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Chain of lakes

SUMMER 2020

**PUBLISHED BY THE LAKE ASSOCIATIONS OF
CARLOS, DARLING, LE HOMME DIEU, GENEVA, AND VICTORIA**

OUR JOINT NEWSLETTER

This is the second issue of the CHAIN Newsletter published by the Carlos, Darling, Geneva, Le Homme Dieu and Victoria lake associations. Our associations have worked together on many issues over the years and by combining efforts and resources, our joint newsletter can better accomplish our goals of protecting the lakes in our area, and in particular on the Chain. It helps promote the best interests of our memberships. The lakes on the Chain also works closely with the Douglas County Lake Association.

NEWS FROM DCLA

Douglas County Lake Association President, Steve Henry (the former longtime President of the Le Homme Dieu Association) reported that DCLA had a good year. It has developed a working relationship with Legacy of the Lakes Museum working together to offer educational events. DCLA works with the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund to access funds to support projects in Douglas County with the support of the County Board.

DCLA also hopes to secure a grant from Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation to work on Ditch 23 on Lake Ida. Two grants were received for soil erosion projects in the Long Prairie Watershed, which includes the Chain. Though COVID-19 restrictions on meetings have caused a challenge, DCLA continues to focus on water quality issues to accomplish its goals to protect the lakes.



**Please return a check in the enclosed envelope
or pay by credit card on-line at:**

www.lakecarlos.org

**Join your neighbors on
LAKE CARLOS
and be a member!**

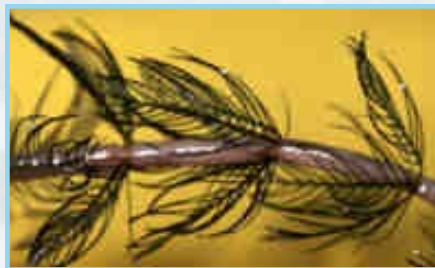
***We are stronger together...
even on the lake.***

INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS THREATENING THE CHAIN

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL (invasive threat)

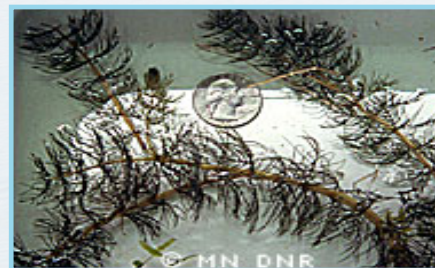
This invasive species is a rooted, submerged aquatic plant with green leaves and stems that are white or reddish. Leaves are feather-like with four leaves arranged in a whorl (radiating out from a single point) around the stem. The space between the whorls can be a half inch or greater, and the leaves have a central axis with 12 to 21 leaf pairs on the stem. The tips of the plant are sometimes red or pink in color. The leaves are limp when the plant is removed from the water.

Eurasian Milfoil causes recreational, economic, and ecological damage and causes dense mats that inhibit recreation, it competes with native aquatic plants that provide shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.



NORTHERN WATERMILFOIL (native and beneficial)

This Northern Watermilfoil is a native plant that grows entirely underwater in a depth from 1 to 20 feet. It is dark green with feathery leaves grouped in fours around a hollow stem that is usually buff or pinkish colored. The leaves are comprised of 5 to 10 pairs of leaflets. It does not branch at the surface as Eurasian Watermilfoil does. Northern Watermilfoil leaves are rigid when removed from the water. A plant of this native species provides cover for fish and invertebrates, and supports insects and other small animals eaten by fish and occasionally by waterfowl.

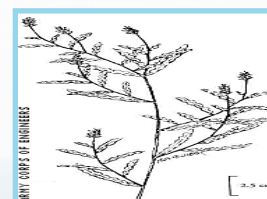


Starry Stonewort and Curly Leaf Pondweed (invasive threat)

Both of these invasive aquatic plants cause dense mats at the water's surface restricting both traffic and recreation. It can overtake native aquatic plants that provide shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals. Midsummer die-offs can leave the shorelines full of dead plants.



**Starry Stonewort
A Chain THREAT**



**Curly Leaf Pondweed
A Chain THREAT**

Lake Darling Treats Curly Leaf Pondweed

The Lake Darling Association decided on a treatment program to eradicate Curly Leaf Pondweed. RBM Environmental Laboratories identified and will treat 21.6 acres.



**Protect the Lakes for the
Next Generation**

MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

CHANNEL LIGHTS PROJECT

The Lake Le Homme Dieu Association is leading an effort to illuminate the bridges on the Chain for nighttime boating. The Carlos/Le Homme Dieu Bridge is now illuminated. If this experiment is successful, other bridges on the Chain will follow suit.

The lake associations are also contemplating colored lights showing boaters the mouth of the channel between the lakes. Currently, buoys are in place on all of the channels. These lights will improve nighttime navigation.

PLEASE JOIN YOUR LAKE CARLOS ASSOCIATION

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. Pay your lake association dues and make an extra contribution if you can.

**Please Join Your Lake Carlos Association.
Return a check in the enclosed envelope or
pay by credit card on-line at:
www.lakecarlos.org**

Please join your neighbors on Lake Carlos. Be a member!

**Your contribution is tax deductible.
Thank you for being a member!.**

*Enjoy
Lake Life
on
Lake
Carlos!*



LAKE CARLOS NEWS

SUMMER 2020

ERADICATION OF MILFOIL IN LAKE CARLOS

In conjunction with Douglas County, the Lake Carlos Area Lake Association (LCAA) has been monitoring Lake Carlos for invasive species. An aquatic plant survey of Lake Carlos, using a point sampling method, was conducted by Blue Water Science of St. Paul on August 8-9, 2019. It sampled 464 points throughout the lake. Points were spaced 150 meters apart with a depth of 3- 25 feet. Three small areas of Invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake Carlos were identified.

The three areas of infestation are very limited. The LCAA Board of Directors took a proactive management approach to treat the affected areas. All are in the northern half of Lake Carlos and away from the shore. Only one area was within 150 feet of shoreline.

On July 2, 2020, the treatment to eradicate the Eurasian Watermilfoil was completed using the herbicide 2, 4-D. The contractor was approved by the DNR, as was the application that is commonly used to control Eurasian Watermilfoil. The substance is also approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for land and water applications with very low risk to humans, animals, and fish. Lake Carlos is comprised of 2,605 acres of water. A total of approximately 3 acres were treated.

LCAA received a grant from the Douglas County Aquatic Invasive Species Control Project to cover 75% of the treatment costs. An Aquatic Plant Management Permit was issued by the DNR. This information was posted on our website (lakecarlos.org) and on Facebook, and all property owners in the vicinity of the near shore application were notified and signed-off on the project. We hope that the treatments successfully eradicated the Eurasian Watermilfoil from our lake. We will continue to monitor the situation.

STATE PLANNING WORK ON LONG PRAIRIE RIVER DAM

Lake Carlos flows into the Long Prairie River on the north end of the lake. A dam (weir) provides a constant level that was long ago determined by the DNR to best control lake and river levels. Water from all of the lakes on the Chain, and most of the lakes in Douglas County, end up in Lake Carlos.

The DNR has been talking about plans to modify the weir at the mouth of the Long Prairie River for several years. The stated objectives are to provide fish with an easier migration path upstream, and to increase the recreation area for fishing. It will also maintain the constant water level. Recently, water had been bypassing the weir on its NW side due to erosion. The DNR placed sandbags to temporarily deal with this and will develop a permanent solution as part of the project.

The current design plan is to leave the iron beam that controls the flow in place and then add large rocks immediately downstream creating a "ladder" for fish to be able to get over the beam. This approach leaves the control of the lake level exactly as it is today and accomplishes the DNR objectives. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in the fall.

"CAUTION" LOW BRIDGE!

Remember, the Carlos/Darling Bridge is "lower" on the Darling side. When going under the bridge, go slow and remind your passengers to... **"DUCK!"**

LAKE LIFE TIPS

WEED REMOVAL

A homeowner's ability to remove weeds and reeds is limited by the DNR. It is understandable that some removal might be necessary or acceptable. Please contact the DNR Management Program to get the go ahead and avoid trouble.
www.dnr.state.mn.us

FERTILIZING

Stay at least 30 feet from the lakeshore when fertilizing and use phosphorus-free fertilizers. Fertilizers cause unwanted weed growth in the lake

SWIMMER'S ITCH

Swimmer's itch is a natural occurring event most common from mid-June through July. Swimmers can avoid contracting this nuisance by vigorously towel drying after a swim. So what happens if you or your child gets swimmer's itch, your local drug store has an anti-itch lotion that may help.

CALL ZONING DEPARTMENT BEFORE LANDSCAPING YOUR LAKESHORE

Many lake residents plan lakeshore or bank projects. Before you begin your project, contact the Douglas County Land and Resource Management (320-762-3863) to ensure that your project complies with county regulations.

DIM YOUR BRIGHT "WHITE" SECURITY LIGHTS

One of the joys of living on the lake is to be able to walk down to the dock at night and look at the stars. The serenity of lake life can be ruined if you or your neighbor has a bright white security light.

*If you have a bright "white" security light,
get a shade to reduce light pollution or contact your electrical contractor
and get a light that is not "white".*

ALEXANDRIA LAKES AREA SANITARY DISTRICT

CARP MONITORING

ALASD completed its first year of carp monitoring on Lakes Winona, Agnes, and Henry to support lake restoration. The ALASD plant is located on the far end of Lake Winona. It flows into Lakes Agnes, Henry, and then into Lake Le Homme Dieu on the Chain.

Carp surveys in Lake Winona revealed carp densities that exceeded 1,000 pounds per acre, and 800 pounds per acre in Agnes and Henry. These densities are almost ten times the established threshold where water quality impacts are expected. Carp disturb the lake bottoms causing pollution.

ALASD recognizes that reducing or eliminating carp reproduction and immigration is critical. The studies have shown that the carp oftentimes move from Winona, Agnes, and Henry into the Chain. Strategies are being developed to remove the carp.

ALASD is also conducting an aluminum sulfate treatment (alum) in Lake Agnes this fall to reduce phosphorus release from the lake sediment that is contributing to algae growth. Algae growth will be removed from the lake and prevented from movement downstream into the Chain.

MPCA PERMIT STATUS

ALASD has wrestled with MPCA permitting including chloride variance. ALASD strives to maintain and improve water quality. It is working with the lake associations towards that goal.

JET SKI REGULATIONS

- Jet skis must operate at closed throttle (no wake speed) when within 150 feet of a dock, shoreline, swimmer, raft, or a non-motorized or anchored watercraft or through emergent or floating vegetation.
- No jet ski operation is allowed between 1 hour before sunset and 9:30 a.m.
- No one under 13 years old may operate a jet ski and those under 18 must have a permit or be accompanied by an adult.

POWERBOATS & WAKEBOATS

To avoid lakeshore damage, wakeboats are encouraged to stay in the middle of the lake and always at least 150 feet away from shorelines, docks, and fixed objects. When possible, present non-surfing side of the wakeboat to the closest shoreline and avoid gradual turns close to the shore.

BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

The lake associations on the Chain got together and established signage advising boat etiquette in the channels. Boaters are asked to alternate after three boats pass going in either direction. Taking turns allows everybody a chance to enjoy their destination by keeping the channels open for all.

WALLEYE STOCKING
ON THE CHAIN

DNR LAKE SURVEYS

- Lake surveys are the primary tool for guiding fish management.
- Survey information can be accessed by going to <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html> and typing in the lake of interest. 2020 The following lakes will be sampled: Carlos, Darling, Geneva, Le Homme Dieu, Victoria & Jessie

2019 Chain Walleye Fingerling Stocking

Lake	Number of Fish	Pounds
Carlos - DNR	14,572	461
Darling - DNR	14,214	554
Darling - Private	4,000	200
Geneva - DNR	7,179	305
Geneva - Private	2,700	225
Le Homme Dieu - DNR	18,786	862
Le Homme Dieu - Private	3,000	100
Victoria - DNR	4,454	131
Victoria - Private	2,000	100
Total	70,905	2938

- **Fingerling** – Walleye Fingerlings are one to six months old and can range from three to eight inches.

GENEVA / LE HOMME DIEU
CHANNEL UNDER HWY. 29

The channel between Lakes Le Homme Dieu and Geneva, going under Hwy. 29, is low and narrow. The Geneva Lake Association is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation in an effort to improve the channel so it becomes more navigable and friendly to boaters.

As we know, the Carlos/Le Homme Dieu Bridge provides easy navigation between the lakes for boaters. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the channel under Hwy. 29. A proposal to improve the channel met a favorable response by the Department of Transportation. State Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, who serves as Chair of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, is assisting the lake associations in their effort to improve the channel making Lakes Geneva and Victoria more accessible.

Le Homme Dieu – Carlos channel
Approximate dimensions:
20' + wide x 12' tall



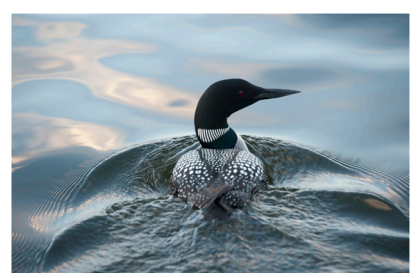
Geneva – Le Homme Dieu
channel (under Hwy. 29)
Approximate dimensions:
8' 8" wide x 8' tall
Note: the structure before the
channel is a railroad bridge
that does not interfere with
boater navigation

LOON NESTING PROJECT

Lakes Le Homme Dieu and Geneva are working together with teachers and students from the Alexandria Area High School to construct loon nests to make for safe nesting areas for our Minnesota state bird. Surveys are being conducted to find appropriate locations for the nests in protected hidden spots near the lakeshore. These floating nests have been successfully used for loon nesting and we hope that the project is successful so that we can all enjoy the cry of the loons.



Above:
One of two Loon Nest installed on
Lake Le Homme Dieu



Left to right
Carole Weber Brown (LHD), Jeff Pokorney
& Adam Oehlenschlager (AAHS), Craig
Loos & Craig Calhoun (Lake Geneva)