

# Eagle Lake Properties Owners Inc.

May 1993

To the Eagle Lake Properties Owners Incorporation Members:

Bill Allen asked that I update the membership on the milfoil situation and the progress of the Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil (COLAM) for which I am still chairperson.

Jim and I were able to take a boat ride on the lake now that the ice is finally out. Even though there was a lot of snow this year, the beds of milfoil are still very dense and are easily seen just below the surface. So much for the idea milfoil dies back in Fall and doesn't grow. It really looks like a very distressing Summer to come.

As for the progress statewide, as you know the herbicide fluridone (Sonar) has been registered for use in New York under a Special Local Needs Permit. But a Generic Environmental Impact Study (GEIS) must be completed before actual use of the product. Since DowElanco (manufacturers of Sonar) has to do the GEIS and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) seems to be cooperating, progress is being made. DowElanco hopes to have the GEIS completed by September. It is a very detailed study and COLAM is working to get all general questions which may arise in a permitting process answered now. In essence simplifying the permit process. DowElanco, at COLAM'S request, has asked the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) to participate in this process. The APA is the agency which Eagle Lake will get a permit from, whether it's hand harvesting, mechanical harvesting, or a herbicide treatment.

I must say that in the 1 and 1/2 years that I have been involved with COLAM, I can honestly say we are making progress with the State agencies.

I want you all to realize that we still have a ways to go for a solution for Eagle Lake. It still may be a long time yet before anything, whether hand, mechanical, or herbicidal control can be done. One of the things that needs to be done this Summer is to make a decision on what type of control we want and start raising funds for the project. You must have funds in place before final permits will be given.

In the meantime COLAM will continue to push for a statewide program. This program must start with education, data gathering and a data base of information. The data base will include information on which controls are being used with success, what is available for funding and most importantly the State's acknowledgment of milfoil as a problem. The State must act responsibly and act quickly to control milfoil, which is a severe threat to our natural resources and to property values as well as the tourist industry for which we all rely on. They must make the most modern technology and information available to the lakes to stop this deadly cancer.

As for other news around the lake, it looks like another fire hydrant will be put in place down by the bridge, courtesy of the Village of Ticonderoga. Also as a prewarning, the lake level was at +10, which I understand is about 1 foot above normal. So when you come, be prepared for the possibility of damage to your docks, boathouses, and shoreline. When Jim and I looked around we didn't see any major damage.

Bill Allen asked me to pass on to you that the Association is now incorporated as of April 7, 1993. Thanks go out to Bill Allen, Bill Krall, and Peter Beuchner for their work in getting this done.

Well I guess that is it for now. I sure hope to see you all at our annual meeting in July. Take care and don't hesitate to call or write if you have questions, ideas or information for me.

See you soon,

*Wendy Davis*

Wendy L. Davis  
Chairperson, ELPO Inc. Education Committee  
Eagle Lake  
HC-01 Box 112-A  
Ticonderoga, NY 12883-9410

P.S. COLAM will be sponsoring a Milfoil Conference on all types of controls this September, I'll have more details in July.

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# Eagle Lake Properties Owners Inc.

May 20, 1993

Dear ELPO Inc. Membership,

As the temperatures warm up and the winter blues quickly fade away, we start to think about reuniting with everyone for another enjoyable season at the lake. With boating being such an integral part of life on Eagle Lake I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Zebra Mussel is present in Lake Champlain, and that there is a strong likelihood that it will inadvertently be introduced into Eagle Lake. There are several things that the members of our organization can do to help reduce the risk of introducing this pest ourselves, and when the time comes, to help us identify its presence in the lake.

Enclosed are three (3) brochures for you to keep at your Eagle Lake residence. The "Don't Pick Up Hitchhikers!" brochure provides history on the zebra mussel's introduction into the U.S., describes the means by which it spreads, and details the areas to inspect, protect, and clean on your boating and fishing equipment. The "Zebra Mussel WATCH" card, with its color photo, makes identification of the zebra mussel possible by every member of our organization. Instructions on how to preserve the mussel for future positive identification by a professional are included. The third brochure entitled "Exotics", introduces us to several other pests that can similarly be introduced into the lakes in our region.

Detecting the initial presence of zebra mussel in a lake is often tricky. Either it is seen in the adult "shelled" form somewhere in the lake, or it is found in the water column in the floating larvae stage in a lake water sample that has been collected for and analyzed by a professional lab. Either way it can be present in one form or the other and go undetected for a long period of time. Everyone can help by "visually" inspecting their own property and by keeping a general lookout for the zebra mussel as one travels around the lake. Please keep a constant watch on all underwater surfaces (boathouse wall and dock supports, ladders, pipelines, buoy markers, rocks, sand, and even plants, etc.) to see if any zebra mussels have settled or attached themselves there. It will be important to know when they are present so we can take some defensive measures to protect our property and inform our neighboring lake associations as well.

REMEMBER, the zebra mussel has the ability to attach itself to virtually any submerged object, such as your boat hull, and that it can survive for period of time in live bait wells or engine cooling water. This situation allows the zebra mussel to be easily transported into Eagle Lake by a visiting boater or by your own boat that has been used in other infested waters. REMEMBER, properly clean and inspect ALL your equipment before placing it back into Eagle Lake.

The included brochures were purchased at a nominal cost to our organization and should prove to be a very useful investment for all of us. To obtain more information on the zebra mussel or other exotics contact an Education Committee member or call the listed phone number(s) for "Sea Grant", an organization dedicated to research and education. They have been an invaluable resource for our organization.

Respectfully,



Dianne E. Tiedemann  
Member, ELPO Inc. Education Committee  
358 Electric Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14613

## Don't Pick Up Hitchhikers! Stop The Zebra Mussel!



The zebra mussel is a black and white striped bivalve mollusc which has been introduced into North

American waters through the discharge of international shipping ballast water. Since its discovery in Lake St. Clair in June 1988, the zebra mussel has spread throughout the Great Lakes. The mussel can clog power plant, industrial, and public drinking water intakes, foul boat hulls and engine cooling water systems, and disrupt aquatic ecosystems. Billions of dollars of zebra mussel impacts are expected over the next 20 years.

Anglers and recreational boaters may inadvertently transport zebra mussels from infested Great Lakes waters into uninfested inland lakes and waterways.

Mussel larvae can be carried in boat bilge water, live wells, bait buckets, and engine cooling water systems.

Juvenile and adult mussels can "hitchhike" attached to boat hulls, engine drive units, and boat trailers.

Adult zebra mussels in moist shaded areas can live several days out of water. Kept wet, but not submerged in water (for example in bilges, live wells, inside trailer frames), adult zebra mussels may survive out of water for more than a week.

Anything short of a full quarantine will not stop the spread of the zebra mussel. However, **you can help slow the mussel's spread** across North America and prevent your own equipment from being fouled by following these "good boatkeeping" suggestions:

# EXOTICS:

## DON'T LET THEM RIDE WITH YOU!

Exotic species are on the move. Zebra mussels, ruffe, spiny water fleas, and milfoil are four destructive and aggressive invader species looking for a ride to a new lake or river. These pests are easily transported by people, boats, and fishing gear.

It takes only one mistake by one boater to infest a lake or river. Don't be the one!

### ZEBRA MUSSELS



Zebra mussels are fingernail-size clams with yellowish or brownish shells marked with wavy bands. Their larvae are too small to be seen, but they live for weeks in any water left in your boat. As zebra mussels grow, they form clumps that damage your boat, kill native clams, foul beaches with stinky razor-sharp shells, and clog water intake pipes.

### RUFFE



The ruffe is a cool or cold water fish from northern Europe that resembles yellow perch. In just a few years, it has become the dominant species in Minnesota's St. Louis River and has spread to other parts of Lake Superior. The ruffe is a fierce competitor for food and habitat. As its numbers increase, other species are expected to decline.

### SPINY WATER FLEA OR B.C.



Spiny water fleas—also called B.C. after their Latin name—are large zooplankton found in all the Great Lakes and several inland lakes. Although they are less than one-half inch long, B.C. compete with small fish for food and can disrupt the ecosystem. When B.C. collect on fishing line, they look like bristly gobs of jelly with black spots.

### EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL



Milfoil is a plant with long, flexible stems with feather-like leaves attached in whorls of four. Milfoil grows and spreads so fast, it quickly chokes out native plants and harms fish habitat. It grows in thick mats, interfering with boating, fishing, and swimming.

Compliments of

**MERCURY  
MARINE**

A BRUNSWICK COMPANY

## BEFORE LEAVING AN INFESTED AREA:

| Inspect | Drain | Wash |   |
|---------|-------|------|---|
| x       | —     | x    | Trailer frames                                    |
| x       | —     | x    | Boat hulls  |
| x       | x     | x    | Outdrive units                                    |
| x       | —     | x    | Trim plates                                       |
| x       | —     | x    | Trolling plates                                   |
| x       | —     | x    | Props and prop guards                             |
| x       | —     | —    | Transducers                                       |
| x       | —     | x    | Anchor and rope or chain                          |
| —       | x     | x    | All bilge water                                   |
| x       | x     | x    | Live wells (and their pumping systems)            |
| —       | x     | x    | Bait buckets                                      |
| —       | x     | x    | Raw water engine cooling systems                  |
| x       | x     | x    | And other boat parts and accessories that get wet |

### Thoroughly inspect

If you see any "hitchhiking" zebra mussels, scrape them into a can and dispose of them in a garbage dumpster.

### Completely drain, flush, wash

- All water should be drained from the boat and its components.
- Wash everything using **HOT** (140°F or hotter) water.
- Pressurized steam cleaning units would also be effective and environmentally compatible.
- High pressure (250 psi or greater) hot water power washes should also be very effective.
- Chlorine bleach or other environmentally unsound solutions are not recommended.

### Dry

Boats and trailers should dry in the sun for at least 2 to 4 days before being transported to uninfested waters.

### Leave bait behind

Bait **should not** be transported to uninfested waters; give it to someone headed out on the waterbody you are leaving or put it in a garbage dumpster at the boat launch site.

## WHILE AT THE SLIP:

On boats which remain in the water at marinas, zebra mussels can attach to outdrives, cover or enter water intakes which results in clogging, engine overheating, and damage to cooling system parts (particularly impellers). Mussel encrustations on and around props and shafts can increase drivetrain wear.

### Storage

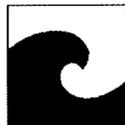
- If possible, avoid leaving outboards or outdrives in the down position.
- Hulls and drive units should periodically be inspected and scraped free of mussels.
- Do not introduce chlorine into engine cooling systems.

### Coatings

- Antifouling paints may effectively prevent attachment of zebra mussels on underwater boat components and accessories. Consult with your local marine dealer or manufacturer for applicability and local use or environmental restrictions.
- Hull waxes appear to be only marginally effective at preventing zebra mussel attachment; however, those with high silicone content may reduce the amount of effort required to remove mussels.

### For more zebra mussel information, contact:

The New York Zebra Mussel Information Clearinghouse  
New York Sea Grant Extension Program  
250 Hartwell Hall  
SUNY College at Brockport  
Brockport, NY 14420-2928  
(716) 395-2516



New York Sea Grant is a research and education program of the State University of New York, Cornell University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Printing funded in part by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Ohio River Division.

## WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE, CAN HURT!

Prevent the spread of these pests with a thorough inspection of your boat and fishing gear.

## BEFORE YOU USE YOUR BOAT IN ANOTHER LAKE OR RIVER:

### Clean your boat

Clean all mud and plant matter from your boat, trailer, propeller, live well and anchors before leaving the landing. Even canoes should be checked inside and out.

### Dry or wash your boat and equipment

Drain live wells, bait buckets, and bilge areas. Inspect and clean fishing tackle. Let your boat and trailer dry in the sun for at least three days before you use it again in another lake or river. Or wash your boat and equipment with very hot water (at least 105°F). Make sure tackle and fishing lines are free of B.C. because they may be carrying eggs.

### Remember

- Young adult mussels can be hard to see.
- One spiny water flea egg in the mud on your anchor can start a new population, even if you don't use your boat again for months.
- A single leaf of milfoil can infest a lake.

It takes only one mistake to spread a pest and ruin a waterway. Don't be the one!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

#### Contact The Sea Grant Office Nearest You

|  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant<br>(708) 818-2901 | New York Sea Grant<br>(716) 395-2638  |
| Michigan Sea Grant<br>(517) 353-9568         | Ohio Sea Grant<br>(614) 292-8949      |
| Minnesota Sea Grant<br>(218) 726-8712        | Wisconsin Sea Grant<br>(608) 263-3259 |

Or, contact your state natural resources management agency.

Keep this in your tacklebox.

Produced by Minnesota Sea Grant for the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



Zebra Mussel Watch

*Zebra Mussel Cluster*



The Great Lakes  
Sea Grant Network

## ***Zebra Mussel Alert***

The barnacle-like zebra mussel poses a multibillion-dollar threat to industrial and public drinking water supplies and may become a costly nuisance to shippers, boaters, commercial fishermen, anglers and beach-goers as well—far more costly in human terms than all previous Great Lakes invaders combined.

**Public assistance in reporting zebra mussel sightings at new locations is essential to help prevent its spread to our inland lakes and rivers!**

### ***How to Identify It***

► Zebra mussels look like small clams with a yellowish and/or brownish "D"-shaped shell, usually with alternating dark and light bands of color (thus the name "zebra").

► They can grow up to two inches long, but most are under an inch long. Zebra mussels usually grow in clusters containing numerous individuals (see photo), and are generally found in shallow (6 to 30 feet deep), algae-rich water.

► Zebra mussels are the **ONLY** freshwater mollusk that firmly attaches itself to solid objects, including rocks, boat hulls, etc.

### ***What to Do***

► Note the date and precise location where the mussel or its shell(s) were found;

► Take the mussel with you (several, if possible) and store in rubbing alcohol (in any case, **DON'T** throw it back in the water), and

► **IMMEDIATELY** call New York Sea Grant's Zebra Mussel Information Clearinghouse at Brockport, phone (716) 395-2516, or contact the nearest Sea Grant office in East Aurora, Ithaca, Oswego or Stony Brook.