

# COLA update

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations PO Box 746 Park Rapids MN 56470

FALL 2002

## HOW'S THE CLARITY IN YOUR LAKE?

by Jerry Lamp

This year there were 26 lakes involved in the water testing program. This program is funded through the Hubbard County Soil and Water District, COLA and the participating lake associations.

At the September COLA meeting Tim James from the MPCA reported on the results of the tests from past years 1997 through 2002 and indicated that the quality of the involved lakes has changed very little if at all. He did find that while there was a difference in water quality between the Mantrap, Crow Wing and Fishhook watersheds, there was little difference among lakes in a watershed.

The real value of the testing program is to establish an accurate baseline of information to use as future reference for comparison. We don't know how our lakes have changed over the past years because we lack any reliable data from the previous years.

Here are the results of water testing for 2002. TSI is short for "trophic status index", or an indication of the nutrients in our lakes. The lower the number the better.

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st Crow Wing 65               | Little Mantrap 38            |
| • Little Sand 35               | 5th Crow Wing 47             |
| 6th Crow Wing 47               | Long 42                      |
| • Belle Taine 35               | • Lower Bottle 35            |
| • Big Mantrap 42               | Upper Twin 53                |
| • Big Sand 32                  | Lower Twin 52                |
| ✗ Blue Lake 40                 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Crow Wing 51 |
| ✗ Eagle 49                     | Palmer 39                    |
| → Portage 55 <i>See Island</i> | • Emma 37                    |
| ✗ Potato 41                    | ✗ Fishhook 42                |
| Spider 35                      | Gilmore 41                   |
| Stocking 45                    | Kabekona 38                  |
| Stony 42                       | • Upper Bottle 39            |

## Minnesota's "Impaired" Lakes

Recently the MPCA added some area lakes to their list of "impaired" lakes. This means there were recommended restrictions on the fish consumption taken from those lakes. There was some concern on the part of area residents and fisher persons for a couple of reasons. First, it was troubling to think that there was something wrong with "my" lake and secondly the exact problem was not stated.

In most cases the problem is mercury, according to the April 2002 newsletter from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. In the Upper Portion of the Mississippi River, there are 479 lakes/rivers with some sort of impairment. Of that number there were 331 that were impaired because of mercury. According to the MPCA the highest concentration of mercury occurs in northeastern lakes but other bodies of water in north and central Minnesota can also have high concentrations.

*Mercury is a natural element*, and is found in rocks and volcanoes, it can evaporate and be carried by the wind and clouds for thousands of miles so it is difficult if not impossible to pinpoint a specific source. It also can become airborne through the burning of fossil fuels, the smelting of metals and the burning of solid waste.

When it enters our lakes it moves up the food chain - small aquatic life become contaminated and then are consumed. Mercury attaches itself to fatty tissue and is passed on to the next link in the food chain. This could be a fish, animal, bird or human. As more contaminated fish are eaten the concentration level rises. The predators that depend on these fish can suffer many problems including the reduction of their ability to reproduce.

For humans, under normal circumstances, mercury does not pose a health risk. The exceptions are women who are pregnant, plan to get pregnant in the near future and children under the age of six. That is why the MPCA has published a list of impaired lakes along with consumption guidelines.

Here's how we can reduce the danger from mercury, avoid buying products containing mercury, dispose of products containing mercury through a hazardous waste site, take florescent bulbs to a recycling facility and conserve energy.

Some of the lakes listed in the advisory include; Straight, 10th and 11th Crow Wing, Kabekona, Spider, Belle Taine, Long, Lower Bottle, Big Sand, George, Fish Hook (Potato) and Island. For more information contact the MPCA or visit the DNR web site at [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). -Jerry Lamp

*See web site*

# Maintaining Or Increasing Your Lake Association's Membership

HAROLD DZIUK

1. *Be persistent.* Don't give up. One person on a lake who is concerned about protecting natural resources and improving the quality of life and the lake environment can make a difference.
2. *Join your local coalition of lake association (COLA) and the Minnesota Lakes Association (MLA).* We learn from each other and are sustained by those who share our interests and concerns.
3. *Recognize that every lake needs management to protect it from needless degradation.* Management includes many issues: water quality, lake surface use, aquatic plant management, fisheries, safety and law enforcement, real estate taxes, shoreland development.
4. *Make every effort to include many volunteers in decision-making.* Operate in a democratic manner. Establish by-laws and incorporate as a non-profit organization.
5. *Have a membership committee.* Have membership drives—door to door with personal appeals and phone calls. Have a membership brochure which tells the shoreland property owner what the lake association will do for them and why they should belong.
6. *Establish a membership directory and lake map indicating location of property owners.*
7. *Print and distribute a newsletter which describes what is happening on your lake and what the lake association is doing.* Include appropriate photos in the newsletter.
8. *Seek help from others.* For example, have a leader from another lake association or a person who has a special expertise give a talk at your association meeting.
9. *Have an executive committee, committee chairs or Board of Directors carry out the management responsibilities.* This small nucleus of dedicated individuals reaching out to others will be the backbone of your lake association.
10. *Have a social event where people get to know each other in a pleasant, nonthreatening situation.* This could be a party, dinner, picnic, dance or coffee and cookies.
11. *Sponsor activities that improve the community.* For example: highway cleanup, assist with Chamber of Commerce activities, establish a group of volunteers to clean up and maintain a public access on the lake, or to clean up the ice after the winter sports and before the spring thaw.
12. *Prepare a lake history book and distribute to all shoreland property owners.*
13. *Join the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP).* In this program volunteers measure lake clarity with a white disk about once each week from May to September. Contact Jennifer L. Lindbloom at 612/282-2618 or 1-800-657-3864 and ask for a kit and further information. Every lake association should belong to this valuable lake monitoring program. There is only a one time \$10.00 fee for purchase of the kit.
14. *Provide lake association members with a decal for their house, boat or car indicating pride in supporting the association.* Get clothing prepared and distributed with logos of your association on it. This includes: hats, T-shirts, sweatshirts.
15. *Announce up-coming meetings, results of projects, and reports of board or membership meetings in the local newspaper.* Meetings open and free to the public can be announced free of charge in area newspapers.
16. *Get ideas from others by attending COLA and MLA meetings.* This also helps to keep your own enthusiasm when some projects don't turn out as well as you had hoped.
17. *Look for talented volunteers.* Not everyone has the same abilities, experience, time, or energy and understanding this concept can help to make your association strong. Encourage your volunteers to work in areas and on projects in which they are interested and in which they have a special talent.
18. *Give certificates of appreciation or other awards to those who have done an outstanding job.* Recognizing and thanking individuals helps them to keep going and helps others to see what volunteers can do to help.
19. *Find someone on the lake to inspect for exotic species such as Eurasian watermilfoil.* The volunteer may need to find out how to collect samples and get them to the DNR for identification.
20. *Be persistent.* Don't give up. This is the same as number 1, but bears repeating. Don't expect instant results. Many projects of lake associations (such as protecting water quality, aquatic plant management, reducing shoreland erosion) require several years before success is achieved.

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**SOME 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT' FOR THE  
LAKE ASSOCIATIONS. ARE THERE  
SOME POINTS YOUR ASSOCIATION  
COULD USE?**

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## **PLANTANGANET JOINS COLA!**

**IS IT THE NORTHERN MOST LAKE IN HUBBARD COUNTY? SEEMS SO.**

**WITH 80 MEMBERS, THE LAKE PLANTANGANET LAKE ASSOCIATION HAS SUBMITTED IT'S DUES TO JOIN HUBBARD COUNTY COLA.**

**WELCOME! WE HOPE TO SEE A REPRESENTATIVE AT THE NEXT COLA MEETING - NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 9AM AT THE HUBBARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE BASEMENT MEETING ROOM - PARK RAPIDS.**

**(WHERE DID THAT NAME COME FROM?)**

**Long Lake Association works with Ad Hoc Committee to Abort Recreational Vehicle Racetrack on North End of Lake.**

**In a concerted effort to keep a local developer from securing a Conditional use permit to operate a race track/restaurant facility on Hwy. 34 East and the junction of County 107, an Ad Hoc group was formed and immediate action was taken to thwart this development from taking place. Because of duo jurisdiction, (County & Township), the major thrust was in their not obtaining a re-zoning permit for the Township portion of the land. As of this writing the Township board has declined the issuance of a Permit pending the re-submittal of proposal and the re-clarification of the intent and purpose of the track. Also, the State has requested that the proposer have an environmental assessment study completed prior to any action being taken on the request.**

**Bill Anderson/Long Lake Association**

## **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!**

**NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**REDISTRICTING WILL TAKE EFFECT IN JANUARY - THERE ARE LOTS OF CHANGES IN THE AREA. DIFFERENT NAMES FOR DIFFERENT OFFICES. LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES. CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT JUDGESHIP - WHO ARE THEY? WHO WILL DO A GOOD JOB?**

**VOTE & VOTE RESPONSIBLY**

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:**

**Greetings!**

**What a glorious autumn! My favorite time of year. The colors up here never fail to amaze me. I feel lucky every year not to have had an accident in my car since I'm so busy looking at all the beautiful leaves. Someone upstairs must be watching over me! I'm looking forward to serving as your President for the next year.**

**We have several issues that we need to stay on top of. Of course, elections are coming up fast. We desire to have elected officials who are environmentally conscious, and pay heed to our concerns. Also, the Shoreland Ordinance revisions will be coming up the beginning of next year. We will be asking our members for their opinions so we can speak with one informed voice. We will keep you informed through your lake representatives of what COLA is involved with in the coming months.**

**Things at COLA have been kind of quiet lately, but we are still representing a total of 30 lakes and almost 2,000 members. That means we have leverage when it comes to government agencies listening to what we have to say. Tourism is a big industry here, and good lake water quality makes for a healthy economic base. We are looking at a huge influx of people wanting to buy lakeshore, and that is putting tremendous pressure on our lakes. The government does not have the funds to maintain our lakes. Thus our lake associations have the responsibility to teach a strong sense of lake stewardship, keep records of water quality data, and educate our members. We cannot let our guard down. It is more important than ever to be active and be a participant in your lake association and with COLA.**

**JUDY NOVAK - COLA PRESIDENT**

## **'LADY BUG - LADY BUG! FLY AWAY HOME'**

**BUT, THOSE PESKY 'ASIAN LADY BEETLES' THINK YOUR HOME IS THEIRS! WILL YLINIEMI (SAY THAT NAME FAST!) OF THE HUBBARD COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE, HAD A COMPLETE ARTICLE ON THEM IN THE OCT. 16<sup>TH</sup> PARK RAPIDS 'ENTERPRISE'.**

**IF YOU HAVE THEM 'BAD' (AS MANY OF US AT THE LAKE DO) HE SAYS YOU CAN SPRAY AROUND YOUR FOUNDATION TO TRY TO FEND THEM OFF, HIRE AN EXTERMINATOR OR - VACUUM THOSE LITTLE SUCKERS UP..**

**THEY HAVE A DEFENSIVE FLUID - SO, DON'T CRUSH THEM. AND, THEY CAN GIVE OFF A BAD SMELL!**

**THEY LIKE TO 'OVER-WINTER' IN OUR WARM HOMES.**

**LOOK FOR THE DETAILS AT THE WEB SITE:**

**[www.parkrapidsenterprise.com](http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com)**

**ANOTHER WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON GOINGS ON IN THE PARK RAPIDS/HUBBARD COUNTY AREA IS:**

**[www.longlakeliving.com](http://www.longlakeliving.com)**

## **COLA MEMBER LAKE ASSNS**

**BAD AXE LAKE\***  
**BELLE TAINE LAKE**  
**BIG MANTRAP LAKE\***  
**BIG SAND LAKE\***  
**BLUE LAKE\***  
**EAST CROOKED LAKE**  
**EAGLE LAKE**  
**EMMA/STOCKING/BOTTLE LAKES\***  
**FISH HOOK LAKE\***  
**GILMORE LAKE**  
**HINDS LAKE**  
**ISLAND LAKE SO.\***  
**KABEKONA LAKE\***  
**LITTLE SAND LAKE\***  
**LONG LAKE**  
**LOWER CROW WING (1-2-3-4)\***  
**PALMER LAKE\***  
**PORTAGE LAKE**  
**POTATO LAKE**  
**SPIDER LAKE**  
**STONY LAKE\***  
**5<sup>TH</sup>/6<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKES**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKE\***  
**TWIN LAKES**  
**LAKE PLANTAGENET**  
**HAN LAKE\*\***  
**\* = CURRENT DUES NOT PAID YET**

**A NOTE FROM JOAN AND FRANK SMITH OF  
GILMORE LAKE - ALWAYS ACTIVE IN COLA.  
FRANK IS A FORMER COLA PRESIDENT AND  
EDITOR OF "COLA UPDATE":**

"Dear COLA friends - We both appreciate the thoughtfulness and concern you have shown after Frank's unfortunate stroke. Please excuse the long delay in expressing our thanks. We are now in the process of establishing a daily routine that includes a little 'free-time'. We are so grateful for friends like you. All of you are exceptional people.

Thank you - Frank and Joan Smith"

## **COLA OFFICERS**

**JUDY NOVAK- PRESIDENT - 8<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING**  
**JERRY LAMP- PAST PRESIDENT - BELLETAINE**  
**JOE WEBER. TREASURER - SPIDER LAKE**  
**TED SPENCER- SECRETARY- 5<sup>TH</sup> CROW WING LAKE**  
**COLA UPDATE EDITOR - TED SPENCER -**  
**- E-MAIL spider@wcfa.net**

**INSIDE:**  
**HOW CLEAR IS YOUR LAKE'S WATER?**  
**HAVE YOU SQUEEZED YOUR LADY BUGS?**

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