

## **UWSP Treehaven Students Need Help Educating about Aquatic Invasive Species**

Help needed! For the second summer, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Treehaven students will be working at various boat landings in the Tomahawk area. During the summer of 2010, nineteen Treehaven students worked a total of 553 hours and contacted 1513 people. The scope of their work was to inform boaters about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and to help clean watercraft of any aquatic plants. Survey questions were completed for each contact made. The data was used as part of a statewide survey on boater behavior and knowledge of AIS. The data collected included people's knowledge of AIS, where people have gotten their information, and AIS laws.

Just to reiterate what the AIS laws are: All aquatic plants and animals must be removed from the boat, motor, and trailer before leaving the boat landing. All water must be drained from the boat, including live wells and containers with fish, before leaving the landing. No live fish shall be transported away from the water body (a fish out of water is considered dead for transportation). Ice can be used.

For the summer of 2011, Treehaven students will continue to educate boaters at landings. They will also help with invasive species monitoring on lakes in Lincoln County. The students are restricted to working weekends because of their weekday class requirements. For this reason volunteers are needed again to help fill the weekday and holiday gaps. Volunteer help is needed not only to help prevent spreading of invasive species and to educate boaters, but to also meet requirements of the grant which makes this project possible.

**A presentation covering watercraft inspections and AIS identification will be held to train participating students and volunteers on July 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM till 9 PM. The presentation will be held at Treehaven in the auditorium. Everyone interested is invited.**

As you visit local lakes you may also notice other watercraft inspectors at the boat landings. Lake Mohawksin has two paid inspectors, Lake Nokomis has two paid inspectors, and the Spirit Reservoir has volunteers that monitor the landings during high traffic periods.

Anyone interested in the trainings, Treehaven project, concerns on their lake, or AIS in general can attend the meeting or contact Chris Hamerla, Lumberjack RC&D AIS Coordinator, serving Lincoln, Langlade, & Forest Counties at [chris\\_h@frontier.com](mailto:chris_h@frontier.com) or 715-369-9886.