

**LAKE LUCERNE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT**

In 2009 thru 2014, the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association (LLAA) applied for and received an AIS Grant to hire a Lake Coordinator to monitor the Lake Lucerne public boat landing (DNR owned), educate the lake residents, monitor shorelines for AIS, and report to the DNR and the LLAA. In addition to the Lake Coordinator, the LLAA also appointed an Educational Committee which provided materials at two Lake Association Meetings, provided several training sessions, and coordinated volunteers to monitor shorelines and educate neighboring lake property owners about Aquatic Invasive Species. The program was a huge success and was very well received by the lake residents and visitors.

The LLAA is applying for a 2016 AIS grant to continue with the above AIS program and protect this water body from AIS.

**Description of Project Area**

Lake Lucerne is located in Forest County, Wisconsin and is within the boundaries of the Town of Lincoln. It is a very long, narrow lake with a surface area of 1,026 acres and a maximum depth of 73 feet. It is known for its exceptional water clarity. It consists of two very different sections divided by a group of islands. The southern one fourth is quite shallow and relatively fertile from an aquatic plant standpoint. The area to the north of the islands has very little surface area that is less than twenty-five feet deep. The bottom is predominantly large rocks and borders with very little vegetation. Lake Lucerne currently has "Outstanding Water Resource" status.

Lake Lucerne is the headwaters of Swamp Creek, an important tributary of the Wolf River. This lake supports a diverse fishery, including stocked brown and lake trout.

There is one public boat landing, one private landing and numerous landing sites on former resorts and private homes. The lake experiences moderate boat traffic, and high fishing pressure.

The lake is home to approximately 335 residents of which 33% are permanent residents. Many of the residents have resided on the lake for many years.

While it has been noted that we have infestations of Rusty Crayfish, Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites, only Rusty Crayfish and Phragmites have been verified recently to exist in Lake Lucerne.

## **Description of problem to be addressed by project**

The LLAA and the boaters who frequent the lake have been fortunate that beyond Rusty Crayfish, Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife no other forms of AIS have been discovered on the lake. The problem is, without a proactive plan in place, the prevention of AIS from entering the lake will turn into a remediation project, costing far more and consuming more resources. Clearly, the AIS problem needs to be addressed proactively, especially since many of our neighboring lakes including Lake Metonga, Roberts Lake and Pickerel Lake all have some form of AIS. Of special concern is Lake Metonga which has an infestation of Zebra Mussels, Rusty Crayfish and Eurasian Water milfoil. This lake is less than one mile from Lake Lucerne, so the prospect of transporting these species from nearby lakes is very real.

The Lake Association received an AIS grant in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, and utilized a Lake Coordinator and several hundred volunteer hours to monitor the public boat landing and shorelines for invasive species. The support of the lake residents was tremendous as education was well received, and volunteer time was above and beyond the requirement of our grant, even exceeding the expectations of the Lake Association.

The Lake Association is aware that education and prevention remain the best method to insure that invasive plants and animals do not enter the lake. Attendance of DNR and UW Extension members to our associations membership meetings are clear indications of the education support by the LLAA members. Attendance at the Wisconsin Association of Lakes AIS Conference, cooperation with neighboring associations and Native American Tribes, as well as Clean Boat/Clean Water training in 2007 through 2013 have assisted in our monitoring efforts.

The placement of a kiosk at the public boat landing in 2009, as well as the existing kiosk at the private boat landing, continue to provide valuable information supplied by the DNR and the LLAA to transient users and residents of the lake.

## **Discussion of project goals and objectives.**

The main goal of the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association is to increase awareness of AIS and thus reduce the likelihood of an infestation problem.

### **Goals:**

- a. **Mailings.** Increase public awareness of AIS issues by dissemination information at the public boat landing, at lake community events, at resorts and businesses, and through mailings to property owners on the lake and within one mile of the lake.
- b. **Clean Boats/Clean Water.** Participate in the Clean Boats/Clean Water volunteer watercraft inspection program. Train additional volunteers and maintain existing volunteers. Additional and continued training will be provided at our clubhouse on several occasions, including the annual meeting and membership meetings held each summer.
- c. **Kiosks.** Maintain the informational kiosks at the public boat landing and Waters Edge Lodge (private landing). Most information is received from the local DNR Agent.

- d. **Engage Residents.** Continue to train lake residents in identification of AIS and what to do if AIS are discovered on their lakefront or found in the lake.
- e. **Partnering.** Continue partnerships with the neighboring Native American Tribes to protect the natural resources vital to their spiritual and cultural heritage.

### **Objectives.**

- a. **Volunteer Training.** Volunteers from the Lake Lucerne Advance Association will continue to be identified and trained for the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. Training will take place during the annual “Clean Up Day” in May, and during other times when it is deemed necessary.
- b. **Educational Materials.** Mailings will be sent to lake property owners and within one mile of the lake to acquaint them with the AIS problem and how they can help with prevention.
- c. **Volunteers.** Maintain the established staff and volunteer inspection schedule for a minimum of 59 days of the season at boat landings and provide boaters with a handout packet of AIS identification and response information.
- d. **AIS Identification and Removal.** Maintain training on how to identify AIS and the methods to report infestations or remove invasive plants.
- e. **Volunteer Coordinator.** Hire a volunteer coordinator to implement volunteer training and schedule and supervise boat launch inspections.
- f. **Informational Materials.** Prepare and distribute materials for display at local businesses and at public events.
- g. **Partnering.** Work with the Native American Tribes to increase awareness and encourage joint efforts toward the common goal of environmental protection.

### **Description of Implementation Methods and Activities**

- a. Methods learned by volunteers through “Clean Boats/Clean Waters” program will be used for watercraft inspection.
- b. Volunteers conducting inspection will collect data on form 3200-120 and the coordinator will enter weekly summaries on the DNR website.
- c. Any reports of AIS will be forwarded to the Rapid Response Team for follow-up action.
- d. Boat landings will be monitored per a schedule encompassing a minimum of peak usage days of the week for a minimum of 59 days during the 2014 boating season.
- e. Educational and volunteer recruitment literature will be mailed to property owners and made available to area businesses, public events, boat landings and seminars.
  - Placemats will again be developed for use at the local resort. Once again, the FCAL or WAOL placemat format will be used (purchased jointly).
  - Provide CBCW “do-it-yourself” placards for both boat landings, describing proper steps to self- inspect and evaluate boats, trailers and bait boxes.
  - AIS/CBCW can coolers for distribution at educational seminars and boat landings (for cooperating lake users, visitors and volunteers).

- f. Final reports to the DNR and other interested entities will be produced. Lake Lucerne Advancement Association will share information with the Forest County Association of Lakes and other interested organizations.
- g. Develop a partnership with the Mole Lake and Potawatomi Native American Tribes for participation in the AIS program.

### **Description of project products or deliverables**

- a. A minimum of 800 volunteer hours will be spent at the public boat landing and monitoring shorelines as part of the Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program.
- b. Approximately 50 hours of training for invasive species identification.
- c. Approximately 80 hours of training for Clean Boats/Clean Waters.
- d. Samples of the AIS/CBCW report placemat.
- e. Pictures of the Kiosk with signage.
- f. Form 3200-120
- g. Final Report to DNR, Town of Lincoln, Forest County Association of Lakes, Mole Lake Tribe, Potawatomi Tribe and other interested parties.

### **Description of data to be collected, if applicable**

Data collected will be that required by the DNR. Form 3200-120 will be a key source. In addition, anecdotal information from volunteers and coordinators will be collected. Pictures and samples will be collected as applicable.

### **Description of existing and proposed partnerships**

The LLAA is partnering with several organizations to facilitate and effectuate this project. The Mole Lake Tribe and Potawatomi Tribe are both partnering with the LLAA. The Mole Lake Tribe annually exercises their spring spearing of Lake Lucerne and is very concerned with the healthy management of this pristine lake. The Potawatomi Reservation is located just north of Lake Lucerne and tribal members utilize the Lake on a regular basis. Both tribes have supplied a letter of support for this project.

The Town of Lincoln (in which Lake Lucerne is Located) and Forest County have also supplied a letter of support for this project.

Roberts Lake Association has also submitted a letter of support for this project. The LLAA and Roberts Lake Association continue to partner on several projects, including education of lake residents about AIS.

The Lake Metonga Lake Association is a close advocate of the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association. With several invasive species already present in Lake Metonga, and hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent on remediation, the sharing of information is critical to halt the species spread to other lakes in the immediate area.

## **Discussion of role of project in planning and/or management of lake**

Although Lake Lucerne remains “clean” from most invasive species, we are very aware of the Eurasian milfoil and Zebra Mussels present in Lake Metonga. The proximity of these two water bodies is less than one mile of separation. Below is our proposed schedule of activities to address the AIS issue:

- April 1, 2014 – distribute CBCW/AIS placements to Water Edge Lodge for regular use during the boating season
- April 1, 2014 – LLAA Newsletter to include information on CBCW/AIS, also announcing partnerships with others
- April 1, 2014 – LLAA Newsletter to include information requesting volunteers for CBCW/AIS inspection program, and shoreline monitoring
- Mid May, 2014 – Offer continuing educational program for lake residents to train on CBCW/AIS
- May 1, 2014 – beginning Clean Boats/Clean Waters Boat Inspection Program at Public Boat Landing
- June, 2014 – Training to take place at the Annual Meeting of the Lake Association, including updates by county and regional CBCW/AIS leaders

The public boat landing will be manned 32 hours per week beginning May 1 (opening of fishing season), and ending in late September or early October (dates to be determined). The shoreline monitoring will be conducted from ice out (normally the end of April) until October.

## **Plan for sharing project results**

The results of the inspections and lake monitoring will be posted on the Association website <http://www.lucernewi.com>. A final report will be submitted to the DNR, Town of Lincoln, Forest County, FCAL and interested parties.