



The 2017 boating season is almost upon us and a few simple steps can save our lake from being taken over by Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

The Threat of AIS: We know several bad actors are found in nearby water bodies: Didymo, Eurasian Watermilfoil and the dreaded Zebra Mussels. These have not been identified in our lake yet. These AIS can take over a water body like Tennanah Lake, choke out the native species which help keep our lake balanced with fish, and other aquatic inhabitants, and make the lake an unpleasant place.

A few of us utilize our water equipment on other bodies of water or invite our guests to bring water craft, kayaks, paddle boards or even bring their special water skis to our lake. Where have they been and have they been in contact with AIS? Are we going to bring AIS to our lake by mistake?

We can do several things to help prevent an AIS disaster on our lake:

The best way to prevent accidental AIS contamination is to not use your water equipment in other water bodies. But if you do or your equipment is stored away from the lake, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation provides 5 basic steps in guideline form, '**Check; Clean; Drain; Dry; Disinfect**'.

- Visually Check for "hitchhikers" adhering to your equipment (boats, trailers, waders, nets, skis, and even fishing lures)
- Physically Clean and remove alga etc.
- Drain bilges and live wells
- Dry (recommended five to seven days of dry weather) or Disinfect the equipment.

Two disinfecting agents are recommended:

- Household chlorine bleach mixed 3 oz. to one gallon water (not recommended on aluminum as it is corrosive); or
- Potassium Chloride (typical water softening material) at a one teaspoon dry crystal to two gallons of water solution.

Don't forget to clean/disinfect bilges, fish wells, trailers, and even waders if you are fly fishing as Didymo is noted in several Delaware River areas.

For more information visit: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html> or see the Tennanah Lake web page for 'A New York Boaters Guide to Cleaning, Drying, and Disinfecting Boating Equipment'.

Thank you and let's take extra care of our lake!

George Kayser, Environmental Committee