

E-Newsletter

June 2017



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

I attended the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MNCOLA) meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. A full half day of information and AIS updates made for a useful and interesting day for lake property owners from across the state.

Jeff Forrester from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) also was there and spoke about statewide AIS issues, and the recent MN legislative session.

I would encourage all lake associations, and individuals to join MLR, and support their statewide efforts on all things lake related.

Dr Mike McCartney from the University of Minnesota AIS Research center also spoke on new ZM (zebra mussel) research and their work on genetic testing of ZM movement across the state. Dr. McCartney surprised us with his

new insights into ZM movement, infestation origins, and where we might go from here in the fight against ZM. Click here for more details.

With the warmer and longer days, it is time to enjoy summer, and have a great and happy July 4th.

For the detailed report go [HERE](#)

[David Majkrzak](#)

OTC COLA 2017 Member Meetings

OTC COLA Member Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, May through September. They are normally held at 7:00 pm at the Ottertail Community Room , Ottertail MN (exception this June 15). The September Member Meeting will be the AIS Seminar Boat Cruise.

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|------------------|-----------|---|
| June | 15 | Jeff Forester, MLR (See schedule change below) |
| July | 20 | Legislative Forum Night |
| August | 17 | OTC COLA Annual Meeting, Awards |
| September | 21 | AIS Seminar Cruise |

OTC COLA June 2017 Member Meeting Time & Location Change

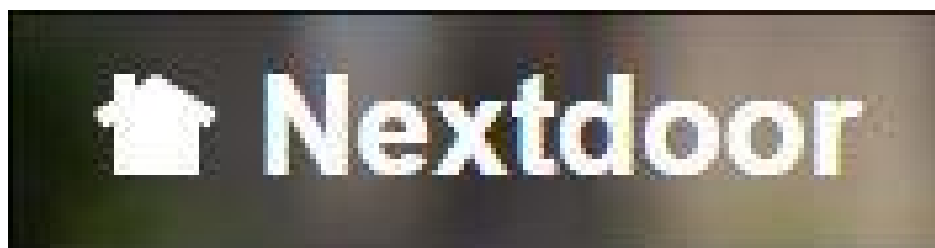
The regular monthly meeting of OTC COLA Members for June 2017 has been rescheduled to occur Thursday, June 15, 2017 at Lake Region Electric Coop, 1401 S Broadway, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572, at 5:30 pm. Our speaker will be Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers ([MLR](#)). The OTC COLA meeting will adjourn in time to allow for participation at the Star Lake Casino Development meeting at the Pelican High School.



June 15, 2017 OTC COLA Member Meeting

The featured speaker for the June 2018 OTC COLA Member meeting in Pelican Rapids, MN is Jeff Forester, Executive Director for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) [READ BIO](#). His presentation will be "Grassroots and Grasstops, a strategy to advance a pro-lake agenda." Jeff will give a brief legislative update, and then outline how lake constituents can advance a pro-lake agenda in 2018.

[Jeff Forester, MLR](#)



Nextdoor is a free app that connects neighbors for a wide range of useful and helpful reasons. The app is becoming extremely popular across the country. It is distinct from apps like Facebook in that it is not meant to share recipes, political opinions, quotes, etc. The purpose of Nextdoor is to share needed, desired and otherwise useful information. It is neighborhood specific (you have to verify your lake address to join). Local sub neighborhoods ("Groups" can be set up just for your beach) can be set up

What can you do with Nextdoor?

- Report lost items or pets
- Broadcast notice of dangerous weather on the lake
- Send an emergency alert to you neighbors for help
- Stranded on the lake? - see who of your neighbors can give assistance
- Share information on road construction
- Ask for recommendations for plumbers, carpenters, baby sitters, etc.
- Sell or give away household items
- Invite neighbors to beach get-togethers
- Exchange information about crime and safety issues
- Nind neighbors in the Nextdoor Directory
- View a neighborhood map.
- Ask for advice
- Get the idea?

Here are a few videos to check it out

[**About Nextdoor**](#)

[**Introducing Nextdoor**](#)

[**CBS This Morning**](#)

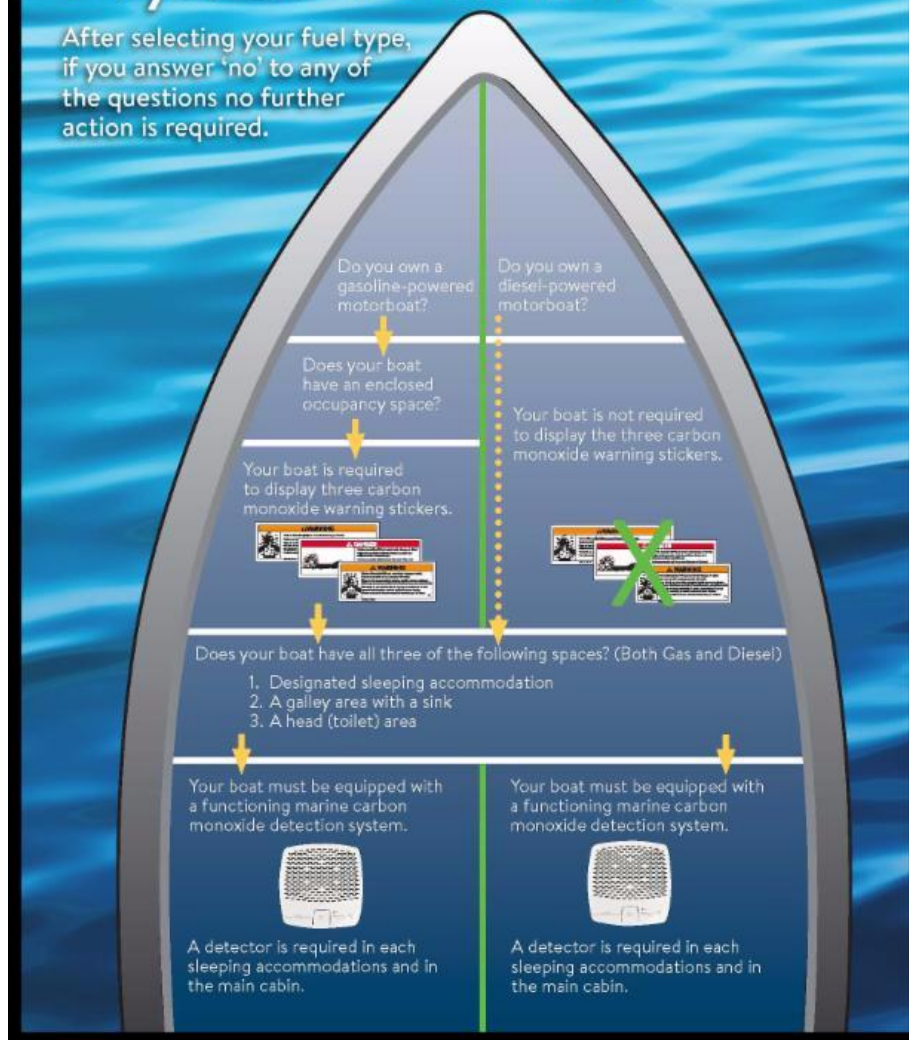
[**KOCO News**](#)

For more information or help contact:

[**John Kruse**](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

Do you own a motorboat?

After selecting your fuel type, if you answer 'no' to any of the questions no further action is required.



Sophia's Law - Carbon Monoxide Law for Boaters What you need to know and how to comply.

UPDATE:

The effective date for Sophia's Law has been delayed to May 1, 2018.

What is required for my boat?

Sophia's Law is named for seven-year-old Sophia Baechler, who died from carbon monoxide poisoning while boating on Lake Minnetonka. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be toxic even in very small quantities since its effects are cumulative over time. Whether inside, outside, underway or anchored, passengers of many types of boats with a motor can quickly become victims of CO poisoning. A quick inspection every time you operate your boat can save a life, carbon monoxide poisonings are preventable.

[MN DNR Sofia's Law Web Page](#)

[Carbon Monoxide Law for Boaters - flyer](#)

[Required Stickers](#)



Lakes With Zebra Mussels Are Goners

It's time for us to stop (stop!) letting invasive species hitch a ride to our docks.

By Jim Davidson, Star Tribune.

New invasive species continue to arrive in Wisconsin and Minnesota - largely from the Great Lakes - on a weekly basis. Altogether, 180 invasive aquatic species are identified in the Great Lakes, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - allowed in by our government during our lifetimes.

For economic reasons, our elected officials encouraged international freighters to enter our fresh waters from the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence Seaway and sail all the way to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Did you know that Congress has allowed most all the ports of the world to send vessels right into Green Bay or Duluth with one or two stops? And we allowed them to empty their dangerous ballast tanks into American freshwater lakes - introducing a few hundred alien species from who-knows-where.

Over the past 30 years a nasty critter called the zebra mussel has hitchhiked and stowed away to cross lakes, rivers and streams - all the way to Wisconsin and Minnesota. Then they hitched rides at 60 miles per hour on highways, to reach hundreds of lakes, attached to boats and trailers - all the way to California.

[**MORE**](#)

25BY25



Minnesota to Accelerate the Pace of Progress Towards Clean Water

That is why Governor Dayton recently announced a new [“25 by ‘25” Water Quality Goal](#), which would spur collaboration and action to improve Minnesota’s water quality 25 percent by 2025. Without additional action, the quality of Minnesota’s waters is expected to improve only 6 to 8 percent by 2034. Governor Dayton wants to hear from Minnesotans and will host a series of [Town Halls](#) over the summer and fall. In addition, he is calling on Minnesotans and civic organizations to organize their own Community Water Meetings this summer to provide further feedback and ideas.

Gather your community, school, family and friends to have a conversation this summer about what you can do at the local level to help Minnesota reach our 25 by 25 goal!

Community Water Meetings will take place June – August. Hosts will be provided with a conversation guide, information on water quality in your local region and [MORE](#).



Bringing Conservation From the Countryside to Your Backyard

Just as they do on the farm, conservation practices on nonagricultural land can help increase food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, control soil erosion, reduce sediment in waterways, conserve water and improve water quality, inspire a stewardship ethic, and beautify the landscape.

Backyard Conservation shows you how conservation practices that help conserve and improve natural resources on agricultural land across the country can be adapted for use around your home. These practices help the environment and can make your yard more attractive and enjoyable. Most backyard conservation practices are easy to use. America's farmers and ranchers have been using these practices successfully for decades.

Whether you have rural acreage, a suburban yard, or a city lot, you can help protect the environment and add beauty and interest to your surroundings. Ten conservation practices have been scaled down for homeowners.

Backyard Conservation magazine and tip sheets

Download [HERE](#) our Backyard Conservation magazine and tip sheets for more information on bringing conservation to your backyard.



New Zebra Mussel-Sniffing K9s Take Aim At Aquatic Invasive Specie

The K9s help by quickly sniffing out any zebra mussels attached to boats or equipment. Newly certified K9s Shelby and Storm join veterans Brady and Reggie on the force for 2017.

"The invasive species program is excited to have two more K9 officers ready to detect zebra mussels on water-related equipment in the field and to educate people about aquatic invasive species and what each of us can do to stop the spread," said Heidi Wolf, invasive species unit supervisor.

[**MORE**](#)



DNR Asks Lakeshore Owners to Report Mudpuppy Observations and Die-offs

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking lakeshore owners and citizens to report any mudpuppy salamanders they see, especially die-offs on rivers and lakes. A die-off is defined as five or more dead salamanders in a lake at the same place at the same time.

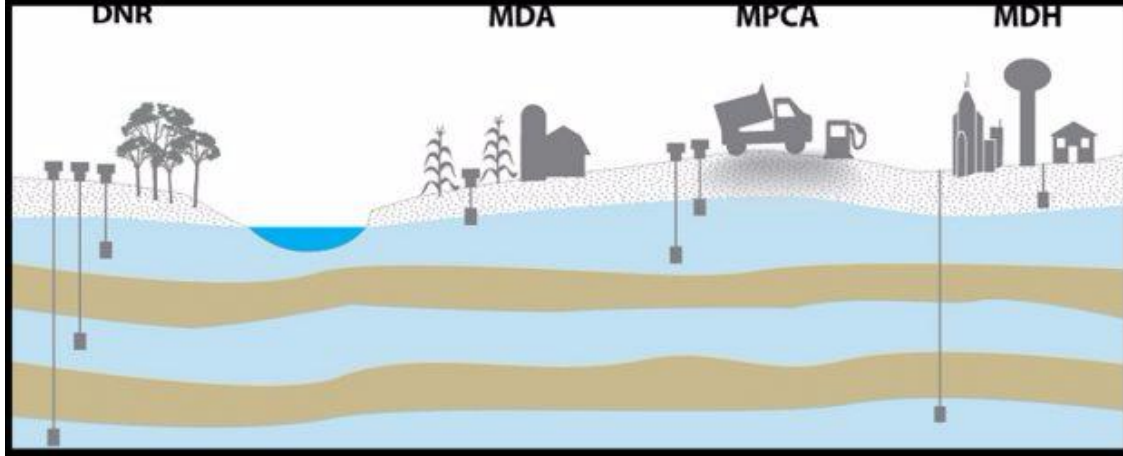
[MORE](#)

Coalition of Lake Associations/COLA Awards Volunteer of the Year Award and Lake Association of the Year Award *Presented on August 17, 2017 at the COLA Meeting*

The OTCCOLA's **Volunteer of the Year and Lake Association of the Year** is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging volunteers to assist in protecting and preserving the lakes they love. Self-nominations are accepted.

Do not pass up this opportunity to inspire, recognize, encourage and engage your volunteers who have demonstrated that they have the fortitude to meet challenges and accomplish goals.

[MORE](#)



Conversation With Groundwater Hydrologist Janell Miersch, MN DNR

I have been a DNR groundwater hydrologist in Fergus Falls for seven years after transferring from the same position in St. Paul. Since our surface and groundwater resources belong to all of the people of the State of Minnesota it is our duty to protect the quantity and sustainability of our water resources. As a DNR groundwater hydrologist, my job is regulatory – permitting the use of large quantities of groundwater. The other groundwater hydrologists throughout the state and myself ensure the quantity of groundwater is not depleted and shared among all citizens, with domestic water use being top priority.

[MORE](#)

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](#)

Pelican Lake

Pelican Lake continues to pursue forming a community-based 501c3 Foundation. The Foundation will be used to facilitate the funding for preservation of area lake quality.

[PLPOA](#)

UPDATE FROM SLPOA / SLCCG

A public Information Meeting will be held June 15th at the Pelican Rapids School Auditorium from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The Public Information Meeting will provide the public an opportunity to participate in the public comment period with public testimony and an opportunity to gather information regarding the proposed Star Lake Casino Development project. A decision about the need for a more detailed analysis of the potential impacts of the project through the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement will be made by the Otter Tail County Board following the close of the public comment period.

[MORE](#)

John Kruse OTC COLA Administrative Assistant
