

## ECO Education / Pontoon Classroom

May 2010

### "2<sup>nd</sup> Pontoon Classroom / ECO Field Trip".

Following the success and excitement that was generated following the first field trip in the September of '09, the POA made the commitment to develop the program into a twice a year permanent program for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Life Science class at that Drummond schools. A vision for the program to go beyond our local was also beginning to develop with the hope that other organizations would use our program to start similar ones in their area.

The initial spring event was developed to support expanding our curriculum to six or seven different programs. For the spring program we added Reforestation/Shoreline Restoration, Benthic Macro Invertebrates and Critical Habitat. The spring program also initiated the inclusion of area professionals to support and assist in the presentations. Professionals from Bayfield and Polk County Land and Water Conservation Departments and members of the WDNR joined with the POA volunteers to present materials. Part of the driver for this was in the early spring, many of the POA membership are still away at their winter residences. The result of the professionals joining in the program raised the level of knowledge transfer for the students, as these presenters provided "real" expertise to the subject matter presented.

We also began to incorporate some in class presentation to assist in introducing the subject matter to the students prior to the field trip, which was helpful.

The professionals utilized included:

Butch Lobermeier from Bayfield County - Reforestation and Shoreline restoration

Jeremy Williamson from Polk County - Macro Invertebrates

Alex Smith from the WDNR – Critical Habitat

Pam Toshner from the WDNR – Critical Habitat

Ann Brovold from the M&M Greenhouse – Shoreline restoration (classroom discussion on Native Plants)

The location for this second program was moved to Bony Lake at the home of Carol Lebreck. The 37 students were split into 3 groups spent 45 minutes per each segment.

Prior to returning to school the professionals each took a few minutes to share their career stories with the students.