

There’s No “I” in “Boardwalk”

The Brillion News

BRILLION – This June, the crew at Smoky Lake Maple Products came together for its Annual Volunteer Day. This year, they were presented with their most monumental Volunteer Day assignment to date.

Naturalist Louie Lecker at the Brillion Nature Center was under the gun to remove 1/4 mile of old boardwalk in preparation for a new boardwalk that is to be installed later this summer. This was an enormous hurdle, and absolutely crucial to the success of the overall project. The only way to keep the project within budget was for the Nature Center to call on volunteers. Needless to say, when Smoky Lake Maple Products stepped up with all the tools and manpower required to get the job done in a single afternoon, it was an incredible sigh of relief for the nonprofit nature center.

Each of the 10-foot sections of boardwalk were dilapidated and many sections were susceptible to crumbling under the weight/stress of heavy machinery. Also, all the boards were fastened to runners made of huge, slippery, waterlogged railroad



ties. It was all extremely heavy, sometimes requiring up to 8 adults at a time to lift a single section.

When Smoky Lake assessed the job in front of them, they knew they had their work cut out for them. But they also had confidence that if they all worked together, nothing was insurmountable. “There’s no ‘I’ in ‘Boardwalk,’” explained one of the

volunteers. This was a job that demanded teamwork.

“It is truly amazing what a group of young, strong, adult volunteers can accomplish in just a few hours. Without the help of the Smoky Lake staff, I would still be scratching my head, trying to figure out how to get the boardwalk moved. Volunteers are vital to non-profits — especially one like Brillion Nature Center that employs only one staff person. I am extremely grateful to the Smoky Lake staff and all of the dedicated volunteers that help keep our nature center moving forward in our mission to provide environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities for all,” Lecker said.

The event was a huge success. The entire 1/4 mile of boardwalk was removed and prepped for the new boardwalk to be installed.

“Every single person put forth 110%. Even after they got tired. Even though it was 90 degrees and humid. We did it. We got ‘er done. I feel so lucky to work side by side with everyone on this team. My heart is full,” Angela Schumacher, Owner of Smoky Lake Maple Product said.

Many studies have demonstrated

that the personal benefits of volunteerism are wide reaching! Volunteering has been shown to reduce stress, anger, anxiety and depression. Studies also show that volunteers tend to experience an increase in overall happiness, self-confidence, sense of purpose, and physical vitality. It is a great opportunity to learn new job skills and gain additional career experience.

Soon after the Smoky Lake Volunteering Event, the Brillion Nature Center celebrated the completion of their fundraising goals as they secured the \$204,000 requirement to complete the boardwalk project. Installation of the new boardwalk will begin later this summer. If all goes according to schedule, the community will be able to enjoy the renovation by late autumn.

If you would like to experience the many benefits of volunteerism, contact your local nature center or wildlife preserve today! Many volunteer opportunities are waiting for you.

DNR wants reaction to sturgeon rules changes

The Brillion News

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold a preliminary public hearing on a scope statement related to harvest regulations and the use of technology during the Winnebago sturgeon spearing season.

The technology under consideration may include underwater cameras, electronic fish finders and similar devices.

This scope statement was developed following several years of public discussion on the use of technology in the Winnebago sturgeon spearing fishery, including public surveys in 2013 and 2018, two Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing questions in 2019 and discussion by the Winnebago Citizen Sturgeon Advisory Committee.

The scope statement contains the topics that the department may consider for future rulemaking.

Two major points

According to the DNR, there are two things under consideration for permanent rules changes for sturgeon spearing in the Winnebago system.

First, this rule may establish a prohibition on the use of underwater cameras, electronic fish finders, and other similar technology during the Winnebago system sturgeon spearing season only.

While the use of cameras and fish finders does not currently contribute to overharvest of sturgeon due to the harvest limit of one sturgeon per licensed spearer and implementation of the harvest cap system, some spearers have expressed concerns related to the use of underwater cameras and other forms of technology.

These spearers feel that the use of such technologies is unethical and improves the likelihood of spearing a sturgeon, especially during years

when water clarity is low, compared to the traditional method of throwing the spear only when a sturgeon is observed with the naked eye as it passes through the hole cut in the ice.

However, other people contend that the use of cameras, electronic fish finders and other technologies keeps spearers engaged and potentially attracts new people to the sport by providing a glimpse of sturgeon and other fish moving around under the ice.

Second, this rule may also remove the size limit for sturgeon taken during the spearing season.

Under the existing 36-inch minimum length limit for sturgeon, undersized fish cannot be kept, and the sublegal-sized fish that are accidentally speared are released and likely exhibit high mortality. Removing the size limit would allow a spearer to legally keep a smaller sturgeon, whether speared accidentally or intentionally. This would potentially

reduce waste of smaller fish while also potentially reducing the number of larger fish speared due to the one-fish sturgeon bag limit.

Additional public input opportunities and stakeholder meetings will be offered once rule drafting begins.

Participate

The hearing will be held on line on Thursday, July 8 at 6 p.m.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, especially for anyone who would like to speak at the hearing.

To pre-register, please save and complete the fillable appearance slip, available at <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/forms/8300/8300-014.pdf>, and submit it to Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov.

People may attend the hearing online by Zoon link at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89845319032> or by calling 1-312-626-6799 and identifying the meeting ID as 898 4531 9032#.

People may also submit written comments on the scope statement to Meredith.Penthorn@wisconsin.gov by 11:59 p.m. on July 8, 2021.

Written comments will have the same weight and effect as spoken testimony presented at the hearing.

Note: The topic of this hearing is the proposed scope statement only, and no specific rule proposals are on the table. The scope statement must be approved by the Natural Resources Board before the development of rule proposals.

This preliminary public hearing will allow the public to comment on the general topics that the rule may encompass, as presented in the scope statement.

The DNR also anticipates holding two in-person public hearings in the month of November, 2021, in Appleton and Fond du Lac, to obtain public input from Winnebago sturgeon spearing season participants.

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SCHOOL BRIEFS

UW-Oshkosh Honors Lists

The Brillion News

OSHKOSH - University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have announced students who qualified for the Dean's List and Honor Roll in spring 2021 across its three campuses (Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Oshkosh). To qualify, a student must have been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits. There can be no individual grades below a "C" and no incomplete or non-reported grades at the time the process is run. The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

Brillion: Myranda Blankenship, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Taylor Burkhalter, Senior, Dean's List, Parker Gade, Freshman, Honor Roll, Bryton Maupin, Junior, Honor Roll, Daniel Plitt, Freshman, Honor Roll, Natalie Schwobe, Senior, Dean's List, Kelly Van Berkel, Senior, Dean's List

Collins: Luke Wendling, Sophomore, Honor Roll

Greenleaf: Joshua Bowers, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Mason De Cleene, Freshman, Honor Roll, Autumn Diny, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Bryce Herlache, Senior, Dean's List, Shawn Metzner, Junior, Dean's List

Hilbert: Emma Gackenhaimer, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Meghan Holderread, Senior, Dean's List, Andrea Meyers, Senior, Dean's List, Curtis Radloff, Senior, Honor Roll, Jasmine Rodriguez, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Hayden Thiel, Freshman, Honor Roll

Reedsville: Mara Connell, Junior, Honor Roll, Noah Eckstein, Senior, Dean's List, Brenna Kiekhaefer, Senior, Dean's List, Jackson Linsmeier, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Marlee Meulemans, Sophomore, Honor Roll, Crystal Roberts, Junior, Honor Roll, Kaitlin Taddy, Sophomore, Honor Roll

Whitelaw: Megan Junk, Senior, Dean's List, Jadelyn Novy, Senior, Honor Roll

Wrightstown: Lexi DeGroot, Freshman, Honor Roll, Ella Keuler, Sophomore, Dean's List, Emily Sorenson, Senior, Honor Roll, Sidney Zastrow, Sophomore, Honor Roll

UW-Stout local graduates

The Brillion News

MENOMONIE - Collin Maeder (Brillion, mechanical engineering), Samuel McMahon (Greenleaf, golf enterprise management) and Brett Giesen (Reedsville, school psychology) were among the more than 1,000 students who graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout following the spring semester.

University of Tampa Dean's List

The Brillion News

TAMPA, Fla. - Marina De Greef of Greenleaf earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Spring 2021 semester. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list. The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa.