

# OTC COLA Newsletter

Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

Volume 3, Issue 1

## President's Report—Dave Sethre

Greetings to you all who are wishing the new water year would start pretty soon (open water, that is). With this latest snow event hitting us, it is hard to get in the mood to start thinking about our lake opportunities. We wonder if the lake will



Dave Sethre is President of the OTC COLA for 2014 & 2015

still have ice cover for the fishing opener, like last year.

In any event, COLA will move forward and we hope you will follow. We are planning our first meeting of the year for Thursday, April 17th at the normal meeting location at the Community Center in Ottertail. Yes, not a Saturday morning like in the past. We hope this works better for most, if not everyone.

This first meeting of the year is an opportunity to set the course of COLA for the year. This meet-

ing will be our organizational effort. We need your input to establish priorities for our efforts to represent you, the members. We can only be as effective as the ideas and concerns that must be addressed. So come and compare notes - **let's set** the course for the rest of this year and next year. We have a great group of individuals who can plan and execute on an agenda. But we need to know what is important. Will you help us? We will ensure the meeting will be brief and to the point.

DCS

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## New Meeting Times - Moving COLA to Thursdays

After much consideration and discussion, the Executive Board of COLA has agreed to try a Thursday night meeting format instead of the normal Saturdays. It will routinely be the third Thursday of each month starting at 7 p.m. at the Ottertail Community Center.

We know it will make it more difficult for some who live elsewhere, but we feel it is worth a try.

First meeting is April 17th. Look for a meeting agenda to come via email soon. For information, contact Dave Sethre at 218-367-3322.

### Water Test Kit Pickup

Please note that the water testers will still meet on the fourth Saturday, like in the past. Please join us at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26th at the Ottertail Community Center to pick up your kits.

### AIS Must be Stopped:

- *Quality of use of a lake may be diminished through AIS infestations*
- *Economic impact of affected lakes may be severe through deteriorated opportunities for recreation.*
- *Reputations for lake quality may be affected if an AIS like zebra mussels take hold in our lake*

# I-LIDS Pilot Project for Ottetail Lake Association Summer of 2014

Article by Bernie Steeves, Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Ottertail County has over 1,000 lakes and streams which represent **10% of Minnesota's waters**. While **Eurasian water milfoil hasn't been** identified in any lakes here yet, Zebra mussels have already been transported to 15 of these lakes.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) will rapidly spread between bodies of water once introduced with the primary method of Zebra mussel spread through mature mussels clinging to plants. Further there is significant economic and ecological impact to lake residents once an invasive species establishes itself.

Based on previous success working with regional lake associations to successfully design and deploy strategies to increase awareness among boaters and reduce risk of AIS infestation to lakes we are offering a suggested approach to the Ottetail Lake Assoc. Because investment in prevention is a fraction of the cost of management it is important to act quickly to make an impact on this issue before over 90% of the lakes are infested with AIS, as is the case in Hennepin County with Eurasian water milfoil.

## Scope

The project scope will consist of implementing I-LIDS automated boat inspection systems at Ottetail Lake during 2014. I-LIDS includes: footing, housing, antenna mast, sign, video camera, batteries, wireless capability, solar panel/controller, audio circuit/speaker, LED light. Wireless networks will be utilized to upload videos and remotely manage the distributed inspection.

## Success Criteria for I-LIDS Implementation

The success criteria for this pilot project are identified to be:

1. Installation of the I-LIDS devices at agreed upon landings
2. Capture of boat launch videos
3. Clarity in video capture
4. Remote storage and availability of video images
5. Detection of vehicles moving in proximity to the I-LIDS

## Program Goals/Objectives for I-LIDS

1. Greater understanding of AIS risk vectors
  - Measure peak traffic periods and sources of boaters
2. Better utilization of resources at high traffic lakes
  - Staffing during peak periods; Enlist volunteers at lakes to identify video violations
  - Portable I-LIDS, 24x7 monitoring
3. Develop greater AIS awareness
  - Recorded messages; AIS educational brochure at launches, retail; Service providers
4. Change clean off behaviors
  - Audio education and video inspection at point of use
  - Follow-up on suspect violations by sheriff or CO
5. Consequences and Rewards
  - Forward suspect violations to county / DNR for review
  - Forward clean offs of boats as reward candidates
  - Warning/Citation/Incentive

## Participating Sites

The following table shows the number of I-LIDS units and footings being ordered and installed.

Owner	Accesses	Units	Permanent	Portable (Extra Footings)
Otter Tail Lake	3	2	2	1
Total		2	2	1

## Video Capture - Review Process

The boater hears an educational message reminding him to clean off weeds and animals as well as seeing a sign showing that his boat condition is being captured on camera. The videos are captured by motion and transferred within seconds over the Internet to a remote server. There they are processed and made available on a website for review. Any authorized user can login to the site and playback videos. Selected videos can be played back as an entire stream and skipped if there is a false positive. Lake residents or Environmental Sentry have the option to review videos.

**In a few minutes an entire day's worth of boat launches can be reviewed!**



Photo shows a typical screen capture of a boat being removed from lake at a boat launching site. Screen shows license of boat, license of vehicle and degree of vegetation, if any, hanging from trailer or boat.



Photo shows I-LID in position at the boat-launching site with warning sign to "Clean Your Boat". Note camera aperture on side of vertical mounting tube.

## Success Stories : I-LIDS Launch Monitoring is a Cost Effective Tool to Protect the Lake

On Lake Minnetonka, the I-LIDS has demonstrated a significant reduction of risk of AIS by reducing the number of boats launching weeds from 7.4% to 0.3%!

In Wisconsin the average number of boats launching weeds is 14% according to Clean Boats Clean Waters statistics. In Burnett County a county ordinance was developed with the support of Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC and endorsed by the Sheriff, the county conservationist, and the county board. In 2008, 5 citations for AIS violations were issued. That same year, 10 gift certificates were issued to boaters seen cleaning their boats. In 2009, no boats were seen launching weeds into lakes being monitored in Burnett county.

Thanks, Otter Tail Lake Association

Thanks to the group at the Otter Tail Lake Association for funding this important pilot project in our area. As we struggle to find effective ways to monitor 24 hour traffic in and out of our lakes, and the resulting impact to monitoring effectiveness, this pilot project is important. If we can only find a simple way to achieve reductions in movement of AIS from lake to lake via boats and trailers, we may have saved our lakes from infestation.

## Training Available for Watercraft Inspectors - April 12th

This message is for anyone or any lake association in need of, or wanting to become, an AIS Volunteer/Ambassador to educate boaters at public water accesses.

We have scheduled a volunteer training effort to be held on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM in the conference room of the Fergus Falls DNR Office. If you, or your lake association members, are interested in this training, please RSVP to me and in-

clude their contact information. In the event that we do not have 20 people signed up to attend, the training will be canceled. Those who **have RSVP'd would be notified of** cancelation.

More information about the program, as well as other training locations and times, can be found here:

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais\\_volunteer.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais_volunteer.html)

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## Otter Tail County COLA 2014 Strategy Map

*“a zebra mussel infestation  
is forever”*

**Mission:** COLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes

and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environment values of our shorelands and **promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats.** COLA's mission enhances, promotes, and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, the general public and future generations.

### Values:

- Collaboration among our members
- Open and honest communications
- Leadership, as an organization, and as individuals toward increased citizen awareness and education
- Active, engaged volunteers

Strategic Actions: *We will employ the following strategies to achieve our vision.*

- Cultivate Leadership
- Continuously Refine Vision, Mission and Values
- Improve Organizational Effectiveness
- Improve Internal Communications
- Facilitate Education, Workshops and Programs
- Manage Public Relations/External Communications
- Develop and Maintain Membership
- Address Multiple Revenue Streams
- Partner with Other COLAs
- Impact Political Action
- Shield Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species

# “Train the Teachers to Train the Kids” - Update 2014

Article by

*Jerry Horgen, Program Developer*

“Train the Teachers to Train the Kids” is a program funded by the Otter Tail County Commissioners. The Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force recommended the program for the purpose of training secondary science teachers on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues. Science teachers then would have one boy and one girl, from their science classes, go from class to class in their respective school and train other kids on AIS issues.

Moriya Rufer of RMB Labs is the content expert. Moriya and I (volunteer) have had two workshops (April/September 2013) and

given out AIS kits as well as other educational materials that are appropriate to the Minnesota Standards, had the DNR give a clean, drain and dry demonstration to teachers and developed actual formats for student to student presentations by the science students. It is our intention to have a field experience this spring for the students from this program. We hope to have lake associations, along with public schools science classes, develop practical activities for students to work on and learn about being good stewards of our lakes.

Parkers Prairie, New York Mills, Hillcrest, Battle Lake, Fergus Falls, Perham, Rothsay, Underwood, Henning, Pelican Rapids and Ashby

public schools are involved at various levels. This network of science teachers has received information from Moriya to share with one another. Kids should be able to help with lake management plans, work on projects around lakes and give clean, drain & dry presentations as part of their work in ongoing science classes.

I welcome suggestions for activities at my e-mail address noted below. All of the material developed for this program can be secured online at: <http://rmbel.info.ais>

Jerry is active in the Battle Lake Association as well as COLA. He can be contacted at [jhorgen@arvig.net](mailto:jhorgen@arvig.net).

## Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force Report

In 2012, the Otter Tail County Commissioners established the Aquatic Invasive Species Task force and appropriated funds for its operation. We are now in the third year of operation with the goal of stopping the spread of invasive species. The funds in the past were spent on boat inspectors at the landings. Burma Shave style signs were also purchased to create awareness of the Clean Drain and Dry theme to stop the spread of the Invasive Species. In addition, the Clean, Drain and Dry signs attached to all lake signs on county roads were part of the Task Force activities. Another project - the committee developed and distributed 40,000 postcard hand outs showing pictures of the Invasive Species and information about what should be done to all

watercraft craft entering and leaving the lakes along with other information. In areas of awareness for younger people—a program called Train the Teachers in all Otter Tail County Schools was financed. We also used billboards advertising the clean drain dry program. Finally, a Radio advertising campaign was also used along with full page ads in the Lakes journal in three publications.

In 2014, we will again be funding four watercraft inspectors. The inspectors are managed by the Land and Resources group at the County and inspect at targeted boat ramps around the county. We will again coordinate ads in the Lakes Journal in April-June and August. And, we will also be reprinting the postcards awareness handouts to replenish our supplies. Of course,

the very successful “Training the Teacher” program will receive continued support, as will moral support for the Otter Tail Lake I LID project. We are always looking at other avenues to educate and create awareness.

The Task Force is made up of eighteen people representing various agencies, lakes, townships and providers. If you are interested in being part of this group, please let us know. We meet monthly on the second Friday of each month from 2-4 PM in Fergus Falls at the Government Center.

*Article by Roger A Neitzke. Roger is a Task Force Member and is an active participant in the Little McDonald Lake and affiliated lakes Association, as well as COLA.*

# Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/otccola/otter-tail-county-coalition-lake-associations>

## Contact Info for OTC COLA:

Jeff Stabnow, Past President  
40186 N. Clitherall Lake Road  
Clitherall, MN 56524  
218-864-8401 or 218-770-1276

Email: [stabnow@arvig.net](mailto:stabnow@arvig.net)

Dave Sethre, President  
304 County Hwy. No. 1  
Ottertail, MN 56571  
218-367-3322 or 701-371-4497

Email: [dsethre@arvig.net](mailto:dsethre@arvig.net)

Interested in joining COLA or forming a Lake Association?

Contact the Membership Committee!

Pat Prunty, Committee Chair

45056 County Hwy 35

Dent, MN 56528

Home: 218-342-2226

Cell: 612-750-6276

email: [pprunty@deloitte.com](mailto:pprunty@deloitte.com)

Members	Membership Fee
Under 10	\$ 10
11 – 49	\$ 1 per member
50 – 99	\$ 50
100 – 199	\$ 75
200 – 299	\$ 100
300 – 499	\$ 150

“citizens protecting and improving our Otter Tail County lakes & rivers”

*Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. -- Margaret Mead*

## COLA Thanks Pat Prunty - Membership Chairman

We wish to thank Pat for the time and talents that he brings to the Executive Board of the OTC COLA. Pat has been active in research in identifying opportunities for COLA to serve a greater audience. His research has included identification of inactive and potentially active lake locations which would mutually benefit from interactions with the OTC COLA.

Pat lives in Dent, MN but his lake home is on Eagle Lake south of Battle Lake. His passion for using group resources to battle AIS and clean water issues is especially valuable during these trying times to protect our waters. Please look to meet Pat at the upcoming COLA meetings at the new 7 pm time on the third Thursday each month. Let him know his efforts are appreciated.



Pat Prunty from Eagle Lake is in his second year on the Executive Committee of COLA as Membership Chairman.