



**COLA is the Leader  
in Protecting  
Hubbard County  
Lakes and Rivers!**

### **Spotlight on COLA Benefits**

Hubbard COLA advances work to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. Benefits spotlighted below are reasons for your lake association to join COLA and help achieve our mission.

- Hubbard COLA worked hard this year and achieved successes that touched the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations in Hubbard County. **2013 COLA accomplishments are highlighted below.**
- Lake association membership coordinators utilize Geographic Information System data to help keep their mailing addresses updated for mailing purposes. **This information is available to lake associations as part of COLA's membership benefits.**

## **THE COLA UPDATE**

A Publication of Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations

*December, 2013*

### **2013 HUBBARD COLA ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

While Hubbard COLA achieved many successes this year, we continue to have more to do for lake protection in Hubbard County. We are looking forward to more challenges in 2014 and encourage you to help COLA achieve our mission. This year's accomplishments are highlighted below:

1. Sustainability of Lake Associations –Indiana University Capstone Study completed for Hubbard COLA. 7 lake associations participated. Study provided to COLA with recommendations for improving and sustaining lake associations.
2. Redesign of COLA's website (by Jeff Mosner) and creation of a Facebook page for COLA by Indiana University Capstone students
3. Wild rice fund raising project and 3M sponge project fundraiser developed by John Hastings.
4. Develop constant contact with COLA members through monthly/bi-monthly electronic newsletter.
5. Winning Hubbard County Food Shelf Chili cook off with AIS chili recipe – Lynn and Theora Goodrich
6. Another successful Children's Freshwater Festival co-hosted by COLA and SWCD—Education Committee.
7. 2013 Governor's Fishing Opener held in Park Rapids. COLA's involvement included volunteers for: Executive and Planning Committees, Chair of raffle sales, co-chair of Kid's fishing program and education; helping with raffle tickets sales, kids fishing, AIS and aquatic education booth and fish cleaning contest, fishing hosts. 14+ COLA members were involved in this year long community project.
8. County wide AIS inspection project—Ken Grob, Jeff Bjorkman, et al
9. Development of cooperative program with Extension Office to provide various education programs for lake shore residents—Education Committee
10. Development of partnership with County 4-H clubs for lake projects by 4-H members-Education Committee.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2.....**

### **WANT TO MAIL SOMETHING TO EVERY LAND OWNER ON YOUR LAKE?**

- All COLA member lake associations can receive GIS data through COLA to help keep mailing addresses updated for all property owners on your lake. This data is available to your lake association as part of your association's COLA membership benefits. Below are the steps for receiving valuable GIS data on lakeshore owners on your lake.
1. Call Ed Mutsch, 218-652-3038, with your Lake's need for the mailing data. Ed is trained to use the GIS data base and has access to the program through HC COLA annual subscription payment.
  2. Confirm data fields needed & your lake's COLA membership.
  3. Utilize Microsoft Excel and potentially MS Word to prepare your mailing.

Note: To learn more details on how you can use COLA's GIS subscription to help your lake go to: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/>

## COLA ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE I

11. COLA, Stony Lake Association and Stony Lake Beavers 4-H club signage project on Stony Lake.
12. COLA displays at: Taste of Dorset, Hubbard County Fair, and Legends and Logging Days-staffed by numerous COLA volunteers.
13. Paid off legal bills
14. Began "Heavenly Seven" program for hosting monthly COLA meetings—developed by John Hastings and membership committee
15. Successful President's Round Table held May 30
16. IPA Committee led by Chuck Diessner actively involved in recommending changes to Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment which ultimately lead to County Board moving forward with plans to consolidate both functions under one board. Also, actively involved in helping to shape legislation with local state legislators and others in St. Paul
17. Developed Certificate of Appreciation award for those in COLA and in the community who have been instrumental in supporting COLA's mission and vision—Larry Roberts and Dan Kittilson
18. Converted budgeting process and accounting system into digital format for ease of tracking—by Lynn Goodrich and John Weber
19. Ken Grob, longtime COLA member and past president was appointed to statewide AIS advisory committee
20. COLA bookmark created for free distribution at bookstores and lake association meetings—by Membership Committee
21. COLA invited to work with U.M. Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, Natural Resource Working Group
22. John Hastings, longtime COLA member and Executive Board member has been appointed to the DNR Fisheries Oversight Committee.
23. Partnership with Leech Lake Association and Cass County on AIS prevention & strategies for working with LGU's
24. Enhanced working relationships with Hubbard County Commissioners/Boards, townships and local agencies.

**Hubbard COLA has much more to do as we look ahead to new challenges and even more accomplishments in 2014.**

### DONATE NOW

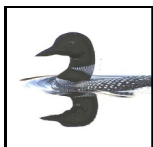
To the COLA Charitable Fund with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

### HELP MAKE HUBBARD COUNTY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

**by....Protecting our Natural Assets.** Support the COLA charitable and educational programs, projects and activities that protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Hubbard County lakes and their environs. How can you help? Anyone can contribute to the COLA Charitable Fund. You don't need to live on a lake or be a resident of Hubbard County. Checks can be made out to the Northwest Minnesota Foundation—Hubbard COLA General Project Fund, 201 3rd St. NW, Bemidji, MN

56601. The COLA Charitable Fund also accepts gifts through estate planning.

**Act now to get your 2013 tax deductible contribution to the COLA Charitable Fund through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. For further information, contact us at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)**



### CALL FOR COLA ARTICLES

As part of the Indiana University Capstone project recommendations to enhance COLA's public image, Hubbard COLA is encouraging members to write articles about their Minnesota Northwood's lake experience.

Peter Pierson, a longtime summer resident of Big Sand Lake has written about his experiences of opening up the family cabin each spring and how that has become an important part of his life. You can read about his experience and memories on the COLA website at [http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/cola-pierson\\_piece\\_1-restoration.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/cola-pierson_piece_1-restoration.pdf)

We would like to hear your lake stories. If you have had the privilege of being touched by the beauty of the Park Rapids area or have had family memories made at the lake, please put it to words and consider sharing it with the rest of the Hubbard Coalition of Lake Associations members and friends. You might want to consider tying it to HCCOLA's mission (... 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), or any of its programs. Please put your story in both Microsoft word and a pdf format and forward it to Larry Roberts at: [lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com). Some editing may be required and we request you try to limit your article to 1,000 words or less.

President's Message: I would like to thank Larry Roberts & Sharon Natzel for their contribution to this newsletter and thank you to all COLA members for making 2013 a very successful year.....Dan Kittilson.