



CBI Update

July 2016

The Courtesy Boat Inspection program is the first line of defense against the spread of invasive aquatic plants. This newsletter is a way for inspectors around the state of Maine to stay connected and informed.

Big Save at Salmon Lake in Belgrade

Earlier this summer Courtesy Boat Inspector Doug McCafferty found curly-leaf pondweed entering the lake on a boat from New Jersey. Doug found several fragments on the boat, many containing turions (see photo). As a long time CBI and owner of the Whisperwood Lodge & Camps on Salmon Lake, Doug is dedicated to keeping his lake free of invasives. Whisperwood Lodge has been part of the CBI program through the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance for 12 years. This is Doug's 4th catch in 7 years! Keep up the good work!



**Curly-leaf Pondweed
Fragment**

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CBI Training Video

This video shows the standard for conducting a boat inspection. Even if you have already seen the video several times it is always worth watching and sharing with your inspectors again!



Trouble with Military Time?



Many inspectors have trouble remembering to fill out their forms in military time. Some just forget but there are many who are unfamiliar with this standard of time. Most people use their phones to get the time so to make the process easier simply change your photo time settings to the 24 hour clock. Let's all make an effort to increase the quality of our data.

Great funding idea from Friends of Wilson Lake

There are 58 organizations in Maine who participate in the DEP's CBI grant program. That's 58 programs splitting the finite amount of money raised by the sale of Maine watercraft registrations and Lake and River

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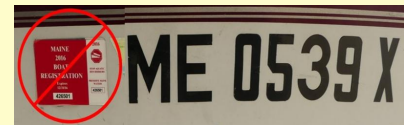
Protection stickers for non-Maine registered boats. For most organizations this grant is a small part of their operating budget. Lake associations and groups without a large bank account have to find ways to raise money to support their program.

Enter Wynn Muller, CBI Coordinator for the Friends of Wilson Lake. Wynn reached out to local businesses and asked them to sponsor part of the CBI program. For \$250 a business can sponsor a weekend of inspections and receive recognition at the launch kiosk as well as notes of thanks in local papers and newsletters. So far this summer Wynn has managed to get 11 weekends covered by sponsors. Hopefully he can continue this model and maybe other organizations can learn from his example. To read an article Wynn wrote about the program click [here](#). If you would like to speak with Wynn about getting started you can contact him via email: wynnmuller@comcast.net.

Which Number?

Always record the alphanumeric number on the bow of the boat, not the river and lake protection sticker number.

Non-residents buying these stickers cannot be tracked through this number.



Quality Control on Inspection Forms

By Mary Jewett

Every two weeks coordinators from participating organizations mail me (Mary at Lakes Environmental Association) their inspection forms. For the most part Maine's Courtesy Boat Inspectors are doing a great job with data collection. I have been working in this program for about 5 years (not nearly as long as some of you!) and I've developed what I think are some pretty solid ideas about the importance of what we are doing. Here are the three things that we are trying to accomplish with the program.

1. Conduct a thorough inspection of every boat.
2. Educate boaters about the threat and encourage self-inspection.
3. Collect quality data to track how successful the program is.

Throughout training and hopefully on the job this summer you have been working on all three of these goals. This article addresses the third. Every summer we run into the same common issues which can effect the reliability of CBI data. Here are the most common and easy to fix:

- Forgetting to circle whether or not you found plants. So far this summer LEA found 115 inspections that did not have this question answered.
- Not circling if a boat has the current sticker. LEA found 49 inspections where this question was not answered.
- Handwriting. One key to quality data is its readability. If we cannot read certain numbers or letters it can compromise the inspection information. Writing legibly is critical for this program.

These three are the most common issues on CBI forms but there are others that come up. The reason I am sharing these with you is because I believe these are also the easiest problems to avoid. Each of you should be double checking your forms for missing information at the end of each shift. If you have a slow day make sure that every inspection is totally complete in between boats. If you have a hard time writing legibly in the field please consider re-writing your forms before submitting them. This makes it easier for the data entry folks in Augusta. Let's all work together to increase the effectiveness of this program!