

High school project

LANDEN, Ohio – The Warren County Bassmasters teamed with the Landen Community Services Association and students from nearby Kings High School for the third phase of habitat improvement on Landen Lake.

"In the past, the community stocked the lake every year," said Bill Donaldson, president of the bass club and also a member of the board that manages the 65-acre lake. "Now, we're getting to the point where we don't have to spend lots of money and stock it every year."

This time around, 100 spider blocks were constructed from concrete and tubing and dropped in five areas with 4-foot depth. Donaldson said his club got the idea from a *B.A.S.S. Times* article about a project in Michigan.

To help them fulfill their com-

munity services requirement, 12 students, including Donaldson's sons Billy and Tyler, built the blocks from materials purchased by the community. Club members and volunteers from Landen then placed them.

In the *Student Reflection Record*, which documented participation, one student said, "One cool positive was getting to help and work on a project that might get published in *B.A.S.S. Times* magazine. We also had hamburgers and hot dogs, along with all the water and Mountain Dew we could drink!"

Also during the past five years, PVC trees and pallets have been placed in the lake, which is barren of natural structure except for rocks along the shore.

"Next, we'd like to put in something that people could actually see because this lake looks so sterile," Donaldson said. ■



Students spent time constructing and planting spider blocks to enhance the habitat in Ohio's Landen Lake. Photo courtesy of Bill Donaldson

Chasing away cormorants

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – A dozen New York B.A.S.S. Federation Nation members (NYBFN) used their fish-finding skills to help drive cormorants off Oneida Lake in fall 2010.

"They were driving around just trying to see a bird," said Mike Cusano, NYBFN president. "It was basically like fishing. They were trying to find the key spots where those birds were going to be."

Members of the Salt City Bassmasters, Oneida Lake Bassmasters and the Good Ole Boys Bass Club were among the 50 volunteers who helped the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with a cormorant harassment project on Oneida.

"This harassment was to deal with the fall migration," said Cusano. "The largest number of birds show up for the fall migration and use the lake as a resting point as they make their migration south. In past years there have been upwards of 5,000 to 10,000 birds show up. So we didn't want them to be comfortable and stick around there that long."

When the DEC lost federal funding for the harassment program this year, the NYBFN offered volunteers to help keep the project going. "We felt it was a great opportunity for us to get involved to help other sportsmen," said Cusano.

The volunteers picked two-hour blocks during the week to run around the lake and harass the birds. "Some volunteers were using pyrotechnics [requiring two people to a boat] and others were harassing solo," said Cusano.

The state president noted preliminary results from counts taken by the DEC indicate the project is working: "The DEC said this year's numbers of cormorants were extremely low." ■

Conservation Clips contributors this month were Robert Montgomery and John Neporadny Jr. Does your club or chapter have news to share? E-mail us at bass.times@bassmaster.com.

IT'S TIME TO PUT IT IN GEAR!

REGISTER FOR YOUR SPOT IN THE 2011 BASSMASTER OPENS.



© 2010 BASS. All rights reserved.



Supporting Sponsors
Bass Pro Shops • Humminbird • Minn Kota • Nitro Boats • Triton Boats

Register Now
Bassmaster.com/Opens