



2019

YEAR IN REVIEW

2019 was a banner year for the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP) and Friends of Reservoirs (FOR). RFHP celebrated its 10th Anniversary and FOR exceeded the 100 members milestone. FOR membership reached 125 Chapter and Group members. The 2019 spike in membership was complemented by 23 municipalities that are partnered with Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism through their Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) joining FOR. One of the main goals of RFHP/FOR is to bring a diverse array of reservoir user-groups together to partner with reservoir management agencies to address local reservoir fisheries habitat issues. The CFAP partnership with FOR indicates the importance of local reservoirs to these small, mostly rural, communities.

RFHP sponsored two Reservoir Habitat Restoration Best Management Practices Workshops in 2019. The workshop at the Southern Division American Fisheries Society Meeting in Galveston attracted 50 attendees. Topics covered included: 1) how to choose a site (reservoir) and decide on which habitat impairment(s) to address; 2) permitting; 3) degraded structural habitat; 4) invasive aquatic plants; 5) restoring native vegetation; 6) water quality; 7) sedimentation; 8) shoreline stabilization; and 9) funding. The workshop was repeated at the RFHP/FOR Annual Meeting.

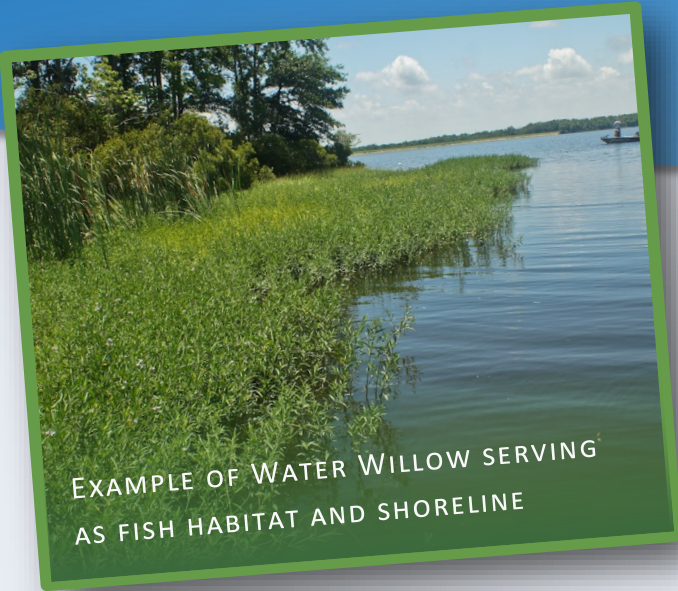


WORKSHOP ATTENDEES AT THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

In addition to the workshop, our Annual Meeting in Kansas City featured a dredge demonstration from Geoform and the utility of Envirotubes to dispose of fill material and create berms/jetties. The program included 14 technical presentations from fisheries professionals and FOR member organizations. The technical sessions were highlighted by a presentation from Dr. Andrew Norris from the Queensland, Australia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on how BMPs learned from Dr. Norris' 2015 tour of projects and state agency habitat programs have been incorporated into his program in Queensland. An awards banquet was held at which FOR Small Project Grants (\$1000) were distributed to Friends of Barren River Lake, Kentucky; Tri-County Bass Anglers, Indiana; Friends of Lake Livingston, Texas; Lake Fork Sportsman's Association, Texas and the City of Cherryvale, Kansas.



LONGITUDINAL STONE TOE FOR HARD ARMORING SHORELINES



Mossback once again sponsored a grant that awarded \$1000 (wholesale) of product to the Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation, Ft. Worth Fly Fishers (Texas), and Friends of Horse Thief Reservoir (Kansas).

RFHP, in partnership with Dr. Esteban Miranda and students from Mississippi State University, completed a chapter entitled “Reservoir Fish Habitats: a Toolkit for Coping with Climate Change that will augment the Reservoir Fish Habitat Management manual. The “Coping with Climate Change” chapter provides a literature review of reservoir-related climate change science and provides guidance to reservoir managers on coping with climate change scenarios.

- Toolkit: <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Climate-change-toolkit.pdf>
- Manual: <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/science/best-management-practices-manual/>

RFHP used funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service through the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) www.fishhabitat.org to fund four large grant projects (out of 12 proposal submissions) in 2019. RFHP used \$125,000 in NFHP funds along with over \$1 million in partner funding to support the following projects:

- **Control Hydrilla and Enhance Aquatic Habitat in Harris Lake;** North Carolina-North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission principal partner. The objective is to establish water willow to compete with invasive Hydrilla and restore woody structure.
- **Lewisville Lake Fisheries Restoration;** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers principal partner. The objective is to use a combination of native aquatic vegetation and hard armoring to stabilize select shorelines and refurbish woody cover.
- **Buckeye Lake Fish Habitat Partnership;** Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation principal partner. The objective is to restore structural habitat following dredging to deepen the reservoir and remove nutrient-rich sediments.
- **Nolin River Lake Habitat Improvement Project;** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers principal partner. The objective is to use hard armoring to stabilize select shorelines and refurbish woody cover.

For additional details on these and other RFHP-sponsored projects go to: <https://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/projects/>.

