2017 Invader Crusader Award Presentation

Good evening everyone, and thank you for coming. I am Andy Teal, the Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, here to present a hard-earned award recognized statewide and created by the Invasive Plant Association of Wisconsin, the Invader Crusader Award. Recipients of this award are chosen based on nominations submitted by people like me, and selected by the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council. The official award ceremony happened a few months ago, in Poynette, but those of you familiar with the town know that it isn’t exactly a day drive. ☺

I jointly nominated the Town of Barnes AIS Committee and the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area for the support, funding, creativity, and ingenuity in constructing both the Barnes Area Invasive Species Sucker (aka the BAISS boat), and the Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP).

The TOBAISC has been committed to invasive species prevention and management since its inception in September 2006. Barely a decade later, volunteer involvement is still so strong that Gerald “Gus” Gustafson, Lee Wiesner, and Rick Mattila each gave over 100 hours of their own time to building and maintaining the BAISS Boat. Gus, a member since the Committee’s creation, logged 311 hours of volunteer time, just on this project. With substantial financial and volunteer support from FOTECLA, and a DNR grant, the BAISS boat moved forward to completion. Members and non-members alike put it to use this summer, harvesting over 30 55-gallon bags of curly-leaf pondweed.

Participation from FOTECLA has also remained strong, keeping the LEEP program operating smoothly to educate Drummond’s 7th graders about our valuable lake resources, and how to protect them. I would like to thank Bob Cochran, Ted Eastlund, Fred Haueter, Jerry Kaiser, John Kudlas, Cris Neff, and Sally Pease, and so many other volunteers for their continued hard work in educating the next generation of lake stewards.

\*\*\*<read LAKE TIDES article>\*\*\* ??

Thank you all again, and without further ado, I hereby present the 2017 Invader Crusader Award for Volunteer Organizations to the Town of Barnes AIS Committee and the Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area.

Have a great evening!