

Lakeside Learning Station

BIOLOGY

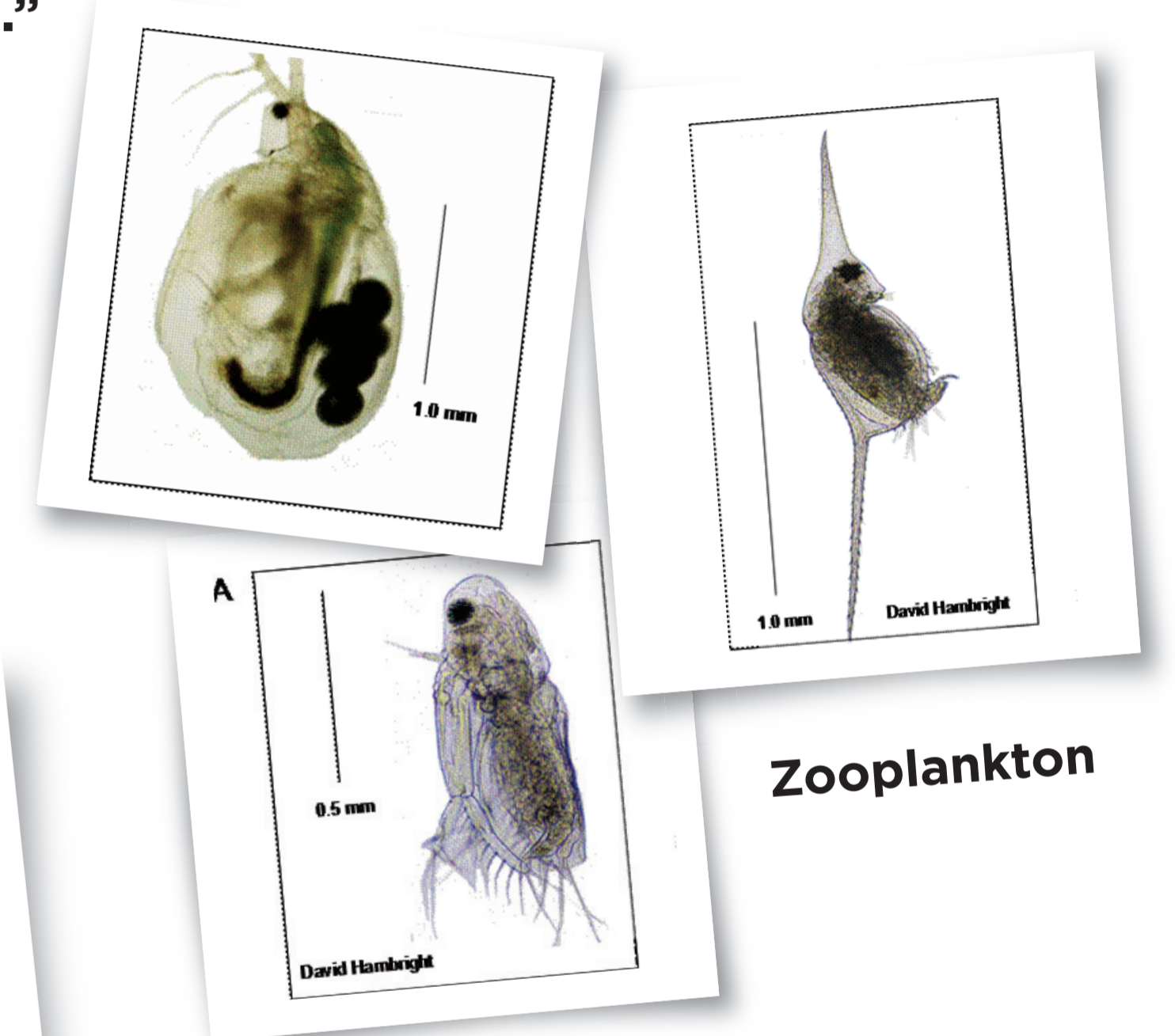
This lake is a thriving environment for aquatic life. Like on land, the food chain starts with plants—but, water plants are often very different than plants on land. Algae is a very common group of aquatic plants. Algae may be as small as a single celled “phytoplankton” drifting in the water, or very noticeable like the green mats of “pond scum” often made of “filamentous algae.”



Filamentous Algae

Many kinds of herbivores (animals that eat only plants) are present in the lake—some you can see, some you can't.

Zooplankton are tiny crustaceans that swim in the water and eat algae, or sometimes other zooplankton. These tiny animals are a major **food for small fish**.



Zooplankton



Clean Water Supports a Healthy Fishery

This lake is filled with water from a spring, and it freezes slower than many other area lakes during the winter. Migrating waterfowl (ducks and geese) often stop here to rest and feed in the winter months. This lake provides a good fishing opportunity for many anglers. The Missouri Department of Conservation has special regulations in place to sustain the fishery.

Did You Know?

Have you ever seen green, icky scum on lakes? This is most likely caused by excess nutrients in the water. Fertilizer is another name for nutrient. Just as fertilizer causes plants to grow on land, it will cause algae (also a plant) to grow in water.

Legend

- Watershed Center Main Buildings
- Springside Learning Station
- Lakeside Learning Station
- Streamside Learning Station
- Wetland
- Nature Trail



You Are Here

(Future)

Sander Spring

WATERSHED CENTER