

DECEMBER 2021

# LAKE NEWS

Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association

Duroy  
Elk  
Long  
Wilson

## Shoreline Habitat Program

Bill Ruff and his team have placed over 75 shoreline habitat structures since starting the program in 2016. The structures fall into 2 categories, Fish Sticks and Tree Drops; both are woody structures installed near shore for purposes of adding fish habitat to lakes and flowages.

Tree drops are single trees > 12" in diameter and do not require a permit for installation. Fish sticks are usually smaller trees grouped together to make a structure. Fish sticks do require a permit. Both tree drops and fish sticks require documentation to be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) after installation.

Fish sticks and tree drops are currently preferred over fish cribs by Wisconsin DNR. Evidence shows fish stick/tree drops are beneficial to the food chain for fish and provide cover for fish. Fish cribs are known to concentrate fish and potentially increase the harvest of fish, but don't help grow more, or larger, fish.

During the evaluation of the project, volunteers from the lake association meet with landowners to evaluate the site and determine whether existing trees can be used for fish sticks or tree drops.

Volunteers handle paperwork with DNR and the installation of the structures. See the lake association website for additional information [phillipschain.org](http://phillipschain.org).

For questions about placing structures on your property, or volunteering for the program please contact Bill Ruff at 715 339 3680 or [wjrruff@pctcnet.net](mailto:wjruff@pctcnet.net)

## More Fish

Thanks to Jeff Scheirer, our regional WI DNR Fisheries Biologist, and an unexpected surplus in production at Governor Thompson State Fish Hatchery the WI DNR stocked over 12,000 fish in the Phillips Chain this past fall.

Most of the fish were 6-inch walleye fingerlings with a total weight of over 1000 lbs. Fish were placed in all four lakes of the chain:

3480 in Duroy  
880 in Elk,  
4180 in Long  
3500 in Wilson.





## Clean Boats. Clean Waters.

The grant program we have been working on for the past two years has concluded. This program utilizes volunteers at the boat landings to educate boaters on water quality and EWM mitigation habits along with collecting data on boat landing activity. Virgil Pufahl logged over 50 hours again this year, benefitting the association with over \$600 towards our commitment to the planning grant project. CB/CW volunteers are needed for next year, total hours of participation along with schedules are very flexible. Please inquire if you can participate.

## PCOLA holds first virtual meeting

We held our first meeting on October 21st utilizing the Microsoft Teams video conferencing software application. While attendance was slim, the technology did function as required and demonstrated the potential to include more members participating from remote locations. As many association members split their time between the Phillips area and other locations, this opens the door to broader participation from more members in the future.

## Lake Management Plan Grant Program

The grant program we have been working on for the past two years has concluded, and a draft management plan has been submitted to the DNR for approval. The summary document consists of 138 pages detailing water quality, fisheries, watershed assessment, shoreland condition, aquatic plants, and invasive species. The report can be viewed on our website at [phillipschain.org](http://phillipschain.org). The creation of a comprehensive Lake Management Plan is required to maintain eligibility for DNR grant funding and also facilitates certain self-funded project approvals/permits.

APPLIED FOR EWM  
TREATMENT GRANT FOR  
HERBICIDE TREATMENT  
FOR PORTIONS OF  
WILSON LAKE.  
IF APPROVED  
TREATMENTS WOULD BE  
EXECUTED IN THE  
SPRING OF 2022.

### Phillips Chain O'Lakes Assoc. Membership

Membership Type: Family \$25 ☐ Business \$50 ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Return to

Sue Rand, Treasurer, Phillips Chain O'Lakes  
7798 Tuckaway Shores Dr.  
Franklin, WI 53132

Comments/Questions?

Contact:

Blake Pluemer - 314-258-0801

Brian Baratka - 715-339-3333

**Please  
Donate.**