

Clean Boat and Clean Waters (CBCW) 2014

Carl Holmgren, BLPRD Commissioner and CBCW Chairman

We completed our eighth year with the Clean Boats and Clean Waters (CBCW) program for Balsam Lake. This success was achieved with the help of Unity High School students who signed up to work both volunteer and compensated hours. The compensated hours are funded with the help of DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grants that we received since the start of our program. Our current grant covers the 2012 – 2014 time-frame. We will be applying for another grant for 2015.

We started 2014 as in past years with opening of fishing on May 3rd (Wisconsin opening of fishing) at all four public landings on the lake. Included were Balsam Lake Village Beach, 46 Store, East Balsam, and Little Balsam. We ended our season on August 31st (Labor Day week-end). This gave us great satisfaction knowing that all four of our public landings had volunteers to work the CBCW program that included boat and trailer inspections, data collection, inform boaters of the laws in place, and AIS information distribution.

CBCW Summary Statistics:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of Volunteers Involved	17	26	43	44	34	44	21	17
Total Inspection Hours	506	939	1,050	920	908	1,058	873	505
People Contacted	1,164	2,412	4,375	3,367	4,225	4,047	3,194	1,823
Number of Boats Inspected	587	995	1,838	1,669	1,810	1,825	1,407	834

(Note: Team Leader hours not included with Inspection Hours)

Review of the statistics shows we had a down year in 2014 in all areas. This could be attributed to availability of volunteers, weather conditions, and whatever. All data collected is entered into the State DNR SWIMS database and can be accessed at www.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw/about/.

We did have some reports of uncooperative boaters, however I believe that is something to expect with people. I encourage all BLPRD boaters to introduce themselves to the volunteers and ask them questions regarding the CBCW program when you meet them at one of the landings. They are working to keep our lake free from invasives.

Again, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in the program who would like to volunteer and be part of the CBCW program for 2015 to contact me at 715-485-9421. Our training takes place in April at Unity School prior to the opening of fishing.

Special thanks to Unity School staff for their support with recruiting student volunteers, the Village of Balsam Lake (Lori Duncan) for helping with the time sheet processing, and the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department (Jeremy Williamson and Katlin Holm) for assisting with the CBCW orientation and training.