



# Lake Carlos Area Association

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## LCAA Zebra Mussel Policy

The Lake Carlos Area Association met to review issues regarding the discovery of zebra mussels on the Chain of lakes. Because of heavy boat traffic, fishing tournaments, and recreational use, it is not surprising that an AIS (aquatic invasive species) has entered into the waters of Douglas County. As might be expected, this has been a distressing discovery for Lakes Carlos, Le Homme Dieu and Geneva, and other lakes on the Chain. Reaction within the Zebra Committee has been aggressive.

LCAA urges DCLA to adopt a position that is reasoned and limited to best address the threat that the invasion has for all lakes in the area, while appreciating the fact that a reckless and/or negative approach to the issue can result in yet additional harm to the lakes impacted by the zebra mussel invasion.

Now that the boating season has come to an end for 2009, LCAA does not believe that we face an emergency in regard to the news of zebra mussels. Rather, DCLA has the time to work with the DNR in establishing a well thought out position to protect all of the lakes in the area, while recognizing the distress facing the lakes where zebra mussels have already appeared.

We urge DCLA to adopt a policy that includes the following:

1. DCLA should continue its study in cooperation with the DNR and others who are informed about the zebra mussel invasions before adopting a policy for publication.
2. As we approach the spring of 2010 and the boating season, DCLA should establish policies to encourage the DNR to help coordinate signage and notification to boaters using the lakes that the zebra mussels are present, and that all efforts should be made to avoid transferring the AIS to other waters.

Alexandria's Lake Carlos:



Home of the Walleye

3. Work with the DNR, and fishing tournament sponsors, to limit or regulate tournaments so that they provide financial assistance to the DNR for official inspections of participant boats and equipment at all public and private accesses to the Chain, before and after entry into the lakes. This should help prevent the introduction of new species into the waterways, and while reducing the possibility of removal of zebra mussels from an impacted lake to threaten yet another lake.
4. Provide notice to the community of a well coordinated DCLA/DNR position so that all potential users of our area lakes are aware of the infestation so as to prevent the spread of the AIS.
5. Encourage all lake associations in the area to advise their membership of measures that can be taken to prevent the introduction of the AIS into non-infected lakes, while advising lakes that are impacted of the concern and of the recommended methods of handling zebra mussels recommended by the DNR and others.

Again, LCAA urges DCLA to adopt a measured and thoughtful approach to this news of the zebra mussel invasion. If DCLA were to opt for a negative or inflammatory publication of this problem, as previously suggested by some members of the zebra committee, LCAA would have to reconsider its continued involvement in and support of DCLA. We want to express the seriousness of our concern. The wrong approach to this problem could further damage the lakes that are now burdened with this zebra nuisance. We do not want it to further impact the enjoyment of the lakes experienced by its residents and visitors.

A negative approach to this issue could have a dramatic and negative impact on property values, and resort/tourism industry, for all of us in Douglas County. It is important for DCLA to recognize that this invasion is something that our community will have to deal with. If done responsibly, we can limit the spread of this invasion to the lakes that are already impacted, and avoid doing additional damage to ourselves.

Adopted by LCAA Board of Directors  
November 23, 2009