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The Monitor

The newsletter of Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

Zebra Mussels Eradicated From Minnesota Lake?

Scientists in Minnesota remain “cautiously optimistic” after possibly eradicating a population of zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) from the 267-acre Christmas Lake near Minneapolis.

The watershed district credits their aquatic invasive species early detection program for the success of this effort.

The infestation was discovered near a boat landing in late summer 2014 by aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring staff from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. The area known to contain zebra mussels was quickly closed off with an underwater curtain while AIS staff determined the extent of the zebra mussel infestation. They also developed a response strategy, which included several pesticide applications.

In September, the infested area was treated with Zequanox, a product made from dead, naturally-occurring bacteria. Zequanox is reportedly toxic to zebra mussels and the closely related quagga mussels, without harming native plants or animals. A November copper treatment followed, as well as an application of liquid potassium chloride through the ice in December.

While the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District believe that zebra mussels may have been eradicated from Christmas Lake, they will continue to monitor the lake for any sign of the invasive animal. MDNR requires five years without evidence of zebra mussels in order for a lake to be removed from their list of infested water bodies.

The watershed district credits their aquatic invasive species early detection program for the success of this effort. Officials say the success is likely due to the quick discovery of a pioneer infestation, and that larger infestations would be too costly and difficult to repeat this same 3-step treatment process.



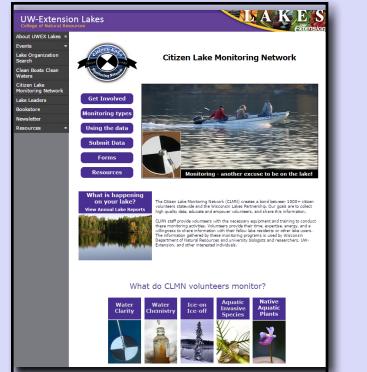
Paul Skawinski

Zebra mussels form blankets of sharp shells on nearly any firm object, such as this old tennis ball.

Announcements

New CLMN Website Up and Running

Take a moment to visit the newly designed Citizen Lake Monitoring Network website. You'll find loads of helpful information, and intuitive navigational buttons. Take a look at www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/clmn and let us know what you think!



Paul Skawinski



Curly-leaf pondweed leaves are wavy and covered with tiny teeth on the edges.

Attention AIS Monitors!

If you monitor for aquatic invasive species (AIS) on your lake, May and June are ideal months to monitor for curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*). This species reaches its peak biomass by early July and then dies back for the rest of the summer. Please remember to report the results of your AIS monitoring efforts into the SWIMS database, even if you do not find anything. You only need to report your monitoring data once at the end of the monitoring season,

unless you find a species new to your lake. You can find all of the AIS monitoring forms by clicking on the "Forms" button at our CLMN website www.uwsp.edu/uwexlakes/clmn

CLMN Interpretive Guide Helps Translate Data Reports

In response to your feedback provided from the CLMN volunteer survey over the winter, we have created a concise guide to help you understand the water quality data reported in your CLMN annual water quality report. You can find the interpretive guide by visiting the CLMN website, clicking on the Resources button, and scrolling down to “*NEW* Interpretive Guide to CLMN Annual Reports” under the Books/Guides section. You can also click on this link to view the interpretive guide <http://bit.ly/1OXbsZ7>. Again, please let us know what you think of this resource.

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