



THE HC COLA UPDATE

A Publication of Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations
December 2016 www.hubbardcolamn.org hccolamn@gmail.com

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) is a coalition of 29 lake associations with over 2,100 members that represent 37 lakes in Hubbard County. Our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. HC COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations. Since 1988, "HC COLA is the Leader in Protecting Hubbard County Lakes and Rivers!"

Our **December 2016 Newsletter** helps kick off our HC COLA 2017 focus which is "Year of Water Action"; a theme across the State of [Minnesota](#). For us, this action includes lake monitoring in its many forms. This is the 20th year of cooperative water quality monitoring between the Hubbard SWCD and HC COLA member lakes. To reach out to other county lakes about this program, we'll highlight the water quality monitoring benefits and demo at the "Meet Your Local SWCD" on Tues, Jan 17, 3 – 7 PM at Northwoods Bank Community Room. Help us celebrate this accomplishment and find out more about programs for area lakes!

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations President's Message - Sharon Natzel

Did you know that there are 333 lakes in Hubbard County (HC) according to [MNDNR Lake Finder](#)? I reflect on all the people that enjoy, recreate on, and respect these unique and pristine lakes! I am hopeful that we all continue to put into practice even more [techniques](#) for protecting HC lakes & rivers. For example the concept of meandering by boat on a calm and sunny day viewing aquatic vegetation, sampling and checking for change in the littoral / shoreside area can be an effective method for checking the entire shallow area of the lake two times per summer with enough neighborhood teams. We can learn through [HC COLA](#) programs, radio spots, newspaper articles, sharing information from [conferences](#), the Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program and more. It is important to take action to prevent aquatic invasive species (AIS). See video below on AIS Above & Below the Waterline by WildlifeForever.

I plan to explore more lakes here in Hubbard County by kayak next summer. I have been over many by snowmobile over the years. I am planning to utilize the free Hubbard County Decontamination Station to help clean my kayak crannies. I commit to [clean, drain and dry](#) all my gear including my water shoes too! That way, I will ensure that I am personally protecting these very special lakes and rivers that I visit for all the others who appreciate them also. I won't move a mussel, aquatic vegetation, or lake water in my kayak or gear from one lake to another! But - I will spread the word about free boat cleaning through the Hubbard County Watercraft Decontamination Station.



Aquatic Invasive Species - Above and Below the Waterline

FREE

Watercraft Decontamination

Open May-August (exact start/end dates vary)
Regular Hrs: Fri & Sat 12:00-5:00 p.m.
All other times by appointment.
Call 218-252-6738.
If light outside, can decon.

Decontamination Station Location:
812 Henrietta Ave. S, Park Rapids
(between The Detail Shop and Hubbard
County Transfer Station)



Aquatic Invasive Species Program

Lake Signs for Your Access – by Dave McCurnin

If your lake association is considering a sign at the public access, here are few things to consider:

- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) Parks & Trails Area Supervisor in Bemidji, MN is your first point of contact; David Schotzko at 218-308-2367. He customizes the kiosk / sign agreement form with the lake and group name and discusses what's necessary for sign approval. For example,
 - o Avoid bright neon colors as they don't want complaints from homeowners.
 - o If you are interested in posting AIS info, the DNR will help you with the wording and photos.
- If you will be near a light pole, you'll need to call Gopher State One Call (811) to mark any underground electricity. This may determine where the sign can be placed.
- Will the sign require any ongoing maintenance such as repainting, roof care, electricity, etc.? If so, who is going to do it and how much will it cost?
- You might consider adding lake history, interesting facts about the lake, type of fish present, etc.
- [Visit other lakes and see their access signage](#). They vary from elaborate to very basic.
- Once the kiosk / sign is approved by the MNDNR Parks & Trails, their area team will mark the sign location for you to ensure it isn't in the way of boat trailers or dock access, etc.

See the Belle Taine public access sign pictured below Dave's explanation.....

The Belle Taine sign was first started in 2013 and finally erected in 2014. It took over 9 months. Construction is a heavy aluminum welded frame set in concrete. Our verbiage includes the history of the lake and the name changes over the years. We added photos of the fish that are present and a map of the lake with water depths. This year, a map displaying all the past and present resorts will be added. A sign with AIS information and photos is in the making. Both will be added to the back of the existing sign. The signs were made by Innovative Sign & Graffix. Sheet Metal Fabricators made the frame, which was then painted at John's Body Shop. See it in person at the Nevis Public Access off Hwy 34 on Lake Belle Taine.



Jeff Mosner provides a Dec update linked here on the [Line 3 Pipeline Proposed Project](#) in the same water-rich route which had been proposed for Sandpiper before it was [withdrawn](#) & placed on hold by the company. On 12/5/16, the MN Dept of Commerce started draft prep of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & tentatively public comment begins 4/3/17.

AIS CITIZEN WATCH VOLUNTEERS EXPAND ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING IN HUBBARD COUNTY IN 2016 – by Dan Kittilson

In 2015, HC COLA was successful in expanding our [AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection program](#) in Hubbard County. 2016 saw a further increase in lake monitors on area lakes searching and looking for AIS. In an effort to further expand our monitoring efforts in 2016, HC COLA implemented an on-line survey that focused on monitoring lakes for adult / juvenile zebra mussels. AIS citizen watch volunteers monitored for zebra mussels utilizing monitoring devices (cinder blocks or [settlement samplers](#)). They were also encouraged to inspect their lakeshore equipment (docks, lifts, etc) and shoreline habitat, including vegetation, rocks or woody vegetation for zebra mussels.

Hubbard COLA was effective in engaging more lakes and lakeshore property owners, who were monitoring their lake for [zebra mussels](#). While Hubbard COLA consists of 29 lake associations, 24 of those lake associations and one non-member lake participated in our on-line survey in 2016. Sixty nine (69) people participated in our survey and the number of residents from each lake that took part in the survey ranged from 1 to 12 residents. Several lakes have additional monitors that have actually monitored their lake, but have reported to their lake leaders and have not participated directly in the HC COLA survey. With these additional monitors Hubbard COLA has approximately 90 AIS citizen watch volunteers looking and searching for zebra mussels [and other AIS](#).

A closer look at our survey results revealed the following findings:

- 69 of 108 people responded to HC COLA's survey.
- 59 respondents reported monitoring for zebra mussels utilizing a monitoring device, such as a cinder block, settlement sampler or PVC pipe.
- 90% of the respondents reported that they inspected their docks, lifts and watercrafts for zebra mussels at the end of the season.
- 71% of the respondents reported checking for zebra mussels attached to rocks, wood and vegetation along their shoreline.
- The survey indicated that monitors participating from all sides of their respective lakes reported their findings on their monitoring actions.

Lakes are encouraged to review their current level of participation in the AIS Lake monitoring program and work toward expanding their AIS Lake Monitoring / Early Detection program in 2017. During 2017 we hope to expand our AIS Lake monitoring efforts to include searching for invasive plants, such as [Starry Stonewort](#) (a new invasive species to MN first discovered in Lake Koronis and now in North Central MN, for example [Big Turtle Lake](#) near Bemidji) and other invasive plants that threaten our lakes.

HC COLA Meeting Calendar for 2017 Meetings held at Northwoods Bank Community Room on these Thursdays: 2/16/17, 3/23/17 & the last Thurs of month 4/27, 5/25, 6/29, 7/27, 8/31, 9/28, 10/26. No meetings Nov, Dec, Jan.

Tues Jan 17, 3 – 7 PM HC COLA to highlight the water quality monitoring benefits in our 20 year cooperative program at the "Meet Your Local SWCD" in the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Bring other lake friends!

Thurs Jan 12, 5:30 – 7:30 PM [The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(MPCA\) has scheduled](#) two public informational meetings to provide updates and answer questions regarding ongoing water quality projects in the Mississippi River-Headwaters [watershed](#). The meetings are scheduled for Jan. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Bemidji City Hall, 317 4th St. NW, Bemidji; and Jan. 26, 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Cohasset Community Center.

See HC COLA member websites for ideas: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/hubbard-lake-associations.html>

“Bill’s Corner” on 12/16/2016

Bill DonCarlos, Hubbard County AIS Program Coordinator email: bdoncarlos@co.hubbard.mn.us phone: 218-732-2376

As I am writing this, ice is forming across Hubbard County marking the end of the 2016 open-water season. This season was one of change and involved a transfer of knowledge from both the AIS Task Force and Hubbard County SWCD, over to the Environmental Services Department of Hubbard County. It has been a learning experience and one that continues to be very rewarding. We have a great community here in Hubbard County. Over the past six months I have met many interesting, intelligent, and passionate individuals. The lakes of Hubbard County represent a very valuable resource and the community cares deeply about keeping it that way. We all benefit from having healthy lakes both economically and ecologically, and our community understands this.

The 2016 season was a learning experience for me, not only did I learn how to manage the Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program, but I also learned about how other counties manage their programs. I really tried to soak up as much knowledge as I possibly could. I also attended a [conference in St. Cloud](#) this fall. The conference was a great opportunity to meet other people involved in the AIS field and to hear new and innovative ideas. One of the topics that stuck with me was a presentation from the MN DNR about [positive messaging](#). The presenter was Greg Husak and his message was to never underestimate the power of a positive attitude, or a negative one for that matter. Even something as simple as talking about the majority of lakes which are not infested rather than the few that are, can change public perspective for the better. Some other interesting topics presented at this conference included new educational materials to further promote awareness and education. One such idea was presented by Charlene Brooks from the Crow River Organization of Water, they have distributed many different types of educational materials. One of their most [successful materials](#) were rolls of toilet paper with the text “Wipe Away Invasives” printed on it, the rolls were distributed at local bait shops and businesses and were a big hit with the community. The St. Cloud conference also provided opportunity to learn about [different case studies](#) and how various infestations played out. This information may be helpful for our department down the road. The opportunity to communicate with other people in the AIS field was well worth my time.

The main focus for 2016 for me was to understand the program and develop relationships within the community of Hubbard County. The main goal for 2017 will be making improvements to the inspection program. I would like to focus on trying to make our program more efficient which will in turn make it more effective. I would also like to explore new ideas for educational materials using different types of media. Another area of interest for me is to increase community involvement through public events or by having a presence at local fairs. I will be using any spare time I have this winter to work on developing these ideas and will hope to start implementing them next year. My winter will also be busy with scheduling, reporting, and planning, both with the staffing agency and the County. As always I encourage the community to stay in contact with me, to ask questions, and to spark discussions. Communication is the most powerful tool we have.

Watercraft Inspection Program 2017 Supplemental Hours important information for Lake Associations:

Verbal Partner Fund Commitment: January 31, 2017

Lake Association payment Deadline: March 1, 2017

1. The check payee should be to Hubbard County
2. Write “2017 AIS WID Program” on memo line
3. Mail the check to Eric Buitenwerf, Environmental Services Officer Hubbard County,
301 Court Avenue, Park Rapids, MN 56470. Eric will direct the check to Kay Rave, Hubbard County Auditor

Township Payment Deadline: April 30, 2017

Call Bill DonCarlos, AIS Program Coordinator at 218-732-2376 for questions or to meet with him on the program!

Email Bill at: bdoncarlos@co.hubbard.mn.us Official Hubbard County website: www.co.hubbard.mn.us

Aquatic Invaders Summit II, October 5-6, 2016, St. Cloud, MN – by Dan Kittilson

The [Aquatic Invaders Summit II](#) held on October 5-6, 2016 in St. Cloud focused on building partnerships to prevent and slow the spread of AIS in Minnesota. Several HC COLA members attended the Summit and reported that many interesting topics and experts were featured at the summit. The following is a summary from the AIS Summit:

1. The [Summit kicked off with a special video](#) “Aquatic Invasive Species: An Underwater Perspective” produced by Wired2Fish in collaboration with Wildlife Forever. The video featured aquatic invaders at home in our lakes with high-resolution underwater cinematography. A link to the video is available on the HC COLA website and would make an excellent feature for your lake association meetings in 2017. The video is part of Wildlife Forever’s [Clean-Drain-Dry](#) Initiative!
2. Dr. Peter Sorenson, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, University of Minnesota gave a presentation about “Ecosystem Protection at a Local Level: A Bold, New Step in AIS Prevention”. Dr. Sorenson’s vision would focus on establishing freshwater protection areas that would garner special strategic actions for the prevention of AIS. Targeted special protection areas in Minnesota may include: 1) Headwater lakes such as lakes at the top of a chain of lakes, 2) Tullibee Refuge Lakes, 3) Targeted lakes / rivers in Minnesota that currently are not infested with any AIS and have been identified as water bodies that are worthy of special protection, and 4) An iconic lake such as Lake Itasca. This program could be modeled after similar areas that are now established around the world in our oceans as well as Minnesota DNR’s Scientific and Natural Areas. He was interviewed by MPR News during the conference:
<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/10/06/protected-lakes-marine-reserves>
3. Presenting on “[The Economic Impacts of AIS](#)” Joe Shneider from Christmas Lake reported on a survey conducted by MN COLA. The presentation focused on “How Much Do Private Citizens and LGU’s Spend to Protect Public Water”? A very interesting point from this survey revealed that the Counties that spend the most [Money on Prevention](#) have [Minimal AIS](#) when compared to other Counties. Several Counties on this list include Hubbard (whose private citizen’s spending is at the highest level) and Itasca County. ***These facts tell us that what we do in Hubbard County is making a difference.***
4. Dr. Michael McCartney, MAISRC, U of M, reported that the rate of new inland [invasion of zebra mussels](#) in Minnesota is now among the highest in the U.S.
5. According to a study on the “Interaction of Zebra Mussels and Water Quality in Lake Minnetonka”, Eric Fieldseth with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District reported that zebra mussels have the greatest impact in moderately fertile bays and lakes (mesotrophic lakes). This study can be used as a predictive tool for other lakes.....The study further suggests that Chlorophyll-a can be a prediction tool for zebra mussel population growth and ecological impacts. Food factors for optimal growth of mussels can be limited with low levels of Chlorophyll-a (<2.5) or high levels (>25). Fieldseth further reports that if a lake has low levels of Chlorophyll-a, zebra mussels can survive, but may not thrive. Zebra mussel populations could be short lived, have more fluctuations and not reach high, sustainable populations. However, he noted that they can still be a nuisance.

Fieldseth stressed that if your lake has lower levels of Chlorophyll-a, it’s a great reason to maintain good water quality in your lake.

Other researchers report that zebra mussels need high calcium, the right kind of food and hard surfaces for attachments. If one of those criteria is lacking, zebra mussel densities will be limited (STEVE MCCOMAS).

See the UMN [Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center](#) programs & find out how you can help!