

**Highlights from the 2010 Oneida County Award Ceremony
for
Lake Groups & CBCW/CLMN Volunteers**

- Approximately 40 participants
- 14 lake groups represented
- Oneida County has > 1,100 lakes and many more rivers and streams covering over 68,000 surface acres (protecting our waters is of vital importance!)

Speakers

1. Tom Rudolph (Chair of Agriculture & Extension Education/Land & Water Conservation Committee)

- a. Talked about Committee and County support for the AIS Program, reflective in the creation and continued support for the full-time AIS Coordinator position and program
- b. Talked about the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP), a recently formed partnership between interested parties in Oneida and Vilas Counties working on terrestrial and wetland invasive species
- c. Talked about the importance of protecting our lakes and rivers in Oneida County, and thanked lake groups and volunteers for their efforts!

2. Bob Martini (President of the Oneida County Lakes & Rivers Association)

- a. Talked about the mission and activities of OCLRA
 - i. Provide education and information exchange with partners
 - ii. Provide service to the members (e.g. letters of support for grants, information, etc.)
 - iii. Represent a unified voice for lake groups in Oneida County when advocating on issues to local units of government
- b. Talked about the primary objectives for OCLRA this year
 - i. Support in the fight against AIS
 - ii. Revision of the Shoreline Ordinance Code in Oneida County
 - iii. Service to members
- c. Mentioned three things affecting lakes: AIS, improper shoreline development, and climate change
- d. Thanked lake groups and volunteers for their commitment to protecting our lakes and rivers!

3. Erin McFarlane (University of Wisconsin – Extension Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program Coordinator)

- a. Talked about History of Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program
 - i. CBCW Project developed by Minocqua, Hazelhurst, Lake Tomahawk (MHLT) middle school students in 2002
 - ii. State adopted CBCW program in 2004
- b. Talked about CBCW program in Oneida County

- i. Approximately 250 CBCW volunteers, likely a gross underestimate because not all volunteers enter their own data (some lake groups have coordinators that enter all volunteer data)
- ii. During 2004 – 2010 in Oneida County, over 34,000 boats were inspected, over 20,000 hours were spent inspecting at landings, and over 76,000 people were contacted
- iii. Top 5 CBCW data entry groups in Oneida County are:
 - 1. Three Lakes Waterfront Association
 - 2. Crescent Lake, Squash Lake, and Julia Lake Associations
 - 3. Lake George Association
- c. Mentioned that since 2004, appearance of new Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) populations has been cut in half in Northern Wisconsin
 - i. CBCW data shows that the number one way people get information about AIS is from watercraft inspectors at the landings
- d. Thanked volunteers!

4. Laura Herman (University of Wisconsin – Extension Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator)

- a. Talked about history of Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) program
 - i. CLMN program began in 1986 with collection of water quality information
 - ii. Monitoring of AIS began in 2006
 - iii. Data entry into the state’s Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database by volunteers began in 2009
 - iv. Since 1986, 3,392 volunteers have collected and entered data
 - v. Most volunteers are in the northern part of the state
- b. Talked about Oneida County’s CLMN program
 - i. 207 volunteers
 - ii. Likely many more volunteers that aren’t entering data...please do, so that your efforts can be recognized and the data can be shared
 - iii. Individuals in Oneida County who started participating in the CLMN program in 1986:
 - 1. Dale Jalinski
 - 2. Jack Schlaefer
 - 3. Bob Kirschner
- c. Talked about why, and the importance of, people participating in the CLMN program
 - i. CLMN volunteers want to know even more about the waters they live on or near
 - ii. Volunteers can monitor more lakes than is possible by the DNR
 - iii. Many new discoveries of AIS were due to volunteer monitoring efforts
 - iv. Many waters in Oneida County are still in need of monitoring
- d. Thanked volunteers!

5. Mindy Wilkinson (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources AIS Outreach Specialist)

- a. Talked about Eurasian Water Milfoil Research in Wisconsin
 - i. Focus on understanding EWM ecology
 - ii. Focus on EWM Management strategies
- b. Presented results on a 100 Lake EWM study evaluating heavy, light, and no management
 - i. No significant trends in EWM reduction by management actions
 - ii. However, past management techniques were primarily for “nuisance” control, and lacking strategic strategies for long-term reductions
- c. Current Research of EWM using strategic management strategies on 24 lakes
 - i. Annual aquatic plant surveys on all 24 lakes
 - ii. Established and new populations of EWM
 - iii. Managed and unmanaged lakes
 - iv. In fifth year of project, intended for 10 years
- d. Sandbar/Tomahawk (Bayfield County) case study
 - i. Objectives:
 - 1. Determine the effects of early season 2, 4-D chemical treatment on EWM.
 - 2. Determine the effects of early season 2, 4-D chemical treatment on native plant community
 - ii. Methods:
 - 1. Sandbar Lake – no chemical treatment (control)
 - 2. Tomahawk Lake – whole-lake chemical treatment
 - iii. Results:
 - 1. Sandbar Lake – no significant changes in the number of species, species density, or species biomass during the survey, EWM showed no significant change
 - 2. Tomahawk Lake – after treatment, EWM eliminated, number of plant species present in the lake almost cut in half, and large reduction in overall plant biomass

Note: measureable concentrations of chemical remained in lake for over 160 days (much longer than anticipated)
 - iv. Conclusions:
 - 1. Impact of EWM hard to predict
 - 2. Management actions need to be clearly documented
 - 3. Whole-lake chemical treatments can be effective, but have side effects
- e. Thanked volunteers, and commented that during her experiences, she hasn’t seen such a strong volunteer base!

6. Lawrence Eslinger (Oneida County AIS Coordinator)

- a. Talked about some interesting lake association projects
 - i. Three Lakes Waterfront Association: Adopt-A-Shoreline Program**
 - 1. Objective: Early detection of AIS (emphasis on EWM) through shoreline monitoring
 - 2. Program Description
 - a. Currently in sixth year of program

- b. Last year: > 350 volunteer hours, > 70 volunteers, monitoring 17 lakes
 - c. Lake captains for each lake recruit and train volunteers, assign shoreline monitoring stations
3. Program Methods
- a. Volunteers survey shoreline out to 5 ft (need rake)
 - b. Suspect AIS samples are collected in plastic bag and dropped off at local bait shop – board member picks up and identifies specimen
 - c. Volunteers fill out CLMN survey sheets and drop off at local restaurant – program coordinator picks up and enters into SWIMS database

ii. Two Sisters Lake Property Owners Association: Boat Wash Station

- 1. Total project cost approximately \$450 (included construction of sign, power washer, water pipe, etc.)
- 2. Nearby landowners donated use of well water and storage for equipment
- 3. Boat wash station area slopes away from lake
- 4. Boat wash methods
 - a. Boaters with unclean boat/equipment are asked to use the wash station
 - b. CBCW watercraft inspector cleans boat following DNR protocol:
 - i. Sprays boat with diluted bleach solution
 - ii. 10 minute bleach solution contact time
 - iii. Power washes boat clean

iii. Tomahawk Lake Association, Inc.: Hydraulic Conveyor System

- 1. Unique device, that when coupled with scuba divers, harvests EWM (roots, fragments, and all), and filters out clean water to make disposal easier and lighter
- 2. Methods of the Hydraulic Conveyor System:
 - a. Scuba diver identifies EWM, and leads EWM into suction hose, diver loosens root wad
 - b. Suction hose creates vortex, sucking in EWM, and transports to work boat
 - c. EWM and other sediments are filtered out by a series of fine-meshed filtering screens
 - d. Drained and filtered EWM is bagged for disposal
- 3. Advantages of the Hydraulic Conveyor System
 - a. Completely selective, more efficient for divers
 - b. Removes entire plant (roots and fragments)
 - c. Ideal for pioneer populations, hard-to-reach areas, sensitive areas, and other infested areas where other management actions are not effective or advisable
 - d. Little disturbance to plant and animal community without residual effects of non-selective management techniques

4. 2009 Hydraulic Conveyor System Stats
 - a. 88 sites harvested, ranged from 1 EWM plant – high density infestations (most sites would have went unmanaged – due to small size)
 - b. 18,725 pounds of drained EWM harvested from Tomahawk Lake

iv. Crescent, Julia, and Squash Lake Associations: AIS Control Grant/Partnership

1. Wanted to get grant funding for an AIS Project
 - a. Crescent Lake Association identified that working together with neighboring lakes on one project could give them a better chance of getting a grant – by having more grant ranking points
 - b. Crescent, Julia, and Squash Lake Associations began meeting, and over time, collaboratively wrote a grant project covering all three lakes
 - c. Grant was approved!
2. Activities being performed on all three lakes
 - a. Hired a Clean Boats, Clean Waters Coordinator responsible for recruiting, training, and scheduling volunteers for each lake. Also, entering inspection forms into SWIMS database
 - b. Producing and distributing educational materials to area businesses (e.g. bar coasters, calendars)
 - c. Performing lake monitoring
 - d. Helping to control EWM – Squash Lake only
 - e. Construction of storage sheds for boat landing inspections, lake monitoring tools, etc.
- b. Thanked all lake groups and volunteers, and encouraged them to keep up the good work!

7. Awards presented by Lawrence Eslinger

- a. Individually mentioned all CLMN volunteers in Oneida County with at least 6 years of service in the program (28 people)
- b. Distinguished Service Awards

i. Stephanie Boismenu

Stephanie serves as chairperson of the Squash Lake Association's AIS committee, and she single-handedly wrote their Early Detection and Response grant, due to the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil last year. She has since spearheaded the implementation of that grant, and from August of last year, to May of this year, Stephanie had logged over 122 hours of volunteer effort. Since that time, she has been supervising the contracted scuba divers in their hand-pulling efforts to eradicate the milfoil. Last summer she coordinated Squash Lake Association's Clean Boats, Clean Waters boat landing inspection program. Stephanie has been tireless in her commitment to preserve the integrity of Squash Lake.

ii. Glen Peterson

- Glen Peterson from the Crescent Lake Association has been an outstanding volunteer. Glen has been the “Captain” of the Crescent Lake Association’s Clean Boats, Clean Waters team for the past six years. He has trained and scheduled volunteers and entered all of the watercraft inspection data into the SWIMS database. With Glen’s help, the Crescent Lake Association now has approximately 42 volunteers that interact with hundreds of boaters each year. Last year, Glen himself, put in 95 hours at the landing performing watercraft inspections, which doesn’t include his time training and scheduling other volunteers. Individuals such as Glen are invaluable to the protection of our waters.

iii. Ned Greedy

Ned Greedy has been serving as the Tomahawk Lake Association’s Executive Director for the last year, but he has been a volunteer dating back many years.

Ned’s mission has been to focus on two main areas: first and foremost, to lead the Tomahawk Lake Association’s efforts in combating AIS in Tomahawk Lake.

Ned, himself, researched and built the lake associations Hydraulic Conveyor System – a unique piece of equipment that when paired with divers, literally vacuums the EWM at the root level. The second area of focus for Ned has been the education of lake users and lake property owners. Ned has trained and staffed Clean Boat Clean Water programs at Tomahawk Lake boat landings, and he was also instrumental in the first ever Tomahawk Lake Fair, which focused on education and activities for people of all ages. Ned is a great example of the type of leader and volunteer that drives the success of a lake organization.

iv. Sally Murwin

- Sally has been president of the Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lakes Association for approximately 13 years. During that time, she has been a motivating leader towards the protection of these lakes. Sally has been instrumental in acquiring support for projects on the lakes, and to date, the Minocqua/Kawaguesaga Lakes Association has raised over \$750,000 through grants, fundraising, membership dues, gifts, etc. Sally has volunteered and organized everything from Clean Boats, Clean Waters programs to informational programs for children in the area. Sally’s dedication and passion towards the preservation of our water resources is a model for individuals to follow.

v. Dale Jalinski

- Aside from being the president of the Bear Lake Protection District for a number of years, Dale has been collecting water clarity and chemistry information on Bear Lake for a whopping 24 years. Effort’s similar to Dale’s are critical in the understanding of lake dynamics.

vi. Marj Mehring

- Marj has been diligently collecting lake monitoring data on Squash Lake on her own for 23 years.....long before there was ever a Squash Lake association. Her

data has included measurements on water clarity, water chemistry, dissolved oxygen, and ice on/off dates. Volunteer efforts such as Marj's provide important information to aid in lake management.

vii. Dick Johnson, Dan & Sue Pagel, and Cheryl Kamba

- Members of the Blue Lake native aquatic plant monitoring group are: Dan & Sue Pagel, Dick Johnson and Cheryl Kamba. The Blue Lake water quality group began collecting water quality data in 1993 with the efforts of Betty Myers. Dick Johnson started collecting information with Betty in 1996 and has continued since. In 2008, Dan Pagel started to explore the possibility of applying for a lake management planning grant with the WDNR. However, since there is no public access on Blue Lake there is less chance of receiving grant funds. Therefore, Dan and Sue Pagel got a group of people together to do a complete aquatic plant survey on Blue Lake. Sue Pagel learned how to identify all the plants on the lake and was meticulous in identifying and recording each species found. With the group's motivation, they successfully completed the aquatic plant survey, which greatly benefited their development of a lake management plan.

viii. Pat Donnick & Joanne Erickson

- Joanne Erickson and Pat Donnick volunteer their time to implement the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program on Horsehead Lake in the Town of Lake Tomahawk. Together, they diligently and enthusiastically greet fishermen launching or landing their boats, passing out AIS literature and diplomatically engaging them in conversations aimed at protecting Horsehead Lake and others in Oneida County. Volunteer efforts such as theirs are very commendable.

ix. Dan Mueller

- Dan Mueller is a volunteer for the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program of the Three Lakes Waterfront Association. For the past six years Dan has devoted every Friday morning during the summer monitoring the Town Line boat landing in Three Lakes. He starts before Memorial Day and works 5 hour shifts every Friday morning. Dan has not missed a shift in six years. Dan's commitment is a great example of someone who appreciates the beauty of our water resources, as well as someone who wants to see them protected for future enjoyment and benefits.