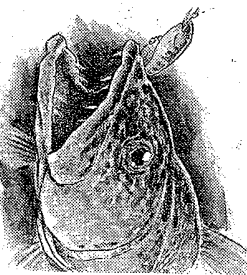


# INTER-COUNTY LEADER OUTDOORS



ATVS • BIRDING • BOATING • CAMPING • FISHING • HIKING • HUNTING • RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

## Clean boats, clean waters on Blake Lake

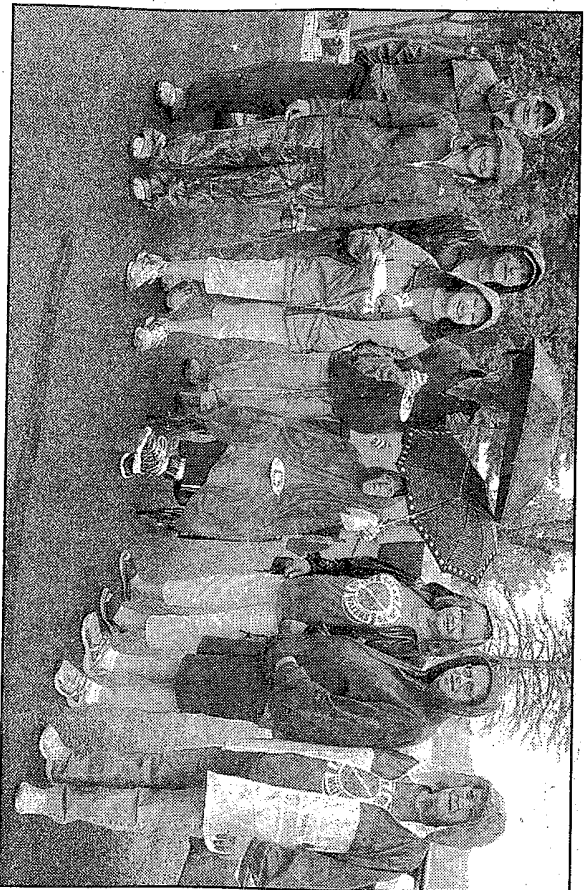
### Boat checks part of DNR Landing Blitz over holiday weekend

BALSAM LAKE - Volunteers from the Big Blake Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District educated boaters and conducted free boat checks over the Fourth of July weekend as part of the seventh-annual statewide DNR Landing Blitz. Over 200 lakes were part of the blitz this year. Statewide last year, over 12,000 boats were inspected and 28,573 people were contacted during the holiday. Inspectors work to assure that boaters do not accidentally spread Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

The volunteer inspectors help boaters understand Wisconsin's invasive species laws and what they must do to clean equipment entering or exiting the water.

"Invasives are a serious threat to water quality and property value. By following simple steps, boaters can preserve the quality of our lakes for our grandkids to enjoy," says Peggy Lauritsen, Clean Boats, Clean Waters, AIS coordinator. "We have 40 dedicated volunteers who give 400 hours per season to help protect water quality on Blake Lake."

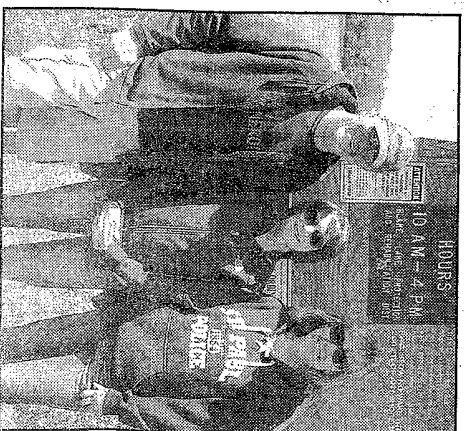
Invasive species crowd out native species, disrupt lake ecosystems and interfere with boating, fishing and other recreation.



Clean Boats, Clean Waters training and volunteers on Blake Lake over the Fourth of July weekend and shown (l to r) are: Aquatic invasive species experts Jeremy Williamson and Kaitlin Holm, water quality specialists of Polk County Land and Water Resources, volunteer boat inspectors Mike Rogge, Judy Hall, Vince and Mary Teuber, Vicky Dörner, Sue Ogren and Diane Borden. Not pictured: Peggy Lauritsen, Tom Borden, Jim and Marge Filkins and Joyce Booth.

The main ways invasive species and fish diseases spread to new waters is aboard boating and fishing equipment, live fish or water moved from one water body to another.

The volunteers, who have been trained through Wisconsin's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, demonstrated the required prevention steps boaters must take, provided stickers for boaters to



Some of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteers on Blake Lake over the Fourth of July weekend shown (l to r) are: Mike Foley, Ann Foley and Shelley Rodriguez.

place on their trailer posts to remind them of these steps and talked about Wisconsin invasive species and VHS laws.

Boaters, anglers and others enjoying Wisconsin waters are required to inspect boats, trailers and equipment; remove all attached aquatic plants and animals; drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment; and never move plants or live fish away from a water body. Limited exceptions apply. Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search for bait laws. - from CBCW