

AUTUMN 2025 NEWSLETTER



**WE HOPE EVERYONE
ENJOYED A BEAUTIFUL
SUMMER ON THE WATER!**



A new invasive species, *Hydrilla*, is now threatening Rhode Island lakes. It's already been found in three South County lakes and can easily spread to our waters via visiting boats and trailers. *Hydrilla* grows rapidly and is extremely difficult—and costly—to manage once established.



Blue Green Algae

INVASIVE SPECIES UPDATE:

We're proud to report that, for the fourth year in a row, our lake remains free of invasive weeds. Our preventative measures are working—but continued vigilance is essential.

Unfortunately, our season ended on a challenging note with a cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom that kept the lake closed for over four weeks. We can all help prevent future blooms by avoiding the use of fertilizers near the lake and by keeping leaves and grass clippings out of the water.

Let's continue working together to keep Smith and Sayles clean, healthy, and beautiful for years to come

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms found in freshwater and marine environments. Despite the name, they are actually a type of bacteria capable of photosynthesis, like plants. While essential to many ecosystems, under certain conditions—such as warm temperatures and nutrient-rich water—they can grow rapidly, forming harmful algal blooms (HABs). These blooms can produce toxins that are dangerous to humans, pets, and wildlife.

Boat Greeter Program:

Since 2010, SDRA has partnered with RIDEM and Save the Lakes to support their shared mission of preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The goal of the program is to educate and empower boaters to help stop the introduction and spread of invasive species in our waterways.

Not long ago, our lake was overwhelmed by invasive milfoil. The infestation happened quickly and highlighted the urgent need for action. In response, SDRA took a proactive role, working tirelessly over the years to combat the issue through education, monitoring, and community involvement. Today, thanks to continued vigilance, we are better equipped to protect the health of our lake.

The threat of AIS continues to grow statewide. This year, SDRA members participated in several training sessions offered by RIDEM and Save the Lakes through the GREAT Boaters Program. These sessions provided valuable tools for identifying invasive species and engaging boaters in prevention efforts. Although all fishing tournaments were unfortunately canceled starting in early September due to a cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom, we were still able to greet and inspect over 65 boats and kayaks before the closure. During one inspection, an invasive water chestnut was discovered on a boat trailer—a powerful reminder of why this work is so important.

As always, interacting with boaters was both fun and informative. We're grateful to our dedicated volunteers and excited to continue our efforts next season with our newly trained team members.

****Visit the link below for more information regarding invasive species:*

<https://dem.ri.gov/ri-stormwater-solutions/in-the-weeds/invasive-species.php>



**RHODE ISLAND
DEM**



WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

TRASH CLEAN UP - HELP KEEP OUR LAKE CLEAN!

- **Participate in Trash Cleanup: VOLUNTEER** for our successful “*2-weeks-at-a-time*” Program!

*(For parking area outside the Transfer Station & area across from the Transfer Station:
Wilmarth Rd. to the NW corner of the Lake)*

Each volunteer or volunteer family is asked to sign on for half month increments.

**Please send the block of time
you are volunteering for to:**

Judy Colaluca
colalucajudy@gmail.com
or text or call her at 401-486-
8414

**THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING THIS PROJECT.**