




The COLA Update

P.O. Box 746, Park Rapids Minnesota 56470

Spring 1997

Water Testing of Hubbard County Lakes

 Water testing is looking for the quantitative presence of Phosphorous in lake water and is measured in parts per billion. (micrograms per liter). Bruce Paakh of the MPCA describes a part per billion as one drop in 10,000 gallons, the volume of liquid that would fit into two large tank trucks. Most lakes in Hubbard County will test in the area of 10 to 40 parts per billion of Phosphorous. What the lake testing is designed to reveal is trends. All of our recreational and development lakes are subjected to some degree of eutrophication (aging) that has been going on for centuries, but has been accelerated in recent years by development and human use of lakes. This is generally known as


Phosphorus is the key ingredient in lakewater that will result in increased algae growth and subsequently decreased water quality in a lake

cultural eutrophication which can accelerate the aging of lakes as much as thirty times faster than the natural process. As lakeshore becomes more and more developed, the runoff from lawns, roofs of houses and other buildings, driveways and other impervious sur-

faces as well as pollution that comes from human occupancy of lakeshore, an inevitable result is an increase of phosphorous. This element is the key ingredient in the lakewater that will result in increased algae growth and subsequently, decreased water quality in a lake.

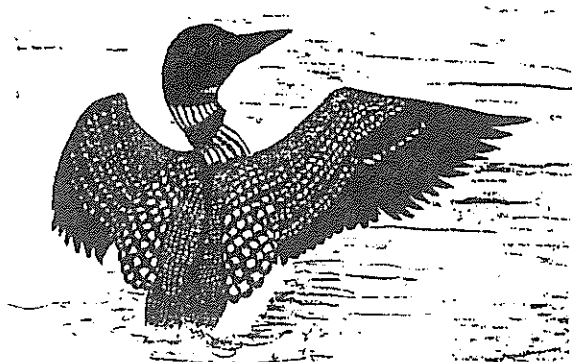
Continued-(See Water Testing on Page 5)

Testing for nitrates

 The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will provide free testing for nitrates in residential well water at the Environmental Education Building located in the fairgrounds in Park Rapids on Thursday, July 24th from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. The water is tested immediately while you wait. To take your sample, let your well water run for a few minutes and then take your sample in a clean zip-lock bag. It is recommended that you have your water tested frequently for comparison because nitrate levels can change from year to year. If your water tests less than 10 parts/million (ppm) it is considered safe for small infants. Excessive nitrates in drinking water have been determined to be the cause of "blue baby" syndrome as well as an indication of other contaminants in water supplies.

In the realm of Nature, there is nothing purposeless, trivial or unnecessary.

Mainmonides from "The guide for the perplexed"



Aesthetics and Property rights Can the two ever be compatible?

A lakeside community consists of the people, other organisms, the land in the watershed and aquatic environment. If we stop with the people, then we have no ethical basis for how we treat the trees, the lakeshore and the lake. Ethics only apply to members of the community. If we treat the land as purely property, we can mistreat it in any way we choose. If we do not include the water in our definition, we can poison or pollute it without ethical constraint.

If we only include people in our definition of community and consider our lot and our shoreline to be simply our property, it will be very difficult to give it the care and respect it needs. To treat it ethically, we have to include it in our concept of community.

Individual freedom and variety are high US priorities and seldom balanced with responsibility toward community. Ethical standards of behavior are often disregarded in the name of individual rights. Water users, especially some jet ski operators, believe they have the right to use lakes in any way and with any machine regardless of the impact on the community, other people, loons, shorelines, etc

You will find something more in woods than in books. Trees and stones will teach you that which you can never learn from masters.

(St Bernard of Clairvaux "Epistle 106")

Why did Ole wear two jackets while painting?

Because the directions on the paint can said, "Put on two coats."

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 use it with love and respect

Aldo Leopold
(1949)



Because we value individual freedom so highly we also have a very difficult time with zoning and acceptance of community standards for shoreland structures.

Aesthetic opportunity is clearly the reason most riparian (those who live on the banks of a natural course of water) own lakeshore property. In numerous surveys in Wisconsin over the past 20 years conducted by Lowell L. Klessig, most owners of lakeshore property indicated that "solitude and beauty" was the primary reason they purchased property (62%). While "outdoor recreation" is important, it is a distant second (22%), with most of the recreation being fishing. "Other" reasons accounted for some 16%.

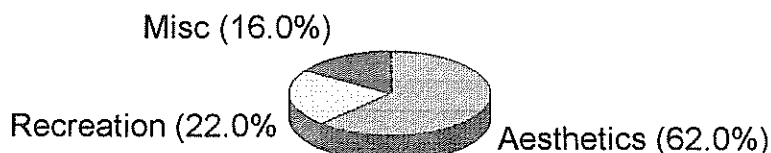
'We have good research that shows that people have an innate need for plants and water and sky. Blue is overwhelmingly the favorite color. Patients who have a window overlooking a natural setting recover faster than hospital patients without a window. Flowers actually do make us feel good. We need aesthetic contact with the natural world as an essential for both physical and mental health.

If we have a geological need for good aesthetics, and we say we purchase lakeshore property for solitude and beauty, how well are we doing at protecting aesthetic opportunity? How much of the efforts of lake associations or lake districts are devoted to protecting these features? If we do not deal with the tricky issues of property rights and lake use rights, we will lose the aesthetic qualities of our lakes and lakeshore communities

The material in this article is taken from the paper "Protecting Lakeside Communities. Ethics and Aesthetics" by Lowell L. Klessig, Human Dimensions of Natural Resource Management and Extension Lake Management Specialist, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Condensed by Paul Child, Hubbard County COLA

Reasons people purchase lakeshore property



News from the Lake Associations

Belle Taine Activities

Friday, May 2 we held our Spring Social at the Spider Web - there were 30 people in attendance. Another loon nesting platform was constructed and put on the lake - we have two platforms but so far haven't had much luck in attracting loons. Together with Spider Lake Assn. and 5th/6th Crow Wing Lake Assn. we are sending two Nevis 5th graders to the Deep Portage Aquatics Camp this summer. This year the 5th grade class is doing experiments on erosion as part of the class project. Our annual meeting will be June 21, at the Bethany Lutheran Parish Hall in Nevis. The speaker will be Joan Peterson from Deep Portage.

Potato Lake Assn.

Potato Lake was the site of this year's "Sno-Deo" snowmobile radar run in February. Sponsored by the Forest Riders Club and held in front of the Pines Resort and Supper Club, the event attracted about 200 entrants.

With the return of open water our Lake Assn. is preparing to participate with several other Hubbard County lakes in testing for chlorophyll and phosphorous this summer. Other summer plans call for a July 4th regatta with prizes for the best decorated and most patriotic boat.

Hubbard County Environmental Services continue to inspect septic systems on the lake and should complete by summer's end. The Potato Lake Assn. annual meeting is scheduled for July 5th.

5th/6th Crow Wing Lake Assn.

Our association is currently headed by Chuck Anderson and our board meets monthly-even in the winter!. We have volunteers cleaning a 2 mile stretch of highway 34, a yard sale last year to raise funds (and plans for one this year).

We obtained fire numbers for our township (or at least led the charge),obtained a turn lane and a highway road sign changed (that was confusing). Volunteers do Secchi disk readings for water clarity and we have been involved in lake water testing.

We have coffees, dinners, lunches and get-togethers like wiener roasts, a regatta/picnic, and after all that socializing we get to know one another so we can take care of our lakes and donate to kids going to Deep Portage Camp and the Children's Water Festival. We consider ourselves a 'full service' lake association!

(See more Lake Association News on Page 4)

Ole likes the Italians because an Italian family saved his life by hiding him in their basement all during the war. It was in Mankato.

President's Message

Time to hang it up

This August, it will be two years since I was elected president of the COLA organization. It has been interesting to say the least. Joan as always has been my partner in this effort and it has been a rewarding experience for both of us. We were happy to see COLA grow during these two years. . Our new membership has brought a new vitality to our organization. In August, when COLA elects a new President, the Shoreland Ordinance revision process should be completed and consigned to history. What will replace it for day to day excitement I don't know, but I am sure that many more challenges lie ahead for the new officers that will be leading COLA for the next two years.

As for Joan and I, we will be looking forward to continued participation in COLA, as past-president, print committee members and working on the COLA Update staff. Of course we are looking forward to being volunteers at the next Children's Freshwater Festival as well as participating in committee assignments. But there is a trip to Alaska in our future as well and we will be renewing our passports with an eye to touring Australia and New Zealand. Our two years, which we pledged to COLA as a public service effort have been very rewarding to us. We especially value all the many friendships we have formed during this period. Thank you for all the support you have given to us, by your participation, your attendance at meetings and input on the vital issues we have had to deal with. Thanks for a great two years and we look forward to many more COLA years in the future.

Frank Smith

Plans for Hubbard County Water Patrol Underway



Ted Godfrey and Larry Dierks, the Sheriff's Boat and Water Safety Deputies, have a big job. It is their responsibility to enforce regulations and insure safe practices on the county's many lakes. Ted usually covers the northern half of the county and Larry the southern half. You can understand that they are spread pretty thin. So there is an urgent need for some help. Thus the formation of a volunteer water patrol to extend their "eyes and ears". Ted does not know if other states have similar programs, but a few other Minnesota counties, Cass County for example, do.

The initial call for volunteers went out through some resort owners last fall. The response was encouraging as over 20 people attended the two early meetings. The goal is to get two volunteers for each of the county's major lakes. Although the volunteers will, of course, have no arrest authority, and are cautioned to avoid any confrontations, they will perform some valuable services. Mainly they will keep an eye out for serious violations of the law — such as jet skis or motor boats racing around erratically and endangering people, wildlife and property. They have no special schedules or hour requirements, but when on their lake will make their presence obvious and observe. Should they see an infraction their instructions are to contact the sheriff's office with the information providing the time and location, and if possible, a boat number and description of the culprits. Ted and/or Larry will handle things from there.

Volunteers may also be essential if there is a serious accident. They may be requested to go to the scene and generally stabilize the situation. Among other actions, this might include keeping bystanders at a distance, contacting medical personnel and lining up witnesses.

Larry states that the main requirement is common sense. The volunteer will furnish his own boat and gas. Because of its limited budget, the sheriff's office at this time can only furnish a distinctive cap inscribed "Sheriff Volunteer Water Patrol," and possibly a sign that can be attached to the boat. The volunteers will also wear a life jacket marked "Sheriff's Dept." (it is hoped that lake associations will furnish this jacket for the volunteers on their lake) It is felt that the very presence of the volunteers with these obvious and distinctive markings will serve as a deterrent for violations.

If your lake association does not yet have a pair of volunteers for the Water Patrol, you are encouraged to line them up. Certainly it could be an important step in making your lake a quieter, safer place. Call Ted Godfrey (732-3331) for further guidance

The fire department got a fire call, and it was from Ole

"How do we get out to your place, Ole?" asked the fire chief.

"Vell," said Ole, "you might use dat little red truck you got dere at da fire station."

Ole had trouble putting "Happy Birthday" on a cake. His main problem was getting the cake in the typewriter.

More Lake Association News

ESB(Emma, Stocking Bottle Lakes) News

The Emma, Stocking and Bottle Lakes Association will hold their annual meeting and picnic on Sunday July 13th at the Schneeman residence (the old Bottle Lake Resort on the point between Lake Emma and Lower Bottle Lake.

The Board of Directors approved TSI testing on Stocking and Lower Bottle Lake this year. All four lakes were tested in 1995. Three years of testing within a ten year period is recommended for each lake, to establish a possible trend. The two other lakes will probably be tested again next year.

Submitted by Bobbie Thomas
732-9591.

Lake Gilmore

All property on quiet little Lake Gilmore is sold and has been for quite some time. With the exception of the north shore which was developed years ago with homes built close to the water on small lots the rest of lovely Lake Gilmore appears to be fairly unoccupied. We all like it that way.

August 2nd will be our 13th annual Gillyfest, an all day party capped by an evening auction by the campfire and watching Charley and Jan Kellner's theme lighted pontoon boat make its circuit around the lake.

Our association participates in the Lake Water testing program and support of the Children's Fresh Water Festival. We also feel grateful that so far we have not needed the voluntary Water Patrol on Gilmore

Water Testing (Continued from page 1)

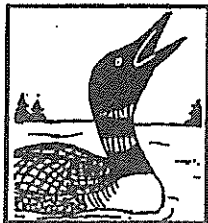
By measuring the quantitative amount of phosphorous in the water along with the chlorophyll content, it is possible to develop a number called the Tropic State Index (TSI) that can be compared to a chart and accurately determine the current state of water quality in a given lake. Also by establishing a correlation between water quality measurements and Secchi disk reading for water clarity it is possible to eventually minimize the costly water sampling and lab analysis and depend more on Secchi readings alone. But to do this it is necessary to develop a "baseline data base" which because of varying weather conditions, should be established by taking water samples over three summers in a 5 to 7 year period.

This year, 23 lakes are participating in the lake water testing program. The Hubbard County Local Water Plan is contributing \$1400, Participating Lake Associations are contributing \$100.00 each and COLA is making up the difference, plus providing all water sampling tubes, transportation to the lab and incidental expenses associated with the program. The whole effort is a good example of community cooperation towards an end that should benefit all of us that live on the lakeshore. The COLA water testing committee consisting of Jerry Knoblich as chairman assisted by Jerry Lamp and Everett Miller have done a fine job in organizing this effort. The efforts of Bruce Paakh of MPCA and Shelly Hanson of the Hubbard County Environmental Services are also much appreciated. The program is off to a good start and we have high hopes for a good testing season.

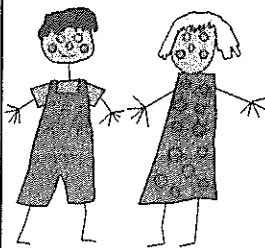
Ole was hunting big game in Africa when he suddenly came screaming through the jungle. "What's the matter?" asked the guide. "A lion bit off my big toe!" said Ole. "Which one?" asked the guide. "How would I know?" said Ole, "Dose lions all look da same to me."

Ole went to see the doctor about his loss of memory. The doctor made him pay

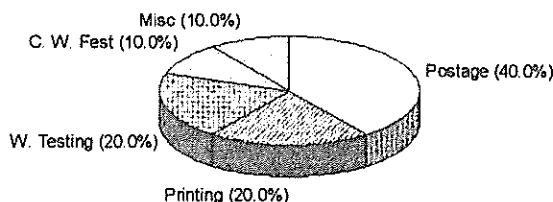
Ole's little boy, Ole Jr., is depressed. He heard someone say, "Like father, like son."

**Children's Freshwater Festival**

The Second Annual Children's Freshwater Festival was as successful as the first one held last year. May 6th turned out to be a lovely day, bracketed by two very cold and blustery days. The 350 6th graders were enthusiastic participants. The presenters were excellent and had no difficulty in holding the interest of the students.



The festival was held at Camp Wilderness Boy Scout Camp, and since the camp covers quite a large area, the importance of the 65 Lake Association volunteers cannot be emphasized enough. They were there when needed, and were once again a major reason why everything flowed smoothly. The enthusiasm of the volunteers, their willingness to go where they were assigned and the help they offered the students and teachers was appreciated. Most said they planned to volunteer again next year. It was a great day. Thanks again to all participants.

How COLA Dues are spent

As Ole lay dying, he asked his wife: "Lena, would you get me some of dat utefisk you got cooking on da stove?" "I'm sorry," said Lena, "I'm saving dat for after da funeral."

COLA Officers

President Frank Smith
 Vice President Paul Child
 Past President Herm Bailey
 Secretary Ted Spencer
 Treasurer Joyce Wilson
 Update Staff Ted Spencer
 Paul Child
 Herm Bailey
 Frank Smith

In this issue**A SPECIAL SHORELAND ORDINANCE SECTION**

Plus

Water Testing- 23 Lakes this year!**Aesthetics and Property Rights- Are they compatible?****Children's Freshwater Festival- A salute to volunteers****Water Patrol Plans-An interview with Ted Godfrey****News from the Lake Associations****COLA LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

Lake	President	COLA rep
Bad Ax	Don Erpelding	Don Erpelding
Belle Tahe	Jerry Lamp	Jerry Lamp
Big Mantrap	Sheryl Barta	Chas. Gabbert
Blue Lake	Eric Barth	Steve Lindstrom
Eagle Lake	Rose Loeffler	Mike Loeffler
Gilmore	Leona Neilson	Joan Smith
Potato Lake	Tony Platz	Rich Rothermel
5/6 Crow Wing	Chuck Anderson	Ted Spencer
Lake Emma	Duane Wallace	E. Stenevik
Stocking	Duane Wallace	Bill Pauley
Lower Bottle	Duane Wallace	Dale Martin
Upper Bottle	Duane Wallace	Bobbie Thomas
Hinds Lake	Joe Knoblauch	Bob Bauman

Lake	President	COLA Rep
Kabekona	Dick Strub	Jim Roy
Lower Crow Wing	Nick Busser	Mary Hood
Little Sand	Leona Neilson	Rod Westrum
Palmer Lake	Phil Kirkgaard	Vern Schlong
Spider Lake	Richard Einerson	Everett Miller
Portage Lake	Carolyn Allison	Jerry Knoblich
Fish Hook	Vicki Harts	Barb Brattlof
Stoney Lake	Stan Rotegard	Mark Carter
8th Crow Wing	Judy Novak	Judy Novak
Big Sand	Wick Corwin	Wick Corwin

THE COLA UPDATE

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations

P.O. Box 746

Park Rapids MN 56470

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 and protect the beauty of all
 of our lakes.

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