

E-Newsletter September 2017



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From the OTC COLA President- Sylvia Soeth

While I'm just beginning my term as President of Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations, commonly known as COLA, I've been working with water quality issues for over 25 years now. I started with Big Pine Lake Association (BPLA), progressed to the formation of Otter Tail County Pine Lakes Improvement District (OTCPLID) and serve on the AIS Task Force. We appreciate the cooperation of DNR, SWCD, BWSR. That's lots of letters! A person new to a lake association or to COLA could feel lost in the alphabet. Our goal is to have more COLA members who will understand the alphabet of protecting and preserving the valuable natural resource we have in

Minnesota waters.

Past President Dave Majkrzak deserves a round of applause for the time, effort and dedication to COLA during his term. He's particularly knowledgeable about Zebra Mussels and moved right on to chair the committee to educate all of us about Starry Stonewort, planning the bus trip to Lake Koronis that you can read about in this issue. Dr. Peter Sorenson spoke and answered questions. COLA administrator John Kruse is proficient in the details necessary to keep COLA operating, bus trips to minutes. COLA was fortunate to have Fred Manuel as Treasurer during Dave's term. Dave Sethre has agreed to take on that position. There is a core of Board members who are the backbone of the association who also deserve our thanks.

The Annual Meeting featuring Awards Night is organized by Jerry Horgen. It's inspiring to hear the accomplishments of award recipients and important to have contact with Representatives. Jerry is already working on more in 2018!

Every meeting next season will be informative and interesting. COLA expanded water testing this year on more lakes and is testing for Calcium. We will continue learning about the state of our lakes. For now, though, COLA meetings will end for the season with the bus to Lake Koronis. The Board continues to take care of business. As much as I hate to have the summer end, fall is beautiful around the lakes. We have warm colorful days and cool clear water ahead. Enjoy!

Sylvia Soeth, President



OTC COLA Starry Stonewort Bus Tour

Starry stonewort is a noxious, matting algae posing a clear and present danger to lake property values and the quality of lake experience across Minnesota. The alarming outbreak of starry stonewort on Lake Koronis, near Paynesville, MN is creating high awareness of the threat and prompting aggressive action to stop its spread.

Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) sponsored a bus tour from Fergus Falls, MN to Lake Koronis on September 14, 2017. The tour included two-hour travels to and from Lake Koronis and approximately two hours visiting three sites of starry stonewort infestations.

Dr. Peter Sorenson, a respected authority on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from the University of Minnesota, lead discussions and answered questions on AIS while traveling with us on the tour. Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers also provided information and insight on MN legislative issues.

Go [HERE](#) for pictures from the Tour

[John Kruse, Administrative Assistant](#)



Left to right: Jerry Horgen, Brenda Ebanks, Star Lake "Volunteer of the Year", Eric Peters, President of Star Lake, "Lake Association of the Year", MN Congressman Collin Peterson, David Majkrzak, President of OTC COLA, Chuck Olson, "President's Award" and Bernie Steeves, President of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force of Otter Tail County

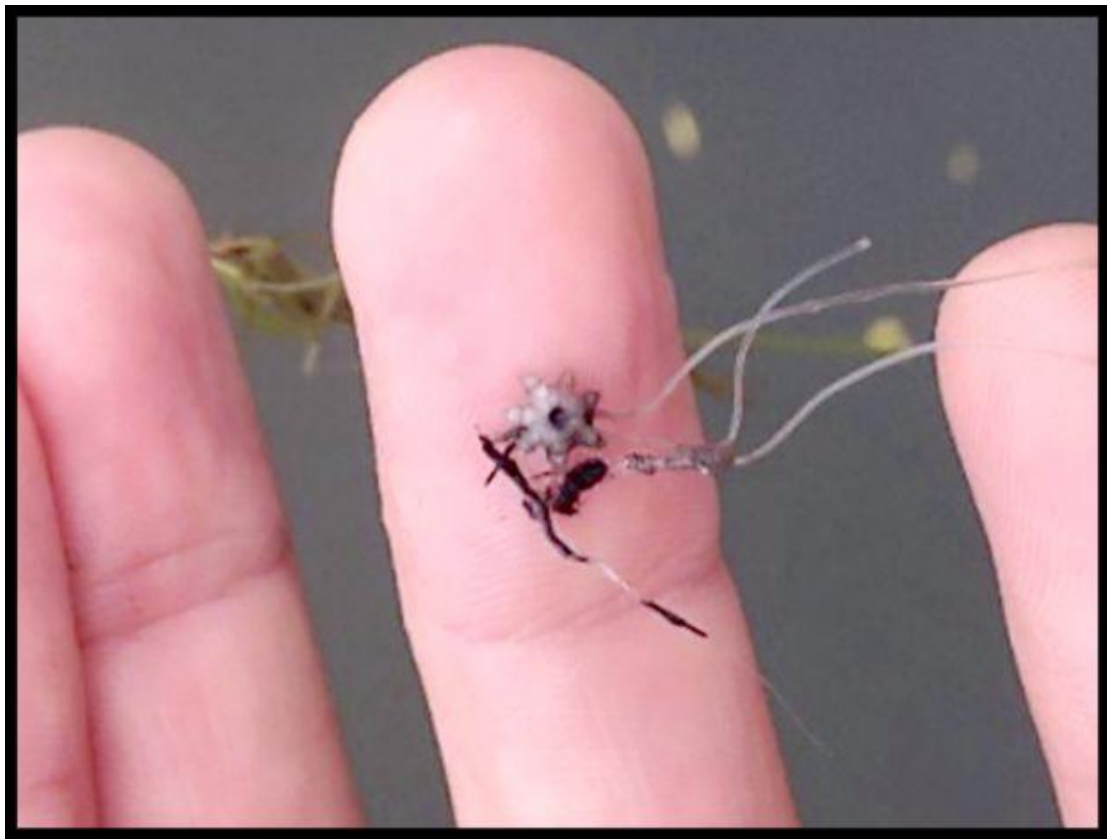
OTC COLA 8th Annual Awards

The Otter Tail Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA) held its Eighth Annual Awards Program at the government center in Ottertail on the 17th of August. The Honorable Congressman Collin Peterson was part of that program honoring the winners of awards.

The awards given out were the "Secchi Disc Reader of the Year" with 30 years of service on Little Pine Lake to Les Gunderson-not pictured. The "President's Award" for overall service to COLA went to Chuck Olson for his work in managing the monies for COLA. Dave Majkrzak, President of COLA and Bernie Steeves, President of Otter Tail County's Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force gave out this award. The "Lake Association of the Year" went to Star Lake for their efforts in public education, fundraising, improving their organizational structure, lake improvement efforts and social interaction to energize their lake residents to maintain their healthy lake environment. Eric Peters, President of the Star Lake Association was given the award by Jerry Horgen. The "Volunteer of the Year Award" was given to "Mrs. Star Lake" and that's Brenda Ebanks as Communication Director of the lake association, for her participation in volunteering at numerous

lake events, representing the Star Lake Association at public meetings and then communicating accurate information to others in the lake association regarding all activities affecting the lake association-given by Jerry Horgen. Very simply, she delivered accurate information (written and oral) in a readable form in a time of need for the association at public meetings and through printed material concerning the casino issue. Lee Minderman, Star Lake Township Board Chairman spoke to her good deeds at the awards ceremony.

The Honorable Collin Peterson then took questions from the audience on topics such as the "lack of a willingness to work together in Washington and he noted the fact that he's worked with Republicans for years on the farm bill and always delivered a bipartisan farm bill, the status of the health care bill and where that issue will lead and the issue of a balanced budget. He spoke for over an hour and was well received by all.



Starry Stonewort Story

The MN DNR has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Lake Minnewaska in Pope County, which is 17 miles south of Alexandria. This is the second new confirmation of starry stonewort in a Minnesota lake in 2017.

There are now 11 lakes in Minnesota where starry stonewort has been confirmed. Two were confirmed in 2015, seven in 2016, and two this year.

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Otter Tail County OKs

Unique Aerial Image Software

Brad Mergens and Darren Newville, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) managers for west and east Otter Tail County respectively, and Bill Kalar, County Land and Resource Director, submitted a document to the county board titled "One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures."

Mergens said that One Watershed, One Plan will replace the comprehensive County Water Plan which is valid through 2019. "The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is changing water planning on a county basis," said Mergens, "to planning around the state's major watersheds."

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Lake Looking For KO In Fight Against Starry Stonewort Infestation

GLENWOOD, Minn.-When announcing the discovery of starry stonewort in Lake Minnewaska last week, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said the invasive algae has never been eradicated from any U.S. lake where it has been found.

Minnewaska Lake Association President Mike Stai believes the case on Minnewaska might be able to change that.

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Lawn Fertilizer, Pet Waste Pointed To As Pollutant In 7 Watersheds

New research from the University of Minnesota points to lawn fertilizers and pet waste as the dominant sources of nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants in seven sub-watersheds of the Mississippi River in St. Paul. The study - published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - is the first to compare the urban watershed budgets of nitrogen and phosphorus. And the results can be applied to urban watersheds around the world impaired by excess nutrients.

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WE ♥ OUR LAKES!

OTC COLA is dedicated to combating the threats to Otter Tail County Lakes

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is a private volunteer group that partners with lake organizations and property owners to preserve the quality of lake living in Otter Tail County.

See Results of Water Quality Testing on Your Lake
OTC COLA is now conducting water quality testing in nearly 100 lakes in Otter Tail County. You can view the test results straight from the testing laboratory website.

Directories Are Available
Request a directory of lake shore property owners on your lake.

We Would Like To Connect With You
Please visit the OTC COLA website at www.ottertailcountycola.org. On the home page, after the "Welcome to OTC COLA" please read "WE LOVE OUR LAKES". There you will learn more about OTC COLA and have the opportunity to give us your contact information.

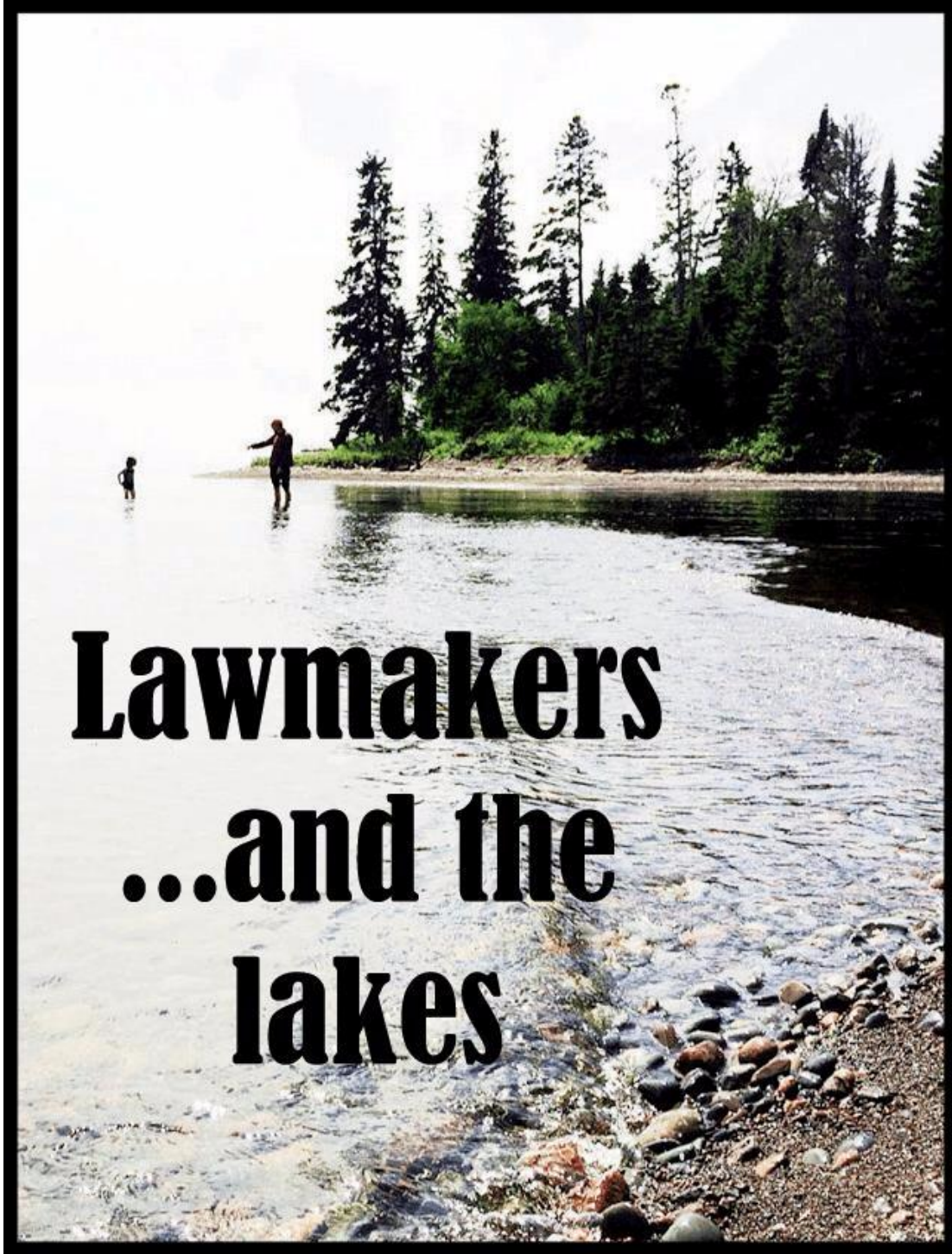
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OTC COLA
Coalition of Lake Associations

We Love Our Lakes

OTC COLA is reaching out to lake associations in Otter Tail County to become included in OTC COLA's water testing program. This postcard is being sent to non-OTC COLA lake property owners in Otter Tail County. Test results for water testing provided by both COLA and MPCA are being posted to the [RMB Labs website](#). OTC COLA can also assist in providing lake property owner directories for Otter Tail Lakes.

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



Lawmakers ...and the lakes

Lawmakers... And The Lakes

legislators Bill Ingebrigtsen and Bud Normes spoke at the July Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations meeting.

The informal setting was conducive to foster meaningful conversation on accomplishments of the recent MN legislative session and the challenges that were addressed.

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Congressman: More Research Needed To Curtail Invasive Species

Minnesota Seventh District Congressman Collin Peterson spoke about aquatic invasive species August 17 during an address before members of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) at the community center in Ottertail. Photo by Tom Hintgen

Collin Peterson, who represents Otter Tail County in the U.S. House of Representatives, says more federal research dollars are needed in order to curtail the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in west central Minnesota and in other areas of the Upper Midwest.

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Olson Presented Award From OTC COLA

Chuck Olson, retired Assistant Treasurer of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations, was honored with the COLA President's

Award.

"Chuck has many outstanding accomplishments," said COLA education coordinator Jerry Horgen.

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MN COLA Board Meeting

The next MN COLA Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 28th in Little Falls, MN, at the offices of the Initiative Foundation. The meeting will start at 10:00 am and will conclude by 4:00 pm. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

[Joe Shneider](#)

Secretary, MN COLA

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](#)

Lake Lida May Follow Pelican Lake With Improvement District

[Local News](#) | Published on August 15, 2017 at 10:40am CDT | Author: Louis Hoglund pelicanrapidspress.com/

Taxing authority would advance Lida water quality efforts
Lake Lida property owners may follow in the footsteps of those on Pelican Lake, by forming a "Lake Improvement District."

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Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG) Update

The Commissioners unanimously voted in favor of a "Positive EIS Need Decision." We are pleased with this action by OTC as an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) means a more stringent review of the project is required due to the potential significant environmental effects and other concerns, including socio-economic issues, that were raised during the EAW review process. Thank you to everyone who submitted feedback during the Public Comment period.

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Star Lake Earns Honors from OTC COLA

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) has named the Star Lake Property Owners Association with COLA's annual Association of the Year Award.

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[SLCCG](#) **Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group**

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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