



## Hubbard County Cola Update SUMMER 2006

### **From the President** Ken Grob

Welcome back to all of the summer residents. The year-rounders enjoyed a fabulous winter season. The weather was as nice as it could be for northern Minnesota. We all enjoy a nice slice of heaven in Hubbard County. I know it is easy to think in terms of just sitting back and relaxing at the lake. However, we all have some responsibility to help improve the quality of our lakes and rivers, along with enjoying our avocations.

The "COLA Season Opener" occurred in May. The Restore-The-Shore shrub/tree orders were distributed on May 6; thanks to Gary Stolzenberg for his work. The Childrens' Freshwater Festival on May 10 was a success again this year; thanks to Jerry Lamp's efforts, we had all the volunteers we needed. The 2006 Water Quality Monitoring training session and sampling equipment distribution was held on May 11; thanks to Jerry Knoblich/Vince Poppler/Judy Sheldon for leading this effort. These projects exem-

plify the COLA focus on education and water quality. At the request of the Minnesota PCA, COLA has accepted the challenge to extend the Citizens' Lake Monitoring Program to 18 additional lakes in Hubbard County during 2006. COLA and the Park Rapids Master Gardeners Club sponsored a May 2 seminar on *Shoreland Restoration-Buffer Basics*. Mary Blickenderfer of the UM Extension led the seminar that was attended by 79 people. A great "opener" to the summer season.

The HLRP Lake Management Plan initiative is making excellent progress. We had a project review on March 31 that resulted in a nice "two-page" summary for each plan. We currently have 11 lakes that have completed or are working on a lake management plan. Please check the COLA website for more detailed information on the plans. Dan Kittilson and I had the opportunity to present the details of the Little Sand and Potato Lake plans at the North Central

Lakes Pilot Project Stakeholders Meeting on April 21 (This project is part of Governor Pawlenty's Clean Waters Initiative). [Editor's Note: Ken was awarded special recognition by this group at this meeting for his energetic involvement and outstanding leadership on water quality issues.] I hope that we can encourage at least six more lakes to sign up for the 2007 program. I would like to thank Michelle Prosser of the SWCD for all her help and support of the lake management plan initiative.

It is nice to talk about our successes, but there is a lot of work to be done. As we look forward to June, we will be focusing on getting the COLA Standing Committees more active. During the winter months I assigned every COLA Representative to a committee. Now is the time for these committees to start working. These committees....Lakeshore Education/Lake Association Interface; Government Liaison; COLA Meeting Attendance and Rep-



resentation...must become active and self-motivated to achieve their objectives.

***Please note that any lake association member can participate on these committees.***

***If you have an interest, please contact me or your COLA Rep for information. We can use all the help that is available.***

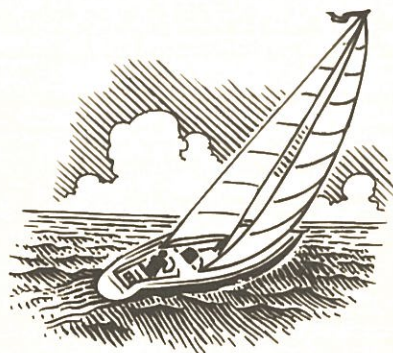
The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force I described in the Fall Newsletter has had one meeting. It has a talented set of volunteers. It will receive more focus this summer, once the standing committees are functioning.

Finally, I am pleased to report that in December the North Central Advisory Committee completed Phase 2 of the project to develop an alternate set of Minnesota Shoreland Rules. An Outreach and Education Plan is being developed that will provide information for communication to the public, government groups, and local organizations, all with the intent to encourage citizens to support the initiative, and in turn encourage the County Commissioners to adopt the alternate rules as appropriate. I hope that every one of our lake association members will try to keep informed and take an active stance in support of the proposed rules. I offer my services to attend any lake association meeting/board meet-

ing/or interested group gathering to explain the alternate rules. If you are interested, you can access the details of the alternate rules at the DNR website, [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us). Select Natural Resource Planning, then Public Input, then Rules.

Let me close by saying I am encouraged by the enthusiasm of the COLA team. The 11th/10th Crow Wing Lake Association has joined COLA, bringing our membership to 27 lake associations (36 lakes). Thanks to everyone for the continued support of the COLA mission. Enjoy the summer in our slice of heaven.

We're on the Web  
[www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola](http://www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola)



### **Minnesota Pesticide Right to Know Bill**

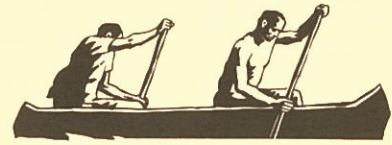
There is a petition drive underway to pass the Minnesota Pesticide Right to Know bill. This bill would mandate chemical applicators to submit the records they are already required to keep to a central place (likely the MN Dept. of Agriculture) for a database that would be accessible to citizens. The purpose is to provide communities, doctors, and other people knowledge of what chemicals are being applied in order to assess any environmental or other health risks. Currently, other inventories do not include agricultural chemicals. Although doctors and veterinarians do have the right to know if a patient has been affected by pesticides, this database would facilitate broader and quicker access. When this bill goes through committee next session, we (several people from several counties) will be taking this petition to St. Paul to present the signatures to the representatives and senators from our counties. For more information or to sign the petition, call Carol Ashley at 218-732-9607 or contact her via e-mail at [ashleyc@unitelc.com](mailto:ashleyc@unitelc.com). To sign a petition the easy way, you may go to [www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/523927626](http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/523927626).



## Around the Lakes

The **Fish Hook Lake & River Association** kicked off a summer of activities with a June 3rd breakfast at La Pasta in Dorset. Upcoming activities and events include the association annual meeting on June 17th at 6:00 p.m. at the Gary & Sharon Rezac-

Andersen home; a 4th of July Flotilla (participants meet at the NE corner of the lake at 11:00 a.m.); a Happy Hour cruise & Pizza Party on July 22nd at 6:00 p.m.; a Women's Saturday Potluck Brunch at Summerhill Farm on August 5th at 11:00 a.m.; the Fish Hook/Potato Lake Golf Tournament and Social (Date and time to be announced later); and Fish Hook Fall Dinner at the Y-steakhouse on September 9th at 6:30 p.m.



The **Middle Crow Wing Lakes Association** will be holding its annual meeting on Saturday, June 17th, at noon at the Muskie Park pavilion in Nevis. Guest speaker will be Ken Grob, Hubbard County COLA President, who will update association members on the recently completed "Minnesota's Alternative Shoreland Management Standards." A group of association members



earlier celebrated St. Patrick's Day and the approach of spring over an evening repast at the Dorset Café on Friday evening, March 17th. On Friday evening, May 19th, members attended the annual "Welcome Back the Snowbirds" dinner at Bogey's in Park Rapids. On Saturday morning, May 6th, seventeen civic-minded members worked up their appetites by cleaning up winter's accumulated ditch debris along a section of H34, after which they quelled the resultant hunger pangs over brunch at the Velvet Antler. Fourteen association members participated as volunteers in yet another year's successful Children's Fresh Water Festival.

Late last summer Dan Kittelson, Jim Thomsen, and Vern Thompson of the **Little Sand Lake Association** mapped & classified the lake's emergent vegetation as part of a joint project with the area DNR office. The resultant color-coded map showing the varieties of emergent vegetation will be on display at the 9:00 a.m. June 10th annual meeting at the Northwoods Bank Community room. This time consuming project should greatly increase the awareness of the beneficial role of the various varieties of aquatic vegetation on the ecology of the lake, encourage lakeshore owners to preserve their frontage in its natural state, and provide a benchmark for ongoing monitoring of the health of the lake.

If you are concerned about keeping your lake clean and clear, tired of mowing at the cabin, worried about your lake front eroding away, or looking for ideas for landscaping your lakeshore, the **Big Sand Lake Association** encourages any and all members of any county lake association to attend its Shoreland Revegetation Workshop—

INTRODUCTION TO SHORELAND LANDSCAPING— on Friday evening, August 18th, and Saturday morning, August 19th. [two separate 3 hour blocks, exact times TBA] The workshop will be presented by U of M Regional Extension Educator Eleanor Burkett who will arm you with the knowledge you need to protect and enhance your shoreline and lake. For more information, call or e-mail Mimi Long at 218-467-3561 or at [voyageur@paulbunyan.net](mailto:voyageur@paulbunyan.net).





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### **Minnesota DNR Seeks To Acquire Lower Bottle Lake Property**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) are jointly seeking to purchase 35 acres of a 60 acre peninsula linking Lower Bottle Lake and Emma Lake in Hubbard County as a publicly accessible Aquatic Management Area; the property has approximately 3000 feet of lakeshore.

Acquisition of this property would protect high quality native plant communities, protect wildlife resources, and protect critical fisheries habitat, while protecting the area from development, the pressures of which would inevitably decrease fish habitat and adversely impact water quality.

While the DNR Fisheries has acquisition budget monies that can be applied to this project, other monies will be needed. The TPL has some money available and is seeking grants to complete building the necessary "war chest" to get this project done; private donations are also being sought. Additional information is available in an article by Doug Kingsley that can be found under the FYI items of the Hubbard COLA website at [www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola](http://www.mnlakes.org/hubbardcola).

Concerns about the environmental impacts of development are by no means limited to its impacts on lakes, as the eye-opening article by John Myers in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* so starkly reveals (go to [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), click on DNR magazine, then search past articles); Minnesota's (and the nation's) private forests are being converted to a checkerboard of ever smaller, more fragmented plots. While various conservation NGOs and DNRs would like to purchase and maintain property in the public interest, their combined resources are no match for the seemingly unlimited funds of private acquirers unimpeded by the political vagaries and vicissitudes of legislative appropriations and/or private donations.