



Extension Connection

Monthly Highlights – March 2013

Lake Winnebago is a beautiful and important natural and economic resource.

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Winnebago Waterways

Q: What has more economic impact to this region than the Packers/Lambeau Field (\$144 million/year) and EAA (\$80 million/year) combined?

A: Fishing on the Lake Winnebago system, which generates \$234 million and supports 4300 jobs every year.

This beautiful and important natural and economic resource is the focus of ***Weigh-in on the Winnebago Waterways***: a collaborative project of the counties in the Winnebago system, WDNR, and UW-Extension to identify and prioritize the major needs of the system. The first phase is to talk to all people who enjoy the Winnebago Pool Lakes: boaters, anglers, sight-seers, conservationists, tourism boards, business owners, farmers, and local residents. On Monday, March 25th from 6:30-8 pm Fond du Lac area residents can give their input at UW-Fond du Lac, LGI (UC 113/114), 400 University Dr., Fond du Lac. Lake users are also invited to join the conversation and idea sharing at www.WinnebagoWaterways.com. Add an idea, like someone else's idea, and invite others to join. For each action taken, participants receive points to redeem for prizes like lake gear and gift certificates. Make sure your voice is heard as we work to improve and protect this beautiful lake and important economic asset in our community.

4-H Programming and Outreach Initiatives

Carmelo Dávila joined the Fond du Lac County UW-Extension staff in January, as our new Bilingual 4-H Youth Development Assistant. He is a native from San Juan, Puerto Rico, with significant experience coordinating educational programs and events, working with youth and families, and implementing community-focused outreach initiatives. His responsibilities as a 4-H Staff Assistant will certainly include the coordination and support of all of our well-established 4-H programmatic activities. However, Carmelo's role as a staff member of UWEX will also entail the task of developing and implementing new 4-H marketing and promotional strategies, with the aim of expanding our program's capacity to reach out to currently underserved audiences. Carmelo's responsibilities will also involve developing and implementing new outreach initiatives directed at engaging the Latino community of Fond du Lac County, in 4-H. In this regard, he will be assisting Latino youth and families in the creation of sustainable and culturally-responsive 4-H clubs.

Carmelo is currently working towards building trustworthy and everlasting relationships with several of our County's community stakeholders and potential collaborators. The success of these network-building efforts will provide the framework for his objective of expanding the program's capacity to reach out to currently underserved audiences. Among the community stakeholders that UW-Extension has partnered with is the Holy Family Catholic Community. Working closely together with Miguel Gonzales, our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, and Megan Schlafer, our current 4-H intern, Carmelo has begun a dialog with Holy Family parish to identify successful strategies for extending our educational programs, in particular 4-H and Family Living, to the Hispanic community of our county. Every second and fourth Monday of every month, Miguel and Carmelo meet with a group of Latino youth at Sacred Heart church to do 4-H related activities. The purpose of this meetings is to progressively introduce Latino youth and families to the kind of activities 4-H has to offer, with the goal of sparking their interest in 4-H.

WNEP's Junior Master Gardening

With warmer weather and spring on the way, the Junior Master Gardeners Program begins in March. This is a program for youth from 8 to 14 that is held once a week at UW-Extension during the summer. Youth plant and care for a garden as well as learn the importance of eating vegetables. Weekly sessions also include making a food using one or more different kinds of vegetables. Anyone from Fond du Lac County may join.

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