

February 15, 2011

Dear Angling Enthusiast:

The Missouri Department of Conservation will be hosting a series of “Open House Forums” during the months of March and April 2011. See enclosed. The topic will be Didymo or “rock snot” (*Didymosphenia geminata*), an invasive alga that can form large thick mats on the bottom of streams smothering aquatic life vital to the food chain that supports fish. Didymo has been found just south of our border in the White River in Arkansas.

Preventing the spread of this invasive species is critical to the health of Missouri’s streams. Equipment such as kayaks, lifejackets, and felt soled waders are the most likely way for Didymo to spread. The Department of Conservation is considering potential regulation changes to prevent the spread of this invasive alga. Your input in this process is important.

You are invited to attend one of the meetings listed in the enclosure to learn more about this threat and what you can do to help prevent it from spreading to Missouri streams.

For questions about the meetings, please call 573-751-4115 ext. 3892 or e-mail: mark.vanpatten@mdc.mo.gov

Sincerely,



Mark Van Patten
Fisheries Biologist

Enclosure

c: Denny Bopp (MDNR)

bc: Draper, Vitello, Canaday, Calvert, Smith, Miller, Fischer, Kruse, Huffman, Yamnitz, Fritz, Morrow, Cravens, Harre, Civiello, Austin, Mayers, Schrader, Whelan, Spurgeon, Hale, Swee, Mitchell, Bush, Fuller, Horton, J. Gironde, Woods

	Open House Location	Date	Time
Montauk State Park	Searcy Building	Tuesday March 15, 2011	6:00 p.m.
Bennett Spring State Park	Bennett Spring Hatchery Building	Monday March 21, 2011	6:00 p.m.
Shepherd of the Hills Hatchery–Lake Taneycomo	Table Rock Dam Dewey Short Visitor Center	Saturday March 26, 2011	1:00 p.m.
Roaring River State Park	Emory Melton Inn and Conference Center	Thursday April 7, 2011	6:00 p.m.
Maramec Spring Park	James Memorial Library Meeting Rm. 300 W. Scioto, St. James	Monday April 11, 2011	6:00 p.m.

Stop Rock Snot

The invasive alga “didymo” has been found in Arkansas in portions of the White River System and the North Fork of the White River.

Before entering this water:

CHECK AND CLEAN OR DRY

CHECK

Remove all visible clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, equipment, water shoes and sandals, canoes and kayaks, **and anything else** that has been in the water.



CLEAN

Clean your gear in a 2% household bleach solution (1/3 cup per gallon water), 5% saltwater solution (1 cup per gallon water) or dishwashing detergent. Scrub boats and other “hard” items thoroughly; **completely soak** equipment, felt-sole waders, personal flotation devices and other “soft” items for at least **20 minutes!!!!**



OR

DRY

Allow any item that has been in contact with the water to **completely** dry; the item should be exposed to sunlight and left to dry for **at least** 48 hours.

Please Do Your Part - Don't Spread Didymo!

