

## RLIA Grant Allen Scholarship Applicant: Marissa Belau

### **1.) What does Rush Lake mean to you?**

To me, Rush Lake is home. Though I do not live on Rush Lake, I still get the feeling of returning home every time I find myself on or around that area. My family moved to Rush City almost seven year ago now and from our first few weeks have spent many happy times together on Rush Lake. I will never be able to forget the excitement that rushed through my veins whenever one of my parents proposed going out on the lake for the day. Packing up a picnic basket and making sure we had plenty of towels, sunscreen, and all our fishing gear was something the whole family took part in. Once everything was packed and ready to go, we hopped in the car and brought our pontoon out to Rush Lake. When we got there, each of my family members had their appointed jobs. We didn't have to 'assign' a particular task to anyone; everyone knew what he or she had to do to get the boat out on the water smoothly. As soon as we were all aboard, we pushed away from the dock and the fun times began. I can't even begin to count the many memories of laughter and smiles that flood my brain when I begin thinking of my family's times out on Rush Lake. It truly was a home away from home for my family and I. We were able to forget our problems when we went out on the lake, even if only for a little while. Out on that water everything was alright, and everyone was always happy.