



Coming Events

Annual Picnic

Saturday, Sept 9th
4 pm to sunset
EAST BEACH

Thank You

Annual Lake Clean Up

Saturday, April 30
A great crowd showed up on a beautiful day to help get the lake ready for Summer

The Floatilla

Weds, July 11
Great root beer floats and great friends!

We appreciate all of our members, and everybody that volunteers to help make us successful through-out the year. We also appreciate all the governing bodies working with us to achieve our goals!

AMLAC News is a publication of the Association of Medicine Lake Area Citizens. AMLAC is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving Medicine Lake.
www.mnlakes.org/AMLAC

Zebra Mussels: A Personal Encounter

By Scott Burglechner

They reproduce like rabbits, are tough, clingy and sharp like razors.

As I was graduating in 1991 from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, I began hearing stories of zebra mussels in the canal systems of western New York. My recollection is that zebra mussels were first detected in Cayuga Lake in 1993 or 1994. The lake was fully infested with them by 1995. This is a lake that stretches for more than 38 miles.

I have been returning to Ithaca and Cayuga Lake to visit my in-laws nearly every year. Here is what infestation looks like: clumps of tiny razor sharp shells attached to any hard surface – rocks, docks, pipes, boats – and my perception is that the shallower the water, the greater the infestation.

Cayuga Lake has several invasive species including Eurasian Milfoil and Sea Lam-



Photo: DNR Website

preys. Most users of the lake would agree that Zebra Mussels are the most troublesome.

- Within a year every boat in the lake had to be on a lift.
- They really clog intake lines on boats and irrigation systems.
- We had to start wearing shoes in the lake to prevent our feet from being cut.

It often feels like so much lake news these days is about 'invasive species' of one sort or another. In Medicine Lake we're in the middle of a largely successful fight against Curley Leaf Pondweed and have been managing the existence of Eurasian Milfoil for years. Unfortunately, vigilance is only rewarded with more threats. In the nearby article, new AMLAC board member Scott Burglechner relates some very personal experience with Zebra Mussels. If you haven't heard of Zebra Mussels, now is the time to educate yourself and everyone you know. From the DNR website:

Zebra mussels are small, fingernail-sized mussels native to the Caspian Sea region of Asia. They were discovered in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in 1988...zebra mussels have now spread to parts of all the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and are showing up in inland lakes.

Last year, Zebra Mussels were found in Lake Mille Lacs, one of the state's largest and busiest fishing lakes. Other lakes will soon follow. See Scott's article and the DNR website for things you can do to help us fend off this new fiend.

- I have seen people dive from docks and brush the bottom of the lake and come up with deep cuts from the zebra mussels.
- I have heard stories of divers who no longer can find fun treasures – everything is thickly coated.
- I have observed that the water appears clearer than it used to, allowing weeds to grow thicker, and removing food from the ecosystem for young fish.

I am scared about what these animals could do to Medicine Lake. It is much smaller and shallower than Cayuga Lake. I believe serious impacts to the natural and recreational uses of our lake are only 1 boat away.

The AMLAC board is working to develop a strategy to prevent zebra mussels from infesting Medicine Lake. We are exploring various tactics like:

- Educational signs and stories
- Requests to voluntarily cease from boating on Medicine Lake if you frequently boat on infested lakes and rivers
- Mandatory inspections at the French Regional Park boat launch

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A Brief History of Fish Stocking in Medicine lake

By Bridget Jodell

Medicine Lake is a part of a research study by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources which examines different walleye stocking rates and strategies. The study was initiated in 2001 and 2003 to systematically evaluate walleye stocking regimes in fifty moderately-sized lakes. Walleye fry or small fingerling frylings were used in the study.

Northern pike and walleye are the two primary management species in Medicine Lake. Walleye fingerlings were stocked in 1999 for the first time. To fill the quota in 1999, 255 pounds of yearlings and 10 pounds of adults were stocked in addition to 132 pounds of fingerlings. Previously, fry were stocked from 1984 through 1991, but this did not create a viable walleye fishery and was discontinued.

The new stocking rate is 397 pounds of fingerlings every odd numbered year. Only 3 walleye were found in the gill nets in samplings on July 5 and July 14th of 2000, for a total of 6 walleyes. The mean length and weight of walleye sampled was 13.12 inches and 0.74 pounds. All lakes were surveyed with the appropriate number of gill nets in 2004 and will be again in 2006 and 2008 when the stocked year classes are age 3. For additional information fall electrofishing was conducted in September or early October on all fry and frylings stocked lakes in 2001 and 2003. Spring electrofishing was conducted in May or early June on all 50 lakes in 2002 and 2004, and will be again in 2006.



DNR monitoring fish diversity and measuring fish for size in Medicine Lake

To become an AMLAC member, contact Bruce Larson at 763-593-1466 or Visit our website at www.mnlakes.org/AMLAC

Zebra Mussels—continued from Page 1

- Mandatory power spraying of boats prior to launching

If you have any interest in helping AMLAC develop its response to the Zebra Mussel threat, please contact an AMLAC board member.

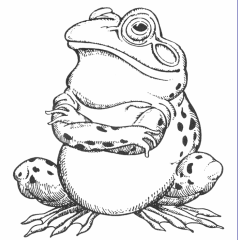
In the meantime, here are some ways that you can prevent your boat from being that 1 boat that did it to Medicine Lake:

- Boats should not be left in infested waters for extended periods of time. With regular use, engine heat will keep mussels from colonizing inside most engine parts. Because microscopic zebra mussel larvae can be unknowingly transported in bilges, engine cooling systems, minnow buckets, live wells and anywhere water is trapped, the following precautions should be taken to help slow their spread.
- Drain bilge water, live wells and bait buckets.
- Inspect the boat and trailer immediately upon leaving the water.
- Scrape off any zebra mussels found. Do not return them to the water.
- If possible, dry the boat and trailer for at least a week before entering another waterway.
- Wash boat parts and accessories that contact the water using hot water (at least 140 degrees F.), a 10 percent solution of household chlorine bleach and water, or a hot saltwater solution. Do not wash your boat at the boat ramp where these solutions could pollute the water. Always finish with a clean water rinse.

If you are interested in more information, visit the DNR's site for Zebra Mussels:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

Are you an AMLAC member? Did you notice our members Surveyed said they



How to be a big frog in our pond

would recommend becoming a member 100%? If you are not a member, we would like you to join us . **We need your support** for the important work we are doing!