

MYSTERY SNAIL ALERT!!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

By now you may have heard: **the Chinese Mystery Snail has invaded Lake Waukewan.** There is no known way to eradicate it once it has become established.

Why is this invasive a problem? This invasive snail species can transmit diseases to native species and it out competes native species for food. It also crowds out habitat and has a negative effect on the naturally occurring eco system of native snails and mussels.

What you can do: Though there is no known way to get rid of them entirely, there are some things you can do to help control their spread and keep the population down:

1. Clean, Drain and Dry your boats (including kayaks, canoes and all other watercraft) when removing them from a body of water before putting them into the next body of water. **Because the snail has not yet been identified in Lake Winona or in Hawkins Pond, please be extra vigilant when putting boats into those bodies of water.**
2. All boaters and fishermen should remove any plants, mud and/or animal species from boats/trailers and equipment before entering the next body of water. Don't empty bait buckets or wells into another body of water. Drain water from bilges and bait wells before leaving the launch area of a body of water.
3. If you are a shorefront property owner, scan the shallow water and rocks at your waterline and in shallow water. If you find any Chinese Mystery Snails, remove them and dispose of them in the trash well away from water. If you are on a municipal water system, do not flush them.
4. If you have an aquarium you no longer want, do not release any plants, fish or other creatures into a body of water.

We are attaching an information sheet about the Chinese Mystery Snail from the NH Lakes Association. Please read it and make it available to any guests or renters you may have at your lake house or cottage. **If you find snails that you think are Chinese Mystery Snails, please report your sightings to the NH LAKES at info@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299. Please be sure to include your name, contact information, when and the waterbody and town where you saw it).**

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