



Short Ears, Long Tales

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association

Issue #21 July 1, 2017

Broken Arrow Shoreline and Cabins Get Facelift

By Kathy Hanson
Contributing Writer

If a shoreline could say "thank you," there is 500 feet on Lac Courte Oreilles that would breathe a sigh of relief and say just that.

Instead, owners of the cabins at the Broken Arrow Condo Association (BACA) are saying it as they close in on the final days of a major shoreline restoration project that began back in November, took off in early May, and will wrap up in mid-July.

COLA Vice President Gary Pulford said that planning and design for this project went on all last winter so they could move quickly in the spring. And they did.



"Before" pictures of the Broken Arrow Condo Association shoreline in July 2016, showing the highly degraded/eroded shoreline, Photo by Gary Pulford..

Beginning in mid-February rock riprap was placed along 200 feet of the BACA shoreline. Then, in early May Envirolok bags were filled onsite with the soil/compost for the plants and placed in conjunction with the rock riprap. The bags are woven into an interlocking wall unit where native plants can develop extensive root systems that grow through the bag. The root structures grow many feet into the earth and lock the wall into place, providing a permanent erosion control system.

Extensive planting of carefully chosen native plants, mulching and installation of an irrigation system followed.

Biologs are also being used to restore and stabilize another 120 feet of the shoreline. The biologs provide a planting medium and are anchored along the shoreline; the native plants are planted right into them. Eventually, the biologs degrade by themselves in four to five years, leaving the well-rooted plants to thrive and hold the shoreline in place, explained Pulford.



Installation of the rock rip rap and EnviroLok bag system in May 2017. Photos by Gary Pulford.

The shoreline was seriously damaged, after years and years of neglect, with the ultimate blow dealt in the July 2016 storm when many trees went down in straight line winds.

Gary Larson, BACA vice-president and a 20-year resident, said, "Most recently the high water levels and wind, wave and boat traffic, have all taken a toll. When the trees on the shoreline fell, huge rootballs formed on the shoreline and there was severe tree damage to most of the cabins on the property.

Pulford said without the native shrubs and other traditional vegetation to hold the upland soil in place (known as the "buffer") the shoreline is lost—in this case approximately 12-15 feet of shoreline has eroded away since the mid-80s and has been washed into the lake.

This shoreline restoration project is one of four that COLA has undertaken over the past two years. Its total cost will be just over \$66,000 with BACA paying nearly \$22,000 of that and a Wisconsin DNR grant paying the remainder. Brent Hanson of Hanson's Garden Village in Rhinelander, Wisconsin was the primary contractor in this restoration. Pulford said his expertise and extensive experience in shoreline restoration made this project feasible. Hanson said, "This project has been a true collaboration between many parties who wish to protect the property owner's interests while restoring and actually improving site conditions from a healthy lakes perspective."

Pulford said this project was especially attractive to COLA to undertake because of the 500 feet of shoreline owned by multiple parties in a condo association. Typically a project consists of 100 feet of shoreline by one owner. There has been severe erosion with ominous further loss of shoreline and the lake coming in closer and closer to the cabins, Pulford said.

Broken Arrow was originally a resort off of County E in the Skunawong community. Genevieve and Perry Risberg owned the land before it became a resort and they purchased it from the Indian Agency in Ashland. The Risbergs were married in 1949 and owned their own real estate business in Hayward. Perry was known for developing lakeshore land and building cabins.

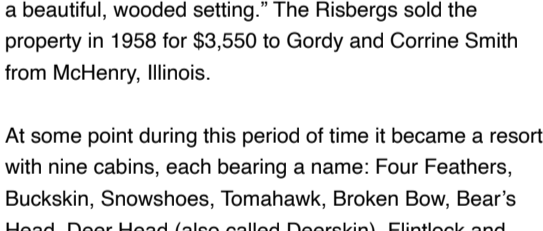
According to the Loon Call Fall/Winter 2005 (official newsletter of Courte Oreilles Lakes Association, Inc.) in an article titled, "There's History In Those Old Postcards," the Risbergs were "given permission to dig out some of the land and make it nicer. There was over 350' of frontage in a beautiful, wooded setting." The Risbergs sold the property in 1958 for \$3,550 to Gordy and Corrine Smith from McHenry, Illinois.

At some point during this period of time it became a resort with nine cabins, each bearing a name: Four Feathers, Buckskin, Snowshoes, Tomahawk, Broken Bow, Bear's Head, Deer Head (also called Deerskin), Flintlock and Dog.

In the early 80s the resort, owned at that time by Matt Stryker, converted to condos—owned today by people from Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Colorado. Larson, whose duties include working with others to open/close cabins and supervise maintenance of the grounds, is a retired teacher and coach from Rice Lake. He said some of the cabins still belong to the original owners and families.

Larson said the July 2016 storm damaged many of the cabins, some occupied. "Trees were literally on top of the buildings and some were blocking doorways as well as the road. It was a real mess," he said.

Cleanup, he said, began immediately and continues today, fixing cabins and making repairs. It was not just the shoreline that got a facelift but the cabins as well.



A portion of the upland buffer being planted in early June, 2017. In all, over 4,000 native shrubs and plants have been planted so far. Photo by Gary Pulford.

Several months into the shoreline restoration now, Larson said the shoreline is "doing very good, holding its own." He said there was quite a variety of plants and shrubs used in the project, most if not all native vegetation and groundcover as well as a variety of grasses. "Some are on the shoreline mixed among the Envirolok bags and some are part of the inland buffer around and in front of the cabins. We feel good about the long term nature of the project," said Larson.

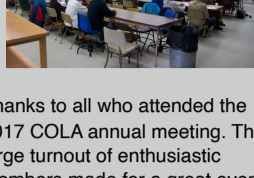
Pulford, who was the main coordinator of the project, said there is still money available from the grant for those who want to upgrade their shoreline to help improve LCO water quality, promote habitat and improve the aesthetics of the lake.

Always the ombudsman of Lac Courte Oreilles, Pulford said, "The lake has been here 10,000 years. The shoreline would not have moved one inch if people hadn't moved in."

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GOOD TIMES AT THE COLA ANNUAL MEETING



Thanks to all who attended the 2017 COLA annual meeting. The large turnout of enthusiastic members made for a great event.

JULY 3 BOAT PARADE



LCO Patriot Parade - July 3rd at 3 pm. Show your love for the USA and LCO and meet others on the lake during this fun tradition. The parade will begin at The Sand Bar (Wismo Point) at 3 pm and circle Chicago Bay then head back to the Sand Bar. Best Patriot Boat of the parade will be crowned the winner of LCO Patriot Parade 2017. Runners up will also be recognized.

Please let us know if you plan to be part of the parade this year so we can plan accordingly.

Contact: Elaine Pardi
Email: elainepardi@gmail.com
Mobile: 507-254-7676

COLA PICNIC !! NEW LOCATION!!

12-3 pm, Saturday July 15, 2017
Trails End Resort
8080 Co Hwy K
Hayward, WI

Food and beer/pop will be provided by COLA to *current members*. Raffle tickets will be sold for five restaurants in the Northwoods Beach/lake area.

Rumor has it that [Wisconsin Outdoor News Conservationist of the Year](#), Frank Pratt, will do a fly-tying demo.

ALL OF LAC COURTE OREILLES WILL LIKELY BE LISTED AS AN IMPAIRED WATER BODY

In addition to Musky Bay, all of Lac 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, 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.

VULNERABILITY OF 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, Douglas Miskowiak, in this [video presentation](#).

TIME TO RENEW YOUR COLA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017!

COLA membership is a pretty good deal. For only 25\$/year, you help COLA protect LCO, and you get a picnic in return!

[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, please ask them to [join](#).

COLA IN THE NEWS

[DNR Settles Suit by Agreeing to Move Toward Lake Pollution Limit](#)
April 18, 2017
By Steven Verborg, Wisconsin State Journal

[DNR Agrees To Investigate Stricter Phosphorus Limits On Lac Courte Oreilles: DNR, Lake Association Claim DNR Not Doing Enough To Protect Lake, Fishery](#)
April 18, 2017
By Rich Kremer, WPR News

[DNR, COLA, Tribe Settle Lawsuit on Lake Phosphorus Procedure](#)
April 26, 2017
By Terrell Boettcher, Sawyer County Record

OTHER NEWS

[Maryland Farmer Fights to Keep Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Alive](#)
June 30, 2017
Ari Shapiro, NPR

[Spring Hearings Expose Groundwater Concerns](#)
May 18, 2017
By Patrick Durkin, Green Bay Press-Gazette

[Garlic Mustard](#) (in the Northwoods)
May 5, 2017
By Emily M. Stone, Natural Connections - Cable Natural History Museum

[Cranberry Research to Get a Boost in Wisconsin](#)
May 15, 2017
By Barry Adams, Wisconsin State Journal

COLA JOINS 20 CONSERVATION GROUPS TO OPPOSE LEGISLATION TO EASE PHOSPHORUS STANDARDS

A [letter](#) seeking to ease Wisconsin's phosphorus water-quality standards circulated through the WI State Legislature for sign-ons. It asked Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation to allow the state to revise phosphorus standards by loosening phosphorus regulations. Clean Wisconsin sent a [response](#) on behalf of the conservation community, including COLA. The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) covered the news and its impacts.

LAKESHORE PROPERTY OWNER GUIDES

These guides provide guidance on selection of native plants as well as simple and inexpensive best practices for lakeshore property owners.

[Healthy Lakes 350 ft² Native Planting Companion Guide](#)
[2014-2017 Wisconsin's Healthy Lakes Implementation Plan](#)

SAWYER COUNTY LAND & WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017 - 2026

Sawyer County is faced with ever increasing public demands on its unique natural resources.

This plan is an important tool to guide local government, various state and federal agencies, and individuals ([more](#)).

SHORELAND BUFFER GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE

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, COLA president, at krissw3690@gmail.com or call [715-210-0818](tel:715-210-0818).

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](#).

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

If you have friends or family on nearby lakes who would enjoy Short Ears Long Tales, [let us know](#).

Help COLA by sharing this newsletter with friends.
[ARCHIVED ISSUES OF SHORT EARS, LONG TALES](#)

Kathy Hanson is a free-lance writer for various local and regional newspapers and Duluth magazines. She is the Sawyer County Field Editor for Our Wisconsin magazine and copy editor for the Bayfield County Journal. She was previously a staff reporter, business writer, columnist and copy editor for the Sawyer County Record.

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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