



HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

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WEBSITE: www.mnwaters.org/hubbardcola



From Our President: Dan Kittilson

Things are quieting down on our lakes in Hubbard County. The leaves are falling, a lot of docks & lifts are in and soon the snow will be falling. There are still a few die hard anglers on the lakes trying to catch that monster Muskie or Walleye. As the past president of Little Sand Lake Association, it has been a privilege to live on one of the cleanest lakes in Hubbard County. Since being elected President of our Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations, I will continue the same passion for protecting our lakes in Hubbard County that I have for Little Sand Lake.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ken Grob for his dedication, passion & hard work, as our COLA president for the past 5 years. Ken has been a great asset to COLA, but the best part is that Ken will continue many of his previous duties & for that I am most grateful.

As your new president of COLA, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to be involved with Hubbard COLA in the past & to continue this involvement as your president. I would like to convey that my new role as president will foster mutual ownership & a shared partnership to protect our lakes for present & future generations.

With my past involvement in COLA and as I look to the future, I feel that our greatest successes and strength can be found in our citizens. Hubbard COLA will work to strengthen our lake associations & build our capacity. COLA will work to engage new members & promote new leaders. I would encourage you to volunteer for a more active role in our Hubbard COLA. More active citizens will help strengthen our voice, so we can work for the common good of our lakes & rivers.

To increase our capacity COLA has encouraged each lake association to select two members to serve as your representatives at our COLA meetings. Consequently, if one rep cannot attend the COLA meeting, the alternate rep would be able to represent your lake association. This increase in our membership would help foster our COLA initiatives with a stronger member base for our committees.

While looking into the history of COLA, I received an old COLA newsletter from a good friend, Al Peterson on Lake Belle Taine. While reviewing the COLA Update, April 1992 edition, I found an article entitled "Eurasian Milfoil Search Teams". It was interesting to see that Eurasian Water Milfoil was also on the radar screen & a big concern in 1992 (Milfoil was discovered Lake Minnetonka in 1987). The DNR Fisheries conducted several training sessions on identifying Eurasian Milfoil for area lake residents. Through their efforts volunteers from 6 lakes inspected 29 miles of shoreline, including 12 public accesses. The article emphasized that in the future there was "*the hope to do more*" inspections & monitoring in area lakes for Eurasian Milfoil.

Since the formation of these Eurasian Milfoil Search Teams, COLA has increased its efforts to *“do more to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species”*. With the formation of the Hubbard COLA Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force in 2006, much has been done to help prevent the spread of AIS; however much more is needed. Please refer to the AIS Update in this newsletter written by Ken Grob for more information about preventing the spread of AIS in Hubbard County.

Local Hubbard COLA lake residents recently attended the Healthy Lakes Legislative Forum held at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker on October 2. Coalitions of lake and watershed associations gave presentations to legislators on water resource protection and citizen-led efforts to accomplish long term lake and stream conservation throughout the north central lakes region. Presentations were given on aquatic invasive species, shore land management, septic compliance and land conservation. Sen. Mary Olson, DFL-Bemidji moderated the event, which was organized by area lake and watershed volunteers & headed by the Pine River Watershed Alliance Chair, Ron Meyer and Minnesota Waters.

The forum was an important opportunity for citizen-led lake associations to share their successes, highlight the challenges they face and begin working with legislators on partnerships for lake and stream protection in Minnesota.

While welcoming the citizens and legislators, Rob Aitkin, Executive Director of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe emphasized the importance of the forests, lakes and rivers for the Ojibwe people. Rob stressed the importance of protecting what they have been given, and referred to the “spirit of the still waters”, as a place for our spirits to reside.

So as we look back into the culture of the Ojibwe people & our COLA predecessors, we find similar traditions and values for protecting our lakes and rivers for which our state is best known.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all active participants in our Hubbard COLA and invite all lake residents in Hubbard County to join in our COLA mission. I also encourage your feedback on any concerns you may have regarding our lakes in Hubbard County.

Upcoming Events:

- The next COLA meeting is scheduled for November 5th - 8:30 AM social & 9:00 AM meeting start in the basement of the court house.

Minnesota Waters presentation: Marion Barber

Marian Bender, Executive Director of Minnesota Waters, spoke to our Lake Association Representatives at the September 24, 2009 meeting of Hubbard County COLA. She spoke of the vision and mission of Minnesota Waters.

Vision: Minnesota Waters envisions an engaged citizenry working to protect and restore Minnesota’s irreplaceable natural assets - our clean and healthy lakes and streams - for current and future generations.

Mission: The mission of Minnesota Waters is to promote responsible stewardship of our water resources by engaging citizens, local and state policymakers, and other partners in the protection and restoration of Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

Minnesota Waters Values:

- Active, Engaged Citizens
- Locally-Led Stream and Lake Conservation
- Data to Information to Action Pathway

Minnesota Waters program areas are:

- Citizen Water monitoring
- Providing workshops, articles, and monitoring resources for local organizations.
- Public Policy:
- Working on Clean Water Legacy – restoring MN impaired waters and assessing quality of all other Minnesota waters
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Effective Shore land Management
- Watershed Stewardship:
- Organizational Capacity Development – providing citizens with resources and support to build the internal organizational structure of their water groups
- Issue Based Initiatives – lends support and assistance some past projects are the St. Cloud Area Wild and Scenic River protection, the Minnesota River Valley Wild and Scenic river clean up and the Rice Creek watershed establishment of storm water standards.
- Direct Services- include regional Lake and River leader summits, Conservation partnership programs, educational resources and a Minnesota Lake Ecology curriculum for youth.

Marian explained that Minnesota Waters is a state-wide non-profit organization that provides training, connections and support to help citizens take action to save our state's lakes and rivers. Born in 2006 from the merger of the Minnesota Lakes Association and the Rivers Council of Minnesota, MN Waters is based in St. Cloud, with field staff in St. Paul, Pequot Lakes, Pine River, and Duluth. Minnesota Waters is a non-profit group that obtains its financial support from membership donations from individuals, lake and river groups, and corporations, as well as foundation grants and a grant from the MN Pollution Control agency. The more membership donations they receive, the more help they can provide to lake and river groups across the state!

In addition, MN Waters grants to citizen groups for local projects. The application deadline for the current grant program is December 10th, and the application and guidelines can be found at www.minnesotawaters.org.

To receive MN Waters' free monthly newsletter, The Confluence, sign up on their website at www.minnesotawaters.org. The Confluence contains funding sources, learning events, and state news of interest to lake associations and river groups.

To Contact Marian for further information or to answer any of your questions Minnesota Waters address is: 720 W. St. Germain, Suite 143, St. Cloud, MN 56301, telephone: (800) 515-5253 or (320) 257-6630. Marian's email is: MarianB@Minnesotawaters.org Minnesota Waters website is: www.minnesotawaters.org.

Lake Association News: Julie Kingsley

"Happening" from 8th and 9th Crow Wing Lake Association:

In March 2009 the Nevis, the Northwoods Press Newspaper ran an article about Senator Mary Olson and Representative Larry Howes sponsoring Senate bill SF0679 and House Bill HF0749 to replace the culvert under Highway 64 that bisects 11th Crow Wing Lake in Hubbard County. Both bills have been referred to committees.

This has been an ongoing project with the 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lake Association for years. The problem has been the silting in of the present culvert, boat traffic can not pass between basins of the lake because of the silt and because the culvert is too small, and the association believes that the culvert is causing increased aging in the lake. The culvert was dredged this summer, but the problem remains that only small boats/canoes can get through the culvert and there is no public access on the upper basin of the lake. While these are issues and a wrong was committed years ago in putting in the fill and culvert between the basins of the lake, new circumstances are present and need to be addressed.

In the last three years the Aquatic Invasive Species Curly-Leaf Pondweed has been found in the upper basin of 11th Crow Wing. Curly-Leaf Pondweed out competes native vegetation and is able to grow all winter under the ice especially in disturbed areas. If the culvert/bridge replacement project were to go ahead the very real threat of spreading Curly-Leaf Pondweed to the lower basin of 11th Crow Wing Lake, the 10 other lakes in the Crow Wing Lake chain, and the Crow Wing River system which all lead to the Mississippi river may become a reality. The flow within 11th Crow Wing Lake would change and the movement of water within the basins would also change with increased boat movement.

8th and 9th Crow Wing Lake association is opposed to both the bills presented in the Minnesota House and Senate at this time and is trying to arrange a meeting of Lower, Middle, 8th & 9th and 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lake association Presidents and interested board members to find out the history of the culvert/bridge replacement project and to discuss the issues. This is no longer just a 10th & 11th Crow Wing Lake issue.

DNR NEWS – October, 2009:

Upper and Lower Twin Lakes in Hubbard, Wadena counties “infested” with faucet snail:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of designating Upper and Lower Twin lakes in Hubbard and Wadena counties as “infested waters” because the faucet

snail (*Bithynia tentaculata*) has been found there. The snail has been linked to waterfowl deaths at Lake Winnibigoshish and the Upper Mississippi pool system in Southeast Minnesota.

A local resident of Lower Twin Lake first noticed the snails attached to his boat and brought them to the attention of local DNR staff. Trained DNR and US Geological Survey (USGS) staff later verified them as faucet snails.

New regulations will take effect at the lake to help stop the movement of the faucet snail to other waters. Once designated as “infested waters,” state law prohibits the transport of water from Upper and Lower Twin without a permit. It also prohibits anglers or commercial bait harvesters from harvesting bait from these waters.

Before leaving a water access at Upper and Lower Twin lakes and traveling on a public road, boaters and anglers must also:

- Remove all aquatic plants from boats, trailers and equipment; and
- Drain all water from bilges, live wells and bait containers.

It is illegal to transport infested water on a public road. Pulling the drain plug before leaving the access is the best way to show that you are draining the water from the boat.

Anglers who have live bait that they want to use again need to drain infested water from the bait container and replace it with tap or spring water. Anglers, boaters and hunters should also check their boats, anchors, waterfowl decoys, push poles and the inside of bait containers for snails and remove them before visiting another lake.

Faucet snails are hosts to parasitic trematodes, a small intestinal parasite believed to have contributed to the deaths of around 9,000 scaup and coots in the past two years on Lake Winnibigoshish. In the last five years, the trematodes are also responsible for many more scaup and coot deaths on the Mississippi River near Winona.

The DNR and USGS staff did not find trematodes in the small number of snails they sampled from Lower Twin Lake. However, they will do further research to determine whether the parasitic trematodes linked to waterfowl deaths are present in the snails.

There is no evidence that the parasite will adversely affect fish species or wildlife other than waterfowl. Anglers can eat fish from Upper and Lower Twin without worry of the trematode.

“By taking a few simple steps such as inspecting, draining and drying, and disposing of any water and aquatic life when leaving Upper and Lower Twin (or any lake or river), boaters and anglers can do their part to help stop the spread of the faucet snail and several other aquatic hitchhikers,” said Darrin Hoverson, DNR invasive species specialist.

For more information on the faucet snail and other aquatic invasive species, see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>. And, for more information on ways to help stop aquatic hitchhikers visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread.html

COLA AIS Task Force Update: Ken Grob

As the summer comes to a close, a few things are obvious: The threat of Aquatic Invasive Species to our lakes has never been higher. The explosion of Zebra Mussels and the discovery of Spiny Water fleas in Lake Mille Lacs, the discovery of Zebra Mussels in Alexandria area lakes and in Pelican Lake continues to demonstrate that our lakes are at risk. Eurasian milfoil and Curly leaf pondweed are ever-present threats. This makes it more urgent for all of our lake associations to mount initiatives to prevent the spread.

The COLA AIS team has completed most of the planned projects for this year:

- We have distributed information packets to 20 more resorts and did follow up visits with the 37 we contacted last year.

- **Watercraft inspection volunteer training class was completed in June**
- **Local law enforcement staff was trained in AIS and are certified to issue citations.**
- **Hubbard County Water Safety staff has been distributing educational information to boaters**
- **The Lake Emma Township dedicated DNR Intern watercraft inspector has completed his assignment with 484 hours of inspection time. He conducted 466 (272 launches& 194 exits) watercraft inspections. DNR Interns also conducted 79 inspections on other area lakes. Some of the results include: Notation of 12 cases of vegetation on watercraft being launched and 37 cases where entering watercraft came from infested lakes/rivers.**
- **We have distributed several thousand of the AIS Z-fold brochures that we developed with financial help from a DNR Prevention grant. They has been very well received and appreciated in the community.**

A few lakes are starting to organize core AIS teams to focus on prevention, early detection, and remediation strategies. This is essential as we look ahead. Fostering this approach will be a major focus of the AIS Task Force next year, along with working with lake professionals (dock installers, etc.) to help prevent movement of AIS. In closing, I encourage all lake residents to be alert to Zebra Mussels when they remove their water equipment this fall. Please use the COLA website to link to information on how to detect and monitor for these critters!!!

The COLA Website

Email Addresses Updated