

# **Final Report, AIS Grant (AEPP-080-07)**

## **Project Summary**

The project officially began on April 21, 2007 with the attendance of the project coordinator at the DNR-AIS Workshop in Spooner, Wisconsin. In early May recruitment of student workers for the project began at Solon Springs High School. Initial recruitment efforts produced 16 students who expressed an interest in working as paid inspectors at landing sites. Of these, 12 attended a student worker and adult volunteer training workshop the evening of May 23, 2007 and 15 student workers and adult volunteers attended a “Hands-on-Boat-Inspection” workshop May 28, 2007. Boat Landing inspections began the first weekend of June and extended through the first weekend of September for a total of 14 weekends. During that period two landing sites were monitored each weekend for a total of 20 hours. For the 14 week-period inspection teams were present at landing sites a total of 560 hours, or for a total of 1750 student worker and adult volunteer hours. During this period monitors inspected a total of 610 boats entering and or leaving the lake. Along with inspecting the boats for plants before launching, the inspection teams also checked boats coming out of the water to make sure they left the landing sites free of plant materials. The teams also handed out educational materials and talked with over 1000 boaters about the problems associated with invasive species. While informing boaters about the threat posed by the introduction of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species into our lake the monitors demonstrated proper inspection procedures boaters can employ on their own to ensure their boats and trailers don’t transport invasive species to other lakes.

## **Achievement of Project Goals**

### **1) Monitoring boat landings:**

Student workers for the project were recruited from the local high school in mid-April. Adult volunteers were solicited from the Upper St. Croix Lake Association and broader Solon Springs Community beginning in early May and continually throughout the summer. Two training sessions were held for the student workers and adult volunteers before monitoring began the first weekend of June. The first workshop was held May 23, 2007 in the local Community Center and the second on May 28, 2007 at the DNR Boat Launch Site. The training sessions were attended by a total of 31 students and adults.

Two boat launches were monitored each weekend by trained boat inspectors between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The sites were monitored from 2:00 – 6:00 PM every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and from 7:00 – 11:00 AM every Saturday and Sunday morning. For the first 12 weeks of the project each launch site was monitored by two student workers and one or more adult volunteers. The launch sites were monitored only by adult volunteers the last two weekends of the project, August 24-26 and August 31-September 4<sup>th</sup>, as students became unavailable because of school activities. During the 14 weeks of the project inspectors were present at the launch sites a total of 560 hours or a total of 1750 student-worker plus adult volunteer hours.

## **2) Education of boaters AIS and prevention:**

During the 14 weeks of the project monitors inspected a total of 610 boats entering and/or leaving the lake. Along with inspecting the boats for plants before launching, the inspection teams also checked boats coming out of the water to make sure they left the landing site free of plant materials. The inspection teams also handed out educational materials, placed “Stop Hitchhiker” stickers on boaters trailers and talked with over 1050 boaters about the problems associated with aquatic invasive species. In addition to informing the boaters about the threat posed by the introduction of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other aquatic invasive species into our lake, the monitors demonstrated proper inspection procedures that boaters could employ on their own to ensure their boats and trailers arrive at landing sites free of plant materials in the future.

While carrying out boat inspections the inspectors asked boaters questions about their boating practices and knowledge about AIS and they in turn used this information to fill out Watercraft Inspection Daily Work Diaries. Inspection Diaries were completed for each launch site during each 4 hour monitoring session and all of this survey data entered into the CB/CW database.

During the busiest weekends of the summer, June 29-July 1 and July 6-8, more than 60 boats were inspected at the two launch sites, and during each of these weekends inspectors talked with more than 100 boaters about AIS. The landing site at the end of Main Street in Solon Springs (St. Croix Inn) was routinely the busiest launch site throughout the boating season. After the Fourth of July boat launches at both landing sites declined significantly, and remained low until the Labor Day weekend.

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## **3) Public education about AIS:**

Public education of lake association members and the broader Solon Springs community was achieved through the publication of articles in newsletters and local newspapers, the distribution of educational materials and brochures at public events, limited door-to-door visitations with lake shore property owners and presentations at meetings and civic organizations.

An initial announcement of the AIS grant along with a description of the proposed project and an invitation to attend the CB/CW boat landing inspector training workshop went out to all members of the lake association and most lake property owners in early-May. A total of 15 community members, plus 16 students, attended the two workshops. These individuals in turn contacted other members of the community and informed them of the importance of the project and the urgency to step forward and participate as launch site volunteers. This person to person communication between community members along with an extensive calling effort on the part of the project coordinator and others on the lake association board, continued throughout the summer. The culmination of these efforts to explain the importance of the project to lake-property owners and solicit volunteer inspectors resulted in the participation of 33 community members in the project. Although only a small proportion of the Solon Springs community, these 33 volunteers logged nearly 1000 hours at launch sites and in other activities associated with the AIS grant.

During the monitoring segment of the project, June 1, 2007 – September 4, 2007, the coordinator of the grant wrote an article for the local newspaper and two articles for the lake association's newsletter. These educational articles described the CB/CW boat landing monitoring efforts, solicited volunteers, recognized the participation of local high school students as inspectors and emphasized the importance of keeping the lake free of Eurasian Watermilfoil. In addition others on the lake association board wrote articles for the local newspaper. One of the articles, about the threat of VHS in Wisconsin Lakes, was specifically aimed at anglers, and three others focused on soliciting new volunteers and thanking those community members who had already volunteered as landing site inspectors. In addition to these published articles the project coordinator also prepared written reports for the monthly board meetings of the lake association. Educational material was handed out at a booth during the "Voyagers Daze" event in Solon Springs by the lake association. The booth was setup with the expressed intent of distributing educational materials and brochures about AIS to members of the Solon Springs community. Presentations were also made at various local group meetings and civic organizations about AIS and the CB/CW project, including the Solon Springs Writers Group, the Solon Springs Lions Club, the Upper St. Croix Lake Association Annual meeting and the monthly Solon Springs Village and Solon Springs Town Board meetings. And finally, as a culmination of the project the coordinator has been working with a local free-lance writer (Shelby Gonzales) on an article for "Wisconsin Outdoors News" about the participation of Solon Springs high school students in the CB/CW project.

Although these efforts may not be viewed as spectacular, they clearly represent a successful first year effort at educating local anglers, lake property owners and Solon Springs community members about AIS, and most importantly at preventing the evasion of AIS into Upper Lake St. Croix!

## **Project Deliverables:**

### **1) Documentation of Donated Time and Services:**

Donated Volunteer Labor Summary

Donated Volunteer Labor Worksheets

### **2) Documentation of Project Expenditures:**

Summary of Student Worker Hours

Summary of Cash Purchases and Receipts

### **3) Publications and Educational Materials Distributed to the Public:**

Student Worker Recruitment Document

Agenda for Upper Lake St. Croix Clean Boats Clean Waters Workshop

Copies of Articles placed in USCLA Newsletters

Copies of Articles published in the Local Newspaper (The Northwoods Shopper)

Minutes of the Lake Association meetings at which the AIS grant was discussed and reports given by the Project Coordinator to the Board

### **4) Watercraft Inspection Reports:**

All Watercraft Survey Data has been entered into the CB/CW data base

### STUDENT WORKER HOURS

<b>Student Worker</b>	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>Total Earnings</b>
Albano, Billy	90	720
Blaylock, Melissa	74	592
Emmons, Blake	64	512
Emmons, Luke	54	432
Garrison, Luke	52	416
Gaynor, Nick	48	384
Hebb, Mitch	98	784
Johnson, Amber	110	880
Johnson, Kimberly	24	192
Kivela, Jaren	6	48
Kuss, Katryna	44	352
O'Brien, Jason	60	480
O'Brien, Scott	142	1136
Rowe, Alex	30	240
Tyson, Stephanie	10	80
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### Cash Purchases for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Project

Items Purchased	Date	Cost	Equivalent Hours
<b>CBCW T-shirts</b>	<b>May 9</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>	<b>21</b>
Monitoring Supplies	May 9	\$52.07	6.5
Photocopying, Paper	May 22	\$23.54	3.0
Rain Poncho's	June 6	\$20.19	2.5
Photocopying	June 11	\$3.87	0.5
Insect Repellant	June 14	\$7.80	1.0
CBCW T-shirt	June 20	\$10.00	1.0
Northwoods Shopper	June 23	\$75.00	9.5
Northwoods Shopper	July 2	\$20.00	2.5
Photocopying	July 3	\$4.75	0.5
Northwoods Shopper	July 16	\$20.00	2.5
Northwoods Shopper	July 23	\$20.00	2.5
Northwoods Shopper	July 23	\$40.00	5.0
Photocopying, Paper	August 6	\$11.91	1.5
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		\$479.13	60

DONATED VOLUNTEER LABOR

Volunteer	Total Hours	Total Value
<b>Albright, Bill</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>32</b>
Edmunds, Peter	23	184
Edmunds, Polly	86.5	692
Essen, Sandy	13.5	108
Essen, Terry	17.5	140
Heim, Jim	75	600
Hinaus, Bud	41	328
Hinaus, Mary	34	272
Holst, Beth	15	120
Johnson, Diana	4	32
Keffer, Charlie	12	96
King, Deborah	4.5	36
King, Thomas	19	152
Kronzer, Richard	18.5	148
Mowbray, Sue	12	96
Mowbray, Tim	28.5	228
Mowbray, Tom	361	2888
Nagle, Doug	18.5	148
Nason, Lynne	43	344
Nason, Peter	41.5	332
O'Brien, Linda	12	96
O'Brien, Patrick	9	72
Pearse, Patricia	16	128
Pierce, Jon	18.5	148
Pilon, Jan	11	88
Pink, Barry	8	64
Porter, Dick	11.5	92
Turner, Fritz	16	128
Turner, Maryann	16	128
Walt, Chuck	8	64
Walt, Jori	4	32
Willis, Chris	4	32
Willis, Mike	4	32

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