



A stone-cold killer, responsible along with the swallows and bats, for controlling the mosquitoes on the lake



These milkweed seeds, soon to be visible around the lake, remind me of static fireworks



The muskrat shown here was photographed near Brawer Island. There used to be a den adjacent to John Sui's house, but I have not seen them this year. Note the hairless tail held above the water.



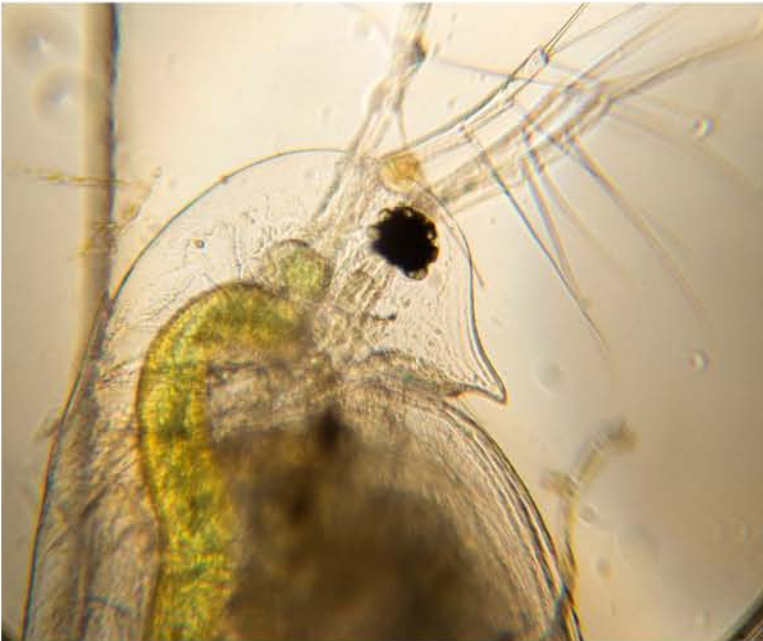
This is a selection of the plankton in Lake Sagamore, collected in a 100 micron net and photographed on a Zeiss microscope.



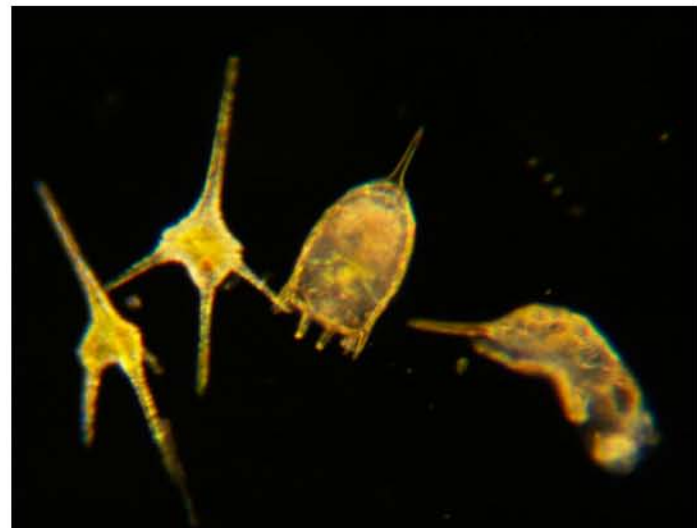
This rotifer, *Asplanchna*, is about 1 mm long, is carnivorous and eats other rotifers. It is almost totally transparent.



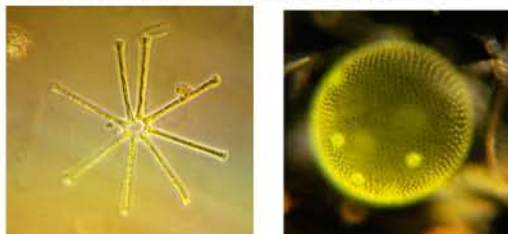
This colonial rotifer, *Conchilius sp.*, is about 0.8 mm long, has about 1000 cells, and eats algae (the green vacuoles in the animal). The cilia at the top left create currents that the animal uses to harvest food. These animals are normally parthenogenic (asexual reproduction) and sex is reserved for tough times, to produce overwintering embryos.



*Daphnia sp.* is a crustacean, about 2 mm long, which feeds largely on algae (you can see the green gut on the left side). The facets of the compound eye are readily visible on the top of the head. *Daphnia* are prime fish food, and are found in abundance in healthy lakes.



The two 4-pointed algae on the left are *Ceratium*, a large single-celled dinoflagellate alga. There is a flagella in the groove around the middle. The other two animals are rotifers, *Klebsiella sp.*, which have about 1000 cells. The rotifers are about 0.2 mm long.



On the left is a colonial diatom. Each spoke is a separate cell. Diatoms are algae that form the base of the food chain in the lake. The jewel-like globe on the right is *Volvox sp.*, another colonial algae. Each dot in the globe is a separate cell, with its own flagellum, which propels the globe slowly through the water.