

# Beaver Island

## A Case Study of Rapid Response To Invasive Phragmites



Superior Environmental Aquatic Services

Presented By : Pam Grassmick  
Beaver Island Association  
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# 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 follow-up 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](http://www.beaverislandassociation.org)

[www.agreatlakesjewel.org](http://www.agreatlakesjewel.org)

