

ALERT!

ZEBRA MUSSELS AND ROBINSON POND



Zebra mussels have been found in Copake Lake, a mere 3.5 miles from us. Our goal is to do all we can to keep them out of Robinson Pond. Here is some important information about the threat we face and what TSPOA members can do to protect our most valuable resource.

Zebra mussels are an invasive, non-native species that:

- attach to docks and all manner of water equipment (boats, kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, rafts, fishing equipment, diving gear, etc.);
- can spread from one body of water to another by way of any equipment;
- can clog pipes and propellers, resulting in costly repairs;
- have black stripes, which earned them their name, and a flat-bottomed shell, which allows them to adhere to solid surfaces;
- are sharp under foot and can penetrate skin;
- reproduce rapidly and can clump together;
- grow to approximately 2 inches, although many are only the size of a fingernail;
- have microscopic larvae that can be spread unknowingly.

Eradication of the mussels and their larvae can be complex and expensive. What's more, taking more aggressive steps than those described in this notice requires a permit from the State, which can be a long and unsuccessful process

PREVENTION IS OUR BEST PLAN OF ACTION!

Here's what you, your neighbors, and your guests can do to keep Robinson Pond free of zebra mussels:

- 1) Do not transport water and/or any water-use equipment from one body of water to Robinson Pond;
- 2) If you engage in any other recreational activity in body of water other than Robinson Pond, be sure to drain all of your water equipment before you place any of it in Robinson Pond;
- 3) If you engage in any water activity in a body other than Robinson Pond, be sure to wash all of your equipment, including your trailer, with a forceful stream of water, and allow it to dry for at least 5 days (the length of time a zebra mussel can live outside of water) before taking your equipment into Robinson Pond;
- 4) Wash larger craft with a forceful stream of water in order to prevent zebra mussels from adhering to them;
- 5) If 3) is not possible, thoroughly scrub your equipment with a solution of 2% chlorine water. This is safe and will not burn eyes or skin or damage water equipment;
- 6) Please note that using such a chlorine solution must be done at least 40 feet from the shoreline on porous land, so the solution does not flow into the Pond.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of all TSPOA members to inform their guests that no water equipment may be used in Robinson Pond without first taking the precautions described above.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: We are aware of at least one New York State regulation governing zebra mussels. It states: "No person shall intentionally liberate zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) into any waters of the state."

Additional information about regulations can be found at <https://www.northeastans.org/docs/ny-laws.pdf> and through other resources.

Thank you for doing all you can to protect Robinson Pond!

More information will be available from the TSPOA Lake Committee in the near future