

# Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association

## An Update from Your Lake Association

Volume 3 Issue 1  
March 27th, 2003

In the past year, we have:

- Held 5 meetings
- Maintained, placed and removed the 9 marker buoys
- Participated in county-wide association meetings (Price County Waterways Association)
- Conducted water quality testing & sampling
- Requested in writing that the City of Phillips modify certain practices in the interest of improving the shoreline buffer and overall water quality of the Chain
- Collected annual dues from 22 entities
- Built up the Association funds to over \$1000
- Maintained status as a State of WI non-stock corporation
- Initiated planning for our next major project
- Held presentations on Eurasian Milfoil infestation
- Decided that we need to shift this Association into High Gear!

## There's no shortage of projects to consider!

The main areas where we have an opportunity to improve include:

- The Eurasian Milfoil infestation
- Silt buildup in critical spawning areas
- Higher than desirable levels of toxicity
- High phosphorus levels
- High algae levels
- Destruction of shoreline protective boundaries
- Lack of adequate deep water fish habitat
- Inadequate shoreline habitat
- And too few social gatherings to bond our lake community!

## Shoreline and Water Quality Protection Tips:

- *Avoid applying fertilizer near the water's edge, or in areas where it is likely to be washed into the lake.*
- *If you do fertilize near the water, use phosphorus-free type fertilizer.*
- *Avoid mowing to the water's edge, leave a vegetative buffer strip as wide as possible.*
- *Avoid burning or campfires where ashes, rich in nutrients, may wash into the water.*
- *Divert , filter, and reduce water runoff into the lake.*
- *Avoid pesticide application near the lake*
- *Leave or add fallen trees along the shoreline*
- *Maintain septic systems properly*

## Eurasian Milfoil Increasingly Present in Chain

As was mentioned in last year's newsletter, and in articles printed in the Bee, the growth of the aquatic weed known as Eurasian Milfoil is alarming.

Per an update sent out by Craig Roesler, a Water Quality Biologist based in Spooner, it has covered dozens of acres on Lake Duroy, and has been found growing in Long, Wilson, and Grassy Lakes.

It will likely spread to other areas of the chain in the near future. This very aggressive weed will typically grow in shallow waters from 2-5 feet deep with muddy a bottom, and will choke out native milfoils and other aquatic vegetation, eventually making it impossible to boat, fish, or swim in the water.

Possible ways to reduce the growth rate include:

- Chemical treatment with a herbicide such as 2, 4-D
- Mechanical removal, by machine or manually
- Biological treatment using a special weevil

None of these are without risk or expense, and none are a sure fire cure. At this point we have not made any decisions on taking any action, and will stay in contact with the DNR to keep current with new methods that may be developed. The general opinion is that the weevil method seems most promising, but that is quite new and I'm sure no one is anxious to a part of an experiment in this area (what will we have to introduce to eat all the weevils??!!)

As the milfoil can spread through a single branch drifting across the water, try to avoid boating through the patches, and if you attempt to remove it, try to pull the entire root out, or it will spread even faster. Check your trailer and advise others to do so also, both entering and leaving the water to help contain the spread.

## Strength Through Numbers!

### Treasurer's Report

Our Treasurer, Vivienne Neerdaels, has the following figures to report:

- Total expenditures this past year included:
- Total income this past year was:

- Current account balance is:

Thanks, Viv!

## DNR Fisheries Expert Addresses Group

We had a particularly interesting meeting on March 11, thanks to the participation of Jim Lealos, our local DNR Fisheries Expert. Jim took the time out of his personal schedule to come down from Park Falls and address the group, giving us some guidance on where to focus our resources. We were considering some small scale stocking of fish, but after reviewing with Jim the DNR's existing program and heeding his advice we have decided that our next major project will be to establish some additional deep water habitat structures (Fish Cribs, to those of you who did not attend the meeting!). Our goal is to build and place, with the DNR's assistance, 20-24 cribs next winter so that they will be ready for positioning in the spring.

We will be looking for volunteers to provide materials, construction tools and labor, and most importantly a work area near the shoreline on the north shore of the western side of Long Lake. Per Jim's recommendations of where the best locations will be for the cribs, we will be locating them in this area. We will have to place the materials on the shore or on the ice, and will build the cribs on the ice, ideally where they will melt into about 4 feet of water in the spring. In the spring, Jim and his crews will drag them out with their utility boats and place them in the proper locations.

If anyone knows of an area where we can access the ice next winter with trucks, please let me know.

## Hazard Marker Buoy Maintenance

If anyone is interested in assisting with the clean up and placement of the buoys, please give a call or email to one of us listed on the back page. We typically attempt to place them prior to the fishing opener weekend in May, and the use of a pontoon boat or 2 is very helpful.

## Membership

- Membership in the Association is open to anyone that resides at least one month per year or owns property within one mile of the Chain.
- We've had a total of 40 different paid members to date, including individuals, families, and businesses.
- Dues are \$15/year for individuals, and \$25 per year for families or businesses.
- If you've not paid your dues in the past year, please do!

On the back page is a sign-up sheet, please send one in with your dues and updated personal information, especially your email address if you have one. Please pass the other one along to a friend or neighbor that might be interested in joining the Association. The more members we have, the more influence we will have with government agencies, funding requests, and in general be more productive.

We'll be placing fund drive jars on tabletops in local businesses, please drop in a few \$\$'s for seed when

you see them looking empty! If anyone has a location for a jar, please let us know and we'll get one dropped off.

*Next meetings are planned for  
Tuesdays April 8th, May 13th, and June 10th  
6:30 pm, conference room C, Phillips Normal Building*

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Volume 3 Issue 1  
C/O Blake Pluemer  
885 Elk Lake Drive  
Phillips, Wi. 54555

### Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association

## Sign-Up Sheets

## Protecting Today's Water for Tomorrow

Special thanks to Butch Lobermeier, our friendly local Price County Land Conservation Agent, for assisting us in obtaining water quality grant funding, meeting facilities, and general information & direction!

Special thanks to Duane at Harbor View for allowing us to use his property to store and work on the buoys! Please buy Daren and Jan Daily a drink the next time you see them for their incredible dedication and effort on the chemical water quality testing , in addition to their Secchi dish testing.

Return to: Vivienne Neerdaels  
Treasurer, Phillips Chain O'Lakes Assn.  
W7478 Point Road  
Phillips, Wi. 54555

Contacts: Blake Pluemer 715-339-2445  
Joe Neerdaels 715-339-4472

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$25/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Type: Family

(\$25/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Business

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$15/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Single

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments & Suggestions:

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