

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. The compensated hours are funded with the help of an DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant that we received providing funds for 2007 – 2009 and BLPRD funds. Noting that we have applied for a follow-up two year grant for 2010-2011.

We started 2009 as in past years with opening of fishing on May 2nd (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 2009 season on August 31st (week-end 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's was 8 – 4 and Sunday was 12 – 4.

Our preliminary statistics include:

	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	1,560**

** All data for 2009 has not been entered into the State DNR database.

I would like to say this is my year end report, but due to the number of inspections, volunteers involved, and data collected (all data is entered into the State CBCW database) final statistics will be presented in the next issue of the Dockside.

The major goals we set for 2009 were to expand the program to include all four 'Public Landings' on the lake and include more week-days 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 inspection at the landings. Anyone interested in participating with the CBCW program as volunteer inspector for 2010, give me or one of the other commissioners a call.

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