

## Sewell Vital to the Watersmeet Lakeguards

For the last three years, Delores Sewell has been an integral part of the hard-working Watersmeet Lakeguards (I SCCW—Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet).

Working to control the growing problem of invasive aquatic species that are threatening our local waterways, Sewell works tirelessly to train volunteers for the "Clean Boats Clean Waters" program and to educate the public about this persistent dilemma.

As head educator, she trains volunteers, completes statistics, schedules workers, keeps worksheets on all the volunteers who help at the boat landings, attends public gatherings such as lake association meetings with an informative display about invasive species, and supervises the newly acquired power washer.



Part-time educators helping Sewell include Watersmeet residents Fred Reimer, a retiree, and Dennis Bolton, a Nimrod graduate who is now a student at Gogebic Community College.

Sewell states that in her first year as educator, the response to her efforts was indifference. She continues by saying that most Watersmeet residents now support the I SCCW and are dedicated to helping control those invasive species both by examining their boats and by following the guidelines set up by the Lakeguards.

Sewell is most proud of the Lakeguards' new portable boat washer purchase made possible by contributions from local residents and operated by part time employees hired with matching funds from a grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Parking away from boat launches, yet visible to those coming and going, the power washer is frequented daily by concerned boaters from the area and from afar as well.

The washer, usually filled with 100 gallons of water for a day's work, often runs out because of the volume of users. However, most businesses are happy to refill it when the supply runs low.

In addition to traveling to public boat landings in Watersmeet Township, the boat washer has been utilized at Bent's Camp and the BP Station in Land O' Lakes. Part-time educators who operate the washer are Watersmeet retiree Marvin Schwinn and graduate student Rudy Danbeck.

Sewell reminds people that she can use more Clean Boats Clean Waters volunteers at many different launch locations. Additionally, she would like to see EVERYONE be a part of the Watersmeet Lakeguards and join in the effort to keep invasive species under control. Sewell attests, "It is then that you will know that you have made a difference."