

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force



NEWS RELEASE

Second Infestation of Asian Clams found in Lake George

Steering Committee

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

Darrin Fresh Water Institute

FUND for Lake George

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Lake George Association

Lake George Watershed Coalition

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Lake George Park Commission

Advisory Committee

Bateaux Below

Dome Island Committee

Innerspace Scientific Diving

Lake George Waterkeeper

Scientific Diving International

University of California Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center

University of Nevada Reno

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Infestation found in Boon Bay in the Town of Bolton.

Task Force seeks help from landowners and volunteers around Lake George to help survey for other infestations.

For more information see media contacts below.

July 21, 2011

Lake George, NY – A new infestation of the invasive species Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) has been discovered in Lake George in Boon Bay in the Town of Bolton. The new infestation was discovered as part of the FUND for Lake George’s Eurasian watermilfoil management and control program in cooperation with the Lake George Park Commission. Initial survey work by the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute in Boon Bay estimates the population to be 3.75 acres - 5 acres in size.

This is the second infestation discovered in Lake George. Last fall a 5-acre infestation in the Village of Lake George was discovered. The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force organized to combat this infestation and a treatment effort has been underway in the Village since late April under permits from the Adirondack Park Agency and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Over 725 benthic barriers have been installed to suffocate the clams. “Based on the over 6 mile distance from the Lake George Village area with clams to the newly discovered Boon Bay area having clams, the size of the clams in Boon Bay and the distribution and population of clams at Boon Bay, it is believed that this is a separate introduction of clams rather than natural migration/transport from the Lake George Village area” said Dr. Sandra Nierzwicki Bauer, Director of the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute.

(over)

The members of the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force call upon landowners around Lake George to survey the areas under their docks, along their shores, and at their beaches for the presence of Asian clams. The Asian clam is a small clam, which can grow as big as a dime or nickel. One telltale sign is the presence of a butterfly open clam shell on the lake bottom. It's likely that live clams will be near where open shells exist. The Asian clam looks very different from the native mussels and snails. Anyone who thinks that they have found Asian clams should contact the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute, FUND for Lake George, Lake George Park Commission, or Lake George Association. People are encouraged to photograph and email a picture of a suspected Asian Clam to these organizations. More information can be obtained at www.stoptheasianclam.info.

“This new discovery is profoundly disturbing. It shows that we need to rally support from all individuals around the lake to find out if these invaders exist anywhere else. Put on a facemask and take a swim and tell us what you see” said Walt Lender, Executive Director of the Lake George Association.

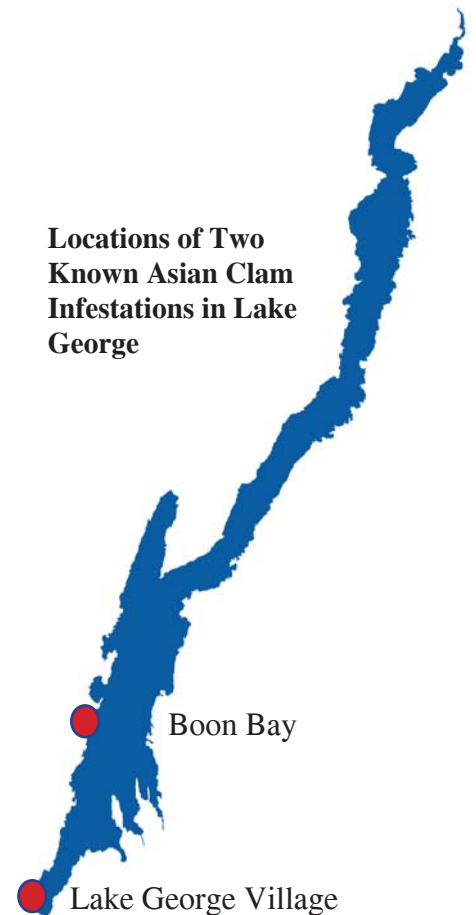
“The new infestation focuses us all on the need to fully survey the entire lake for additional infestations. A search of 60 locations in the south end of Lake George last year found no other infestations outside the Village of Lake George. Now, we need to expand our control efforts to include Boon Bay and expand out survey work around the lake to identify other infestations if there are any. We need shoreline owners to look at the waters off their property and boaters around the lake to help us by looking out for Asian clams. People should look for the telltale tiny butterfly open clam shells the size of a dime or smaller” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George.

“Efforts to survey this additional Asian clam population are underway. The crews of divers managing Eurasian water milfoil operated by the Lake George Park Commission and FUND for Lake George have been asked to look for Asian clams and other aquatic invasive species. The LGA is working with its Lake Stewards program to survey boat launch areas as well. DFWI is carrying out surveys in conjunction with its long-term efforts for identifying native mussel locations and zebra mussel introductions to map locations with or without Asian Clams. All of these efforts will help to determine the extent of the overall infestation in Lake George. The Asian clam control effort in Lake George Village will be essential to determining our capability of managing any additional infestation sites” said Meg Modley, Lake Champlain Basin Program Aquatic Invasive Species Management Coordinator.

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force

The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force is managing the eradication effort. This Task Force includes a wide variety of organizations, scientists and agencies. The Task Force includes the RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, FUND for Lake George, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake George Association, the NYS Lake George Park Commission, Dome Island Committee, Lake George Watershed Coalition/NYS Department of State, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Adirondack Park Agency, Bateaux Below, Inc., InnerSpace Scientific

Locations of Two Known Asian Clam Infestations in Lake George





Asian clams can reach the size of a dime or larger in 2-3 years.

Diving, Scientific Diving International, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as well as researchers from Lake Tahoe.

For more information:

Sandra Nierzwicki-Bauer
RPI Darrin Fresh Water Institute/518.644.3541

Peter Bauer
FUND for Lake George/518.668.9700 x304 (cell) 518.796.0112

Meg Modley
Lake Champlain Basin Program/802.372.3213

Walt Lender
Lake George Association/518.668.3558

Mike White
NYS Lake George Park Commission/518.668.9347

David Decker
Lake George Watershed Coalition/518.461.2200

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