

Kangaroo Lake Association's Leadership Fish Stick Initiative

Need for Property Owner Hosting



FISH STICKS, an in-lake best practice, are large woody habitat structures that utilize whole trees grouped together, resulting in the placement of more than 1 tree per 50 feet of shoreline. Fish Sticks are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged. Fish sticks are not tree drops since the trees utilized for the projects come from further than 35 feet from shore, thus they don't "rob from the bank" of trees that may otherwise grow and fall in naturally. In the winters of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, our Kangaroo Lake Association (KLA) volunteers installed 101 trees in 28 separate locations. The 35'-50' trees were anchored in clusters of 2-3 trees. These non-native trees were gifted and harvested from The Nature Conservancy's land on the lake.

PURPOSE

This fish and wildlife habitat best practice creates food, shelter, and breeding areas for all sorts of creatures from small aquatic insects, frogs, fish, turtles, ducks, and songbirds. Fish Sticks also help prevent bank erosion and provide habitat for non-invasive water plants, (e.g., bulrushes) that protect lakeshore properties and our lake. Our WDNR fish biologist suggests that Fish Sticks are the best strategy to improve fishing on the lake.



West Shore of the Lake

West Shore of the Lake

Finding a location & Installation

Fish Stick clusters have worked well along most of Kangaroo Lake's shoreline. You can observe what installed fish sticks look like by contacting a KLA volunteer. Fish Sticks can be placed on an area of your shoreline that is not used for pier(s) or swimming. If you have a lot of frontage, you may choose to add more than a single Fish Sticks cluster. KLA's permit allows us to add sites at no extra costs this coming winter.



South Shore of the Lake



East Shore of the Lake

A volunteer will meet with you at your property and mark the installation site because it is more difficult to identify landscape features and location preferences with ice on the lake. You do not need to be a member of KLA to participate and you do not need to be present for the installation.

KLA Fish Sticks clusters are composed of two to three whole trees. The butt ends of the trees are cabled to live trees on shore at the water's edge and cabled again where they crisscross. None of our trees have moved from their installation sites. KLA volunteers have installed in February. Trees sink at ice-out and settle below and above the water line. They can be placed in shallow or deeper water.



Your Place?



On Ice: South End



South East Shore of the Lake

LINKS

A You Tube clip on "Fish Sticks:" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kURYFYxuScc>

Fox TV 11 2017 coverage--KLA's Installation: <http://fox11online.com/news/local/lakeshore/project-works-to-preserve-wildlife-along-the-kangaroo-lake-shoreline>

KLA's Installation Descriptions: <http://kangaroolake.org/2017/02/14/2017-fish-stick-installation/>

Wisconsin DNR's Scott Van Egeren presentation on KLA website:

http://kangaroolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ScottVanEgeren_2014.pdf

WDNR Fish Sticks: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/fishsticks.html>

For more information or questions, contact: Tom Schneider, KLA Fish Sticks Coordinator, trschneider15@gmail.com Phone: 414-425-8858, 608-217-9460