Conservation & UWEX Education Committee

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Conservation & UWEX Education Committee
Land & Water Conservation Department
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: May 13, 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 Oneida County's lakes, 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 take 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 the lakes we love.

If you would like to learn how you can make a big difference in Oneida County's efforts to prevent the spread of AIS from one waterbody to the next, join us at one of the following workshops 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.

The workshops will have 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. The workshops are free. To register, please call Oneida County Land & Water office at 715-369-7835. For more information about the program or questions, pleases contact Stephanie Boismenue, Oneida County AIS Coordinator at 715-369-7835 or email sboismenue@co.oneida.wi.us or visit oneidacountyais.com. You can make a difference! Consider joining CBCW watercraft inspectors working to protect to keep or lakes clean, healthy, and enjoyable.