

# E-Newsletter October 2017



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## From the OTC COLA President- Sylvia Soeth

Mother Nature must be happy today! Even the leaves on the ground are sparkling gold with the dew, almost as bright as the ripples on the lake in the sunshine. The colors of the leaves against the blue of the sky are like a rainbow. It's a lovely fall day in Minnesota lakes country. That's the good!

The bad is to see how Starry Stonewort grows in Lake Koronis. The

last COLA meeting of the season was a bus trip to learn more about Starry Stonewort. It is found in 11 lakes in the state this year after the first discovery in Lake Koronis near Paynesville. \$800,000 has been spent in the two years to keep the lake usable. That's not eradicating it. It's so dense fish can't swim in it and it grows from the bottom up many feet. With other algae growing on top it is also the ugly! As with other aquatic invasive species we need to be diligent to keep it out of our Otter Tail lakes.

Results of COLA water testing by volunteers and RMB Labs are in. This season COLA sponsored calcium tests on the 103 lakes that have DNR accesses. Not one is low risk on the chart for Zebra Mussels, some moderate and some high risk. Calcium is important in ZM shell formation. Until research such as that at the U of M finds a control we need to educate users to be responsible.

You can't control Mother Nature! Think of the folks going through hurricanes and wildfires right now. We can do our best to protect and retain the wonders of nature we have here, though.

[\*\*Sylvia Soeth, President\*\*](#)



## OTC COLA Starry Stonewort Bus Tour To Lake Koronis September 14, 2017

OTC COLA hosted a bus tour to lake Koronis September 14, 2017 to

investigate Starry Stonewort (SS) infestation. The participants on the tour included interested lake association members and lake property owners of Otter Tail County. The two-hour travel times between Fergus Falls and Lake Koronis were filled by informative discussions led by David Majkrzak, outgoing President of OTC COLA, Dr. Peter Sorenson, Professor, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, U of M and Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers.

The links below are notes from David, Peter and Jeff on the bus tour and starry stonewort.

[David Majkrzak notes](#)

[David Majkrzak](#)

[Jeff Forester notes](#)

[Jeff Forester, MLR](#)

[Dr. Peter Sorenson notes](#)

[Dr. Peter Sorenson, U of M](#)



## **Minnesota's Lake Associations: Who They Are And What They Do**

The study, "Minnesota's Lake Associations: Who they are and what they do," was conducted by researchers at Concordia College, Moorhead, on behalf of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates ([MLR](#)), a non-profit organization with members statewide that is based in the Twin Cities. The research study was funded by a small grant from [MLR](#), with matched funding provided by Concordia College's Office of Undergraduate Research.

The main purpose of this study was to provide empirical data on who Minnesota lake associations are and to better understand the scope of their lake conservation activities, their major concerns, and the main hurdles they face. Funding sources and allocation of time and money to various activities was documented, as well as membership size, demographics, and expertise. In addition, this study involved a major update and expansion to the database of

Minnesota lake associations that [MLR](#) has in order to enable wider and more effective communication between [MLR](#) and the lake associations in Minnesota. Ultimately, the information gained from this study can help facilitate more collaboration and communication between various government entities and lake associations in Minnesota. This study confirms what I suspected. Lake associations are the largest, most generous and most effective resource protection organization in Minnesota. And with nearly \$400k being spent on fish stocking activities, Lake Associations are also the largest angling organization in the state.

[\*\*News Release: MLR Concordia Lake Association Study\*\*](#)

[\*\*MN Lake Association Survey Report\*\*](#)

[\*\*Jeff Forester, Executive Director MLR  
Minnesota Lakes And Rivers\*\*](#)

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## **OTC Board of Commissioners Resolve To Suspend Muskie Stocking**

On September 26, 2017 the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution to request the Minnesota DNR to "stop muskellunge stocking in any and all Otter Tail County lakes for a 5-year period or until such time that sufficient evidence is presented that muskellunge stocking does not adversely affect the ecosystem". Representatives of numerous Otter Tail lakes were present to support the resolution.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

Pelican Lake Sport Fishing Committee

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## **Fish And Waters Conservation Fund**

**Our Vision:** The next seven generations of Minnesotans continue to enjoy our lake and rivers as they do today because most will still contain clear water, productive fisheries, healthy waterfowl and robust native aquatic plant as well as animal communities sustained by a system of freshwater conservation areas.

**Mission:** To preserve natural resilience, beauty and value of Minnesota's aquatic systems and fisheries by creating a sustainable system of Freshwater Conservation Areas (FCAs) that includes at least 500 lakes and rivers.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## **Online Group Plots To Steal Minnesota's Lakes, Prompts Counter Efforts**

The plot, first uncovered on the social media sites Facebook and Tumblr, has set the date for midnight Oct. 6, starting at White Bear Lake. The operation's goal is spelled out in its title: "Go to Minnesota and Steal their 11,842 lakes."

[MORE](#)

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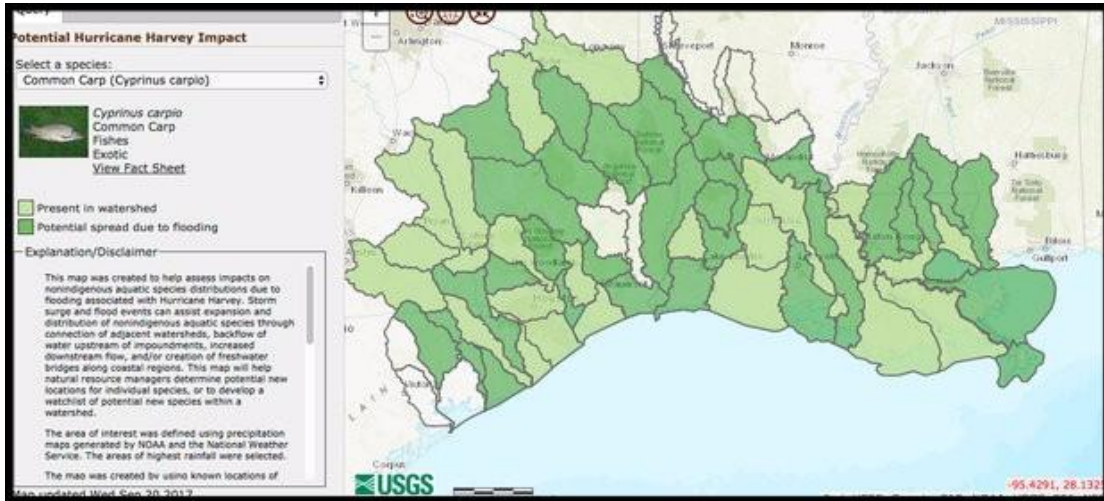


## **New Tool Helps Farmers Stay In Compliance With Buffer Law**

The Nov. 1 deadline is quickly approaching for Minnesota farmers to commit to a plan to comply with the Minnesota Buffer Law. The law

requires farmers to install a 16.5-foot buffer on public ditches and a 50-foot buffer on public waters that run along their farmland.

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## **Carp, Clams And Crested Floating-Hearts: Louisiana On Alert For Invasive Species**

Hurricane Harvey flushed thousands of people from their homes in southeast Texas. It might also have flushed common carp, Asian clams and a flower called the crested floating-heart across the Texas border into Louisiana.

[MORE](#)



## **Can The DNR Predict Good Walleye Fishing: With Electrofishing, They Can**

Can Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) fisheries biologists predict how good walleye fishing on some lakes will be four years in advance? They can, by using a walleye sampling technique known as fall electrofishing. Electrofishing assessments are scheduled annually in September on four lakes in Otter Tail County that the DNR does not stock with walleyes. These lakes are Big and Little Pine, South Ten Mile, and North Lida. The walleye populations in these lakes are self-sustained by natural reproduction. Data collected from electrofishing assessments allows DNR biologists to develop an index of abundance for each years' reproduction success that can be compared to previous years. The index is the catch rate of young-of-the-year (age-0) walleyes that were successfully hatched that spring.

[MORE](#)

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### **Walleye Pond Harvest Stocks Local Lakes: Creating Angling Opportunities**

During September and October, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Fisheries crews are busy harvesting and stocking walleye fingerlings all across the state. In Otter Tail County, the Fisheries crew, based in Fergus Falls, will harvest and stock walleye fingerlings into 12 lakes including Pebble, Stalker, Wall, Hoot, Sewell, Marion, Seven, Six, Donalds, Loon, Sybil and Little McDonald Lakes. Approximately 5,000 pounds of walleye fingerlings will be stocked into these lakes this fall.

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## **How Fishing Makes You Healthier And Happier**

Fishing is one of the most popular recreational activities in the world, and the number of new anglers grows every year.

But few people realize that fishing is not only an enjoyable pastime, it provides a wealth of mental, emotional and physical benefits too.

In fact, many of these benefits endure much longer than a given fishing trip, which means that you'll not only feel better while you're on the water, you'll feel better after you come back home too.

So, while you probably don't need any additional reasons to go fishing, Click on **MORE** to see 11 reasons how fishing makes you healthier and happier.

**[MORE](#)**

**[Jon Sutton Outdoor Empire](#)**

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## **Regional Boat Inspections Inconvenient? Yes, But...**

A strategy that Wright County is trying to implement asks more of the boating public, sure. But it's a change we need to make prevention cost-effective and avoid the much larger inconvenience of losing control of our lakes.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)



## **Zebra Mussels Confirmed On Ten Mile Lake**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed zebra mussels in Ten Mile Lake in west-central Minnesota's Otter Tail County.

Staff at Ten Mile Lake Resort contacted the DNR when they found suspected zebra mussels on a pontoon boat being removed from the lake. DNR invasive species specialists surveyed the area and collected 16 zebra mussels from other equipment in the same area. [MORE](#)



John Kruse OTC COLA Administrative Assistant and Tom Nelson, President of MN COLA site-seeing the falls at Little Falls before the MN COLA Board meeting.

## **MN COLA Board Meeting**

The regular meeting of MN Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) Board of Directors was held in Little Falls, MN on

September 28, 2017. In attendance were representatives of County COLAs and lake associations from across Minnesota.

During the six-hour meeting many issues and subjects of importance were discussed including:

- One watershed, one plan (1W1P)
- Update on pipeline concerns
- Update on Starry Stonewort control
- Update on zebra mussel control at Lake Minnegashta
- Update on Write County Regional Inspection pilot program
- MLR Lake Association Survey
- Update on milfoil weevils for Eurasian Watermilfoil control

There were also presentations on products and technologies that potentially can be used in the battle against the spread of AIS.



## **CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station**

Presented at the MN COLA Board meeting September 28, 2017.  
Empower boaters to stop invasive species with user operated watercraft cleaning equipment.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

## **Boat Launch Geofencing**

Presented at the MN COLA Board meeting September 28 2017.

What Is Geofencing? Geofencing is the practice of using global positioning (GPS) or radio frequency identification (RFID) to define a geographic boundary. Then, once this "virtual barrier" is

established, capture data from cellular smart phones when they enter the geofence boundaries. Identities of individual phones are not directly available but are used in summary form for inclusion into marketing systems and applications. The geofence data is incorporated into a suite of geographical and contextual resources to achieve behavioral targeting. Someone who launches his boat at a boat launch that is geofenced may receive six advertisements within a 30 day period promoting clean-drain-dry practices.

Greg Kaiser, Gull Lake Productions  
Minnesota Traditions

[Request more information](#)

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## **Lake Association Issue Updates**

OTC COLA will be advocates for lake associations on issues and provide information and education to COLA members without necessarily endorsing the positions of individual lake associations on specific issues. If your lake association is currently involved in an issue or project, OTC COLA would like to help by including it here. Send items to [OTC COLA](#)

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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