

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) Accomplishments 2021

HC COLA, a 501c3 formed in 1988, currently represents 43 lakes with 31 lake associations composed of 2,660 members. An all-volunteer organization, its 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.

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2021 Accomplishments

- Coordination & cooler shuttle service: 37 lakes participated in water quality monitoring, 19 lakes sampled for zebra mussel veligers and 6 lakes analyzed for spiny water fleas
- Provided written comment on the Hubbard County Environmental Services Planning Commission and County Commissioners on Short Term Rental considerations for the Hubbard County Shoreland Management Ordinance during the 2-phased approval process
- Shared & promoted member lake association newsletters plus state-level organization's news
- Encouraged participation in the MN DNR's 2020 boating survey
- Supported the University of Minnesota's Wave Monitoring Network Program
- Shared and promoted the Gull Lake Association's successful Lake Steward program
- Provided complimentary AIS prevention posters to lake associations
- Partnered with Hubbard County Environmental Services on the "Pro Angler" billboard and distributed the printed bait bags to Hubbard County live bait dealers for HC Env Svcs
- Provided posters related to AIS prevention, placed in Park Rapids Pioneer Park kiosk, Discover Guide, Residents Guide, Downtown Business Assoc website & Chamber website
- Shared and promoted the AIS Detectors Core Course
- Funded the HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant
- Promoted the "Let's Go Fishing" program
- Hosted a presentation by member Burney Fischer on "Exploring How Lake Associations Think about their Lakes and the Shared Responsibility to Sustain Them"
- Collected and shared data from the Lake Change Worksheet (see above)
- Shared information on Garfield Lake's participation in the proposed MN DNR's Quality Sunfish Initiative
- Hosted a presentation by Meg Duhr, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on the AIS Explorer Tool
- Encouraged participation in the 2021 Volunteer LoonWatcher Survey
- Participated in the Hubbard County Fair for 4 days, sharing information on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "Get the Lead Out" program and HC COLA programs
- Coordinated Hubbard County's Starry Trek to discover Starry Stonewort & other AIS
- Hosted a presentation by Peter Jacobson and Dan Seward, "Forests and Fish, The Critical Connection!"
- Hosted a presentation by Rob Rabasco, MN DNR Coordinator for the Minnesota Loon Restoration Program (MLRP); 18 member Lake Associations identified Loon Liaisons
- Continued to support & promote the HC COLA Shoreland Advisors (SA) program. Nine active SA's. Consulted with 11 lakeshore owners & provided presentation to HC Master Gardeners
- Coordinated 12 lake association's participation in the Restore-The-Shore Program in partnership with the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HC SWCD)
- Awarded \$100 gift to Hubbard County / Cass County Steamboat Lake Association after they applied for and received their official documentation as a lake assoc from the State of MN