

**Crescent Lake – Squash Lake
Lake Julia
Grant Report**

Project # AEPP-234-10

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INTRODUCTION

The goal of the grant activities for the three lakes involved in the grant has been to keep the lakes as free of invasive species as possible. In that effort local volunteers are trained to increase user awareness as to how they can participate in lake enjoyment without contributing to conditions that result in exposure to invasive species.

The objectives growing out of that goal were as follows:

- Lake associations have maintained trained crews of volunteers to inspect watercraft for invasive species as they enter and leave the lakes. They have recorded data on SWIMS forms and that data has been entered in the data base provided by the DNR.**
- Volunteers have monitored the lake shore and bottom to identify all vegetation and record the findings. All vegetation that was suspected of being invasive has been reported to the DNR for confirmation.**
- Members of the Lake Julia Association did road side clean up in the area of the lake.**
- Members of Crescent Lake Association continued efforts to control the spread of Purple Loosestrife by removing all identifiable plants and disposing of them according to DNR guidelines.**
- Squash Lake continued to reduce the spread of Eurasian Milfoil in the lake by pulling and transporting the visible plants to a disposal site.**
- All three lakes participated in activities to spread information in the area. These projects were the creation of a float in the Rhinelander July 4th Parade, creation and distribution of an AIS calendar and the distribution of additional beverage coasters that were created in 2011. In addition, a “welcome pamphlet” was created by the lake associations for property owners. The pamphlet included information about AIS. It was presented to all current property owners and given to area real-estate agencies to give to prospective lake property owners.**

CB/CW TRAINING

FOR THE SUMMER OF 2012 Crescent Lake Association trained on May 13, 20 and 27 and June 24th. The total was 6 trainees. All were for inspections on Crescent and the location was the boat landing on Hwy 8. Each session was for three hours for a total of 12 hrs of time by the trainer. Trainee's time was three hours each for a total of 18 hrs. Names of the trainees were as follows: Jim Binder, Ray Brzycki, Mike Henry, Jack Grzesik, Linell Grzesik Max Jurries,

Lake Julia had 3 individuals (Pat Hoppe, Harry Helwig, and Chuck Olienik) receive AIS training from Wisconsin Extension at the airport on 5/10/12 from 5:30PM – 8:30PM for a total on 9 hours.

Squash Lake had 8 individuals (Sharon Sparling, Gary Sparling, Marj Mehring, Dale Smith, Brion Appling, Wes Jaros, Richard Gratton and Dan Butkas) trained in the summer of 2012. The trainings were on May, 3, 19, June 9, July 21 and Aug 1. The training was done by Janet Appling and Bill Akan.

Janet was a paid coordinator for Squash Lake while Bill Akin was a volunteer. Bill contributed three hours training. Trainees donated 20.5 hours

CB/CW BOAT INSPECTION

The inspectors for Crescent Lake were busy at the landing from May 5 through the end of the Hodag Muskie Hunt September 23, and the three summer holidays. In addition, some volunteers worked impromptu hours on occasion. This is the ninth year that Crescent has inspected and they set a new high for volunteering; 703 hours. They were able to increase the number of boaters we met to 2,894 and the number of boats inspected was 1,399. All of the data was entered into the SWIMS data base and graphs showing the compiled data are revealed in appendix A. Inspectors from Crescent have reported that most of the lake users are familiar with the threat of AIS.

Lake Julia inspectors made a commitment to work the weekends of the opening of fishing season, the weekend nearest July 4th and the weekend of Labor Day. They also worked the weekend of the Hodag Muskie Hunt which is usually a high traffic time for their lake. Their volunteers inspected 126 boats and contacted 219 people during the 100 hours that they spent at the landing off Timber Lodge Road in the summer of 1012.

Squash Lake began working at their landing on May 5 when the season opened. They worked until Sept 26. The data was entered into the SWIMS web account by and it indicates that they worked 223 hours and inspected 150 boats and met 324 lake users.

The chart showing the inspection efforts is in appendix A

LAKE VEGETATION MONITORING

Crescent lake worked with a crew of eight volunteers on June 7, 2012 to monitor the lake for invasive vegetation. The crew consisted of Jim Gehrke and Jerry Klinger who volunteered the use of their boats. Others workers were Dick and Shirley Lower who have helped identify plants for several recent years. Ron Paque, Terry Goldbach, Sandu Lama, and Jim Ronyak did the rake tossing and recording. All plants that were brought into the boats were identified and recorded on forms that were created for this purpose in past years.



Figure 1
Shirley Lower of Crescent Lake identified vegetation drawn from the lake on June 7, 2012. Data is recorded each year and will be used to make comparisons. No vegetation that was found in this outing was suspected to be an invasive species.



Figure 2
Volunteers pictured here and others on Crescent and Julia tossed specially designed rakes hundreds of times to “catch” vegetation. The goal was to confirm that no Eurasian Milfoil was present. The two lakes mentioned did not find any invasive milfoil this year. If suspicious plants had been found they would have been taken to the DNR for further study.

Crescent Lake normally monitors the lake twice a year, but in 2012 the Department of Natural Resources notified the coordinator that they would be visiting Crescent to monitor. Because the lake association worked with the DNR on their visit, the association did not do a second monitoring. (See appendix for letter of results from the DNR lake monitoring.)

Lake Julia monitored the lake on June 6th from 9 to 12 noon. Five members of their association reported and they contributed a total of 15 hours . Again on October 15 a crew manned a pontoon boat and cruised the perimeter of the lake and tossed rakes to bring up vegetation for identification. Five members contributed 2.5 hours each for a total of 30 hours.

Squash Lake has been busy with Eurasian Milfoil removal most of the summer. The efforts regarding that process are supported by another DNR grant. Because it is a labor intensive endeavor, it was decided not to spend time monitoring for further detection of plants by use of boats and tossing rakes. Many of the lake property owners have been trained in identifying Eurasian Milfoil and they monitor by wading or floating the shore of their land and additional frontage that they volunteer to monitor. They report any sightings of EWM to the coordinator of the grant. This decision was made with the approval of Kevin Gauthier and Jane Malischke of the DNR (See appendix)

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE REMOVAL

Purple Loosestrife removal was a larger part of the AIS activity for Crescent Lake this year. On July 12, 2012 Jim Gehrke met Michele and Angie from the Oneida Co. Land and Water Conservation Office at the boat landing on Crescent Lake to investigate the possibility of hosting some beetles that the county had been nurturing. (See figure 3) The beetles had been collected from other locations in the county and encouraged to propagate for the purpose of relocation to feed on purple loostrife. The two county AIS employees determined that we had adequate density of loostrife plants to make our site a good location for four of the pots of beetles. Property owners were contacted to get permission to place the beetles.

The next day Jim Gehrke returned to the selected location and staked the four pots on the shore and removed the screens so that the beetles could spread to the surrounding plants. (See figure 4)

Upon checking on the plants surrounding the pots, it appears that near by plants are being eaten by the beetles. County AIS experts will monitor the project for further evidence of beetle activity.



Figure 3



Figure 4

On July 20, 2012 a team of Crescent Lake Assoc. members met at the boat landing to walk the shore of the lake and remove Purple Loosestrife. The group consisted of Jim Gehrke, Joel Knutson, Denis and Donna Laddusire, Dick and Shirley Lower, and Glen Peterson. The lake had been visually checked previously so we concentrated on areas where the plants had been observed.

The shore east of the landing to Pleasure Point had several plants that were removed. We did not remove plants in the 200 foot stretch where the pots of beetles were placed earlier.

We also removed purple loosestrife plants in the bay known as Engstrand's Bay. The plants near Engstrand's Bay were the first that had been seen on the southern end of the lake. Lowers had also seen some plants on Radtke Bay shore, but we were not able to locate them on July 29th.

In all 600 lbs of loosestrife were removed.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Several public awareness activities were included in the grant. Each lake association erected signs at the landings, participated in the creation and distribution of beverage coasters, contributed to the creation of a calendar and contributed to the design and distribution of a brochure on preservation and protection of the lake through proper lake front care and AIS awareness.

Most of the work on sign erection was done in the first two years of the grant. Crescent Lake hangs a large banner at the landing when inspectors are present. The banner has been used for several years and was in need of repair. A new banner was ordered this year.



Figure 5

Once again beverage coasters were distributed to local businesses in 2012. The message on the coaster was, “Please do your part to protect our lakes from aquatic invasive species.” The coasters were pictured in the 2011 report. Several thousand coasters were given to the following businesses:

Rhineland Café and Pub, Buggy’s Bar and Grill, The Northwestern Lounge, Henkel’s Town Pump, The Longhorn Saloon, The Log Cabin, Buckethead’s and Mulligan’s.

JULY FOURTH PARADE FLOAT

The three lake associations collaborated on building a float for the July Fourth Parade in Rhinelander. As in past years informational packets were handed out along the parade route. The packets included the same information that is presented to boaters and anglers at the boat landings. In this way we were able to reach hundreds of community members and visitors to the area that we may otherwise not have reached.

Figure 6



Figure 7

The fourth of July Parade theme for 2012 was “I pledge allegiance.” One of the handouts was a pledge to the State of Wisconsin to protect the waters against AIS. This was written by a Squash Lake member and printed on business cards, laminated and handed out, not only at the parade, but at the landings. The fishermen were asked to take the pledge and were given a card. (A copy of the pledge is attached.)

AIS CALENDAR

In 2012, as in the past years of the grant, a calendar was mailed to everyone on the mailing list of the three lake associations (about 550.) The mailed calendars were accompanied by a letter which can be seen below. An additional 150 calendars were ordered and each association was able to give them to area businesses for distribution. The calendar has AIS information and photos of most of the more frequently found invasive species on the inside of the cover. A copy of the cover letter is below..

**Jim Gehrke
Grant Representative
6714 Melody Lane
Rhineland WI 54501
715-282-5924**

December, 2012

Greetings!

Here is your new 2013 calendar. Enjoy the beautiful images taken by your neighbors. We are fortunate to enjoy the views of our lakes in person throughout the year and these printed pages daily.

The photos are a reminder of the importance of doing our part to preserve and protect the lakes from invasive species. Once a lake is infested with invasives it is impossible to restore it to its original state and our property is no longer the treasure it once was.

Each of the three lakes above has had its negative influences. We cannot withstand the effects that time has on the ecosystem, but we can prevent or control Aquatic Invasive Species. Every lake resident can help next summer and every summer.

- Become familiar with the invasive species; know what they look like and how to maintain the lake so that they are less apt to gain a foothold**
- Contact your lake association and find out how your skills can be used to aid in the efforts already underway**
- Set a goal to donate a number of hours each month to the programs, or suggest new ways that you can combat the invasive species**
- Attend lake association meetings, pay your dues, become familiar with the web site, and your newsletter. They both have up to date Aquatic Invasive Species information.**
- Monitor the shoreline on, and in the area of, your waterfront regularly. Bring any suspicious vegetation to the attention of one of the AIS activists.**
- Enlist the help of family members and neighbors in any or all AIS activities.**

Training for all of the efforts is offered to anyone that contacts us. It is done right on your lake.

**Sincerely,
Jim Gehrke
Grant Representative**

A copy of the 2012 calendar is attached.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Crescent Lake Association and Squash Lake Association had a joint reception to recognize volunteers. The associations agreed to purchase food from a local caterer and provide beverages and deserts and appetizers from the kitchens of board members. A token gift of a chamber buck coupon was given to each of the volunteers. Grant money was used to buy the token gifts. See Appendix

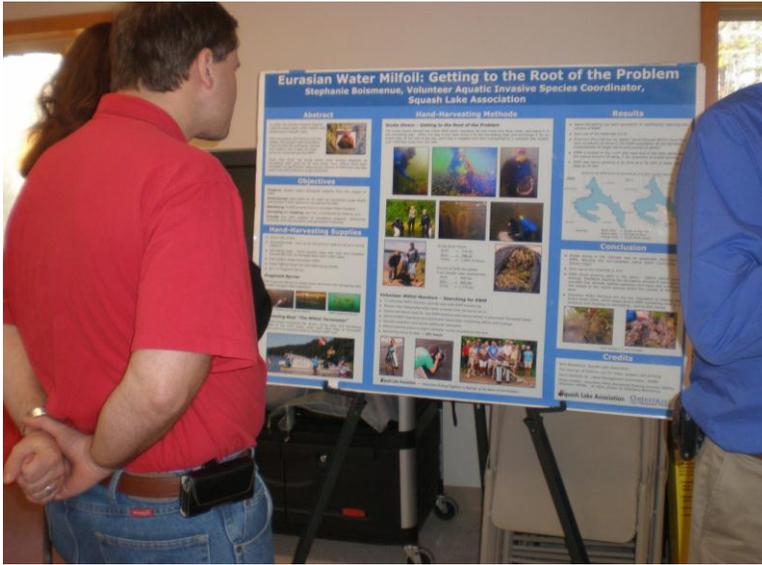


Figure 8
Squash Lake Members shared a display of invasive species information for everyone to add to their knowledge base.



Figure 9
A large crowd enjoyed the meal and the chance to renew friendships and make new acquaintances.

APPENDICES

**DOCUMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER HOURS – CRESCENT
DOCUMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER HOURS - JULIA
DOCUMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER HOURS - SQUASH
SWIMS PIE CHART SHOWING THE RESULTS OF 2012 SEASON FOR
ALL THREE LAKES**

**DOCUMENTATION OF VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
FOR CALENDAR**

RESULTS OF DNR MONITORING OF CRESCENT LAKE

**SQUASH LAKE ASSN. REQUEST FOR, AND APPROVAL OF, HOURS
ADJUSTMENT FOR LAKE MONITORING**

