



## INVASIVE INVESTIGATOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Sponsored by the Lake Zoar Authority under the supervision of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

*Stopping the spread of invasive species...how you can help!*

**Training Location: Cyrenius H. Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown, CT**

**Training Date and Time: Saturday, July 30, 2011 at 9:30am**

Zebra mussels, an invasive species, have been found recently in the Housatonic River system, specifically in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar. With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species to Connecticut's inland lakes, many lake association members and other concerned citizens with sincere interest in lake protection are looking for ways to get involved.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** The INVASIVE INVESTIGATOR volunteer Program, under the direct authority & supervision of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) and regionally sponsored by the Lake Zoar Authority, will assist local Connecticut communities in stopping the spread of invasive species. Education and public awareness are key components in the prevention and control of Aquatic Invasive Species.

The Invasive Investigator Program is designed specifically to educate people on ways to keep our waters clean and prevent the spread of aquatic hitchhikers into the lakes and rivers of Connecticut. The Invasive Investigators will visit local boat launches, conduct boat inspections for invasive plants and animals and collect information about where boats have been, if any invasive species were found, and what if any cleaning steps were done prior to launch. The volunteers will aid in educating boaters about aquatic invasive species, how they travel from lake to lake, and what can be done to prevent their spread. The CT DEEP encourages lake associations and other community volunteers to join us in our quest to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

This program is an opportunity for concerned citizens to take a frontline defense against aquatic invasive species and encourage boaters to take preventive measures to help stop the spread of invasives from lake to lake.

This training session is one of a series of opportunities provided by the CT DEEP for volunteers to receive the mandatory instruction to become an Invasive Investigator. Training sessions are open to adults and students over the age of 18, associated with a lake association or other water-related organization. Those under 18 can work if supervised by a trained adult volunteer. Trained Invasive Investigators will receive an Invasive Investigator Handbook, Invasive Investigator t-shirt and educational material to distribute.

**To volunteer or find out more information**, please contact Gwendolynn Flynn of the CT DEEP at 860-447-4339 or [gwendolynn.flynn@ct.gov](mailto:gwendolynn.flynn@ct.gov). To sign up for training, please email the Lake Zoar Authority at [lakezoar@gmail.com](mailto:lakezoar@gmail.com)

**Hope to see you there!**

