



Members

Executive Board

Judy Novak: President
Ken Grob: V.P.
John Weber: Treasurer
Mimi Long: Secretary

Member Lake Associations

Belle Taine
Big Mantrap
Big Sand
Blue
Lower Crow Wings 1-4
Middle Crow Wings 5-7
8th & 9th Crow Wings
Eagle
East Crooked
Emma/Stocking/Bottle
Fish Hook
Gilmore
Ham
Hinds
Island Lake South
Kabekona
Little Sand
Long
Palmer
Plantagenet
Portage
Potato
Spider
Stony
Twin Lakes



COLA UPDATE

August 2004

Eurasian Milfoil in Leech Lake



Eurasian watermilfoil has been discovered growing in Leech Lake, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The non-native, invasive aquatic plant was discovered in several harbors from Stony Point to Rogers Point on the southern shore.

The DNR will conduct further surveys to determine the full extent of the distribution of the Eurasian watermilfoil in Leech Lake. The DNR sent crews to Leech Lake to search for Eurasian watermilfoil and found rooted plants growing in the lake.

Boaters who use Leech Lake are urged to be extra thorough when looking for and removing aquatic plants from their boats, trailers, nets, anchors and other equipment. Eurasian watermilfoil has now been discovered in 146 lakes and seven rivers or streams in Minnesota.

Children's Freshwater Festival

The Hubbard County sixth graders had a great time learning about the environment at the Wilderness Boy Scout Camp in May. We would like to thank all our presenters and volunteers for making it such a successful and enjoyable experience for the students. We had over 300 children participate this year. Although the weather wasn't perfect, it certainly didn't dampen our spirits!

We believe if you teach children to be good stewards of the environment while they are young, it will stay with them the rest of their lives. A new project we are looking into is subsidizing a six-week course on Lake Ecology for graders 5-8 in our Hubbard County schools.



President's Column



It's the middle of August, and soon our summer season will end. Or should I say, "the summer that almost was!" will come to an end. Soon the birch leaves will yellow, and the lake waters will calm. The end of August will also end my term as president of COLA, and my eight years serving on the board. It's been a privilege to work with so many dedicated individuals through the years. Most importantly, my participation has benefited my lake association.

In the spring of 2003 COLA voted to make available to smaller lake associations a \$135 dollar fee for water testing, instead of the full \$190 we are charged by the lab. Since the SWCD and MPCA both recommend regular water testing, the board felt it was a necessary expenditure. We are using an "ability to pay" system. COLA has 27 of Hubbard county's most populated lakes as members. (Soon to be 28, when we welcome Bad Axe back into the fold.) Most of the other lakes in the county are small and sparsely populated. However, because our larger lakes are developed to the max, people are buying lakeshore on the smaller lakes. Due to this occurrence, smaller lakes are feeling the pressure and are starting lake associations. Recently we have assisted three such lakes form associations. COLA makes available to lakes a comprehensive packet of information on how to start a lake association. Lake Peysenski is one of the associations we assisted, and is now water testing. The Middle Crow Wing Assoc. is now testing 7th Crow Wing lake since it joined 5th & 6th Crow Wing lakes. RMB labs now has a website. (to check on your lake's results, go to: www.rmbel.info)

COLA recently reorganized. We have updated our plans & goals for the future, and restructured our committees. We also have a lot of new projects that we plan to implement in the coming year. COLA thanks you for your continued support.
Judy Novak

COLA's Website

www.mn.lakes.org/hubbardcola

Thank you all for the favorable comments on our new website. We are working hard to keep it updated with information important to lakeshore owners.

It has been especially helpful to those who don't take the local newspapers keep track of news concerning our lakes.



We also post alerts such as mercury contamination in our lakes, and the most recent - carbon monoxide poisoning on boats. Our Lake Community Calendar alerts you to your lake association activities, and our phenology column is a big favorite.

Member lake associations are utilizing this site to cut down on the costs of numerous newsletters to pass on info to their members.

We hope this site will continue to be a useful tool.

Education Efforts



Most of our lake associations have a "Welcoming Packet" containing information needed by new property owners on their lake. COLA and its members believe people want to do the right thing, and the association provides the tools needed to be a good steward of their lake. Below are some more ways associations educate their members:

The **Middle Crow Wing Lake Assn.** has an e-mail list of some 90 members that are updated monthly on lake news and educational information. A quarterly newsletter is also sent to all members.

Spider Lake Assn. utilizes their newsletter to update members quarterly on what is going on regarding water testing, Fresh Water Festival, etc. They also pass on articles they take from the "MLA's Reporter" as they are members of that organization. They do boat checks on their public access during the major holidays to educate the public on exotic invasive vegetation, and the crappie regulations that are in place on Spider Lake.

Potato Lake Assn.: (1) At the annual meeting in July the COLA Representative did a presentation, and distributed brochures on exotic invasive vegetation. (2) They have also formed a committee to work with all of the resort owners on the lake to help stop the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil. Potato also has speakers at each of their meetings (3 per Summer) from the relevant agencies...DNR, Cnty. Government, etc. This usually leads to discussions on water quality, fisheries, land use, and so on. They also regularly reinforce these items in our newsletters (Spring, and Fall). Finally, there are always reports on COLA, water quality results, and on the walleye rearing pond results.

As you can see, lake associations are hard at work keeping our lakes healthy for generations to come.

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for our community lives long after we're gone." ...Teddy Roosevelt

Rain Gardens



What is a rain garden?

A rain garden is an attractive landscaping feature planted with perennial native plants. It is a bowl-shaped garden, designed to absorb stormwater run-off from impervious surfaces such as roofs and parking lots.

Rain gardens can be small, formal, home-owner style gardens, large complex bioretention gardens, or anywhere in between.

Why do we need rain gardens?

Rain is natural; stormwater isn't. Government studies have shown that up to 70% of the pollution in our streams, rivers and lakes is carried there by stormwater. Although most people never think about stormwater, about half of the pollution that stormwater carries comes from things we do in our yards and gardens!

Planting a rain garden may seem like a small thing, but if you calculate the amount of rain that runs off your roof, you would be very surprised. That rain is supposed to soak into the ground, but instead heads down the street to the storm drain, carrying pollution with it.

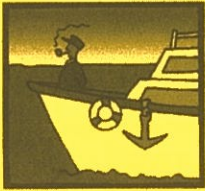
Keeping rain where it falls, by putting it into a beautiful rain garden, is a natural solution. You not only get a lovely garden out of it, you have the added benefit of helping protect our rivers, streams and lakes from stormwater pollution. You can be part of a beautiful solution!

Ready to Rain Garden?



For instructions on how to create your own rain garden, check out COLA's website category: "News You Can Use."

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning & Boats



Information from the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Center for Disease Control, as well as a news report on KMSP Channel 9 revealed that CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning can be present in deadly concentrations behind ski boats, cabin cruisers, and even personal watercraft. Ski boats and many boats manufactured in recent years incorporate a swim deck off the back of the boat. Boat occupants often sit on the swim deck while the boat idles or travels at slow speeds. The swim deck is directly over the exhaust ports on the boat and the highest concentrations of CO form under and around the swim deck. Some people have been known to participate in an activity called "teak surfing" or "dragging" in which they hold on to the swim platform as the boat pulls them, then body surf the boat wake. Boat exhaust is more dangerous than the exhaust from cars. Catalytic converters on cars reduce CO concentrations by more than 90 percent; boat engines do not have the same emission controls.

For boating safety: 1) don't allow any activity around the stern of your idling or slow moving boat; 2) tube or ski more than 20 feet behind the boat; 3) educate your passengers on the dangers of CO; 4) Maintain your boat exhaust system; 5) and don't confuse CO poisoning with seasickness, intoxication or heat stress. CO is odorless, colorless, and tasteless. If someone onboard complains of rapid onset of headache, fatigue, nausea, or dizziness, seek medical help immediately and move the person to fresh air. *(For full story, go to our website & look under "News You Can Use")*

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The COLA Update
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