

# E-Newsletter

## May 2018



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## **Member Meetings and Events 2018**

OTC COLA Member Meetings are planned for the 2018 season. Regular meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm, May, June, July and August at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN, featuring informative presentations from emergency service providers and MN legislators. To be announced is the September Field Trip for Members.

- **Thursday, May 17, 2018**
  - Call 911 - and then what?
    - Ryan Muchow, Fergus Falls Fire Chief
    - Jim Iverson, OTC Deputy Sheriff
    - Tim Meehl, Perham Mayor, Firefighter

- **Thursday, June 21, 2018**
    - Why Are We Testing The Waters?
  - **Thursday, July 19, 2018**
    - State and County Legislator forum
  - **Thursday, August 16, 2018**
    - OTC COLA Annual Meeting
    - Lake Association and volunteer awards
  - **Thursday, September 20, 2018**
    - Day Trip to be announced
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## From the President

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations will meet for the first time this season on Thursday, May 17, at 7:00 p.m. OTC COLA meets on the third Thursday of the month from May through August at the Community Center in the City of Otter Tail. on September 20 a Day Trip is planned with the East Otter Tail Soil and Water District to highlight shore land conservation projects. COLA is a volunteer group that partners with Lake Associations to sponsor water quality testing programs, communications, education and legislative forums in Otter Tail County.

"Call 911. Then what?" Is the topic of the evening. Coffee and cookies and a brief business meeting will precede an informative discussion and question and answer session on the 911 system in Otter Tail County. How do dispatchers send you emergency assistance for a fire or for a medical emergency? Who are the First Responders around the lake? Can they find you from your cell phone? Fergus Falls Fire Chief Ryan Muchow will lead a panel of emergency personnel. He was hired and returned to Fergus Falls in 2017 after experience as a Moorhead firefighter. Trevor Reeves, Pelican Rapids Fire Chief and President of the OTC Fire Chief's Association will be on the panel. Perham Mayor and firefighter Tim Meehl will participate from his perspective.

Sheriff's Deputy Jim Iverson will speak for Law Enforcement. He works with the Otter Tail County Aquatic invasive Task Force for the summer months enforcing all things water related including Clean, Drain and Dry. Deputy Iverson will display the new Lund boat purchased by the County's AIS Task Force in 2017 for his use. The boat is fully equipped and features the logo for the Task Force, replacing an out of date boat from the Sheriff's

Department. OTC Deputy Barry Fitzgibbons will be available to answer questions about 911.

The Board of the OTC Coalition of Lake Associations encourages all lakeshore property owners to share an evening of information, fellowship, refreshments and door prizes on May 17.

The question for the COLA meeting on June 21 will be "Why are we testing the waters?." Moriya Rufer of RMB Laboratories will analyze test results and offer suggestions for dealing with results on individual lakes that are in the COLA testing program.

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

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## **MAISRC AIS Symposium June 8, 2018**

ST. PAUL, MN - Researchers and staff from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) will be presenting at M State in Detroit Lakes on Friday, June 8 from 9:15 to 3:00.

We do not have to accept a future for our children and grandchildren defined by un-checked AIS spread. We do not have to accept destroyed health and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems, impaired water quality, threatened native species, and impeded access for recreational use. We do not have to bequeath a water legacy of negative economic impacts to businesses, tourism, property values, and in turn, the local tax base. We can be successful in our efforts to prevent the further spread of AIS both in-to Minnesota and within Minnesota.

Click [HERE](#) for the Press Release

More information? contact:  
[Brenda Moses](#)

## **Water Testing Program Kickoff**

On Thursday evening April 19 Ellie Kriese and Moriya Rufer from RMB Environmental Laboratories, Detroit Lakes, along with Russ Severson from OTC COLA, began the kickoff of the 2018 lake water sampling season. The water sampling volunteers started to arrive at 5:00pm at the community center in Ottertail. By 6:00pm the crew had distributed kits to thirty-five lake testing volunteers.

The 2018 water samples are taken on the third Monday of each month during the summer: May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20 and September 17. The samples are then taken to a designated drop off locations or delivered to RMB Environmental Laboratories for analysis and recording the data.

If you are interested in getting your lake set up for water testing please contact us at [www.ottertailcountycola.org](http://www.ottertailcountycola.org)

This lakes monitoring program involves the collection of total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a samples. Other observations such as Secchi disk, lake level, rainfall, and recreational suitability are also documented. Citizen volunteers collect water samples once a month from May through September and submit them to the lab. Data results are posted to the [RMB website](#) and analysis is distributed by OTC COLA .

### **[Russ Severson, OTC COLA](#)**

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## **OTC COLA New Brochure**

A new OTC COLA tri-fold brochure has been created to raise awareness of challenges to OTC lakes and the work that OTC COLA is doing to confront them.

The brochure is constructed to first recognize some of the issues lake associations and lake property owners are facing. These include the threat of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) and harmful practices.

Secondly, the existence and work of OTC COLA is talked about (there are a lot of OTC lake property owners that haven't even heard of OTC COLA).

Lastly, the brochure talks about the water testing programs, education and legislative forums, communications and other benefits.

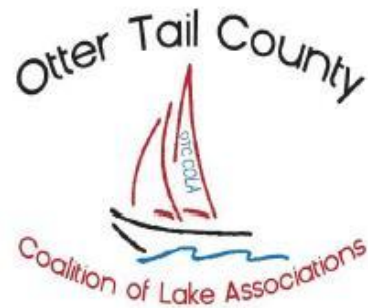
Click [HERE](#) to view and download a pdf of the brochure. You are welcome to print for distribution at lake association, LID or other appropriate events. If you would like a supply of printed brochures, please let me know.

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

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*OTC COLA is dedicated to protecting and preserving Otter Tail Lakes*

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*The Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is a private volunteer group working with Lake Associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes*

***We Love Our Lakes***



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## **The Ticks Have Been Waiting For Warmer Weather, And They Are Hungry**

The delayed spring, followed by an upcoming week of temperatures reaching 65 degrees, has created a perfect storm for tick season. They have been waiting to emerge, and they are ravenous.

"They'll be coming out in full force," said Janet Jarnefeld, manager of tick vector services with the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. The MMCD is a government agency that falls under the authority of the seven metro counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey Scott and Washington.

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## **Update On Ramp And Dock Spring Readiness**

The late ice out compressed our normal repair season of 6-7 weeks into a three week rush.

Our crew has been busy working 10-11 hour days 6 days a week for the past two weeks. Douglas County ice lasted a bit longer so we were more focused on Otter Tail County. This week we are in Douglas County

All the ramps in Otter Tail County should be usable now. Please take a really good look at the ramps every time before you launch . There can be damage that is difficult to see on windy days. Power loading can pull planks apart and create gaps and a blow hole at the end that can damage your trailer if you get hung up in them.

There are a few floating docks at Rush north, Big Pine, Leaf lakes that may not get put in until next week. Floating docks require our backhoe to lift them into the water and our backhoe has been busy fixing ramps. All roll in Docks in Otter Tail county were in by late in the day on Saturday May 5<sup>th</sup>

We will have all of our 160 roll in docks in the water by this week end.

Clean, Drain, and Dry all your boats and equipment every time it goes in and out of a lake. Water must be swapped out with clean non lake water to transport bait as you leave the access. It is illegal to transport lake water. Do your part to protect all our lakes from invasive species.

Stay Safe. Invest in a good comfortable life jacket and wear it. Water temperatures are pretty cold. We have had a couple of tragic losses the past few years that are preventable. Wear it for all the people who love you so that you can love them back.

**Shawn Donais 05/08/18**

Area 1b Fergus Falls Supervisor | Parks and Trails



## **DNR Advises People To Keep Aquarium Pets And Plants Out Of Minnesota Waters**

To help protect Minnesota waters, the Department of Natural Resources is reminding people to properly dispose of prohibited or unwanted aquarium plants and animals.

"It's important for hobbyists, teachers, parents and children to know that they should never release aquarium animals or plants into the wild," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. "Some of the pets and plants that live in aquariums are prohibited species that can cause serious harm if released into lakes, rivers or ponds."

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## **OTC Will Have 24 Watercraft Inspectors**

County Land and Resources Director Bill Kalar told county commissioners on March 27 that 24 watercraft inspectors have been hired to work at county lake accesses during the summer of 2018.

The 24 summer workers will work directly with Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County's Aquatic Invasive Species task force specialist. Before leaving a lake, fishermen are required to drain water from boats, motors and livewells. Boat owners also are urged to

perform water draining away from boat ramps

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## **The Last Resorts: MN Facing Disappearance Of Summer Lake Tradition**

The number of families for whom resorts are a summer tradition may be dropping: The number of resorts operating in Minnesota has dropped nearly in half in the last 30 years. The tourism industry attributes this to economic pressures that range from guests' changing expectations to the declining value of their businesses relative to the land they sit on.

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## **20 Years And 400 Inspiring Volunteers Yield Priceless Water Quality Information**

In 1998, 17 volunteers began monitoring the health of 22 streams sites in southeast Minnesota. Today, more than 400 volunteers monitor 500 stream sites across the state as part of the Citizen Stream Monitoring program. The data is indispensable to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

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## **OTC COLA Lake Association And Volunteer Of The Year Awards**

The deadline for nominating the OTC COLA Volunteer and Lake Association of the year is August 1, 2018. We ask that you honor your volunteers who tirelessly share their time and talent, either individually or as a group.

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.

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## **OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes** [April 9, 2018](#)

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioners Minutes** [March 13, 2018](#) [March 27, 2018](#) [April 24, 2018](#)

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### **OTC COLA Board of Directors**

Bernie Steeves · Dave Sethre · David Majkrzak · Jeff Stabnow ·  
Patrick Prunty · Roger Neitzke · Russ Severson · Sylvia Soeth

### **OTC COLA Members**

Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association · Clitheral Lake Association · Dead Lake Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association · Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association · Pelican Lake Property Owners Association · Pickerel Lake Improvement Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore Association · Round Lake 56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association · Silver Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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