

Fall 2020 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update
Phil Rollins, BLIA President

Eurasian Milfoil – Long time Bay Lake volunteer David Devins reports moderate milfoil growth this year. In early September, divers inspected many sites of previous growth, preparing for early October chemical treatment of the worst areas. David confirmed observing areas with strong native vegetation growth, signaling a healthy Bay Lake.

Zebra Mussels - Zebra Mussels have been reported from many sites around the lake - on clam shells, rocks, sticks, lifts and boats. As expected, the mussels are proliferating and we will likely see more as docks and lifts are pulled. It's best to wash the mussels off on land with high pressure water and bury or dispose of them in the garbage.

Much research is being done on how to control and perhaps eliminate the mussels, with copper sulfate a known inhibitor. If you have your shoreline treated with copper sulfate for swimmers itch, you may see fewer mussels. Along with many other lake associations and related organizations, BLIA provides financial to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center for their investigations into Zebra Mussel and other AIS . Here's the link if you'd like to read what they are doing and perhaps join as a private donor: <https://mailchi.mp/umn/summer2020?e=fc3da0d9f0>

Spiny Water Fleas – This tiny creature is invading many MN lakes and is easily transferred in boat bilges, live wells, compartments, on fishing lines, and other methods. Mid-summer water testing confirmed no evidence of their presence in Bay Lake water.