



Detectives for the Chain of Lakes

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Introduction to Stewardship Project

The two teachers that attended the “Exotic Aquatics” workshop brought information back to the National Junior Honor Society of Peter J. Palombi Middle School. The students decided to make the school and community aware of the problems within the Chain of Lakes. Groups worked on different ways to approach the students at the school, community members, and the marinas in the neighborhoods. They wanted to raise the community awareness of ways to keep the exotic species from spreading in the chain of lakes.

Objectives

The objective was to create environmental awareness with the students of Peter J. Palombi Middle School and the surrounding communities. The students felt that the location near the Chain of Lakes was perfect to learn about exotic species and the impact it has on the ecosystem of the chain of lakes.

Student Activities

Students learned about the problems facing the Chain of Lakes in their community. They decided that they would like to help the ecosystem of the lakes by making community members aware of the problem.



Gina Mikel, <http://www.scientificillustrator.com>



Awareness Posters in the Public Eye

Students created posters to put up in the library, schools, supermarkets, gas stations and the marinas in the communities surrounding the Chair of Lakes. This was a great opportunity for the students to become involved with the community. Students even put some of the posters up in the lake restaurants to spread the word.

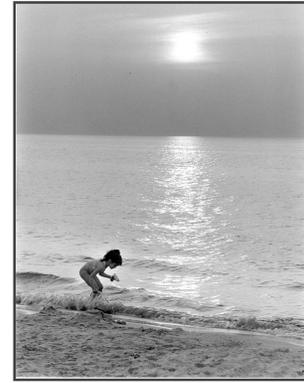
Information with a Smile

Students passed out their brochures at neighboring marinas and gas stations. They also dropped some off at the local libraries around the Chain of Lakes and asked people to help keep our lakes safe and clean.



What you can do to save the lakes

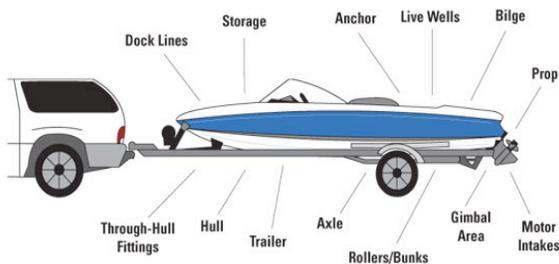
- Wash your boat with over 104 degrees Fahrenheit water
- Drain water from your motor before leaving the body of water
- Never release animals from one body of water to another.



Info on the Web

The “You Tube” and website was the perfect place for the students to share their concerns and ideas about how to change the lakes. First, the students used the school to show their mini clip on “saving the lakes.” Their message was then added to the NJHS website, and we are hoping to get it running on “You Tube.” Students were very excited to share their concerns through video.

Before launching and before leaving... Inspect everything!



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Boat Wash

One of the marinas in the community said that the students could do a boat wash at their public launch to help spread the concerns of the lake. The boat wash took place in July 2011.

Outcome/Impact of the Project

The outcome was very rewarding for the students. They now felt a part of the community with voicing their concerns. NJHS at the Palombi Middle School students are now quite aware of the problems in the Chain of Lakes. Many of these students have parents or relatives with boats that use the lakes. Spreading the word of “saving our lakes” has become a wonderful project for us to undertake. After putting all of our information in different venues and areas of our communities the students hope that people will become aware of what is happening in their lakes. Hopefully this will lead to a reduction in the invasive species in our Chain of Lakes.

