

Superior Environmental Aquatic Services

### **Beaver Island**

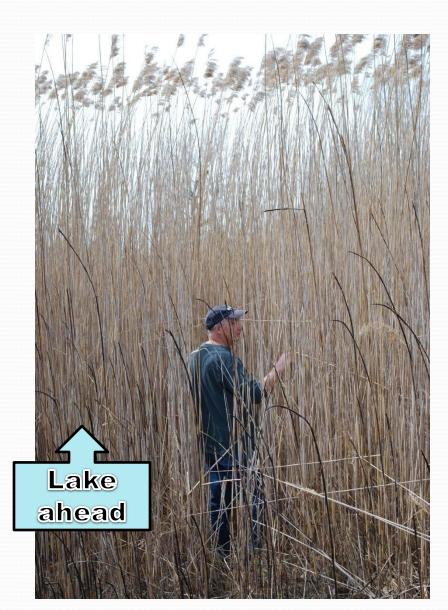
A Case Study of Rapid Response To Invasive Phragmites

Presented By : Pam Grassmick Beaver Island Association March 29, 2011

# Results of individual attempts at treatment of Phragmites

- Wrong plants being treated
- Wrong herbicides being used
- Wrong dosages of herbicide
- Poor methods utilized
- Herbicide treatment applied at the wrong time of the year
- Using herbicides without proper permits

#### Department of Natural Resources arrive on our shores.





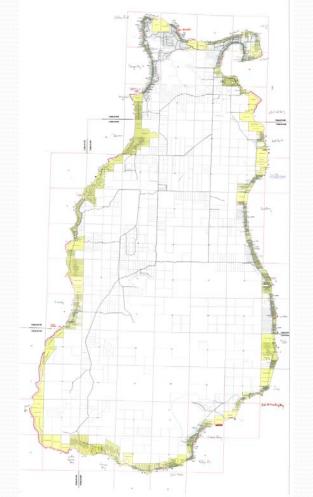
### What we did:

- We chose as a community to address our problem.
- Formation of a steering committee
- Site visits and surveys
- Media campaign: message to community
- Ease of joining treatment program
- Permits were applied for to treat the entire infested shoreline
- Award of contract

 Having a broad based steering committee helped not only get the job done but also made it easier for many people to accept the recommendation of using herbicides on our shoreline.

### We believed in these three key

### concepts:



- Phragmites is ecologically destructive.
- Phragmites is a safety concern.
- Phragmites affects the economic welfare of the community.

### How we got there:

- Breakdown of jobs
- Townships taking the lead vs. a 501 c 3
- Funding and treatment
- Ordinance and procedure
- Shoreline restoration, post treatment: burn
- Work in progress



## Development of ordinance in response to Phragmites threat

Phragmites growing among endangered Monkey Flower at Little Sand Bay

# Specific lessons learned from the shoreline/drawbacks:



- Survey and equipment
- Timing of the herbicide treatment
- Formula funding
- Bids, contracts, and followup treatment

### Limitless educational opportunities

- Personal connection
- Funding of personnel
- Expectations in evaluating Phragmites demise
- Necessary notifications



### DEQ bottomland relationship with upland owners



# Frequently asked questions from shoreline owners:

- What are the costs related to herbicide treatment?
- How difficult is it to work with the DEQ and permits?
- How safe are the chemicals?
- Where to find and what to look for in a contractor?
- Where to find a list of Level 6 certified contractors in good standing with the DEQ?
- What to expect: Argo vs. hand swiping applications
- Tracer dye issues
- Death expectations of Phragmites plants and when to evaluate effectiveness of treatment.

### Do we actively engage or let it take over the wetlands and shorelines?

#### Community building

Rolling up your sleeves

Regulatory agencies commitment







**Additional information:** 

www.beaverislandassociation.org

#### www.agreatlakesjewel.org

