

Final Report

Balsam Lake Grant AEPP-073-07

December 31, 2009

AIS Surveillance

In addition to CBCW inspections, regular AIS surveillance at the boat landings occurred through a contract with Aquatic Engineering. Endangered Resource Services completed pre and post monitoring of curly leaf pondweed treatment areas (12 acres). ERS also found purple loosestrife on private property near the Balsam Lake Village Beach when conducting a point intercept survey for the lake in July 2009. Polk County LWRD staff were contacted, and the plants were removed and treated with herbicide. These activities were not charged to grant AEPP-073-07.

Clean Boat and Clean Waters (CBCW) 2009

Carl Holmgren, BLPRD Commissioner and CBCW Chairman

We completed our third 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.

We started 2009 as in past years with opening of fishing on May 2nd at all four public landings on the lake. Included were Balsam Lake Village Beach, 46 Store, East Balsam, and Little Balsam. We ended our 2009 season on August 31st (weekend before Labor Day). 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, and AIS information distribution. We changed our schedule from previous years to include off hours during the week (10 – 2 and 12 – 4) for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Saturday hours were 8 – 4 and Sunday hours were 12 – 4.

Program Summary

	2007	2008	2009
Number of Unity Student Involved	17	26	43
Total Inspection Hours	505	961	2,337
Paid Hours	198	468	1,150
Volunteer Hours	307	493	1,187
Number of Inspections	628	995	1,841

The major goals we set for 2009 were to expand the program to include all four public landings on the lake and include more weekdays in our schedule. I am proud to report that we did accomplish both of these goals.

For next year we do hope to get families and other lake groups to be involved and experience why the Clean Boat and Clean Waters program is important for our lake. We will also in 2010 be more involved with more aquatic plant inspections at the landings. Additional volunteer inspectors are being solicited for 2010.

Special thanks to Jeanne Alling (Unity High School Teacher) for assisting with scheduling, Village of Balsam Lake (Lori Duncan) for helping with the time processing, and Polk County Land and Water Resources (Amy Kelsey and Jeremy Williamson) for assisting with the orientation and training.