



**HUBBARD COUNTY COLA**  
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**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!™**

December 2012

**Dan Kittilson – our COLA President:**

As the Park Rapids Area Lakes become ice covered and activities around our lakes begin to slow down, Hubbard COLA continues to pursue its public interest in protecting the value of our properties and the health of our crystal clear lakes that we love so very much.

Reflecting on another successful year for COLA in 2012, COLA's accomplishments were noted by such partners as the McKnight Foundation and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF). While examining Hubbard COLA's involvement in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership, the McKnight Foundation recognized Hubbard COLA for their energy and passion. The McKnight Foundation further acknowledged Hubbard COLA's efforts in sharing good information about the lakes and rivers in our region. The McKnight Foundation has been the principal source of funding for the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership.

In collaboration with the McKnight Foundation, Kudos was received from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation recognizing the assets that Hubbard COLA brings to the Park Rapids Lakes Area. The NMF further acknowledged Hubbard COLA's efforts in helping demonstrate to the McKnight Foundation the wonders of our lakes and natural resources in Northwest Minnesota.

Although COLA has achieved many successes, we continue to face numerous challenges and threats to our lakes. Challenges include engaging volunteers and leaders, and inactive lake associations. As we confront our challenges in Hubbard COLA, some lake associations are struggling to stay afloat due to lack of volunteers and leadership. Hubbard COLA and the 17 lake associations that have participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership have demonstrated that our most effective tool to protect our lakes is a successful lake association. In his commentary on the "Importance of Lake Associations" published in the Park Rapids Enterprise on September 15, 2012, Darby Nelson focused on the importance of individuals acting together as the most powerful tool to protect our lakes over time.

If your lake association is struggling to engage new members and promote new leaders, help may be on the horizon. Hubbard COLA is presently participating with Indiana University and Bernie Fischer, a summer resident on Big Mantrap Lake, in a capstone graduate course that will

focus on Lake Association Sustainability. COLA's participation in this capstone course could help lake associations become more sustainable and successful in meeting their goals.

I would like to thank Julie Kingsley who will be stepping down as COLA's secretary, a position she has served for the past 7 years. Julie has accepted the position as District Manager for Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). We all wish Julie the best and look forward to working with Julie in her new role.

Lake shore property owners, lake users or community leaders who would like to help protect Hubbard County lakes or to join your lake association and/or Hubbard COLA, please reply to [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com). In closing, thank you to our many COLA volunteers.

### **2013 Community Fishing Opener (AKA Governor's Fishing Opener)**

**Park Rapids, MN May 11, 2013: By Larry Roberts**

Just about everyone in the Park Rapids area has heard that Park Rapids will be hosting the Governor's Fishing Opener for 2013. It is estimated that this one event will provide from \$650,000 to \$1 million worth of advertising for this community. Previous fishing opener communities have benefited tremendously from this event.

Hubbard COLA volunteered to help with this project and I agreed to take on the task of chairing the raffle ticket sales for the major prizes. First prize is a 2013 Crestliner 1750 Raptor boat with 115 hp Mercury motor, Shorelander trailer and custom travel cover valued at \$27,900 donated by Crestliner boats. Second prize is a new Ice Castle Fish House 8x16 Lake of the Woods Model valued at \$15,500 donated by Smokey Hills Outdoors. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are available at many businesses around Park Rapids and at the Chamber of Commerce office. All proceeds raised from this raffle will be used to defray the costs of hosting the fishing opener. We hope to raise over \$50,000 from ticket sales alone.

Look for the prizes parked at various business locations around town and watch for the ice house at many of the local ice fishing contests being held this winter.

We still need additional volunteers to help with the raffle tickets sales at local events and in other communities in the area and the Twin Cities. If you can help, please contact Larry Roberts at [lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com) or 218-732-0118.

In addition other volunteers are needed to help in many other ways in the days before the event and on opening day. There is also a need for fishing guides/hosts to take media around on the various lakes to fish or take photos. Go to the Park Rapids Chamber website: [www.parkrapids.com](http://www.parkrapids.com) and click on the link to apply as a volunteer or call the Chamber at 218-732-4111.

## **Hubbard COLA recognizes Lake Emma Township with Certificate of Appreciation**

On Tuesday, December 4, 2012 Hubbard COLA awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the 2012 Lake Emma Township Board of Supervisors for their outstanding accomplishments in implementing the Lake Emma Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program. Township Supervisors being recognized included Jeff Adolphson, Roberta Doyle and Brian Behrens along with Rod Westrum, the past Chair of Lake Emma Township in 2009 when the grant program was formed.

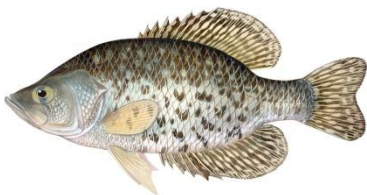
As leaders in conservation, the Lake Emma Township Supervisors have served as an outstanding role model for other townships to join in the protection of our lakes and natural resources in Hubbard County. Other townships that have come on board working to protect our lakes include Arago, Henrietta, Hubbard and Mantrap Townships.

Hubbard County lakes and rivers are our greatest asset. Water influenced properties make up 37% of all county tax parcels, which represents 59% of all property values and 53% of all property tax revenue. Lake Emma Township's waterfront property has the highest percentage of lakefront property with 85% water-influenced. As demonstrated by the Lake Emma Healthy Lakes Partnership Grant Program, Lake Emma Township and Hubbard COLA have shown strong leadership in protecting our lakes and property values in Lake Emma Township and throughout Hubbard County.

During the recognition ceremony COLA emphasized that success requires partnerships and resources. The cooperation between Lake Emma Township and the lake associations within the township has been very successful. Components of the grant program include watercraft inspections, early detection of AIS, lakeshore buffer strips, Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship, lakeshore re-forestation and a great working relationship with the township.

During the award presentation, township chair Jeff Adolphson emphasized that the work to protect our lakes has just begun and that we need to look for solutions proactively.

Again, Hubbard COLA thanks Lake Emma Township for their ongoing support and partnership in working to protect our lakes in Lake Emma Township and beyond.



### **Kids fishing event during the Governor's Fishing Opener: by Sharon Natzel**

Friday, May 10, 2013 will represent a turning point in over 100 children's lives here in Park Rapids. Why? - - They will be seeing nature and the streams, rivers, and lakes in their own backyard with an enhanced perspective!

Through the Park Rapids Governor's Fishing Opener (GFO) Community Picnic and the GFO Kids Fishing Event, children in the area will be introduced to and/or immersed even more in learning about:

- aquatic habitats
- fishes of Minnesota
- water stewardship
- fisheries management
- fishing! and fishing skills and safety

This program has been incorporated into the Governor's Fishing Opener since 2005, according to Nadine Meyer of the MN DNR MinnAqua Program. The COLA Education Committee is helping the Park Rapids Community Governor's Fishing Opener Committee plan and coordinate the GFO Kids Fishing Event along with the Park Rapids School District, local DNR Fisheries, Hubbard SWCD, and Kinship of the Park Rapids Area. The COLA Education Committee will have complementary information available on related topics at the Community Picnic from 4 to 7:30 PM on Friday, May 10, 2013, to enable kids of all ages to "see what's in their own backyard".

The day's activities are still in the planning stages and your energy is welcome if you are interested! We will need a number of volunteers for Friday, May 10, 2013. If you are willing to help out for all or part of the day, please call Sharon Natzel at 218-732-5749. A background check will be required, if you haven't had one already through the organizations you work with, because we are working with children, but the cost is covered by the MN DNR MinnAqua Program.

### **Children's Freshwater Festival:** by Julie Kingsley

It is never too early to start planning, so put the date of Wednesday May 8, 2013 on your calendars! This is the date for the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District's (SWCD) annual Children's Freshwater Festival for all area 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp. Again we will be asking for volunteers to help with our big day, escorting students groups, helping at the different stations, helping with lunch and a wide variety of other activities. We would also appreciate any financial support that individuals and/or Lake Associations can contribute to this special day. If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact Melissa Koebernick at (218)732-0121.

### **2012 Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program Highlights:** by Jeff Bjorkman

The 2012 watercraft inspection program in Hubbard County concluded with over 4700 inspection hours logged on 16 area lakes. Nearly 7200 boats were inspected from 30 different states.

During these 7200 inspections 189 boats were found to have attached vegetation prior to launch. In each case the boat and trailers were cleaned prior to launch. **Two of the 189 cases were confirmed to be vegetative AIS with one being Curly Leaf Pondweed and the other Eurasian Water Milfoil.** Nearly 2% of the boats launching were arriving from zebra mussel infested waters. The top 5 most frequent were:

1. Mill Lacs
2. Mississippi River
3. Minnetonka
4. Prior Lake
5. Pelican Lake

In these cases extra attention was given to ensure all water was removed from the boat and trailer. In all instances the goal was to educate boaters on the correct methods to:

**CLEAN-DRAIN-DRY** their boats, trailers and equipment.

By following the **CLEAN-DRAIN-DRY** procedures the spread of AIS can be stopped.

In 2013 our goal is to increase the number of hours and participating lakes in the program.

**A request for you: .....from your COLA Executive Board**

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lakes Association (HCOLA) is in need of some expertise in specific areas to work with our present volunteers. We have needs for input and assistance regarding public relations and communications, secretarial skills, editing and publication experience, and grant writing and contribution requesting experience. Hubbard COLA is an entirely volunteer organization and relies on people to come forward to help us work to preserve the quality of our lakes and rivers in Hubbard County for all the people of Minnesota and elsewhere.

**\*\*\*COLA Secretary\*\*\***

We need to find a replacement for Julie Kingsley as Secretary of COLA. Julie has taken a new position as head of the SWCD for our area and cannot continue as our secretary.

**\*Public relations and communications:** volunteers to help HCOLA prepare and explain its purposes and improve its public image.

**\*Secretarial skills:** volunteers to take and prepare the minutes of meetings helping our organizational processes and communications within our membership.

**\*Editing and publishing:** volunteers to assist in the preparation of our publications such as the HCOLA newsletters, obtaining and/or writing relevant articles for publication, and getting those articles organized and subsequently published.

***\*Grant writing and contribution requesting:*** volunteers to research possible grant application organizations, prepare grant requests properly, and submit them for approvals following them through the process until approval or rejection.

If you can help us with your skills or know of someone who has those skills and are lakeshore property owners, please return an email to us at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) giving us your (or their) name, phone number, email address, address, and/or any pertinent information concerning skill levels.

This request is submitted for your consideration and action. **Please help us!**

### **2013 Hubbard COLA Meeting Schedule:**

**\*\*\*\*\*Hubbard COLA Working Together to Protect our Lakes\*\*\*\*\***

Mark Your Calendar and save the dates.....Attend your Hubbard COLA Board meetings and help make a difference. Hubbard COLA Reps and Presidents are invited to attend our COLA Board meetings on the following Thursday's throughout the year in 2013: February 7<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, June 27<sup>th</sup>, July 25<sup>th</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup>, and October 31<sup>st</sup>.

The President's Round Table has been scheduled for May 30, 2013. Lake Association Presidents are encouraged to mark your calendar and save the date to attend this important event.

All meetings will be held at the Northwood's Bank Community Room starting with our social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and our meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **All COLA Lake Association Presidents, Representatives, & Members: By John Hastings 2013 "Heavenly Seven" schedule for set up and clean up of Board Meetings:**

The chart below is a split of lake associations into seven groups of roughly equal numbers of members. The reason for the groups is to assign each group the responsibility of setting up the Northwoods Bank meeting room, providing and preparing the coffee and treats, and doing the tear down and clean up after the meeting. (We have seven meetings during each year) The groupings would cause lake association members to "get to know" each other better as they work together to host a meeting. After the last COLA meeting, Group 1 volunteered to take the February 2013 meeting to start the process. I have assigned the other six groups to meeting months. Please discuss this with your other group team mates (Presidents & Representatives) so you have a plan to take this responsibility on for the meeting assigned to you. We will try to alert each group prior to the meetings you are assigned to host. My suggestion would be for each group to choose a leader that will take the responsibility to pull the group together for the planning of it.

Lake	Avg. members	Group	Group members	Meeting Month responsible for
Kabekona	274	1	274	
Peysenske	15	1	15	
Tripp	15	1	15	
			304	<b>The February 2013 Meeting</b>
Eagle	47	2	47	
Long	183	2	183	
Stoney	88	2	88	
			318	<b>April 25th, 2013 Meeting</b>
Big mantrap	70	3	70	
Duck	48	3	48	
Potato	140	3	140	
Twin Lakes	40	3	40	
			298	<b>June 27th, 2013 Meeting</b>
10th & 11th	62	4	62	
Belle Taine	105	4	105	
Ham	36	4	36	
Little Sand	93	4	93	
			296	<b>July 25th, 2013 Meeting</b>
8th & 9th	24	5	24	
Bad Axe	31	5	31	
Big Sand	157	5	157	
Boulder	30	5	30	
Plantagenet	55	5	55	
			297	<b>August 29th, 2013 Meeting</b>
Middle CW	91	6	91	
Portage	89	6	89	
South Island	37	6	37	
Spider	67	6	67	
			284	<b>September 26th, 2013 Meeting</b>
Blue	20	7	20	
Fish Hook	67	7	67	
Gilmore	21	7	21	
Hinds	30	7	30	
Lower CW	80	7	80	
Palmer	44	7	44	
			262	<b>October 31st, 2013 Meeting</b>

## Hubbard County COLA Project Fund – Wild Rice Fund Raiser

Hubbard COLA is offering Grade A Quality commercially harvested wild rice to its members and the general public as a fund raiser to support the projects of our association. **All proceeds will go to the Hubbard Coalition of Lakes Project Fund.** COLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. Our mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.



***Use this quality product for gifts to friends or family – or buy them for your own use. Your purchase can be picked up at the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce, delivered to you by your lake association, or shipped to you for the packing and shipping charges based on its quantity and weight.***

Buy two pounds of Grade A Quality wild rice and a wild rice recipe book packaged together in a white card board box. Price: \$ 20.00/box \*\*\* or buy wild rice by the 1# pound package@ \$8.00/LB\*\*\*

Order Form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

My Order: \_\_\_\_\_ Qty. @ \$ 20.00 each Total Price of Order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your preferred method of delivery: \_\_\_\_\_

Or email your order to our email address - [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) - and send us your check.

**Please make checks payable to Hubbard County COLA Project Fund**

Send your order to: Hubbard County COLA: PO Box 746; Park Rapids, MN 56470

Watch for additional choices and options becoming available in the future!  
Thank You for your support!!



