

LAKE NEWS

Invasive species tops list

Efforts of Phillips Chain mirrors other lake group efforts



Eurasian Water Milfoil

Efforts to determine strategies to control invasive plant species in area lakes continues to dominate efforts of the various lake associations in the area. To date the Phillips group has completed a stakeholder survey and is working with the DNR for a second planning grant to study and determine treatment options for Invasive Aquatic Species

(AIS). The association is also involved with a test treatment program in targeted areas of Wilson Lake.

Meanwhile the Soo Lake group will cooperate with the DNR on an assessment of that lake. That the assessment will be developed after a winter-long, 6-foot draw down. This drawdown is important to all area groups

because the assessment will include verified data regarding the effectiveness of a draw down. This combined with data from the Wilson Lake treatment will be important to determine effective treatment options for Duroy, Elk, Long and Wilson Lakes.

For additional information about Invasive Aquatic Species contact a member of a local lake association or the WDNR.

Website & facebook page

The Phillips association now has a website at <http://phillipschain.org>. Additionally there is a facebook page at Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association.

Targeted effort on Wilson Lake

Ten acres of infested area on Wilson Lake will be treated with a liquid aquacide this year. This will be a test project and the results will be noted in the newest lake assessment for future treatment plans.

See Wilson Lake - page 2

Soo Lake plans

Results of Soo Lake drawdown to affect invasive species control effort.

See Soo Lake - page 3

Join the Philips Chain O' Lakes Association and come to the Annual Meeting, May 28

See page 4

Wilson experimental treatment

10 acre control effort will depend on funding support from members

John Reardon, Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association

During the winter months, while the Milfoil and Coon-tail was asleep under the ice, Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association (PCOLA) was busy obtaining a Chemical Aquatic Plant Control Permit from the DNR for a test treatment of the invasive weeds in our chain of lakes.

The DNR permit will allow for an "experimental treatment" of less than 10 acres this spring in selected sites in Wilson Lake where infestation is the densest. Since this past November, Blake Pluemer and John Reardon, working with Eddie Heath at Onterra, completed detailed mapping of the infested sites, met with the DNR, negotiated with five application companies and finalized an agreement for a May treatment in Wilson Lake.

PCOLA gained approval from the DNR for a liquid application of 2-4-D AM-40, which will cost under \$3,500 including all fees and is the most effective and least expensive of the many alternatives. We have chosen Bonestroo of Park Falls, one of the largest and most experienced companies, to complete the job. Cost was a driving factor since the funding will have to be obtained from contributions by PCOLA members and interested parties.

"Treatment is not a done deal", said Blake Pluemer. "It is totally dependent on the willingness of our members to fund the experiment, which is a critical first step toward our whole chain solution." The DNR permit to test is a necessary first step in a long-term plan to obtain a state grant to fund the

control if not complete eradication of invasive aquatic species in our chain of lakes.

Please consider sending a donation to PCOLA, 885 Elk Lake Road, Phillips, WI 54555 to help fund this critical effort. (See coupon on page 4)

Dissolved Oxygen levels in Wilson are higher this year

Daren Daily, Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association

For the third winter in a row Gavin King of the WDNR has tested and charted the Dissolved Oxygen (D/O) levels in Wilson in an effort to establish a baseline and trend of the oxygen available to sustain aquatic life. Oxygen in the water can be depleted by rotting vegetation and heavy blankets of snow that do not allow sunlight to pass through.

A minimum level of 1.0 is generally required for fish to be able to survive and the previous two years have shown decreasing levels with the 2009/2010 season below the 1.0 minimum at all depths. A direct result is the Winter Die Off that we have seen in Wilson. Fish that cannot find water inlets with a higher D/O content such as springs or creeks that have sustainable oxygen are likely to die.

The 2010/2011 winter measurements have shown D/O levels above 1.0 in depths of 5' and shallower (5' is the average winter depth for Wilson) so the encouraging news is we may not see the high winter fish die off this year!

New DNR grant for Phillips association

Blake Pluemer, PCOLA

As our initial grant program draws to a close, which was focused on the development of a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, we have completed the application for our next grant program. The

next grant will provide partial funding for actual control efforts, including pre and post surveys, with the pre-treatment survey occurring this summer, and a possible "whole lake" treatment in 2012. Though there is no concrete plan and definite schedule, it's necessary for us to follow this path to

prepare for all options in the coming years.

The DNR will be evaluating similar whole lake liquid herbicide treatment programs this year, and based on their success is likely to support additional programs in 2012. PCOLA is hoping to be among those associations included in next year's AIS grant funding.

Soo Lake weed control hinges on effects of drawdown and lake management plan

Stan Gruszka, President, Soo Lake United, Inc.

At Soo Lake our current effort began in the summer of 2008. It took time to decide which direction we should go. Some of us attended a workshop and we realized we need to have a lake management plan to get anywhere with the state.

Our first attempt failed in the spring of 2009. We needed to find ways we could enhance our grant proposal. With support from the Land Conservation department, Elk Township and a partnership with Phillips High school, we had intended to reapply in August 2009.

Because the weeds were so bad on Soo Lake our membership wanted faster relief from the weeds, In July of 2009 we shifted the direction of the grant. At that time plans were underway for the repair of Weimer Dam. In order to repair the dam a drawdown of the lake was needed. It made sense to coordinate these activities. We delayed our grant request until the Spring of 2010 so we could get everything lined up. We asked the county for a fall dam repair and a winter drawdown for Eurasian Water Milfoil control. It took a lot of work with the membership, the County and the DNR to get everyone on board.

There had been two previous drawdowns on Soo Lake for weed control in the late 80's or early 90's. They did get some relief from the weeds for 7-8 years. This was before the milfoil problem.

Drawdowns are temporary measures. By having the drawdown results included in our management plan will provide more science when weed control options are considered.

Soo Lake United was awarded an AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) grant in March of 2010. The project will span three years and cost \$60,591.48; the state will contribute \$43,573.00, and our share, after deducting money from Elk Township, the Land Conservation Department and any in kind (volunteer work) we do as an association, should be around \$8,100.00. The scope of the project has expanded, but our actual cost has gone down. This grant will cover us for all the survey work, water quality testing, watershed run-off, sediment testing,



A 6-foot drawdown of Soo Lake allows for dam repairs and potential control of Invasive Aquatic species. Soo Lake United photo

pollutants and writing a lake management plan for Soo Lake. There has been a lot of thought and co-operation put into this plan by the DNR, the County and the Board. Not only will we have a drawdown, we will also be gathering information we can use in developing our lake management plan.

In May of 2010 a very important meeting was held at the Phillips High School gym. The meeting was a public information session conducted by the county regarding the drawdown of Soo Lake for dam repair and EWM control. Members from the county board, DNR staff, Onterra staff and many interested people concerned about the area lakes attended the meeting. Over 100 people were present for the meeting.

Join the Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association.

Your membership makes our association stronger. With the help of all the people, businesses and organizations concerned with our lakes (Duroy, Elk, Long and Wilson) we can do more and make our lakes better.

Annual Meeting May 28

The association's by-laws provide for annual meeting to select officers and bring other business before the membership. Currently the board and officers includes: Bill Downing, Daren Daily, Dennis Socha, Terry Staroba, Rick Paulson; Treasurer- Sue Rand, Vice President-Rich Norton, Secretary- Open, President-Blake Pluemer

Membership in the association is open to any individual, business or family owning or residing within 1 mile of any of the waters in the chain. Residence must be for a period greater than one month. Voting is open to currently paid members. Written proxies may be submitted to the secretary prior to the meeting.

The annual meeting is set for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 28, 2010 at Price County fairgrounds. be sure to be there.

You can further help the efforts to control invasive aquatic weed species by making a donation in addition to your dues to the Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association.

Calendar

May 7, 2011

Fishing Season opens: walleye, northern, bass, trout.

May 28, 2011

Phillips Chain O' Lakes Annual Meeting and election.

Fourth of July Celebration

Family fun on the lakes and in the community.

Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association Membership Sign-Up

Return to: Sue Rand
Treasurer, Phillips Chain O'Lakes Assn.
7798 Tuckaway Shores Drive
Franklin, WI 53132

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

Name: _____

Member Type: Family (\$25/yr) _____ Business (\$25/yr) _____ Single (\$15/yr) _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

Email Address: _____

Comments & Suggestions: _____

A Donation can make our lakes better for everyone!

Consider an additional contribution

\$25____, \$50____, \$100____, Other _____