

## **May 30, 2019 HC COLA Committee Reports:**

### **Civic Committee Report:** Peter Tuomisto

We had a good turnout for the **first Water Monitoring weekend** on May 19, 2019, where 34 out of 35 coolers were dropped off at Charlie's. Thank you for getting them there on time after a windy wet Sunday Monitoring day.

The next weekend is June 16 (Sunday) and June 17 (Monday) with delivery to Charlie's by 11:00 AM.

By Mid June – 1<sup>st</sup> ZMV testing -when water in littoral areas is 54 F.

End of June/ First part of July for 2<sup>nd</sup> ZMV testing.

I have PVC zebra mussel settlement samplers still available. These are for detecting physically visible zebra mussels. You can utilize these around your lake and at your public accesses (for DNR – managed accesses, please register with Sharon Natzel at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com) before installing the device.) Note: All the devices placed at public accesses need to be removed by you before the end of September. Call me – Peter Tuomisto - at 612-597-1386 and I can arrange to get the zebra mussel settlement samplers to you. Otherwise, I will have them at the HC COLA meetings.

**Restore the Shore** orders completed. Lake association coordinators picked up – thanks to Theora & Lynn

### **AIS Operating Team Report:** Bob Berdahl

HC COLA recognizes and thanks the Girl Scouts for creating the PVC tube Zebra Mussel Settlement Samplers as part of their Bronze Award and made available for resorts, public accesses and your lakes; see Peter T note above.

HC COLA recognizes and thanks local boy scout for his Eagle Scout project – the creation & placement of the educational kiosk on Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area undeveloped access –

<https://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/sports/outdoors/4614372-eagle-scout-project-helps-protect-area-lake>

Wolf Lake Informational Meeting regarding Starry Stonewort on Sun June 9<sup>th</sup>. HC COLA is co-sponsor.

### **Education Team Report:** Sharon Natzel

Please see the Hubbard HC COLA website home page [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org) – scroll down to the events section for classes available for the class flyers. Other educational opportunities that HC COLA is involved in are an evening presentation on lakeshore conservation with Grade 3-6 4-H kids and a buffer installation, a Century Adventures expedition to learn about water pollution and prevention for K – Grade 4, and the Shell Prairie Fair table. See education flyers at our meeting too for the schedule below:

**Wed 6/5 – 9 AM to 2 PM** Bring Your Lightly Used Sporting Items to the Environmental Building at the Hubbard County Fair Grounds to Donate for the Sports Garage Sale below – see donation flyer:

[http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/garage\\_sale\\_donation\\_flyer\\_2019a.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/garage_sale_donation_flyer_2019a.pdf)

### **Sports Garage Sale**

Environmental Building at Hubbard County Fair Grounds in Park Rapids

**Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 4 PM**

**Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 4 PM**

Are you looking for sports / outdoor equipment? We have a great variety of sports, outdoor, lake and water activity themed items for sale. Whether you are looking for fishing, hunting, boating, water skiing, or other outdoor activities, we probably have something for you.

**Help HC COLA protect Hubbard County Waters and get a bargain in the process.** See Flyer: [http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cola\\_garage\\_sale\\_poster\\_2019a1.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cola_garage_sale_poster_2019a1.pdf)

### **Shoreline Restoration – All Hands on Deck**

**Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 1:30 PM**

Crow Wing Crest Resort on 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing Lake, 31159 County 23, Akeley, MN

This class will help you learn how to do a shoreline restoration and then put into practice the techniques right onsite during the planting workshop. You'll then be able to apply the concepts at home too! The registration deadline is June 10<sup>th</sup> – email [sshearer@umn.edu](mailto:sshearer@umn.edu) or call 218-732-3391. This free workshop also includes a complimentary light lunch. The event is co-sponsored by Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA), UMN Extension, the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and the Hubbard County Master Gardeners [http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/scan\\_of\\_the\\_flyer\\_for\\_shoreline\\_restoration\\_class.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/scan_of_the_flyer_for_shoreline_restoration_class.pdf)

### **AIS Volunteer Training – Thursday 6/6/19 from 1 to 4 PM** at Northwoods Bank in Park Rapids, MN

Register with Mike Bolinski 218-739-7576 ext 259 or email [Michael.bolinski@state.mn.us](mailto:Michael.bolinski@state.mn.us)

More Information: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/events/event.html?id=60075>

This class is for citizens who are interested in informing the public about aquatic invasive species and how to slow their spread. You will receive AIS volunteer training from Watercraft Inspection Program staff. With this training and required DNR volunteer agreement and background check, you can educate at the public access on AIS. So for instance, the AIS Volunteer – with preplanned date/time through the Hubbard County Environmental Services AIS Program – could help supplement the times that the watercraft inspector would be at a public access. Help with fishing tournaments check-in / check-out too...

**AIS Detector Training – Sat June 8<sup>th</sup>** – Fergus Falls – University of MN Extension and AIS Research Center. Learn to identify aquatic invasive species (AIS), detect AIS in lakes / rivers, educate on, & support the program with volunteer hours annually. (\$195) – see Sharon Natzel to discuss tuition reimbursement upon successful completion. To register: <https://www.regonline.com/registration/Checkin.aspx?EventID=2560587>

**The Aquatic Plant Identification Class – Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 2 PM** – Northwoods Bank Community Room. This free class is open to the public and includes a light complimentary lunch. We will be working with many aquatic plants from across MN - - a special opportunity with instructor, Nicole Kovar, MN DNR Northwest Region AIS Specialist. Register with Sharon at [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)

Learn how to identify what aquatic plants you may see in the water by working directly with the aquatic vegetation - - hands-on - - in the classroom!

Learn what some of the AIS plants in MN look like and compare them to native lookalikes - - in the classroom!

Gain the skills to help check aquatic vegetation at public access you visit or on your boating adventures. Look for AIS by keeping your “Eyes on the Water”!

**Starry Trek on Saturday, Aug 17, 2019.** No experience is needed. You will be trained to help look for Starry Stonewort (SSW) and other AIS in area lakes. Information here: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/starrytrek>  
During Starry Trek 2018, we discovered 1/3<sup>rd</sup> acre of SSW in Wolf Lake on the Beltrami / Hubbard County line. HC COLA is involved in rapid response efforts aimed at containing the spread of AIS.

## Special Thanks to Dan Kittilson - This Summary Below is for the MN COLA June Meeting

### **HUBBARD COUNTY WATERCRAFT INSPECTION SUMMARY** **2009 – 2019**

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) has been instrumental in protecting Hubbard County lakes and rivers from aquatic invasive species (AIS). The watercraft inspection program, initiated by HC COLA in 2009, has been a major component in shielding our lakes from AIS. Since 2013, the watercraft inspection program has been coordinated by the SWCD (2013-2014), then by Hubbard County (2015-present). HC COLA remains an active partner in the program. As noted in the table below, watercraft inspections have been a key factor in educating boaters coming to Hubbard County to enjoy our beautiful lakes. The table below represents the total number of inspections per year, the % of watercraft entering from infested waters, the % of watercraft with the drain plug in on arrival to a Hubbard County lake and funding summary for watercraft inspections since 2009.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Number of Inspections</b>	<b>% Entering from infested waters</b>	<b>% Drain Plug in on Arrival</b>	<b>Funding Summary for each year from: State, Lake Associations (LA) and Township/City</b>
2009	910	7.89%	NA	DNR Grant - \$3000 Lake Emma Township - \$1000 LA - \$2000 (Zorbaz - \$500 incl.) <b>Total = \$6000</b>
2010	1772	NA	NA <u>Drain plug law was passed in July of 2010</u>	DNR Grant - \$3720 Townships - \$2220 LA/COLA = \$4640 <b>Total = \$10,580</b>
2011	1236	NA	7.28%	DNR Grant - \$4805 Townships \$1720 Lakes= \$5224 <b>Total = \$11749</b>
2012	7,129	NA	NA	Township/City = \$21K LA = \$57K <b>Total = \$78,000</b>
2013 ( <u>SWCD took over coordination</u> )	10,664	9.5%	5.3%	DNR LGU Grant = \$7,750 Township/City = \$35,990 LA = \$ 63,905 <b>Total =\$107,645</b>
2014	13,785	13.35%	2.37%	DNR LGU Grant = \$12,000 Township/City = \$34,800 LA = \$88,746 <b>Total = \$135,546</b>
2015 ( <u>Hubbard County took over coordination</u> )	21,059	9.01%	2.74%	State = \$163,200 LA = \$58,422 Township/City = \$31,741 <b>Total = \$253,363</b>
2016	22,757	10.98%	1.15%	State = \$168,070 LA = \$71,759 Township/City = \$30,570 <b>Total = \$270,399</b>

Year	Total Number of Inspections	% Entering from infested waters	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Funding Summary for each year from: State, Lake Associations (LA) and Township/City
2017	21,559	12.55%	.87%	State = \$151,145 LA = \$83,889 Township/City = \$31,111 <b>Total = \$266,145</b>
2018	21,725	21.33%	.68%	State = \$152,477 LA = \$86,699 Township/City = \$30,691 <b>Total = \$269,867</b>
2019 <u>Funding Only</u>				State = \$182,658 LA = \$101,887 Township/city = \$37,668 <b>Total = \$322,213</b>
<b>Total funding for Watercraft Inspections from 2009-2019</b>				<b>State/DNR = \$848,825</b> <b>Lake Assoc. = \$624,171</b> <b>Township/city = \$258,511</b> <b>TOTAL = \$1,731,507.00</b>
<b>Total Number of Watercraft Inspections 2009-2018</b>	<b>121,360</b>			

The **State funds** that are listed above were spent directly on watercraft inspection hours at Hubbard County accesses. There are additional State funds associated with operating these shifts (training, lead inspector wages, equipment, etc.). However, the County does not have records that would quantify that information.

In addition, Hubbard County has spent a total of \$245,000 since 2013 to help fund the Hubbard County AIS Coordinator.

The success of our AIS prevention program can be noted by the following facts:

- The low numbers of infested waters in Hubbard County as compared to neighboring Counties.
  - Currently, three lakes are listed by the DNR as infested with zebra mussels including Garfield, Benedict and Steamboat.
  - Bad Axe Lake is infested with Eurasian water milfoil and Wolf Lake in the northern part of the County is infested with Starry Stonewort.
- A total number of 121,360 watercraft inspections have been conducted from 2009 to 2018.
- The decrease in % of boats with drain plugs in on arrival to Hubbard County lakes demonstrates the impact of Hubbard County's watercraft inspection program!
- The financial support that HC COLA and Hubbard County has received from state and local funding sources has been a key factor in protecting our lakes from AIS as well as providing jobs for people doing AIS work which represents money going into our local economy.

While Hubbard County has been largely successful in shielding our lakes from AIS, the risk of recreational watercraft coming to lakes in Hubbard County from infested waters throughout Minnesota continues to increase as noted in the table above.

## Community Based Social Marketing Committee Report: Steve Hill

Here's an update on the AIS prevention via community based social marketing project. This email is from Tina Wolbers with the Minnesota DNR. There are good tips that you can use on your lake & watershed.

*Hello AIS Partners,*

*I wanted to provide you with an update on our Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) and AIS prevention project. Our contractor completed CBSM Step 1 – identifying and prioritizing behaviors related to AIS prevention in Minnesota. Attached is the full report and below are the highlights.*

### **Highlights**

- According to the **literature review**, there are five major pathways that contribute to the introduction and spread of AIS in Minnesota today. They are recreational watercraft, live bait, gear and equipment, retail plant trade and aquarium trade. A long-list of over 150 **discrete behaviors** were identified for those pathways.
- A **panel of experts** were recruited and consulted through a probability-impact ranking exercise. The 13 members from multiple states and Canadian provinces represented multiple scales and types of jurisdictions with expertise in invasion biology, large-scale AIS program management, risk management, and behavior change.
- The **probability-impact ranking exercise** had each member rank each behavior based on three criteria:
  - **Impact:** a measure of effectiveness in preventing the spread of AIS in Minnesota.
  - **Uptake:** likelihood of the behavior being adopted by the target audience.
  - **Market potential:** opportunity for growth in the number of people performing the behavior.
  - All three criteria rankings were multiple together and rankings from all panel members were averaged to give a single “product of averages” (overall ranking) for each behavior.
- This CBSM ranking process is one method to **identify areas where we can affect the most significant change today**. Here is a snapshot of the results:
  - Top three behaviors:
    1. Retail plant trade pathway: Have retailers accurately identify and only sell non/low-risk species.
    2. Aquarium trade pathway: Have aquarium owners dispose of unwanted plants in the garbage.
    3. Gear and equipment pathway: Have people with used docks, lifts, rafts, and associated equipment air dry the equipment for at least 21 days.
  - Seven of the top 10 behaviors related to the aquarium and live plant trades.
  - Watercraft pathway behaviors ranked medium, because most people are already taking those actions. But watercraft still ranked highest for impact, because they are high risk.

*Therefore, barrier/benefit research might not be needed, but a layer of CBSM could be added to improve current programs.*

## **Up Next: CBSM Step 2 – Identifying Barriers and Benefits**

*The next step will address recommendations outlined in the report. Research will focus on a few pathways, audiences, and behaviors. It will include quantitative research (online surveys) and qualitative research (focus groups, roundtables, interviews), expert panel feedback, barriers and benefits matrix, and moving forward report. Areas of focus will include:*

- *Anglers and their use and disposal of live bait.*
- *Shoreline property owners and their use and movement of docks, lifts, rafts, and associated equipment.*
- *Aquarium and live plant trades.*

### **What can you do with this information now?**

- *Explore new AIS prevention activities this season by focusing on top-ranked behaviors and pathways.*
- *Keep in mind and communicate with people that there are many potential pathways of AIS spread and that everyone has a role to play in preventing their spread.*
- *Include a behavior change twist to your current programming. For instance, target simple and easy behaviors first; use behavior change tools like commitments, prompts, and incentives; and use direct and personal contact.*

### **How can local AIS program managers get involved in the future?**

*Once complete in summer 2019, the results of this statewide project will provide baseline information on pathways and behaviors of concern. The DNR will use the information to update current programs and start new initiatives to better communicate and promote long-term behavior change.*

*Since behavior change happens at the local level, the DNR also secured a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to support and continue this work. The DNR plans to develop and administer a grant program for local organizations to implement recommendations developed through this project. For instance, CBSM Step 3 focuses on developing behavior change strategies and Step 4 focuses on piloting those strategies to see what works and what doesn't. The exact processes and timing of this local CBSM grant program are unknown at this time, but the opportunity will be available!*

**Stay tuned!** We will continue to provide updates about the project and let you know how to get involved. Feel free to call or email with any questions! ~ Tina **Tina Wolbers**

*AIS Prevention Planner | Ecological and Water Resources*

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