

President's Remarks :

Happy New Year! COLA has had a very busy year! I'll keep this short since we have a jam-packed newsletter. However, I would like to take this opportunity to brag about all the hard work your lake representatives in COLA have been doing this past year.

We worked again with the SWCD in water testing. We also had another very successful Children's Water Festival, and offered information about COLA at a booth in the Environmental building at the Hubbard County Fair for another year. We also cooperated with the Minnesota Extension office in a Shoreland Volunteer program which provided education to several people who will do outreach to lakeshore owners. We again furnished trees and shrubs to our members at discounted prices through our "Restore the Shore" program. Another great opportunity for our COLA members is the *Healthy Lakes & Rivers* project. Hubbard county has four lakes participating in this project in association with Wadena county.

COLA has more members and is stronger than we have ever been. This is a good thing since never in the history of our county has the pressure of development been greater. The negative impact on our lakes is something we must keep under control. People love their lakes, and we believe that once they know the best shoreland practices, they will use them.

Until next time,

Judy Novak, COLA President

COLA WEBSITE!

www.mnlakes.org/Hubbard COLA



COLA has a new website! This is one more method of outreach to our members. We hope this site will help us keep our membership up-to-date on good shoreland practices.

There are several helpful categories. We have a *Lake Community page* that will enable your lake association to keep you better informed on the activities they have planned. They can post their annual meetings, picnics, coffees, etc. The *Helpful Link* page in the *Resource category* is a "one stop" page of links that will assist you in getting information you can use as lakeshore owners. We have a *News You Can Use* category that lists topics of immediate concern, and articles from newspapers on what is happening on our area lakes. We also offer a *Phenology Column* for those of you who don't live here year around. There is a Photo Album that provides pictures of the area, wildlife, etc.

COLA's Website is a new ever-changing project that we hope will be helpful to our members. Be sure to check all the categories. We promise to keep you current on the events in our lake community.

Is Your Lake Association All That It Can and Should Be?

There are some lake associations that are more successful than others. The majority of their lake's property owners are members, and their meetings and other activities are well attended. They have newsletters and plenty of volunteers manning their committees.

What is their secret?

I asked members of a few of the more robust of our lake associations their thoughts on what made their association flourish. They all agreed that the main backbone of an association should be stewardship. A shared vision on what the association should be, and the willingness of their members to participate. A lake association should monitor the integrity of the lake and development of its shoreline.

Sure they all enjoy the picnics, and other activities. Our lakes are definitely small communities, and giving people a chance to meet the other members of the "community" is a very important element. As Aldo Leopold, author of the "Sand County Almanac", observed, "*We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to (over)*"

They all concur that we must change our shoreland habits, or we will ruin the very resources we come up here to enjoy. The way to change these habits is through education, better ordinances, and strict enforcement of those ordinances.

To be influential when working on water protection issues with government agencies lake associations should become as well-informed as possible. Lake associations can be even more effective if they are a member of a coalition of other lake associations such as their county COLA, and also the Minnesota Lake Association. We all know that there is power in numbers! As MLA pointed out in one of their publications: *Only when lake associations maintain a consistent, sustained presence, with a good understanding of the whole picture, will their message impact public policy.*

"COLA will have a committee this summer consisting of members of successful lake associations. They will be glad to speak to your lake association board members or your lake association. We want to help you be a "good lake association".



How Often Do We Need to Monitor Our Lake's Water Quality?

Due to the state's budget cuts to the Soil and Water Conservation District, their contribution to Hubbard County COLA's water testing program was cut. We have been holding down the cost of water testing to \$100 for several years. Last year COLA contributed funds to keep the cost down to \$130 per lake. In 2004 the cost could go up to \$170 per lake. (However, COLA may again make up most of the difference.) Because of the increase in costs some of the lakes have questioned whether they need to do water testing every year. The following are the responses of two different agencies. (26 out of 27 lakes are still testing yearly)

From Tim James, Minnesota Pollution Agency

This is becoming a topic that many lake associations are discussing at the moment. There is no hard and fast rule for the quantity of data needed, nor the frequency at which the data should be collected, however there are some general guidelines that your association should consider.

1). *A baseline of information is required in order to track trends in water quality over time. The validity of that base line is improved with each additional piece of data that is collected and added to it. So, in order to maintain a good*

water quality over time.

2). *Choosing a frequency of every other year will establish those long term averages. There may be events in the watershed, however, that have consequences to the lake's water quality that could be missed on the off years. Those events may only have short term impact on the lake. If however, those same events do have some long-term impact on the lake, it would have been useful to have captured data during the time period of the event. Also, by not monitoring every year, you may lose some information concerning seasonal variability and year to year variability. It is important to note that lakes exhibit differing conditions based on differences in yearly weather events.*

3). *The COLA monitoring program provides volunteers and water quality committees with an annual, hands-on educational experience. By changing the frequency of the monitoring, that educational experience will be diminished.*

One final thought about the budget. At \$ 180.00 per lake, I still feel that water quality monitoring is a bargain.

From Darrin Moe, Soil & Water Conservation District

The monitoring that we are conducting is long term water quality issues. It is the same as asking a child how he or she feels. Since the last time I was on a lake, they did not have that option to tell me how they were doing. So we have to resort to chemical work ups to see what's going on. If we feel bad we don't wait seven years to go to the doctor do we?

As for the satellite imagery, it is used primarily for making a best guess as to the clarity based off colors of lakes we have known clarities of (such as the data your Lake Association has collected over the past few years). It really does not tell you anything except that it is in the same ballpark as others. You still have to keep in mind that a ballpark still is large enough not to notice something dramatic occurring in it. It works ok for lakes that we do not have any other data on but is very narrow in scope compared to the data you are collecting at the present.

Going back to the asking how your lake is doing? I look at it this way. If I have the option to go to a doctor that is only going to look in my ears and throat and ignore the rest of my body, or going to one that does a complete work up even if I feel fine. Guess which one I am going to pick! This lake testing is the only way we can get a picture of how the lake is doing. In it's old age and the pressure it is facing with development, can we really afford a checkup every seven years? I wouldn't risk it.

(cont.)

Healthy Lakes & Rivers Initiative

by Rosa Stolzenberg

In recent years several Lower Crow Wing Lake Association (LCWLA) members have commented on problems in some of our 4 lakes and the lack of obvious causes or solutions. A presentation to COLA by Don Hickman of The Initiative Foundation described the Healthy Lakes and Rivers Initiative, which might provide funding and guidance toward solutions. Our LCWLA is paired with the newly-expanded Middle Crow Wing Lakes Association (CW lakes 5, 6, & 7 as the Crow Wing Headwaters Group (CWHG); other Hubbard and Wadena County groups also participate. This fall Don gave two training sessions on communication skills, conflict management, cooperation, assets/resource identification and project implementation.

Volunteers in the CWHG are Jeff Blair, Jim Fox, Marvel Haynes, Amy Hietala, Bince Poppler, Doug Ralston, Judy Sheldon, Rosa & Gary Stolzenberg (all from LCWLA) plus Jerry Cole and Don Edstrom (for the Middle CWLA). This team has training and experience in accounting, construction, electronics engineering, management, real estate and science. The CWHG has identified several topics for consideration, study, and remediation (possibly grant-funded): 1) impaired water quality in 1st, 3rd, & 7th Lakes; 2) aquatic vegetation affecting water levels in 1st, 2nd & 3rd Lakes; 3) impact of Belle Taine's WOI on water tables, Hellkamp Creek & 5th Lake; 4) effect of nearby land management/use patterns on CWHG-area waters; 5) Limited natural fish-spawning areas in the Crow Wing River.

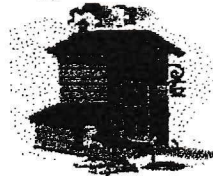
To date LCWLA & MCWLA each have received \$400 grants to recognize and support these

CWHG efforts. For LCWLA that partially funded additional water studies (as did a much-appreciated gift from Joan & Lou Schwindt at Crow Crest Resort) and will fund some community-wide/stakeholder contacts to get all inputs about concerns/projects that we should consider. The group's participants are now researching those 5 topics mentioned; we will meet next spring to expand/limit the emphasis.

On May 8, 2004 (2-4 p.m.) this CWHG will hold a community-wide "Visioning" session to discuss these topics and to learn from stakeholders of any other concerns. A mass-mailing will announce that session; the CWHG is seeking owner/site lists to make that possible.

Eventually "Lake Management Plans" will be developed for site-specific topics, some grant requests will follow, and - hopefully - funding will arrive.

"Fishing Secrets"



It was a cold winter day. An old man walked out onto a frozen lake, cut a hole in the ice, dropped in his fishing line, and waited patiently for a bite.

He was there for almost an hour, without even a nibble, when a young boy walked out onto the ice, cut a hole in the ice next to him. The young boy dropped his fishing line and minutes later he hooked a big walleye. The old man couldn't believe his eyes but chalked it up to plain luck.

Shortly thereafter, the young boy pulled in another large catch. The young boy kept catching fish after fish. Finally, the old man couldn't take it any longer!

"Son" he said, "I've been here for over an hour without even a nibble. You've been here only a few minutes and have caught a half dozen fish! How do you do it?"

The boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rram."

"What was that?" the old man asked.

Again the boy responded, "Roo raf roo reep ra rums rram."

"Look," said the old man, "I can't understand a word you're saying."

The boy spat the bait into his hand and said...
"You have to keep the worms warm!"



COLA Officers

Judy Novak - President

8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes

Ken Grob - Vice-President

Potato Lake

John Weber - Treasurer

Spider Lake

Mimi Long - Secretary

Big Sand Lake

Jerry Lamp- Past President

Belle Taine Lake

PLEASE PICK UP

**Roadside Litter Is Definitely Unsightly,
but Did You Know It Also Kills!**

- Deer & other animals often cut their tongues on half-opened cans.
- Animals are sometimes injured, often fatally, when they eat cigarette butts, plastic wrappers, or Styrofoam.
- Smaller animals like squirrels sometimes stick their heads in small plastic containers, trying to go get the food that's left. They get stuck and die of starvation.
- Even an apple core thrown out of a moving car can be dangerous. An animals smelling food can be drawn to the highways and get hit by oncoming traffic.
- How long does litter hang around? It takes a little over a month for a piece of paper to become part of the Earth again. It takes a woolen sock a year to do the same thing. A beer can won't disappear for over 200 years!

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