

Zebra Mussels and Highland Lake – A Panel Discussion

Saturday March 4, 2023, 2:30 – 4:00 pm

Lower Level Meeting Room, State Bank of the Lakes, 50 Commerce Dr, Grayslake, IL 60030

Highland Lake community members and HLPOA Board members have requested an information session to learn more about zebra mussels and their impact on freshwater aquatic systems, including Highland Lake. Zebra mussels are an invasive bivalve that is native to fresh waters in Eurasia. They arrived in the Great Lakes in the 1980s and have spread rapidly throughout the Great Lakes region, into the Mississippi drainage system and to other parts of North America. They are spread through human activities and also by water birds. They cause ecological disruptions to natural ecosystems and can cause damage to various types of infrastructure.

HLPOA has been treating zebra mussels for several years. Residents and board members would like to learn more about these animals and the impacts they are having on aquatic systems such as Highland Lake, and what our options are for moving forward. Therefore we have organized this informational panel to discuss the matter.

Panel Members

Alana Bartolai, Ecological Services Program Coordinator, Lake County Health Department
Jim Bland, Director, Environmental Products and Services inc., expert on freshwater mussels
David Hammond, Senior Scientist at Earth Science Laboratories
Peter Nagle, Curator of Aquatics, Chicago Botanic Garden, manages lakes and shorelines
Joe Rogalski, Science Faculty Grayslake North, Adj. Prof. College of Lake County

Panel Moderator

Kristal Larson, Avon Township Clerk and FOIA Officer

Agenda

2:30 – 2:45. Welcome and Introduction of panel members and moderator. Outline of procedures for panel.

2:45 – 3:10. Opening statements from panel members outlining what the panel member believes community members and board members should know about zebra mussels based on their background and experience.

3:10 – 3:45. Questions to the panel submitted in advance by community and board members.

3:45 – 4:00. Follow-up questions posed by audience members during panel discussion. Questions to be written on paper and passed to the Moderator.

4:00. Closing. Thanks to guest panel members and moderator.

NOTE: Questions for panel members from workshop attendees should be sent in advance to Linda Wegge, HLPOA President (lws@atcwegge.com) and copied to HLPOA Secretary Sharon Schwaba (sharon.schwaba@yahoo.com).