
LAKE NEWS

The Phillips
Chain O'
Lakes
Association
2018

Fish Stick Program Continues Success



For the past 3 years and under the leadership of Bill Ruff, a group of volunteers from the Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association in cooperation with participating landowners have been installing "fish stick" structures to improve fish habitat on the chain. To date they have worked with 14 landowners and installed 43 fish stick structures. This project has been well supported by the WI DNR and key local partners including Price County Land Conservation, Price County Zoning, and the Price County chapter of Walleyes for Tomorrow.

We would like to continue the project by installing additional fish stick structures in 2019. We are looking for landowners interested in cooperating with us on 2019 fish stick installations along their shoreline. We currently have permits for Long and Wilson lakes that we can "add on" to. We could also consider properties on Duroy or Elk if there is sufficient landowner interest. The fish stick structures that have been placed to date consisted of trees selectively harvested from the landowner's property where they were placed. Trees can be acquired remotely, however there are challenges with

ice conditions, equipment capable of placing trees, and inherent cost. We would like to hear from land owners interested in participating or knowing more about this project (whether they have suitable trees on site or not). Trees used for fish stick structures must meet DNR size requirements. Trees cut within 35' of shoreline are subject to Price County Zoning. We work closely with both of these groups and can help you understand how these requirements might apply to your site. A volunteer would be happy to meet with you, look at your site, and answer any questions you might have. If one of your

neighbors was a participating landowner over the last three years you might also ask them about the process and their experience.

The trees are typically placed on the ice in February. We need to be working with interested landowners over the next couple months to allow sufficient time for the applications to be completed and processed. If you are interested I would like to hear from you in the next couple weeks to get the process started.

Please contact me with any questions. Bill Ruff
715 339 3680

What is this stuff?

Have you seen some gelatinous blobs that look like a clear brain clinging to the legs of your dock or boat lift? These are actually classified as an invertebrate animal called a Fresh Water Bryozoan. They are not harmful or poisonous,



and generally indicate good water quality. Bryozoans eat microscopic organisms and are eaten by several larger aquatic predators, including fish, insects and snails. Like mussels and other filter feeders, bryozoans gradually cleanse the water as they feed.

New, larger causeway on Cty W

The culvert that allows passage between Long and Wilson lakes is currently scheduled for replacement in the fall of 2019. The segment will not be passable during portions of

construction. Currently the department is anticipating a two week closure to recreational traffic and three for motoring traffic. Minor water level adjustments may be necessary however at this time no major drawdown of lake levels are anticipated for this project. A public meeting will be held in the summer of 2019 prior to construction to address any public questions or concerns.

A 12 x 12 opening planned for the new causeway which will make it easier to pass through with pontoons and other large boats.

New Lake Management Plans

DNR rules have been revised to require all Lake Management Plans to be updated every 5 years, and since grant funding for EWM mitigation requires a current plan, we have little choice but to spend the time and money required to update our plan. There are grants available to fund plans and revisions, and we will be filing for such a grant in December. This change will prevent us from applying herbicide treatments in 2019, but should set us up for grant

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Lake Association!*

Use the form below

funding and permitting to treat in the spring of 2020. Considering the growth seen in Wilson lake last summer we will be overdue for treatment by that time.

Wood Duck Houses

We have 30 wood duck houses still available for sale, \$40 for an assembled house or \$15 for unassembled kits. Contact Gary Rand at 414-704-9453 for more information on the program or to purchase a house.



Thanks:

Travis Nez has been maintaining, placing, and taking in the **hazard marker buoys** on the Chain. Countless lower units and props have been saved over the past 20 years by this program!

Virgil Pufahl is dedicated to the **Clean Boats, Clean Waters program**. He put in 36 hours at the landing this summer. Though we are not being reimbursed for the hours, it is critical to keep the program active as it's one of the criteria for obtaining grant funding.



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 \$ _____