LAKE NEWS

Why a lake association?

The goals of PCOLA are beneficial to all lake stakeholders

Since its inception in 1995 the Phillips Chain ' O Lakes Association has educated those with interest in the area lakes and helped to increase the quality of the lakes in the Chain. Four lakes comprise the chain: Duroy, Elk, Long and Wilson are a connected chain used and enjoyed by lake and lakeshore enthusiasts.

PCOLA and Milfoil control

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

Milfoil Threatens - page 2

Algae and other lake weeds

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 generations.

See Algae and weeds - page 2

CHAIN 'O LAKES STAKEHOLDER SURVEY READY

The means to deal with the various issues affecting the lakes in our chain will be addressed in the stakeholder survey included with this newsletter.

Shoreline owners will be joined by others interested and impacted by our lake system. Business input will also be a part of the survey.

This comprehensive survey will be used to determine what course of action will best remedy the local Milfoil infestation.

The survey has received approval from the DNR and now the survey will be distributed to association members, area residents and area businesses.

Don't forget the Annual Meeting and election of Delegates and Officers Saturday, May 29, 2010. 10:00 a.m. - See page 4

MILFOIL THREATENS LAKE USE, CONTROL IS DIFFICULT

Lakes have many faces and many uses. Phillips Chain O' Lakes Association works to enhance the experience on in and with the water. It's important to get involved.

From page 1

EWM is non-native, invasive, very aggressive plant species transferred from lake to lake mainly via boats and trailers. It grows primarily in waters of 2 to 4 feet, but can grow in waters as deep as 6-8 feet.

Discussion of EWM in the chain did not occur until 2002, when it was brought to our attention that Craig Roessler discovered some growth in the chain in a survey conducted in the fall of 2000.

In 2004 the association initiated a water level reduction, which would act to freeze out some of the EWM. After the permit application, and late in the process, it was discovered that the growth areas were actually reducing in size and density. The cause was a small weevil that fed off the plants. The application was stopped and a decision was made to monitor the growth with the hope that the weevils would be able to keep it curbed.

In some areas weevils were controlling the growth of EWM. Unfortunately, in other areas the EWM growth had exploded and new outbreaks were noted. Some waters in the lakes became unnavigable. It seems the favorite food of these weevils is Eurasian Water Milfoil

The list of possible alternatives to control the breakout of Eurasian Milfoil includes mainly four options: a drawdown of the waters of the chain over winter to freeze and kill the plants; chemicals to control the plants; mechanically harvesting the plants; encouraging growth of weevils that feed on the plants..

The weevils will not get on you, your animals, or infest your lawn. They do not bite or bother you in any way. While weevils

See Milfoil Control - page 3

Algae and lake weeds

From page 1

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 feet of the waters 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)

Milfoil Control

From page 2

are effective in isolated growth areas. They are not effective where there is aggressive growth of Eurasian water milfoil additionally and there are no large scale weevil programs for EWM control.

Mechanical harvesting poses no health concerns and is less costly than chemical application (Assuming a contractor can be found.) Mechanical harvesters typically do not pull the weed out by its roots, but instead cut the plant near the lake bottom. So the plant is not killed and regrowth could be rapid. Harvesting would need to be an ongoing operation.

Chemical treatments use a 2, 4-D based treatment spread over the growth areas. The compound is fast acting with visible effects typically occurring within about a week. Chemical cost per acre is estimated to be $500 per acre. As with mechanical harvesting, if all areas of the plant growth are not treated, vigorous regrowth can accrue and costly reapplication would be necessary for continuing control.

Water depth reduction or a drawdown over the winter months is the least expensive of the known Milfoil control options. Its initial cost is the cost of the application, which would be typically less than $500. There are no human health concerns. A drawdown may pose problems with resident's water wells. Due to the relatively shallow waters in Wilson Lake concerns have been raised about the potential of a fish kill. A drawdown may affect shoreline wildlife habitat. While drawdowns are expected to be effective at killing shallow milfoil, there would be deeper rooted plants remaining. Long-term a drawdown would need to be periodically repeated to maintain control.

Determining the ideal strategy to control Eurasian Water Milfoil in the waters of the Phillips Chain O' Lakes may be one, some or parts of all of the various milfoil control schemes.

So what action has been taken to control weeds in the area lakes?

The problem of lake weeds was first attacked in 1996 when the former Wilson Lake Association initiated a drawdown in 1996. Although targeted weeds were other than milfoil, any effect might have been noted for future reference.

The idea was to lower the waters of the lakes over the winter to freeze out growing weed infestation. The drawdown was begun in September. The drawdown was ended when some shoreline property owners discovered problems with their wells.

According the Robert Lepke, Price County Dams Administrator the Phillips chain was drawn down by 4 feet in the fall of 1996. He recalled that the draw-down was started in Late September of that Year and his records indicated the water was returned to normal winter levels by the end of October, 1996. (Normal winter level is 8 to 10 inches below normals for the rest of the year.)

In 2004 a scheduled drawdown was halted to check the effectiveness of weevil control for EWM. The weevils were not proven effective in widespread outbreaks of EWM infestation.

Lepke said that it might be possible to reduce the winter levels to about 20 inches, but to date that has not been done. There is no way to know if a shallow drawdown would have much impact on lake weed growth

Plans are in the works for significant maintenance on Weimer Dam and the level of Soo Lake might fall by 6 feet or more. This might make a significant impact on troublesome weeds in Soo Lake because of its relatively shallow depth..

Jobe's Dam, which maintains water levels in Duroy, Elk, Long and Wilson lakes, is tentatively scheduled for repairs and maintenance in 2011. If the levels of water in the Phillips chain are not drawn-down a bulkhead or coffer dam will be needed at the site of Jobe's Dam and that might significantly increase the cost of maintenance.

Annual Meeting May 29

The association's by-laws provide for annual meeting to select officers and bring other business before the membership. Currently the slate of officers includes: Bill Ruff-Treasurer, Joe Neerdaels-Vice President, Jane Daily- Secretary, Blake Pluemer-President, Rick Paulson-Board member, Vivienne Neerdaels-Board member, Sherrie Paulson-Board Member, Daren Daily- Board Member.

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.

A nominating committee will be appointed prior to the annual meeting to develop a list of officer and delegate candidates. Nomination for board seats may also come from the floor.

There will be terms for one and two years to provide for staggered election in the future.

The annual meeting is set for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 29, 2010 at Price County fairgrounds. e sure to be there

Calendar

May 1, 2010

Fishing Season opens

May 29, 2010

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: 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) _____ Business ($25/yr)_____ Single ($15/yr)_____

Address: _____

_____

Phone #_____ Email Address: _____

Comments & Suggestions:

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