



Bay Lake Improvement Association
P.O. Box 461 • Deerwood, MN 56444-0461

August 19, 2013

Dear Bay Lakers,

As part of the Bay Lake Improvement Association's efforts to fight EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL (EWM) and to KEEP ZEBRA MUSSELS OUT OF BAY LAKE we need your help!

Because it is difficult for the divers surface and underwater survey to see every bit of shoreline in their searches I am writing to ask everyone who can, to check your shoreline and around your docks between now and this Labor Day weekend for signs of Eurasian Watermilfoil or Zebra Mussels. I am including a EWM and Zebra Mussel ID card as well as post card for you to return letting us know what you did or did not find.

- **Check around your dock, lifts and boats. Move your boats so you can see under them. If you find EWM around your docks, and it's a problem, remove what you can and dispose of it on shore.**
- **Walk your shoreline and look in the shallows for any signs of EWM.**
- **If you find what you think is EWM:**
 - ◊ *Take a sample in a plastic bag with a little water, marked with your name and details of where you found it, to Hansen's Store.*
 - ◊ *Return the postcard with the details of what you found. In addition you may also call 612-237-1827 or email photos and details to davidd953@msn.com Please be sure to give as many details as possible along with your name, address, phone & fire number.*
- **If you found nothing, please return the enclosed post card to let us know that your shore was checked. We need to have some idea of the areas searched.**
- **Zebra mussels are a new threat to keep watching for signs of. Please inspect your docks and boat lifts when you take them out this fall for any signs of Zebra mussels. I am including a Zebra Mussel ID card for your reference.**
- **There is Zebra mussel and EWM ID information on the BLIA web site at the following link.**
<http://www.baylake.org/>

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

David Devins
Aquatic Plant Management Committee

Protecting, Preserving, Maintaining, Improving Your Bay Lake Environment



ZEBRA MUSSELS

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) are prolific invaders that cost the U.S. billions of dollars each year. These small mussels from Eurasia can clog water intakes and damage equipment by attaching to boat motors and hard surfaces. They can damage ecosystems by harming fisheries, smothering native mussels and crayfish, and littering beaches with their sharp shells. In the late 1980s, zebra mussels spread from Europe to the Great Lakes in contaminated ballast water discharged from foreign ships. From there, they expanded to the Mississippi River, its tributaries, and to inland lakes. Zebra mussels spread primarily by attaching to boat hulls, aquatic plants, nets, fishing equipment, or in water. Adult zebra mussels can survive out of water for days under certain conditions. Your actions are vital to prevent their spread.

What you can do:

- **Learn** to recognize zebra mussels (see back cover).
- **Inspect** and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, and trailer.
- **Drain** water from boat, motor, livewell, bilge, and bait containers.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash.
- **Rinse** boat and equipment with high-pressure and/or hot water (104°F), especially if moored for over a day, OR
- **Dry** everything for at least 5 days.
- **Never** introduce fish, plants, crayfish, snails or clams from one body of water to another.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; place specimens in a sealed plastic bag or store in rubbing (isopropyl) alcohol; and call the Minnesota Sea Grant Program in Duluth, (218) 726-8712; the Minnesota DNR in St. Paul, 1-888-MINNDNR or (651) 259-5100; or a local DNR fishery office.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession of zebra mussels and other invasive aquatic animals and plants. In Minnesota, possession and transport of any *Dreissena* species is illegal, except when providing them to the DNR for identification. Unauthorized introduction of zebra mussels, fish, or plants into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.

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How to Identify Zebra Mussels (adult shown) Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network

Alternating dark and light colored stripes
 1/4 inch- to 1-1/2 inches-long
 Black to brownish D-shaped shell
 Bysal threads used for attachment
 Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.protectourwaters.net

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

General Characteristics

- On smooth surfaces, young zebra mussels feel like fine sandpaper.
- Juveniles are about the size of peppercorns.
- Adults can be two inches long, but most are less than an inch.
- The only freshwater mussel that can firmly attach to hard surfaces.

Illustration: Bill Minshall of Natural History

Yes, we checked our shoreline for EWM. Date _____

Name _____ Fire # _____

Bay Lake Address _____ Phone _____

If you found EWM please describe what you found and where. _____

If you are not sure, you can take a sample to Hansen's Store for us to look at, or call or email me at 612-237-1827 / davidd953@msn.com to leave me details.

If you find Eurasian watermilfoil please save a sample and report it to DNR.

Classic 1800-FINNONA
 Leaf Clips: Metro 651-259-5100

Eurasian watermilfoil (invasive non-native)

Usually 12 - 21 leaflet pairs per leaf

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!