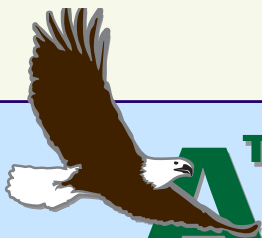


In this issue:

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# THE Aerie

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION

## 2019 Directory and Map

BARB FISCHER

The directory and map will be delayed this year. Rick Johnson was the long-time author of both of these tools that most of us liked to have and use. I will have a directory to send out to the BMLA members this winter and will attempt to update the map – probably with the changes since last year made by hand and copied.

I like this tool and think that most of our members do also. If anyone would like to take over this task, please contact me – Barb Fischer 765-414-4197, or barbf49@aol.com. The goal is to have a longer term solution for early 2020.

## 2018 Mantrap Lake Loon Report

STEVE MAANUM

In 2018, ice-out didn't arrive until the end of April. A crew of volunteers gathered at the McGinnis Marina on April 28 to prepare the loon rafts. As usual, Warren and Arlis headed up the activity with assistance from Janet Dixon, Ron Harlow, Jim Nemzek, Barry Guptill, Steven Remund, Steve Maanum and his grandson Cole and son-in-law Salvatore.

2018 was the 'YEAR OF SURPRISES' on Mantrap Lake. The Porcupine Bay male of many years died last summer so a new male took over the territory. Even though past research has shown that it is the male who decides on the nest site, the resident female somehow convinced him that she had every

### The numbers

- 23 nests – 18 of the 20 rafts were used and there were 5 natural nests
- 44 eggs were laid
- 29 eggs hatched
- 17 juveniles reported during the August count

intention of remaining on the raft at its usual location, just as she had done with her previous partner.

**A SECOND SURPRISE** was documented at Home Bay. Back in 2011 the female in that territory was captured and banded for identification. She returned in 2012-2014 and disappeared in 2015, only to return in 2016 before disappearing again in 2017. 2018 saw her back on the nest with her old mate who had simply taken on a new partner each year she was absent.

**THE THIRD SURPRISE** was in the Mud Flats. The resident pair did not build a nest or lay eggs in 2017, but they resumed their nesting role in 2018.

**DEAD ISLAND SURPRISED** us with a new nest location. Usually when the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Please donate

The loon fund could use a boost to help cover the cost of two new rafts that will replace older models. The older models are available for other lake associations to purchase. Send your check to Barb Fischer and in the memo area write Loon Fund.

## 2019 Big Mantrap Lake Association Survey

JIM ZAWACKI

The Big Mantrap Lake Association is conducting a survey of its members to give those that want an opportunity to speak a chance. We used Survey Monkey to create the online survey. If you haven't found it in your inbox, please check your spam. Please give us your feedback.

pair build their natural nest along the south shore of the Island, predators get the eggs. This year they built their nest in the rushes at the west end of the Island and it was successful.

**ANOTHER SURPRISE:** Hoodoo Bay had a new male. We noticed leg bands and when we looked more closely, we saw an antenna, indicating that it had been captured by Kevin Kenow's research team in 2011. At that time it had been the Dead Island resident male. It had not been seen since 2012 so when it showed up in Hoodoo Bay, it was a pleasant surprise.

**THE SURPRISES CONTINUED** during our egg count. The raft at Lady Slipper East had two loon eggs, but it also has six mallard eggs and the adult loons were incubating all of the eggs.

**THREE EGG SURPRISE.** When we checked the Junge raft, we were surprised to count three loon eggs. All three hatched, but an eagle got one of the chicks within the first week.

**FILM STAR SURPRISE.** Bill Mill's raft (the location of the National Geographic filming in 2017) was occupied by a pair of Canada geese so the resident loons were wondering what to do. Barry and Steve placed a low profile Type B raft a short distance away from the goose nest and the loons accepted it. They laid two eggs and both hatched!



**Loon Volunteers in 2018**

- Janet Dixon
- Barb Fischer
- Burney Fischer
- Ron Harlow
- Gerry Johnson
- Deb Junge
- Lettitia Laske
- Lyle Laske
- Steve Maanum
- Mary Lou Meier
- Vicky Miller
- Bill Mills
- Bill Moore
- Jim Nemzek
- Stephen Remund
- Carole Sieirk

**Loon Fund Contributors in 2018**

- Janet Dixon
- Barry Guptill
- Gerald & Linda Johnson
- Gerald & Marcia Land
- Robert & Elaine Landrigan
- Lyle & Fran Laske
- Steve Maanum
- Warren & Arlis McGinnis
- Mary Lou Meier
- Vicky Miller
- Jim & Linda Zawacki,

**AIS Fund Contributors in 2018**

- Alleven, Julie
- Barta, Tom
- Billion, David
- Boe, Sheralee
- Burt, Jim
- Campbell, Linda
- Chamoun, Adel
- Condiff, Gary & Judy
- Condiff, Mark & Cindy
- Conzemius, Mark & Jean
- Crabbe, Jim & Anne
- Dildine, John & Chris
- Dixon, Frances
- Dixon, Janet
- Estlick, Ty & Mary
- Evans, Mildred
- Fegley, Gary & Cynthia
- Fielder, Doug & Catherine
- Fischer, Burney & Barb
- Gooch, Lynn
- Hansen, Michael & Heidi
- Harlow, Ron
- Haukebo, Jeff & Betty
- Hayes, Daniel & Carol
- Hoyer-Hayes
- Hemingway, Cynthia
- Hoffman, Clifford & Laraine
- Ingebrand-Pohlad, Mary
- Johnson, Gerald & Linda
- Johnson, Gregory
- Johnson, Richard & Holly
- Junge, Deborah
- Kaufmann & Rouleau
- Kersten, Ron & Sarah
- Kind, Judith
- Kind, Judy & Sharon
- Kittleson, Norn & Sharon
- Kline, George & Ginna
- Krasco, Cristin
- Kyser, D & Johnson T
- Land, Gerald & Marcia
- Landrigan, Robert & Elaine
- Laske, Fran & Lyle
- Love, Judy
- Marsh, Helen
- Masog, John
- McAlpine, Gary & Linda
- McArdle, Pat & Eunice
- McFarland, Tim & Marcia
- Meier & Miller, ML & VA
- Mertz, Gary POA James Mertz
- Mickelberg, Juie & David
- Mills, William
- Molbert, Lauris
- Molin, Tom
- Moore, Bill
- Myhre, Linda & David

- Nemzek, Jim & Mary
- Nemzek, John & Leah
- Nevins, Rolland & Kathy
- O'Leary, Chris
- O'Neil, Patty & Brooks
- Paulson Port, Tim Paulson
- Persellin, Scott
- Rance Family, Marlene LTD
- Reinhart, Michael & Lisa
- Richardson, Ann
- Ryan, Sue
- Seitz, Scott & SueAnn
- Sierk, Damon & Carole
- Skajewski, Bryan & Eve
- Smith, Daniel
- Stacey, Mike & Kaye
- Stell, Margery
- Stevens, Judith
- Swenson, Brett & Michelle
- Thorpe Township
- Topp, Rodney & Debra
- Ulm, Dennis A
- Vlcek-Simmons-Dunn
- Walker, Jef & Kathryn
- Walker, Jef & Raylene
- Wolff, Bruce & Sharon
- Wolff, Dennis
- Wonewok Employees Club
- Zawacki, Jim & Linda

# Hubbard County COLA Updates

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations is gearing up for 2019 after celebrating its 30th year in 2018. The membership of 31 lake associations, which represent 42 lakes with over 2200 members have banded together with the intention of educating the public on the best lake management practices. Our website's (<http://hubbardcolamn.org/index.html>) purpose is to provide Hubbard county's lakeshore owners the information needed to be good stewards of our lakes.

The HC COLA 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. This mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations.

Regular HC COLA meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the Northwoods Bank - Community Room, 1200 East First Street, Park Rapids, MN. The lower-level Community Room is handicap accessible via elevator. A "Coffee and Conversation" social precedes the Information/Business meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Meetings are generally open to the public unless specified and advertised in the local newspapers. The educational speakers / presentations are scheduled first on the agenda followed by a break prior the business portion of the board meeting to facilitate broad sharing / learning. Meetings are not held Nov-Jan. The early 2019 schedule is Feb 28, March 28, April 25 and May 30.

An emerging HC COLA theme for 2019-20 is developing from a "Social Marketing Working Group". The concept is that HC COLA represents 42/223 total lakes in Hubbard County with a membership of 2200 member. There are an estimated 5,760 distinct lakeshore parcels on the 42 COLA lakes and an estimated additional 3,115 distinct lakeshore parcels on non-COLA lakes. How do we best communicate and become communicate and/or become involved with these other lakeshore parcels regarding AIS and other countywide concerns. A very interesting topic of discussion for sure.

# Big Mantrap Nature Notes, Winter 2018-19

BURNEY FISCHER

Mantrappers are reporting interesting winter wildlife sightings. For December I got reports from Kathy Nivens who saw a cougar (i.e. panther, mountain lion, etc.) while driving to work in Park Rapids. This follows a local newspaper story with a picture of a dead cougar (~160 pounds, see-attached article).

A second wildlife report comes from the Arlis and Warren McGinnis. They watched a wolf walk across the ice near Muskeg Island from their house.

In my fall Natures Notes, I asked whether folks know of additional mountain ash trees along the shore of BML. Deb Junge wrote me a nice letter in December regarding the three mountain ash trees in her yard that she planted many years ago. She says in fall/winter that they are a great attraction for cedar waxwings and once, a pair of Bohemian waxwings.

The Park Rapids completed their annual aerial fish house count on January 10, 2019. For Big Mantrap they reported 10 fish houses, which is below the average of 16. BML data collected annually since 1986 has ranged from 1-48 with the "normal" range being 9-25.

Finally, the 2018 MN DNR ice in report for Big Mantrap says the ice in date was November 11. That is the earliest during the 2007-18 time record, with the median ice in date being November 28 and the latest date being December 9, 2016. By the way, the MN DNR ice out dates for BML (1983-2018) show the median ice out date is April 23, with the range of earliest to latest being April 7-May 7, last year (2018) was May 2. Interesting dates to keep in mind.





Check out the load of bulrushes that Warren, Arliss and Barry gathered in December. Only about a hundred days until the raft gets prepped!



BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION AIS FUND				1/23/2019
Financial Statement 2018				
	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance	
Balance Forward 1/1/2018			\$ 29,108.62	
<b>Income</b>				
Contributions	\$ 19,375.50			
Thorpe Township	\$ 250.00			
Interest Income	\$ 56.15			
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 19,681.65</b>			
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Hubbard County AIS		\$ 12,191.50		
		\$ 12,191.50		
Balance 12/31/2018			36,598.77	

BIG MANTRAP LAKE ASSOCIATION GENERAL FUND - INCLUDING LOON FUND									1/23/2019
Financial Statement 2018									
	Receipts			Disbursements			Balance		
	General	Loon	Total	General	Loon	Total	General	Loon	Total
Balance Forward 1/1/2018							\$10,982.89	\$ 1,742.73	\$12,725.62
<b>Income</b>									
Dues & Newsletters	\$ 1,855.00		\$ 1,855.00						
Miscellaneous sales	\$ 155.00		\$ 155.00						
Interest	\$ 9.07		\$ 9.07						
Restore the Shore	\$ 108.00		\$ 108.00						
Loon Fund contributions		\$ 625.00	\$ 625.00						
Loon Fund Memorials		\$ 460.00	\$ 460.00						
Loon motor contributions			\$ -						
Loon Fund sales		\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 2,127.07</b>	<b>\$ 1,385.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,512.07</b>						
<b>Expenses</b>									
Lake maintenance expenses						\$ -			
Loon exp					\$1,537.11	\$ 1,537.11			
AIS expenses - fundraising						\$ -			
Hubbard County COLA (water test)				\$328.00		\$ 328.00			
Communication - Aerie, letters, directories				\$497.84		\$ 497.84			
Meeting expense				\$175.00		\$ 175.00			
BML History expense				\$100.14		\$ 100.14			
Hubbard Cola membership				\$368.00		\$ 368.00			
Cost of RTS trees				\$113.00		\$ 113.00			
Office supplies & expenses						\$ -			
Cost of items to sell						\$ -			
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 1,581.98</b>	<b>\$ 1,537.11</b>	<b>\$ 3,119.09</b>			
Balance 8/9/2018							\$11,527.98	\$ 1,590.62	\$13,118.60

# Mantrap Lake History

RICH HALVORSEN

What's the real reason behind the name "Mantrap"? Is there really a steamboat in the bottom of Steamboat Bay? Where was the Mantrap Post Office located?

At the August Association meeting there was a renewed interest



in gathering history of the Big Mantrap Lake area. We've already collected many things but we are hoping that our fellow Mantrappers can provide anything

including early photos, resort histories, even family stories to help piece together the journey that led us all here today.

Of course while trying to answer some of these questions invariably others are raised. One of the more interesting ones seen here was found at the Minnesota Historical Society in a collection of photographs from the Conservation Department meant to document activities and buildings for the forestry division. Among several photos from the area this one titled "Old boom Canadian custom office, Mantrap Lake, 1932" definitely raised a few eyebrows!



Do you know anything about this cabin? Do you have any old photos of the lake or nearby? Maps, photos, brochures, narratives are all welcome. We can make copies of existing documents or receive them electronically. If you have any ideas or contributions please contact President Rich Halvorsen or Board Member Jim Zawacki.

## Board of Directors

**Rich Halvorsen**, President  
612-245-9391  
rich.halvorsen@gmail.com

**could be you**, Vice President

**Linda Zawacki**, Secretary  
651-246-3844  
lzboutique@comcast.net

**Barb Fischer**, Treasurer  
765-414-4197  
barbf49@aol.com

**Jim Nemzek**, AIS coordinator  
218-732-4887

**Kathy Nevins**, Board member  
605-695-2959  
knevins62@gmail.com

**Jim Zawacki**, Board member  
651-735-8613  
bigz1mm@comcast.net

**Stephen Remund**, Board member  
itascapark@gmail.com

## Big Mantrap Lake Association Membership Form

check one:  New member  Renew

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mantrap Lake address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive mail at this address during July?  Yes  No

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Winter address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$25 for full membership, or \$15 for the newsletter only.

They are due in December. Make checks payable to Big Mantrap Lake Association, and mail them to Barb Fischer, 618 W Soutar Drive, Bloomington IN 47403.

# Forever a Mantrapper

We are aware of the sad loss of two valued Big Mantrap Lake residents.

**JOY MILLS** (February 21, 1954 - December 11, 2018) had a long history with Big Mantrap Lake. She was part of the Harvey Harbor family and enjoyed many memories of times on the lake from an early age. She and her husband, Bill, bought their own house on the lake several years ago and spent a large part of summers on the lake since then. Joy looked forward to her time on the lake. Those of us who participated in loon counts looked forward to her breakfast muffins on the boat. She loved the times at the lake with her children and grandchildren.

**RICK JOHNSON** (May 24, 1945 - January 10, 2019) served Big Mantrap Lake Association in several capacities – board member, volunteer editor of the Aerie (a job that he was able to transfer to other residents) and producer of the Directory and Map until his death. He lived in a house on the River and later with Holly, built his house with a sky observatory on Widow's Point. His interests were wide and included astronomy, law, accounting, scuba diving, black powder and civil war pistols and probably lots of other things. He used his scuba diving skills to dive down to the 69' deepest point in Big Mantrap Lake and was disappointed to find nothing to see. A quote from a long-time resident – "you wanted Rick on your side, he could do amazing things." He is survived by wife Holly, children Alex Myatt, Mira (Chris) Lett, grandchildren Jade, Kaden, Lily, Amelia, Eleanor, and great grandson Hudson.

Barb Fischer  
618 W Soutar Drive  
Bloomington IN 47403

