Spring Lake, Waushara County - Wisconsin

Clean Boats, Clean Waters
Watercraft Inspection

Program Description:

Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, volunteers/inspectors are trained to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Adults and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. Inspectors perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species, distribute informational brochures and may also collect and report any new water body infestations.
http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/default.aspx
http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CBCW/

Spring Lake Management District's role:

Friends of Spring Lake volunteers are helping the Spring Lake Management District improve the health of Spring Lake by talking with boaters at our main public access landing starting in 2017. Spring Lake has two aquatic invasive species (AIS), specifically Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and Curley-leaf pondweed (CLP), and at this point in our lake management plan, our lake efforts have significantly reduced the amount of AIS plants in our lake. It's time for us to look at adding **preventative ways** that we can keep more of these invasive plants from entering the lake – not just spending time, money and volunteer efforts at removing/controlling existing AIS plants.

A simple method will be used during the summer of 2017 to begin using the friendly, educational approach by volunteers stationed at the landing, to greet boaters when they arrive at the landing, or if not spoken with when they arrive, then when the boaters remove their watercraft from the lake. The Clean Boats-Clean Waters flyers, pamphlets, conversation with boaters uses a non-confrontational discussion between the volunteer/inspector and the boater to reinforce Wisconsin's "bait laws" that requires each boater to:

- Inspect their boat, trailer, and equipment
- Remove all attached aquatic plants, animals, and mud before launching and before leaving the water access
- Drain all water from boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers, and all equipment before leaving the water access

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- Never move plants, mud, live fish* or live fish eggs away from a waterbody - This includes live gamefish and roughfish, like gizzard shad.

*Exceptions are minnows obtained from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer or registered fish farm, which may be transported away live and used again (in up to 2 Gallons of water) IF:

- On the same waterbody, or
- On any other waterbody IF no lake or river water, or other fish were added to the container

NOTE: Ice, not melted (drain any melted ice), may be kept to keep your fish, food, beverages cool.

Unwanted bait (including earthworms), other animals or aquatic plants should be disposed of in the trash (take them home and dispose them in the trash, compost them, use as fertilizer in a garden).

Suggested ADDITIONAL steps to take if you are transporting a boat and/or equipment from one waterbody to another include:

- Spray, rinse, or dry boats/recreational equipment to remove or kill species that aren't visible when leaving a waterbody, or going to another waterbody.
- Disinfect boat/recreational equipment to kill species and fish diseases not visible when leaving a waterbody. Many aquatic "hitchhikers" can survive out of water for some period of time.

(Use a mixture of 2 ½ Tablespoons of household bleach / 1 Gallon of water).

Water activities can include:

- Using personal watercraft
- Shore and fly-fishing
- Sailing
- Scuba diving
- Waterfowl hunting
- Boating

Help us keep Spring Lake a healthy lake that ALL of us can enjoy!

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Spring Lake Plan 2017 – Volunteers to cover 2 ½ hr shifts at SW public access landing off Holiday Lane on weekend, 3-4 times over the summer. This will alert boaters that Spring Lake is also asking boaters to comply with live bait DNR regulations and will have volunteers at the landing at periodic times.

Friends of Spring Lake t-shirts to all volunteers
Flyers/pamphlets at landing in "take one" plastic box attached to public landing signage
Additional handouts/references available – stickers, AIS ID cards

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