

# Asian Clam Lake-wide Survey

## We Need Your Help.

The invasive Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) was discovered in Lake George in August 2010 in the Village of Lake George.

Area of Asian Clam Infestation in Lake George Village

The serious threat to the long-term ecological health of Lake George from the Asian clam infestation was quickly grasped by Lake George and Adirondack Park civic and regulatory communities. This group formalized into the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force (LGACRRTF) and organized a containment and eradication plan for the Asian clam infestation in the south end of the lake. Over 800 7' x 50' PVC mats covering 6 acres of lake bottom were installed this spring and weighted down with metal rebar and sandbags to smother the clams.

Now, in late July 2011, a second infestation has been found 6 miles up the lake in Boon Bay. Preliminary surveys suggest that both infestations have clams of similar sizes, and therefore ages.

If you have access to a shallow, sandy shoreline area we need your help. We need to know if there are more Asian clams in other locations in Lake George.

Here is what you can do.

1. Head down to the shoreline.
2. Look for Asian clams.
3. Report back to us.



Asian Clams

Known Locations of Asian Clam Infestations in Lake George



**1. Where to Look:** Asian clams like shallow, sandy areas. So you don't need to go out deep. Just look right along the shoreline. If you have a face mask and a snorkel, you could swim around a bit as well. (Please be sure to be safe and don't swim alone.) You don't need to go out any deeper than around 6 ft. of water. Focus on areas where the lake bottom is sandy.

**2. What to Look For:** Asian clams are small, yellow or brownish clams about the size of a dime with concentric ridges. Look for the shells of dead clams right on the surface; often the 2 shells are still hinged together like a butterfly. If you find a shell the size of a quarter or larger, it is not an Asian clam. There are mussels and snails in the lake as well, so you might find other shells. Take a look on the next page to see more pictures of what the Asian clam looks like. If you find what you think is an Asian clam, take a picture and please grab a sample.

**3. What to Report:** Email the Darrin Fresh Water Institute (DFWI) at [dfwi@rpi.edu](mailto:dfwi@rpi.edu) with your name, location where you looked, photo if you have one, and whether or not you found a shell that you think might be an Asian clam. We need to confirm any possible sightings, so we need a photo and sample if you think it might be an Asian clam. Or call DFWI at 518-644-3541 with this information.

# Asian Clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)

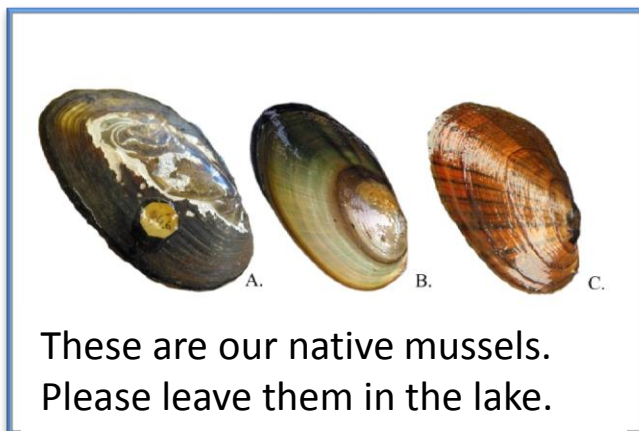
**Size:** Small, usually less than 20 millimeters. About the size of a dime or smaller.



**Color:** Light tan or brown colored shell, but color can vary. The shell is not smooth, it has thick elevated ridges.



**Other Mollusks in the Lake:** There are other mollusks found in the lake. We also have snails and mussels. Asian clams are bivalves like mussels, meaning they have 2 shells hinged together, but Asian clams are much smaller and rounder than our native mussels.



For more info about Asian clams in Lake George, go online to [www.stoptheasianclam.info](http://www.stoptheasianclam.info).