



# THE HC COLA UPDATE

A Publication of Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations  
May 2016 [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org) [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)

**Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (“HC COLA”)** is a coalition of 29 lake associations and their approximate 2,100 members that represent 37 lakes in Hubbard County. Our mission is 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. HC COLA’s mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lake shore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

Our **May 2016 Newsletter** highlights our Focus Area for 2016 which is “Year of the Watershed” and shares opportunities to continue your ongoing engagement with the mission of HC COLA for our waters!

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## HC COLA President’s Message

HC COLA members and leadership have worked tirelessly since 1989 to be good stewards of the waters of Hubbard County. We are held in high regard by many throughout Minnesota for our efforts. I want every HC COLA member to take a bow and celebrate our successes. Our work is not finished and will need our continued attention.

But IT IS SUMMER and I want everyone to stop and refresh yourselves by taking extra time to enjoy our lakes and rivers. Whether you prefer sailing, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, waterskiing, or just cruising around the lake, be sure to venture out with your family, friends, neighbors. Make your together time on the water the BEST TIME. Make a special effort to share your love of our waters with new people. Be extra “Minnesota Nice” to visitors that have come from far and wide. Make them feel welcome in Hubbard County.

We that live here are the fortunate few. We can experience and appreciate the wondrous beauty of our northern Minnesota waters year round. Whether It is liquid or ice, warm or cold, it is the reason we chose to put down our roots here.  
*Lynn Goodrich, HC COLA President*

## HC COLA upcoming meeting schedule below & on website

Regular meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwoods Bank Community Room which is handicap accessible – leading off the agenda with the featured speaker(s). A “Coffee & Conversation” Social precedes the Information/Business meeting at 6 p.m. Last Thursday of month this summer/fall:

**May 26 – Rapid Response & AIS Infestation** with Guest Speakers sharing their own experiences: **Joe Shneider**, President of **Christmas Lake** Homeowners Association is directly involved with their **zebra mussel** eradication efforts. **Kevin Farnum** is the chair of both the **Koronis Lake** Association and Sterns County AIS Committees. He is has taken the lead in developing and implementing a response to their **Starry Stonewort** infestation, the first in MN. Together they have gained great insight in coordinating efforts of multiple organizations, costs involved with such infestations and impact on the lake & its users & residents.

**June 30** – Tim James, Watershed Coordinator – MPCA, will build upon our insights from the UM Extension Class on Fri 6/17 “Our Watersheds.... How Do You Fit In?” – see below in newsletter.

**July 28** - Shell River Adoption, Native Mussel Survey & More with the Menahga Conservation Club

Also Thursday’s Aug 25, Sept 29 and Oct 27... No HC COLA Meetings in Nov, Dec, & Jan.

## **FREE Convenient Watercraft Decontamination Available! Prevent AIS Spread!**

**Open May-August (exact start/end dates vary) Regular Hours Fri & Sat 12:00 – 5:00 PM  
All other times by appointment: Call 218-252-6738. If light outside, can decon.**

**The Watercraft Decontamination Station is conveniently located in Park Rapids:  
812 Henrietta Ave S, Park Rapids, MN 56470  
Watercraft Decontamination Station is Between the Detail Shop & the South Transfer Station**

## **STARRY STONEWORT INFESTS LAKE KORONIS**

Starry Stonewort, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) not previously known in Minnesota, was found in Lake Koronis near Paynesville in August 2015. The plant fragments were probably bought into the state on an infested watercraft from another state.

A native of Europe and Asia, starry stonewort creates dense mats that crowd out native vegetation and cover fish spawning habitat. It can grow to be more than six-feet tall in masses dense enough to impact boat traffic.

If left unchecked, the large algae plant spreads quickly thru the littoral area of a lake. Stonewort has spread rapidly on Koronis and currently covers about 250 acres of the 3000-acre lake.

The Koronis Lake Association and DNR are planning an aggressive \$800,000, five-year campaign aimed at managing starry stonewort. While it can be controlled with algaecides and other treatment strategies, it is impossible to eradicate it from a lake. Identification aid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=te9iF5OTdtg&sns=em>



Starry stonewort Photo by Paul Skawinski

### **HC COLA Sports Garage Sale – Proceeds Help Protect our Natural Environment**

**Thursday, June 16th from 4 to 7 PM  
Friday, June 17th from 9 AM to 4 PM**

**In the Environmental Building at the  
Hubbard County Fair Grounds**

To donate items please contact your Lake Association HC COLA representative or email Lynn Goodrich at [tripplake1@mac.com](mailto:tripplake1@mac.com)  
HC COLA is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

### **UM Extension Class: Our Watersheds: Your Major Role in the Minor Watershed...How Do You Fit In?**

Learn about watersheds. Find out why the minor watersheds are important. Learn how buffers, rain gardens, and other proactive steps help protect them. In addition to a presentation, discussion, and demonstrations using a model stream, Karen Terry, UM Ext will be facilitating the Watershed Game, an interactive tool that helps individuals understand the connection between land use and water quality. Participants learn how a variety of land uses impact water and natural resources, increase their knowledge of best management practices (BMPs), and learn how their choices can prevent adverse impacts. The class is free and open to the public. Light supper provided by HC COLA.

**DATE:** Friday, June 17 **TIME:** 4:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Northwoods Bank Community Room, Park Rapids  
**REGISTER:** call the Extension Office at 732-3391 or email Sally Shearer at [sshearer@umn.edu](mailto:sshearer@umn.edu).

## HC COLA Engages Lake Associations to Increase the Intensity and Frequency of AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection in Hubbard County

In 2015, HC COLA was successful in expanding our AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection program in Hubbard County. To further expand our early detection program in 2016, research suggests that only frequent, ongoing visual inspections of hard underwater surfaces and aquatic plants where zebra mussels typically attach will reveal a truly early introduction. The more frequently and more intense AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS introduction will be detected. Therefore, to increase our effectiveness for early detection, HC COLA will work to expand the following elements of our early detection program.

First, HC COLA is asking lakes to expand their use of zebra mussel monitoring devices such as cinder blocks or settlement samplers. We urge lakes to suspend samplers from docks or buoys at approximately 8-12 locations spaced around your lake to increase the intensity of monitoring. We encourage lakes to have monitoring devices placed on all sides of your lake including N-S & E-W locations. Citizens using samplers should review the revised monitoring protocols that are available on the HC COLA website: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/what-you-can-do-about-ais.html>

Second, to increase our capacity for early detection, HC COLA will promote opportunistic (casual) approaches to further engage more lake users looking for AIS. Opportunistic searches are casual, non-structured efforts to look for AIS as time permits. They can be conducted at any time by anyone on the lake with general knowledge of what to look for and where to look for AIS. Those living or recreating on the lake can casually turn over a few rocks, check plants that have washed up on their beach or access, or just check your boat and dock for AIS, when they are removed from the water.

A fact sheet entitled "***Tips and Tactics for Opportunistic Searches for Aquatic Invasive Species on Hubbard County Lakes – The Casual Observer***" is available at: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/what-you-can-do-about-ais.html>

## HC COLA Develops New On-Line Survey That Will Focus on Enhancing Our Communication Network to Foster Our AIS Detection and Monitoring Actions

In order to measure the relative effectiveness of our Zebra Mussel monitoring program, we will be sending out an on-line survey later this summer. This survey will only take about 5 minutes to complete.

Information requested on this survey will include your location of the lake, the type of device you are using to survey, when you placed it in the water and when retrieved, how many times you checked the device as well as if you also checked your dock / watercraft at the end of the season and if you did a shoreline inspection for mussels. And of course if you actually reported finding any Zebra Mussels...

Your assistance in completing this survey will help us evaluate our "eyes on the lake" efforts.

*Jeff Mosner & Dan Kittilson*

## 4-H Opportunity – Aquatic Robotics Program Seeks Backyard Tinkerers & Engineers

The 4-H Aquatic Robotics Program Goals include:

- Bringing together techie kids and outdoorsy kids, who, after construction and usage, will make a public presentation fostering citizenship awareness and public speaking ability and could demo at fair
- Construction of a remotely controlled vehicle, ROVE, which has a camera for underwater exploration. The Sea Perch ROVE kit is provided by the U.S. Navy. Maybe even look for AIS! ...***Continued on Next Page...***

#### **4-H Opportunity – Aquatic Robotics Program – *Continued From Previous Page***

- Volunteers are needed to guide kids, tinker with the project and coordinate meeting places & times.
- These volunteers become official 4-H volunteers (currently there are 70 4-H volunteers working in Hubbard County on a variety of programs)

**Contact:**

Mari Jo Lohmeier, 4-H Program Coordinator, Hubbard Cty UM Extension 218-237-1246 [mlohmeie@umn.edu](mailto:mlohmeie@umn.edu)  
- OR - Margo A. Bowerman, UM Extension Educator, Crookston, 218-281-8695 [mbowerma@umn.edu](mailto:mbowerma@umn.edu)

Clay County Aquatic Robotics: <http://www.wdaz.com/content/clay-county-4-hers-test-water-robots-0>

#### **Water Testing & The Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

The Hubbard County SWCD is working with the Dept. of Agriculture on their Nitrate/Nitrogen Township study. The SWCD sent out a letter and now RMB labs have mailed out some water sample kits. The mailings will occur in batches so RMB Labs is not inundated with samples at one time.

So for example, some people in and around Long Lake and in Henrietta and Hubbard Townships will be receiving the letters and the kits at different times throughout the spring and summer. Everyone who lives in the 6 townships: Todd, Henrietta, Straight River, Hubbard, Crow Wing Lake and Badoura townships will be receiving letters and kits.

The Dept. of Ag wants to know the extent of nitrates occurring in private wells. They were originally only going to sample two townships in Hubbard County but from the results of our nitrate testing we increased the coverage to 6 townships. Depending on the levels of nitrates found will determine how the Dept. of Ag will address producers and the use nitrogen fertilizers. There may be restrictions and limitations placed depending on the sampling results.

This mailing will go to every property owner in the listed townships – it is not based on well records, but off the County's property ownership.

The Hubbard County SWCD office will continue to do free nitrate testing the first Friday of every month (the next sample day is June 3, 2016) from 9 am to 2 pm at our new office at 603 Central Ave. N., Suite 100, Park Rapids, MN 56470. It is the Gartner Johnson building next to Izzy's Welding Shop. If you turn off Hwy 34 at the Holiday station and go north 6 blocks we are on the left in a tan building. The number is on the building and a sign will be up soon with Gartner Johnson construction, USDA Farm Services and SWCD.

The Hubbard County SWCD does not do arsenic testing. If your well was put in after 1975 by a well driller the water was automatically tested for arsenic and the Dept. of Health in Bemidji would have that information. If the well is a sand point and done before 1975 then it should be tested for arsenic. You only have to test for arsenic once. Either you have it or you don't. Again, like Nitrates, Arsenic is naturally occurring in the environment. We do have sample bottles, instructions, and mailing labels for individual collection for people that they can send to RMB Labs for a charge.

Julie Kingsley, District Manager – Hubbard County SWCD

## HC COLA's Website Loaded with Information

Our website is continuously updated with the latest “good to know” information. Check it out here: <http://hubbardcolamn.org/index.html> and be sure to bookmark it. Besides boasting some of the most beautiful pictures of area lakes (look for a new theme each month) you will see news, announcements, events and our meeting schedule.

Missed a meeting or can't find the minutes or committee reports? You can find these under “Communications” along with newsletters and interesting articles.

Wondering who the current lake association Presidents and HC COLA Representatives are? Go to “Organization and Strategy” where you'll find these lists as well as responsibilities of the HC COLA Reps. Note: this is password-protected as it contains personal contact information. Contact Lynn Goodrich or Sharon Natzel for access or send an email to [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com).

You will find a wealth of information related to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) under that heading. Identification (pictures), facts and monitoring, AIS County and Statewide activities, and what you can do to stop the spread of AIS, whether you are a lake user, resort owner or a lake service provider. “What you can do” and “Helpful Links” are good places to find advice on everything from “Best Shoreline Management Practices” to “How to Build a Loon Platform” as well as links to area lake association websites and many water-related state and national links.

The best way to explore this site is to do just that – explore. And if you can't locate something, near the bottom of the Home page is a search feature.

If you run into any problems using the site or if you have a suggestion for an improvement or if you have a particularly good photo of an area lake or river, send it to Jeff Mosner at [jmosner@gmail.com](mailto:jmosner@gmail.com).

## Why “Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations” is on Facebook (Social Media)

Think back to your school days: each of us has played a game called telephone, right? You stand in a line the first person whispers a description of an event to the next person and passes it down the line, one person at a time. The person at the end has to say what he heard. It was usually very different from what the first person heard: Not a good form of communication!

Now imagine everyone in a circle hearing the description for the first time....together. Then each of those people shares with their friends - the exact item. That is a social network like Facebook. Not perfect but since the communication is in written form, many people get the information. A social network can help us promote our website & share information posted there.

HC COLA has a Facebook (FB) presence so it can:

- quickly keep in touch with members and long distance friends or other like-minded organizations' FB pages
- provide links to government websites
- post articles and research, share video, and keep lists of relevant books and videos

For HC COLA to make the best of use of a Facebook page, we need your help!

- **Sign up** if you don't have a Facebook page yet. (just to keep in touch with HC COLA)
- **Share** the articles you read on the HC COLA page so the information reaches more people
- **Like** the posts; then you will see more of HC COLA's posts on your news feed
- **Make** comments about the posts: it's a place to keep the conversation going...

Members and friends of HC COLA can post or share information to the HC COLA Facebook page. This is a way to share with others who follow HC COLA. If you have any questions about how to use Facebook, please email HC COLA's new Facebook manager, CC White at [ccwhite14388@gmail.com](mailto:ccwhite14388@gmail.com).