



Douglas County Lakes Association
Wednesday, December 10, 2014
Public Works Building
Alexandria, MN 56308

President Beliveau called the meeting to order at 4:30 with the following people present: Jim Peterson – Ida, Vern Lorsung – Latoka, Chris Risbrudt – Stowe, Don Stallman - Irene, Linda Dokken-McFann – Mary, Jan Beliveau – Mary, Juanita Bolinger – Mary, Bob Reynolds – Devils/Little Chippewa, Steve Kogler – Lobster, Greg Henry – SWCD, Steve Henry – L’HommeDieu, Mike Tripp – Mary, Dennis Blanshan – Mary, Mike Hansen – Stowe, Mike Cleary – Stowe, Keith Dougherty – L’HommeDieu, Gary Waller- Red Rock and Executive Secretary Dorothy Klemann.

All business was postponed until January, 2015.

Common Carp Presentation by Dr. Prezemek Bajer:

This month's guest speaker was Dr. Prezemek Bajer, Research Assistance in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of MN. Dr. Bajer's presentation focused on the MN. common carp and promising management strategies that he has applied to a chain of lakes in the metro area. The common carp have been in MN lakes for approximately 135 years, they are not native and continue to be an issue for all of us. Dr. Bajer's research findings showed three components: controlled by native fish such as the bluegill sunfish who eat the carp egg larvae, identify the nursery location which is usually a marsh that is prone to winter-kill (low oxygen) are habitats of young carp who survive quite well in this environment, and targeting adults under- ice aggregations for seine nets. Dr. Bajer used Lake Mary as an example for the presentation. He suggested that we should start with simple population density assessments that can be conducted by doing a few electro fishing surveys of the lake. These surveys would be a good starting point because they will allow us to estimate with some certainty the biomass of carp per hectare. If it is below 100 kg/ha than one would expect carp play a relatively minor role in driving water clarity. Another symptom of high carp abundance is the density and diversity of aquatic vegetation. If a lake has a dense plant community than the carp population is most likely relatively low. In conjunction with the electro fishing, Dr. Bajer

suggested using telemetry to track adults learning their travels as carp are creatures of habits. This would aid in the location of a nursery. Lake Associations would need the support of the DNR and their expertise in placing the radios transmitters into the adults. Steve Henry Jr. of SWDC suggested that Beaver Dam may be Lake Mary's carp nursery. There was a general consensus from the membership that the DCLA should pool it's resources and *develop a plan for the watershed* identifying carp abundance numbers and locations of carp nursery.

If you missed Dr. Bajer's presentation you can view the presentation of Informed TV off the Garfield UHF tower on Channel 21 courtesy of Alan Roebke of Informed TV. Also see the ECHO Press by Eric Morken/Outdoor Section dated 12/17/2014.

A special thank you to Dr. Bajer for sharing his time and research findings on the MN. common carp. Thank you Al Roebke of Informed TV for filming the presentation. Thank you Eric Morken for the article in the ECHO to get the word out. Thank you Jan Beliveau for contacting Dr. Bajer and making the arrangements for this presentation.

. Publications:

- Bajer, P.G., C.J. Chizinski, J.J. Silbernagel, and P.W. Sorensen. 2012. Variation in native micro-predator abundance explains recruitment of a mobile invasive fish, the common carp, in a naturally unstable environment. *Biological Invasions* 14: 1919-1929. (DOI: 10.1007/s10530-012-0203-3)
- Bajer, P.B., C.J. Chizinski, and P.W. Sorensen. 2011. Using the Judas technique to locate and remove wintertime aggregations of invasive common carp. *Fisheries Management and Ecology* 18: 497-505.
- Bajer, P.G, Sorensen, P.W. (2009)The superabundance of common carp in interconnected lakes in Midwestern North America can be attributed to the propensity of adults to reproduce in outlying habitats that experience winter hypoxia. *Biological Invasions*. DOI. 10.1007/s10530-009-9528-y
- Bajer, P.G, Sullivan, G.S., Sorensen, P.W. (2009) Effects of a rapidly increasing population of common carp on vegetative cover and waterfowl in a recently restored Midwestern shallow lake. *Hydrobiologia* 632: 235-245.

Dorothy Klemann
Executive Secretary