



# The COLA Update



Publication of Hubbard County Coalition Of Lake Associations

HC 06 • Box 66 • Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470

Vol. 1, Issue 2 – Summer 1990

## Message from Pat Alberg, President of COLA

Our first issue of the *COLA Update* was very well received and we thank everyone who has submitted articles and volunteered to make it a success. We encourage others to submit articles – the local lake news section is very important because it will help other associations learn about the various projects individual lake associations become involved in.

COLA will be sponsoring three public meetings this summer – June, July, and August. This *Update* will come out after our June meeting, but please plan to come to our July and August meetings. July will feature the shoreland regulations changes. (It is important to become informed before the first public hearing scheduled for August 8.) Each attendant will receive the new DNR regulations and a summary will be given on some of the changes. A question and answer period will also be provided.

August 18 will be our first lake conference in Hubbard County. The agenda is still being planned, but it will be held at Chateau Paulette. More information will follow and we hope all lake users and residents will mark the date on their calendars and plan to make our first area conference a tremendous success. The conference will be open to all of Northern Central and Northern Minnesota. It will be an excellent opportunity to meet individuals from other lake communities in other counties.

The conference at Brainerd on May 24-25, 1990, was a valuable experience for those who attended. A fine thread of the message throughout the conference was long-range planning. Lake Associations must look at the past and present physical characteristics of their lakes, building and growth patterns, and then make long range plans for the protection of their water body. Also at the conference, Commissioner Joseph Alexander of the DNR presented a plaque to the Hubbard County Coalition in appreciation for our educational efforts in Hubbard County—an honor you should be very proud of!

The State Conference is scheduled for this fall, October 7-9, at Brainerd (detailed information elsewhere in this issue). This conference is important to further individual education pertaining to our lake communities. It is not just for Association Board members, but for everyone. It is COLA's hope that each association will consider paying for one or more representative(s) to attend this conference.

Articles for the next newsletter should be in by September 15. Once again, I encourage individual lake associations to share some of their projects with us.

As you hold your annual meetings, don't forget to update COLA on any officer changes or your representative change on the COLA Board. Your 1990-1991 dues should also be sent in at this time. ★

— INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR AREA LAKES —  
JOIN COLA!

## COMING EVENTS:

**Thursday, JULY 26, 1990**

**PUBLIC MEETING** sponsored by COLA on the New Shoreland Ordinances.

Guest Speaker will be Tim Flathers of HRDC (Headwaters Regional Development Commission).

Hubbard County Courthouse, downstairs meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, AUGUST 8, 1990**

**PUBLIC HEARING** on Shoreland Ordinances with the Planning Commission of Hubbard County.

Hubbard County Courthouse, downstairs meeting room at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, AUGUST 18, 1990**

Lake Conference at Chateau Paulette  
(More information to follow.)

## WATER EURASIAN MILFOIL ACCESS SIGNS

Thanks to the Leech Lake Association, COLA has 25 DNR signs to distribute to those who have private accesses to lakes. The signs illustrate all the areas boaters should check to clean off weeds from their boats, cars, and trailers. It is a good reminder for boaters of their responsibility in preventing the spread of harmful weeds from lake to lake.

To obtain a sign, call Pat Alberg at 732-3034 or stop by Northern Star Resort on Little Sand Lake to pick one up. ★

## Central MN Lake Management Conference

by Lois A. Lawler

This is a brief rundown of the conference held at Gull Lake on May 24-25. Pat Alberg (President of COLA) and I attended and it was really worthwhile. If you can attend future conferences, fit them into your schedule—you won't be disappointed.

Among the topics discussed was Water Quality in North Central Minnesota, reported from the Bemidji area of their area lakes, including Lake Bemidji. This study was conducted in 1987-88 with lakes of a variety of different sizes, depths, etc. Secchi discs were used and they also sampled water temperature, light, nitrogen, etc. No chlorophyll tests were included. Also discussed were: Legal issues, Update on Shoreland Rules, Management and Manipulation of Fish, Impact of Land Use on Lakes, Wetland Connection, and Impact on Lakes from Septic Systems.

It is interesting to note that from 1850 to 1980, 80% of Minnesota's wetlands have been lost to construction, fill-in, etc. Wetlands are very important and it is beneficial to all of us to keep as many of them as possible. We were reminded to check our local rules and laws as well as DNR laws before building, as some laws are new in these considerations. Sediment, infiltration, erosion, roll-off, toxic chemicals, and fecal bacteria are just a few of the problems feeding into lakes and streams. **Environment should be a concern of our every day living.** Contact the MPCA for disposal of chemicals, get your septic tanks pumped out every 2-3 years, leave buffer areas along lakeshore, and contact the Health Department for sealing of non-used wells. These are just a few of the reminders given at the conference. More information, pamphlets, and papers can be obtained from either Pat or me.

Last, but not least, and also of big interest is that our COLA was one of the participant awards presented at the noon luncheon for the work done by our COLA group – of which we are all a part. Pat was also presented an award for her individual works. Congratulations are in order to Pat, as well as to COLA board and members! ★

## Big Sand Lake Walleye Research Study

Minnesota's DNR Fisheries Research Unit is conducting a study of the walleye population in Big Sand Lake. One of the study's primary goals is to evaluate the success of the special walleye regulation recently implemented for the lake. The regulation, which allows only one walleye over 28 inches in a daily limit, is intended to protect and maintain the quality walleye fishery that presently exists in the lake.

Over 1,000 walleyes have been tagged in Big Sand, Emma, Little Sand, Belle Taine, and the Bottle Lakes with small, yellow plastic tags inserted between the dorsal fins. Anglers catching a tagged walleye are asked to send the tag and information concerning the date and place of capture to the address printed on the tag. For walleyes intended to be released, the angler should write down the tag number and send the information on date and place of capture. A report will be returned indicating where

*Big Sand Lake – (cont. on P. 3, col. 3)*

## Permits Required for Aquatic Vegetation Control

by Dennis Ernst, DNR Fisheries

This is the time of year when many lakeshore property owners become concerned, perhaps alarmed, with the vegetation that has grown up over the summer near their shoreline. Many factors have contributed to what is sometimes referred to as an aquatic nuisance control problem.

Before landowners go looking for simple solutions, they should consider the overall role of aquatic vegetation in the environment. "You shouldn't think of the lake bottom as simply an extension of your back yard," says Bob Strand, Regional Fisheries Supervisor for the Department of Natural Resources in northwest Minnesota. "It's a separate environment with a separate set of environmental concerns that go beyond the boundaries of the individual landowner."

Adequate amounts of aquatic vegetation are necessary to maintain water quality and support fish and wildlife populations. Individuals acting on their own, especially on highly developed lakes, could remove too much of the total vegetation, or over treat the lake with chemicals, causing serious problems for humans as well as fish and wildlife.

Any use of chemicals in public waters requires a permit from the DNR Regional Fisheries office, as does removal or control of emergent vegetation. Emergent vegetation is that which grows above the water's surface, such as cattails, bulrush, or wild rice.

Property owners can cut or pull only submerged vegetation without a permit, and only to a maximum area of 2,500 square feet. The control site cannot extend more than 50 feet along the owner's shoreline or one-half the length of the frontage, whichever is less. A 15-foot wide boat channel may be added to the lakeward edge of the control area for access to open water but it may not increase the 50-foot width limitation on shoreline frontage. Property owners may not do weed cutting or pulling on separate 2,500 square foot areas in subsequent years. Any additional area requires a permit.

Work can be done using hand or power-operated cutters, rakes and similar tools. It cannot be done with draglines, bulldozers, moving equipment. After cutting and pulling, all vegetation must be removed from the water.

All control sites under permit request are inspected by DNR Fisheries personnel before permits are issued or denied. "We encourage mechanical means of control over chemical means," said Strand, "because we're concerned about the long-term effects of chemical treatment on fish populations and water quality."

For more information, shoreland owners should write or call the local DNR Fisheries office. ★



## Local Lake Association News

### Little Sand Lake

by Renee Bexell, Reporter

Little Sand Lake Association held its annual summer picnic meeting at Dorset Park on Saturday, June 29, with a featured speaker, election of officers, and picnic lunch. Bruce Wilson, Limnologist and Research Scientist for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in St. Paul, gave us valuable information concerning the results of the Lake Assessment Program (LAP) study completed last summer on Little Sand Lake. Mr. Wilson, who is also head coordinator for the LAP, told lake property owners in attendance that we have an excellent lake – and gave us good advice on how to keep it that way.

Having a good lake is not something to take for granted. It is something that we need to be aware of at all times and do everything we can to keep it that way. Condition of our lake's water quality can be checked by regular Secchi disk readings, individual awareness of rules and ordinances regarding septic systems, fertilizers, buffer areas, etc. Our lake is a valuable asset that we need to protect and appreciate as such.

After Mr. Wilson's program, and election of officers for the year beginning July 1, 1990, everyone enjoyed lunch and visited with other Little Sand property owners.

### Lake Gilmore

Lake Gilmore is part of the Little Sand Lake Area Association. Due to its size (under 1,000 acres), Gilmore residents voted to become part of the Little Sand Association with a representative on the Little Sand Board as well as on the COLA Board.

Because of its size and the lack of a public access, Gilmore would never be chosen for public funds for studies on the

lake. Taking this into consideration, as well as the fact that Gilmore flows into Little Sand, the Association Board voted to pay for the testing through the Tri County Lake Enhancement Project. Testing will be done from June to October. Included in the tests will be: Secchi disk, temperature profile, pH, dissolved O<sub>2</sub>, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll A. Volunteer Secchi disk monitoring will be done on a continuing basis for MPCA by Jackie Saunders. ★

### Potato Lake

by Mary Vry, Secretary

Hubbard County on February 5, 1990, for the second time, granted a Conditional Use Permit to North Beach Camping Preserves. A few disturbing footnotes are:

Lakeshore footage accepted by Hubbard County in granting the Feb. 5, 1990 Conditional Use Permit included two properties which had already been sold at public auction in mortgage foreclosure on January 10, 1990, subject to redemption before July 10, 1990: Condominium Unit 13 with \$44,954.51 due on the mortgage (which had two timeshare "owners"); and the Shipwreck property with \$297,663.80 owing on the mortgage.

Part of the February 5, 1990 Conditional Use permitted 33 more cabins on the property where the 5 cabins permitted in 1987 remained unfinished. This property with \$359,489.54 owing on the mortgage is also to be sold at public auction by the sheriff of Hubbard County on June 27, 1990, subject to 6-month redemption.

Believing Hubbard County again did not follow its own ordinances or District Judge Kalar's 1988 ruling which rescinded the first Conditional Use Permit for North Beach Camping Preserves because it was contrary to the general welfare as established by the Shoreland Ordinance, Potato Lake Association has again filed in District Court to have

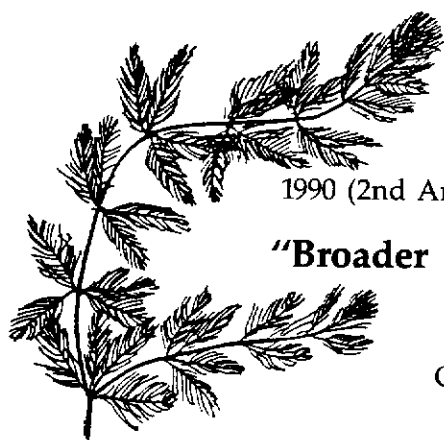
this Conditional Use Permit rescinded.

Hubbard County taxpayers should not have to undertake the financial burden of applying to District Court to require the County to enforce its own ordinances; we do so with the hope that in the future such action will not be necessary and responsible County officials will follow the Ordinances and permit only wise development which will preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters and related land resources of Hubbard County. We welcome any financial help in support of our efforts. ★

### Big Sand (cont. from P. 2)

and when the walleye was tagged and how big the fish was when tagged. The information from the tag returns will allow for documentation of walleye movements in the chain, estimation of the rate at which the walleyes are caught, and estimation of the number of walleyes in the lake. This portion of the study depends on the cooperation of anglers returning tags from fish they have caught. Another portion of the study is a creel survey designed to estimate fishing pressure and harvest on Big Sand Lake. The creel survey will consist of a DNR creel clerk counting fishing boats and interviewing fishermen at various times throughout the summer.

The evaluation of the special regulation is not only important for managing the walleye fishery on Big Sand Lake. The study will provide the DNR information on how well this type of regulation works and whether it may or may not work on other walleye lakes. The use of special regulations for walleyes is a relatively new fisheries management method and future regulations will be shaped with information obtained in studies such as this on Big Sand Lake. For further information, contact Peter Jacobson, Fisheries Research Biologist, P.O. Box 823, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 (Phone 218-847-1579), or Dennis Ernst, Area Fisheries Supervisor, 301 South Grove Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470 (Phone 218-732-4153). ★



1990 (2nd Annual) Minnesota Lake Management Conference

## **"Broader Perspectives On Lake Management"**

October 7-9, 1990

Craguns Resort, Brainerd, Minnesota

Sponsored by: Minnesota Lake Management Federation

Cosponsors: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, University of Minnesota Water Resources Research Center, Freshwater Foundation, North American Lake Management Society, and the US EPA.

Hosted By: Brainerd Area Coalition of Lake Associations

The Minnesota Lake Management Federation (MLMF) was formed in 1989 to unite lake associations and provide education on lake management concerns. Topics for the 1990 conference reflect the suggestions and concerns of participants at the 1989 Lake Management Conference, and will include: general sessions for citizens; technical sessions for professionals; workshops to share practical lake management experiences; and an opportunity to take an active role in setting MLMF priorities for the coming year.

Keynote speakers will address the role of wetlands in watershed management, and the role of the university system and state legislature in lake management.

**Who Should Attend:** Lake associations, local units of government, lakeshore property owners, lake managers, watershed managers, state officials, consultants, water quality professionals, and any citizen concerned about the quality of Minnesota lakes.

### **Citizen Sessions On:**

Aquatic Plant Management  
Fisheries  
Aquatic Ecology  
Impacts of Pollution on Groundwater Quality  
Lake Association Organization: Case Studies  
Lake Protection and Watershed Projects: Case Studies

### **Technical Sessions On:**

Impact of Toxics on Wildlife  
Water Quality Assessment Methods  
Lake Management Research  
Watershed Management Practices

### **Practical Workshops On:**

Shoreland Regulations	Aquatic Plant Management
Boat and Water Safety	Lake Modeling
Local Water Quality Planning for Tribal Lake Managers	
Lake Association Operations: The How To's	

### **Mark Your Calendars Now!**

**For More Information:** Registration forms will be mailed later this summer. For current information, contact: Steve Heiskary, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, (612) 296-7217.



## A Word About Lawn Care

by Tim James, Bemidji State University  
Aquatic Biology Dept.

Summer has finally arrived and with it comes the activities that we value in our lake resources. Swimming, boating, fishing, and waterskiing immediately come to mind, but summer is also the time for gardening and lawn care – and these activities can have profound impacts on the lakes if not performed wisely.

Fertilizers are widely used in gardening, especially on lawns, and care should be taken to insure that they don't wind up in our lakes. The primary nutrient that affects the growth of algae and aquatic plants is phosphorous. This element is naturally available in our environment in rainfall, runoff, surface waters, the soil, plant material, and in many other forms. All green plants use phosphorous along with other nutrients as fertilizer.

Phosphorous-based fertilizer used on gardens and lawns can find its way into lakes through runoff and leaching, causing excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants. Blue/green algae blooms are what cause our lakes to turn green in late summer and excessive growths of aquatic plants can cause problems with boating, swimming, fishing, and aesthetics.

Many lawns don't need any fertilizer at all. In fact, some Minnesota studies have shown that in established lawns, less than 10% require any phosphorous at all. Fertilizers are sold with a three-number labeling system such as 20-20-20. The numbers refer to the amounts of nitrogen - phosphorous - potash, with the phosphorous always being indicated by the middle number. Both low phosphorous and phosphorous-free fertilizers are available, although they may not currently be stocked in area stores.

Please ask your discount stores, feed stores, and other retailers to stock this type of fertilizer for you – and tell them why! Help make everyone aware that how we care for our yards can have a positive or negative impact on the water quality and beauty of our lakes. If you do choose to fertilize, here are some other points to con-

sider: First, follow the label directions. Never over-fertilize or over-water. This will only lead to the nutrients running off directly into the lake. Second, never fertilize in areas where runoff easily occurs. These areas would include driveways, sidewalks, and other impervious surfaces, as well as ditches, wetlands, and the immediate shoreline of the lake. Third, never apply fertilizer early or late in the season when the ground is frozen. The key is to keep the phosphorous from reaching the lake. Some lakeshore residents draw water out of the lake to sprinkle on their lawns, which usually provides for a healthy lawn as there should be plenty of natural phosphorous in the lake water to do the job.

Also, grass clippings and leaves are enormous sources of phosphorous and, therefore, should be handled with care. Avoid getting them into the lake while mowing, and never dump them into ditches and/or wetlands. If you compost your yard waste, do it well back from the edge of the water.

Help educate your friends and neighbors about the possible harmful affects of lawn care practices and the role of fertilizer on the quality of our lakes, and be good stewards of the environment. We in northern Minnesota are fortunate to have clean lakes, relatively unaffected by our development around them, so let's all act and think wisely and help protect the valuable resource we have!

## Lake Stewardship

by Beth Kluthe  
Hubbard County Environmental Services

"A land ethic reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity." (From Aldo Leopold's, *A Sand County Almanac*.)

These words were written over 40 years ago by a man who was truly ahead of his time in the conservation field. As our local

lakeshore community evolves and grows our community members need to develop an awareness and understanding that what we do on the land and in the water affects the lake environment. As individuals, and collectively, we must assume responsibility for their care.

**What can a single individual do to help promote the health of the lakeshore community?**

**1. Plan future buildings so they aren't obtrusive. Acquaint yourself with required setback distances.**

**2. Preserve as much natural vegetation as possible between the house and the lake to filter sediments and nutrients out of surface run-off.**

**3. Take an interest in where your wastewater goes! Only discharge wastewater into conforming septic and disposal systems. Cesspools and drywells only dispose of wastewater; they cannot adequately treat effluent. Effluent that is not treated can contaminate wells, ground water, and the lake.**

**4. If you must have a lawn area and must fertilize, consider using liquid fertilizer or wetting down dry, granular fertilizers after application so they are absorbed into the soil. Those folks watering their lawns using lakewater are already supplying adequate amounts of phosphorus for growth.**

**5. Prevent run-off from entering the lake directly by not disturbing the natural ice ridge or use retaining walls, rock rip-rap, and hedges to pool the water, allowing it to soak into the soil.**

**6. Rake brush, leaves, and debris away from the lake. If you burn leaves and brush, do it as far back as possible from the water's edge. If you do have a beach fire, remove the ashes immediately after the fire is out.**

**7. Use weed harvesting and removal methods sparingly if at all. Those weeds are critters' homes! Don't apply chemical treatments for weed removal without pre-planning the treatment with the Minnesota DNR. In all cases, contact the DNR for a permit and instructions at 732-4153.**

By developing a "land ethic" we can create a lakeshore community that is environmentally progressive and ready to develop responsibly. ♣



Mary Larsen and Everett Miller, COLA representatives, distribute educational information at Park Rapids "Week of The Young Child" event.

## COLA Participates in "Week of The Young Child"

by Pat Alberg, COLA President

COLA participated in the Week of the Young Child at the Park Rapids Area High School on Saturday, April 7, 1990. It was an opportunity for service organizations of Hubbard County to set up booths to educate the public on what the service organizations do.

With the emphasis on the young child (pre-school), COLA distributed 100 magnifying glasses, along with a "Spring Nature Hunt Guide Sheet." We encouraged the parent and child to go together on a walk to discover the wonders of nature.

We also distributed several different types of educational materials, including *The Citizens Guide to Lake Protection*; *Land Use Connection*; and *Hazardous Waste Pamphlet*.

The event was well attended, with approximately 400 people, making it an excellent opportunity for COLA to let the public become familiar with our organization and what we do. ★

## Earth Week

by Pat Alberg, Association President

Earth Day, April 22, 1990, began a week-long celebration in Hubbard County, along with several community and environmental organizations. COLA was involved in the planning for activities during Earth Week.

DNR Forestry, The Woodland Committee, and the Auxiliary of the Mantrap Conservation Club planted trees of which some of the special trees planted were registered with EPA in commemoration of Earth Day 1990.

Informational tables were located at various business locations. There were a variety of topics: acid rain, chemical in drinking water, composting, and recycling – to name a few. COLA was responsible for the table at Dave & Earl's Super Valu. Visitors to the display were encouraged to take information and to make the Earth Day Pledge to take a personal commitment to protect the environment.

Friday, April 27, COLA gave a mini-series lecture at the Park Rapids Area High School on COLA's Role In The Community. The sessions were open to the public and students. Other sessions were given by SCS, SWCD, Environmental Services, DNR, MPCA, Woodland Committee, and Mr. Brummet on a variety of subjects such as alternative energy, land use connection, septic systems, and recycling.

Earth Day 1990 should mark the beginning of a change in our lifestyles to protect our fragile environment. COLA, in the spirit of Earth Day, will provide for 10 secchi disks for lakes not currently in the MPCA program.

Out of Earth Day grew an organization called The Environmental Network (TEN) which will serve as an umbrella group for all environmental groups of the area. COLA has representation in this new group and a detailed article about them will be in our Fall issue of the *COLA Update*. ★

## COLA Copy Machine Fund Drive Update

Last October, COLA launched a fund drive for a copy machine to provide educational articles and a newsletter to COLA members. Our sincere thanks to all who made cash donations and/or supported our tree sale.

To date we have not raised sufficient funds for a duplex copy machine and will greatly appreciate any additional contributions to help us attain our goal. We are \$1,800 short of purchasing the copier that would fulfill our needs.

Some of you have questioned our need for such an expensive copy machine. We estimate COLA will be producing approximately 6,000 copies monthly, and a less expensive copier will not withstand this heavy usage. ★



## The COLA Update

A publication of Hubbard County  
Coalition Of Lake Associations

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