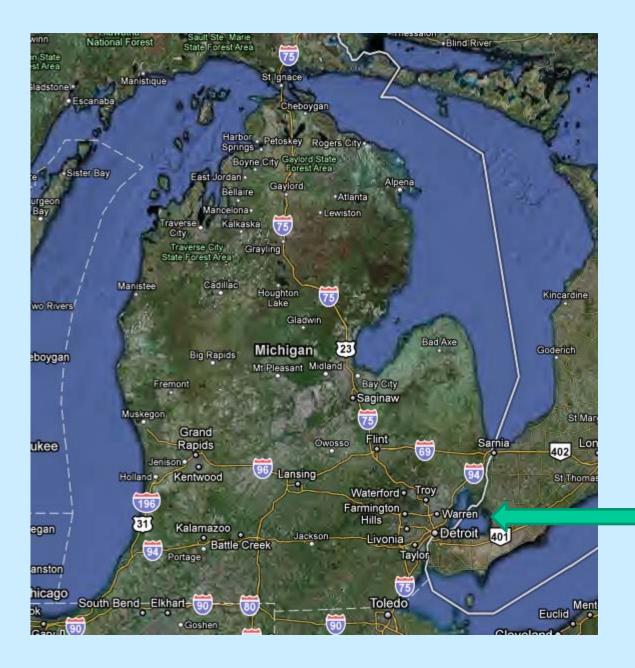
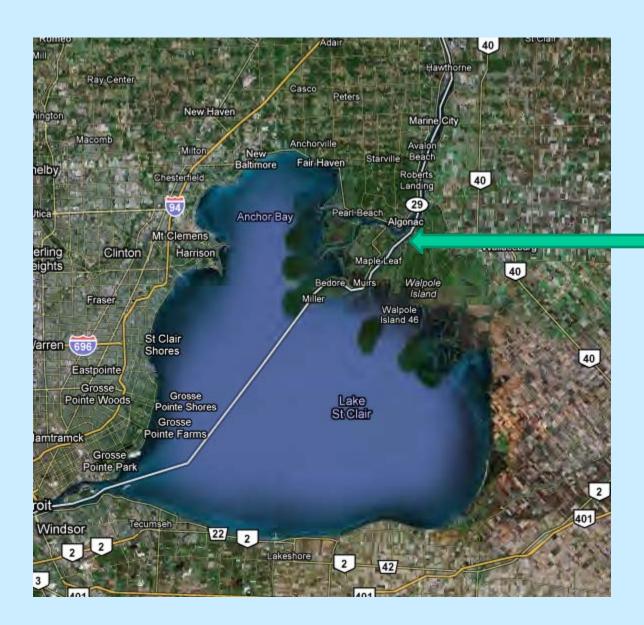
# Stewart Farm, Harsens Island & Clay Township Phragmites Management Programs

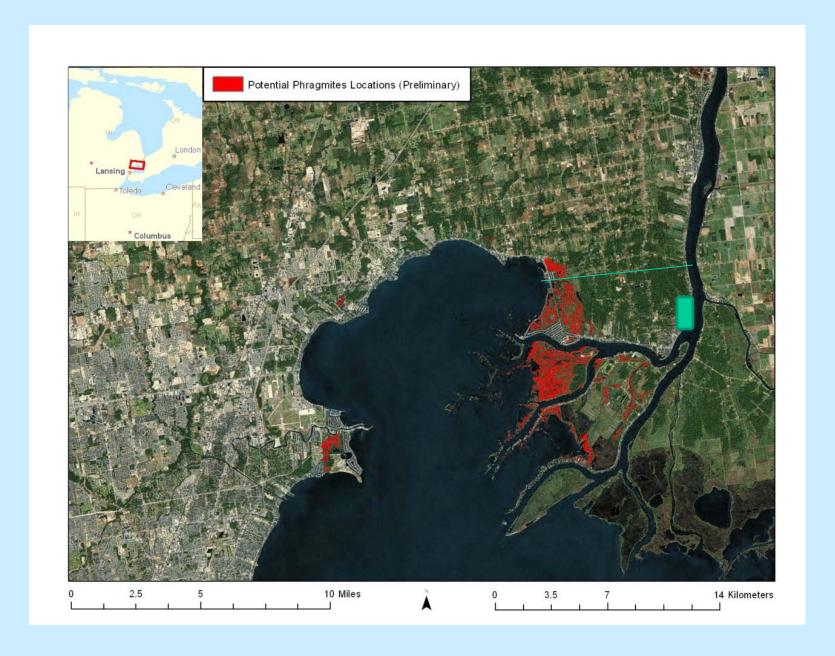
March 29, 2011

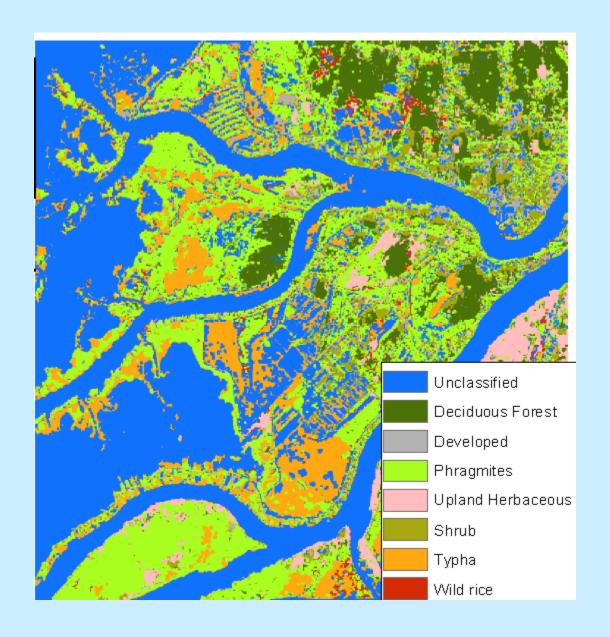


By Bob Williams of Phragmites.org – Bob@Phragmites.org



















#### Stewart Farm - 2008



**Blocked Views** 

#### Stewart Farm - 2010



In about 2000
 DNR starts
 Phragmites
 Control at St.
 John's Marsh,
 Clay Township,
 St. Clair County



### Year 2003

 Began Phragmites control at Stewart Farm based on research and results at St. John's Marsh



### September 2005

Our first workshop – 86 attendees show up



#### October 2005

- Harsens Island Phragmites Committee is formed by 5 residents.
- Over the next 5 years the group
  - Initiated and maintained Phragmites.org
  - Conducted annual workshops
  - Provided information on chemical purchase
  - Advised residents on obtaining permits
  - Assisted neighbors with treatment
  - Developed and shared equipment
  - Provided herbicide samples



# Local residents developed specialized equipment



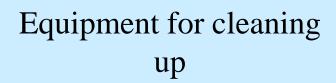
Equipment for cutting over water



Phragmites.org

## Equipment for cutting under water





Phragmites.org

19

## Cobbled together pieces











#### 2005-2009

• Harsens Island Phragmites Committee worked as an unofficial, unregistered committee of citizens to help each other solve a problem which was common to much of the community.

### February 2010

### Initiation of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Program

- Clay Township Supervisor asked citizens and government representatives to discuss a Township wide program to address Phragmites Management.
- Over the next four months more than 50 property owners and government representatives were involved in the development of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Plan and Program 2010.

#### The Problems Identified

#### Property owner needs

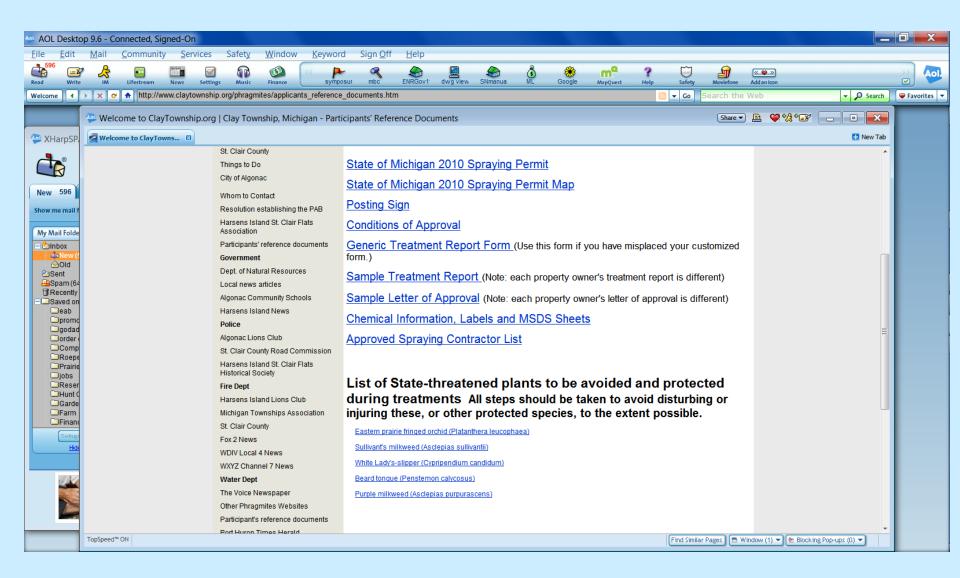
- To understand the problems created by Phragmites.
- To know that there was something they could do about Phragmites.
- To be educated in the safe and effective methods of controlling Phragmites
- To have easier access to the proper chemicals and equipment needed for safe and effective control.
- To get assistance in obtaining the required permits, retaining qualified contractors and in some cases actually treating their Phragmites.
- To have someone coordinate their efforts with that of adjacent property owners including the State of Michigan.

## Clay Township Phragmites Management Plan and Program 2010

- Resolution adopted June 7, 2010 by the Township Board
  - Supporting the property owners in the areas specified
  - Creating a coordinator and a volunteer organization
  - Surveying the infestations (using GIS)
  - Establishing priority treatment areas
  - Exploring sources of funding



Initiated and maintained a website at www.clayTownship.org/Phragmites





Conducted 5 Phragmites Management Workshops and trained 186 people in Phragmites Management



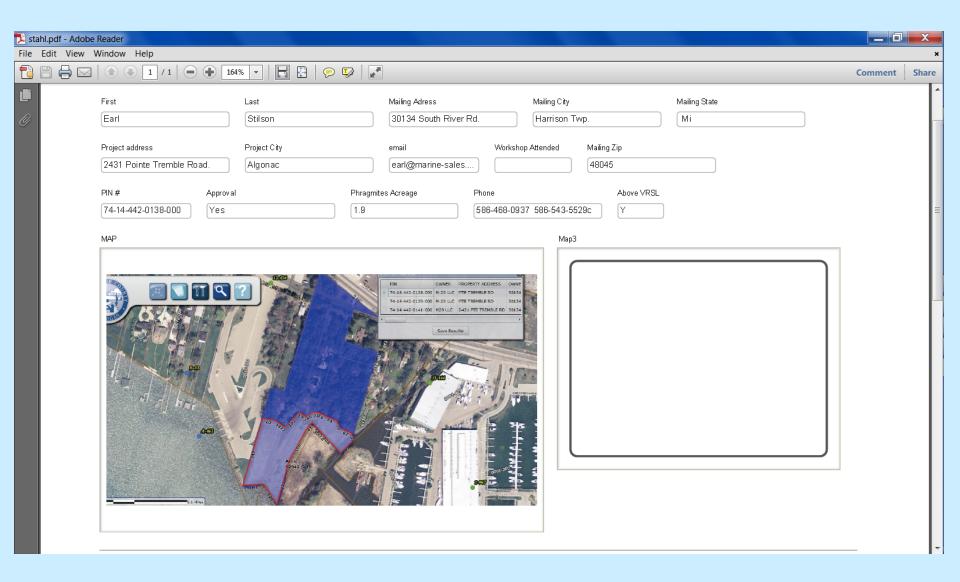
Arranged for a sign at St. John's Marsh to publicize the program.

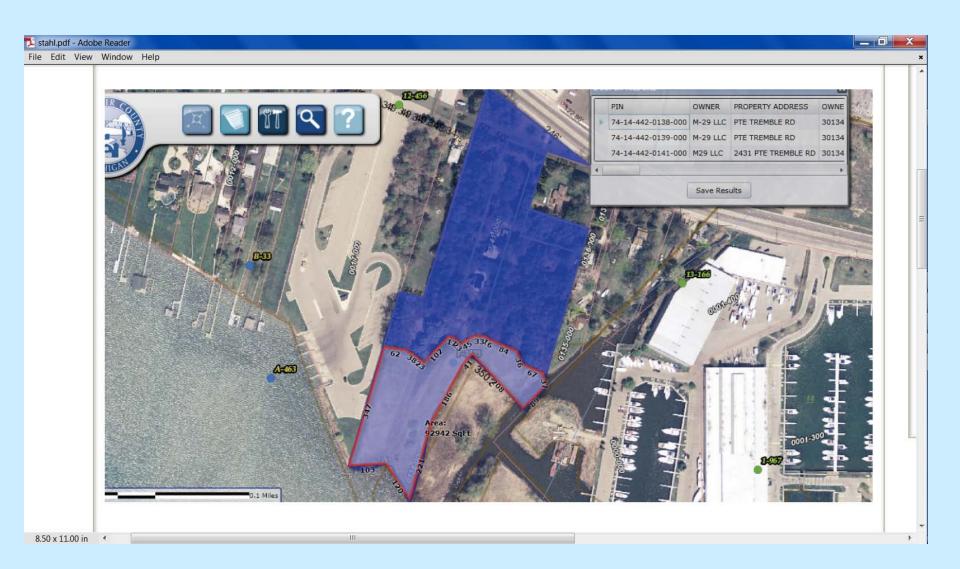
Initiated and maintained a Phragmites Management phone hotline.

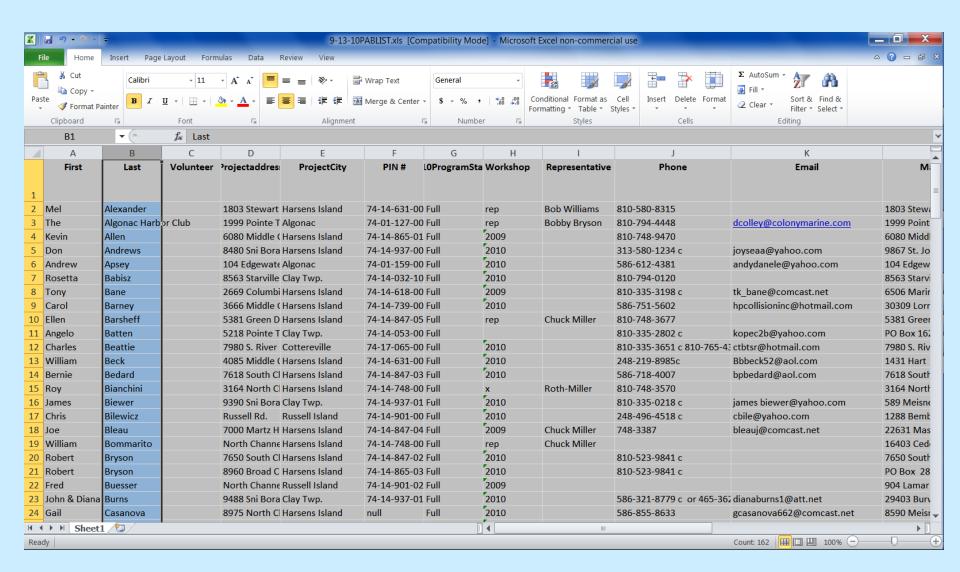
#### Clay Township Spraying and Mowing Permits Procedure

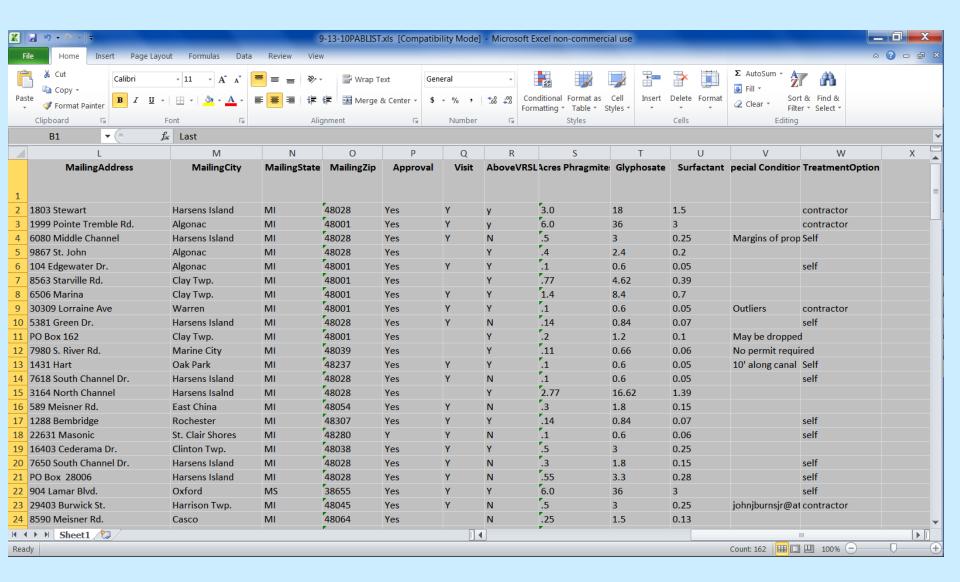
## During 2010 the Township procured spraying permits for 161 properties and mowing permits for 94 properties

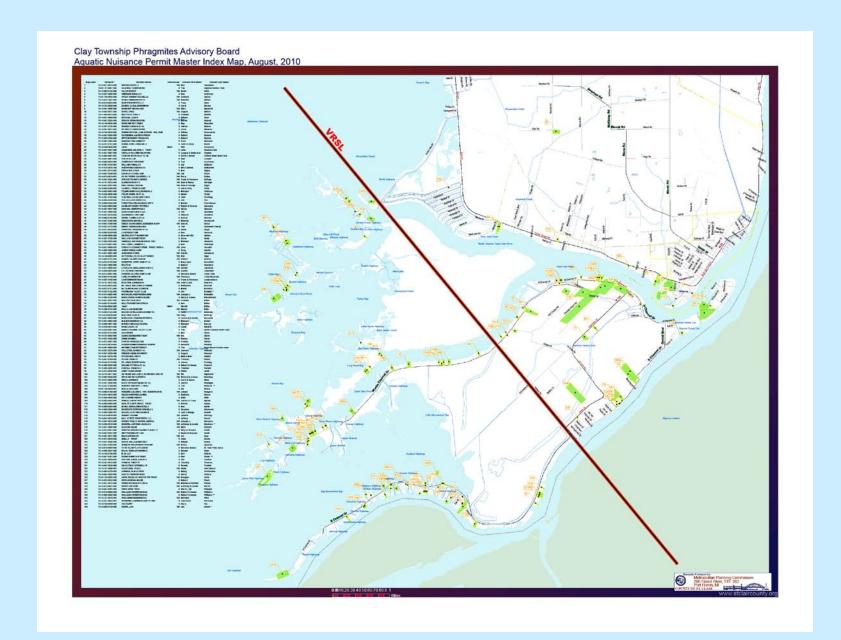
- Property owners applied to be in the program
- Volunteers inspected each site, consulted with the property owners and noted infestation area and conditions
- Property owner attended a Phragmites Management Workshop
- The Township applied to the State for permits for all the properties
- The Township received a single season spraying permit and five year mowing permit from the State
- The Township issued individual approval letters to participants along with the needed posting signs and treatment report forms
- The property owner completed the treatment and mowing and filed reports with the Township.
- The Township filed treatment and mowing reports with the State.











#### Herbicide Distribution

During 2010 the Township distributed enough chemical for property owners to self-treat over 330 acres of Phragmites.

- Property owners applied to be in the program
- Participants attended a Phragmites Management Workshop
- Participants ordered and paid for chemicals at the Township
- The Township ordered chemicals in individual 2.5 and one gallon bottles by the pallet at special government prices.
- Purchasers picked up herbicides from the Township

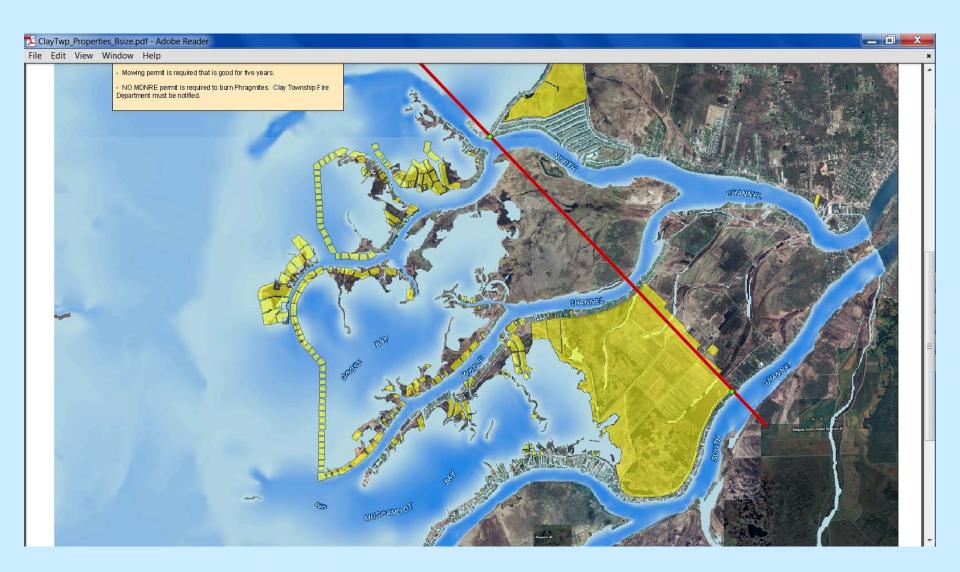
### Volunteer assistance program

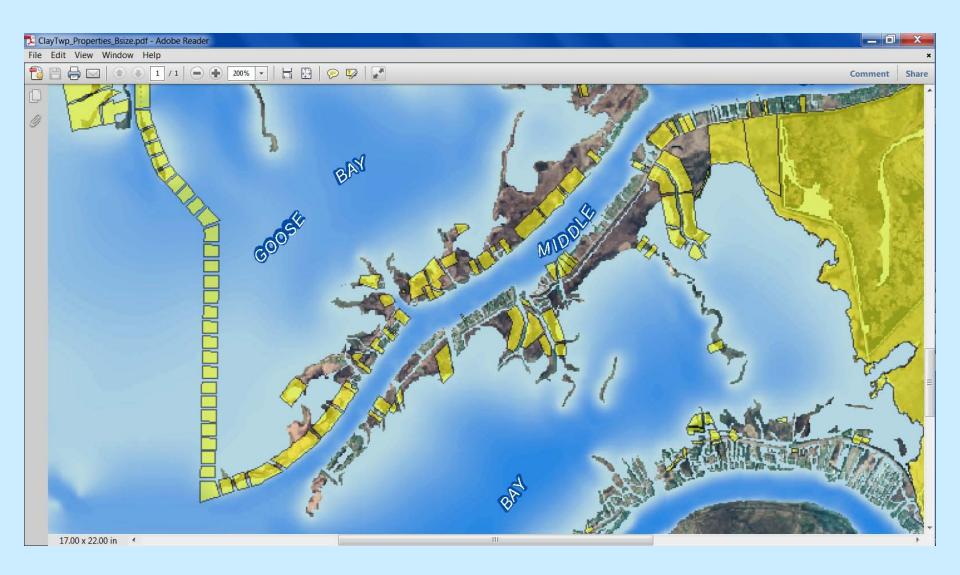
#### During 2010 we had

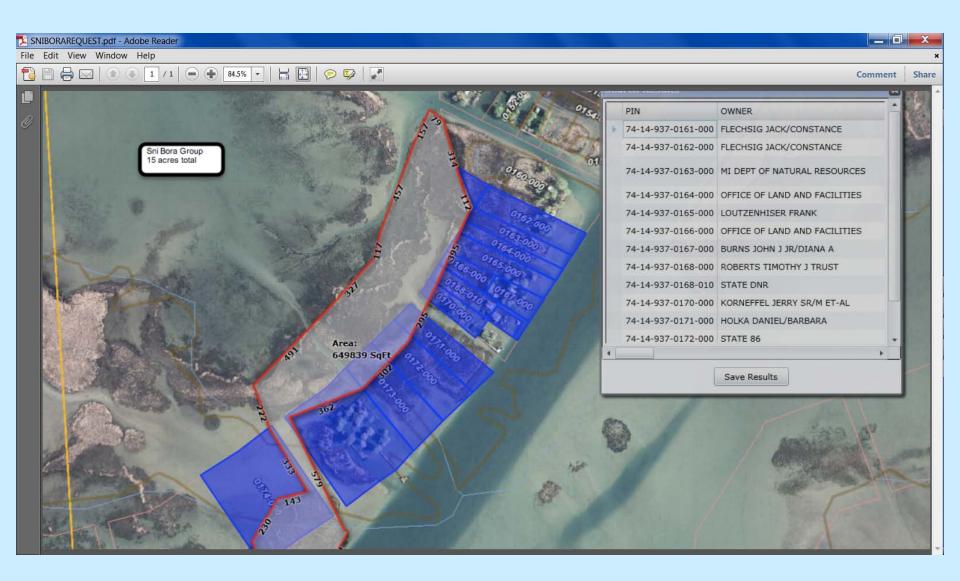
- 11 Volunteers who assisted with education, inspections, consultation, chemical distribution, spraying and cutting.
- 124 Properties were treated by volunteers representing approximately 177 Acres (85% of the property for which permits were obtained).
- A 15 foot outboard runabout and a 24 foot pontoon boat were donated to the Township by participants for use in the effort.
- The HISCFA donated \$1000 to the PAB program. The money was used to purchase needed equipment and chemicals.

## Assistance with contractor procurement and adjacent owner coordination

- The Township obtained a list of contractors certified by the State of Michigan to treat Phragmites.
- The Township prepared a list of recommended contractors based on certification, experience with Phragmites control and interest in working in this area.
- The list was made available to all property owners.
- The Township coordinated groups of property owners to establish larger contiguous areas which could be treated by helicopter.
- The Township arranged for the MDNRE to treat some State owned properties adjacent to those being treated by individual property owners.
- The Township obtained the necessary permits and filed the required reports following treatment, reducing work for the contractors and thereby the cost to the property owners.







## Local contractor, Bobby Bryson purchases Marshmaster GreatLakesPhragmitesCutter.com





# Clay Township Coordination with other agencies

During 2010 we coordinated Phragmites control efforts with representatives from the following agencies:

- MDNRE
- MDOT
- SEMCOG
- Lake St. Clair Protection and Restoration Partnership
- St. Clair County Planning Commission, Road Commission and Drain Commission
- Other local communities Algonac, Cottrellville, Ira



### View Enhancement

before



### **Ecosystem Restoration**



### Recreational Access



before

### Fire Safety



#### First Year Lessons

- The program requires dedicated volunteers willing to give it a lot of personal attention.
- Generally the public is more interested in restoring their view, their access to recreation and their fire safety than they are in increasing biodiversity.
- There are people who want to keep their Phragmites and those who do not want any herbicide used anywhere in the community.
- Leave plenty of time for the State to process the permits and be sure to follow up regularly.
- Spraying permits should be extended to be valid for a five year period, to match the mowing permit.
- Spraying and mowing permits (and upcoming NPDES permits) should be coordinated to be issued through a single application process.

#### For further information

www.ClayTownship.org/Phragmites www.Phragmites.org www.Phragmites.info