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Conservation & UWEX Education Committee Land & Water Conservation Department Planning and Zoning Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 24, 2019

TO: Local Area Media

FROM: Stephanie Boismenue, Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshops Offered in Oneida County

With the growing concern over the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to our Northwoods lakes and rivers, many lake association members and other concerned citizens are looking for ways to protect the lakes they love. Since 2004, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) watercraft inspection program has been an opportunity for adults and youth to help keep our lakes clean, healthy, and enjoyable by taking a front-line defense against the spread of AIS. Through the CBCW program, teams of volunteers, lake residents, and concerned citizens have attended CBCW workshops to learn how they can help prevent AIS from threatening our waters, why educational awareness is critical in preventing the spread of AIS, learned how to conduct watercraft inspections, and volunteered their time at local boat landings. The information and watercraft inspections that citizens provide at the boat landings has been an integral part of protecting our Northwoods lakes.

If you would like to learn how you help prevent the spread of AIS from one waterbody to the next and protect the lakes you love, join us at one of the following FREE workshops, geared for both new and seasoned watercraft inspectors:

- Thursday, May 30, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Woodruff Town Hall, 1418 First Avenue, Woodruff.
- Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Reiter Center, 1858 S. Michigan Street, Three Lakes.
- Friday, June 7, 2019, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Newbold Town Hall, 4608 Apperson Drive, Rhinelander.

These workshops will feature speakers from multiple resource agencies. Participants will receive AIS education, hands-on species identification, learn how to conduct watercraft inspections, and how to collect and report any new AIS sightings. Participants will also learn the tips, tricks and skills of conversing with boaters and have an opportunity to practice before heading to the landings this summer. To register, please call Oneida County Land & Water office at 715-369-7835 or email Stephanie Boismenue, Oneida County AIS Coordinator at sboismenue@co.oneida.wi.us . For questions, pleases contact Stephanie or visit oneidacountyais.com. You CAN make a difference! Become a CBCW watercraft inspector and help protect the lakes you love.

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