

# LAKE NEWS

2015

**Grant Programs** - We are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 2 year Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring program, done in cooperation with the WiDNR and supported by Onterra LLC, a contracted aquatic ecology firm. The intent of this program is to monitor the effect on the Chain of the AIS treatments applied in 2012 & 2013, and doing so will allow our Association to remain eligible for support and funding for future treatment programs. The current project is projected to have a total cost of \$21,795, and is co-funded by the WiDNR at a 75% level, leaving a total liability to our Association of \$6,520.

The majority of our portion can be paid off through volunteer labor hours and personal boat use reimbursement. The breakdown of these hours includes;

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Monitoring	200 Hours	Not only are the 260 volunteer labor hours per year critical from a financial point of view, but are equally as critical based on the WiDNR's pre-requisite to only fund active association, with labor participation at these levels. Money alone cannot sustain eligibility.
AIS Survelance and hand removal	40 Hours	
Boat Use Reimbursement	2 Days	
Project Administration	20 Hours	

the WiDNR's pre-requisite to only fund active association, with labor participation at these levels. Money alone cannot sustain eligibility.

Based on the analysis of this 2 year monitoring program and the recommendations that follow, we may be applying for additional treatment projects in 2016 or 2017.

**Clean Boats, Clean Waters** - The goals of the CB/CW program is to educate boaters on the precautions and actions they can take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Thank you to Bob Fiorelli for his work on administration and scheduling for the CB/CW program. If you have time to assist, please contact Bob at 715-339-6332.



**Fish Stick Program** - Fish cribs placed in deep water are known to concentrate fish in known locations, improve angler success, and facilitate harvest--possibly inadvertently working against strategies to achieve objectives for important fish populations. Although fish crib projects remain a popular pursuit for lake organizations, we still have no scientific evidence to demonstrate that cribs serve to produce more fish or grow bigger fish. On the other hand, placing complex woody structure in the form of whole tree (preferably from an upland source with branches intact) in the shallow, near-shore zone has been shown to increase the overall productivity in lake ecosystems. Contact Bob Ruff (715-339-36800 if you're interested in developing a whole tree habitat program.

**Purple Loosestrife** - Another invasive species present and threatening our Chain is Purple Loosestrife, which can result in the suppression of the resident plant community and the eventual alteration of the wetland's structure and function. Large stands can jeopardize native wetland plants and wildlife by eliminating natural foods and cover. At the current stage of growth in our Chain (mainly in Duroy Lake) it is recommended to manually remove the plants, making sure to remove all plant and root material from the lake and shoreline area, and disposing in a manner that will prevent any re-growth.



**Fish Survey** - The WDNR completed a fisheries survey last year, and published a document which compares the results with a similar survey conducted in 2007-2008. Key points for the survey include;

- 20 fish species were captured the netting and electrofishing surveys, including several riverine species. The fish community's diversity can be attributed to the variety of habitat in the Phillips Chain and its tributaries
- The principle predators in the Chain were walleyes, northern pike, and muskellunge.
- Their important prey included white suckers, northern hog suckers, shorthead redhorse, silver redhorse, golden redhorse, and yellow perch (whose cylindrical shape predators prefer) as well as young bluegills and black crappies.

- Catch rates of bluegill and black crappies were generally higher in 2014 than in 2008, whereas gamefish and yellow perch catch rates were higher in the 2008 survey than in 2014.



This life jacket loaner bin at the Elk Lake boat landing.

\*Across the entire Chain early spring nets captured walleye at a rate nearly 2½ times higher in 2008 than in 2014.

\*Long and Wilson lakes experienced the greatest declines, while catch rate increased in Duroy Lake and remained relatively unchanged in Elk Lake.

The entire survey document can be viewed on our association web site, [PhillipsChain.org](http://PhillipsChain.org).

**Hazard Marker Buoys** - One of our initial projects as an Association was the construction and placement of marker buoys near hazards which could cause damage to boats & motors, and prevent injury to boaters. Currently Travis Nez takes care of the placement and removal of the buoys each spring and fall- THANK YOU TRAVIS! If you have a location that you feel should be marked but is not, or notice a missing buoy, or find a free floating buoy, please contact Travis at 715-820-0092.

**Phillips Chain O' Lakes Assoc. Member Sign-Up**

**Return To:**

Sue Rand, Treasurer  
Phillips Chain O Lakes  
7798 Tuckaway Shores Drive  
Franklin, WI 53132

**Contacts:**

Blake Pluemer 715-339-2445  
Rich Norton 715-339-4638

**Membership Type:** Family \$25 \_\_; Business \$50 \_\_; Single 15\$ \_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Extra Donation can make our lakes better for everyone!**  
**Consider \$25 \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$100 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_**

**Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association**  
**885 Elk Lake Drive,**  
**Phillips, WI 54555**