

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations

Spring 2020 Update / Newsletter

- 30 Lake Associations Representing 42 Lakes & over 2500 members
- 501(c)3 formed in 1988 – celebrated 30 year anniversary in 2018
- Our HC COLA Mission is to:
Protect & Enhance the Quality of our Lakes & Rivers, Preserve the Economic, Recreational & Natural Environmental Values of our Shorelands & Promote the Responsible use of our Waters & Related Habitats.
- 23rd year of water quality monitoring - RMB Environmental Labs
- 11th year of watercraft inspection education at the public accesses
- Several Years of educating during the County Fair in Environmental Educ Bldg
- 5th year of “Eyes on the Water” surveying program for zebra mussels/AIS engaging lakeshore residents
- 3rd year of collaboration in ACTION Park Rapids Lakes Area
- 2nd year HC COLA Charitable Fund Grant RFP - NW MN Foundation
- HC COLA Serving on Advisory Team for One Watershed One Plans
- HC COLA Meetings providing Educational Speakers are open to the public
- Website: www.HubbardCOLAmn.org & on Facebook, on Park Rapids Downtown Business Assoc website webcam areas with AIS messaging, Park Rapids Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce website, Discovery Guide, and PR Enterprise Residents Guide
- ***We appreciate all of our partners in helping live our mission! Thank you!***

HC COLA Co-Sponsors Billboards & Movie Theater Ads partnering with Hubbard County Environmental Services on AIS Prevention Messaging and More. Local Radio Public Services Announcements help with education also!



Billboard on Hwy 34 E near Akeley in 2018

Partnered with Hubbard County in 2019 on this Billboard →



**May – Sept 2020
on Hwy 71 →**

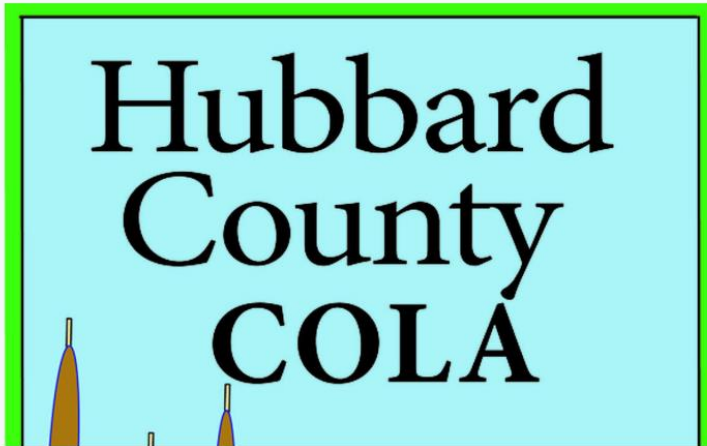


Movie Theater Ad March – Aug 2020:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roeCR_5dNOg

HC COLA Column in Park Rapids Enterprise (approx. 4 per year)

Written By: Sharon Natzel, President, Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations | Aug 17th 2019 - 5pm.



One tall corn stalk, standing a foot above the rest of the corn field behind our home, is peering at the lake.

It is helping to protect from runoff this summer. Its roots grow deep, clinging to the soil.

Closer to the lake are trees, a buffer area striving to be a wildflower garden, an ice ridge area and rocks that also help prevent erosion.

At the public access, the watercraft inspector educates boaters on cleaning and draining their boats to prevent aquatic invasive species. The kiosk contains brightly colored flyers, helping remind guests to clean their gear and equipment, including their water shoes and toys, too.

This scene is repeated across the lakes area. Collectively, we all strive to protect our lakes, one of our greatest area assets.

COLA COLUMN: Loon volunteers needed in Hubbard County

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations' (COLA) loon-monitoring program begins Friday, June 28 and runs through Monday, July 8. Volunteers are needed!...

Written By: Sharon Natzel, Hubbard County COLA | Jun 23rd 2019 - 12pm.

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations' (COLA) loon-monitoring program begins Friday, June 28 and runs through Monday, July 8. Volunteers are needed!

Recently, a number of Hubbard County's loon lovers were disappointed to read at the end of a terrific June 1 article that our loons were not being included in an eight-county Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) monitoring program. However, several COLA members put our heads together for our loons. The Hubbard County COLA Loon Monitoring Program now needs volunteers too across our county lakes! We'll borrow from the DNR, using some similar protocols.

Eagle Scout project helps protect area lake

Special thanks to Isaac Zinniel who created an informational kiosk for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) undeveloped access as his 2019 Eagle Scout project.

Written By: COLA | May 18th 2019 - 1pm.



Boy Scout Isaac Zinniel earned his Eagle Scout Award by creating an informational kiosk for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area. (Submitted photo)

Special thanks to Isaac Zinniel who created an informational kiosk for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Wolf Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) undeveloped access as his 2019 Eagle Scout project.

The kiosk was installed on May 9 in time for the Minnesota Fishing Opener with Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) and a number of the collaborating organizations present to help.

HC COLA Meetings – examples from 2019 – Featured Educational Speakers - Open to the Public & Advertised in the Northwoods Press & Park Rapids Enterprise. Held at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Presentations on HC COLA website! <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/meeting-schedule.html>

HC COLA Mtg March 26, 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19. We will hold a Conference Call “Open House” for our downsized HC COLA Meeting on April 30, 2020 between 6 to 7 PM for HC COLA Reps to call with questions / suggestions; details will be shared as it gets closer.

February 28 - Julie Dickie, a State-licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator with Northwoods Wildlife Rescue, Inc. will speak about our wildlife we enjoy around our lakes, rivers and wetlands. She will discuss some do's and don'ts when it comes to our Northwoods Wildlife. Julie will share how she was able to rescue orphaned wood ducks, care for them, and then release them back to the wild successfully.

March 28 - Nicholas Macklem, Environmental Specialist, Hubbard County Environmental Services will provide an update on the Hubbard County aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program.

Also...

William Lee, Water Quality & Resource Specialist, Hubbard County SWCD will address the following topics:

- Terrestrial invasive species that threaten Hubbard County, an introductory guide to identifying these species, their origins, their current status, common ways they spread and how to eradicate them while taking steps toward slowing their spread or reemergence.

- Fees for Services is a term Hubbard SWCD uses to market services that are available for hire to perform. Hubbard SWCD offers the following services: veliger sampling, water chemistry monitoring, water chemistry sampling, terrestrial & aquatic vegetation mapping and TraFX counting systems management. Come to our meeting to find out more about hiring Hubbard SWCD to perform one of these services.

April 25 - Todd Holman, Mississippi Headwaters Program Director, The Nature Conservancy, will speak about how private landowners can seek conservation education, cost-share funding, program enrollment or even permanent conservation easements on a spectrum of service delivery options. He'll also share information on the Crow Wing River Healthy Waters Partnership and a few other easement programs. We'll learn about potential ways to protect lakeshore and water health for this and future generations.

May 30 "Lake Watershed Management Thinking: Space, Scale and Time" Our May presenter is Burney Fischer, Clinical Professor Emeritus at Indiana University – Bloomington in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Burney teaches part-time each spring semester (Urban Forest Management & Urban Ecology). Burney is a Big Mantrap (BML) summer resident (May-October).

Lakes and their surrounding watersheds are social-ecological systems (people and nature interacting). The management of these systems (spaces) can be at many scales (patches), from as small as a single bay on a lake (think neighborhood) to all the lake to the lake's watershed to multiple lake watersheds. And, it all changes over time as humans continue to modify the land. My purpose through a series of slides is to demonstrate how watershed thinking is very comparable to how ecologists think of urban ecosystems – neighborhoods > city > metropolitan area.

June 27 - Our first speaker is Cede Waldo, who will be a senior at Kelliher Public School. The school district partnered with the Red Lake DNR to raise awareness of Invasive Species. Cede and her group used technology as tools for education and won the Statewide "Your Big Idea for a Sustainable Minnesota" contest sponsored by District Energy, St. Paul, MN. See the video she created on invasive species [here](#).

Also, Nicole Kovar, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist - Northwest Region, MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources, will help us understand the International AIS perspective. She will share information on some of the latest research in Zebra Mussels, veligers, and Spiny Waterfleas, plus an update on Starry Stonewort management and more.

July 25 – Aria Kapsner – summer intern at SWCD on activities she is participating in this summer. Come early and join us for refreshments and conversation at 5:30 PM and learn at the 2 showcase tables. Isaac Zinniel, the Boy Scout who created the kiosk for the undeveloped access at the DNR Wildlife Management Area on Wolf Lake will have pictures and explain his Eagle Scout project to help prevent the spread of Starry Stonewort. Also see the early results from our new HC COLA Loon Monitoring Program from the 10-day window June 28 - July 8, 2019 here in Hubbard County.

August 29 - *Conservation Farmers Protect Minnesota's Water Quality*
Farmers are making important decisions to protect Minnesota's water quality as well as conserve soil, because they know their families and their farming operations rely on these natural resources. Many decisions that farmers make which are good for the water and soil also aid the farmers in their profitability. The Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) assists conservation-minded producers in their conservation efforts and gives these farmers recognition for their excellent stewardship of Minnesota's natural resources.

- Andy Dombeck farms a few miles west of Wadena, where he produces corn, soybeans, and a variety of other crops. Andy's farm is a Water Quality Certified Farm.

- Jim Lahn is the Area Certification Specialist with the Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP). He assists farmers like Andy and Andrew with the Water Quality Certification process. Prior to taking this position, Jim worked many years for the USDA-NRCS in northwest Iowa and also did independent crop consulting and soil sampling.

September 26 - Tim Terrill is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Headwaters Board (MHB) which protects the Natural, Recreational, Cultural, Historical, and Scientific values of the Mississippi River. Tim has worked in the conservation field for over 15 years to help protect the natural environment that we all enjoy. He will be presenting on the history and purpose of the MHB along with an overview of their social media program which helps prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

October 31 - Nicholas Macklem, Environmental Specialist, Hubbard County Environmental Services Department, will provide the current results of the Hubbard County Services AIS Program and plans. He will also cover supplemental funding for the watercraft inspection program along with key dates for 2020.

Steve Henry, RMB Environmental Laboratories will speak on "How Lakes Age: With or Without Zebra Mussels". Over time nutrients build up in our lakes causing changes to the lake bottom, aquatic plants, fish and water quality. Zebra mussels have not changed how fast nutrients accumulate in our lakes, but they have changed where nutrients are stored in the lake and how they are expressed. We will learn about how our lakes age, how zebra mussels change lake aging, and what new techniques researchers are using to track lake health.

Park Rapids Lakes Area Fishing Expo – Friday April 12, 2019 – HC COLA co-sponsored with MN DNR, Riverside United Methodist Church with Pastor Chip, and Hubbard County Environmental Services. Regional Fishing Guides provided fishing techniques, panel discussion and tips on AIS Prevention – All Free of Charge!! Attended by 230 on Snowy Evening!

Free Admission

**PARK RAPIDS LAKES AREA
FISHING EXPO**

Friday, April 12, 2019 • 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1005 Park Ave. N. (Hwy. 71) • Park Rapids, MN



Featured Guest Speaker: Chip Leer

Chip Leer is a 2019 Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame inductee, fishing guide, outdoors communicator, product promoter and developer. He is the stage and TV host for the Cabela's National Walleye Tour.

MEET REGIONAL FISHING GUIDES, PANELISTS & MEDIA

- Learn New Techniques • Ask Questions • Book Trips

Learn about the latest equipment and how to protect our fishing resources!

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:

Jason Durham "Go Fish!" Guide Service" Park Rapids/Nevis Area
Brian "Bro" Brosdahl "Bro's Guide Service" Bemidji Area
Jason Freed "Leisure Outdoor Adventures" Leech Lake Area
Paul Nelson "Bemidji Area Lakes Guide Service" and writer for *The Bemidji Pioneer*
Kev Jackson Host and Producer of "Fishing Paul Bunyan Country"
And more....

The Expo Team includes representatives from the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA), MN Department of Natural Resources, Riverside United Methodist Church, and Hubbard County Environmental Services.

Fun Pictures from the Variety of HC COLA Educational Activities – girls scouts created 240 zebra mussel settlement samplers, 4-H buffer planting, eagle scout project, Kelliher senior coached using 3-D Printer models of Spiny Waterfleas created by their high school team



Fun Pictures from the variety of HC COLA Activities



Club 309, Century School: 5th Grader Girls & Boys – Learning about aquatic vegetation identification from HC COLA education team member while awaiting their turn on the “Let’s Go Fishing” pontoon on Fish Hook at Heartland Park



With Input from our Otter Tail partners, HC COLA is adapting their successful High School Science Teacher’s AIS Toolkit and reaching out to Hubbard County Schools for 2020 and beyond:
<https://www.rmbel.info/consulting/ais/hubbard-ais-education/>

Century Adventures with K thru 4th Grade - Preventing Water Pollution by Recycling and Cleaning Plastic Bottles from Storm Drains – Expedition to Depot Park & DNR Fisheries Patio on Fish Hook River at Storm Drain Outlet



Water Quality Monitoring – Charlies Boats and Marine has partnered since the beginning in 1997 with HC COLA volunteers for cooler staging for delivery/to from RMB Environmental Laboratories in Detroit Lakes

Details for our HC COLA 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Program are here:

http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cr_2020_02_27.pdf



Hubbard County Loon Count For 2019 on 27 Lakes - - During the 2019 Hiatus of the MN DNR Loon Watch Survey for Hubbard County, HC COLA lead the count using DNR protocol. The MN DNR Loon Watcher Survey is State-wide for 2020.

Lake Count	Lake	Adult Loons	Juvenile Loons	Wild Birds - Bonus Monitoring
1	Bad Axe - 2 newly hatched loons on morning of 7/5/19	6	4	Bald Eagles, American White Pelican, Great Blue Heron observed and a "hooded" unidentified Duck pictured with babies; several pictures included by these annual guests at Isle O'Dreams Lodge who participated in the monitoring on 7/5/19
	Bad Axe - 7/2/19	7	2	Seasonal residents on lake counted 7/2/19
2	Big Mantrap	73	24	
3	Coon/Seno Lake	6	0	
4	Deer (Nevis, MN)	3	2	
5	Duck	3	0	
6	Eagle	8	2	Bald Eagle nest with at least one eaglet. Several eagles around lake. Great Blue Heron nests on Inlet Circle trees. Also Vulture nests near Heron nests. Two Sandhill Cranes and 1 Baby in Field one mile south of Eagle Lake on 230th St., Park Rapids, MN
7	East Crooked	11	0	
8	Fifth Crow Wing	12	2	
9	Fish Hook Lake & River	10	5	
10	Garfield 7/3/19	10	4	
	Garfield 7/8/19 Mark Warisch with observer: Shannon Geisen	8	3	
11	Gilmore	7	0	
12	Hinds	2	2	
13	Ida	2	2	
14	Little Sand	8	2	
15	Long	14	6	Eagle, Osprey & Great Blue Heron - nest & observation
16	Lost - Lake Hattie Township	2	1	Trumpeter Swan Nest & observation
17	Middle Crooked	6	2	
18	Portage	4	0	4 Great Blue Heron & at least 8 White Pelicans - no nesting
19	Potato	21	7	Great Blue Heron observation
20	Seventh Crow Wing	6	1	
21	Sixth Crow Wing	8	5	
22	Spider	5	3	Note: all babies counted in late spring survey (twin chicks and a single) have disappeared now as of mid-Aug
23	Steamboat	17	4	
24	Stocking	2	1	
25	Stony	3	2	
26	Tripp	2	2	
27	Upper Bottle	10	5	Trumpeter Swans Nest & Observation

Total Watercraft Inspection / Educ Opportunities 2009-2019 145,194 Aided in Part By Lake Associations Contributing \$624,171 2009-2019 –

Year	Total Number of Inspections	% Entering from infested waters	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Funding Summary for each year from: State, Lake Associations (LA) and Township/City
2009	910	7.89%	NA	DNR Grant - \$3000 Lake Emma Township - \$1000 LA - \$2000 (Zorbaz - \$500 incl.) Total = \$6000
2010	1772	NA	NA <u>Drain plug law was passed in July of 2010</u>	DNR Grant - \$3720 Townships - \$2220 LA/COLA = \$4640 Total = \$10,580
2011	1236	NA	7.28%	DNR Grant - \$4805 Townships \$1720 Lakes= \$5224 Total = \$11749
2012	7,129	NA	NA	Township/City = \$21K LA = \$57K Total = \$78,000
2013 (SWCD took over coordination)	10,664	9.5%	5.3%	DNR LGU Grant = \$7,750 Township/City = \$35,990 LA = \$ 63,905 Total = \$107,645
2014	13,785	13.35%	2.37%	DNR LGU Grant = \$12,000 Township/City = \$34,800 LA = \$88,746 Total = \$135,546
2015 (Hubbard County took over coordination)	21,059	9.01%	2.74%	State = \$163,200 LA = \$58,422 Township/City = \$31,741 Total = \$253,363
2016	22,757	10.98%	1.15%	State = \$168,070 LA = \$71,759 Township/City = \$30,570 Total = \$270,399

Note for 2020: Lake Associations, Cities and Townships contributed \$146,434 supplemental funding for watercraft inspections / education

Year	Total Number of Inspections	% Entering from infested waters	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Funding Summary for each year from: State, Lake Associations (LA) and Township/City
2017	21,559	12.55%	.87%	State = \$151,145 LA = \$83,889 Township/City = \$31,111 Total = \$266,145
2018	21,725	21.33%	.68%	State = \$152,477 LA = \$86,699 Township/City = \$30,691 Total = \$269,867
2019	23,834	23.17%	.82%	State = \$182,658 LA = \$101,887 Township/city = \$37,668 Total = \$322,213
Total funding for Watercraft Inspections from 2009-2019				State/DNR = \$848,825 Lake Assoc. = \$624,171 Township/city = \$258,511 TOTAL = \$1,731,507.00
Total Number of Watercraft Inspections 2009-2019	145,194			

The State funds that are listed above were spent directly on watercraft inspection hours at Hubbard County accesses. There are additional State funds associated with operating these shifts (training, lead inspector wages, equipment, etc.). However, the County does not have records that would quantify that information.

In addition, Hubbard County has spent a total of \$245,000 since 2013 to help fund the Hubbard County AIS Coordinator

Community-Based Social Marketing & Awareness Educ – Reaching out to Lakeshore Owners, Friends, Family and Your Guests! Introduced at Fishing Expo, Displayed at Walker for HC COLA Showcase & subject of MPR Interview & Avail at HC COLA Fair Booth and at Lake Association Annual Meetings, Chamber and Kiosks.

Inspired the 2020 Ad in Chamber of Commerce Discovery Guide and PR Enterprise Resident Guide.

Make the Commitment to Protect Your Hubbard County Lakes & Rivers!

Clean and Drain Your Gear and Equipment Before Moving From Lake to Lake / River! Why? Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can be in / on these...



Clean and Drain Gear and Equipment:

Personal Watercraft
Wake Boat
Water Toys
Anchors
Boats/Trailers
Rafts & Lily Pads
Used Docks/Lifts
Used Water Pumps
Rented &/Or Used Gear
Dock Installer Gear
Waders / Decoys
Scuba Gear
Canoe/Kayak/Paddles



**Clean off any:
*Mud***



***Aquatic
Plants***



***Prohibited
Species:***

Zebra Mussels



***& Drain WATER...
Bilge, Live Well, Bait!***



***Keep Your Waters Great!
Use Tap Water for Your Bait
Preserve Your Lake!***

Eyes on the Water – Survey

Goal: Ring Around Each Lake



Early Detection Tasks	2019	2018	2017	2016	COMMENTS
On-line survey : Individual responses to on-line survey	141	146	126	68 - Pilot	Survey tracks citizen monitor efforts in completion of a variety of lakeshore tasks.
# COLA/non-COLA lakes represented in survey	41/15	29/6 (1 Becker)	29/4	24/1	
Respondents using ZM monitoring devices (settlement sampler*, PVC tube, cinder block)	122	115	85	59	Need to expand monitoring on inactive lakes!
Respondents that monitored Docks/Lifts	118/72	131/85	100/70	57/30	Monitoring docks & lifts are a key element for early detection!
Respondents that searched public access sites	31	24	24	NA	Increase monitoring at public access. Joined by a DNR volunteer also this year.
Respondents searching high risk sites	18	15	23	NA	Resorts/PUD's, inlets/outlets, private access
Lakes with ZM monitoring device suspended at DNR public access sites	24 + 13	14	NA	NA	COLA volunteers monitored 24. An additional 13 were placed by a DNR intern and checked by COLA volunteers.
Early detectors trained through HC COLA	30	24	33		Over 200 lake volunteers trained since 2006
Veliger Sampling	19 lakes	19 lakes	19 lakes	2015/2016: 29/30 lakes	Continue advocating for additional ZMV sampling.
Spiny Waterflea (SWF) sampling	8 lakes	8 lakes	8 lakes		SWF's impact food chain!
Aquatic Vegetation sampling and mapping	Bad Axe added (12 lakes since 2005)				Bad Axe, Big Sand, Boulder, Kabekona, Little Sand, Long, Plantagenet, Portage, Potato, Spider, 10 th Crow Wing, 11 th Crow Wing
Starry Trek search on local lakes for Starry Stonewort	12 accesses on 8 lakes were surveyed by 4 volunteers	20 lakes were surveyed by 11 volunteers <i>Discovered on Wolf Lake</i>	14 lakes were surveyed by 9 volunteers		COLA & Envir Svcs coordinated this search

* In 2018, Hubbard County girl scouts constructed 200 PVC tube Zebra Mussel samplers for distribution to resorts, accesses & shoreland owners.

You're Invited! * Planting Demonstrations and Hands-On Planting Opportunities of Trees, Bushes & Plants – Open House Style – Come and Go on Sat, May 2, 2020 between 2 PM to 4 PM at the South Public Access of Long Lake, in Hubbard, MN off Hwy 87. Rain or Shine. Tools provided. Bring Your Own Gloves. Observe, Learn, Practice, & then Apply Your New Skillset on Your Own Yard when You Get Home!

****Social Distancing Will Be Practiced in this Outdoor Environment!***

- The Long Lake Area Association website explains the South Access Project <http://www.longlakeliving.org/2019/11/plan-for-replanting-at-south-access.html> . Directions to Long Lake South access: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/water_access/site.html?id=WAS02396
- Peter Pierson's "**Restoration**" story for HC COLA "Voices on the Water" on the changing shoreline at the family cabin will entertain & provide ideas! http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/cola-pierson_piece_1-restoration.pdf
- HC COLA Website has great resources for planning resilient yard projects to "Restore the Shore" and planting for "Pollinators" also. <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/more-resources.html>
<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/score--restore-your-shore.html>

HC COLA 2020 and Beyond

HC COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

Thank you for partnering with us!

Please let us know if you have ideas to share with us too! Our Lakes & Rivers are an important asset!