



President's Message

I now have the honor of representing you as President of the COLA here in Otter Tail County. We are the largest COLA by number of lakes in the nation. Even so, we have a big job in representing you and all the lake people here in our county. The problems are many and the workers are few, but we need to make our voice heard above the clamor of politics and tradition.

We all own lake property for a variety of reasons, but near the top is: appreciating peace and tranquility, enjoying the view, boating, fishing, observing wildlife, etc. And it is no surprise that people want to get away from work and business issues, and enjoy some relaxation. But unfortunately there are issues that start to affect our lake life, and joining a lake association, and OTC COLA provides us with a united front to make sure our voices are heard.

My goal as President of the Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations is to keep the group moving forward by increasing membership and participation of lake associations and individuals. By growing our group we want to identify, address and hopefully solve the issues and concerns of our lake property owners and users.

We will do our best to represent you at the township, county and state level. Please volunteer and help if you can, as the job needs good talent and input. Please feel free to contact myself, or any of our board members.

Dave Majkrzak



*Dave Majkrzak
is President
of the OTC COLA*

Otter Tail County COLA

September Meeting Changes

Due to opportunities to interact with MNCOLA representatives, we are changing our meeting time and location to accommodate a larger potential crowd. Our presenter is Joe Schneider, President, Christmas Lake Association, and Secretary, MN COLA. Mr. Schneider has been active in the Christmas Lake treatment of Zebra Mussels, and he is involved with other statewide AIS issues.

September 17, 2015

New Location: Thumper Pond

New Time: 3:30 pm

This is our last regular meeting for the 2015 season.

The first meeting of the 2016 season is scheduled at

7:00 pm, Thursday, April 21, 2016.



Joe Shneider is
Featured Speaker at
COLA Meeting

Please note that Joe Shneider from the Christmas Lake Association and MNCOLA is our featured speaker at the Thursday COLA meeting at Thumper Pond. Meeting has been changed to 3:30 p.m.

• *Joe's full bio on page 3*

Awards

Coalition of Otter Tail Lakes Association

by Jerry Horgen

The Otter Tail Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA) held its annual awards night on the 27th during which it honored its “Volunteer of the Year” and “Lake Association of the Year.” COLA represents all 1049 lakes in Otter Tail County and serves as an organization to “serve and protect” our lakes. Our guests were State Representative Bud Nornes and Congressman, Collin Peterson.

To be considered for the “Volunteer of the Year Award,” one needs to be a past or present volunteer, have made a significant investment of one’s time and talent to preserve their lake, have demonstrated an ability to bring people together and engage them in activities that protect and preserve their lake and demonstrated an ability to bring about positive change.

The “Volunteer of the Year Award” was given to “Jeff Stabnow.” Jeff has a degree in civil engineering, he’s a native of Otter Tail County and a registered professional engineer. He has consulted on all facets of county/land/water issues including wetlands permitting and MPCA storm water permits/EAW.” That includes, 32 townships in Otter Tail County and 12 Townships in Douglas County. His service includes years serving on the Clitherall Lake Association Board-His father was one of the founders. He has served on the “Shoreline Rules and Regulations Committee of Otter Tail County,” served as COLA’s representative to Minnesota COLA and was a Past President of Otter Tail County COLA. What’s unique about Jeff is that when it comes to lakeshore issues, “when Jeff speaks, people listen.” Jeff has a unique ability to explain complex issues in a common sense manner. Jeff is pictured at the left holding the certificate.

To be considered for “Lake Association of the Year,” the lake association must be a present member of COLA, have successfully implemented a lake improvement project, implemented an educational or outreach program, increased membership and have successfully partnered with local/county/state or federal government or agencies.

The “Lake Association of the Year” chosen was the “Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPO).” Their association is 50 years old. It is a proud and active member of Otter Tail COLA. It has increased its membership from 990 members to 1030 members. The association aggressively works with Minnesota State Representatives, State Senators, DNR, township boards, county commissioners and local law enforcement agencies in all matters concerning lake improvements. OTLPO publishes “The Lakeshore News” to keep its members informed and its message spread throughout the county. OTLPO attacked the “Forest Tent Caterpillar” issue on its lakes, participated in weekly water testing with COLA, became a leader in the implementation of ILIDS-the monitoring devices at the public accesses to thwart off violators of aquatic invasive species, established a “Buoy Program” to inform boaters of potential danger areas, established a foundation to assist with free swimming lessons, worked with the East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District on shoreline restoration projects and finally gave donations to the Battle Lake Fire and Rescue, Ottertail Fire and Rescue, Glendalough State Park and Lakes Area Community Center. Very simply, the Otter Tail Lakes Property Lakes Association is an exemplar lake association from which others can learn and copy!

The people in the picture are from left to right...Jeff Stabnow, “Volunteer of the Year.” Otter Tail Lakes Property Lakes Association members: Bernie Steeves, Pat Steeves, blocked by Pat is Linda Snyder, Jerry Horgen, COLA presenter, behind Jerry is Rob Nelson, Rita Buntje, Marc Wing, President Kent Wentz (OTLPO), wife Mary Jo, Lee Rosenquist, State Representative Bud Nornes, behind Bud Nornes is Stan Fetters and Congressman Collin Peterson.



Jerry Horgen (left) helps Darren Newville (right) present “Volunteer of the Year” award to Jeff Stabnow for 2015.



Joe Shneider, Biography

Joe is the President of the Christmas Lake Homeowner's Association, the head of the Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters, and the Secretary for MN COLA, the statewide group of Lake and River Coalitions.

He has been involved nearly full-time on stopping the spread of AIS since March 2011.

Joe has been directly involved in the zebra mussel eradication efforts at Christmas Lake in partnership with the City of Shorewood, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, the DNR and the University of Minnesota. Many consider Christmas Lake to be ground zero for in the US.

He has been instrumental in growing awareness of the statewide AIS challenges with the MN House and Senate. His research was critical in getting \$10M in General Fund monies to flow annually to the counties for AIS prevention. That money started flowing in June of 2014.

He was instrumental in getting \$4M in Outdoor Heritage Funds approved for pilot programs in AIS prevention. He is also on the review committee that approves the use of these funds.

He regularly speaks about preventing the spread of AIS with lake associations as well as local government units including Carver and Hennepin Counties, the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and the Cities of Shorewood and Chanhassen.

Joe's professional background is in Information Technology.

Joe Shneider has lived on Christmas Lake since 1999.



Photographs from August



Collin Peterson addresses the OTC COLA group at the August meeting. Persons in picture include l-r: Collin Peterson, Dave Sethre, Dave Makrjzak, and Darren Newville (back to camera).



Representative Bud Nornes addresses the group at the August COLA meeting.

Serving You

Executive Committee

President	David Majkrzak davidmajkrzak@msn.com
Vice President:	Vacant
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Director (Environmental)	Carolyn Herron starwood@arvig.net
Director (Membership)	Pat Prunty pprunty@deloitteired.com
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Rep to MNCOLA	Jeff Stabnow stabnow@arvig.net

Support

Assistant Treasurer	Chuck Olson otcolafinance@gmail.com
Administrator Assistant	Barbara Olson cbolsons@aol.com
Assistant Director Environmental	Craig Johnson craig.w.johnson@aggiemail.usu.edu

New OTC COLA Website Link!

Please note that we are implementing a new website. Please access the website at <http://ottertailcountycola.org/>.

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.

Otter Tail County



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**Interested in joining COLA or
forming a Lake Association?
Contact the Membership Committee!**

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