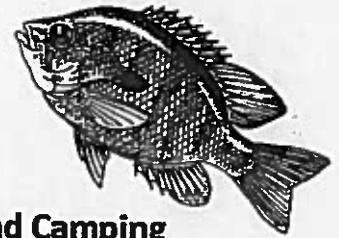


Tuesday, August 1, 2017



To Businesses, Fishing Clubs, Fishing Guides, Fishermen/ladies and Camping organizations that are located within a 50 mile radius of Lake Shelbyville

Dear Folks,

You are receiving this packet because we believe that you have:

- 1) A vested interest in Lake Shelbyville and what it can do for not only your community but your area, and
- 2) A sincere concern regarding the changes that are occurring with Lake Shelbyville and the economic fall-out and a decline in recreational opportunities as a result of these changes.

All is certainly not “dooms day”. Fortunately a group has been formed and is working hard to reverse the habitat trend that we are seeing on the Lake. The Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance was formed and is hard at work to restore and enhance the fishery of the Lake. Needed – for sure, doable absolutely (with your help)!

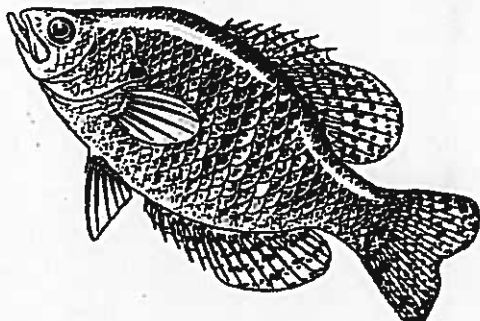
The Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance has joined forces with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, private businesses, concerned citizens and the Lake Volunteer Association to see that this project is completed. Joining the Lake Volunteer Association with this endeavor gives the project 501c3 taxing status. This should help boost larger contributions.

Please take the time to look over the attached information. If your group has special forms to complete for donations/grants please send to Bob Kerans (address below).

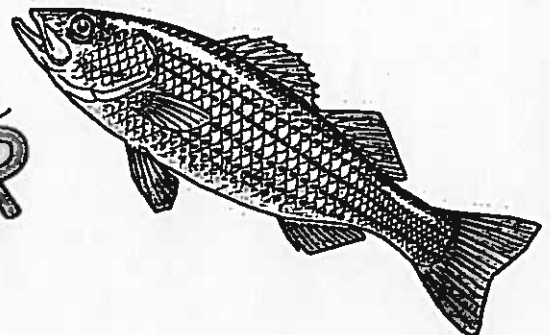
Thank You

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Kerans".

Bob Kerans – 3045 S. Franklin St. Rd., Decatur, Ill. 62521 Phone 217-414-0093, Email: robert\_kerans\_559@comcast.net



*this is a*  
**KEEPER**



# Outdoor Market

## Expert: Lake Shelbyville fish habitat disappearing

By Stan Polanski  
Shelbyville Daily Union

Shelbyville, Ill. — State and lake officials have told area fishermen and representatives of fishing organizations that a grand undertaking needs to happen to reverse the stark loss of fish habitat in Lake Shelbyville.

Mike Mounce, of DNR, said Lake Shelbyville's fish have high mortality rates and simply stocking the lake with more fish would only be a temporary fix to a growing problem.

The disappearing fish habitat stems from a shoreline that lacks vegetation, according to Mounce, a fisheries biologist. There aren't as many old trees falling into the lake

to give fish a place to seek shelter and breed.

Less breeding and shorter lifespans for fish puts fishermen at a disadvantage. Chances are, they end up with fewer and smaller catches.

Volunteers have dropped used Christmas trees into the lake for decades to boost habitat. While they come at no cost, the trees don't make a lasting impact, officials said.

Artificial structures, called "Lake Shelbyville Cubes," have recently been built and placed in the lake. About 50 have been dropped so far, according to a press release. But officials said at a recent meeting that more cubes should be built and that they could be the long-term fix to the habitat problem.

With the backing of area fishermen and fishing groups, they said, there's a good chance that Lake Shelbyville could win a \$10,000 to \$40,000 grant from the Reservoir

Fisheries Habitat Partnership.

"I think we'd have better than a 50-50 chance," said Lee Mitchell, a natural resource specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Winning the grant would put thousands of Lake Shelbyville Cubes in the water. Officials said they need community groups and

fishermen to support the impending grant application to show how important it is to the community.

## **LAKE SHELBYVILLE FISH HABITAT ALLIANCE**

**Lake Shelbyville, an 11,100 acre reservoir flood control impoundment, needs our help to maintain its' reputation as a quality fishing destination for years to come. As lakes age, the amount and quality of habitat decreases, reducing fishing quality. Fishing quality can have a significant effect on more than fishermen. Reduced numbers of fishermen visiting Lake Shelbyville can have devastating effects to the economy of local communities and businesses not to mention major outdoor/fishing retail outlets, camping opportunities, and a significant loss of tourism. Locally a loss of sales tax revenue can impact the funding for schools and other public entities.**

**A new and continuing endeavor under the direction of the Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance (see attached organizational chart) is designed to alleviate this situation that is occurring on Lake Shelbyville, which was constructed in the early 1970s.**

**Since the fall of 2016, fifty (50) structures, primarily Lake Shelbyville cubes (see attached pictures), have been placed in the Lake. The goal of the Alliance is to place several thousand more structures. A cube building work day is set for July 15 (50 additional cubes) at Chips Marine south of Sullivan, with another building date set for late September. A drop date for completed cubes is set for October 14. Construction dates for 2018, 2019 and so on will be announced in due time.**

**In reality the number of cubes constructed and eventually placed depend primarily on dollars raised (approximately \$100.00 per cube) and volunteer numbers (approximately 40 at each build). In addition to the Lake Shelbyville cubes, Georgia cubes, artificial logs, artificial stumps and rock piles are in the plans to be placed in the lake to enhance fish habitat and fishing quality.**

**In order to maximize efforts we are seeking both physical and monetary support in an attempt to leverage several grants, with the ultimate goal being acquiring one of a few \$40,000 through the Friends of Reservoirs ([http://www.reservoirpartnership.org/Friends\\_of\\_Reservoirs/FOR.html](http://www.reservoirpartnership.org/Friends_of_Reservoirs/FOR.html)).**

**We are asking for your involvement in demonstrating support for the efforts being made by the Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance. Please be assured that all contributions will be used only for building and placing habitat in Lake Shelbyville, with the primary cost being in building the structures. Donation checks should be made payable to the Lake Volunteer Association with "fish habitat" written in the memo part of the check. It is important to note that the Lake Volunteer Association is a 501c3 designated organization and has been for quite some time. Please mail to: Lake Volunteers Association, 1989 State Hwy 16, Shelbyville, IL 62565. For additional contact information call 217-774-3951 ext. 2**

**Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance steering committee is comprised of:**

**IDNR Fisheries Biologist Mike Mounce at 217-345-2420**

**Natural Resources Specialist Lee Mitchell 217-774-3951**

**Jon Summers USAC of Engineers 217-774-3951 ext 7018**

**Chip Christenson 217-725-2610**

**Bob Kerans 217-414-0093**

**Thank you in advance for any assistance you are able to provide. We really believe that the project is not only seriously needed, but certainly doable! But the lake does need your help. A \$100.00 donation will put another cube in the lake and go a long ways to restoring it to the fisheries prominence that it once held.**

**Bob Kerans 3045 S. Franklin St. Rd., Decatur, Illinois 62521**