

## E-Newsletter March 2017



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### **From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak**

We are getting ready to start another year of lake watertesting in Otter Tail County lakes. There are currently over 50 lakes in OTC that do yearly water testing, of the 1000 plus lakes that have a MNDNR- DOW (Department of Waters) identification number. I believe it is very important to start, and maintain a water testing routine for all lakes with MNDNR public access, and any other lakes that have typical swimming, boating and fishing public use.

By properly documenting and recording critical biological, chemical and

physical lake water properties, a valuable baseline of overall water quality and trends can be made part of the permanent history of our valuable lake resources.

Is your lake getting "better or worse"? Are there more nutrients in the water column to promote more weed or algae growth? Is some new land use, or other application causing a change in water chemistry? How has our lake changed over the last 5, 10 or 20 years? These questions and more can be answered with consistent and reliable lake water testing.

Without a baseline or foundation of historical water facts, we are left to our older family member memories, which usually lack the detail and facts needed.

If you and the lake you care most about are not already involved with a water testing program, I would suggest you start. If you are currently water testing, we would suggest you consider adding some additional tests to better understand your threat from the new AIS now entering the state.

Just like planting a tree, the best time to have started water testing was 20 years ago, the second best time is today. Your kids and grandkids will appreciate the facts (and the shade).

**David Majkrzak**



# **Living on the Edge**

## *Lake Stewardship*

A workshop that focuses on the nature around and on your lakeshore property  
*Because your shoreline is as unique & special as the lake you live on*



### **Living on the Edge Workshop**

OTCCOLA is one of the sponsors for the Living on the Edge Workshop Saturday, May 6th at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, MN. Featured speakers include Steve Woods, Executive Director of the Fresh Water Society and Babe Winkelman, outdoors expert.

See [FLYER](#) for details

**Jerry Horgen**



**MN COLA February Meeting**

## MN COLA February Meeting

John Kruse, Jeff Stabnow and David Majkrzak attended the MN COLA meeting on Wednesday, Feb 22nd at the IF Foundation office in Little Falls.

During the 5 1/2 hour session representatives from lake associations and LIDs across the state discussed successes, failures, challenges and issues.

### [READ MORE](#)

**David Majkrzak**

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## OTC COLA April 20 Member Meeting

The first OTC COLA Member meeting of the 2017 season will be held April 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Ottertail Community Room, Ottertail, MN. Moriya Rufer will speak on the importance of water testing and what it can do to protect your lake. Statewide lake survey information will also be shared.

The proposed schedule is:

5:15 Lake water testing training for samplers (brief refresher course)  
5:45-7:00 pm Pass out coolers (All are invited to stay for the meeting)  
7:00 COLA Member meeting

Otter Tail COLA volunteers have been monitoring their lakes for 20 years! The MPCA uses these data for million dollar state-wide decisions in water management. Because of the importance of these water quality data, RMB Lab would like to do a brief refresher training this year to keep our skills and methods up to date. We ask that lake volunteers attend a brief refresher training from 5:15-5:45pm and then cooler pickup is from 5:45-7:00 pm before the regular COLA meeting.

The subject of the regular COLA Member meeting will be the importance of water testing and what it can do to help your lake. The speaker will be

[Moriya Rufer](#) from [RMB Lab](#)

(<http://rmbel.info/about/staff/moriyarufer/>).



Office of Governor Mark Dayton  
& Lt. Governor Tina Smith

## Governor Dayton Announces New Goal to Improve Water Quality in Minnesota 25 Percent by 2025

"25 by '25" goal would engage local governments, businesses, farmers, scientists, and others in a new collaborative effort to restore and improve water quality across Minnesota

Without additional actions, water quality is only expected to improve 6 to 8

percent by 2034

Governor Dayton's proposal would not add new regulations, but would instead drive public engagement and partnerships to address Minnesota's water quality challenges

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## **Mark Dayton Has New Clean-Water Plan — and New Approach to Farmers**

Gov. Mark Dayton is making another push to clean up Minnesota's waters — and says he's learned lessons from his contentious battle two years ago to implement buffer strips along the state's waterways.

“One of the lessons I learned with the buffer legislation is that it was criticized as a top-down, one-size-fits-all mandate,” Dayton said. “I have my own ideas. I can advance those next year. But I want to let this process unfold and get citizens themselves engaged and citizens themselves feeling their own investment in the outcome.”

This year, the Legislature is considering multiple proposals to roll back all or parts of the buffer bill. Dayton promised Friday to consider improvements to the buffer bill but said he won't let it be undermined.

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## **MN Pike Regs Stay Same for 2017**

ST. PAUL - Plans to improve Minnesota's northern pike fishery with a system of zones and changes to bag limits and size limits has been put on hold after the proposed regulations hit an unexpected legal snag.

As a result, the statewide pike limit for Minnesota inland waters remains at three with one longer than 30 inches in possession for this year, but the new regulation is on track to take effect in 2018.

[READ MORE](#)

## How Old Are MN Cabin Owners?

The answer might surprise you. Minnesota lake home and cabin owners - that oh-so-MN demographic - are getting older. And not any richer. And their healthcare costs are rising. Which might prove troublesome for the cherished natural resources - namely our lakes - that lakefront property owners are at the forefront of protecting.

[READ MORE](#) Study by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers- [MLR STUDY](#)

By DAVE ORRICK | [dorrick@pioneerpress.com](mailto:dorrick@pioneerpress.com) | Pioneer Press



## 2017 Legislative Update

"Why can't Minnesota tag inspected boats so that they can launch safely without having to be reinspected; can we set up a system so that boaters who launch into and out of one lake can get a special pass since they pose no threat of transporting AIS; why can't Minnesota do mandatory inspection/decontamination at choke points around the state, instead of trying to cover every single boat ramp in Minnesota?"

These are good questions. A tagging system combined with a centralized inspection/decontamination program would make Minnesota's efforts to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species both more effective and far more efficient. We have laws on the books that would allow us to start using these tools.

So why have we not done these things? Last week I, and a number of Minnesota legislators, learned the answer. Lack of effective partnership and collaboration.

[READ MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester](#)

[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)



## **Minnesota Lake Businesses Must Take Aquatic Invasive Species Training**

ST. PAUL -- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is offering aquatic invasive species training to owners of lake service provider businesses, so they can legally work in lakes and rivers throughout the state. Lake service provider businesses include resorts, outfitters and campgrounds that rent or lease boats and other water-related equipment.

Business owners must attend training, apply for a permit and pay an application fee every three years to comply with Minnesota law.

**[READ MORE](#)**

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**MPRnews**



## **Tiny Animals May Have a Big Impact on Minnesota Fish**

Aquatic invasive species live in hundreds of Minnesota lakes and streams.

Zebra mussels are the most visible and get most of the attention. The spiny waterflea gets less attention, but experts say it might be a greater threat to Minnesota fishing.

### **Walleye Links:**

[Why walleye is Minnesota's 'holy grail of fish](#)  
[Two things that changed walleye fishing in Minnesota](#)

Dan Gunderson, Minnesota Public Radio

**Spiny Waterflea:** [READ MORE and HEAR AUDIO](#)

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## **OTC COLA to Assist Member Lake Associations With Remote Administration Tools**

It is difficult to assemble Lake Association Board Directors for meetings during the off-season. Often Directors and Officers move to warm climates and take winter vacations. Also there is Lake Association business that needs to be conducted during this time as well. OTC COLA can assist with such tools as remote electronic meeting software and electronic voting applications. These tools are very easy to use and are currently offered to member OTC COLA Lake Associations at no cost. For details contact John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant.

[JOHN KRUSE](#)



**MINNESOTA POLLUTION  
CONTROL AGENCY**

## **Upper Mississippi River: What to Protect, What to Fix**

A new study by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency takes a look at the river from Lake Itasca to downtown Minneapolis, evaluating pollution, fish and other aquatic life. It then acquires significant problems south of St. Cloud, where tributaries from agricultural and more developed landscapes begin to flow into the Mississippi.

[READ MORE](#)

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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 [John Kruse](#)

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

Otter Tail County COLA | P.O. Box 53, Otter Tail, MN 56571

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