

Short Ears, Long Tales

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association

Summer Fun Also Means Summer Monitoring By Kathy Hanson

Lac Courte Oreilles Boat Landings

Contributing Writer Three public boat landings on Lac Courte Oreilles assist

the public in launching and retrieving their boats all summer long. There is a launch on Victory Heights (Town of Sand Lake) in the west basin; anther launch in Anchor Bay (Town of Bass Lake) in the East Basin; and the primary launch (Lac Courte Oreilles Access), also known as the DNR ramp in Chicago Bay in the central basin. Both the Victory Heights and Anchor Bay ramps serve the immediate neighborhoods and are primarily used by the local populations. The DNR Chicago Bay ramp is used by lake visitors—and that is why COLA monitors it for aquatic invasive species.

Photo by Mark Laustrup. According to Mark Laustrup, COLA Secretary and

Website Coordinator, the Chicago Bay ramp "is by far and away the heaviest used of the three."

The cost of monitoring the Chicago Bay ramp approaches \$6,000 per year, according to Laustrup who added that the Wisconsin DNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 to carry out such activities

with in-kind matching from grant participants.

None of the three launches have fish cleaning areas; Victory Heights and Anchor Bay have 1-5 vehicles/trailer stalls, while the DNR ramp in Chicago Bay has 25+. Since they are public access ramps there is no cost to use them.

working Friday through Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. His job involves approaching each boat as it enters or leaves the lake, and he asks the boater the following questions:

monitoring from fishing opener day through Labor Day,

Eli Robins is employed by COLA to monitor LCO boat landings. Photos by

Eli Robbins, 18, and a recent Hayward High School graduate, works for COLA, monitoring the Chicago Bay

ramp for aquatic invasive species (AIS). He begins

Mark Laustrup

Have you been contacted by a watercraft inspector this season? Are you willing to answer questions? Was this boat used during the past five days on a different body of water? He then inspects the boat, trailer and equipment for any attached plants/animals.

Then he asks that they drain all water from the boat, including livewells, and proceeds to record the information

on a data form that will eventually be entered into the

DNR SWIMS database.

boats and interacted with 920 people in May, June, and July of this year. Laustrup said for the most part people are aware of the

"It's getting better. On occasion, (Eli) will find plants

AIS issues and people are quite cooperative.

Eli's task amounts to a lot of work. He inspected 758

anarchist who wants nothing to do with government in any form," said Laustrup.

hanging from the trailers. And then there is the occasional

Aguatic plants hanging from trailer. Photo by Steve Umland. Eli said he sees anywhere from six to 60 boats a day at the ramp, mostly fishing boats, pontoons, inboards and

outboards, and a few wakeboard boats. "They're mostly

When asked what he finds in the way of AIS, Eli said, "I

usually don't find any invasive species going into the lake

from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois," he said.

but coming out of the lake when it's windy there is usually





discovered and treated in Stuckey Bay and Barbertown Bay as well. Both locations have under one to three acres depending on the year." Until recently, COLA has focused exclusively on the control of CLP in Lac Courte Oreilles. But in the last three

ears Umland noted that Furasian Water Milfoil and CLP

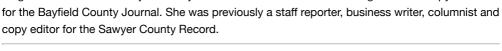
have been found in Little Lac Courte Oreilles.

COLA applied for and received a quick-response grant to develop and implement a treatment plan for little LCO. Both invasive species were treated in 2017 using both herbicides and hand-pulling. Post treatment surveys have been encouraging.

Loosestrife, Zebra Mussels, and Rusty Crayfish, have not been found in LCO. **f** Share **y** Tweet **⋈** Forward

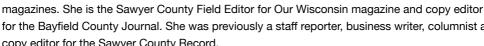
Fortunately, the three other invasive species that are in

the upper Couderay River watershed, Purple









Kathy Hanson is a free-lance writer for various local and regional newspapers and Duluth

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By all accounts the COLA picnic was a success. Attendance was ~135, and the new venue at Trails End

worked well. Let us know what you think. COLA ACHIEVES CRITICAL STEP IN GETTING LONG-

Governor Scott Walker has approved a scope statement submitted by the WDNR on May 15, 2017 that initiates the rulemaking process to establish a

NEEDED PROTECTIONS IN PLACE

more protective water quality standard for LCO. The current phosphorus standard for the lake is set at 15 ppb by the state. COLA and the LCO tribe have asked that the limit be lowered to 10 ppb (more). LCO WILL BE FEATURED AT THE 2017 MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE

and Associate Vice President with LimnoTech, will be presenting a talk entitled. "Protecting Two-Story Lakes: A

Hans Holmberg, a Senior Engineer

Battle Against Phosphorus and Climate Change" at the 2017 Minnesota Water

Resources Conference to be held at

the Saint Paul RiverCentre in Saint

Paul, Minnesota, on October 17-18, 2017. This presentation will discuss the basis for and approach used to develop a site-specific phosphorus

criterion for Lac Courte Oreilles. The conference will be attended by about 700 water resource professionals.

provided in upcoming SELT issues and on COLA's website. ALL OF LAC COURTE OREILLES WILL LIKELY BE LISTED AS AN IMPAIRED WATER BODY

Holmberg's presentation will be

Courte Oreilles will probably be included in Wisconsin's list of impaired waters for 2018 based on depleted dissolved oxygen levels. COLA requested this action,

In addition to Musky Bay, all of Lac

which was spurred, in part, by last fall's extensive fish kill along with the well-documented low oxygen levels and high water temperatures. More information will follow in upcoming weeks.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO **EROSION IN THE UPPER** COUDERAY RIVER WATERSHED COLA recently commissioned the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point to conduct an erosion study of the Upper Couderay River

Watershed. Results are summarized

by UWSP GIS Education Specialist,

VULNERABILITY OF

Douglas Miskowiak, in this presentation. "LEGACY PHOSPHORUS" AND OUR WATERS" A <u>new study</u> quantifies the need to reduce phosphorus in our soils—for

the health of our lakes and rivers

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. PLEASE RENEW YOUR

By Jenny Seifert, Grow - Wisconsin's

Magazine for the Life Sciences, UW

2017! COLA membership is a pretty good

deal. For only 25\$/year, you help COLA protect LCO, and you get a

picnic in return!

COLA MEMBERSHIP FOR

Renew your membership today in one of Wisconsin's most active and respected lake associations. Are your neighbors and extended

family members of COLA? If not,

LAKESHORE PROPERTY **OWNER GUIDES**

please ask them to join.

selection of native plants as well as simple and inexpensive best practices for lakeshore property owners.

Healthy Lakes 350 ft2 Native Planting

These guides provide guidance on

2014-2017 Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan

SAWYER COUNTY LAND &

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017 - 2026

Companion Guide

unique natural resources. This plan is an important tool to guide local government, various state and

SHORELAND BUFFER **GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE**

federal agencies, and

individuals (more).

Sawyer County is faced with ever

increasing public demands on its

COLA has received a WDNR grant to develop shoreland restoration plans and designs, make bulk plant purchases, and arrange construction and installation services from area

landscapers. COLA will also help provide continuing education and a hands-on buffer zone training in partnership with the Sawyer County Lakes Forum and other local groups. The primary intended audience for education efforts extends to the Upper Couderay River Watershed lakes including Whitefish, Sand, Grindstone, Windigo, Sissabagama, Osprey, Round and Little Round. For questions and details, email Kris Sivertson, at krisw3690@gmail.com

NEW COLA WEBSITE FEATURE - LAKE **OBSERVATION FORMS** The COLA website has been revised to include a much-needed feature - a place to record lake observations. There are forms available for those who want to report dying fish, invasive aquatic plant species, algae blooms, ice on/off dates, loon sightings, and other events. COLA'S LAND USE POLICY **STATEMENT**

COLA recently developed a new land use policy statement addressing developmental pressures on LCO, and it proved useful for evaluating the merits of a recent request to rezone a property adjacent to Fleur de Lane.

or call <u>715-210-0818</u>.

nearby lakes who would enjoy Short Ears, Long Tales, let us know. Help COLA by sharing this newsletter with friends.

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

If you have friends or family on

ARCHIVED ISSUES OF SHORT

EARS, LONG TALES

COLA Mission: 1) to protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Lac Courte Oreilles and Little Lac Courte Oreilles, their shorelands and surrounding areas, while respecting the interests of property owners and the rights of the general public; and 2) to consider, study, survey and respond to issues deemed relevant by COLA's membership.

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