



10/21/2008

## Stop the Spread of Invasive Zebra Mussels

For Immediate Release  
September 22, 2008

Press Advisory

SPONSORED BY: Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Penn State University Pennsylvania Sea Grant, with grants from Pennsylvania DEP and the DuPont Clear into the Future program

WHAT: FREE Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring Workshop for Citizens, Teachers, & Boaters

WHEN: 10:00am – 1:30pm, September 27, 2008

WHERE: Blue Marsh Lake, 1286 Palisades Drive, Leesport, PA 19533 (Berks Co, PA)

### BACKGROUND:

Zebra and quagga mussels are invasive species that are spreading into water bodies nationwide. They grow so densely that they block pipelines, clog municipal water intakes, and cover the undersides of docks and boats. These mussels are a nuisance to people and cause extreme harm to aquatic ecosystems, native clam and mussel populations, and the economy.

Quagga mussels have spread to a diving quarry in the Bethlehem area, and zebra mussels are in the upper Susquehanna River in north central PA and in many waterways of New York.

“Invasive species are often introduced either by accident or by people who believe they are doing no harm and education efforts need to be strengthened to stop these invasions that have dire consequences for our native ecosystems,” said Maya van Rossum, Delaware Riverkeeper. The Pennsylvania Zebra and Quagga Monitoring Network is doing just that as they outreach and train citizen volunteers for what to look for and how to spot invasive mussels and warn visitors and recreational boaters how to properly clean equipment and gear to prevent the spread of these mussels.

No prior experience is needed for this free workshop. All materials including a DVD training video and monitoring manual will be provided, and lunch will also be provided. Teachers are also eligible to earn PA Act 48 credits. There is still time to sign up for this workshop or show up Saturday morning at 9:45 to participate (bring along your lunch if you have not pre-registered).

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The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) is the only advocacy organization working throughout the entire Delaware River Watershed. The DRN is committed to protecting, monitoring and restoring the watershed's natural balance where it has been lost and ensuring its preservation where it still exists.

Pennsylvania Sea Grant promotes the ecological and economic sustainability of Pennsylvania's coastal resources through research and outreach. Our activities include science-based extension, education, applied research, and communication focusing on the Lake Erie and Delaware River drainages of Pennsylvania.

For more information or to sign up for this workshop contact Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

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