

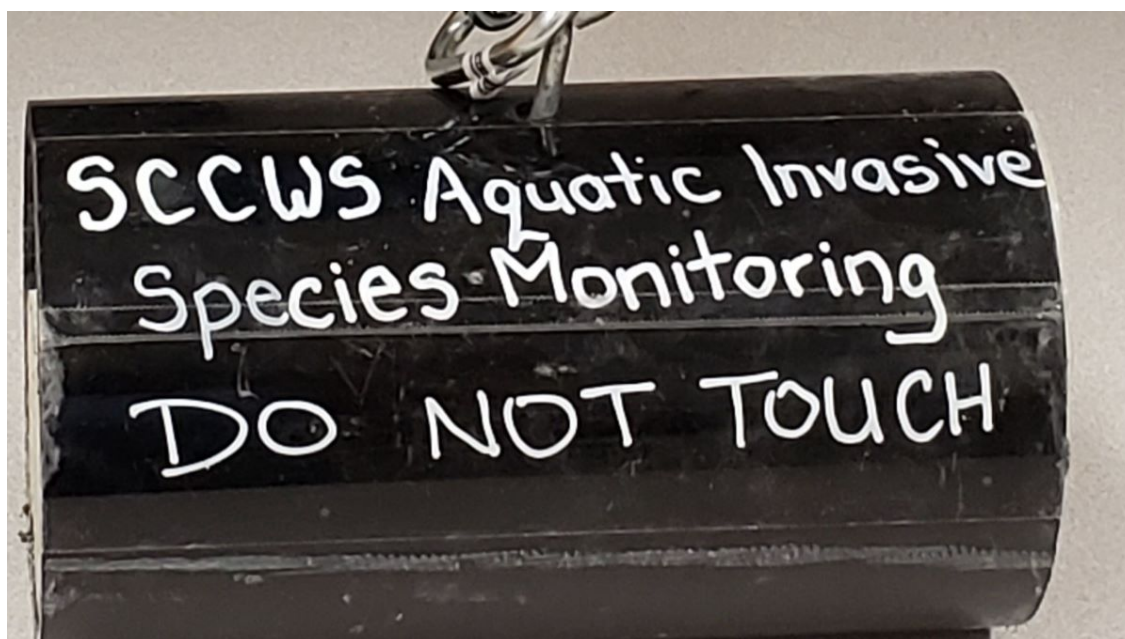
# June Newsletter

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Volume 13- Issue 3

Know Your Watershed

June 2019



## SCCWS again monitoring for Zebra and Quagga Mussels in 2019

This summer SCCWS is again working with the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and other watershed groups in Saskatchewan to monitor for zebra and quagga mussels. Samplers such as the one pictured above will be put out at docks on Lac Pelletier, Duncairn Reservoir, Eastend Reservoir, Cypress Lake, Saskatchewan Landing, Beaver Flat and Herbert Ferry. We are monitoring waterbodies outside of the Swift Current Creek Watershed as SCCWS is the closest watershed group to these areas. Many people will boat at more than one of these locations during the summer and we want to ensure that as many areas as possible are monitored to ensure that invasive

species are kept out of our watershed.

If you see a sampler like the one in the picture attached to a dock please leave it in the water. SCCWS staff will be regularly checking these samplers for indications of adult zebra or quagga mussels. If mussels are found on the samplers a plan to eradicate them can be put into place immediately. If the samplers are removed we may not find the adult mussels in time to set the plan into place.

SCCWS will also be monitoring for the mussels in their larval stage which are called veligers. Sampling will take place in July and August at Lac Pelletier, Cypress Lake and a location along the South Saskatchewan River. This testing serves as an early warning for mussel detection and if some are found allows for a plan for eradication to be put into place before adult mussels establish and start multiplying.

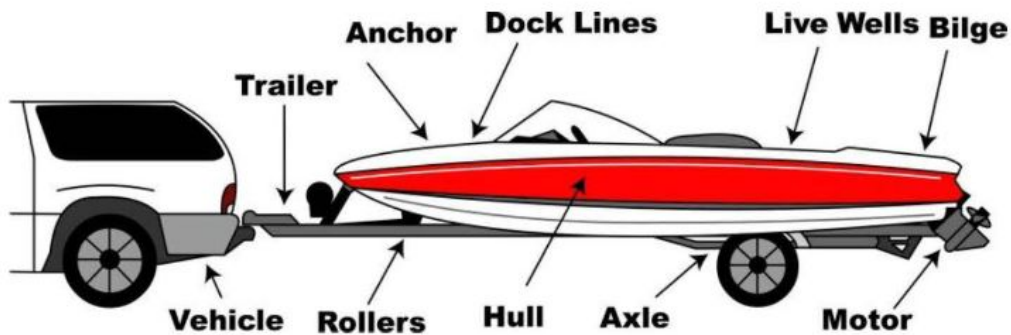
SCCWS staff will be out at many events this summer to educate about invasive species especially to remind boaters to Clean, Dry and Drain their boats when moving from one waterbody to the next.

The waterbodies in Southwest Saskatchewan are important for many industries and stakeholders. If we work together we can keep invasive species out of our water to preserve the natural ecosystems that provide us with many benefits.



Zebra Mussel encrusted shopping cart.

Photo credit to Westernbass.com



**CLEAN** – Remove all visible plants, animals & mud. Scrub/scrape grainy surfaces that feel like sandpaper, as this could be young mussels too small to see.



**DRAIN**- Before leaving any water body remove all plant fragments from your boat, trailer and gear. Dispose of livewell, bait bucket and cooling water well away from the shore. Leave the plugs out of the drain.

**DRY**- your watercraft, equipment and related all gear completely, preferably for at least five days while leaving compartments open to dry.



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SCCWS would like to thank the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds for funding the Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring in 2019

## **SCCWS 2019 Summer Stewardship Coordinator**

Samantha Perry is the new Summer Stewardship Coordinator for the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards. Samantha's main role is the coordinator of the Froghopper's program. Over 60 workshops are scheduled for this summer within our watershed and locations in Southwest Saskatchewan. Some of the topics taught to the children are the geography of the watershed, riparian zones, water pollution, water conservation, water cycle, wildlife and macroinvertebrates.

Most of the workshops are for younger children in kindergarten to grade 4, although there are some for older grades as well. For the older grades, the workshops are about pH levels and the importance of a well-balanced pH body of water. The workshops for older grades are important to SCCWS and for the students as they learn more about the science of watershed protection and SCCWS does not always get a chance to present to these older students.

Other duties of the Summer Stewardship include bringing awareness to Aquatic Invasive Species especially Zebra Mussels. Workshops are being planned to raise awareness about Zebra and Quagga mussels and what boaters and stakeholders can do to prevent the movement of these mussels from one waterbody to the next. The Summer Stewardship Coordinator has been involved in placing AIS samplers at locations around Southwest Saskatchewan and will be monitoring these samplers all summer for signs of these invasive species.

The Summer Stewardship Coordinator will be available for workshops all summer. If you are interested in Samantha coming out to your community's park or play program or your summer camp to give a workshop to educate students about water conservation and watershed Stewardships please give Samantha a call at 306-770-4617 or e-mail [frohoppers.sccws@gmail.com](mailto:frohoppers.sccws@gmail.com).



SCCWS would like to thank SaskEnergy for funding of the Froghoppers program in 2019

# SaskEnergy

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