

Thank You for Your Help in the 2019 Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Association Accomplishments

These 2019 Accomplishments Support of Our HC COLA Mission & Strategic Actions Roadmap:

http://hubbardcolumn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/hc_col_a_strategy_map_version_1-9-17.pdf

Our Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) organization is currently made up of 30 lake associations representing 42 lakes and over 2500 members. Together we achieved much this past year!

- 1) Initiated HC COLA Loon Monitoring Program beginning June 2019 when the DNR's program was discontinued for Hubbard County. Volunteers from 27 lakes participated following the standard DNR protocol and reported results to HC COLA. Stay tuned for 2020! : <https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/news/4626633-LOON-SPOTTING-Volunteers-track-loon-numbers-in-Hubbard-County>
- 2) HC COLA Youth-based educational accomplishments in 2019 included:
 - Community Educ Club 309 Middle School Aquatic Vegetation Intro-Heartland Park
 - Community Educ Century Adventures K-4 Afternoon expedition to Depot Park & Fisheries Deck by Dam on river; focus on stormwater runoff, pollution & recycling too
 - Lead 4-H Service Project Buffer installation at Northern Pines Camp on Fish Hook and provided water quality monitoring introduction
 - Girl Scout Troop 408 - several members achieved highest junior level Bronze Award with community focus by creating 240 zebra mussel settlement samplers & 100 instructional literature packet. ZMSS were placed at 45 public accesses and provided free at the HC COLA fair booth, lake association meetings, HC COLA meetings, during Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Resort Week, Volunteer Fair, etc.
 - Aided Boy Scout Isaac Z who created kiosk as Eagle Scout Project for undeveloped DNR Wildlife Management Area access on Wolf Lake (a Hubbard / Beltrami lake) to educate & prevent the spread of AIS like Starry Stonewort in the lake & other lakes
 - \$1200 donation & volunteers for annual HC SWCD Freshwater Festival for area 6th graders
- 3) HC COLA aquatic invasive species AIS-related prevention, containment and educational accomplishments for 2019 are: http://hubbardcolumn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cr_2019_10_31.pdf

These AIS prevention activities expanded the educational reach especially in 2019:

- Includes April 12th Fishing Expo where we partnered with Pastor Chip at Riverside UMC, MN DNR, Hubbard County Environmental Services, several regional fishing guides and Chip Leer, presenter: <http://www.hubbardcolumn.org/ais-presentations.html>
 - Includes "Eyes on the Water" program which has been expanding since initiation in 2016 <http://www.hubbardcolumn.org/eyes-on-the-water---early-detection.html>
 - Community-based social marketing inroads with spotlight expanding to gear <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/07/18/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention-hubbard-co-mn-lakes> and equipment 21-day dry time for docks, lifts, shoreline watering pumps, etc.
- 4) We partnered along with HC SWCD, UMN Extension, & Master Gardeners for the Buffer Course and Installation at Crow Wing Crest Lodge on 11th Crow Wing Resort; time-lapse video of planting: <https://www.crowwing.com/blog/shoreland-restoration-in-front-of-the-lodge/>
 - 5) Our HC COLA Restore the Shore program helped approximately 12 lake associations procure trees / shrubs for May 2020 through the Hubbard County SWCD program.
 - 6) The HC COLA Water Quality Monitoring Program continues with 35 lakes participating. We recognized Charles Boats & Marine with a Clean.Drain.Dry rug for their continued support in cooler staging.
 - 7) Educational Speakers are first on the agenda at HC COLA mtgs, with the public encouraged to attend and advertised in the local papers / on website. The following wide variety of presenters were included during 2019. The presentations are available on our website based on the topic area: <http://hubbardcolumn.org/presentations.html> or <http://hubbardcolumn.org/ais-presentations.html>
 - Julie Dickie, a State-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator with Northwoods Wildlife Rescue, Inc. Julie discussed some do's and don'ts when it comes to Northwoods wildlife and more.

- Nicholas Macklem, Environmental Specialist for Hubbard County Environmental Services updated us on the Hubbard County aquatic invasive species prevention program in March and in October he updated us on the summer's watercraft inspection / education program stats
- William Lee, Water Quality Resource Specialist, Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District (HC SWCD) provided an introduction to terrestrial invasive species that threaten Hubbard County, ways they spread and how to eradicate / slow spread and reemergence.
- Todd Holman, Mississippi Headwaters Program Director, The Nature Conservancy spoke about how private landowners can seek conservation education, cost share funding, program enrollment or even permanent conservation easements on a spectrum of service delivery options. He shared info on Crow Wing River Healthy Waters Partnership & easement programs.
- Burney Fischer, Clinical Professor Emeritus at Indiana University – Bloomington spoke on “Lake Watershed Management Thinking: Space, Scale, and Time. He illustrated how watershed thinking is comparable to how ecologists think of urban ecosystems.
- Cede Waldo, senior at Kelliher Public School spoke on how the school district partnered with the Red Lake DNR to raise awareness of invasive species. Cede and her group used technology as tools for education and won the Statewide “Your Big Idea for a Sustainable Minnesota” contest. See the video she created: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9xn_qcVzHE The large spiny water flea model created with 3D printer technology helped us learn / visualize.
- Nicole Kovar, Northwest Region Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources, helped us understand the international AIS perspective, plus zebra mussel and starry stonewort research: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/zebramussel-research> and <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/starrystonewort-research>
- Aria Kapsner, summer intern at HC SWCD spoke on the activities she participated in June-Aug.
- We learned what being a Water Quality Certified Farm entails from Farmer Andy Dombeck, who farms near Wadena & Farmer Rich Jibben, who farms near West Battle Lake and Clithorall Lake, plus Jim Lahn, Area Certification Specialist, MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program.
- Tim Terrill, Executive Director of the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) provided an overview of their social media program which helps prevent the spread of AIS.
- Steve Henry, RMB Environmental Laboratories spoke on “How Lakes Age: With or Without Zebra Mussels”. Over time nutrients build up in our lakes causing changes to the lake bottom, aquatic plants, fish & water quality. Researchers are using new techniques to track lake health.

8) HC COLA highlights opportunities to live our 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 through ongoing participation in the following:

- ACTION Park Rapids Lakes Area (Actionable Collaboration Together Implementing Opportunity Now) – a quarterly gathering open to the public <https://parkrapids.com/actionparkrapids>
- Volunteer Heartland Lakes <https://volunteerheartlandlakes.galaxydigital.com/>
- MN Coalition of Lake Associations: <http://mncola.angelfire.com/>
- MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates: <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>
Attention All: Sign up as an individual for their MLR Citizen Action Network: <https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/529/personal2.asp?formid=signup>
- Conservation MN: <https://www.conservationminnesota.org/>
- Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Membership & Ad in Discovery Guide: <http://business.parkrapids.com/list/member/hubbard-county-coalition-of-lake-associations-hc-cola-928>
- Park Rapids Downtown Business Association: <http://www.parkrapidsdowntown.com/index.php>
- University of MN AIS Research Center: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/showcase-presentations-2>
Attention All: Subscribe as an individual to their newsletter: <https://us6.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1a0a2ec6d2f8d679a17c3eeb4&id=7d8b0a4c73>
- University of MN Extension & MAISRC Starry Trek: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors/starrytrek>
- One Watershed One Plan related to Hubbard County: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>
- Hubbard County Planning Commission / Board of Adjustment for Shoreland Management Ordinance: http://www.co.hubbard.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/planning_commission_board_of_adjustment.php
- Park Rapids Enterprise (PRE), Northwoods Press & other local news outlets including radio too
- RMB Environmental Laboratories Lakes Program and Database: <https://www.rmbel.info/lakes/>
- Other venues / opportunities as they arise, for example – PRE Residents Guide & Chili Challenge too