

The COLA Update

Publication of Hubbard County Coalition Of Lake Associations

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COLA Annual Meeting

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations held its annual meeting on August 25 at the Senior Citizen Center in Nevis with about 50 people attending, including many not members of COLA.

The purpose of COLA's annual meeting is to provide information to its members and to all people interested in COLA's mission of preserving the quality of lakes and the environment.

The program included a report by Garry Johanson of the Hubbard County Environmental Services Office on his inspection of the septic systems on shoreland properties around county lakes. He discussed how inspections of existing systems are conducted to determine whether or not they are up to code and what he has been finding.

Beth Kluthe, administrator of the Environmental Services Office, explained plans for the Mantrap Watershed Project which will be funded in large part by a grant of \$140,000 from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Bruce Paakh of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency gave a presentation on limnology - the science of life and phenomena of lakes and streams -

and the effects of certain pollutants, principally phosphorus, on the water quality of lakes.

Jerry Lamp of Belle Taine Lake, who has been coordinating COLA's water monitoring program this past summer, reported the results of the testing for the 13 lakes whose associations are participating in the program. This was an interim report; the final analysis will be made after all results are in. As of now, the water quality in each of the lakes appears to be generally very good.

COLA's Vice President Ted Spencer summarized the results of a lake association survey he conducted last spring. The survey, which covered such matters as total members as a percentage of property owners eligible for membership, dues structure and participation in secchi disk testing, permits each lake association to compare its practices with those of other lake associations.

In addition to COLA members, also attending were persons who belong to lake associations not yet members of COLA, property owners on lakes with no lake association, and Jean Ruzicka, News Editor of the *NORTHWOODS PRESS*. Both Jean and her paper have helped COLA report its activities.

Shoreland Ordinance Under Attack

An attack is being made on the Hubbard County Shoreland Ordinance. Petitions seeking signatures supporting a re-writing of the ordinance to the weakest possible level have been circulated.

Our shoreland ordinance is more restrictive than state minimum standards; it is more restrictive because it needs to be. Our soil is extremely porous, and land use that would pose no threat to water quality in other parts of the state could result in serious degradation of water quality of Hubbard County lakes.

COLA will oppose any attempt to weaken the rules. We may need your help. If we call on you, please support us.

President's Report

1994 has been a busy and productive year for Hubbard County COLA. We expect 1995 to be even busier and we hope more productive.

My view concerning COLA's primary mission is changing. A year ago I thought COLA could be most effective by **doing things**: initiating and carrying out specific programs with specific goals. I still believe that COLA should continue efforts of this nature.

But I am increasingly persuaded that the primary focus of COLA's effort should be telling the story of what will happen to our lakes if we do not protect them. The 15-20 board members and officers, and even the 1200 members, cannot alone preserve the quality of our lakes. We need everyone's cooperation.

Now I realize we must be educating people. If they understand how their use of the lake and all the land in the lake's watershed determines the long-term health of that lake, most will do what is feasible to protect that health. There will always be a few who will use water and land to suit their purposes, scoffing at regulations and feeling no concern for the degradation they cause. Slobs will always be with us. But there will be more and more people who will care and who will work with us if they understand.

That should be a primary focus of our COLA and the other seventeen COLAs around the state: to educate everyone who uses the lakes, shorelands and watersheds.

And so I hope COLA can be active and effective in a program of education. In the coming year we will intensify our energies in this area of our mission.

Minnesota Loons

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute in Ashland, Wisconsin, conducts a program called "LoonWatch." The Minnesota Lakes Association has been an active participant in the program, and this year more than 400 Minnesotans monitored 500 lakes in six study areas in the state. The 1994 population estimate has been made: 12,048 loons! That is good news. The bad news is that human activity - lumbering, mining, agriculture, plus too many people and boats and water skis and jet skis - continue to threaten loons and to cause them to abandon lakes where they have nested for years. They need our help. If you're interested in volunteering or getting more information, write the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute (SOEI), Northland College, Ashland WI 54806-3999.

COLA Members and Friend Honored

Winning honors as Hubbard County Senior Citizens of the Year were Lura Milligan of 5th/6th Crow Wing and Bob Bauman of Hinds Lake. Both have been active as COLA members and in community affairs.

Beth Kluthe, director of the Hubbard County Environmental Services Office and the planning and zoning administrator for the county, was selected as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotans by the Minnesota Jaycees. Beth's commitment and contribution to the objectives of COLA are known well by all of us concerned about the environment. What most of us did not know, until her selection, was the extent of her volunteer activities which include her son's hockey team, the Girl Scouts, Nevis Township as clerk, her church, and many other community projects.

Congratulations, Lura, Bob and Beth!

Spread of Milfoil Slows, But Continues to C R E E P

In the winter issue of COLA UPDATE we reported that the growth and spread of Eurasian milfoil in Minnesota lakes have greatly decreased. The latest information available is that only one additional infestation was reported in 1993 outside the Twin Cities metro areas, and that was Lake Oscar near Alexandria. Bay Lake near Lake Mille Lacs in Crow Wing County and Sauk Lake near Sauk Centre are infected with the noxious weed.

All of those lakes are approximately 100 miles from Park Rapids - Oscar southwest, and Sauk south. No lakes north of them have yet been found to be infested. DNR officials state that just a sprig of the Eurasian milfoil plant transported by a boat or trailer to a "clean" lake can start the growth of the exotic weed. To prevent its spread the DNR is making road checks of boats and trailers heading north from the Eurasian milfoil infested area of the Twin Cities.

A recent DNR check at Park Rapids found only one boat carrying milfoil out

of 200 checked. But one asks, "Was that boat coming to my lake?" Another DNR road check at Chisago City just northeast of St. Paul found that 9 of 219 boats checked were carrying Eurasian milfoil. Many resorts are routinely checking boats, trailers, live wells, anchor ropes - any places that Eurasian milfoil sprigs might be found - before the boats are put into the water.

Some lake associations are doing milfoil checks at public accesses to their lakes and helping educate people about the problem. We hope all boats and trailers hauled from lakes known to be infested are carefully inspected when the equipment leaves those lakes. The lakes of Hubbard County already face threats to water quality, but none as potentially damaging as Eurasian milfoil, which can grow into a mat so dense that it prevents use of the lake for boating, fishing, or swimming. COLA members should learn to identify Eurasian milfoil and educate others about the problem.

COLA Summer Activities

COLA had a busy and productive summer. The activity which absorbed most of our time and money was the water monitoring program, which involved taking water samples from each of thirteen participating lakes once monthly May through September and keeping them chilled until they reached the laboratory in Duluth for testing.

We sponsored a Park Rapids middle school student, Sarah Campbell, as a camper at the Deep Portage Aquatics Camp in August.

We had a booth in the Environmental Building at the Hubbard County Fair and a float in the Park Rapids Tater Festival. The float consisted of a pontoon boat on a trailer, decorated with COLA's new banners, carrying two lovely COLA grandchildren who, joined by some quick-stepping COLA members, tossed candy to spectators along the parade route. The pontoon boat and trailer were loaned by COLA member Charlie Kellner of Charlie's Marine.

And Bobbie Thomas put together a video for each lake association. It is an informational tape covering exotic plants and animals, biological pollution of the Great Lakes, and ways we all can contribute to the protection of our lakes.

What a Deal!

Every year your lake association takes \$2 from your dues and sends it to COLA. We hope that after you've read this UPDATE you have an understanding of the many ways we're using your money, and that you approve of what we're doing.

Kabekona Lake

This spring Kabekona Lake Association (formerly Friendship Springs Kabekona Association) formed a separate entity, Kabekona Lake Foundation. The foundation has among its objectives the furthering of the purposes of KLA, and it solicits gifts of money and other property from KLA members and friends. The initial two-year goal of \$15,000 already has been pledged, and an additional \$3,500 has been raised to purchase two lots which are unbuildable but which might have been acquired by someone who would use the property in ways detrimental to the environment. The owner of the lots is selling them to the foundation at a price substantially less than the appraised value, and everyone wins: the owner enjoys a tax deduction, the foundation gets property at a bargain price, and 264 feet of shoreland and the wilderness behind it will be preserved for wildlife and people.

We encourage COLA associations to consider the merits of a lake foundation. We learned a lot about establishing one at the 1993 MLA conference. If you want to learn about having one, call Herm Bailey, COLA president, 218-224-2299: he understands the legal and financial details of setting up a lake foundation and can refer you to others with expertise.

5th/6th Crow Wing Lakes

The association now has 90 members - a new record and more than there are cabins and homes on the lakes.

The DNR has just completed the 5-year fish survey, and the association members are awaiting the official report next spring.

Their monthly newsletter has continued under former president Ted Spencer.

Long Lake

The lake association of Long Lake held its annual meeting on Saturday, July 15, for the first time at the new Hubbard Town Hall. Dennis Schupp, DNR fish specialist, gave an interesting slide presentation showing the relationship between lakes of varying water qualities and the types and number of fish that can be supported. Dennis Ernst, Hubbard County's DNR fish specialist, reported that their attempts to screen off the walleye spawning area leading into Mud Lake appeared to be successful last spring.

Will Yliniemi of the Hubbard County Extension Office is conducting a landscape nitrate leaching project on the south end of Long Lake. The purpose is to evaluate the nitrate leaching potential from various land use activities along the lake shore. Nine tubes were installed in diverse strands, lawns, pasture lands et al. Analysis of the water samples will be made later this fall.

MLA Annual Conference

The Minnesota Lakes Association held its annual conference October 27-29 in Alexandria. MLA conferences facilitate the exchange of information among COLAs in the state. Hubbard County COLA and its member associations have benefited from ideas we've heard about and talked about at workshops and in informal conversation. Bob and Sally Bauman attended this year's conference.

MLA looks after the interests of lakeshore property owners in the state legislature. It lobbies on issues such as fair taxation of lakeshore properties and the protection of the environment from commercial and industrial exploitation.

Call 800-450-5253 to join the MLA and receive the informative magazine *FOCUS 10,000*. We recommend it to all COLA people.

Hinds Lake

The Hinds Lake Association with a spectacular membership of 99 percent of the lake shore property owners held its annual meeting in July. The members elected an historian who will trace the lake property ownership as far back as anyone can remember or as records reveal. A written history will be published for each property owner.

The greatest concern expressed by members is the lake's fluctuating level, with beavers identified as the biggest contributor to the problem.

A primary goal of the association is to keep members informed about the problems of the lake: what pollution-contributing factors are at work, how to alleviate them, and how to preserve both the lake and the land environmentally and esthetically for them and for the generations who follow.

By joining with other lake associations in COLA we gather strength to become truly effective in this desire. We urge our neighbor lake property owners to join with us.

Stony Lake

Members report that it has been a beautiful summer with a full lake - the first time the lake has been full for several years. A secchi disk reading made August 9 was nine feet which is a good reading for late summer.

Stan Rotegard was elected president and Les Anderson secretary. The Stony Lake Association adopted for its motto this year "Clean the shore in '94."

Lake association members were disappointed that the County Commissioners overruled the Parks and Recreation Board, with the result that the gate on the swimming beach will remain open all winter. Many residents take the position that there is another lake access, which is enough for a lake the size of Stony, and that leaving the swimming gate open during the winter will leave lake shore properties more vulnerable to theft and vandalism.

COLA OFFICERS

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Lakes

Bad Axe
Belle Taine
Blue Lake
Big Mantrap
Eagle
East Crooked
5th/6th Crow Wing
Fish Hook
Gilmore
Hinds
Kabekona
Little Sand
Long
Palmer
Spider
Potato
Stony

LA Presidents

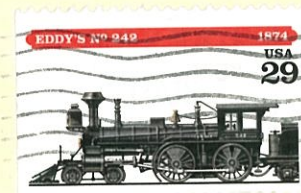
Tom Craig
Mary Orfield
Steve Lindeman
Sheryl Barta
Dave Fuerstenberg
Myron Wagner
Paul Child
Barb Peterson
Leona Mae Nielson
Robert Tullgren
Ruth Bailey
Leona Mae Nielson
Steve Prenevost
Roger Sorenson
Don Marg
John Maenner
Stan Rotegard

COLA Representatives

Tom Craig
Jerry Lamp
Lanny Jones
Charles Gabbert
Orville Selid
Myron Wagner
Paul Child
Joyce Wilson
Charles Kellner
Robert Bauman
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Milt Wisland
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