

E-Newsletter January 2017



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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak Walleye An Invasive Species?

Walleye an invasive species?? Seems like an odd statement, but that is exactly what a recent article stated about Swan Lake in Montana. Someone had illegally "introduced" walleye into this salmon and bull trout lake, and these native fish were threatened if the non-native, predatory fish walleye survived, and established a breeding population.

Montana does have walleye fishing, and promotes it in lakes and reservoirs across the state, but illegally moving walleye to a non-native lake makes walleye an invasive species to the new lake. In Montana the penalty for illegal introduction of fish is a \$2000 - \$10,000 dollar fine, and one year in jail. When "someone" introduces a non-native fish (or plant or other AIS) to an environment, the ecosystem will change, and native fish, plants and all organisms all have to adjust and make room for the new invader. Sometimes the change cannot be measured, and many times the effect is not

recognized or measurable for many years, but the change is there, and the process is not likely reversible.

We in society have to decide what changes, or level of risk, we allow our natural resources to endure. We have to decide how aggressively we fight accidental AIS, or what level of risk we are willing to accept when non-native species are "introduced" to Minnesota lakes and rivers. One "bucket biologist", one careless lake user spreading AIS, or a small group promoting a non-native fish stocking, puts all our lakes at risk.

The MN legislative session has started, please make sure your local and legislative leaders are aware of your concerns. And also provide comments to your lake association and OTC COLA regarding your concerns on all your lake issues.

Thank You, and remember, "there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothes" !

David Majkrzak

Governor Dayton's Town Hall Water Summit



Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith announced the Administration will host a Town Hall Water Summit on Friday, January 27, 2017. The Summit will focus on the water challenges and solutions in Greater Minnesota and will be held on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris. The day-long event aims to bring together local government leaders, farmers, students, environmentalists and businesses. The Town Hall Water Summit is the second large public forum during Governor Dayton's Year of Water Action.

Minnesotans across the state will be able to participate in the Town Hall Water Summit in multiple ways. The Governor's Office and the University of Minnesota, Morris will host a live YouTube stream of the Summit. A link to that stream will be made available on the day of the event.

Satellite viewing locations of the Town Hall Water Summit will be available

at University of Minnesota campuses across the state. Individuals planning to participate at a satellite location should register at the link below.

Go [HERE](#) for more information and registration

Workshop on Lakes, Lakeshore Issues and Plants May 6, 2017, Thumper Pond Resort

Steve Woods of the Minnesota Freshwater Society will talk as well as a professional fisherman. We'll have a panel of speakers to answer any questions on fishing, lakeshore issues, plants or anything associated with lakes. The event will take place on May 6, 2017 at Thumper Pond Resort and is free with refreshments. The exhibits open at 8:30 a.m. with introductions at 9 a.m. and our first speaker, Steve Woods, will be on at 9:15 a.m. A panel will be convened at 10:30 a.m. to answer any questions of interest. Again, it's free and at Thumper Pond and exhibits will close at 1 p.m.

[**Jerry Horgen**](#)

Protecting Minnesota's Waters: If You Don't Get Involved, The Job Won't Get Done



Post-election, Local Action in Rural and Urban Areas Will Protect Water

A recent article by Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates appeared in the Star Tribune where he expounded on the importance of public action to protect lakes.

If water in Minnesota is going to be protected then we, the citizens, must protect it. Each of us. The federal and state agencies and the courts have done what they can to protect water, and they have accomplished much, but it feels like they are at peak and we still are not where we want to be. Water and fish are still declining, despite spending more than \$100 million dollars a year on “water projects.” The missing link has been citizens picking up their jurisdiction, defining their role in water protection, and working to close the gaps that allow water degradation to continue. Each of us in both our professional lives and personal lives has opportunities to protect water resources.

Go [HERE](#) for complete article

Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers

Monitoring Water Quality Helps To Gain A Better Understanding Of Your Lake



Monitoring the water quality of your lake is one of the first steps to better understanding your lake; however, most lakes are not just a self-contained basin. Just like with human health, when trying to keep your lake healthy preventative care is better and more cost effective than having to fix water quality problems after they occur.

Click [HERE](#) for full article.

Moriya Rufer, RMB Laboratories

OTC COLA Lakes Monitoring Program



A function of OTC COLA is to administer a program of water quality testing throughout each summer season. Volunteers from COLA Member lakes take monthly samples which are transported to RMB Labs where they are subjected to comprehensive analysis.

RMB Labs has developed a video series about how to collect a lake sample. Please view the videos and contact RMB Labs if you would like a DVD (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info).

Go [HERE](#) to view the videos

[Moriya Rufer RMB Laboratories](#)

Hold off on big trucks Weird Weather Made for Weird Lake Ice



Weird weather so far to start the ice season. Cold, wind, snow, wind, melt, snow, wind, cold, wind, melt, rain, snow, cold. Anticipating what is next might be a challenge! I think this was our family's first Christmas in the rain. Fortunately the rain didn't seem to negatively impact the ice or ice development. It did knock the snow down, and now, after freezing again, created a layer of crusty snow on the ice. Ice ranges as of mid-week were in the 9-12" range on most of the area lakes. There are still some areas with drifted snow that have as little as 6-7".

Go [HERE](#) for full article

Lake Association Newsletter Exchange

One of the primary goals of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is to assist lake associations to educate and inform their Members, their elected officials, and the general public regarding the necessity of environmental concerns and policies that protect our lakes, rivers and streams. Communication is the key to accomplishing this goal.

A Newsletter Exchange database of lake association editors is being constructed so editors will be included on distribution lists for other lake association newsletters. The exchange will be very useful for editors to take appropriate copy from other lake association newsletters to use in their own newsletters. This process will provide the opportunity to disseminate valuable information like new regulations, AIS threats, etc. quickly and effectively throughout the County.

OTC COLA Newsletter editors desiring to be included in the exchange should contact [John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant.

New Law Requires CO Detection System And/Or Display Poison Warning Stickers

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Watercraft Renewal Information

RENEW IN PERSON	RENEW BY MAIL	RENEW ONLINE
Bring this card to any Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicle Office (License Bureau) or visit the DNR License Center at 500 Lafayette Rd. St Paul, MN 55155.	*Send this card along with a check or money order, made payable to MN DNR to: MN DNR License Center BOX 26 Boat 500 Lafayette Rd. St Paul, MN 55155-4026. Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.	Visit the DNR website at http://licenses.dnr.state.mn.us/ Click on "vehicle & boat renewal" and follow the prompts.

The **three-year** registration renewal and filing fees are included in the amount listed on the front of this notice. Changes in ownership require additional fees. Registration fees are non-refundable.

If you no longer own this boat, check box and return card or call DNR License Center. SOLD DESTROYED

Check this box if you would like a Minnesota Boating Guide

NEW LAW: Starting May 1, 2017 motorboats with enclosed spaces that a person can enter will require a functioning marine carbon monoxide (CO) detector system and/or display three CO poisoning warning stickers. Full details, requirements and information on sticker availability can be found at dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater

mndnr.gov/regulations | 651-296-2316 | 800-285-2000 (toll-free) | 800-657-3929 (TDD)

Recently a pontoon owner was surprised to see notice of a new law on his Watercraft Renewal Form. The notice states that "starting May 1, 2017 motorboats with enclosed spaces that a person can enter will require a functioning marine carbon monoxide (CO) detector system and/or display three CO poisoning warning stickers." Motorboats must have a functioning marine CO detector if they have an **enclosed accommodation compartment**, which is defined as a motorboat with all three of the following:

1. Designated sleeping accommodations
2. A galley area with a sink
3. A head (toilet) compartment

The law named 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.

Go [HERE](#) for more information on Sophia's Law and new requirements for boaters.

Share Your Website

Share your website with other OTC COLA Members! Get your message out and at the same time see what is happening with lake associations and LIDs

across the County. Send me your link and I will list it in the E-Newsletter.
[John Kruse](#)

OTC COLA Website Update

All 2016 OTC COLA E-Newsletters have been uploaded to the website. Articles are easily available for review. Go [HERE](#) to go directly to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter page.
[OTC COLA Website.](#)

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](#)

Pelican Lakes- Grant for Dam Approved-

This fall, the Pelican Group Of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID) submitted a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant to the DNR for funding to complete a project to repair the Fish Lake dam. As part of the grant application, PGOLID obtained project funding from a number of sources. In past grant cycles, the probability of receiving the grant has been around 50%. Recently PGOLID was pleased to find out that they were awarded a grant in the amount of \$305,255 to complete this project. Go [HERE](#) to see the press release. For more information contact [Moriya Rufer.](#)

Pelican Lakes- Foundation-

Pelican Lake Property Owners Association is pursuing creation of an independent foundation to compliment the Association and Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID). Potentially the foundation can be a valuable asset in the crusade to protect and preserve Pelican and area lakes.
[John Kruse](#)

Star Lake- Casino- Go to the [SLCCG](#) website for information and to sign up for future updates.

[Ty Dayton](#)

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

Sent by adiusa@cableone.net in collaboration with



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