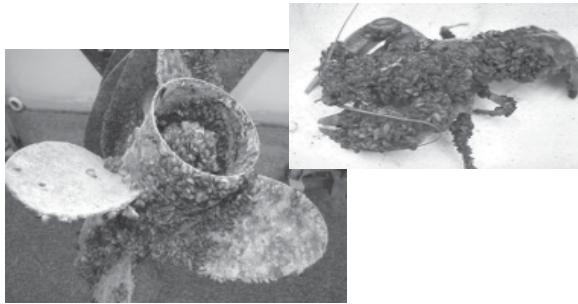


What Are the Effects of Infestation by Zebra Mussels?

- Permanent damage to the aquatic ecosystem
- Ongoing expenditure of large sums of money for control
- Disruption of food supply for native fish and freshwater invertebrates
- Beaches littered with sharp shells that cut bare feet
- Encrustation of boats, equipment, docks, shore walls and even other aquatic creatures
- Property values lowered in proportion to the level and effect of the invasion
- Diminished enjoyment of lake-related activities



Millbrook Quarry is a 12-acre lake in Northern Virginia that was contaminated with zebra mussels from divers' scuba gear that had been used in infested waters elsewhere. As a small, contained lake, it was possible to eliminate the zebra mussels with chemicals, but at a cost of \$400,000 (\$33,333 per acre)!

In larger bodies of water like our 350-acre lake, it would be impossible to eradicate them, and costly, ongoing treatments would be necessary just to control the population and mitigate damage. Imagine the impact they could have on the limited finances of LMOA as it struggles to meet its many obligations, including the responsibility to maintain the integrity of our beaches, lakes and ponds.

How Are Zebra Mussels Spread?

Tiny zebra mussel larvae spread by hitchhiking on objects that are transported from one body of water to another. Anyone can inadvertently introduce them to Lake Monticello by using fishing and pleasure boats, canoes, kayaks, fishing gear, swimwear, water toys and equipment in any body of water infested with zebra mussels, and giving them a free ride back to Lake Monticello.

How Can We Prevent the Introduction of Zebra Mussels to Lake Monticello?

Don't give zebra mussels a free ride!

- Assume all other bodies of water are contaminated.
- Make a commitment to protect our lakes and ponds.

Sometimes we don't know if a body of water is contaminated until MONTHS or even YEARS later, so make the commitment now to take precautions and prevent infestation here at Lake Monticello with this pledge:

"I pledge to protect our lakes and ponds by always cleaning and sanitizing my boating, fishing and swimming equipment that I use elsewhere, before using it at Lake Monticello."

Because PREVENTION requires a commitment from EVERYONE who uses our lakes and ponds, please encourage your friends and neighbors to make this pledge, too. Let's not gamble with the beauty, health and enjoyment of our lake.



In 2009, the Lake Monticello Owners' Association (LMOA) adopted a policy to protect its lakes and ponds from invasion by non-native species of plants and animals.

Excerpt from LMOA Policy 21.6, Invasive Species

"It shall be the policy of LMOA that no equipment, vehicle, watercraft, trailer or water related accessories that have been in another body of water, will be allowed into the lake, tributaries and drainage areas of Lake Monticello unless it has been cleaned, stored in dry quarantine as described below, and attested to as outlined in the compliance procedures of this policy."

The policy applies to any equipment that has been in any other body of water, whether or not there is a known infestation. (See LMOA's complete policy on invasive species at http://www.lmoa.org/library/policy_manual/PM21_06.pdf.)

Compliance with the Policy Is the Best Preventive Measure

- ❖ All watercraft, trailers, and water related equipment and accessories that have been in waters outside Lake Monticello must be washed with soap and water and dried for 48 hours before using them at Lake Monticello.
- ❖ If zebra mussels are visible, they must be scraped off, crushed and placed into a trash container away from a lake, pond, stream or drainage ditch. If the other body of water is known to be contaminated, the watercraft, trailer, equipment and accessories will be quarantined for a period that is dependent upon average daily temperatures and humidity for Lake Monticello, as specified below.
 - January and December — 46 days
 - February, March, and November — 29 days
 - April and October — 19 days
 - May — 12 days
 - June through September — 7 days

Don't Take Lake Monticello for Granted – Take the Pledge to Protect Our Lakes and Ponds!

Tiny Zebra Mussels Pose Huge Threat

Of all of the invasive aquatic species that can damage our lakes and ponds, zebra mussels pose the greatest financial and ecological threat to our lake community. They can be introduced easily by hitching a ride on any kind of watercraft, fishing and recreation equipment and even swimwear. Once zebra mussels have infested a lake, it is virtually impossible to purge the water of these organisms.

Now, before they invade Lake Monticello's lakes and ponds, we have a one-time chance to avoid an infestation with the potential for devastating effects on the health of our aquatic ecosystem and financial resources.



What Are Zebra Mussels?

Zebra mussels are small, D-shaped clam relatives that were first discovered in U.S. waters in 1988. Spreading as microscopic larvae that drift in water, they attach themselves to any solid surface. When mature, they are only about the size of a thumbnail, but they reproduce rapidly, colonizing in alarming numbers.

For More Information

See these websites:

- www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/zebramussels.asp
- www.100thmeridian.org
- www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/leek/critter/invert/zebramussel.htm

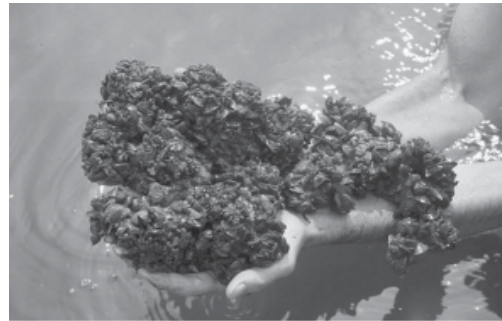


Photo credits: Lake Monticello Main Beach -- Peggy Alexander; boat propeller -- AP photo, Natalie Muth; encrusted crayfish -- VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries; fingertips and single zebra mussel -- U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey; dime with cluster of zebra mussels -- AP photo, Debra Hamilton, California Dept. of Game and Fish; armload of zebra mussels -- Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

This flyer is provided for your information by the Lake Monticello Owners' Association Lake Health Education Group and is made possible by the portion of LMOA member dues that support the Lake Health & Storm Water Management program.

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Beware of Aquatic Hitchhikers!

*Don't Let Zebra Mussels
Spoil Your Enjoyment
of Our Lake*

