

Chinese mystery snail Confirmed in Polk County Lake SARAH

The Chinese mystery snail is a snail that has been shipped over to California from Asia in the 1800's for Asian seafood markets. These different shades of brown snails grow up to two inches long and are normally referenced as being the size of a golf ball. Lake and ponds that have these snails will often find the shorelines lined with dead or empty shells. The reason the CMS (Chinese Mystery Snail) got its name is due the fact how it gives birth in the spring, to young fully developed snails suddenly and mysteriously appear. CMS was likely released into the Niagara river in the 1930's from aquaria enthusiasts who accidentally released them.

This invasive species can form dense populations and outcompete native species for food and habitat in ponds, lakes and streams. These snails can carry parasitic worms and can transmit trematodes that can kill waterfowl. There is currently no threat to human well-being with this infestation and it is believed that Lake Sarah has had them for many years as they are quite prevalent with a thick adult population this past summer. There is no evidence to support this theory but some believe that young CMS can be transferred from lake to lake by hitchhiking in bait buckets and boat bilges. What also doesn't help us is they can survive out of water for days by just tightly shutting their trap door to hold in their moisture. It's nearly impossible to get rid of mystery snails. The only way you can help is by making sure you are not transferring the snails and water out of the lake and report all new infestations in other lakes near you, for awareness is vital for preventing spreading them.

What Can You Do.....

1. **Don't Transport!** – It is legal to have in your possession, BUT it is illegal to transport to another lake!
2. **Remove Snails** – Remove the snails that wash up on shore and dispose of them into the trash!
3. **Spread the Word** – If you find out that the lake you are on or near you has not only Mystery Chinese Snail, but any other type of invasive species in it. Let other people know and remind them to be careful not to transport them to another body of water.

What to know about: Chinese Mystery Snails?

- Native to Asia, spread due to being released by consumers and aquarists who purchased them from live food markets in the 1930's
- These different shades of brown snails grow up to two inches long and are normally referenced as being the size of a golf ball
- Dead CMS (Chinese Mystery Snails) can litter shorelines and clog screens of water intakes in lakes and slow moving rivers
- CMS can survive out of water for days by tightly shutting their trap door to hold in their moisture
- CMS pose a danger to native waterfowl as they can be hosts for parasitic worms
- CMS got its name is due the fact how it gives birth in the spring, to young fully developed snails suddenly and mysteriously appear
- CMS are impossible to eradicate once introduced to a new waterbody
- The only way you can help is by making sure you are not transferring the snails and water out of the lake and report all new infestations in other lakes near you, for awareness is vital for preventing spreading them.

Narrow shell at tip
approximately 50-55*
angle



Chinese Mystery
Snails have 7-8 whorls
on shell

