



# THE HC COLA UPDATE

A Publication of Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations  
December 2015      [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)      [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations ("HC COLA") is a coalition of 29 lake associations and their approximate 2,100 members that represent 37 lakes in Hubbard County. **HC COLA's mission** is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. HC COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lake shore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

Our **December 2015 Newsletter** highlights our Focus Area for 2015 which was "Year of the Water", shares accomplishments & sets the stage for our upcoming 2016 Focus Area as "Year of the Watersheds."

**HC COLA invites all of our members** and other friends to **subscribe by email** for regular HC COLA mailings; see [www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org) to sign up. You are all also invited to participate in and learn from the speaker program scheduled at the beginning of many of our meetings plus are welcome to stay for the "business" portion of the meetings along with your HC COLA Lake Association Representatives.

The **HC COLA "New" meeting schedule for 2016** is below and also available on our website. Regular meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Northwoods Bank Community Room which is handicap accessible. A "Coffee and Conversation" Social precedes the Information/Business meeting at 6:15 p.m.

The 2016 schedule is shown below (last Thursday of the month with exception of Feb):

February 4	May 26	August 25
March 31	June 30	September 29
April 28	July 28	October 27

No meeting in November, December, and January

## Special Recognition in 2015 by HC COLA:

- Charlie Kellner of Charlie's Boats & Marine for supporting the water quality program for years
- Theora Goodrich for leading HC COLA once again as winners in the Chili Challenge
- Ken Grob for his leadership as the Hubbard County AIS Task Force Chair & Senior of the Year
- Steve Hall, Boulder Lake Association, who stepped up to volunteer as HC COLA Treasurer
- Mike Van Guilder for leadership in Osprey Platform Placement on Hwy 34 at end of Long Lake
- Sleeping Fawn Resort / Podunk Poets Concert provided donation of \$2040 for AIS education.

## Welcome to Nancy Gibbs, our new volunteer as HC COLA Secretary:

Nancy Gibbs, Lake Peysenke Association, in November 2015 volunteered to be our HC COLA Secretary. Her background includes office management at Ark Animal Hospital. She also did bookkeeping and organizational tasks at a law office. These skills will be valuable assets for her duties as HC COLA Secretary. We look forward to working with Nancy Gibbs as Secretary!

## Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force:

HC COLA has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Hubbard County AIS Prevention Plan with active participation on the "Program Planning and Implementation" sub-committee of the County AIS Task Force. Kudos to participating HC COLA members including Ken Grob, Bob Berdahl, Lynn Goodrich, Jeff Bjorkman and Dan Kittilson.

## **HC COLA Promotes Public Awareness & Communication Through Dissemination of Information to Help Reduce the Risk of AIS Infestation:**

- Local billboards sponsored through Wildlife Forever with matching funds from HC COLA and DNR grant.
- Local radio station Public Service Announcements (PSA's) were sponsored with matching funds from HC COLA and a DNR matching grant. Over 1200 spots aired with emphasis on decontamination at the Hubbard County AIS station.
- AIS materials were provided to resort owners to educate their guests.
- AIS ID card (4000) were printed and distributed to resorts and to watercraft owners at launch sites by SWCD watercraft inspectors. Cards also distributed to local businesses.
- Park Rapids Downtown Business Association (PRDBA) promoted AIS Prevention in their "Downtown Walking" brochure (10,000 published) and on their webcam.

## **Fact sheets on AIS Identification, Facts & Monitoring Available on HC COLA Website:**

In conjunction with Mary Blickenderfer and Hubbard County UM Extension, HC COLA has provided a number of fact sheets to assist lake monitors with the early detection of aquatic invasive plants and invertebrates. Additional resources will be presented with HC COLA's AIS tool kits that will be available for purchase in 2016. To review and download identification fact sheets go to: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/identification-facts--monitoring.html>

## **HC COLA Members & Local Citizens Attend AIS Early Detection Training:**

On June 19, 2015, 19 volunteers from 12 area lakes attended an AIS Early Detection Training sponsored by HC COLA and Hubbard County UM Extension. The workshop, presented by Mary Blickenderfer with the UM Extension, focused on the identification of aquatic invasive plants and invertebrates. The workshop participants learned when and where to look for AIS plants and invertebrates and became familiar with sampling protocols, tricks and gadgets. Participants studied AIS look-alikes and learned what to do if you think you've found an invasive species.

**"Year of the Water" 2015 Focus:** Our special focus on our waters this year was inspired by the December 2014 Capstone Report entitled "Enhancing Hubbard County COLA's Lake Monitoring Program" by Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Based on input from each of the member lake associations, a Lake Monitoring Baseline was created.

- The Lake Monitoring Baseline shows at a glance what types of activities are engaged in on each lake, including water quality monitoring, lake level tracking, ice in/ice out data, lake management plan, monitoring loons and other wildlife, restore the shore and buffer zone participation & more. Potential opportunities can be easily identified by each lake assoc.
- The baseline helps point out where coaching / mentoring knowledge on an activity may exist also. General education needs were identified. Several speakers for our 2015 "Year of the Water" helped us understand the value of engaging in the various lake monitoring types.

## **Court-Mandated Environmental Impact Statement for proposed Sandpiper Pipeline:**

HC COLA Members helped Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) protect our waters from the potential risks of the proposed pipeline. On 9/14/15 the MN Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in favor of FOH's contention that MN law required a competent & independent EIS before any certificate of need for the Sandpiper project could be granted. The court's ruling reversed the Public Utility Commission's (PUC) Certificate of Need. On 12/15/15, the MN Supreme Court refused to hear the Enbridge & PUC petitions for further review so that reversal stands. The PUC on 12/17/15 focused on how to proceed with the required EIS & rejected a completion date of 1/17 Enbridge requested.

**HC Promotes Continual Learning:** An HC COLA team conducted research to promote understanding of any potential risks to our waters related to Geo-Thermal Heating & Cooling Systems plus Short Term Vacation Rentals seen advertised in our area online.

### **2015 Speakers at HC COLA Meetings Taught Us More About Our Waters & Included:**

- Jason Durham of “Go Fish Guide Service” shared short lessons & humorous stories on Fishing
- Heather Baird, MN DNR Aquatic Habitat Specialist spoke about the importance of shoreline buffers and how forests within watersheds protect the health of our waters
- Calub Shavlik, DNR Fisheries & Intern Kayla Hansch described a new lake-wide program called “Score The Shore” sharing pictures and concepts from their pilot experiences
- Tim James, MPCA Watershed Coordinator on how aquatic vascular plants prevent erosion
- Doug Kingsley, DNR Fisheries Manager shared informative insights on MN DNR topics:
  - Lake Finder data including the volunteer Citizens Lake-Monitoring Program
  - Straight River Pilot Groundwater Management Program  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/gwmp/area-sr.html>
    - **HC COLA NOTE: Open for Your Public comments until 1/7/2016 at link above**
  - Walleye & Northern Pike Fishing & Opportunities for Citizen Input
- Peter Tuomisto, HC COLA Coordinator explained the ongoing RMB Environmental Laboratories Water Quality Monitoring & Zebra Mussel Veliger Sampling Programs and online database
- Tom Stursa, DNR Wildlife shared knowledge on “Nuisance Wildlife on our Lakes” & some

### **HC COLA Engages Lake Associations to Expand**

#### **AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection Capacity in Hubbard County**

In 2015, HC COLA was effective in the development and implementation of our AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection Program that helped foster our local capacity for the early detection of aquatic invasive species. HCCOLA’s lake monitoring program provided training and tools to lake associations, AIS professionals and citizens to prevent, detect and monitor the spread of aquatic invasive species. To accomplish our early detection goals and engage our local citizens, HC COLA worked in coordination with the Hubbard County AIS Task Force, MN/Hubbard County Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), DNR, RMB Environmental Laboratories and local lake associations. HC COLA was successful at fostering these partnerships to implement on-the-ground AIS prevention, detection and monitoring actions and further expand an “army of eyes on the water” for the purpose of searching and looking for the AIS.

HC COLA will look to augment our AIS Lake Monitoring actions in 2016 to include:

1. Expand our AIS Lake Monitoring beyond HC COLA lakes in Hubbard County
2. Develop tool kits as an incentive to assist lake monitors with their AIS lake monitoring programs
3. Conduct brief learning opportunities on AIS plant identification at monthly HC COLA meetings
4. Develop new strategies for collecting and reporting data generated through our prevention, detection and monitoring efforts.

### **HC COLA provides assistance to lakes when searching for adult zebra mussels:**

- HC COLA develops “Protocols” to help lakeshore owners monitor our lakes for adult zebra mussels.
  - When is the best time to search for adult/juvenile zebra mussels?
  - Tips and tactics for using a monitoring device such as cinder blocks/PVC pipe.
  - I may have found an invasive species. What do I do?
- To learn more about monitoring for adult/juvenile zebra mussels go to:  
[http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/protocols\\_for\\_ais\\_blocks.pdf](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/uploads/3/2/6/5/3265696/protocols_for_ais_blocks.pdf)
- You can find further information about monitoring for zebra mussels on the DNR link:  
[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/zebramusel\\_monitoring/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/zebramusel_monitoring/index.html)