

Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Otter Tail County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Round Lake, located just west of Rush Lake in Otter Tail County.

DNR conservation officers confirmed zebra mussels that were found on equipment being removed for the season on Round Lake's eastern shore. No additional zebra mussels were found during a follow-up search of several other areas of the lake.

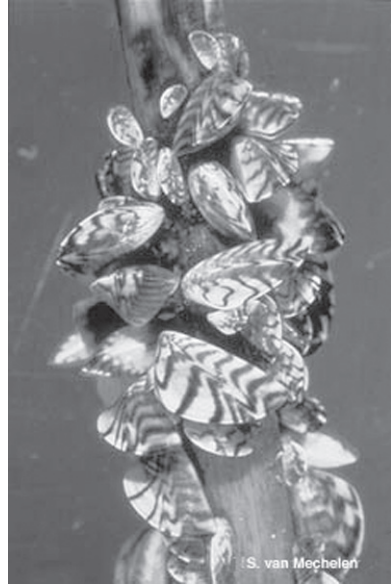
Zebra mussels were confirmed in Rush Lake in July of 2017. Round Lake is not connected to Rush Lake, but they are about one-quarter mile apart, separated by Highway 78.

"This is a key time of year to check for zebra mussels and other invasive species, especially when removing docks and boat lifts that have been stationary in the water all season," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "It helps a lot when property owners, lake associations and lake service provider businesses contact the DNR if they think they've found an invasive species."

Minnesota law requires keeping docks and lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water.

The DNR recommends these steps for lake property owners:

Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period.



Hire DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses to install or remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. These businesses have received training on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws and many have experience identifying and removing invasive species.

People should contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist if they think they have discovered an invasive species that has not already been confirmed in the lake. Take a photo of any newly discovered invasive species before removing it from equipment. Save specimens or leave them in place until the DNR can investigate.

More information is available at www.mndnr.gov/AIS.

Deer Hunts Will Take Place At MN State Parks



Special hunts to prevent overpopulation of deer and protect resources will occur this fall at several Minnesota state parks, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Access to the parks will vary during these hunts. Some parks will remain open to all visitors, some will have limited access and some will be open only to hunters with special permits (closed to the general public). The deadlines for youth and adults to apply for a special permit to participate in the hunts—which include firearms, muzzleloader and archery options—have passed.

"These hunts are a cost-effective way for the DNR to help manage deer populations. And for some youth-only park hunts, they're a great way to introduce youngsters to deer hunting," said Tavis Westbrook, natural resource program coordinator for the DNR's Parks and Trails Division.

When there are too many of one animal or plant species in an area it can start to throw off the balance of other species. For example, when there are too many deer in a park, they tend to feed on certain trees and

native plant communities. Because of this, the DNR occasionally allows deer hunts as a means of protecting natural resources.

The DNR advises anyone planning to visit a state park between now and the end of December to check online or call ahead to see whether a hunt is planned and whether the park will be open. The DNR also advises wearing blaze orange when visiting parks where hunts are taking place. Visitors should check for hunt-related information at the park office when they arrive, look carefully for hunt-related signage and follow instructions.

For a list of parks that are open, partially open or closed during the 2018 hunting season, visit mndnr.gov/state_parks/hunting.html or contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888 646-6367 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturday).

Details on which areas of each park will be affected by the special deer hunts can also be found in the "Visitor Alert" boxes on the individual park webpages at mndnr.gov/parkfinder.

CWD Tests Mandatory For Deer Harvested In Areas

Precautionary testing during the first two days of firearms deer season will determine whether chronic wasting disease may have spread from captive deer to wild deer in central and north-central Minnesota.

"Wild deer are not known to have CWD in these areas, and this is the second year of surveillance there," said Lou Cornicelli, wildlife research manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Mandatory testing of wild deer that hunters harvest is a proactive and preventative measure to protect Minnesota's wild deer populations."

During opening weekend of the 2017 firearms season, 10,500 deer were tested and the disease was not detected. Because so many deer were sampled last year, the DNR is reducing the size of the surveillance area this year.

Central Minnesota deer permit areas with mandatory testing are 277 and 283 east of Highway 4; 219 south of Highway 55; and 285 north of Highway 7. Hunters who kill a deer in one of these permit areas but outside the surveillance zone do not need to submit the deer for testing.

North-central Minnesota deer permit areas with mandatory testing are 242 and 247.

All hunters in affected deer permit areas will be required to have their deer tested on Saturday, November 3, or Sunday, November 4. After field dressing their deer, hunters must take them to a sampling station. DNR staff will remove lymph nodes, which will be submitted for laboratory testing.

Hunters must register their deer by phone, internet or in person. Harvest registration will not be available at CWD sampling stations.

Testing in north-central and central Minnesota became necessary after CWD was found in multiple captive deer near Merrifield in Crow Wing County and Litchfield in Meeker County. Test results will

determine whether CWD may have been passed from these captive deer to wild deer.

Deer harvested in southeastern Minnesota's permit areas 255, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348 and 349 are subject to mandatory testing on November 3-4 and November 17-18 because of their proximity to CWD-infected wild deer in permit area 603, a captive deer facility in Winona County found positive, and additional positive deer in Wisconsin and Iowa. Deer permit area 603 has mandatory surveillance throughout all deer seasons. Hunters should consult the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwd for more complete information.

Proactive surveillance and precautionary testing for disease is a proven strategy that allows the DNR to manage CWD by finding it early and reacting quickly and aggressively to control it. These actions, which were taken in 2005 to successfully combat bovine tuberculosis in northwestern Minnesota deer and in 2010 to eliminate a CWD infection in wild deer near Pine Island, provide the best opportunity to eliminate disease spread.

"Without precautionary testing, early detection would not be possible," Cornicelli said. "Without early detection, there's nothing to stop CWD from becoming established at a relatively high prevalence and across a large geographic area. At that point, there is no known way to control it once established."

Additional details on mandatory testing will be released throughout the fall as firearms deer season approaches. Complete information about mandatory CWD testing this fall, sampling station locations and a related precautionary feeding ban are available now on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/cwd.

Drowning Is Biggest Safety Risk For Hunters



Hunters hitting the water this fall in pursuit of ducks, geese and other waterfowl are reminded to include life jackets on their hunting gear checklist.

"Hunters in Minnesota are trained from a young age to always put safety first," said Lt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division. "For duck and goose hunters, that means always wearing a life jacket on the water — no exceptions."

More waterfowl hunters die every year from drowning than from other types of hunting incidents. Swamping, capsizing and falling overboard are all common factors leading to these deaths, but in nearly all cases the hunters would have survived had they been wearing a life jacket.

"Before launching the duck boat, make sure everyone on board is wearing a life jacket or float coat," Block said. "It's the one item that greatly increases your odds of surviving a water emergency and living to hunt another day."

The wide variety of comfortable, camouflage life jackets designed specifically for waterfowl hunting includes inflatable vest and belt-pack styles, insulated flotation jackets, and foam-filled shooting vests with quilted shoulders and shell loops.

"Typical foam-filled vests or float coats provide optimal insulation against cold air and the effects of

hypothermia, but without question, the best life jacket for waterfowl hunting is the one you will actually wear," said Lisa Dugan, DNR boating and water safety outreach coordinator. "Choosing a life jacket style that works for you, and wearing it every time you're on the water, is not only a good choice — it's the best choice you can make."

At the very least, all boats must carry one U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for each passenger, and boats longer than 16 feet must also have a throwable flotation device immediately available. Children under 10 must wear a life jacket.

Other water safety tips for duck hunters include:

- Don't overload the boat; take two trips if necessary.

- If wearing hip boots or waders, learn how to float with them on.

- Stay near shore and avoid crossing large expanses of open water, especially in bad weather.

- Share trip plans with someone and advise them to call for help if you do not return on schedule.

- Use a headlamp, spotlight or navigation lights to alert other boaters to your presence in dark and/or foggy conditions.

- Carry a cell phone or personal locator beacon in case of emergency.

Visit mndnr.gov/boatingsafety to download the DNR's "Water Safety for Duck Hunters" brochure and learn more about water safety for hunters.

Thousands Set To Hunt During Youth Deer Season

Nearly 5,000 hunters ages 10-15 will take to the fields and forests this weekend during the youth deer season, an annual hunting opportunity that helps develop Minnesota's next generation of hunters.

"Traditionally most hunters have learned how to hunt from a parent, relative or someone they know well," said James Burnham, angler and hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "Those folks who take time to pass on their hunting knowledge and traditions really deserve a high five because they are carrying on the strong hunting tradition in our state."

Minnesota's youth deer season began in 2004 in northwestern Minnesota and since has expanded and encompassed new areas. Currently, the youth season's 28 permit areas include parts of southeastern and northwestern Minnesota, and the Twin Cities metro permit area 601.

The season is timed during the weekend when many students have school off due to teacher workshops, this year from Thursday, October 18, to Sunday, October 21.

"This weekend may be the first time many youth throw on hunting



clothes, learn how to spot a flick of a tail in the woods, or feel what it's like to take home venison they harvested themselves," Burnham said.

Regulations

This weekend's youth deer season is open to permit areas 101, 105, 111, 114, 201, 203, 208, 209, 256, 257, 260, 263, 264, 267, 268, 338, 339, 341, 342, 343, 344 (including Whitewater State Game Refuge), 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 601 and 603. Blaze orange or blaze pink requirements apply to all hunters and adult mentors in areas open for the youth firearms deer season. Public land is open, and private land is open if the hunters have landowner permission.

Youth ages 10 through 15 must obtain a firearms deer license. Youth ages 12 to 15 need to have completed firearms safety or, if not, can obtain an apprentice hunter validation.

During the youth season, a parent, guardian or mentor age 18 or older must accompany the youth and only need a license if the youth is taking advantage of the apprentice validation option. Party hunting on a youth license is not allowed — so youth must take and tag their own deer.

Youth hunters in permit area 603 must have their adult deer tested for chronic wasting disease by providing the head of all adult deer in one of five head collection boxes (see page 64 of the 2018 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook for location details).

More information about deer hunting can be found at mndnr.gov/hunting/deer. Information about the youth season can be found on page 35 of the 2018 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations Handbook.

Minnesota Deer Facts

Deer: The animal

- Adult female white-tailed deer weigh about 145 lbs., and males weigh about 170 lbs.

- The biggest white-tailed deer recorded in Minnesota was a 500-pound buck.

- A whitetail's home range is about one square mile.

Deer hunting

- There are nearly 500,000 firearms deer hunters in Minnesota.

- Last year, 35 percent of Minnesota firearm hunters successfully harvested a deer. About 53 percent were antlered bucks.

- 70 percent of Minnesota's firearms deer harvest typically occurs during the first three or four days of the season.

- The average hunter spends five days afield during Minnesota's firearms deer season.

- The highest deer harvests occurred during the early to mid-1990s and from 2000 to 2008. From 2000 to 2008 the harvest topped 200,000 deer each year. The 200 harvests in the early

2000s occurred at a time when the overriding philosophy was to reduce the deer population so it wouldn't grow out of control and to address certain environmental, economic and social concerns. Harvests in the 1970s never topped 100,000, while harvests in the 1980s were under 150,000. In 2017, the harvest was just over 197,500.

Firearms hunter safety

- The three most common factors in hunting-related firearms incidents are careless handling, not knowing the safe zone of fire and not being sure of what's beyond the target.

- The three tenets of safe firearms handling are: Treat each firearm as if it is loaded by keeping your finger off the trigger; always control the muzzle of your firearm; and be sure of your target and what is beyond.

- Since 2011, the DNR's 4,000 certified instructors have provided firearms safety training to 177,453 students.

More information on deer hunting can be found at mndnr.gov/hunting/deer.

Samuelson Sez



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Orion Samuelson

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF LAWSUITS?

What is happening in the lawsuit courtrooms these days? Since I do have friends who are attorneys, I don't want to disparage the profession too much, yet I do have to ask - "Do we have too many attorneys practicing for the dollars that are out there?"

All you need to do is watch television commercials by law firms saying, over and over again - "If you used this pharmaceutical product, it might have caused you harm and you may be entitled to substantial compensation. Call us and we will check it out for you."

The lawsuit business for damages and compensation probably got going decades ago when the lady successfully sued McDonald's for serving her coffee that was too hot and it burned her when it spilled on her. She said McDonald's didn't warn her that their coffee was hot and a jury awarded her substantial compensation.

Now, there is this one for a more recent lawsuit - Monsanto was sued by a groundskeeper, Dwayne Johnson, who alleged the company's glyphosate-based weed killers, including Roundup, gave him cancer, and the company didn't warn him. On August 10th, a jury in San Francisco awarded Mr. Johnson \$39-million dollars in compensation and \$250-million dollars in punitive damages!

But last week a judge in San Francisco ruled Monsanto could have a new trial to present its case on the punitive damage amount. I know that human life is priceless, but \$250-million dollars in punitive damages above the \$39-million in compensation? It doesn't make sense to me and I hope it doesn't make sense to a new jury. But I am sure it does to the attorneys who will reap a multi-million dollar settlement for this one case.

I have no objection to lawsuits with just cause and reasonable settlements, but there needs to be some common sense and reason in the mix.

My thoughts on Samuelson Sez.

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