

Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association



Volume 4 Issue 1
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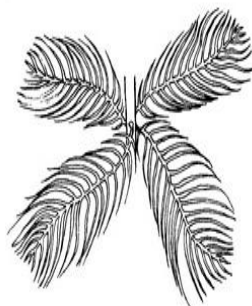
Greetings from your Lake Association, which is still alive, kicking, and in need of active volunteers! Though we've cut back on regular meetings, there has been some activity this year, including:

- A booth at the Rural Landowners Conference in April
- Maintenance and placement of the hazard marker buoys
- Water quality testing
- Water clarity testing
- Placement of flashers on the buoys for the 4th of July fireworks "parade"
- Pre-planning for construction of +- 15 fish cribs to be placed in Long Lake

There's been a recent increase in the interest level of several lakeshore owners based on the increased presence of Eurasian Milfoil. As was discussed at our meeting in March '02, there are no easy answers to this problem, and it is not likely to stop spreading without significant effort on our part. Eradication (or more accurately, reduction) Options include:

- Chemical treatment
- Biological treatment (weevils)
- Mechanical removal (harvesting machine, "water combine")
- Manual removal (pull from the roots manually)
- Dry & freeze (requires a water level draw-down)

The pictures below illustrate what a Eurasian Milfoil Weed looks like.



Eurasian Milfoil looks almost like Northern Milfoil, which is native to our area. But, Eurasian Milfoil has 12 to 21 leaflet pairs, while Northern Milfoil has only 5 to 10 leaflet pairs. But, the best way to tell the two apart is to pick them up. Eurasian Milfoil is limp and soft, while Northern Milfoil (the native species) is stiff and bristly.

Phosphorus Reduction Efforts on the Part of the City of Phillips should make a positive difference long

term for weed and especially algae growth. Per a recent “Lake Tides” newsletter, every pound of phosphorus can produce an additional 300 to 500 pounds of algae. We definitely appreciate the City’s and her taxpayer’s efforts in this area; it has been quite an expensive venture but the long-term health of our Chain will benefit greatly.

We can all do our part in reducing algae growth, and general weed growth. Every little bit helps, and as we inform our neighbors and spread the word, we’ll build a healthier and more enjoyable lake for future generations. Some of the ways to make a difference in both improving the fisheries and reducing the weed and algae growth include:

- Avoid applying fertilizer within 35’ of 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 (DNR permit required to add trees)
- Maintain septic systems properly
- Avoid boating through the patches of Milfoil
- If you do remove it manually, remove the entire root, and all pieces (they can grow too)

Though our intentions were to construct fish cribs last winter, we were not able to bring together the material or human resources to make it happen. We are again setting a goal of creating 15 fish cribs or “deep water aquatic habit structures”. Ira Hartman of Whispering Pines Resort has graciously offered the use of his property to construct the cribs. The cribs are ideally built on the ice in late winter, and placed in 3-4 feet of water before the ice comes off. After the ice melts and they fall to the bottom DNR crews will move them to their final position, using boats with a special crane device.

Each crib measures approximately 8’x8’x5 feet high, and can take up to a cord of wood to construct. Hardwoods are required, and brush is needed to fill the inside of the crib, (hardwood treetops are preferred). If anyone has a source or idea for obtaining materials for the cribs, or if you’d like to volunteer in the construction of them, please contact one of the #’s below.

Hazard Marker Buoy Maintenance

If anyone is interested in assisting with the removal and clean up of the buoys, please give a call or email to one of us listed on the back page. We typically attempt to remove them by early October, and the use of a pontoon boat or 2 is very helpful.

Pier Pressure

There have been numerous articles and meetings recently on the topic of the changes in the laws that relate to the dimension and quantities of docks along the shorelines of Wisconsin waterways. In general, a dock can be up to 6 feet wide, and extend out to a 3-foot water depth “or the length necessary to dock your boat”. You are allowed to have up to 2 boat slips for the first 50 ft of shoreline, and an additional slip for every 50 ft thereafter. There was a rule adopted in April with the intention of providing permits for pre-existing docks that exceeded the new dimensional limits.

More information can be found in the DNR on-line brochure at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/permits/pack07.pdf> or at the DNR's home page at www.dnr.wi.gov, choosing the topic "Waterway and Wetland Permits". If you wish to provide a comment on this topic on-line, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/waterway/publichearings.shtml>

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 others along to friends or neighbors 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.

Next meeting is planned for Wednesday September 15th at 6:30 pm, conference room C, Phillips Normal Building- Please join us, whether you're a member or potential member!

Sign-Up Sheets

Return to: Bill Ruff
Treasurer, Phillips Chain O'Lakes Assn.
N8574 Jandacek Lane
Phillips, WI. 54555

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

Name: _____

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

Address: _____

Business (\$25/yr) _____

Phone # _____

Single (\$15/yr) _____

Email Address: _____

Comments & Suggestions:

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Comments & Suggestions:

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

To: PCLA Member
Or Potential Member
Address