

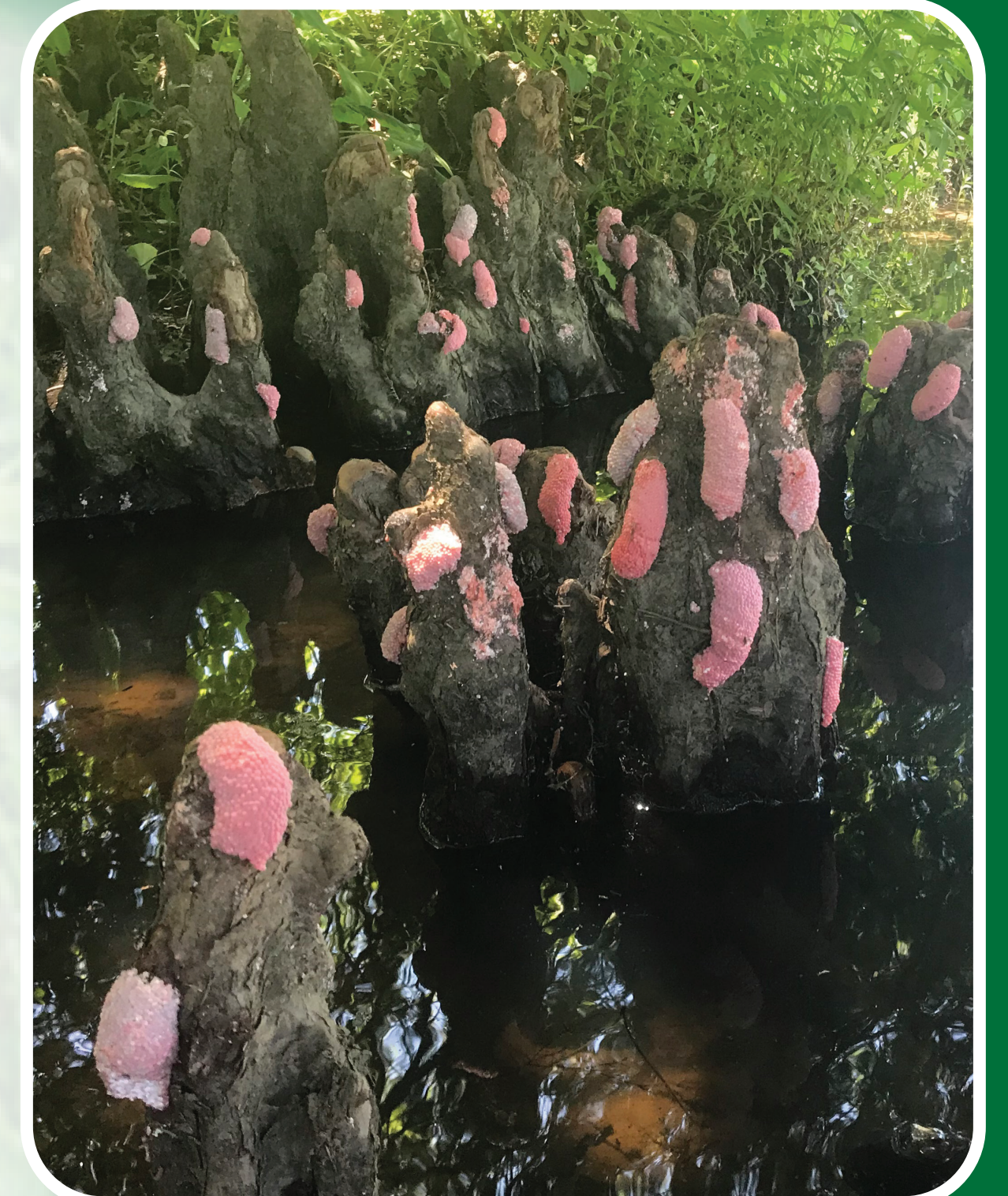
# Eliminating Apple Snails from Langan Park Lakes



**Island apple snails** (*Pomacea maculata*) are invasive aquatic snails from South America, probably introduced into the Langan Park lakes after aquarium releases in the early 2000s.

## Why are they a problem?

- **They reproduce explosively.** Females lay bright pink egg masses above water level every few days with up to 2,000 eggs that hatch within two weeks.
- **They destroy habitats.** Apple snails consume large amounts of vegetation and can turn a healthy seagrass bed into a bare mudflat. They have already moved down Three Mile Creek, and they threaten the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.
- **They carry diseases.** Apple snails carry rat lungworm, liver flukes, and schistosomiasis. They are *NOT* escargot! While juveniles are eaten by red-eared bream, adults are virtually without predators.



## The Solution

The **Mobile Bay National Estuary Program** is focused on eliminating these snails from the Langan Park lakes with funding provided by the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency** through the **RESTORE Act** in advance of the City of Mobile's RESTORE-funded dredging and restoration. Egg masses on cypress knees, vegetation, and infrastructure will be destroyed twice weekly between April and November 2021. Herbicide will be applied to shoreline plants to eliminate egg-laying opportunities, and a copper-based molluscicide will be applied to water to kill adult and juvenile snails with minimal effects on fish or reptiles.

