

**2008 DNR AQUATIC INVASIVES SPECIES CONTROL GRANT**  
**LINCOLN COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION PUBLIC**  
**AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

**FINAL REPORT**  
**January, 2009**

**Project Background**

In early 2007, a group of Lincoln County lake leaders met to discuss the re-formation of a countywide lake association. These individuals worked tirelessly and by July, 2007, the Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers Association (LCLRA) was formally organized. At the initial organizational meeting, goals and objectives were identified with aquatic invasive issues being a high priority. Discussion occurred on the need to inform and educate lake and river shoreline property owners about the threats and impacts of aquatic invasive species to the water resources of Lincoln County. In order to inform and educate, the Association, in cooperation with project sponsor – Lincoln County, requested funds from the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program. The grant request was approved on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and the LCLRA Board of directors began planning for their AIS educational efforts.

**Project Accomplishments**

*Tomahawk Home Show* - The LCLRA participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> WJQ Annual Home, Sport, and Travel Show held April 4 and 5, 2008 at the Tomahawk School Complex. The Show was attended by approximately 5000 people over the two days of operation. 105 booths were operated by 75 businesses and 30 not-for-profit organizations. The Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers Association (LCLRA) booth was a double booth (10 ft x 16 ft.). The recently purchased Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers banner was prominently displayed thereby increasing public awareness of the organization. The booth was manned by volunteers from the LCLRA board that answered questions and passed out hundreds of invasive species documents provided by the WDNR which describe in detail the invasive species of concern in our area. Highlights of the exhibit were samples of real Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) and curly leaf pondweed. Both these samples were provided by Sandra Wickham of the Rhinelander WDNR office. These samples were prominently displayed submerged in water in clear display cases near the front of the booth. These “hands on” samples attracted the passersby's which then segued into conversations about the dangers of these species to our lakes and rivers. The literature from the DNR was then handed to those that stopped and listened.

Additional displays in the booth were the large topographic maps generated as part of the Lake Mohawksin Lake Planning Project. These maps show the location of EWM in Lake Mohawksin. Also, a large aerial photo of Lake Alice was displayed. The maps were of great interest to those that own land on or near these lakes. These owners are a major portion of our intended audience and were the addresses of the Mailing to Riparian Property Owners deliverable supported by this grant. (Please see attached pictures)

*Mailing to Riparian Property Owners* - The LCLRA felt that initiating contact with the riparian property owners within Lincoln County would be beneficial in educating about the threat and spread of aquatic invasives. In order to create a mailing, a mailing list would need to be generated. Geographic

Information System (GIS) staff in the Lincoln County was contacted and a mailing list of riparian owners was requested. Utilizing GIS technology, parcels located along waterbodies were identified and mailing lists, sorted by water body, were created. The mailing list was reviewed for duplicates and forwarded to the LCLRA. The LCLRA drafted a letter informing the riparian owners about the association and AIS issues and also created a brief questionnaire regarding lake issues. AIS flyers were included in the mailing as well as contact information. 3354 packets were mailed to riparian property owners. 132 individuals responded to the letter and in December, 2008 a follow-up letter was mailed to the respondents.

*Aquatic Invasives Monitoring Workshop* - The LCLRA sponsored an Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Bradley Town Hall in Tomahawk. This workshop provided a hands-on session in identifying invasive species and provided information on monitoring, removal and prevention of these invasive species. Bill Klase, UWEX Basin Educator provided the instruction for this workshop. This workshop was advertised in local newspapers, local radio stations and via email announcements sent specifically to Lincoln County Lake Association members. Seven individuals attended the training representing 5 different waterbodies.

*Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop* – A Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop was held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 5-8 PM at the Town of Bradley Town Hall, Tomahawk, Wisconsin. Erin Henegar, AIS Volunteer Coordinator from the UW – Extension Lakes Program, was the primary speaker for this event. Laura Herman, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator from the UW-Extension Lakes Program, assisted with aquatic plant identification and submission of specimens' requirement. This workshop was advertised on the UW – Extension Lakes website, local newspapers, local radio stations and via email announcements sent specifically to Lincoln County Lake Association members. Seven individuals attended the training representing 6 different waterbodies. CBCW Inspection Kits were purchased through this grant for those lakes present at this training.

*Educational Session at LCLRA Annual Meeting* – The Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers Association Annual Meeting was held Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Town of Bradley Town Hall in Tomahawk. The annual meeting began with an educational presentation by Bob Korth, UW – Extension Lakes Program. Bob provided a presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species issues in Wisconsin. Seventeen individuals attended the annual meeting.

*Clean Boats, Clean Waters Inspections* – The Lincoln County Lakes and Rivers Association began recruiting volunteers to implement CBCW inspections at boat landings. Unfortunately, limited inspections occurred but comments from the inspections that did occur were positive. The volunteers that completed the inspections entered the data into the SWIMS system. The volunteers also commented that the first inspection was the hardest and after that it was easier. A table, chairs and a sunshade were purchased through this grant for use by any Lincoln County Lake Association/District for CBCW inspections (see receipts – no picture available). The LCLRA is anticipating that more inspections will occur in 2009 and the plan is to start inspections earlier in the year rather than waiting till mid to late summer.

## **Project Comments**

Through this grant, the LCLRA was able to provide some educational efforts to increase the awareness of AIS issues within Lincoln County. The LCLRA was disappointed with the limited monitoring activities within 2008 but are anticipating an increase in monitoring activities during 2009. In addition, the LCLRA is looking at collaborating with additional partners (schools, businesses, etc.) in 2009 to increase monitoring activities and create additional awareness of AIS issues.