Conservation Corner

*Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at* *lcc@co.forest.wi.us**.*

**Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz**

Boaters and other recreators learn about the risks of spreading aquatic invasive species (AIS) at public and private boating access sites across the Great Lakes region every summer. The Great Lakes AIS “Landing Blitz” events take place over a two-week period, emphasizing the need to **Clean, Drain, Dry**boats whenever they come out of the water, and **Dispose**of any unwanted bait in the trash.

Local volunteers partner with state and provincial agencies to deliver consistent messaging about preventing the introduction and spread of AIS from the movement of watercraft and equipment between water bodies. Information on these events, including educational materials, locations and volunteer opportunities are posted on this page as they become available.

The Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz is a multi-agency partnership effort. The 2020 event will take place between June 28 – July 5. Partners may also schedule additional events outside of these dates.

Remember, as a boater you should:

**CLEAN**off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access

* Rinse equipment and boat hulls (with high pressure, hot water when possible)
* Rinse interior compartments of boats with low pressure, hot water (120°F)
* Flush motor with hot water (120°F) for 2 minutes (or according to owner’s manual)

**DRAIN**motor, bilge, livewell, and other water containing devices before leaving water access.

**DRY**everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

**For ANGLERS, the additional step of DISPOSE is recommended:**

**DISPOSE**of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait container and replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.