

30 Years of Fish Habitat Improvement



Berks County Bassmasters



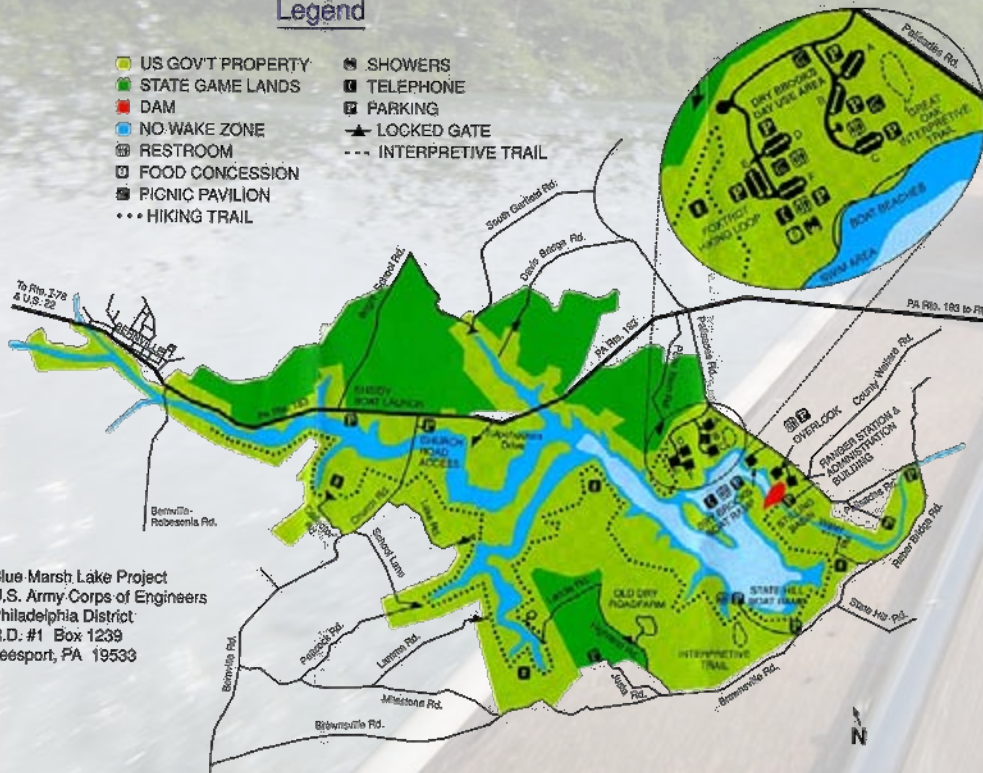
Blue Marsh Reservoir, Berks Co.

1,150 surface acres

Managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

BLUE MARSH LAKE Legend

- US GOV'T PROPERTY
- STATE GAME LANDS
- DAM
- NO WAKE ZONE
- RESTROOM
- FOOD CONCESSION
- PICNIC PAVILION
- HIKING TRAIL
- SHOWERS
- TELEPHONE
- PARKING
- LOCKED GATE
- INTERPRETIVE TRAIL



Blue Marsh Lake Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
R.D. #1 Box 1239
Leesport, PA 19533

Includes areas for swimming, boating, picnicking, fishing, sailing, waterskiing, bird watching and hiking.



In 30 years...

In cooperation with the PA Fish & Boat Commission's Division of Habitat Management the Berks County Bassmasters have placed:

- 837 Total Fish Habitat Structures
 - 270 PA Porcupine Cribs
 - 267 PA Porcupine Crib Jr.s
- 150 PA Black Bass Nesting Structures



30 years ago...

- Old tires were fastened together and placed on the bottom of the lake as cover for fish.
- Picnic tables, terracotta pipe, concrete block and other materials were also sunk to provide habitat for fish.
- Some materials were potentially hazardous and toxic.



Present Day

- Now only biodegradable materials are used to build PA style fish habitat structures.
- State of the art designs maximize cover and complexity while maintaining an environmentally safe design.
- Berks Co. Bassmasters also sponsors shoreline work to provide better fishing access and to cut down on shoreline erosion caused by wind and wave action.



Shoreline Stabilization



Before



After



Cooperative Habitat Improvement Projects

- The Berks County Bassmasters have consistently coordinated the ordering and delivery of project materials.
- They have also rounded up volunteers to help assemble structures once a year for the 30 years of installing fish habitat improvement devices at Blue Marsh Reservoir.



Cooperative Habitat Improvement Projects

- All structures are assembled by volunteers with technical assistance and tools provided by the PA Fish & Boat Commission.



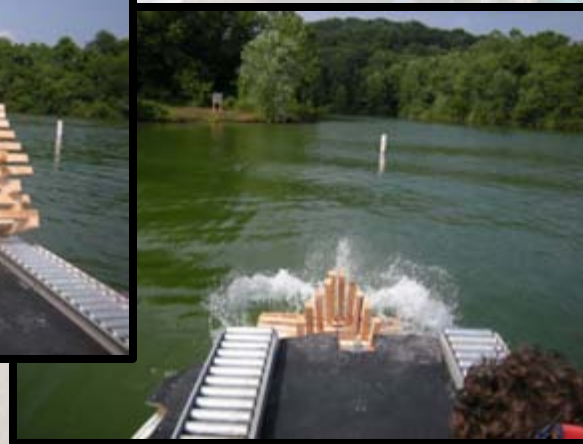
Cooperative Habitat Improvement Projects

- Structures are placed on Boston Whaler boats in two pieces, then further assembled and ferried to the site where they are placed strategically to provide the best cover for fish.



Cooperative Habitat Improvement Projects

- The structures are pushed off the boat, then sink to the lake bottom and start providing cover immediately.



Submerged Porcupine Cribs as seen on Lowrance HDS Structure Scan.



Thank You!

Berks County Bassmasters

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Moyer's Sawmill

Schuylkill County Conservation District

All of the hard working volunteers over the past 30 years

