

# Phillips Chain O'Lakes Association



Volume 5 Issue 1  
November 15, 2005

**It's been a very productive year, with greater involvement and accomplishments than ever before, including:**

- Construction and placement of 34 fish cribs in Long Lake
- Planning and Participation in a "Fisheries Visioning" session.
- Maintenance and placement of the hazard marker buoys
- Water quality testing
- Water clarity testing
- Placement of flashers on the buoys for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks "parade"
- Preparation, application, and eventual rescinding of a request to reduce winter water levels on the chain, aimed at reducing the EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) infestation.
- Discovery of a potential natural solution to the EWM issue in the form of a weevil.

Thank you to our sponsors who provided donations of \$ or materials for the cribs, including:

- Butch Johnson & Johnson Timber Products, Hayward, Wi.
- Whispering Pines Resort
- Harbor View Pub & Eatery
- Birch Island Resort
- Phillips Ace Hardware
- The Westwood Club House
- Hidden Valley Resort



And to those that volunteered their time on this very successful project:

- Joe Neerdaels
- Brian Hartmann
- Bob Philippon
- Cully Ericksen
- Jeff Kempkes
- Daren Daily
- Fred Heldt
- Bob Fiorelli
- Jerry Sampson
- Moose Lacina
- Ira Hartman
- Bill Ruff

- Jim Rutherford
- John Reardon
- George Peroutka
- Paul Heidenreich
- Brian Rutherford
- Jim Kelly
- Craig Polzin
- Tim Popp

## Milfoil Update

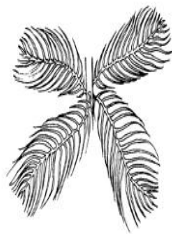
- In recent years the Association has spent considerable time researching solutions to the increased presence of Eurasian Milfoil. It was agreed that the freeze-out approach made the most sense for our situation, having the advantage of being a man-made flowage with control over the water level. We applied for a water level reduction for the winter of 2005-2006 of 24", working in cooperation with the DNR and Price Cty. Dams Committee.

As a part of the preparation for the reduction, a study was done on the existing conditions in the Chain, with the goal of quantifying and mapping out the EWM presence. During this process it was discovered that a natural enemy and voracious consumer of EWM, a small weevil, was present in large #'s in our lakes. Though the DNR has seen this in some cases, the positive effects that the weevil has already made, and the potential for additional reduction very pleasantly surprised them. It appears as though the large amount of shallow marshy area on the east side of Lake Duroy makes excellent habitat for the Weevils, as it allows them to winter there with a high survival rate. Further information on the weevil can be found at:

<http://www.fw.umn.edu/research/milfoil/milfoilbc.html>

With the recommendation of the DNR, based on this weevil discovery, the Association withdrew it's request to reduce the water level this winter, and will be working with the DNR to monitor the reduction in EWM next year. If progress continues via this natural path, we will most likely hold off on any additional efforts to address the EWM growth. The Phillips Chain was featured in an article written by Craig Roesler in the recent edition of the "Lake Tides" state newsletter, which can be viewed online at [http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/vol30-4/2005FallLT\\_screen.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/laketides/vol30-4/2005FallLT_screen.pdf)

*The pictures below illustrate what a Eurasian Milfoil Weed & Weevil look 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 "good" species) is stiff and bristly.*

## Water Quality Improvement Ideas

In addition to the EWM impact on our water quality, we continue to be concerned with the level of algae present in the chain. On a calm day, after a day or more of strong winds, and on the downwind side of the lake, the algae concentrations are quite severe and putrid. We can all do our part in reducing algae

growth, and general weed growth. 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 an un-mowed, natural vegetative buffer strip as wide as possible.
- Avoid burning or campfires where ashes, rich in nutrients, may wash into the water.
- Try to modify landscape to 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)

**We're looking for good locations for tree drops, if you have a stretch of undeveloped shoreline please contact Fred Heldt, who has graciously volunteered to head up this program.**

### **New Proposed Fish Mount Replica Program**

An idea for a program where the Association would fund a replica mount for the 5 top fish per year caught in the chain and released in a healthy state. This would generate some positive press for the Association, and preserve our large sized "breeding stock" fish by increasing the awareness of the practice. If you have ideas or connections with a good taxidermist, please get in touch with Fred Heldt who has volunteered to chair this program(also!).

### **Fisheries Visioning Session held**

Jeff Scheirer and Dave Neuswanger, our regional DNR Fisheries Biologists, worked with the Ass'n to arrange a visioning session this past spring, held at the PHS auditorium. Approximately 30 interested parties were in attendance at the nearly 4 hour session, and many opinions were shared on the desired goals for the types of fish, density levels, and target sizes in the Chain. This public opinion survey, along with DNR sampling data taken in previous years, and a study of the Chain's structure, bottom composition, water quality, vegetation, and other factors are being analyzed by the DNR team. They plan to present the Association with a report and recommendations by Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This will be a topic at an upcoming meeting, and the report will be forwarded to all Ass'n members who have an active email address.

### **Dock & Pier Laws Being Put in Place**

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://news.wra.org/2005/october/public\\_affairs/politics\\_1005story3.asp](http://news.wra.org/2005/october/public_affairs/politics_1005story3.asp)

or at the DNR's home page at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://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& Treasurer's Report

- We currently have 45 paid members.
- Our account balance is \$1518.08
- Expenditures in the past year include:
  - \$877 for fish crib materials
  - \$10 for non-profit registration fee
  - \$117 for supplies for the visioning session
- 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 77 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 so by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

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.

## Sign-Up Sheets

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

Single (\$15/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Comments & Suggestions:

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