

LAKE LINES

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association
University of Wisconsin-Extension/Burnett County

It's the Law: Decontamination Required at Stations

By Mike Kornmann, UW-Extension Community Development Educator

Many years ago, the Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association (BCLRA) provided the leadership to pass legislation that made the transportation of aquatic invasive species illegal. A few years later, the State of Wisconsin passed a similar law statewide. Now, with the discovery of zebra mussels in Big McKenzie Lake, BCLRA is leading the way again with an amendment to the “no transport law”. It is now illegal to not decontaminate your boat at landings where there is a decontamination station.

Zebra mussels spread by attaching themselves to boats, trailers, boat lifts, and other water based equipment. And it's more than the adult mussels that spread this way. The zebra mussels' larvae, known as veligers, spread through lake water in live wells, motors, and trailers. The new law requires boaters to decontaminate their watercraft at any Burnett County landing where decontamination equipment is supplied. These decon stations will be maintained by lake associations and other organizations.

A decontamination station means a device provided at a public or private lake access to remove all potential invasive species. It may consist of high temperature water applied with a pressure washer, a recommended chemical solution applied with a low pressure washer, or other techniques or devices. Violations will result in fines plus court costs.

The primary reason for decontamination is to reduce the risk of transporting the veligers from lake to lake. Decontamination procedures provide a higher level of protection from spreading zebra mussels throughout the region and state. Because not all lake accesses have stations it is important for you to follow the clean-drain-dry protocol when decontamination stations are not available. Stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species is a responsibility for all of us when enjoying the waters of Burnett County. And together we can make a difference!

Watercraft Decontamination Station

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. CLEAN IN – CLEAN OUT.

**IT'S
THE
LAW**

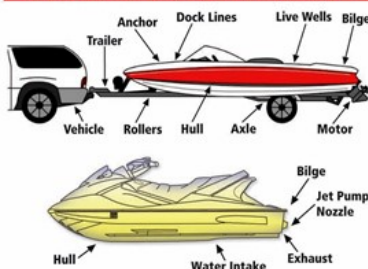
1 DRAIN & INSPECT

IT'S THE LAW! Drain all water from watercraft, vehicles and equipment. Drain live wells, bilge systems and boat bladders.*

MOTORS – Tip the motor down and turn the motor over several times to dispel lake water from cooling system. Run PWC engines for 10-15 seconds while on the trailer.*

*Note: Personal Watercraft and Wake Boats may retain lake water in the intake area and/or internal water bladders.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS – CHECK THESE AREAS



2 REMOVE

IT'S ILLEGAL To Transport Aquatic Invasive Species! See Wisconsin DNR website for current regulations and fines.

- Move your watercraft and trailer to a level area away from the sloped ramp.
- REMOVE ALL aquatic plants, animals and mud from your watercraft and trailer – cleaning tools provided below.
- **IT'S THE LAW!** Dispose of ALL water, minnows and live bait that have been in ANY lake water.
- Please deposit vegetation in the designated compost area.

Cleaning Brush

Cleaning Hook

Eye Protection



3 DECONTAMINATE



To kill mussels and small bodied organisms, decontamination of your watercraft and equipment is encouraged **BOTH BEFORE LAUNCHING INTO AND AFTER REMOVING FROM** this lake.

Note: Immature Zebra Mussels are not visible to the naked eye.

- Spray the outside of watercraft, motor and trailer using the provided hand-pump sprayer containing a decontamination solution of 2 tbs. bleach per 1 gal. water.**
- **OR** If available, spray the outside of the watercraft, motor and trailer using a power washer and **HOT** (140 Degree) water.
- Spray the bilges, livewells and any other areas containing lake water with the decontamination solution.**
- Wait 10 minutes before rinsing or launching watercraft.
- Live wells should be flushed with clean water before next use.
- Please return cleaning tools to the station.

**WARNING: THE DECONTAMINATION SOLUTION CONTAINS CHLORINE BLEACH, WHICH IS CORROSIVE AND MAY BE HARMFUL TO EYES. PLEASE WEAR THE PROVIDED EYE PROTECTION AND STAY UPWIND FROM THE SPRAY. BLEACH CAN ALSO DAMAGE AND REMOVE COLOR FROM FABRIC AND DECALS. BE CAUTIOUS. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.

This decontamination station and equipment provided by the Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association

Message from the President

By Roger Noe, BCLRA

Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association

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“**H**eeding the Call”...So goes the theme for the Wisconsin Lakes Conference held April 18-20, 2018 in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

The conference is held annually and is an event all lake enthusiasts should attend. The information exchange is spectacular.

As we move into 2018 and think about lake experiences and family escapes, “Heeding the Call” might also describe Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association initiatives throughout 2017. It was a challenging year.

BCLRA continues to support lake and river initiatives wherever possible throughout the county. This support comes in numerous ways.

The fall of 2016 witnessed the arrival of zebra mussels in Big McKenzie Lake. From that point, the zebra mussels multiplied rapidly and have been discovered in Middle McKenzie. A sad development for northwest Wisconsin and its waters.

Zebra mussels pose yet another challenge to lake associations and BCLRA. With these challenges come more time, resources, and financial commitment.

BCLRA would like to thank all lake and river associations and individuals who have financially donated to the cause. Unfortunately, significant issues, like zebra mussels, continue to challenge all of us.

BCLRA can use further financial help if it works for you and your association. Any financial contribution given to BCLRA is given back to Burnett County to help our waters.

Examples of BCLRA initiatives for 2017 are:

1. Cost share of zebra mussel decontamination unit	\$ 738.75
2. Burnett County 4-H Youth Camp Scholarship	300.00
3. Burnett County Land/Water Scholarship	500.00
4. Zebra mussel printed material	150.00
5. River Alliance of Wisconsin	100.00
6. LakeLines Newsletter (twice/year)	4,500.00
7. Lake Life booklets	1100.00
8. Northwest Lakes Sponsorship	100.00

To all of you working with a lake association or on your own, BCLRA says thank you for your help and dedication to Burnett County waters.

LakeLines
is featured online at
[www.burnettcounty.com/
LakeLines](http://www.burnettcounty.com/LakeLines)

Zebra mussel DNA Research Helping to Target Control Efforts

By Mike Kornmann and the Minnesota AIS Research Center

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center is partnering with the University of Minnesota's Genomics Center to do something that's never been done before: sequence the zebra mussel genome. A genome is an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes. Each genome contains all of the information needed to build and maintain that organism.

This work, which kicked off in the fall of 2015, reached an important milestone: the Genomics Center completed the first step of generating sequences from billions of short fragments of the DNA, which were originally extracted from a single, 4-centimeter long zebra mussel.

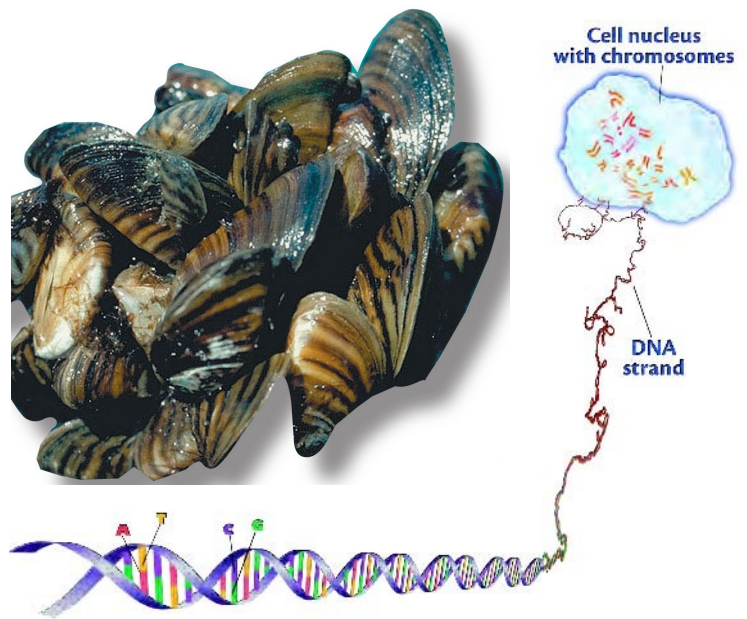
This process, done using a technology called "Illumina paired-end sequencing," generated roughly 1.5 billion high-quality chunks of data – or "reads" as they are called – an excellent outcome, according to project lead Dr. Michael McCartney. On the downside, however, was the finding that zebra mussels appear to have DNA sequences that are repeated over and over in their genomes. This was the case when another bivalve mollusk, the Pacific oyster, was sequenced, and it presents a challenge when it comes to assembling the reads into a complete genome.

To overcome the problems that repetitive DNA pose, researchers at the Genomics Center are also using a technology that generates sequences from fewer, but longer, fragments of DNA. The information learned from this work will be analyzed by bioinformatics experts at the Supercomputing Institute, thanks to recently received funding from UM's Informatics Institute. Together, this diverse group of researchers hopes to generate a full-length draft of the genome within several months.

By genetically "typing" hundreds of mussels according to thousands of DNA markers, and by mapping these markers in reference to the draft genome, researchers Michael McCartney and Sophie Mallez will be able to

determine the origin of the mussels in prominent lakes that are already infested, such as Mille Lacs, Minnetonka, and Big McKenzie Lake. They also hope to identify important routes of spread that can be targeted for prevention. In the future, with additional funding and partnerships, this research could also reveal genetic weaknesses in the species that could be targeted or manipulated for control efforts.

For more information, read the StarTribune's in-depth articles, *An Unyielding Grip* at <http://www.startribune.com/how-the-scourge-of-zebra-mussels-spread-across-minnesota/423913703/> and *Science Battles Back* at <http://www.startribune.com/meet-the-scientists-fighting-the-spread-of-zebra-mussels-in-minnesota/425373843/>.





Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference

Friday, June 22, 2018, 8 am - 3 pm, Spooner High School, Spooner WI

The Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference is a great opportunity for lake enthusiasts, local government officials, and others interested in protecting our water resources to take in a number of educational presentations, visit many informative exhibits and network with fellow conference attendees.

Featured Keynote Speaker: Keith Crowley, outdoor photographer, journalist, and author of *Gordon MacQuarrie: The Story of an Old Duck Hunter*, *Wildlife in the Badlands*, and *A Passion for Grouse*

The registration fee is \$45/attendee but is waived for students.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:00 am **Registration, Continental Breakfast and Exhibits**
- 9:00 am **Welcome, Opening Remarks and Recognition** – Linda Anderson, Washburn County Lakes Rivers Association
- 9:10 am **Youth Presentation** – Youth Speaker Contest Winner
- 9:15 am **Gordon McQuarrie and Aldo Leopold Conservationists Par Excellence** – Keith Crowley, Outdoor Photographer and Journalist
- 10:00 am **Break**
- 10:30 am **SESSION I**
 - Herbicides 101 and What They Do** – Carol Lembi, WDNR or Scott Provost, WDNR
 - How to Take Great Lake Photos** – Keith Crowley, Outdoor Photographer and Journalist
 - Native Bees, Bee Laboratory** – Kevin Schoessow, UW-Extension
- 11:30 am **Luncheon and Exhibits**
- 12:15 pm **SESSION II**
 - Best Practices for Clean Boats and How to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species** – TBD

- Recreational Conflicts on Lakes and Ordinances** – Mark Little, WDNR and County Outdoor Recreation Officer
- Weather Update** – Mark Seeley, UM-St. Paul
- 1:15 pm **Break**
- 1:30 pm **SESSION III**
 - Aquatic Plants 101** – Carol Warden, UW-Madison
 - Lakeshore Restoration** – Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental
 - Legislative Updates on Lake-Related Matters** – Mike Engelson, Wisconsin Lakes
- 2:30 pm **Break**
- 2:45 pm **SESSION IV**
 - Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Update** – Mike McCartney, UM-St. Paul
 - Lake Showcase: What Can You Do on Your Lake to Make a Difference?** – Panel TBD
 - Different Types of Lakes and Associated Best Management Practices** – Patrick Goggin, UWEX and Scott Van Egeren, WDNR
- 3:45 pm **Adjourn**

For registration questions, contact Monica Zachay at monicaz@scramail.com or (715) 483-3300

For questions about the conference program and speakers, contact Linda Anderson at Roblindander@gmail.com or (763) 221-8136



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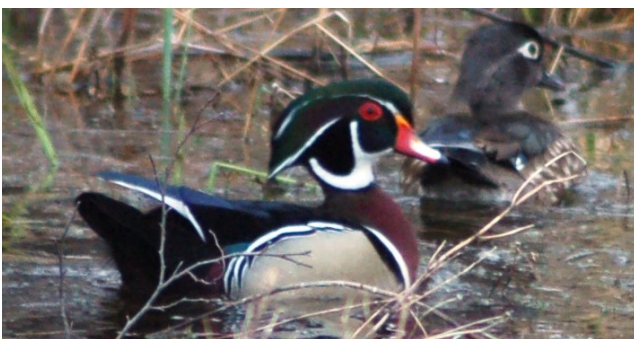
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Welcoming Birds to Your Lakeshore

By John Haack, Natural Resource Educator, Retired, UW-Extension

In 2001 there were 4.6 million bird watchers 16 years of age or older in the United States- a little over one in five people. Interest in songbirds grows every year and feeding birds is likely the most popular wildlife-related activity in the country. Burnett County's Long and Des Moines Lake residents agree. In a recent survey they rated song birds as the group of animals they enjoyed viewing the most. Not surprisingly, most of us enjoy seeing and hearing birds. The bright flashes of color and their distinctive songs add interest and joy to our lives.

Keep bird watching in mind as you landscape and plant around your lakeshore and yard. You can increase the chance that birds will regularly visit your property and possibly nest in your yard. Big landscapes or large forests that surround your lake property are as important as the condition of your yard. The lake itself is a landscape feature that encourages many birds. Making your lakeshore property more compatible with surrounding habitats welcomes more native song birds.

Tips for attracting more birds

Add a few native conifers (evergreens). They are good cover for songbirds. White spruce, red and white pine or balsam fir provide wind breaks and good nesting cover.

Plant one or more of the shrubs listed in the *Top Ten Wildlife Shrubs* (<http://www.burnettcounty.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/830>). Shrubs on this list provide cover and edible fruit during summer and fall for many song birds. Dogwoods, cherries, and juneberry have beautiful flowers and form, and many birds like their berries.

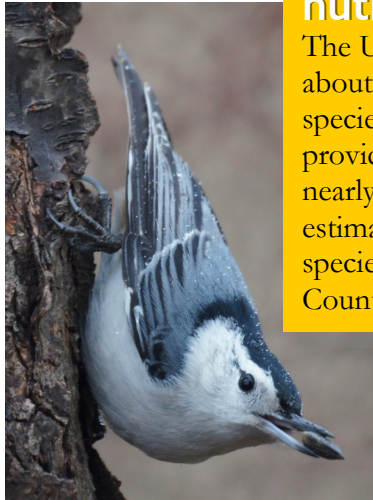
Placing nest boxes on your property can also bring birds to your yard. Some of the boxes that are a good fit for

Burnett County lakeshores are those for chickadee, barred owl, screech owl, wood duck and hooded merganser. Directions for building boxes can be found in *Woodworking for Wildlife* by Minnesota DNR, available online.

Leave dead trees either fallen or standing along the shoreline or the edges of your yard for flickers, woodpeckers, great crested flycatchers, chickadees, and white breasted nuthatches. Many other birds use them for

White breasted nuthatch

The US is home to about 800 breeding bird species. Wisconsin provides a home to nearly 330 of them. An estimated 158 bird species nest in Burnett County.



shelter, feeding, nesting and perching along shorelines.

Let it grow. Leaving lightly used areas along your lakeshore or yard edge unmowed or un-cut can provide cover for nesting and migrating songbirds. Leave a corner of your yard alone and wait and then watch to see what grows back.

Manage bird feeders with bears and other pests in mind. While feeders are a fantastic way to attract birds for family enjoyment in the winter, they also attract unwanted visitors, especially in the non-winter months. Lakes ringed with homes and bird feeders are especially vulnerable to these door to door moochers. The best option to avoid them is to remove feeders during the non-winter season and rake up any seeds on the ground.

For additional information

- *Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* by Carrol Henderson.
- *Wild About Birds: The DNR Bird Feeding Guide* (Minnesota DNR) by Carrol Henderson.
- Both are available at: <https://mn.gov/admin/bookstore/>
- *Birdscaping in the Midwest* by Mariette Nowak. Available at your local book stores.
- *Landscape Plants that Attract Birds* by Scott Craven. Available at: <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/>



BCLRA Year in Review

Last year was one of the busiest and most crucial years in Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association (BCLRA) history. With the discovery of zebra mussels in Big McKenzie Lake, BCLRA had to increase its work and continue its annual programs that help to promote healthy lakes. Burnett County Lakes and Rivers Association accomplished the following in 2017:

- Co-published with UW-Extension two editions of *LakeLines* mailed to over 6,200 lake property owners and elected officials
- Participated in the Rapid Response zebra mussel Management Team with the DNR and Burnett County Land and Water Conservation Department.
- Promoted the Northwest Lakes Conference
- Distributed many copies of the Lake Life Pocket Book
- Promoted the awareness of zebra mussels and how to prevent the spread
 - ◊ Created education cards on good, better, best decontamination techniques
 - ◊ Collaborated with tourism organizations and local media outlets in creating awareness

- Provided scholarships for the 4-H summer camp featuring a conservation program to educate our youth and future generations
- Co-funded a grant to purchase a hot water pressure washer to decontaminate watercraft from invasive species
- Provided a grant to the County of Burnett to fund interns to perform clean boats clean waters at area landings

These activities were made possible by the leadership of the BCLRA board of directors. They volunteer their time and foster partnerships with many organizations to help make things happen. While volunteers are great resources, money is needed to accomplish many of the things we do. *LakeLines* is made possible through sponsors, lake association memberships, UW-Extension funds, and individual donations. *LakeLines* is mailed to all lakes, not just those with lake associations. If you value BCLRA's work, please consider providing a donation.

DONATE TO BCLRA

Our purpose is to promote the environmental protection of Burnett County's lakes and rivers and its wildlife resources, to share information, projects, and results. If you would like to help BCLRA fulfill its mission, please consider a charitable donation. Any amount is appreciated and helps to provide support to the many projects BCLRA is involved in.

SEND YOUR CHECK TO: 7410 Co Rd K, #107, Siren WI 54872 payable to BCLRA.

Amount:	\$10	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100
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Eating Your Catch: New Ways to Help You Choose Wisely

By Meghan Williams, Wisconsin DNR

Figuring out which fish are safest to cook for your family's next meal is now even easier thanks to new publications, videos and website features from the DNR/DHS Fish Consumption Advisory Program.

Catching fish in Wisconsin waters isn't just a fun pastime; your catch can also be a tasty part of your diet. Fish has long been recognized as a great source of low fat protein and beneficial omega-3 fatty acids like EPA and DHA, which help keep you healthy. However, most Wisconsin fish species and waters contain at least a small amount of contaminants like mercury, and some also contain PCBs. Fortunately, the Departments of Natural Resources and Health Services provide many ways for you to figure out how frequently and which fish you and your family can safely eat.

You're probably familiar with *Choose Wisely*, an annually-updated publication listing consumption advice for sport fish from Wisconsin waters. The brochure includes changes to the advice for some species of fish from Lake Michigan and Green Bay, several rivers and northern lakes, and much more.

You can also find the Choose Wisely information at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/consumption/ChooseWisely2016Web.pdf> or go to the Wisconsin DNR web site and search using the key words "choose wisely"

But, did you know that the Fish Consumption Advisory Program has many more ways for you to learn about the benefits and risks of eating your catch?

Benefits of Eating Fish. Read through the article *A Healthy Dose of Flavor* found in the April 2014 Natural Resources magazine, or by visiting <https://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2014/04/Healthy.htm>. In the article, you'll learn about which sport fish contain the highest levels of beneficial omega-3 fatty acids.

Favorite Fish Recipes. Check out the all-new – and completely free – online cookbook called *Healthy Dishes with Wisconsin Fishes*, which includes 25 recipes submitted by Wisconsin anglers and chefs. The cookbook has special tips for choosing fish with the least contaminants and highlights the healthiest recipes. The cookbook can be found at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/documents/consumption/HealthDishWisFish.pdf>.

Online Advice Tool. Found on the *Eating Your Catch* page of WDNR's site (<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/Consumption/>), is the now mobile friendly *Find Advice* online query tool that includes a clickable map so you can get consumption advice for any lake or river in Wisconsin! Try tapping the *find my location* map symbol from a GPS-enabled smartphone to get advice for your current fishing spot.



Reel in these other new features! Now you can stash an *Eating Your Catch* Wisconsin Wildcard in your tackle box for a quick reminder of general advice for most Wisconsin waters. Updated videos in English, Spanish, and Hmong on the DNR's YouTube channel help people of all ages learn about safe eating!





4-H Summer Camp BCLRA Scholarship

By Beth Rank, UW-Extension

Burnett County Lakes & Rivers Association (BCLRA) has partnered with the Burnett County UW-Extension 4-H Youth & Family Educator, Beth Rank, to provide scholarships for youth to attend 4-H sponsored summer camp. Burnett County 4-H Summer Camp will be Tuesday, July 17 - Friday, July 20 at Camp Burnett on Lake 26.

Camp is a rustic facility with a main lodge, eight cabins, each with eight bunks and pit toilets. Campers use the beach on the adjacent Lake 26 park.

This year's theme "Around the World", was selected by the older 4-H youth who serve as cabin counselors or junior counselors and volunteer adult chaperones. At the request of BCLRA, an educational program related to aquatic invasive species will be provided in partner-

ship with the Conservation Division of the Burnett County Land Services Department (formerly Land & Water Conservation Department).

Camp fee is \$50 per non-4-H camper or \$40 per registered 4-H camper. Scholarships can cover up to 50% of camp fees.

Bunks are filled on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to Burnett County 4-H youth first. Registration deadline for 4-H priority is June 11th and all camp registrations are due June 18th unless camp fills before that date.

Interested in learning more about camp and/or scholarships? Contact Beth Rank at 715-349-2151 or email her at beth.rank@ces.uwex.edu.



2017 Burnett County 4-H Summer Camp: AIS Coordinator, Cody Hallinger, taught this group of campers some canoeing basics as well as how to use a secchi disk to measure water clarity and other water quality tests. *Photo by UW-Extension Burnett County*

Ways to Zap **ZEBRA MUSSELS**

and other invasive species too

It's up to **YOU** To Decontaminate Your Watercraft



Clean & Decontaminate Boats, Motors, Trailers & Equipment

STOPPING AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS STARTS WITH YOU.



REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CLEAN AWAY FROM THE SHORELINE

Good

CURRENT LAW IN WISCONSIN

- **INSPECT** boat, motor, trailer & equipment
- **REMOVE** vegetation, animals & debris
- **DRAIN WATER** from boat motor, trailer parts, live wells, bait buckets, & catch coolers. Tip boat motor to full down position to drain completely.
- **DRY** with towel or sun. 5 day drying minimum.

The "Good" method may NOT KILL or remove the invisible larval stage of the mussels.

Better

INSPECT • REMOVE • DRAIN • DRY DECONTAMINATE

1. Spray with 2 Tbsp of household bleach per gallon of water. A garden sprayer is a convenient spray applicator. Use eye protection & follow label cautions.
2. After 10 minutes, spray/rinse with water.
3. Pour or spray solution into live well and bilge areas.

Effectively kills both adult & larval mussels. Easy & low cost. Must be kept away from skin, clothing & boat fabrics. Long term use may cause metal corrosion. Bleach solutions lose strength & need to mix fresh solution daily.

NEVER MIX BLEACH WITH CLEANERS OR OTHER CHEMICALS

Best

INSPECT • REMOVE • DRAIN • DRY RINSE WITH EXTREMELY **HOT WATER**

1. Using very hot water (140° F), spray with a high pressure washer: exterior of boat, motor, trailer, equipment.
2. Spray or pour hot water into interior sensitive areas such as live wells & bilges. Use 120° F water.

Home hot water heaters are typically set from 120 - 140° F. 140° F IS THE TEMPERATURE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE MAXIMUM KILL.

3. Very hot water may require protective gear. Access to hot water and spay equipment may be limited.

OTHER CONTROL OPTIONS FOR SMALLER SCALE EQUIPMENT

- Full strength white distilled vinegar
- Salt solution 2/3 cup salt in 1 gallon water
- Household disinfectant sprays containing quaternary ammonium compounds: Fantastik® or Formula 409®. Wait 10 minutes before rinsing with water.

FOLLOW ALL SAFETY LABELS WHEN USING CHEMICALS

Please visit www.burnettcounty.com/lakes AND wclra.org for more information on the damaging effects of zebra mussels and how to stop them from spreading.



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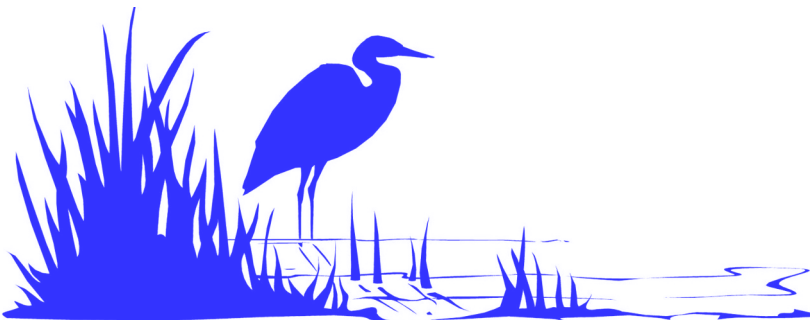
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Visit burnettcounty.com/lakes for online zebra mussel resources.