

E-Newsletter

May 2017



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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

Welcome back to the lakes. Spring as usual is playing with us, going back and forth between nice sunny days and then spitting some rain/snow our way. And with the walleye opener a few days away, we know summer is near.

We have been busy getting ready for our upcoming OTC COLA meetings. For the next meeting on May 18th there will be a discussion on water buffers, and an upcoming MPCA project within Otter Tail County. See details below. Our Spring kick-off meeting was held last month. We had an early training for our lake water sampler volunteers, followed by an informative and interesting discussion by Moriya Rufer of RMB labs on the value and use of our lakes water testing data.

Several people from our County attended a seminar on Starry Stonewort in St. Cloud on April 20th, see the report below. The time and money being spent on control and management continues to demonstrate "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Prevention remains the best solution for all AIS, please work with your fellow property owners and lake users and help us find the solutions to stopping the spread of AIS.

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. The only planned variation to this schedule is an AIS Seminar Cruise in September 2017.

May	18	Tim James, MPCA, Darren Newville EOTCSW
June	15	Jeff Forester, MLR
July	20	Legislative Forum Night
August	17	OTC COLA Annual Meeting, Awards
September	21	AIS Seminar Cruise



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



May 6, 2017 @Thumper Pond

The Coalition of Lakes Association of Otter Tail County (COLA) provides leadership in helping lake associations develop and thrive. As part of that development, COLA is a leader in education on lakeshore issues. Through the executive board of COLA, I worked with the East Otter Tail County Soil (EOTSWCD) and Water Conservation District and West Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District (WOTSWCD) so together we're providing opportunities to be "good stewards of our lakes." Working together to improve our lakeshore in Otter Tail County.

We couldn't have had a better relationship working with EOTSWCD and WOTSWCD on securing speakers and programs. Darren Newville, Aimee Zimmerman, Liz Reed, Ben Underhill and Aaron Larson of WOTSWCD help design and deliver all the activities, including "plants for your lakeshore," "technical and financial assistance," "lakeshore owner panel discussion" and speakers.



Key Speaker: Steve Woods,
Executive Director of the
Freshwater Society

"Woods has an engineering and water policy background and worked at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) since 1999, most recently as its assistant director. He has been involved with water conservation and pollution prevention, and is familiar with the condition of Minnesota's groundwater, wetlands, lakes, and rivers" - Star Tribune

Steve Woods, Executive Director of the Freshwater Society was the morning speaker and he provided a power point on Minnesota's groundwater, wetlands, lakes and rivers. A civil engineer by trade, nonetheless his presentation provided our guests with needed data to make decisions. I was sitting next to a retired hydrologist from Otter Tail County and the "hydrologist" indicated that Mr. Woods's data was "very accurate and impressive."

Babe Winkelman was the afternoon speaker and comes from a background of being a professional fisherman and professional hunter

and he gave his views on being good stewards of our lakes. His main point was that “for every action we humans take on our lakes, there is a reaction” and that may be bad...whether it be adding chemicals to the lake or not providing buffer strips to control sediments flowing into our lakes.



“I once thought I had a pretty firm involvement in the outdoors but it soon became apparent that I had been more of a user than a contributor to the outdoor experience”

Babe Winkelman, *Outdoors Expert*

As the host of “Good Fishing” and “Outdoor Secrets,” Babe has succeeded in fulfilling his dream of being self-employed in the outdoors industry through a combination of hard work, good business instincts, and a gift for communicating his love of hunting and fishing.

Both speaker’s focus (in their own format) was on “stewardship” of our “God’s gift” of our lakes and we need to take care of them now...for future generations of lake users.

Thumper Pond provided the conference setting which was simply excellent. COLA made sure the conference was a “free event” for the sole purpose of bringing people together to discuss lakeshore issues.

Finally, COLA is continuing to set the “standard of leadership” by “providing data” to make decisions and “teaching” stewardship of our lakes to the residents of our Otter Tail County.

Jerry Horgen



Moriya Rufer

Aquatic Ecologist

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OTC COLA April 20 Member Meeting

The first OTC COLA Member meeting of the 2017 season was held April 20, 2017 at the Ottertail Community Room, Ottertail, MN. Moriya Rufer conducted a lake water testing training course for water testers followed with handing out water testing coolers to the volunteer water testers from the 42 member lakes.

She emphasized importance of water testing and what it can do to protect OTC lakes. 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.

Moriya was also the featured speaker at the Member Meeting. The focus of her presentation was the importance of water testing and what it can do to help OTC lakes. Click [HERE](#) for her slide presentation.

To learn more about the program and watch a few brief videos of the process, visit the RMB Lab website video page here: <http://rmbel.info/lakes/videos/>

[Moriya Rufer](#) from [RMB Lab](#)
(<http://rmbel.info/about/staff/moriyarufer/>).

Tim James, Darren Newville to Speak at May 18 OTC COLA Member Meeting

Tim James is a Watershed Coordinator and Project Manager for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) out of Detroit Lakes. Tim will be speaking on the Otter Tail Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategy (WRAPS) project and opportunities for public participation.

Darren Newville is the District Manager for Eastern Otter Tail County Soil and Water (EOTCSW). He has 12 years with Martin SWCD and 12 years natural resources background. Darren will talk about buffers/water quality.

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](#)



Lake Koronis is Test Lab in Fight Against Invasive Species

Beneath the calm surface of Lake Koronis, a war is being waged against an invasive algae threatening the health of this popular recreation spot.

Starry stonewort first showed up in Minnesota in 2015 in Lake Koronis near Paynesville. Since then, experts have been trying to figure out [how to get rid of the pesky species.](#)

But the grass-like algae has now spread to eight other Minnesota lakes, where it can form dense mats that make boating, fishing and swimming difficult.

Because it's a relatively new invader, not a lot is known about its impact, said Dan Larkin, an extension specialist at the University of Minnesota's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

[MORE](#)



Zebra Mussels Are Still Harming Lake Erie

"Over the past several years, I have frequently heard fishermen express relief about how well Zebra mussels cleaned up the lake — and happiness that the problem with them has gone away.

Unfortunately, both observations are inaccurate."

[MORE](#)

Starry Stonewort Seminar April 20

Several representatives from OTC COLA attended the Starry Stonewort Seminar in St. Cloud MN on Saturday, April 20, 2017. David Majkrzak summarized information and impressions.

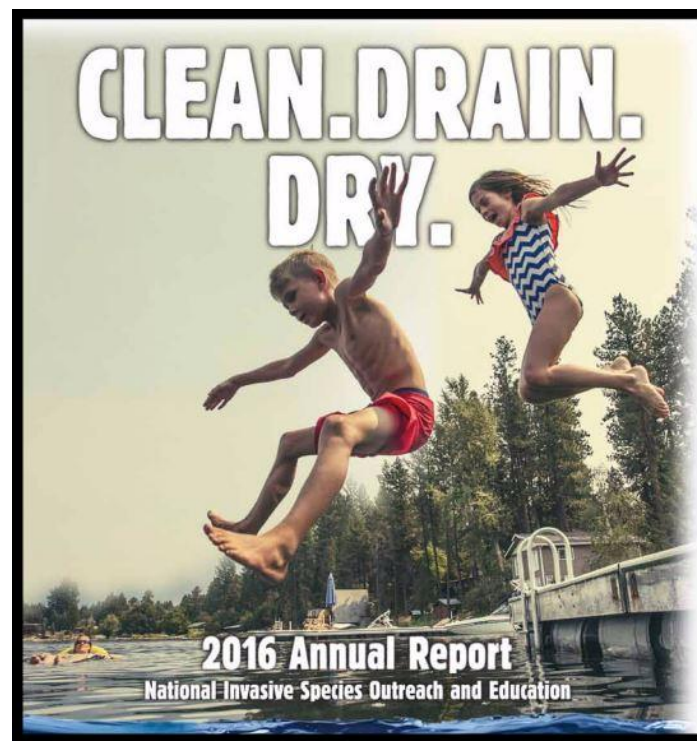
Excerpts:

"Boaters have to paddle their boats and jet ski through the SS to open water before they can start their engines, as the SS plugs/fouls the intake and props."

"Stearns county is paying \$200 cash payment to dock/lift owners that keep docks/lifts out of the water for 31 days (instead of the 21 day MNDNR requirement)"

"Both Koronis and Sylvia property owners describe SS as their "Worst Nightmare""

Go [HERE](#) for Dave's full report.



New Report Spotlights National Invasive Species Campaign

Brooklyn Center, MN - Wildlife Forever is proud to announce the release of the Clean Drain Dry Initiative™ annual accomplishment report. Working in tandem with state and federal agencies, local governments, universities, lake associations and the outdoor industry, national invasive species prevention messaging generated over 130 million outreach impressions.

"This report showcases the benefit of partnerships in tackling our nation's conservation challenges. From access to boating and fishing to providing safe drinking water, invasive species threaten our natural resources, the cornerstone of our economy," said Pat Conzemius, Conservation Director for Wildlife Forever.

Through a variety of media outlets, including television, radio, print, highway billboards and others, the Initiative empowers consistent messaging through proven and nationally adopted Clean Drain Dry best management practices. Cutting edge graphics, award winning videos and numerous marketing resources, allow partners from across the country to benefit from coordinated campaign.

In America, over 140 billion dollars are lost each year due to the impacts of invasive species. Prevention remains the most cost effective means for management generating an estimated \$34 in savings per \$1 invested. The spread of invasive species is preventable and with new and emerging technologies being developed, now is the time to partner and defend our critical natural resources.

Since 2006, Wildlife Forever and partners have worked together educating the outdoor public to change their behavior to stop the spread of invasive species. Effective marketing of Clean Drain Dry instills a conservation ethic all outdoor enthusiasts can follow. View the report [HERE](#)

The [Clean Drain Dry Initiative](#) is a national campaign to educate outdoor recreational users on how to prevent the spread of invasive species. Coordinated invasive species messaging focuses on strategic content, marketing communications and outreach tools on how to prevent. To learn how you can participate or sponsor, contact: Pat Conzemius: PConzemius@WildlifeForever.org or visit www.CleanDrainDry.org

Wildlife Forever (WF): Wildlife Forever's mission is to conserve America's wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat and management of fish and wildlife. For 30 years, WF members have helped to conduct thousands of fish, game and habitat conservation projects across the country. To join and learn more about the award-winning programs, including work to engage America's youth, visit www.WildlifeForever.org.

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

Greetings from the Star Lake Property Owners' Association!

we want to provide you with a link to our 2017 SLPOA [Spring Newsletter](#). The newsletter includes updates from your SLPOA Board regarding association activities and information about the proposed Shooting Star Resort and Casino development. This newsletter (and prior issues) can also be found on our [SLPOA website](#). (Note: to view PDF documents you must have the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).) We thank you for signing up for email distribution.

There will be a Spring Fundraising Banquet / Raffle Friday, May 12th, Dent Community Center, 6 pm to 8:30 pm.

Here is an article from CDC Gaming Reports focusing on the proposed Star Lake Casino. [Off-reservation gaming comes to my backyard – and it's not pretty](#)

John Kruse OTC COLA Administrative Assistant
