



# The COLA Update



Publication of Hubbard County Coalition Of Lake Associations

HC 06 • Box 66 • Park Rapids, Minnesota 56470

Vol. 2, Issue 1 — Winter 1990-91

## Message from Everett Miller President of COLA

Congratulations to Pat Alberg upon her winning the election to County Commissioner from District #1! We wish her well in this endeavor and are going to miss her greatly at COLA, where she worked many, many hours setting up the organization and helping so many lake residents form associations.

Hubbard County was well-represented January 19 at a Eurasian Water Milfoil Conference at Gray's Freshwater Society. Included were State Representative Tony Kinkel, County Commissioner Pat Alberg, Planning/Zoning Office Representative Beth Kluthe, Water Task Force Representative Bobbie Thomas, Emil Thomas and yours truly. Many ideas were brought out as to what to do until a permanent solution is worked out.

We need some volunteers to help copy the COLA Update. Please contact your local representative or myself if you can help. ★

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Saturday, JUNE 8, 1991**  
**LAKE CONFERENCE IN**  
**HUBBARD COUNTY.**

*Details in next newsletter — but  
mark your calendars and plan on  
attending.*

**OCTOBER 27-29, 1991**

*MLMF (Minnesota Lake Manage-  
ment Federation) Conference will  
be at the Radisson Arrowood in  
Alexandria, MN. Mark your  
calendars!*

## "AMNESTY DAYS" AT NORTH & SOUTH

The County Commission voted on January 23 to have a "White Goods" amnesty day at the North & South Transfer Station. It will be a two-day event this year, **Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28, 1991.**

Items that can be brought in free of charge are those that normally have a fee: refrigerators, stoves, furniture, tires, etc. The only thing not accepted will be hazardous waste. ★

## Draft Ordinance Ready

The Hubbard County Planning Commission has been working on a revision draft of the Shoreland Ordinance over the past several months.

A completed DRAFT copy will be ready for distribution February 22, 1991. The Planning Commission is very interested in receiving public comment regarding the draft. We strongly encourage citizens to get involved in the process.

Copies will be available at the Environmental Services Office in the Hubbard County Courthouse. Additionally, the Environmental Services Office will be happy to mail copies to any interested parties. Please contact the Hubbard County Environmental Services Office, Courthouse, Park Rapids, MN 56470, or call (218) 732-3890 for more information.

COLA will be hosting a public information meeting on February 28, 1991, at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse basement meeting room for the purposes of presenting the Draft Shoreland Ordinance. Tim Flathers of the HRDC and Beth Kluthe of the Environmental Services Office will be on hand to highlight substantial changes and answer questions. ★



## Local Lake Association News

### 5th/6th Crow Wing Lake Association

by Ted Spencer, President

This lake association was founded in 1988 and grew from about 45 members to the current 70. Initially, it was called the "5th Crow Wing . . ." but formally absorbed the 6th Crow Wing Lake into its activities and title in 1990.

A basic concern for fire safety was expressed from the membership and therefore the association was successfully instrumental in obtaining fire number signs. Further activities have been to have a "bluebird trail," be involved in the "Adopt a Highway" program on Hwy 34 near the lakes, put out loon nesting platforms, and start an environmental and historical library.

Instead of being dormant during the winter months, the Association continues active year around. A monthly newsletter has gone out since 1989, which the members away from the lake seem to enjoy as much as those who are here. As one member put it in sending his holiday seasons greetings, "It sounds as if you are all staying out of trouble. That's the best thing about LAKESHORE NEWS—we can keep track of you all. We both enjoy reading it—see you in May!"

We usually have an activity each month for members to attend if they are at the lake. In the past year we have had luncheons, breakfasts, and a dinner, besides a potluck and horseshoe tourney and a boat regatta on the 4th of July. Over the holidays, we held a not-too-serious fishing contest with prizes, drawings, and a relaxing social occasion for those members who are "home for the holidays."

Perhaps, in the formative years of a lake association, it is important for future growth and environmental activity for members to get to know one another and interact. The 5th/6th Crow Wing Lake Association is known for its busy schedule and friendly atmosphere. ★

### Spider Lake Association

by Gerald & Virginia Wilts

We were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Second Annual Minnesota Lake Management Conference, October 7-9, 1990, at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. The theme this year was "Broader Perspectives on Lake Management."

This was a "first" for us, and hopefully will not be a "last." We were amazed at the amount of information available to us via the programs, both general and technical and the "hands on" workshops.

I would highly recommend this annual conference to anyone who owns lakeshore property—whether it be a year-round home or a seasonal dwelling.

We are grateful for this opportunity for further education on Lakeshore Management and extend an invitation to all of you out there to attend these annual conferences. ★

### Environmental Services/ Planning & Zoning Adds New Staff Member

The Hubbard County Environmental Services Office/Planning & Zoning is pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member.

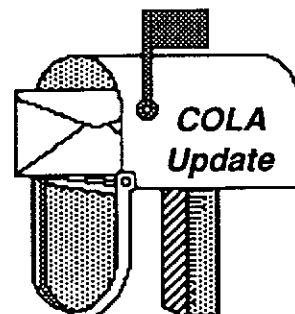
Ms. Mari Teff is scheduled to begin work duties in mid-February. Mari's primary responsibilities will include assisting in the administration and enforcement of the Shoreland Management Ordinance and assisting in the coordination of the implementation of the Local Water Plan.

Mari is a recent graduate of St. Cloud State University with a Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Environmental Studies. She has worked as an intern for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and as a waste treatment plant operator. We believe she brings valuable assets to the County and are excited about her future.

Should you have any questions about the Shoreland Management Program or Water Plan implementation, please feel free to contact the Environmental Services Department at any time, 218-732-3890; Hubbard County Courthouse, Park Rapids, MN 56470. ★

### Lake Associations:

We'd like to hear from you for our next newsletter. ★ HC 06 - Box 66  
Park Rapids, MN 56470



# WE “R” THE END!



by Vern Massie, Environmental Services, Solid Waste Coordinator

How serious are you about Reduce, ReUse, and Recycle of your waste stream? When you look in the mirror, you're looking at the problem. Yes, each and every one of us are the problem and we are the END.

Although today there is a lot of emphasis on recycling, I would like you to look at the first “R” and although all three Rs are important, I feel Reduce is the leader. Why? you ask. Simply this. If you don't produce it, then you don't have to reuse it, recycle it, or dispose of it.

So how can I reduce my waste today? There are many alternatives and suggestions. First, be an educated consumer. If you look at the contents of your garbage bag, you'll find that about half of your purchasing dollars are in the trash. We have become a throw-away society. But fortunately, as you may have noticed in recent advertisements, many manufacturers are beginning to take notice of consumers' desires for less wasteful products and a healthier environment. Even though it will be awhile before the tide of throwaway products is stopped, we can become a loud voice and an education consumer.

The second step is in purchasing products. We should look more at durability in the product. It may cost more initially, but it may last longer than the warranty! Consider repairable products as well. These, too, may be more expensive initially, but with the ability to be repaired, they will last much longer. Avoid at all times throw-away products such as cameras, chemically-treated cleaning cloths, and other items designed for one purpose and one use. Look for packaging and products that can be reused and easily recycled.

Well, that all sounds wonderful, but what can I do at home, in the office, in the yard to reduce my waste, you ask. Well, here are a few things to keep in mind, to educate yourself and your family.

When upgrading equipment or tools or cleaning out the basement, attic, or garage, why not donate those items you're about to throw away to a needy organization? Have a yard sale and price the items to sell. You were going to throw them away anyway, right? (Or you will after the sale.)

Ask yourself—why do I buy disposable razors? Why not invest in a quality razor and change the blade or use an electric razor? The cost of the throw-away razor is far more than the initial purchase. They are petroleum-based, a resource that is non-renewable and getting very scarce. Further, plastic items cause emission problems when incinerated.

Avoid items that are double or triple-wrapped. Avoid items such as a bottle inside a box. Avoid expensive pump dispensers if you can purchase the product in another form, such as soap. Use bar soap rather than the new pump.

Items receiving a lot of attack are disposable diapers. Today's working mothers and fathers find them a necessary item, but many areas of the nation are establishing diaper services and many people are finding them as convenient as disposable diapers—and these services deliver! These services are generally less expensive than the throw-away diapers.

Avoid aerosol cans. You pay more for the cans than the contents and some aerosol propellants are dangerous to the environment. Avoid plastic containers. Buy large containers, economy size to reduce packaging. Some of the new larger containers are reuseable by buying a small bottle of concentrated product and simply adding water. Fabric softener is a new one. And how about frozen juices, concentrated drinks; simply mix them up at home in a reuseable container. Use inexpensive everyday cloth napkins, wash cloths and cloth kitchen towels, all reusable, rather than paper napkins and towels. Store leftovers in sealable storage containers instead of plastic wrap or aluminum foil. Buy dry goods in bulk and if not available, purchase the largest size available that you can use, such as cereal, flour, sugar, spices, and pasta. Purchase and use a durable tote bag for grocery shopping, as well as other shopping. Boil cloves and cinnamon in a pan on your stove rather than using chemical air fresheners. Keep your oven clean by wiping up spills right away with baking soda and water. Use vinegar and warm water and a lint-free towel, rather than an ammonia-based cleaner, to clean windows.

Mulch your lawn mowings and rakings. Why bag them and throw them away? Grass clippings work themselves into the soil as a natural fertilizer and they protect your lawn by reducing evaporation and keeping the soil cooler. The mulch is a good organic fertilizer for gardens and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Reuse old lumber, doors, windows for other projects or find a friend or neighbor who can utilize them. Buy nails and screws in bulk rather than in the handy dandy plastic cardboard container. Store them in the glass jars, peanut cans, tea and coffee cans.

We must break the throw away habit. If you buy a product, look at the container, the packaging and ask yourself, “Is this really necessary?” If the answer is “No, the company could easily do this or that,” then take five minutes and write the company, and even the store where you are shopping, and express your displeasure. Companies and outlets are starting to listen.

“Think twice before you toss,” has been a popular slogan, but I put it to you—“Think twice before you purchase!” Stop the problem in the beginning, because after all, we “R” the end!

If you have questions on Reduce, ReUse, Recycle, or anything on solid waste, please feel free to contact this office and we'll do our best to assist you. We are interested in your ideas, as we learn from them and are able to utilize and expand on many ideas we have received from citizens' input. Thank you for this opportunity. ♣

**NEWS RELEASE:****Tri-County Lake Enhancement Project  
Completes First Year**

The Tri-County Lake Enhancement Project has successfully completed the first year of monitoring activity. The project was originally set up to monitor five lakes in each of the three counties (Beltrami, Clearwater and Hubbard). The lakes were monitored on a monthly basis from May to October for the following parameters: pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen, Secchi Disk depth, total phosphorus and chlorophyll A.

One of the goals of this project was to classify the selected lakes into their correct trophic level. Lakes fall into three broad categories. *Oligotrophic lakes* are those that are relatively unproductive, have few plants, clear water, and generally have plenty of dissolved oxygen in the deep waters even during summer months. *Eutrophic lakes* are highly productive, have much higher plant and algae densities and frequently run out of dissolved oxygen in the deeper waters. *Mesotrophic Lakes*, which describes most of the lakes in this area, are those lakes which fall between these two extremes.

**Hubbard County had seven lakes in this project and are shown below with their average Trophic Status Index:**

<i>Big Sand Lake</i> .....TSI – 40	<i>Lake George</i> -----TSI – 49
<i>Fish Hook Lake</i> .....TSI – 41	<i>Moran Lake</i> -----TSI – 46
<i>Gilmore</i> .....TSI – 33	<i>Pickerel Lake</i> -----TSI – 42
<i>Kabekona Lake</i> .....TSI – 38	

Lakes with Trophic Status Indexes over 60 would need to be looked at closely from a management standpoint for possible steps to correct the problem.

As part of the 1991 Annual Work Plan of the Local Water Plan, the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) plans to examine seven different lakes this summer. ★

**MINNESOTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**  
**Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
 Route 4, Box AA  
 Park Rapids, MN 56470  
 (218) 732-9723

**Notice****-Volunteer Needed-**

Mary Larsen, who has been COLA's secretary since the formation of the organization, would like to step down. She has been a great secretary and she will be missed.

The duties of COLA's secretary also include that of treasurer. Board minutes are taken by a board member (not the secretary). Our secretary has been our letter writer, keeper of the records and educational materials, treasurer, and the one who keeps the board informed of meetings coming up. The secretary/treasurer for the organization does not need to be a member of COLA.

If there is anyone out there interested or who knows someone who might like to help COLA, please call Everett Miller at 218-652-4119. ★

**The COLA Update**

*A publication of Hubbard County  
Coalition Of Lake Associations*

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 Vice President ..... Ted Godfrey  
 Sec.-Treas. .... Mary E. Larsen  
 732-5738

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*5th Crow Wing* ..... Howard Petersen • 652-4690  
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*Fish Hook Lake* ..... Joyce Wilson • 732-5114  
*Gilmore Lake* ..... Charlie Kellner • 732-5558  
*Kabekona* .....  
*Little Sand Lake* ..... Pat Alberg • 732-7668  
*Long Lake* ..... Ralph Notch • 732-3643  
*Lower Crow Wing* ..... Ray Nasenius • 732-3723  
*Potato Lake* ..... Ted Godfrey • 732-7187  
*Spider Lake* ..... Everett Miller • 652-4119

Editor/Typesetter ..... Renee Bexell  
 Little Sand Lake