Jeff Boxrucker, Coordinator June 2, 2022

Friend of Reservoirs

Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership

9321 E. State Highway 9
Norman, OK 73026

Jeff and Executive Committee members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I support the Lake Shelbyville Fish Habitat Alliance, U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, local municipalities, numerous business owners, and many individuals and angling groups in their continued efforts to secure funding to add habitat structures in Lake Shelbyville! Fishing is the most popular activity on the lake and not only benefits the fishermen and bait shops but benefits the economic health and quality of life for the entire region. The methods and products identified in this application not only benefit local constituents but continue to address the majority of objectives outlined by the RFHP, addresses the Temperate Regional impairments that are also problematic on Lake Shelbyville, and are valuable to the priority fish species for the Temperate Region!

Lake Shelbyville, which turned 50 years old in 2020, has lost a vast majority of the woody habitat that was present when the reservoir was first impounded. 50-plus years of weathering and decay have left much of the reservoir barren of habitat relied upon by many species. Long-duration floods, on occasion in excess of 12’, have further stranded woody habitat in uplands resulting in addition habitat loss. These floods have made conditions difficult for aquatic macrophytes to establish naturally. This lack of habitat, associated erosion, and reduced water quality are affecting the quality of the fishery significantly and efforts to replenish and develop habitat have not kept up with losses. Standard management practices help maintain the quality of the fishery, but the standard reduction in quality with reservoir age continues with rippling effects throughout the community and region.

I ask the Friends of Reservoirs and the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership to support this extraordinary collaboration of federal, state, local, and volunteer partners in their efforts to continue the important work they are accomplishing by awarding them a Mossback grant.

Sincerely,

James Garavaglia

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division

Fisheries Biologist - District 10

Region 3 Reservoir Biologist (Acting)