

Alliance for the Great Lakes Calls for Permanent Solution to Mississippi/Lakes Connection

Carp: From page 3

The chemical plan underscores the need for a permanent solution to keep the invasive species out of the lakes, the Alliance for the Great Lakes reported.

"Today the carp are backing the Great Lakes into a corner and we need to hit back with everything we've got," said Joel Brammeier, Alliance for the Great Lakes acting president. "When the deed is done, we've got to focus like a laser on separation of the lakes from the

Mississippi River so we don't have to use this drastic technique in the future."

Once the southern barrier is powered down, Mr. Brammeier said it would be an open invitation for the carp to swim upstream to the second barrier. Its voltage cannot be turned high enough to keep out all the fish. With the southern barrier in need of routine maintenance, and the carp circling nearby, the corps and the state have few options but to use rotenone to stop the fish's

movement upstream, according to the Chicago-based Alliance.

"This is a price we have to pay to protect the Great Lakes," said Mr. Brammeier, who also said the situation should never have been allowed to reach this point. "And the only way to stop the bills coming due is to eliminate the problem — permanently."

Work crews will remove the fish from the canal and dispose of them in a landfill following the procedure. The water in the canal will be

treated with potassium permanganate, an antidote that neutralizes the effects of the rotenone.

The Alliance last year issued a report calling for physically separating the Mississippi and Great Lakes basins. The two watersheds are joined by the Sanitary and Ship Canal, an artificial connection engineered more than a century ago to carry Chicago's wastewater away from Lake Michigan.

In October, conservation groups demanded that the corps build an emergency physical barrier between the Sanitary and Ship Canal and the adjacent Des Plaines River, which is infested with Asian carp. The emergency barrier is needed to prevent the carp from being swept into the canal past the electrical barrier in the event of flooding.

Known to batter boaters and even knock them into the water at the sound of a passing motor, Asian carp are non-native fish that are already seriously damaging the environment and economy of the Mississippi River and threaten to do the same in the Great Lakes, the Alliance reports. Voracious feeders,

they were first brought to the area decades ago by a fish farmer and have infested waters of the Mississippi River basin.

The carp, specifically the big-head and silver carp, can grow to more than four feet long, weigh up to 100 pounds, and quickly dominate a body of water by gobbling up the same food that sustains native fish populations.

If the carp make their way into the Great Lakes, they could devastate the region's \$4.5 billion fishing industry and change forever how recreational boaters, anglers, and tourists relate to the lakes, the Alliance reports.

1890s Will Be Highlighted in Mackinaw City Lighthouse

Lighthouse: From page 3

McGulpin Point Lighthouse History at a Glance

The construction of the McGulpin Point Lighthouse was spurred by a need for a navigational aid along the Straits of Mackinac. Congress appropriated \$6,000 for a fog bell and the lighthouse's construction in 1854, but difficulties in obtaining a deed to the property led to the money being unspent and returned. Twelve years later in 1866, Congress was once again petitioned for funding, and \$20,000 was granted for construction. Work on the lighthouse finally began in 1869.

James Davenport, who served as the lighthouse's keeper from September 1879 to 1906, is of note as he submitted weekly status reports of the lighthouse to Washington, D.C., during the winter.

Weekly winter reports were

unusual for keepers to compose, Mr. Tamlyn said, as the waterways were often frozen over. Mr. Davenport's messages were important for that reason, as they often included the state of the ice in the Straits, which mariners used to determine when it was ready for sailing.

The lighthouse was decommissioned in 1906 with the construction of the nearby Old Mackinac Point Light and fog signal station. Unlike Old Mackinac Point, McGulpin Point Lighthouse was only visible from the west. In May 22, 1907, advertisements of the sale of the lighthouse were posted in newspapers in Chicago, Detroit, Cheboygan, and Milwaukee. Bids were opened July 17, with the highest at \$875. The bid was rejected as the property was believed to be more valuable than that.

Sam Smith, a president of Mackinaw City, purchased the

lighthouse for \$1,425 July 13, 1913. It was resold throughout the years, eventually landing in the hands of the Pepler family, who sold it to Emmet County in 2008. The county formed a historical commission for the purpose of restoring the lighthouse. The Village of Mackinaw City is also involved in the project.

The commission celebrated the relighting of the lighthouse with a ceremony May 30, 2009. The lighthouse has also been approved by the U.S. Coast Guard as a private aid to navigation.

National Site Update

Sandy Planisek, chair of the Emmet County Historical Commission, said the commission is still waiting to hear about the status of an application submitted to establish the lighthouse as a national historic site. The application was sent to the National Park Service last winter, Mrs. Planisek said, after the commission learned from the State Historic Preservation Office they were eligible to apply. Having the lighthouse recognized as a national historic site will give it greater visibility, and would open up other advertising opportunities such as posting signs on I-75, Mr. Tamlyn said.

McGulpin Point Lighthouse is closed for the season, save for the Christmas event, but will reopen

May 1, 2010. There is no charge to visit the lighthouse.

Les Cheneaux Santa Claus Visits Announced

Old-fashioned: From page 1

clothing. Those interested in registering may call Mrs. Miller at 484-2519. Entries must be received by Friday, November 27.

Many businesses will be festively decorated for the weekends, as well. Judges will award prizes to the best. The businesses will conduct other events including open houses, sales, door prizes, and drawings.

Tree Lightings

Tress will be decorated in three locations. The first will take place in Cedarville in front of Cedarville Foods on the corner of M-134 and M-129 Friday, November 27, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is invited. A second lighting ceremony will be Saturday, November 28, in Hessel at 6:30 p.m. on the corner of M-134 and 3-Mile Road. Both ceremonies are sponsored by the Les Cheneaux Advisory Community. The final tree lighting gathering will be Sunday, December 6, at Cedar Cove Assisted Living on Mary L Street at 7 p.m., which will be accompanied by carolers.

Bringing in the cut trees to Cedarville and Hessel, along with decorating them and adding the lights, takes about a full-day's worth of work, said Margie Denoyer, head of the Les Cheneaux Advisory Committee. Mrs. Denoyer calls around for volunteers to aid in the effort.

Elementary art students from Les Cheneaux Community Schools will make decorations for the Cedar Cove tree, Mrs. Denoyer said, of pine cones, seeds, fruit,

and dry cereal that will be safe for animals to eat. Students made decorations for the tree last year, as well.

"They did a wonderful job," she said.

Lights for the Cedar Cove tree can be purchased for \$5 in memory of or in honor of a loved one. Purchases can be made by calling Cedar Cove at 484-1001 until Wednesday, December 2. Proceeds from the lights benefit Cedar Cove Assisted Living.

Santa Sightings

The jolly one will be present during all of the tree lightings, dropping in by boat and making himself available for visits with children. After the lighting in Cedarville, Santa will drop by the Great Lakes School of Boat Building in Cedarville. He will also make an appearance at the Classic and Antique Boats store in Hessel after the lighting November 28 and after the Cedar Cove tree lighting December 6.

On Friday, December 4, Santa will drop by Autore Oil on M-134 in Cedarville from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Santa will sit down to a breakfast Saturday, December 5, at the Cedar Cove Assisted Living building from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Visitors can enjoy a hot breakfast free, Mrs. Miller said, but donations are accepted to benefit Cedar Cove.

Santa will also attend the Clark Township Community Center's Christmas party in Cedarville Sunday, December 6, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Auctions, Library Happenings, and Living Nativity

The Les Cheneaux Historical Museum on Meridian Road will host its annual silent auction of decorated Christmas trees beginning Friday, November 27. Bids will be accepted Sunday, December 6. Winners will be announced between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. that day.

The historical museum is open Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, November 29, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors can also stop by the museum Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, December 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Gingerbread houses will join the books at the Les Cheneaux Community Library in Cedarville during Old Fashioned Christmas. Gingerbread house craftsmen can register their entries Saturday, November 28, between noon and 2 p.m. There are four divisions, for children younger than 8 years old, children 8 to 17 years old, and amateur and professional divisions for adults. All entries will be on display until December 12 at the library. The gingerbread contest was popular last year, Mrs. Miller said, with even residents who had never visited the library dropping by to view the creations.

The library will also host a holiday book story hour Saturday, November 28, and Saturday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m.

A living nativity scene, complete with live animals, will be performed at the Clark Township Community Center in Cedarville Saturday, December 5, at 7 p.m. Local children will perform.

United Methodist Church Musicales Is December 6

The United Methodist Church of St. Ignace will host musicians from many area churches and the community at its 48th Annual Christmas Musicales Sunday, December 6, at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.



We will be **CLOSED** Thursday, Nov. 26th
Happy Thanksgiving!
277 N. State Street, St. Ignace 643-0300
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