding an Acoustic Barrier, similar to the one used at Kentucky Lake. So far, federal and state funding have reached about 80% of what is needed for this construction project. Closing the locks to build detours

seems to be out of the question. This would hamper commercial barge traffic from going downstream and impact pleasure boaters from passing through the locks to and from the lake. That would certainly affect the regional economy as well. Three hundred and thirty million dollars of commerce goes via barge through this lock in Illinois annually. River commerce must not be blocked as many people count on moving goods by river. All of the locks on the river are Federally funded.

Now that the decision has been made to construct a major barrier at Brandon Road, it will take at least three to four years to do the construction. It may take as long as eight years to see the fully completed barriers in place. The river traffic must be kept moving during that period. The Great Lakes is an economic engine to the central United States, so surrounding states and environmental interest groups such as the LMYA need to be fully involved. If the project is not successful the lake will change dramatically. See the picture of the proposed locks below.

Proposed Brandon Road Locks



Special points of interest:

- Protecting the Great Lakes
- South Shore Report
- LMYA Surveys Member Clubs
- Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival
- Unique Club Event at South Milwaukee Yacht Club

From the South Shore of Lake Michigan

Hi Everyone, Barb Lusco LMYA Indiana Rear Commodore reporting, Gazing out at the blue sky and feeling the chill lake breeze; I hate to say it but fall is already in the air. It's been quite a busy season for our Indiana Yacht Clubs. Most report full capacity with many activities taking place this summer. I want to thank our 4 Indiana clubs for staying the course with LMYA over the past two years. So much has changed, but you continued to support this long standing organization. Thanks so

much. Hammond, Indiana Harbor, LaPorte, and Marquette Yacht Clubs all had many activities from dock parties, Karaoke, bands, Venetian Nights, fireworks, cookouts, steak frys, golf outings, , dinghy races, Cornhole tournaments, wine and painting, clean up days, luaus, Cruise nights, shrimp boils, and more. Fall is closing in on us but these 4 clubs have also scheduled some amazing fun activities, including corn roasts, basket parties, golf outings, Halloween parties, and more. The clubs websites

are loaded with information on the upcoming events. They need your support not only in summer, but all year around.

Something very apparent this year is that boats are selling like crazy for top dollar. There is also a big increase in PWC sales, and as a result marinas are reporting zero space availability. It's a good sign that people are spending more recreational time on our beautiful resources. I'm sure any of

you are aware that the Indiana Dunes is the 61st National Park. I urge you to explore our National Park, 15 miles along Lake Michigan shoreline with much to offer: boating, beaches, and beyond. Enjoy the rest of the summer and happy fall. Please contact me for any news you'd like to pass on in our next Spreader newsletter.

Barb Lusco, Rear Commodore Indiana, email: bbaniklusco@gmail.com.

LMYA Setting up Survey of our Member Clubs

LMYA has just completed a substantial lawsuit against some Indiana Steel Mills who had dumped some dangerous chemicals into the river leading to Lake Michigan. The companies were fined \$3 million dollars and also had to

put strict monitoring procedures in place to prevent these dangerous spills from happening again. But we don't want to rest on our laurels—it's time to start looking for new ways to serve our mem-

bers and protect the lake which is our most valuable resource. In the next month we will be gathering input from our club commodores about what the LMYA can do now to be of greater service to them and to our sustaining members.

Watch for our survey and pass along your feedback to help us focus on the issues that most need attention. (No more lawsuits, please, they take too long to reach a conclusion.)

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LMYA Officers for 2022

Commodore: Thomas Dogan
Vice Commodore: Matthew Dogan
Secretary: Jim Mergener
Treasurer: Sally Mergener
Judge Advocate: Thomas Dogan



Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Report

The Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, July 29 through August 7, 2022 hosted 350,000 people during the run. With a few delays for a little rain and some rough seas, the festival included parades, memorials, picnics, carnival rides, fireworks, a car show, craft fair, light house tours, beach going, ship tours, and even downtown shops. The Grand Haven Coast

Guard Festival is an annual celebration of all things Coast Guard. The attendees included Coasties, Coast Guard Auxiliaries, residents, visitors, and local and state dignitaries.

The Tri-state Regatta from Chicago to St. Joseph Michigan was held at the St. Joseph River Yacht Club on

September 3rd just behind the Coast Guard station at the port of St. Joseph. The party started with breakfast at 7 AM and a lunch at noon and dinner at 6 pm. The party went on until midnight. The public was able to join in for an entry fee. The Libido Funk Circus performed as well. Regatta participants were moored at the

Arboretum wall on the south side of the channel. They could shuttle to the yacht club by boat or via land. The boats sailed from St. Joseph to Michigan City, and then across to Chicago.

A Unique Club Event

Yacht Clubs seem to have yearly events uniquely their own. South Milwaukee Yacht Club has the Powder Puff Fishing Tournament. The whole event is a fund raiser with proceeds going to Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin breast cancer research program. This year the club raised \$9,000, making it a very worthwhile effort.

This contest is for the ladies and all they have to do is reel in their fish, which is just fine for a senior like me in my eighth decade. The ladies are guests on boats owned by experienced fishermen in the club who set up three lines for each lady. You don't have to know a thing about fishing to enter the contest. You don't even have to clean any fish you

catch—unless you want to. Unlike me, some of these ladies are good fisher people in their own right—a very positive thing since the club is avid about fishing.

Some gals team up for the tournament and fish together on the same boat. One team even got matching t-shirts sporting their team logo “Reel Bitches Catch Fishes”. I'd love to be part of a team, but it would be hard to think up a logo to beat that!

Other than the actual fishing, which lasted from 4 am to 11 am, there was a lunch and raffles, and of course prizes for the largest fish in several categories. There was even a consolation prize for the

smallest fish. My modest two & a half pound King salmon wasn't the smallest this year and made a nice dinner for me and my husband. But one lucky gal hauled in a sixteen pounder to win the largest fish prize. Several years ago in the tournament, before arthritis weakened my shoulder, I reeled in a fourteen pound brown trout which practically pulled my arms out of their sockets. But that is the changing luck of the day on Lake Michigan when you go fishing, you never know what you will come home with.

To round out an enjoyable tournament day, each lady got a

tournament participation token. This year it was a pink bag labeled with 'Powder Puff Fishing Tournament' containing a drink koozie and a piece of costume jewelry. This contest has almost encouraged me to put downriggers on my boat—well, maybe just dippy divers and a few rod holders.

Other yacht clubs around the lake surely have their own unique events. Will someone please submit your stories about them to the Spreader? I, for one, would love to read about them.

Linda Daly, SMYC