

DNR has Confirmed Chinese Mystery Snails in Lake Sarah

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of Chinese Mystery Snails in Lake Sarah, Polk County near Erskine, Minnesota. These snails most likely were introduced from humans inadvertently transporting a live adult snail into the waterbody. 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. 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. These 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 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. The Polk County AIS taskforce urges lake users to be on the alert to not bring these species to other water bodies. Dispose of bait water, bilge waters and clean all equipment used in fishing or recreation. Public Awareness is vital to controlling the spread of this species into other water bodies. The taskforce will be working with the DNR to see how susceptible Union and Bradley Lake are to getting this species being there are water connections to both these water bodies. Please don't transport these large snails to other lakes, remove snails that wash up on your lakeshore beaches by throwing them in the trash, and spread the word to others. Please contact Polk County Environmental Services with any questions or comments regarding this article at 218-281-5700. ----- Jacob Snyder, Polk County Planning & Zoning Administrator

