

# E-Newsletter

## July 2017



### [OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?  
Go to the Website link above to sign up for  
the monthly newsletter.

---

### In This Issue:

- From the President
  - OTC COLA 2017 Member Meetings
  - July 20, 2017 OTC COLA Member Meeting
  - OTC COLA Annual Award Night
  - Starry Trek Event
  - Minnesota Lakes Near "Tipping Points"
  - DNR to Modernize its Electronic System for Hunting, Fishing Licenses
  - County to Make Inspections Mandatory
  - Watercraft Inspectors Help Stop AIS
  - Swimmer's Itch Hits MN Lake Country Early
  - Protect Our Loon Population
  - WI Partners with Farmers Against Water Pollution
  - DNR Warns Against Removal of Aquatic Plants
  - Don't Take Lightning Lightly
  - MN COLA 2017 Grassroots Action Agenda
  - Breakfast on the Farm
  - Lake Association Issue Updates
- 

### From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

I hope you all had a great July 4th.

Our next membership meeting on July 20th will allow you, as a lake property owner to talk to our local legislative leaders. Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen and Rep Bud Nornes will attend this meeting and give you all an opportunity to discuss your lake issues.

Rep Mary Franson sends her regrets, as she is unavailable on this date.

As you know OTC COLA represents the member lake associations of Otter Tail County, and we also want to represent the issues of all lake property owners of OTC. MN COLA represents all the member statewide COLA's and individual lake owner members. While many issues are properly addressed at the county level, it is critical that we also keep up with what is happening in St. Paul.

MN COLA has identified the top ten lake issues we would like our legislative members to consider, (please see the details of this list below), and OTC COLA supports this list.

OTC COLA can be more effective working with our local legislative members, and MN COLA. Please attend this meeting on Thursday, July 20 at 7:00 PM in the Community Center in the City of Ottertail.

And bring you tough questions.....

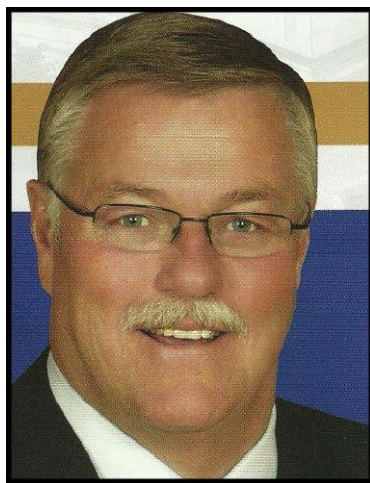
[David Majkrzak](#)

---

## OTC COLA 2017 Member Meetings

OTC COLA Member Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month, April through September. They are normally held at 7:00 pm at the Ottertail Community Room , Ottertail MN. The September Member Meeting will be the AIS Seminar Boat Cruise, the 2nd Thursday of September.

<b>July</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Legislative Forum Night</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>OTC COLA Annual Meeting, Awards</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>AIS Seminar Cruise</b>



MN Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen



Rep. Bud Nornes

### July 20, 2017 OTC COLA Member Meeting

The featured speakers for the July 2017 OTC COLA Member meeting at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN, at 7:00 pm are MN Senator

Bill Ingebrigtsen and MN Representative Bud Nornes. They will expound on recent legislative developments in the Minnesota legislature as well as focus on issues that will be considered in the future. A prior commitment will prevent Representative Mary Franson from attending the meeting.

---

## **OTC COLA Annual Award Night**

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

The OTC COLA'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\*\*](#)

---



## **Starry Trek**

Join us for a day searching for one of Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive species, starry stonewort (and other AIS). Starry stonewort is an invasive algae that was first found in Lake Koronis in 2015 and has since spread to 9 Minnesota lakes. Now we are asking for your help in searching other lakes to better understand its distribution in Minnesota. You can learn more about starry stonewort (click [HERE](#) to learn about Starry Stonewort)

Sat, August 5, 2017

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM CDT

Location: Minnesota (Locations Statewide)

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the event and to register.

**Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center**

**University of Minnesota Extension**



## **Popular Central Minnesota Lakes Near 'Tipping Points' for Water Quality**

The waters of Games Lake and Lake Andrew are still clear enough for swimmers to see their toes when they waded into them, or for anglers to see the sparkle of their spinner baits as they retrieve them.

Those days might be coming to an end, water quality professionals say, unless action is taken soon. Water quality is at a "tipping point" in the lakes of the Upper Shakopee Creek basin in the northwest corner of Kandiyohi County, according to Skip Wright, district manager for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's Ecological and Water Resources office in Spicer.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

---

## **DNR to Modernize its Electronic System for Hunting, Fishing Licenses**

Hunters, anglers and everyone who has a role in selling licenses for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources can anticipate a new electronic license system that will enhance customer service starting in the spring of 2020.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

---





## County to Make Watercraft Inspections For Aquatic Invasive Species Mandatory

Signaling a get-tough attitude toward a threat to Minnesota lakes, Wright County has become the first county in the state to require boats, trailers, docks and other equipment to be inspected for aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The mandatory inspections apply to only four lakes in the county, but they may signal the beginning of an era when Minnesota boaters can expect greater scrutiny of their watercraft hygiene.

While only about 5 percent of the state's lakes are infested with species such as zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort, experts say that once the invaders arrive in a lake, they're difficult if not impossible to eradicate. That has state and local officials emphasizing prevention through equipment inspections and decontamination to make sure that boaters don't spread the invaders from lake to lake.

[MORE](#)

---

## County Watercraft Inspectors Help Stop Spread of Invasives

Watercraft inspectors are hired annually by the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force. They work closely with County AIS Task Force Specialist Spencer McGrew.

There are 134 public accesses in Otter Tail County. It's at some of those locations where boat inspections take place each summer and early fall. Since 2012 the county's AIS Task Force has taken a proactive approach to stopping the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels throughout Otter Tail County.

[MORE](#)



## **Swimmer's Itch Hits Minnesota's Lake Country Early**

Unfortunately, the term "swimmer's itch" does not refer to that nagging desire you get to jump in the lake after a long winter.

Instead, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, it is a temporary skin rash that is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals and snails-and it's already hit the waters of Detroit Lakes, with lake-goers reporting symptoms of swimmer's itch less than a week into June.

[MORE](#)

---

## **Protect Our Loon Population**

The Loon, the beautiful, beloved state bird of Minnesota, could be in danger. According to a recent article reported by MPR News, researchers who have been tracking the movement of loons throughout the state have found a connection between BP and our state bird.

Seven years ago, BP had an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Scientists found that in 2010, loons were diving all the way to the bottom of the water where the oil would have settled. The oil gets into the bird's feathers, blood and their eggs that are laid the following spring and the contaminants are being brought back to Minnesota.

[MORE](#)

---



## Wisconsin City Partners With Farmers To Reduce Nutrient Water Pollution

The city of Madison, Wis., has partnered with the owners of eight large farms in an effort to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the city's watershed, and its sewage treatment system, a city sewerage official told participants of the national One Water Summit in New Orleans on Wednesday (June 28).

Beginning in 2011, the Dane County farmers began implementing a variety of efforts to reduce the runoff of phosphorus, a component of fertilizer, from their land into neighboring streams, where it ends up in the water supply and wastewater collected by the city, said Michael Mucha, chief engineer and director of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District.

[MORE](#)

---





## **DNR Warns Lakeshore Property Owners Equipment To Remove Aquatic Plants Illegal**

ST. PAUL -- Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources reminds lakeshore property owners that it is illegal to use hydraulic jets to move sediment or excavate the bottom of a lake or to uproot aquatic plants in public waters.

"Aquatic plants are incredibly important for keeping water clean and fish populations healthy," said Jon Hansen, aquatic plant management consultant. "We want everyone to enjoy our lakes, and misusing hydraulic jets not only destroys fish habitat but leaves a cloud of sediment and degrades the water for everyone else."

[MORE](#)

---





## **Not Taking Lightning Lightly During The Summer**

As summer is quickly approaching, so are the various summer activities like boating, swimming, golfing, or camping. Along with these exciting activities come weather considerations. One important consideration is lightning. Lightning is a very dangerous type of weather that Mother Nature sometimes produces and must not be taken lightly.

[MORE](#)

---



## **MN COLA 2017 Grassroots Action Agenda**

In previous years we have developed a "Legislative Agenda" of actions we believed were important and hoped would be picked up by legislators for consideration as new state statutes. This year, we have redefined that approach consistent with a move to a

grassroots "civic engagement" model as per the recent webinar with Jeff Forester of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

As we institutionalize this new grassroots approach, we have redefined our list of desired actions into what we are calling a "Grassroots Action Agenda". As usual, we have also developed a set of talking points that provide further explanation of the issues. But this year we also detailed specific actions that we hope our collective members will take.

### [Grassroots Action Agenda in Priority Order](#)

### [Grassroots Action Agenda Talking Points](#)

#### [Joe Shneider](#)

Secretary, MN COLA

---

## **Breakfast On The Farm**

Collaboration between the local farm communities and non-farm communities is important in the effort to preserve and protect water quality of lakes and rivers. The East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) is one of the sponsors for the Breakfast on the Farm event Saturday, August 5, 2017 at the Betty Ziegler Farm 40327 490th Street, Perham, MN. This will be a great opportunity to get the non-farming community together with local farmers to learn about what happens on a farm today.

[SEE FLYER](#)

---

## **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**

The EAW Public Meeting in Pelican Rapids June 15 was well attended by several hundred (between 200-300) and for two hours people made very strong, respectful, passionate and most importantly, factual comments.

They unanimously expressed concern and issue with the proposed project due to a long list of identified environmental, economic, social and personal concerns. The Commissioners payed close attention and later expressed thanks to those in attendance and commented on the respectful and professional manner in which the meeting was received.

[MORE](#)

[SLCCG](#)

---

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

See what's happening on our social sites

