

# LILLY LAKE NEWS

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## WI Invasive Species Facts

- Zebra Mussels
  - First Discovered: 1989
  - Present in: 137 WI lakes/rivers; 46 Counties
- Eurasian Water Milfoil
  - First Discovered: 1962
  - Present in: 540 WI lakes/rivers; 68 Counties
- Curlyleaf Pondweed
  - First Discovered: 1955
  - Present in: 384 WI lakes/rivers; 62 Counties

## CLEAN BOATS = CLEAN WATERS

The Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer watercraft inspection program is an opportunity to take a front line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, volunteers are trained to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Adults and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies.

Volunteers perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species, distribute informational brochures and collect and report any new water body infestations.

For more information on this statewide program go to:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/abcw/>



*Invasive species are plants, animals and pathogens that are "out of place." A species is regarded as invasive if it has been introduced by human action to a location, area, or*

## DID YOU KNOW?: IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT AQUATIC PLANTS (WEEDS)

Effective September 2009 rules:

1. Prohibit the transportation of any vehicle, including boats and trailers, on a public highway with aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached, and

2. Require removal of aquatic plants and aquatic animals and draining of all water from any such vehicles or equipment immediately upon removal from the water and before leaving any boat

launch or parking area, and

3. Prohibit the placing of any boat, vehicle or equipment into waters of the state (statewide) if they have any aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached.



Zebra Mussel (1-2 inches)



Zebra mussels covering a native mussel.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**April 30th**

Lilly Lake Rehabilitation District meeting (10am, Town Hall)

**May 21st**

Lilly Lake Summerhaven Association meeting (10am, Town Hall)

**June**

Movie Night (TBD, Lilly Lake Resort)

**July 2nd**

Holiday Parade, Lilly Lake

**ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE GOOD, RIGHT? BY MIKE ADAM**

This is a phrase that has been made by many people when they hear zebra mussels have invaded their lake. However, upon closer inspection the answer to this question is these invaders are not a good thing.

Lakes with these invasive mussels (native to the Caspian Sea) have the appearance of being cleaner. The reason for this is the mussels are filter feeders, meaning they pull water into their shell and filter (i.e., consume) the microscopic plant and animals in the water. Water clarity in these lakes increases. However, potentially serious damage is occurring, most of it you can not even see.

Those microscopic plants and animals are the basis of the lake's food chain. In other

words, the mussels are eating what larval fish and other critters in the lake need. Because there are few animals that eat zebra mussels, their population can grow unchecked. Plus, if they are eating what your favorite fish want to eat, there may be long-term impacts on fishing.

Clearer water may be desired in some cases. However, it can also lead to weedier waters, since the water is clearer sunlight can penetrate into deeper depths increasing aquatic plant growth.

Recently, other discoveries are being made about the negative impacts of zebra mussels. While they consume algae in the water, they do not like blue-green algae. This has potential human health implications as blue-green algae

can, under certain conditions, produce toxins that can make people very sick.. Also, shells from dead mussels are sharp and can wash up on shorelines cause hazardous walking conditions.

Lastly, zebra mussels are linked to the recent problems on the Great Lake with dead diving birds (like loons and mergansers). The zebra mussels are a perfect reservoir for a potentially deadly bacterium called Type E botulism. Small fish (round gobies) feed on small mussels and take in the bacteria. Then birds dive down and eat the gobies. The toxin then kills the birds, resulting in thousands of dead birds throughout the Great Lakes.

Please do what you can to keep these invaders out of Lilly Lake!!

- Do you have a topic that you would like to see in the newsletter?

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