



Fish Sticks Primer

September 15th, 2016

Fish Sticks – How we got here

- Historic Efforts
- More Recent Efforts
- Bayfield and Douglas County Projects
- Fish Sticks General Permit
- Fish Sticks Best Management Practices and Website
- Funding
- Wood Additions to Date

Fish Sticks Mauthe Lake 1965



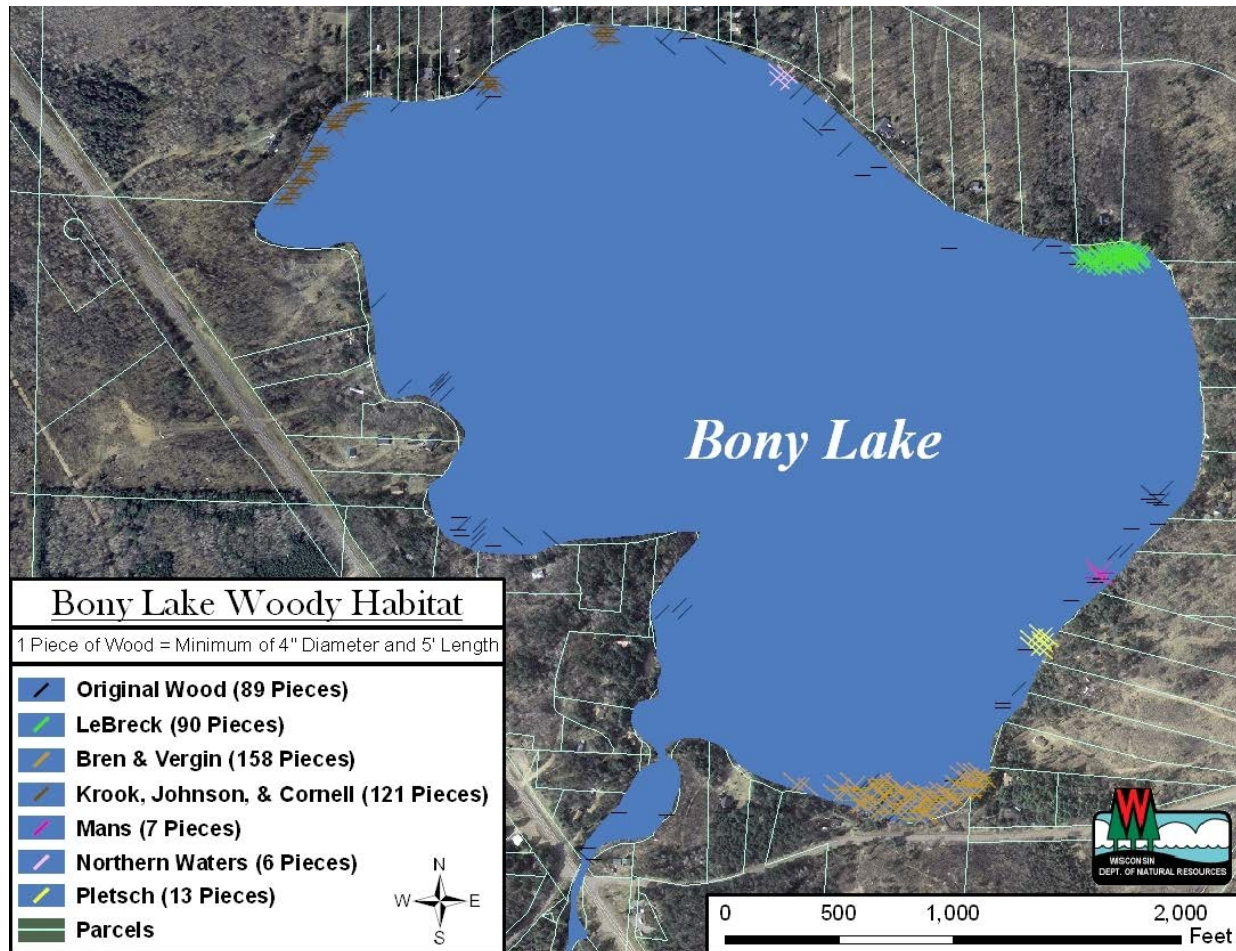
Bony Lake



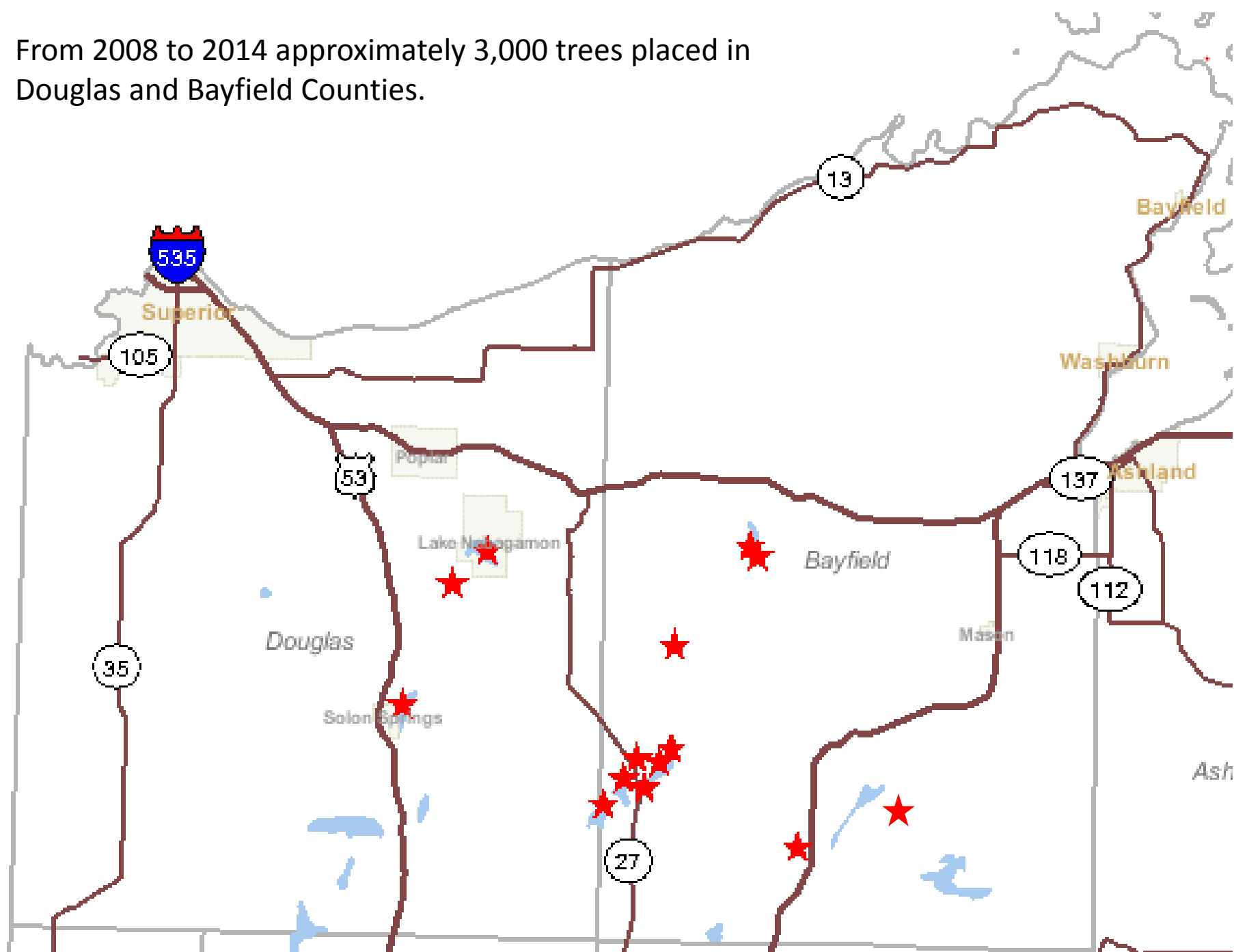
Early Finding – Loggers would rather not have their picture taken



Bony Lake



From 2008 to 2014 approximately 3,000 trees placed in Douglas and Bayfield Counties.



2011

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kURYFYxuSc>



Bigwigs Get Involved - 2012

- Permitting Issues
- Funding Issues



Fish Sticks GP

- Lean Team Develops GP – 2013
- Fish Sticks GP completed for public use – January 2014
- Applicant follows design guidelines gets permit with less paperwork
- Initial permit for lake costs \$303. If applicant checks box allowing others to “piggy back” on their permit all other permits for that lake are free

Best Practices Manual and Website



Fishing Wisconsin

Fish sticks: Improving lake habitat

Trees have been dropping naturally into Wisconsin lakes since the glaciers receded. Fallen trees provide shelter and feeding areas for a diversity of fish species and may also provide nesting and sunning areas for birds, turtles and other animals above the water. Nearly all fish species use woody habitat for at least a portion of their life cycle.

What are fish sticks?

"Fish Sticks" projects are intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. They are large woody habitat structures that use either single trees or trees grouped together. Fish sticks structures are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of a lake. Fish sticks projects are completed to provide additional fish habitat, as well as to expand fishing opportunities by anglers and provide protection to shorelines. Additional information on fish sticks and the fish sticks implementation process can be found in the [Fish Sticks Best Practices Manual](#). [\[PDF\]](#)

Fish sticks projects generally include a variety of cooperators: lakefront property owners, lake associations or districts, DNR permitting and fisheries staff, county land and water conservation departments and possibly federal agencies.

How can I get involved in a fish sticks project?

- Fish sticks projects are permitted through a [general permit](#) process.
- Contact your [local fisheries biologist](#) for recommendations.

Fish sticks literature

- [A second life for trees in lakes: as useful in water as they were on land](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Impacts of lakeshore residential development on coarse woody debris in north temperate lakes](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Lakeshore woody habitat in review](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Less work, more beauty, better protection - Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, April 2000](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Natural and anthropogenic variation in coarse wood among and within lakes](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Fish community and food web responses to a whole-lake removal of coarse woody habitat](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- [Is littoral habitat affected by residential development and land use in watersheds of Wisconsin](#)



A small musky cruises among the wood.

Fishing Wisconsin

Got license?

Give yourself the license to relax and catch some memories while you're at it.

Regulations

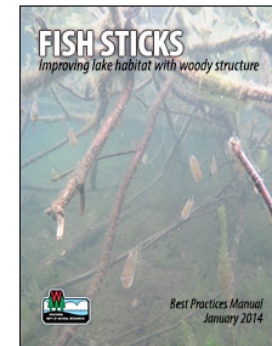
Know the regulations to make your fishing more enjoyable.

Places to fish

Wisconsin offers a variety of fishing opportunities. Give them a try!

Get started

Get the basic information you need to get on the water and try your luck.



Fish sticks manual and guide

Making fishing better

- Ceded territory
- Lake Michigan
- Lake Superior
- Mississippi River

Funding

- Bony Lake – WDNR lake protection grant
- Glacial Lakes partnership grant
- County Conservation Departments
- Warm water fish habitat funding
- Private funding, lake association, interest groups, etc.
- **Healthy Lakes, HOORAY!!!!!!**

Spread of Fish Sticks

