



HUBBARD COUNTY COLA

P.O. BOX 746
PARK RAPIDS, MN 56470

WEBSITE:

www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome

"COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers"

Summer 2011

Our Presidents Letter – Dan Kittilson

Dreams – We all have them and yes, daydreaming counts! For many of us, our dreams involve lakes that are our beautiful natural resources. We gather at our lakes to watch sunsets, listen to a loon's mysterious call, help children and grandchildren catch their first fish, relax on pontoons with neighbors and friends, and enjoy the water, family time and tranquil moments. Our collective memories "at the lake" are an important part of why so many of us are interested in lake protection. Clean water is what makes Minnesota a great place to live. We want to keep our water clean for drinking, swimming, boating, fishing and for our way of life.

Have you heard about the COLA's Story? The story focuses on our collective memories "at the lake" and the importance of a community effort to protect our lakes in Hubbard County. At the conclusion of our strategic planning session last August and further discussions with Action Media and Michael Goldberg, our "COLA Story" started to evolve. The COLA Story continues to be a work in progress.

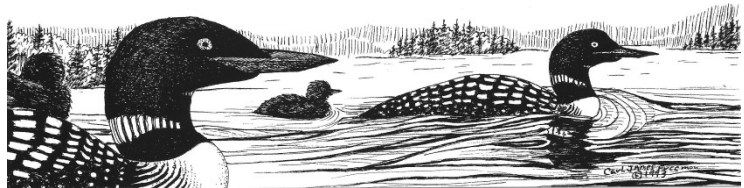
The development of the COLA Story focuses on COLA's mission to protect and enhance the quality our lakes and rivers. As part of our mission, COLA focuses on protecting the value of our property by protecting the water quality and health of our lakes. Our story emphasizes that our lakes are a shared interest, because the lakes belong to everyone. COLA is pursuing the public interest in protecting the lakes. COLA encourages all to learn, understand, embrace and spread the word about the COLA Story.

While COLA's vision focuses on being the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers, our strategic actions continue to be challenging and rewarding. Active COLA leaders and members surely don't get bored. As opportunities abound for lakeshore stewardship, I would encourage you to participate in COLA's efforts to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and leave a legacy for future generations. Hang out with other folks who love our lakes and tell COLA's story about (our lakes) your lake and help us promote and publicize lakeshore protection.

I often hear the question "What does COLA do for our lake association"? I would like to turn that question around and ask "What can your lake association do for Hubbard COLA?" After all, you are COLA, so I encourage you to step in and get involved and contribute your time and resources.

While COLA has achieved numerous successes in the past, our greatest accomplishments can be found in our people. I would like to thank the many lake stewards who are caring, actively involved and have a genuine interest in preserving and protecting our lakes in Hubbard County.

If you plan to attend a COLA meeting I would encourage you to come early for our social gathering where you can meet your lake neighbors and enjoy goodies and refreshments made by Mary Jo Groehler, Helen Marsh and Ruby Kittilson. Special thanks to Mary Jo, Helen and Ruby for helping us celebrate our friendships.



Minnesota COLAs Unite to Take Action By Molly Zins, Program Director

Minnesota is fortunate to have not only hundreds of active lake associations, but also many Coalitions of Lake Associations representing regions across the state. These Coalitions, otherwise known as COLAs or LARAs (Lake and River Associations), often represent all of the lake and river groups within their county. Each COLA is unique, but they are all a tremendous asset to their communities. Most provide a forum for peer support, shared resources, and a strong, unified voice for lake and stream protection in their region.

Last fall, Hubbard COLA President, Dan Kittilson, asked Minnesota Waters to facilitate a meeting for all interested Minnesota COLAs to discuss common issues, challenges and ways they might support one another. MN Waters' staff felt that this was an ideal opportunity to increase the effectiveness of citizen involvement across the state, and agreed to convene the first meeting in November in Park Rapids. The 13 COLA representatives at the meeting overwhelmingly supported the idea to continue meeting and exploring ways to work together as the COLA Collaborative.

Dan emphasized, "Hubbard COLA believes there is unanimous agreement statewide that our lakes are at risk and would benefit greatly from a stronger voice that can be provided by the COLA Collaborative. We look forward to this tremendous opportunity of concerted action for protecting one of our greatest assets...our lakes, rivers and streams."

The groups have reconvened again in Little Falls, St. Cloud and mostly recently on June 1st in Alexandria. The group has already taken significant action on aquatic invasive species (AIS), shoreland development and variances, broadening their communication network, and lobbying initiatives. Several COLA members led a fundraising effort to hire a lobbyist to work on variance legislation. Through continued outreach, additional partners from several more counties have become engaged with the Collaborative.

If recent activities are any judge, the COLA Collaborative will be a powerful change agent working for the long term protection of Minnesota's lakes and streams. For more information, please contact Molly Zins at mollyz@minnesotawaters.org or Dan Kittilson at drkittil@q.com

Hubbard COLA Successes

by Larry Roberts

Since Hubbard COLA's organization in 1988 a number of projects have been undertaken and successfully completed. Below is a quick list of what has been accomplished in the last few years:

- HCOLA now represents 30 lake associations covering 41 lakes and 2,150 property owners who have a shared interest in protecting the value of our property and our lakes.
- HCOLA is recognized as the statewide leader in preventing the spread of AIS
- Ken Grob, past president of HCOLA was the keynote speaker at the 2008 statewide AIS conference
- Ken Grob was recognized in 2010 as the MN Waters Volunteer of the Year
- HCOLA was recognized in 2010 by the Northwest MN Foundation with their Quality of Place Award for preserving and protecting our water resource legacy.
- HCOLA has participated in statewide advisory groups for clean water, shore land standards and rules, dock rules and DNR's AIS prevention strategy.
- HCOLA has partnered with Hubbard County and several townships on watercraft inspection projects and other water quality issues.
- HCOLA's AIS prevention program included 2400 hours of watercraft inspection and 2300 actual inspections in 2010.
- HCOLA is again involved in watercraft inspections for 2011.
- HCOLA has received grant funding for billboards and other road signage to educate the public about AIS.
- Educational materials regarding AIS and watercraft inspections has been provided to 60 resorts and campgrounds
- HCOLA has received grant funding for radio PSA's regarding AIS and watercraft inspection.
- HCOLA has received grant funding to distribute 10,000 z-fold brochures in 2010 and 10,000 laminated "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!" cards.
- HCOLA has distributed water safety educational materials.
- In the past 3 years, contributions from HCOLA, lake associations, townships and DNR grants have provided over \$63,000 towards AIS prevention in Hubbard County.
- HCOLA has coordinated the local water quality testing program for the past 14 years. 40 lakes have been continuously involved at an investment of over \$70,000 by HCOLA and area lake associations.
- HCOLA has coordinated the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership. 18 lakes now have lake management plans and \$43,000 in grants have been made available to those lakes.
- HCOLA worked with Lake Emma Township to develop the Lake Emma Township Healthy Lakes Grant Program for lakes within that township.
- HCOLA sponsors with SWCD the Children's Freshwater Festival annually. 300 children each year learn about our lakes at this festival operated by 40 volunteers.
- HCOLA orders and distributes shoreline shrubs/trees for lake associations in Hubbard County.

- HCOLA is a involved the these local activities/organizations:
 - ✓ Progress Park Rapids
 - ✓ Hubbard County Water Plan Board
 - ✓ Hubbard County Extension Service
 - ✓ Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce

- HCOLA supports the Shore land Management Ordinance.

- ✓ Hubbard County lakes and rivers are our greatest asset.
- ✓ Lake shore property represents 59% of all property values.
- ✓ Land use affects water quality.
- ✓ Hubbard County recognizes the importance of regulating lakes and rivers development and use of shore lands through the SMO:

“Uncontrolled use of shore lands affects public health, safety and general welfare through pollution of public waters and impairing the local tax base.....”
(Opening statement of Hubbard County’s Shore land Management Ordinance.

- HCOLA was instrumental in bringing together area COLA’s and LARA’s to respond to threats to all Minnesota lakes and rivers through AIS, shore land development and failures of government to take action to protect our lakes and rivers.
- 17 COLA’s and LARA’s representing 40,000 lake shore property owners are involved in what has become the MN COLA Collaborative.
- The Collaborative partnered with MSRPO (MN seasonal and recreational property owners) to monitor issues in the legislature which affect our lakes and rivers.
- HCOLA provided testimony regarding the new shore land management rules and was instrumental in improving DNR’s response to AIS statewide.

Your Hubbard COLA has been extremely busy these past years. We need all our lake associations and property owners to get involved and help continue these successes. With your help COLA will continue to be the leader in protecting our Hubbard County lakes and rivers.



Economic viability of Hubbard County Lakeshore owners - related to our representation by our county board

Bob Hansen, the county assessor, will give his report on the tax revenue generated by water influenced property to the Commissioners at their August 3rd meeting. Remember that from his last report that the water influenced properties made up about 37% of all county tax parcels and they represented about 61% of the tax value of all county tax parcels.

This report will confirm the importance of shoreland property as the major economic engine for our county.

IPA News

by Chuck Diessner

COLA continues to monitor the monthly Board of Adjustment's actions granting or denying variance requests. We have seen an improvement in the decisions made by the Board in the last couple of months which is due to the change in Minnesota law on what is required for a variance and better analysis of the requests and recommendations by the Environmental Service Office.

The new state law on variances requires that a number of requirements be satisfied for a variance to be granted, including that there is a "practical difficulty" in complying with the ordinance. A "practical difficulty" now means that following three criteria must be satisfied: the property will be used in a reasonable not permitted by ordinance, the plight of the property owner is unique to the property and not created by the property owner and the variance will not alter the essential character of the locality. The new law is an absolute test that requires that all three criteria must be satisfied for a variance. This is different from the prior law which, according to the County, had a balancing test among five criteria that gave the Board a lot of flexibility because not all five of the criteria had to be satisfied for a variance.

The County recently amended sections of the Shoreland Management Ordinance regarding variances in light of the new law and generally consistent with COLA's recommendations.

By-Law changes

Notification will be sent to all lake association presidents and representatives of proposed changes to Hubbard County COLA's By-Laws prior to our August annual meeting based on our strategy management discoveries. Our president will call for a motion to accept with a second, discuss, and vote on the changes at the annual meeting.

Our COLA needs you!

We have opportunities for you to become more active in our organization. Urgent needs are for volunteers for the following positions:

- A person or persons with communications and public relations skills to provide advice and direction to the relations our COLA has with members and the public as well as organize and publish our communications needs.
- A person to take notes and prepare the minutes of the executive committee meetings
- Persons interested in the leading of the organization by getting involved in committees, participating in our COLA activities, participating in our executive committee meetings, and becoming Vice Presidential candidates.

Please consider volunteering some of your skills.
Contact Dan Kittilson or John Hastings.

Invasive Species pose threat to Potato Lake & Others

By Ken Grob

One of the most urgent issues facing Minnesota lakes, including Potato Lake is the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). We can hardly read a newspaper, listen to the radio, or watch TV without hearing about the discovery of a newly infested lake, and the economic and recreational impact that results. It is important that every lake resident and visitor understand how to recognize an AIS and prevent the spread.

Aquatic Invasive Species – Non-native plants, animals, and fish viruses – introduced to new habitats cause severe habitat and biological changes, with significant economic impact to land owners and businesses. Introduction of AIS which are free from natural predators, parasites, pathogens, and competition that keeps them in check overrun their new habitat and native species.

Three AIS pose the greatest threat to Potato Lake: Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in 14 additional MN lakes in 2010; Zebra Mussels are in 19 MN lakes/rives including the most heavily used lakes of Minnetonka, Mille Lacs, Gull Lake, and some Alexandria area lakes; Curly-leaf pondweed exists in 759 MN lakes including Portage, 11th Crow wing, and Spider Lake in Hubbard County. Three additional AIS also pose threats: Purple Loosestrife, Spiny waterfleas, and Faucet snails.

All residents of Potato Lake should become familiar with these species. Learn how to identify them and what pathways they are most likely to use to enter a lake, and how to prevent their spread.

The biggest threat is Zebra Mussels. They reproduce prolifically (an adult female can produce a million larva in a year) above 54 degree water temperature. The adults are easy to spot, but the tiny microscopic larva float in the water for about a month before attaching to a hard surface. These floating larva enter water systems in boats, water equipment, and jet skis. This is why State law requires all watercraft to be drained and dried before leaving a lake. Once the larva attach to a hard surface, they grow to the more familiar mussel shape. They can cluster in large groups and cover motors, docks, boat lifts, and water intakes. Once in a lake there is no known mitigation treatment. The recreational and economic impact is severe.

What can we do to prevent the spread of AIS?

First of all, we need to recognize that doing nothing is not an option! Hubbard COLA has partnered with the DNR and Lake Emma Township to help prevent the spread. Public awareness campaigns through billboards, road sign, radio announcements, and distribution of information packets to over 60 county resorts helps. However, the most effective approach is personal involvement in watercraft inspection and citizen AIS lake monitoring.

PLA established a trust fund in 2009 to use for mitigation if Potato Lake should become infested. This shows great support from the members of the lake association. However prevention and early detection is the most cost effective approach. We have a good start, but we need to do more in these areas.

In 2011, Potato Lake Association contracted with the DNR to provide 500 hours of inspection time through their watercraft inspection program. The DNR covers half the cost. The PLA contribution is about \$2000. The inspectors spend 50% of their time on weekends and cover both launch sites on the lake. This helps, but lake association members must also help.

Dale Kunz is Potato Lakes' AIS Coordinator. Dale has organized 16 lake members to be part of a lake monitoring team. These individuals have gone through the DNR AIS Monitoring Training program and learned how to identify AIS invaders and how to monitor an area of the lake. Dale is in the process of assigning each individual an area of the lake to monitor.

What we need most is Volunteer Watercraft Inspectors to compliment the DNR Interns. This is an essential part of a comprehensive prevention program. Dale is in the process of getting this organized. Very few of our lake residents have received the training. If you would like to be a volunteer inspector, contact Dale at Email: kunz@biworldwide.com.

A final note: Learn more about AIS. Please practice good watercraft cleaning and decontamination practices. Encourage your friends and visitors to follow good practices. Get involved in watercraft inspections and lake monitoring.

Hubbard COLA Apparel

by Larry Roberts

Hubbard COLA's logo is now available on a variety of wearing apparel (hats, t-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, coats, etc) and other accessories (bags, towels, etc) from Unknown Legend Designs. Owner Andi Radniecki has adapted our logo into a custom embroidery design which is a great way of showing your support for Hubbard COLA and our area lakes. Prices are very reasonable. She can be contacted at 218-732-3314; e-mail: unknownlegends@msn.com or at her business, ¼ mile north of Dorset.

Interesting Tidbits from *Minnesota Place Names*, by Warren Upham

The remarkable series or chain of lakes along the head stream of Crow Wing River, in the south-east part of this county, was mapped by Schoolcraft in 1832. On his return from the expedition to Lake Itasca, his party traveled by canoes from Leech Lake southwest to the head of the Crow Wing and through the lakes, this being a route well known to the Ojibwe and frequently used in their war raids against the Dakota. In the descending order, these eleven lakes on Schoolcraft's map, published in 1834 with his narrative of this expedition, are Kaginogumag, Little Vermillion, Birch Lake, Lac Ple, Ossowa Lake, Lac Vieux Desert, Summit Lake, Long Rice Lake, Allen's and Johnston's Lakes, and Lake Kaichibo Sagitowa. Two of these names were given in honor of Lieut. James Allen and George Johnston, members of the expedition.

On the map of Hubbard County by the Minnesota Geological Survey (in vol. 4, 1899), this series of names is copied, excepting that the first is Longwater Lake, as it was translated by Schoolcraft's narrative.

Lac Ple (or Pele) was named in allusion to its being partly bordered by a prairie. Lake Ossowa of the map is named Lake Boutwell in the narrative in honor of Rev. William Boutwell of this expedition. Lac Vieux Desert is there translated from its French name, as "the Lake of the Old Wintering Ground." Summit Lake was named "from its position," where the river turns southeastward from its previous southwest course. The lowest lake of the series is translated as "the lake which the river passes through at one end."

In the 1916 atlas of Minnesota, these original names were replaced by a numerical list, which came into use by lumbermen and the pioneer settlers. The lowest is called First or Sibley Lake, and the Third and Fourth Lakes are also named respectively Swift and Miller Lakes, these names being for early governors of Minnesota. The other lakes are designated only by their numbers, up to the Eleventh Lake, which, as noted by Schoolcraft, is called Kaginogumag by the Ojibwe, meaning Longwater Lake.

