

**LCAA**  
**LAKE CARLOS**  
AREA ASSOCIATION  
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Alexandria, MN 56308

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**LCAA**  
**LAKE CARLOS**  
AREA ASSOCIATION

*Lake Carlos*  
**AREA ASSOCIATION**

SUMMER  
JUNE, 2026

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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**LUTHER CREST BIBLE CAMP**

This year's Lake Carlos Area Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 27th at 9:00 a.m. at Luther Crest Bible Camp on County Road 11 on the west side of Lake Carlos. Join us for a pastry breakfast and an interesting speaker for the meeting. It is a great opportunity to get together with your neighbors on Lake Carlos and share ideas!

*Join us for our annual meeting.*



**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 2026 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!

## **NEW AT CARLOS/DARLING CHANNEL**

### **Additional Caution Sign on Carlos/Darling Bridge**

This year boaters will see additional signage on the Carlos/Darling Bridge to alert boaters of the low bridge issue on the Darling side of the bridge. There is an approximately 2-foot drop on the Darling side of the bridge compared to the low edge on the Carlos side. As boaters enter the bridge from Lake Carlos, they will see this new signage alerting them to the bridge heights. This has become even more important because of the added height of watercraft including pontoons, Jet Skis, and runabouts. Douglas County controls the bridge and will put this new signage in place. The Lake Carlos and Lake Darling lake associations will share in the cost of this signage.

To further alert boaters of the low bridge issues at the Carlos/Darling channel, and to enforce the "Slow No Wake" regulations, the Douglas County Water Patrol and the DNR will increase enforcement in the channel.

**Again, it is important for people to move through the channel slowly with no wake.**



## WALLEYE STOCKING

LCAA again completed spring walleye stocking. Over 2,500 fish (minnow-sized walleye) were added to the lake on the west-side access. The DNR also put walleye fry in the water in the fall in this multi-year project of fall and spring stocking. This will hopefully return natural walleye production and improve walleye fishing in Lake Carlos.

## CHANNEL NAVIGATION LIGHTS

We are entering year three of our joint project with Lakes Darling and Le Homme Dieu to place navigation buoy lights at the lake channels, and between Little and Big Darling, and Lake Le Homme Dieu and it's Bay. We completed repair and replacement of broken lights this spring, coordinating this project with the Douglas County Sheriff Water Patrol. This has been a successful project to help make boating at night safer and the channels easy to locate. The three lakes share the expense for these navigation lights.

## AQUATIC SPECIES SURVEY AND CONTROL

Our annual lake survey (where hundreds of locations throughout the lake are tested) was completed by Blue Water Science on June 2, 2026. This will be followed by a search and destroy mission for any Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) discovered in the survey.

LCAA works with the DNR and Douglas County on this annual project. We have successfully controlled Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species that show-up. We received some grant funding from Douglas County but primarily rely on membership dues to pay for these projects. Because of limited state funds and high demand, we cannot rely on state funding. Lake association dues are important and well spent.

## WATER QUALITY TESTING IN LAKE CARLOS

Lake Carlos is one of the most highly studied lakes in the state. Water-quality testing is completed in early spring through late fall. MPCA, DNR, and the University of Minnesota all conduct regular lake studies. Lake Carlos is included in the University Sentinel Lake program, one of approximately ten lakes in the state that are studied. The program identifies pollution, tracks water temperatures throughout the season, and analyzes the impacts of climate change on our lakes. Monitoring by MPCA and DNR identifies any potential pollution in our lake. LCAA is ready and prepared to participate as needed.

## WEST-SIDE BOAT ACCESS

The DNR is continuing in its plan to make a substantial improvement to the west-side access on Lake Carlos. The project is scheduled for work to be completed in 2027. A boat cleaning station will be installed at the site.

## PLEASE SHADE YOUR WHITE SECURITY LIGHTS

LCAA has worked over the years to encourage lake shore owners to dim or shade their bright white lights. Lights make it difficult for others on the lake to enjoy the night sky. We have had some success over the last several years with property owners shading or changing bulbs to avoid the use of white security lights. Thank you.

## Things to do in Alexandria!

### ALEXANDRIA IS THE HOME OF TWO WATER-RELATED MUSEUMS:

The **LEGACY OF THE LAKES MUSEUM** is an outstanding boat museum, full of all kinds of wood boats, fiberglass boats, fishing gear, great old Alexandria resort photos and recreations, a gift shop filled with lake related items, and the "gardens" that provide a beautiful walking and resting experience for you and your visitors. The museum also has evening "music in the gardens" with remarkable performances and lots of fun. You can take a look at the boat museum on their website (<https://legacyofthelakes.org>)

The **RUNESTONE MUSEUM** also provides a great place to visit. It features a story of one of the first boats ever to sail our shores. In 1362, Viking explorers left a stone etched in runes commemorating their journey. The stone was discovered by a farmer clearing his land in 1898 near Kensington just west of Alexandria. The Runestone is on display at the Runestone Museum which includes an interesting video and history of the stone that has been studied and critiqued ever since its discovery. The Museum is located on Broadway in Alexandria, "The Birthplace of America" (<https://runestonemuseum.org>)



## 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 all participants:

- ★ Boat regulations must be followed during the parade. Children age twelve and younger must wear life jackets. Pontoon passengers should not 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 shoreline. If they sink, they cause problems for fish and other lake wildlife.) 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 and be SAFE!**

LAKE CARLOS MARINA

# Live on the Lake

SUNDAYS @ 5P

MAY 31 — 57 CHEVY (KL AND TREVOR)  
JUNE 14 — MARK BLOM  
JUNE 28 — ROBB JUSTICE  
JULY 12 — JACKSON BURNS  
JULY 26 — MARK BLOM  
AUGUST 9 — 57 CHEVY (KL AND TREVOR)  
AUGUST 30 — PRAIRIE SMOKE

FOOD BY OUR FRIENDS AT DUNMIRE'S

## MUSIC ON THE WATER

Carlos Marina, on the north end of Lake Carlos, is sponsoring music on the water and everyone is invited. **Should be fun!**



## MN LAKES AND RIVERS LAKESHORE- STEWARD PROGRAM

**BECOME A...**  
*Lake Steward*



This summer, the LCAA is partnering with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers to make the Lake-Steward program available to anyone with Lake Carlos shoreline. The Lake-Steward program promotes greater understanding about the beneficial impacts of natural shorelines on lake-water quality and wildlife habitat.

If you are interested in participating or learning more, log

onto [mnlakesandrivers.org](http://mnlakesandrivers.org) and click on the Lake-Steward link. Identify your lake and take the quiz. Your information will be forwarded to a trained evaluator who lives on Lake Carlos. He will reach out to you directly to answer questions and schedule a time to visit and assess your shoreline if you are interested in proceeding. The program is free, does not obligate you to some sort of regulation, and is voluntary to

participate.

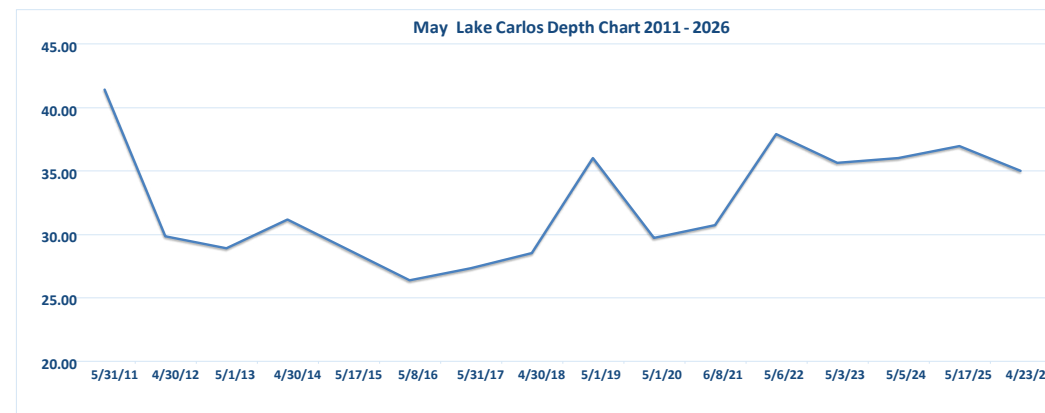
If you do well on the quiz and meet at least 70 percent of the evaluation criteria, you will be officially designated as a "Lake Steward" and receive a beautiful 12" by 18" sign suitable for mounting on your dock or post.

But, more importantly, you will know you are making a difference in protecting our beautiful lake.

## WATER-LEVEL MONITORING

LCAA monitors the lake level measured at the Long Prairie River Dam on the north end of Lake Carlos. Spring monitoring showed that the lake was at an average level after the thaw. May and June rain amounts will greatly influence the summer lake level.

The following chart shows the fluctuations in the water level for the past 16 years. Three of the last four years have shown some of the highest levels in the history of monitoring, dating back to 1930.



## BOAT AND JET-SKI OPERATOR REGULATIONS

### LAST YEAR MINNESOTA LAWS CHANGED REGARDING BOATING OPERATION. PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

**1. All boat operators under 21 years of age must get a permit.**

**2. When "no wake" regulations are in place on a lake, all Boats and Jet Skis must stay 300 hundred feet from the lakeshore, including channel areas.**

Boat and personal watercraft (Jet Skis) operators under 21 must have a permit. Anyone using a watercraft must be permitted unless they are over 21. A watercraft operators permit is available online.

An online course must be completed for certification. The cost of the permit is \$35.00. The permit is issued immediately upon completion of the course.



### FOR QUESTIONS:

Go online for the Minnesota DNR or call them at 888-646-6367 or 651-296-6157.



The law has numerous provisions, and some are phased in over time, so refer to DNR website for details:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law.html>

# JET-SKI AND WAKE-BOARD MONITORING

## SAFE PONTOON OPERATION

Make sure that no one is sitting on the front floor of your pontoon dangling their feet off the front. A sudden jolt may bounce a passenger into the water and expose them to the danger of being run over by the pontoon and its motor.

Also, pontoons must stay 150 feet away from docks, swimmers, and shorelines and operate at closed throttle in all channels.



## JET SKIS:

*Jet skis remain one of the major concerns for lake residents. While they offer fun and adventure for personal watercraft users, they can also be disruptive for homeowners. 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) in all channels and cannot accelerate until the channel markers are cleared.
- ★ Jet Skis must only operate at closed throttle if within 150 feet of a dock, shoreline, 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).
- ★ Operators under 21 must have a permit or be accompanied by an adult.

## WAKE BOATS:

*Wake boats are another source of enjoyment and recreation. They are designed to make a big wake so that boarders can “wake surf”. As a result, the big wake is part of the fun and part of the potential problems. Wakes can disrupt or damage lakeshore and cause erosion problems. Wakes can also disturb other boaters that might be fishing, pulling water skiers or boarders, or boats out for a peaceful cruise. Understanding the potential conflicts help avoid issues.*



***Be aware that wake boats can also churn the water and can cause subsurface damage to the lake. New research has identified ways to best handle these potential problems that can be caused by wake-boat operation. As a result, the new laws are there to protect shorelines and lake bottoms.***

## WAKE BOAT REGULATIONS:

**Wake boats must operate 500 feet from a shoreline and in a minimum of 20 feet of water.**

### Other suggestions for wake boat operation that avoid conflict:

- ★ Stay to the center of a body of water, and avoid narrow channels or thoroughfares, if possible.
- ★ Avoid “working a shoreline”, in which repeated runs bombard the shoreline with waves. This can occur even if in the middle of the lake.
- ★ When possible, present the non-surfing side of the wakeboard boat to the closest shoreline.
- ★ Avoid gradual turns close to shore.

## RESTROOM FACILITIES

A porta-potty is in place at the west side boat access, paid for by the Lake Association.

LCAA also shares in the expense of the porta-potties at the Le Homme Dieu beach and landing on County Road 42.

Carlos State Park also provides restroom facilities as well as a fish-cleaning station open to all lake users.