

## **Appendix F: Press Releases**

Printed in the Citizen News on February 23, 2011

### **CLA Responds to Zebra Mussel “Foxwoods” Letter**

This letter is in response to the “Foxwoods Comes to Candlewood Lake” letter printed last week in the Citizens News. It does not accurately describe the current status of zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake, nor the current collaborative response of numerous organizations and individuals working with the CLA to prevent the spread of zebra mussels. Creating a panic environment does not help control invasive species nor protect our lakes in a productive manner. Rather it creates needless anxiety, and undermines the ongoing and coordinated efforts of those who are actively engaged in seeking solutions and positive results.

In response to the current findings in Lakes Zoar and Lillinonah, the Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA) hosted a “Science at Night Seminar” at WestConn in November, open to the public with presentations by zebra mussel experts and subsequently established a Zebra Mussel Task Force. This Task Force began meeting in early December 2010 and includes representatives from the CLA, the CT Department of Environmental Protection, FirstLight Power Resources, Housatonic Valley Association, Western Connecticut State University, the CT BASS Federation Nation, and representatives from Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar. It also includes members of our lakeside communities and businesses.

The author of last week’s letter attended two of these meetings and yet he fails to mention anything in regards to the work being done by the CLA’s Zebra Mussel Task Force or the Zebra Mussel Action Plan currently in process of development.

This is a collaborative, multi disciplinary approach to develop a Rapid Response Action Plan. Educational outreach, early detection, monitoring, as well as, research to determine how to best prevent their potential introduction into Candlewood Lake, are key components of this plan. We are making good progress and on target to achieve our goals in advance of the 2011 boating season.

As of this writing, there are NO confirmed findings of zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake! A small number of zebra mussels were found in Lakes Zoar and Lillinonah late last year as a result of a scientific study and monitoring by dive teams. Scientific research and monitoring for the presence of zebra mussels in Candlewood will start this spring.

Though the water conditions in Candlewood Lake are not an ideal habitat for lake-wide proliferation of zebra mussels (due to the low calcium levels in our water and due to the winter draw downs) it is in our best interests to adopt methods and practices to prevent

and control their spread. Yet, it is important to understand that all lakes are different, and the calcium concentrations in Candlewood and other nearby waters are much different than the alluded to seriously infected lakes which are located elsewhere. The fact is, in many of the severely affected lakes the concentrations of calcium are more than double, triple or higher than the levels found in Candlewood. The higher calcium levels found in those other lakes (none of which are in CT), provide a MUCH more favorable environment for zebra mussel reproduction and colonization.

Recognizing that people unintentionally contribute to the spread of invasive species from lake to lake via their boats, boats trailers, personal watercraft and recreational gear the CLA encourages the community to get involved in a positive, productive manner!

Get informed and please support our efforts to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species! Adopt and promote clean boating practices. Consider volunteering for a Community Boat Launch Monitoring program currently under development. For more details please go to the CLA website at [www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org](http://www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org) for further updates and information on zebra mussel prevention and control.

Phyllis Schaer  
Sherman CLA Delegate  
CLA Zebra Mussel Task Force Chairman  
Candlewood Lake Authority