

**LCAA**  
**LAKE CARLOS**  
AREA ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 311  
Alexandria, MN 56308

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ALEXANDRIA, MN  
PERMIT NO. 118

**Your LCAA Board is working hard to stay on top of issues and represent the interests of all property owners on Lake Carlos.**

*Please help by doing your part.*

### **PLEASE PAY YOUR 2024 LAKE ASSOCIATION DUES**

**Please complete the membership form and send us your check or pay on-line at: [www.lakecarlos.org](http://www.lakecarlos.org).**

**Please provide your email address for future correspondence.**

*Thank you* for being a member!

**LCAA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Dues are tax deductible!**



The flyer features a sunset background over a lake. In the top left is the LCAA logo. The title 'Lake Carlos' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below it, 'AREA ASSOCIATION' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. On the right, 'SUMMER JUNE, 2024' is written in white. The main announcement is centered: 'ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JUNE 29TH @ 9:00 A.M. LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP'. Below this is a paragraph of text: 'Join us for the Lake Carlos Area Association Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 29th at 9:00 a.m. at Luther Crest Bible Camp. We are happy to again have Luther Crest Camp provide a great location for the meeting. Breakfast will be served and we will have an interesting meeting regarding Lake Carlos. LCAA has invited a speaker from Lake Carlos State Park. The Park is not only for visitors to our area, it provides a great asset to Lake Carlos, including its residents who enjoy a cruise on the north end of the lake.' At the bottom, a cursive line reads 'Join us for our annual meeting.'

## **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES**

### **ZEBRA MUSSELS**

Zebra mussels are an aquatic invasive species (AIS). They made headlines over the past few years, causing understandable concerns. Boatlifts and dock posts were draped with the small mussels and some sand beaches were littered with the tiny shells. The initial population explosion has mellowed, reducing this annoyance.

There is an upside to this Zebra mussel invasion. Zebra mussels are a filter crustacean and they tend to make the lake water clear. The long-term impact of Zebra mussels has yet to be determined. Will it help or harm fishing? The clearer water has increased weed growth. Are there other impacts to be discovered?

### **INVASIVE WEED GROWTH**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) weed growth has no known upside. If uncontrolled, they choke-off waterways and make lake-life difficult, or worse. LCAA attempts to stay ahead of this AIS. It retains the services of Blue Water Science to conduct in-lake surveys every spring at approximately 500 locations in the lake to identify the presence of unwanted invasive species. Eurasian Water Milfoil, and other AIS, if found, are marked and Limnopro, a St. Cloud company, is contracted to destroy the earmarked weeds. Through this aggressive monitoring and "search and destroy" policy, LCAA helps keep Lake Carlos free for Aquatic Invasive Species.

### **BE A HERO RELEASE ZERO**

Douglas County Land and Resource Management and Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation came up with a "Be a Hero Release Zero" (enclosed flyer) which displays invasive weeds found in Douglas County. With 350 lakes in the county, invasive weed growth is widespread. It is important for Lake Carlos to be vigilant against these aquatic invasive species.



## WHAT'S NEW AT LCAA

LCAA is stepping up its use of social media, including a more active presence on Facebook, and the use of Constant Contact, to improve our regular communication with members. Our website will also get some added attention. Our LCAA website ([www.lakecarlos.org](http://www.lakecarlos.org)) allows for dues payment on-line, and provides even better communication on important issues.

## WEST SIDE ACCESS & DNR CLEANING APPARATUS

Improvements to the west-side boat access are scheduled. This major DNR project will make it easier to get boats in and out of the lake. Also, the DNR has installed a cleaning apparatus to spray off boats when coming out of and getting into Lake Carlos. This will help reduce the transport of invasive species. A porta-potty is also in place, compliments of LCAA.

## JET SKI & WAKE-BOARD MONITORING



*Recognizing issues of concern to lake residents, LCAA has taken a pro-active approach to help influence monitoring and regulation of recreational watercraft use. While recognizing the enjoyment experienced by users, protecting the peace on our lake waters remains an important goal of LCAA.*

### JET SKIS:

Jet Skis remain one of the major concerns for lake residents. The source of fun and adventure for personal watercraft users, these can also be disruptive for homeowners. The regulations are there to emphasize the need to respect others on the lake and residents living on the lake. Regulations provide some guidance.

### JET SKI REGULATIONS:

- Jet skis must operate at closed throttle (no wake speed) when within 150 feet of a dock, shoreline (including channel areas), swimmers, rafts, or a non-motorized or anchored watercraft or through emergent or floating vegetation.
- Operation is only allowed between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and 1 hour before sunset.
- Life jackets must be worn by all on board.
- No one under 13 years old may operate a PWC (Jet Ski) and those under 18 must have a permit or be accompanied by an adult.
- When “no wake” regulations are in place, they apply to jet skis too requiring that Jet Skis (and all boats) must stay 300 hundred feet from the lakeshore, including channel areas.

## FOURTH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

Even though the boat parade is not an LCAA sponsored event, it is a big event for area boaters. The Douglas County Sheriff and LCAA remind for all participants:

- Boat regulations must be followed during the parade. Children age twelve and younger must wear life jackets. Pontoon passengers cannot hang their legs over the front end of the pontoon boat. Be cautious when anywhere near swimmers.
- Throwing water balloons can be fun but it can also be dangerous. LCAA asks that the boaters not throw balloons. (Balloons in the lake pollute. If they end up on shore they trash the neighbors. If they sink they cause problems for fish.) Please keep water balloons on land.
- Tilting an engine to cause a spray is against the law and is dangerous.
- Please do not block the Carlos/Darling channel. Channels must remain open for navigation.

**4th of July boat Parade starts at 10:30 on the south end of the lake, near the Carlos-Darling Channel. Have FUN be SAFE!**

## LEGACY OF THE LAKES BOAT MUSEUM

The Legacy of the Lakes Boat Museum is an organization akin to LCAA. It focuses on the lakes in the Alexandria area and the boats that made history over the years. The boat museum is a real gem and if you haven't had a look, do so. It is also a great place to take guests when they come to visit your lake home.

## WHAT IS A MUDPUPPY?

The waters of Lake Carlos include an aquatic salamander. Mudpuppies are referred to as bio-indicators because they are sensitive to pollutants and water quality. These salamanders act as an early warning system for environmental problems and are sometimes found after they have died in shallow water. Maybe the water got too warm, or it became polluted in an area. These die-offs usually occur in mid-summer.

Mudpuppies get their name from the squeaky sound they make when they are out of the water. Some people think it “sounds like a dog's bark.”

## WATER PATROLS ON THE LAKE

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently announced that a new DNR Marine Unit will be in place in the Twin Cities metro area, as well as in Duluth and Alexandria. The DNR is asking boaters to “be safe by wearing life jackets, being patient on the water, and leaving the alcohol on shore.” Water activity events, like the Fourth of July Boat Parade, may find an increase in water patrols.

A new DNR craft will join the Sheriff's Water Patrol and DNR game wardens on lake patrols. The new units will be equipped with deep sonar devices and include the ability to search underwater. A new airboat for ice rescue situations will join the fleet.



