

ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

Adult zebra mussels were found in Lake Monona in 2001. We need your help in determining if they have spread to other lakes or persisted in Lake Monona. If you find a zebra mussel, call Sea Grant (920-683-4697) or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (608-266-9270).

How to identify a zebra mussel:

- Adult zebra mussels look like small clams, with a yellow or brownish D-shaped shell, often with dark and light-colored stripes.
- They can be up to two inches long, but most are under an inch.
- They usually grow in clusters, and are generally found in shallow (6-30 feet) water.
- Zebra mussels are the only freshwater mollusk that can attach itself firmly to solid objects: submerged rocks, dock pilings, boat hulls, water intake pipes, etc. Tiny ones can attach to rooted aquatic plants.




What to do if you spot an invader:

- Write down the date and exact location where the zebra mussel was found.
- If possible, take the mussel with you and store it in rubbing alcohol.
- Call Wisconsin Sea Grant (920-683-4697) or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (608-266-9270).
- Whatever you do, **DON'T throw it back into the water!**

What else can I do?

- Place a brick in the water off your pier and check it periodically. Report any zebra mussels you find on it.
- This fall, examine your piers and other equipment that has been submerged all summer and shaded or out of direct sunlight very closely when taking them out for the season. Report any zebra mussels you find (if surface feels grainy or sandy, it may be young zebra mussels).
- Pass this alert on to others or post in a public spot.
- Carry a Zebra Mussel Watch card! That way, you'll know what they look like and will be able to report any sighting to the appropriate authorities. Go to www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/invasives.shtml to print one or go to www.seagrant.wisc.edu/zebramussels/orderform.asp to order one.
- Read the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission's Zebra Mussel Report to learn more about zebra mussels in Dane County waters, available online at www.co.dane.wi.us/commissions/lakes/pdf/20030613_zebra_mussel_report.pdf
- Check out and print the Zebra Mussel Field Guide for more zebra mussel photos (www.seagrant.wisc.edu/zebramussels/field_guide.html).
- Check out the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' invasives web page at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/invasives
- Visit the UW Sea Grant Nonindigenous Species web site for information on how to get a Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers sticker (www.seagrant.wisc.edu/outreach/nis/index.asp).



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