

E-Newsletter

March 2018



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OTC COLA Member Meetings 2018

OTC COLA Member Meetings are normally held on the third Thursdays of April, May, June, July, August at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN, at 7:00 p.m. Another Member event is in September which traditionally has been a bus trip or pontoon cruise focusing on AIS in Otter Tail County. Updates on meeting dates and activities will be posted in the OTC COLA E-Newsletters.

- **April 19, 2018**
 - RMB Labs will distribute water quality coolers to testing volunteers
 - Moriya Rufer of RMB will conduct a clinic on proper

procedures on water testing

- **May 17, 2018**
 - Call 911 - and then what?
 - Ryan Muchow, Fire Chief
 - Jim Iverson, Deputy Sheriff
- **June 21, 2018**
 - Water testing results compilation, distribution and analysis
- **July 19, 2018**
 - State and County Legislator forum
- **August 16, 2018**
 - OTC COLA Annual Meeting
 - Lake association and volunteer awards
- **September 20, 2018**
 - Field trip



Third Annual AIS Summit

The third AIS Summit was hosted by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) February 28 and March 1 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. The focus of the Summit was articulated by the welcome by Jeff Forester, Executive Director, MLR:

"What is the most important tool for Lake protection?
Partnerships.

Welcome to the 2018 Aquatic Invaders Summit. You and other

attendees are the solution to Aquatic Invasive Species. You have chosen not to live with this problem. Minnesota's lakes and rivers are among the state's greatest assets. Yet, today, AIS threaten the quality of these resources. AIS are changing how we recreate on our lake, damaging fisheries and impacting local economies. New strategies for mitigating the AIS already in Minnesota are emerging. Each of us have a role in protecting our waters from the impacts of AIS. Over the next two days you will learn about new threats, current research, and innovative collaboration and work of citizens, local, county and state governments to control the spread of AIS"

The event included general sessions as well as numerous breakout sessions. For a complete list of all of the sessions click [HERE](#)

[**Jeff Forester, Executive Director MLR**](#)

[**Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates**](#)

There Is No Plot To Shut Down The Lakes.

By Jeff Forester, Executive Dir. of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

It has been reported in recent media publications that lake associations are working to "privatize" or limit access to the public waters. This myth emerged as the theme at a recent DNR Roundtable.

The reality is lake associations have no hidden agenda to privatize or reduce access of the public waters. The idea that lake associations are working to "privatize" or limit access to the public waters is categorically untrue in both spirit and fact. Every lake association in Minnesota, and there are over 500 of them, works to protect the lake resource for the benefit of all. According to a Concordia College study last summer, of lake associations, they spend about \$6.2 million of their own dollars for lake improvements and protection, including almost \$400,000 spent on fish stocking. They commit 1.25 million hours of volunteer time taking workshops on lake ecology, MAISRC's Starry Treck, and the AIS Detector program. Some of the best and largest datasets are due to lake associations, many of whom have been doing secci disc, waterfowl counts and water chemistry analysis for many decades.

[**MORE**](#)

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates is the only advocacy group solely focused on protecting Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. MLR is seeking individual members - membership contributions are our only source of funding. One of our goals for this year is to build on and expand our grass roots efforts.

[Jeff Forester](#), Executive Director

[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)



Rep. Bud Nornes and Sen. Bill Ingebrigsten draft a Glendalough Trail Center bill that will be considered in the 2018 House and Senate legislative sessions. Provided.

Estes Trail Center Gains Statewide Support

Nearly a year ago at the 2017 Walk for Glendalough, an exciting development project was unveiled - the proposed Estes Trail Center. This innovative visitor and interpretive facility was designed in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to address the growing attraction of the park and bike trail.

Within a few weeks, informal charitable requests resulted in more than \$185,000 of donations and pledges to the project from the Cowles and Ballantine families and a few local philanthropists, with another \$150,000 likely to materialize. The Cowles and Ballantine families originally donated their family retreat to the Nature Conservancy in the early 1990s, which has since become Glendalough State Park. They remain strong advocates of the park.

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MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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Save the Date

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2018
M STATE CAMPUS, DETROIT LAKES, MN

**MN AIS Research Center Update
(MAISRC)**

Hear from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center about current research projects and outreach activities being conducted on various aquatic invasive species. Everyone is welcome to attend. As details for this event become finalized, they will be posted on our website at www.prwd.org. You may also call our office at (218) 846-0436 with questions.



Nick Phelps **June 8, 2018**

Nick Phelps will speak at a one-day event at the M State Campus, Detroit Lakes, MN on June 8, 2018.

He will address important research the U of MN is conducting including updates on knowledge gained.

Dr. Phelps is the U of MN AIS Research Center Director. Dr. Phelps specializes in emerging infectious diseases of farmed and wild fish; development of molecular diagnostic assays; aquaculture systems and production; and aquatic ecosystem health. His work with MAISRC involves screening for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus and researching biological controls of aquatic invasive species. He also conducts modeling to predict the risk of spread of AIS, including starry stonewort, Eurasian watermilfoil, and zebra mussels.



For further information on this event go to www.prwd.org or address any questions to Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) at 218-846-0436.

[MAISRC](#)

Burglaries On South Turtle Lake, Eagle Lake

Readers of the OTC COLA E-Newsletter have requested that an alert be publicized to all Otter Tail County lake property owners to be mindful of burglaries in the area.

According the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office there have been several break-ins on South Turtle Lake and Eagle Lake within the last few days.

The sheriff's office spokesperson said on South Turtle Lake, they believe the break-ins happened late Sunday through early Tuesday morning. Five cabins total were broken into on the southwest side of the lake, all with signs of forced entry. Most of the cabins had vandalism and some items were stolen.

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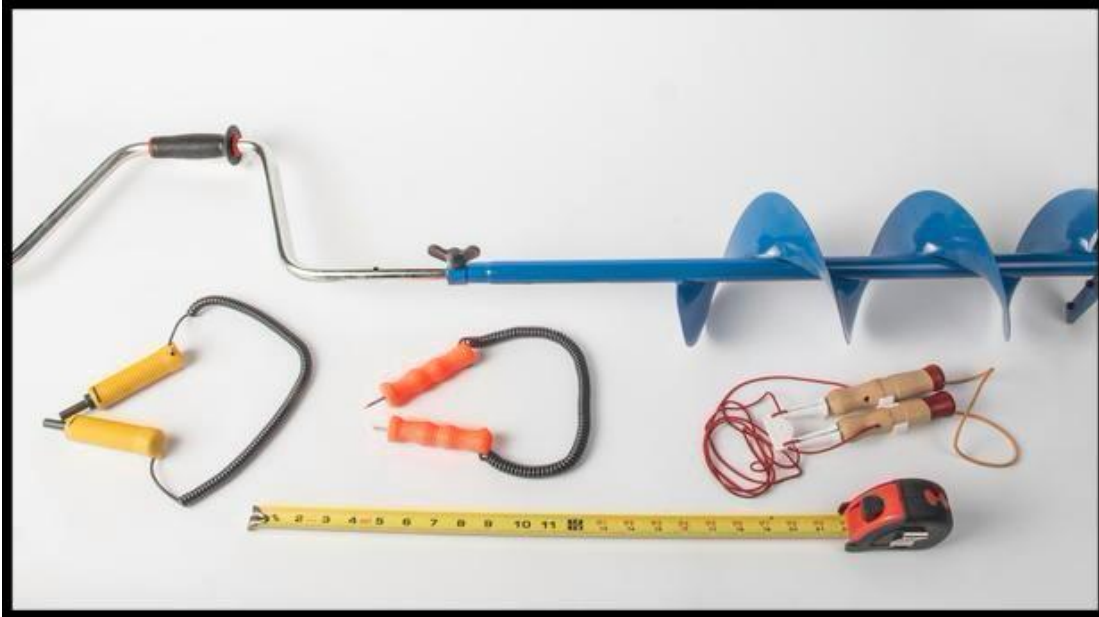


New Zone-Based Pike Regs Will Be In Effect This Spring

If you fish northern pike on most inland waters of northwest and north-central Minnesota, you'll have a larger bag limit but a protected slot to remember when fishing season opens May 12.

The new fishing regulations have three distinct zones - with different bag and slot limits for each zone - to address the different characteristics of pike populations in Minnesota.

[**MORE**](#)



Tips To Make Being On Ice Safer

ST. PAUL-Ice is, at best, unpredictable, but the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other ice experts have some tips to make being on ice safer:

* New ice, which is clear and may have a light blue tint, is the strongest ice and the one used for guidelines such as not walking on ice less than 4 inches thick. Cloudy white ice or snow-covered ice needs to be twice as thick as clear ice to be safe.

[MORE](#)



An Artic-scape Groundbreak

In late 2016, the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District was awarded a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant from the DNR for funding to complete a modification of the Fish Lake Dam into a Rock Arch Rapids Fishway.

This new fishway will be built to hold water levels exactly as the current dam does, so that homeowners don't notice a difference. To ensure the new fishway functions the same as the current dam, water level monitoring in the stream and lake has already been occurring to establish baseline conditions and will also occur after the project. The rocks can be adjusted in the summer if needed for precise elevation targets.

Even though this project covers less than one acre of land, it will benefit the 14,790 acres of lakes and 84 river miles in the entire Pelican River Watershed by restoring connections.

[**MORE**](#)

Goodbye Phosphorus Rice Lake Project Moving Forward

The Rice Lake project is moving forward, with more than 1,000 notification letters sent out to property owners, according to

Commissioner John Okeson.

Rice Lake is located just north of Detroit Lakes, between Richwood Road and County Road 25.

The Rice Lake Nutrient Reduction Project will reduce total phosphorus loading to downstream recreational water bodies including Detroit, Sallie and Melissa Lakes by about 2,600 to 3,500 pounds per year.

The Rice Lake wetland will increase from its current area of 434 acres to pre-ditched water levels of approximately 896 acres, restoring natural wetland hydrology conditions.

The project area flowage rights include private lands (503 acres), DNR Wildlife Management area (510 acres), and City of Detroit Lakes land (145 acres), according to the Pelican River Watershed District website.

The project includes the construction of two outlet structures with stoplog adjustable weirs on Rice Creek.



Alternatives To Road Salt Being Pursued As Environmental Risks Mount

Some 20 million tons of salt is dispersed every year on American roads. Scientists in 2018 are starting to raise concerns about road salt's impact on the environment, especially drinking water, because lakes and streams near roads are showing elevated levels

of sodium and chloride.

Experiments at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute aquatic lab in Troy, New York, have found that higher salt concentrations reduced growth rates in rainbow trout and decreased the abundance of zooplankton - tiny animals or larvae that are critical to the aquatic food chain and play a role in keeping lakes and streams clean.

Other studies have shown that salinization of lakes and streams reduces the numbers of fish and amphibians, kills off plants, and alters the diversity of these freshwater ecosystems.

[MORE](#)

County Moves Forward With 'One Watershed, One Plan'

The county board of commissioners, on Feb. 13, followed the recommendation of the county public works committee by adopting "One Watershed, One Plan."

County board members will work closely with Brad Mergens, manager for the West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) office based in Fergus Falls, and Darren Newville, manager for the East Otter Tail SWCD office based in Perham.

Otter Tail County will be involved with four large watersheds and four smaller ones.

[MORE](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes 02/12/18

Highlights

- Add AIS language to Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance
- Add AIS language to Sheriff's Special Event Permit
- AIS decon units will be delivered week of February 18

[OTC Task Force Minutes](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioners Minutes

02/13/18

Highlights

- One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Discussion
- Otter Tail County's 2018 Campaign
- Next generation E-911 coordination

[OTC Commissioner Minutes](#)

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

See what's happening on our social sites

