

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA
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WEBSITE:
www.minnesotawaters.org/group/hccola/welcome



Fall News Letter - 2010

From our President – by Dan Kittilson

Fall is a great time to live on an area lake. It is also a great time to be on the water trolling steep and deep drop-offs for that monster walleye. “Deep” could mean 35 to 40+ feet on the edge of two-foot thick chara beds where those walleyes hang out. Bet you couldn’t guess that I have a passion for being on the water fishing and hopefully, catching those elusive walleyes. That passion has matured into a concerted enthusiasm for protecting our lakes in Hubbard County and throughout Minnesota.

Hubbard County lakes are one of our greatest assets and have tremendous value to our culture and the economic viability of our County. Presently, our lakes are at risk from continuous threats: aquatic invasive species, habitat loss, outdated shoreland regulations, increase in variances, development and shoreline alternation, and cumulative impacts (all combined activities around a lake can significantly alter lake habitat and water quality). There is unanimous agreement statewide that these assets are at enormous risk and should require much stronger actions for protection.

In August, Hubbard COLA conducted a strategy management planning session to assess and improve our organizational effectiveness. Through our strategic planning we identified our vision as...”***COLA is the Leader in Protecting our Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers***”. Although the wording of our vision may be refined slightly, COLA will continue to lead for stronger lake protection strategies in Hubbard County. I would like to thank Lou Schultz for his guidance in facilitating our Strategy Management session and Janet McMillen for her assistance in developing our Strategy Management power point.

One of the greatest pleasures in being part of Hubbard COLA is working with many special people, who have an immense passion for protecting our lakes in Hubbard County. Hubbard COLA is a totally volunteer organization and our success depends on caring people working together for the betterment of our lakes. **I encourage everyone to share in this tremendous responsibility.**

I extend a sincere thank you to all our lake stewards who spend endless hours working to make COLA an effective organization. Your work is greatly appreciated. Although, I cannot name everyone that has done so much for Hubbard COLA, I would like to recognize several members who have been involved with Hubbard COLA for a number of years. First, I express my appreciation to **Jerry Knoblich** for his many years of service to COLA’s water quality monitoring program and thanks to **John Weber** for his service as our COLA treasurer for the past 13 years. I further extend thanks to **Julie Kingsley** for her commitment to COLA as our secretary and also acknowledge COLA’s appreciation to **Judy Novak** for her most recent work with our website. **"Wow! Rich Rothermel has worked with COLA's mailing list for the past 17 years." Thanks, Rich for your extended years of service.**

Once again, I would challenge new volunteers to join COLA's new Vision and Mission as we work to protect our lakes throughout Hubbard County.

In closing, I express our sadness at the recent passing of Gary Stolzenberg. Gary was a crucial part of our many COLA initiatives and he will be greatly missed.

NW Minnesota Foundation Honors Hubbard County COLA - by Dan Kittilson

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) was recently honored by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) with the Quality of Place Award for Natural Assets. The purpose of the Quality of Place Award, presented to Dan Kittilson and Ken Grob representing Hubbard COLA is to recognize NMF's partners, grantees, training participants and loan clients who have helped to develop community assets. Through their work, they enhance the quality of places in the region.

The Hubbard COLA has been one of NMF's strongest partners in promoting the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership (HLRP) Program. With COLA's involvement and support, 18 Hubbard County lake associations have participated in the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Partnership. Several of these lakes have taken the next step of establishing a permanent lake protection and improvement fund with NMF.

Ken Grob and Dan Kittilson currently serve on the HLRP program's steering committee and provide creative, consistent input. "NMF recognizes these fine leaders for their dedication, passion and stewardship of Hubbard County's lakes and rivers, one of our prized natural assets." The awards include a commemorative plaque and a grant for \$1000 made to a regional nonprofit of the recipient's choice.



Ken Grob honored as MN Waters Volunteer of the Year - by John Hastings

Ken Grob has given a tremendous amount of his time, energy, experience, and personal resources to serving nonprofit organizations in Minnesota and specifically Hubbard County. HCOLA has especially enjoyed his contributions and we applaud the recognition MN Waters has bestowed upon Ken and his service. Ken has paved the path for our organization and is an inspiration to all of us to find ways to contribute what we have to offer of ourselves.

(From MN Waters Fall newsletter)

Ken Grob, of park Rapids, Minnesota, a member of the Potato Lake Association and Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCOLA) has been named **Volunteer of the Year**, sponsored by Barr Engineering Company. This award honors an individual who has given significant investment of time and talent to improve the waters of Minnesota, including leadership and the ability to engage others and effect the positive change. Grob purchased property on Potato lake in 1995 and moved there as a full-time resident in 1999. Since that time, he has worked tirelessly to promote healthy lakes not only at Potato Lake but at county and state levels as well. A member of the Potato Lake association for 15 years and a board member for 7 years, Grob has also served as a representative of the Hubbard County COLA. During his tenure, he worked with the MnDNR to implement a new dam at the Potato lake

outlet and was actively involved when Potato Lake participated in the NW Foundation's healthy Lakes and Rivers partnership lake Management planning. He helped establish a Project and Endowment fund for Potato Lake and worked with local townships and the MnDNR to obtain grants used to fund Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. At the county level, Grob served as the Hubbard County COLA president for five years. During this time he helped organize and train 18 lake associations in developing lake management plans. Combating AIS in Minnesota's lakes and rivers is one of Grob's biggest passions. He created an AIS Task Force volunteered to serve as its chair. Because of his enthusiasm and commitment, Grob has been asked to participate in several regional and statewide initiatives and has presented at multiple local and statewide conferences.

The Cola Call – by Steve Hall

I love to sit outside in the evening and enjoy the peace and serenity of living near the lake. There is nothing quite like sitting around a camp fire and listening to the call of the loon at dusk. As I sat by the campfire the other night, I worried about our lakes and the challenges that lay ahead of us in keeping them clean and healthy. I thought to myself "We have some serious work to do if we hope to pass on to future generations what is important to us now". Lakeshore development, even if done correctly, has an impact on our water quality. Septic systems that are out of compliance or have not been pumped on a consistent basis can pollute our ground and surface waters. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), like Zebra Mussels, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil are looming everywhere, it seems. Also the new threat, Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (a viral disease that kills both salt and fresh water fish) is moving in on the Great Lakes and is soon to be at a lake near you.

So how do we resolve the many lake issues that confront us? Our Minnesota DNR is doing much to educate us and they continue to combat the AIS threat, but they cannot do everything. If there is a difference to be made it will be because everyone who uses or enjoys what our lakes have to offer will lend a hand. Here in Hubbard County we have a pretty good start as many of our lakes have formed associations. These lake associations are the front line of defense and we should all be thankful that they are working hard on issues like preventing the spread of AIS.

As I put another log on the fire, I felt a little better, but then I asked myself "Do we have enough help"? The answer of course is "No we don't". A sampling of 17 Hubbard County lake associations revealed that there are approximately 2,587 residents (full time and seasonal) around those lakes. Of those 2,587 residents approximately 1,523, or 59%, were members of their lake associations. I thought to myself "What is holding the other 41% back from joining the effort that is so critical to all of us"? I questioned "Was it the annual dues"? No I reasoned, the average annual dues for these 17 lakes associations is just under \$ 21.00 per household and two people can't even go out to dinner for \$ 21.00. I questioned again "Was it that they didn't care"? No, I reasoned, I think everyone cares about their lake, if for no other reason than that property values decrease if the lake has an AIS or if water quality is declining. Nothing gets our attention faster than getting hit in the pocketbook.

I questioned a third time "Maybe it's that some folks just don't want to make the time to get involved". Whatever the reason we all have a responsibility to pull together on this effort to help save our lakes. We do hope that those that have chosen not to join their lake association up to this point will change their minds and join soon. We hope that you will get involved and make a difference. Who knows you may even get more back than you put into it!

HUBBARD COUNTY COLA - STRATEGY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Our Mission...."COLA was organized to facilitate cooperation among member lake associations and to assist in fostering appropriate and legal use of lakes and watersheds." (COLA Bylaws, 1988)

In August, COLA conducted a strategy management planning session with 49 participants representing 22 lake associations and several agencies including Hubbard County SWCD, the local DNR Fisheries and the regional DNR AIS Specialist. The Strategy Management session was facilitated by Lou Schultz, managing director of Process Management LLC.

COLA is in the process of developing a sound strategic plan and it will be communicated to all stakeholders via a strategy map. COLA in building its organizational capacity through strategy management has identified the following strategic actions to achieve our vision including 1) Cultivate Leadership, 2) Refine Vision, Mission and Values, 3) Improve Organizational Effectiveness, 4) Improve Communication to customers, 5) Share Knowledge, 6) Manage Public Image, 7) Develop Membership, 8) Address Multiple Revenue Streams and 9) Impact Political Action.

Strategic action groups, their champions and the COLA executive committee have been meeting to develop implementation plans that detail a mission statement for each strategic action, prioritized strategies and how to measure success. The target date for the completion of Hubbard COLA's Strategy Management Plan is December 10, 2010.

The benefits of Strategy Deployment go beyond the obvious of all elements of COLA doing their part to help the organization achieve its strategy. Mutual trust and respect are built between COLA and its stakeholders, the Executive Committee stays current with the activities of the organization, and the stakeholders gain more satisfaction and pride because they know COLA is providing leadership in protecting their lakes.

Our Vision....."COLA is the Leader in Protecting our Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers". (Strategy Management Planning, August 6, 2010)

Electronic Newsletters - By John Hastings

Paperless News - electronic newsletters provide a medium for more vibrant reading while reducing pressure on our natural resources. They also can help our association stretch our budget money by reducing printing and mailing costs. Electronic communication is a much faster method of communicating with you and we request that all lake associations continue to build their email address lists and discuss this with your members to gain their approval to send our newsletters to them by email. Your email coordinators can compile and monitor your email addresses so please give them your information soon. Thank you!

I will personally help any lake association email coordinator set up or works with their lists in excel on request. (John Hastings 732-3260)

Shoreline Buffer Garden Workshop – by Steve Hall



Photos taken by: Sally Shearer & Steve Hall



Twenty-nine participants enjoyed the "Shoreland Buffer Garden Workshop" held at Harvey & Norita Kath's residence on Lake Belle Taine. The goal of the workshop was to become familiar with the benefits of shoreland vegetation and its functions. The workshop provided design and implementation methods to create a buffer garden. The following is a summary of the two-day event, taught by Eleanor Burkett, University of Minnesota Shoreland Education Program.

There are many things to consider before creating a buffer garden. Consider your current & future property use; (seasonal, year-round); property lines and history of development; previous land alterations; (septic, underground utility lines, excavation, etc.); yard maintenance history; high and low water level; and lake quality and lake use.

Decide how much shoreline to transform into a buffer garden. Prioritize what you would like in your buffer area; the view of the lake, privacy screen, wildlife habitat, beach, dock, boat or dock storage, etc. By reducing beach size and relocating paths and storage areas creates the greatest benefits from your lakeshore.

Create a drawing of your lakeshore property. Show the lot width and any permanent structure and impervious surfaces. Mark the distance from these structures to the shoreline. Sketch in existing areas; beach, paths, trees, shrubs, gardens, lawn, native vegetation, winter dock and boat storage, etc. Determine the ordinary high water line; the record high water level; and the average water level. Sketch any areas of a steep slope, identifying the causes of erosion; wave or ice action or runoffs. Is the wave action, high, moderate or low energy? Determine the fetch; a distance from your shoreline to the opposite shore. Sketch any features from neighboring properties that may influence your buffer garden.

Identify your buffer area, exploring other possibilities for structural placements. As you design your buffer garden; sketch out the actual boundaries of the planting areas, paths, etc. For a natural look use curved lines for planting borders and creating paths. Identify garden beds, individual trees and shrubbery. Understand upland and wetland soil types. Sand feels gritty, silt/clay feels smooth and slippery when wet, loam is a mixture of sand, silt and clay and organic is decomposed plant material.

Select plant materials native to your region. Identify the shoreland planting zones within your buffer garden and select plants for appropriate moisture, sun exposure, soils and according to function. Plants for function create visual screen; conifers or deciduous trees, shrubs or vines; for erosion control; native trees, shrubs, grasses and sedges, for wildlife habitat plant in layers using Minnesota native plants. Ferns and mosses are best in shady areas. Use wet fringe species to vegetate low areas behind ice ridges. Stepping stones or pervious pavers inter-planted with turf or native grass creates a natural path area.

To determine spacing and quantities a general guideline is one square foot per plant. Determine the planting area in square feet; divide the planting area by the spacing area to determine the number of plants.

Over two hundred plants were planted at the Kath residence; all of them native to Minnesota. Grasses were inter-planted between native flowers. *Monarda fistulosa* (Wild Bergamot); *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan); *Aster oolentangiensis* (Sky Blue Aster); *Heliopsis helianthoides* (Ox-eyed Sunflower); *Physostegia virginiana* (Obedient plant); *Agastache foeniculum* (Blue giant hyssop); *Verbena stricta* (Blue vervain) and *Solidago speciosa* Nutt. (Showy Goldenrod) is only a partial list of plants that will provide an array of color in this buffer garden.

A buffer garden is an environmentally friendly project that produces water clarity, prevents soil erosion, provides habitat for wildlife and creates a bountiful garden of beauty. By understanding how they relate to one another benefits the partnership between you and your lakeshore.

The following websites will provide further information on shoreline projects:

MN Sea Grant: www.shorelandmanagement.org

Restore Your Shore (CD) MN DNR &

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality (book):

www.comm.media.state.mn.us/bookstore/bookstore.asp

List of native plant nurseries by region - MN DNR:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/gardens/nativeplants/suppliers.html

Submitted by: Sally J. Shearer, Hubbard County Extension Program Coordinator.

Source: University of Minnesota Shoreland Education Program.

Well Water Testing – By Larry Roberts

With a few exceptions, nearly all shoreline property owners in Hubbard County utilize private wells as their primary water source for their residence/cabin. Maintenance and regular testing of your well is an important aspect of well ownership. Testing your well for bacteria, pH level and nitrates is important, especially if you have young children using the water. Recently the City of Park Rapids has experienced higher than acceptable levels of nitrate in one of its city- owned wells, prompting them to shut the well down.

Nitrates in private wells can come from animal waste, private septic systems, waste water, flooded sewers, polluted storm water run-off, fertilizers, agriculture run-off or decaying plants. If the nitrate level of your private well exceeds 10mg/l (milligrams per liter), the water should not be fed to infants under 6 months of age or to pregnant women.

Testing your well water annually for nitrate level is recommended by local, state and federal health departments. In addition, testing for bacteria (coli-form, etc.) and pH levels is also recommended. Bacterial issues can cause a number of digestive and intestinal problems regardless of age. pH level testing tells you how acidic your water is. Out of balance pH level can affect the look and taste of your well water as well as cause damage to your water pipes.

Earlier this summer, the Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a one day free well water testing clinic. The results showed that some area residents had higher than normal nitrate levels in their wells. Several of those wells happened to be close to agriculture areas.

If you have not had your well water tested recently, you can still have it done. There are two companies in the area available for well water testing:

RMB Labs, 22796 County Highway 6, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501; Telephone 218-846-1465.

AC Water Analysis, P.O. Box 248, Bemidji, MN 56619; Telephone 218-243-3328.

Sample bottles can be picked up at the Soil and Water Conservation District office located in the alley behind Park Rapids City Hall. Included with each bottle is an order form where you identify what you want to test for with the associated prices listed on the form. The collected bottles can be shipped directly to the lab you choose and the results will be mailed to you. Please be sure to follow the directions for collecting the sample, packaging and shipping carefully. Payment should accompany the sample.

Should you have any questions concerning the process please contact the labs directly.

Would you like shoreline ownership information for your lake's shores?

Our association has access to Hubbard County's data base of shoreline ownership. If your lake association would like to plan a membership campaign and use this information to help, we can provide it to you. Contact John Hastings at johnhastings@live.com (or 732-3260).

DNR News: *What's all the fuss over those shoreline weeds?* – by Doug Kingsley

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) growing emphasis on maintaining and improving fish habitat provides a broad framework to guide policies and practices. But where the rubber really meets the road is where the water meets the land – and most of that is private property.

That means much of the responsibility for maintaining healthy fisheries falls to lakeshore owners and the guidance of the DNR's Aquatic Plant Management program (APM).

The APM program sets standards for the management of aquatic vegetation and establishes permit requirements for removing plants growing below the ordinary high water line. It works to strike a balance between preserving aquatic vegetation and allowing lakeshore property owners reasonable access to and use of the water.

“Some folks wonder what’s the fuss over all those weeds along their shoreline,” said Sean Sisler, DNR metro area APM specialist. “But a weed to one person is, to a fish, a home, a nursery and a grocery store. Get rid of all the ‘weeds’ and you’re also eliminating what the fish need to survive and thrive.”

Many of Minnesota’s most sought-after fish species depend heavily on aquatic vegetation throughout their life histories. Yellow perch, northern pike, muskellunge, panfish, and bass all depend on aquatic vegetation to provide food, spawning habitat, and nursery areas. Juvenile fish of most species feed on small crustaceans and insects that are abundant in stands of aquatic vegetation. Waterfowl, frogs, muskrats and numerous other critters also rely on shoreline plants for habitat.

But the value of healthy aquatic vegetation extends beyond fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants help reduce erosion from wind and waves. Their roots stabilize shoreline. They improve water quality by preventing the re-suspension of lake sediment and by taking up nutrients that can cause algae blooms.

Because of their value to a lake’s ecosystem, aquatic plants growing in public waters are considered state property under Minnesota law, and their removal is regulated.

Lakeshore property owners generally may clear up to 2,500 square feet of submerged vegetation (e.g. coontail and elodea) to allow for boat docking or a swimming area, provided the area cleared extends no more than 50 feet along the shoreline, or one-half the shoreline, whichever is less. A boat channel 15 feet wide may be cleared through floating leaf vegetation (e.g. waterlilies) to allow boaters to reach open water.

Any removal of emergent vegetation, such as cattails or bulrushes, requires a permit, as does the application of any chemical herbicide or the use of an automated mechanical plant control device, such as a weedroller.

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Keep in mind, too, that the aquatic plant regulations cover anything growing below the ordinary high water line, even if, as is now the case in some areas, water levels are low and shoreline is exposed. More information is available at www.mndnr.gov.

“The littoral zone, or area where plants grow, can be a small part of some lakes, but it’s critical to the health of all lakes,” Sisler said. “Lakeshore owners who care about clean water and good fishing should try to work with nature, rather than against it.”

Upcoming COLA meetings

Thursday, February 3, 2011.....8:30 a.m. social, 9:00 a.m. meeting

Thursday, April 28, 2011.....6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meeting

Thursday, June 30, 2011.....6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meeting

Thursday, July 28, 2011.....6:30 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. meeting



Park Rapids Downtown Renovation Lake Maps Update – by Bill Cowman

The Main Avenue street project is progressing on schedule prompting the need for the City to make a decision on the 4`x4` inserts to be installed at 16 corner nodes. At the August City Council meeting the decision was made to accept the recommendation of the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee for a design to be done in granite and marble cut into a jig saw pattern and installed similar to pavers. The City decided the theme for the inserts would be the area lakes with the lake profile in black marble. Bill Cowman presented an example of this design at the August COLA meeting. There has been a positive response with a total of 12 inserts sold to date sponsored by Lake Associations or individuals:

Lake Inlay

Little Sand
Lake Belle Taine
Two Inlets
Fish Hook
Pickernel
Big Sand
Fish Hook River
Peysenske
Big Mantrap
Beaver
Headwaters
Itasca
Long Lake
Little Mantrap
Potato
Island

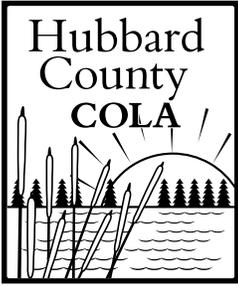
Location:

SW corner Highway 34 & Main
SE corner Highway 34 & Main
NW corner 2nd Street & Main
NE corner 2nd Street & Main
SE corner 2nd Street & Main
SW corner 2nd Street & Main
NW corner 3rd Street & Main
NE corner 3rd Street & Main
SE corner 3rd Street & Main
SW corner 3rd Street & Main
NW corner 4th Street & Main
NE corner 4th Street & Main
SE corner 4th Street & Main
SW corner 4th Street & Main
NW corner 5th Street & Main
NE corner 5th Street & Main

If all goes as scheduled, the inserts will be installed this fall.

New website for zebra mussels. For more information go to: www.100thmeridian.org

Hubbard County COLA
PO Box 746
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"Take The Time To Stop These Invasive Species"
> Zebra Mussel > Spiny Waterleaf > Curlyleaf Pondweed > Eurasian Watermilfoil

*"Hubbard COLA has Made the Commitment to Stop Invasive Species".....Have
You? Has your Lake Association? "Make the Commitment to prevent the spread of
invasive species and be a hero for the lake experience of future generations."*

From: Minnesota Place Names (a book by Warren Upham)
Belle Taine Lake, formerly Elbow Lake, first named by the white settlers for its sharply bent outlines;
it has an Ojibwe name, which translated by Gillfillan, "the lake into which the river pitches and ceases
to flow, - dies there." It has no visible outlet, the inflow being discharged south to the Crow wing River
by springs or perhaps westward to the north part of Long Lake in Henrietta and Hubbard Townships.

