Carp Fishing Derby
Summer 2023

In order to reduce the overpopulation of carp in our lake, the Fish & Lake Committee is sponsoring a fishing derby.

The Cinnamon Lake Carp Derby will be held beginning Saturday June 10, 2023 through Labor Day. The goal is to remove as many of the excessive carp to improve the water quality and fish habitat. **Prizes will be awarded.**

Members of Cinnamon Lake may enter as individuals or as a team. Teams can be you and your family members along with your guests (see rules for derby details, in addition to helpful info about why we are targeting Carp for removal and how their reduced population will benefit our water quality).

For detailed information, send an email requesting info to:
fish-lake@cinnamon-lake.com

How Carp Removal Can Benefit Cinnamon Lake

The Fish and Lake Committee is taking the initiative to remove carp from Cinnamon Lake. The concern is primarily over Common and Asian carp, two invasive species present in our lake whose activities result in nutrient overload and consequent degradation of water quality. In the past, Asian carp were introduced to Cinnamon Lake to tackle a weed problem. While it's unclear whether the carp or other measures taken are what led to the nearly complete eradication of weeds in our lake, the carp themselves have since become a concern. A study conducted on Lake Wingra in Wisconsin, a similar lake facing similar challenges, is an informative guide to our situation. *

The Impact of Carp and Eutrophication

When feeding carp stir up lake bottom sediments, thereby releasing nutrients into the water. This nutrient influx, a process called eutrophication, results in excessive plant and algae growth, causing decreased water clarity and leading to harmful algal blooms. Over time, these conditions deplete the lake's oxygen supply, creating an environment detrimental to game fish and other desired aquatic species.

Lake Wingra: A Successful Example

Lake Wingra's situation bears parallels with our own. Researchers there found that the removal of carp led to increased water clarity, reduced phosphorus levels (high phosphorus levels are a significant contributor to algal growth) and minimized algal blooms.

Anticipated Benefits for Cinnamon Lake

Drawing from Lake Wingra's experiences, the reduction of carp in Cinnamon Lake could deliver several key benefits:

- **Nutrient Loading Reduction:** A decrease in carp numbers would mean less disruption of the lake's sediments, thereby reducing nutrient loading. Improved water clarity would foster the growth of aquatic plants, providing essential cover and spawning habitats for game fish.
- **Algal Blooms Prevention:** By reducing nutrient overload, we could lessen the frequency of hated and harmful algal blooms. This is a critical step in safeguarding human health and preserving the health of the lake's ecosystem, and while we cannot control every element that contributes to algae blooms, reducing the carp population is something we can do.
- **Improved Conditions for Game Fish:** Reduced competition from carp and reduced habitat alteration caused by carp will create an improved environment for desirable species like bass and walleye. A balanced ecosystem with clearer water and abundant aquatic vegetation promises a better habitat for these game fish.
- **Enhanced Recreational Opportunities:** An overall healthier lake ecosystem, teeming with game fish and featuring clearer water, would be more inviting for recreational activities such as swimming, boating, and fishing. Our lake is central to our community, improving it benefits all!

Carp removal from Cinnamon Lake, inspired by the successful efforts in Lake Wingra, seeks to create a more balanced and healthier ecosystem, enhance water clarity, reduce nutrient overload, improve conditions for game fish, and broaden recreational opportunities. So, next time you hear about the Fish and Lake Committee's carp removal initiatives, remember the potential benefits these efforts hold for our lake.

*The entire carp removal study in Lake Wingra makes interesting reading and is available on-line: https://www.nalms.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/33-3-8.pdf