

COLA UPDATE

Summer, 2005

COLA Executive Board

President: Ken Grob Vice-President: Treasurer: John Weber Secretary: Mimi Long

Member Lake Associations:

Bad Axe Belle Taine Big Mantrap Big Sand Blue CW-Lower CW-Middle **CW-Eighth & Ninth** Eagle Emma/Stk/Bottl Fish Hook Gilmore Ham Hinds Island South Kabekona Little Sand Long Palmer **Plantagenet Portage** Potato Spider Stony Twin Lakes

President's Message

t is hard to believe that I have been president of COLA for almost 10 months. Sometimes it seems things move too slow, but as I look back over the past months, I see real progress in many areas. I am committed to leading COLA to be an energized organization that is making a significant contribution to Hubbard County. Some of the positive signs that this is happening are: (1) We now have four committees functioning to lead the implementation of the plans and goals we set in 2004; (2) We have taken on sponsorship (with SWCD) of the HLRP initiative in Hubbard County. Eight more lakes will participate this year. My vision is that all of the COLA lakes will complete a lake management plan by the end of 2006; (3) I personally have been a member of the North Central Lakes Advisory Committee of the Governor's Clean Water Initiative. This group is making significant progress in modernizing Minnesota's Shoreland management Rules. COLA's participation helps keep us well informed and provides opportunity to input to the process; (4) I am pleased to see two more lakes in the process of forming lake associations. Peysenske has officially formed a lake association. Duck Lake has started the process. I hope they both join COLA; (5) Once again this year (with the help of more volunteers), we had a successful Children's Freshwater Festival, a good start to the 2005 Water Monitoring Program, and efficient distribution of the Restore-The-Shore shrubs and trees; (6) We have COLA representatives from all but two of the COLA member lakes.

Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done and there are many areas in need of improvement. COLA needs to find a Vice President to take the reins in the future and we need to get 100% COLA board representation from the lake associations that belong to COLA. I am optimistic and encouraged by the enthusiasm of the new board members and the continued support of the "long time" members. COLA thanks everyone for the continued support. -- Xen Grob



Children's Freshwater Festival

The Hubbard County sixth graders had a great time learning about our environment at the Wilderness Box Scout Camp on Bad Axe Lake on May 11. We would like to thank the Hubbard County SWCD for sponsoring the Children's Freshwater Festival, and all of the presenters and volunteers for making it a successful and enjoyable experience for the students. We would especially like to thank Jerry Lamp for coordinating the many COLA volunteers. Even the weather cooperated. Once again this year, there were about 300 children participating from the Park Rapids, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley, Laporte, Nevis, and Bemidji St.Philip's schools. We believe if you teach children to be good stewards of the environment while they are young, it will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



COLA and SWCD Co-Sponsor HLRP Initiative

COLA and the Hubbard SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) are serving as local sponsors, working with the Minnesota Northwest Foundation, for the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP). The initiative helps local lake associations develop Lake Management Plans. A Lake Management Plan providesthe opportunity for individual lake communities to pursue specific goals and areas of improvement in eight categories: Water Quality, Fisheries Management, Aquatic Vegetation, Wildlife, Invasive Species, Land Use and Zoning, Managing Water Surface Use Conflicts, and Public Water Access.

In 2004 five lakes associations (Fish Hook, Big Sand, Little Sand, Lower Crow Wings, and Upper Twin Lake) completed management plans for their lakes. During 2005 we are seeking 8 more lakes to participate in this initiative. The effort includes two six hour training sessions (June 18 and August 13) followed by a visioning session which brings all interested lake residents together to help develop the specific initiatives for the individual lake management plans. Currently Eagle, Potato, Duck, Long, Big Mantrap, Bad Axe, 8th/9th Crow Wing, Plantagenet, and Portage Lakes have indicted an interested in this years program.



Lake Association Happenings

• Potato Lake Association: Potato Lake will be having its annual meeting on July 2. The Board has decided to participate in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) initiative to develop a lake management plan in 2005. Milfoil signs have been updated at all of the public landings this spring and the Board is working with all of the resort owners on the lake to post milfoil information signs at their private launch sites. Volunteers



are hard at work developing a new lake membership directory, planning social events, and sending out a newsletter. This spring Bob Berdahl led an initiative to put three loons nest on the lake. With input from Lyle Laske, Bob and Bill Persinger had three very nice nests made of welded aluminum. Buoys and nests were put in place right after ice out.

- 8th and 9th Crow Wing Lake Association: The annual meeting was held June 5. Three loon's nests are on 8th Crow Wing with two brooding loon pair and one Canada goose pair. 9th Crow Wing has a nesting loon pair on that platform. 8th and 9th Crow Wing Lake Association is also participating in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) to develop a lake management plan for 2005.
- Middle Lake Association: Dan and Donna Rehkamp of Cottage Grove have been granted a conditional use permit (CUP) to re-open the Eagles Landing Resort on 5th Crow Wing Lake. The county commissioners earlier granted a CUP to Richard LeSage of Becker County, on behalf of Park Resorts LLC, to convert the adjacent property, previously the site of the Shady Lawn Resort to a 49 unit RV park. This approval was granted despite disapproval of the Hubbard County Planning Commission and substantial opposition from many Nevis residents both on and off the lake. The former Shady Lawn cabins have recently been auctioned off with removal and other conversion efforts underway.
- Little Sand Lake Association: The County Commissioners are discussing a Planned Unit Development (PUD) at their Wednesday, May 18th Meeting. The lake association is concerned about density and the covenants.
- Kabekona Lake Association: The lake association has developed Welcome packets for new residents on their lake. The packet contains information about the lake, and resources in the area.

(fertilizer cont. from page 2)

household hazardous waste collection site in your area. Use fertilizers that do not contain pesticides but do have phosphorus in vegetable and flower gardens, around trees and shrubs and give it to your neighbor for that same purpose if you don't need it. Help keep our waters blue, not green. For more information check out the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance at: www.moea.state.mn.us/campaign/garden/index.html.



COLA's Website www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola



We invite you to take advantage of the COLA wevsite for help in managing your lake property. It is chock-full of helpful information, web links, COLA & lake association activities, important events & workshops, and even a phenology column.

It doesn't matter if you are a new lake property owner, or have lived on your lake for years. You can find the information you need on our website!

We appreciate all your favorable comments, and hope to continue to make the COLA website a helpful tool.





AGENCY ROSTER

Lakeshore owners often need information from government agencies regarding their property and what is the best way to deal with situations that occur. Many of us know some of the key agency contacts. Here is a current list of some of the most used contacts. The contacts below are also on the COLA Website.

HUBBARD COUNTY

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Eric Buitenwerf, Administrator Park Rapids 1-218-732-3890

HUBBARD COUNTY SWCD

Bill Alden

Park Rapids 1-218-732-0121

UNIVERSITY OF MN EXTENSION SERVICE

Will Yliniemi, Facilitator

Park Rapids 1-218-732-3391

NORTHWEST MN FOUNDATION

Jim Steenerson, Grants Spec. Bemidji 1-218-759-2057

MINNESOTA LAKES ASSOC.

Paula West

Brainerd 1-800-515-5253

MN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL

RESOURCES -- AREA FISHERIES

Doug Kingsley, Supervisor Park Rapids 1-218-732-4153

DEPT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AQUATIC PLANT SPECIALIST

Jed Anderson

Glenwood 1-320-634-4573

MN POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Tim James, Community and Area Wide Unit Detroit Lakes 1-218-847-1519

UM EXTENTION SERVICE LANDSCAPING EXPERT

Mary Blickenderfer Grand Rapids 1-218-327-4616

RIVERS COUNCIL OF MN

Bruce Johnson, Exec. Director Sauk Rapids 1-320-249-6491

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

If you are a water recreationist—boater, angler, water-skier, sailor, or canoeist—there are some important things you can do to prevent the transport of harmful exotic species from one lake or river to another. In Minnesota it is illegal to transport harmful exotic species.

er zone restores ecological functions that are reduced or eliminated by traditional lawns planted ter's edge.

Inspect your boat, trailer, and boating equipment (anchors, centerboards, rollers, axles) and remove any plants and animals that are visible before leaving any waterbody. Drain water from the motor, livewell, bilge, and transom wells while on land before leaving any waterbody. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release live bait into a waterbody, or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another. Wash then dry your boat, tackle, downriggers, trailer, and other boating equipment to kill harmful species that were not visible at the boat launch. This can be done on your way home or once you have returned home. Some aquatic nuisance species can survive more than 2 weeks out of water, so it is important to:

- rinse your boat and equipment that normally get wet with hot (at least 40° C or 104° F) tap water; or
- · spray your boat and trailer with high-pressure water; or
- dry your boat and equipment for at least 5 days, before transporting to another waterbody.

Learn what these organisms look like (at least those you can see). If you suspect a new infestation of an exotic plant or animal, report it to your natural resource agency.

Consult your natural resource agency for recommendations and permits before you try to control or eradicate an exotic "pest." Remember, exotic "pest" thrive on disturbance. Do-it-yourself control treatments often make matters worse and can harm native species.

DAN & RUBY KITTILSON
22924 COUNTY 7
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