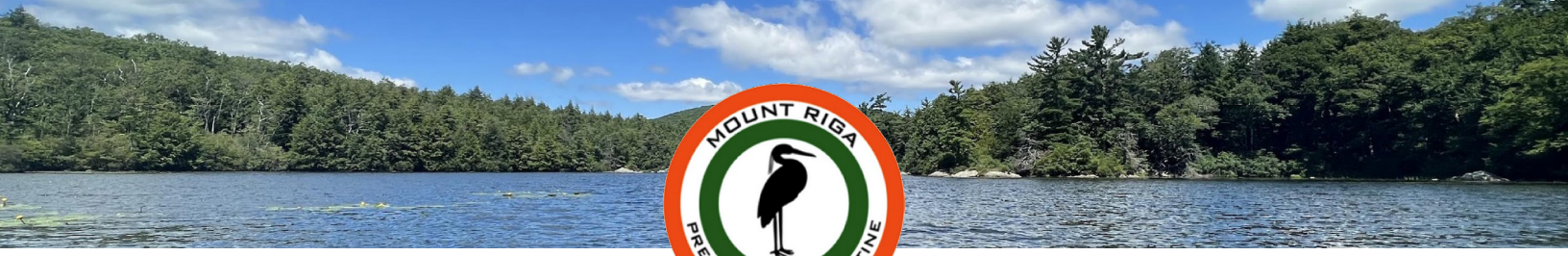


Mt. Riga Lakes Health Update

Our Lakes Need Our Help

Now is the time to restore lake health and prevent further decline

1

Upper Riga lake has been host to algal blooms and both lakes are becoming devoid of oxygen at their depths, creating potential dead zones for aquatic life

2

This is due to excessive nitrogen and phosphorous that feed algae and phytoplankton growth, and block sunlight, altering water temperatures and oxygen supply

3

While water clarity improved in 2024, there continue to be signs of long-term decline

While these data are all areas of concern, both lakes contained a good variety of native aquatic plant species, and importantly, **no invasive species were found in either lake**

Human activities can affect the health of our lakes

What can you do to maintain lake health and lead by example?

The following are suggested actions that may help limit human impact on water quality:

- **IF IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!**
- Do not allow any materials into the lake:
  - Soaps/lotions/oils, food scraps, organic materials, yard clippings, etc.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products and limit their use as much as possible
- Refrain from using fertilizers or introducing new plantings near the lakes
- Where possible, use clothing for UV and insect protection to limit sunscreen lotions or products
- Talk about lake health and protection with friends and family. Our efforts will be stronger if we do them together
- Join the discussion, contribute your questions, comments, and concerns

For more information about the Mt. Riga Lake Management Committee, contact:

Barbara Heinemann, **781-962-3223** or Vp@mountriga.org

Chris Moore, **203-687-6776** or chris.moore@yale.edu

Hydrilla Alert!

Help prevent the introduction of Hydrilla and other invasive species

- Hydrilla verticillata is an aggressive invasive species threatening the health of our lakes; it grows quickly and forms dense patches
- Invasives can displace native plants, impact fish and wildlife habitat, and interfere with swimming, paddling, and fishing
- Hydrilla has been found in 6 CT lakes, including Twin Lakes in Salisbury

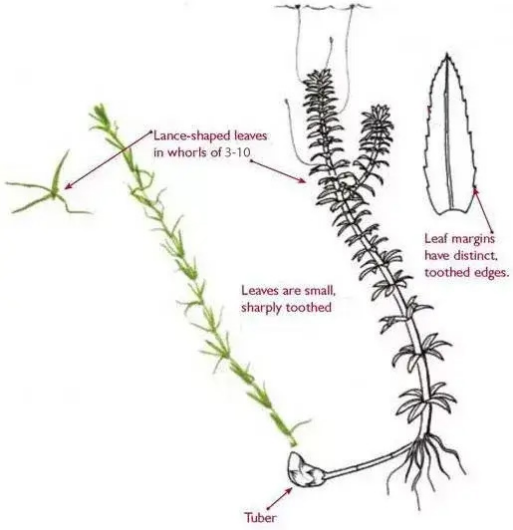
NO OFF-MOUNTAIN WATER CRAFT. All resident watercraft must have an authorized sticker.

NO LIVE BAIT or off-mountain hooks or lures. All gear should be cleaned and inspected for plant material.

Do not bring swimwear, shoes, or rec equipment used in nearby lakes or waterways. **IF IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT**

There is no efficient method for eradicating Hydrilla, so we must prevent the introduction of Hydrilla. We can help by conducting searches for its presence throughout the summer.

- Hydrilla has leaves with serrated edges that whirl around a long stalk. A key ID feature is the white-yellowish tube at the bottom of the stem, found beneath the soil surface
- It can be rooted, free-floating, or attached to something



Think you found Hydrilla?

Take a clear photo and note its location. If floating, take the stalk and bag it. If rooted, leave it alone.

Contact the Lake Management Committee:

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For more information on Hydrilla go to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station website:
https://portal.ct.gov/CAES/OAIS/Connecticut-River-Project