

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter

April 2019



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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In This Issue:

- **From The President- Sylvia Soeth**
- **New Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance**
- **Water Sampling Kick-Off April 25**
- **County Watercraft 2019 Inspection Plans**
- **Lake Directories for OTC Lakes- Now Available**
- **MLR Annual Meeting**
- **Lake Monitoring Program Instruction Manual**
- **Fish Kills Expected In Oxygen-Starved Lakes**
- **MN COLA June Meeting / Reports**
- **Join the OTC COLA Board Of Directors**
- **AIS Task Force Board Minutes**
- **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
- **Instant Access Links - Includes Lake Analysis Results For Over 100 OTC Lakes**

From the President - Sylvia Soeth

It surely is Spring! There's an April shower today and some hearty blades of green grass are peeking out where the snowbanks will allow. Tullibee fishermen/women only go on the lakes in the early morning when it's still frozen out there. Snowbirds are coming north. Open water will be welcome.

The April meeting of OTC COLA is not a typical meeting. It will be for those who take water samples on the lakes to pick up coolers. RMB Lab representatives and COLA Board members led by Russ Severson will be at the City of Ottertail Community Center on Thursday, April 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to get the season started. Thank you to the guys who faithfully test once a month from May to September by gathering water samples and delivering them in the time allowed to RMB Lab or to a courier who takes several samples to the lab in Detroit Lakes. Over 50 lakes are involved in the water testing and more are joining in this year.

Mark your calendar for the May 15 COLA meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Ottertail!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President



A USED DOCK OR LIFT?

New Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance

To comply with the Otter Tail County Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance, a dock, pier, wharf, or boatlift must be registered with the Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management Office before being moved from one body of water to another.

Registration is free and easy. Call Otter Tail County at: **218-998-8113**

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Water Sampling Kick-Off April 25

Coolers for the OTC COLA Lake Water Sampling Program will be distributed at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN, April 25 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Ellie Kriese of RMB Labs will be available for training and to answer questions.

[Russ Severson](#) Environmental Director

County Watercraft Inspection Plans For 2019 Underway

Otter Tail to deploy crew of 25 in fight against aquatic invaders

The county's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force is preparing for the 2019 summer boating season.

Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County's aquatic invasive species specialist, told county commissioners that 25 watercraft inspectors will be returning this summer.

Chris LeClair, the county's Land and Resource Department director, said the watercraft inspector program has been well received by the general public.

Extensive discussion took place about existing procedures and practices. No changes were recommended.

Author: Tom Hintgen



Lake Directories For 100 OTC Lakes Now Available
OTC COLA has created materials for use in Lake Association Member Directories. Opportunities exist to provide content for flexible, less costly online versions as well as input that can be formatted for traditional printed versions.

- [Street and Name lake property owner directories](#) for 100 OTC lakes

- [Interactive access to OTC maps](#) for showing address locations
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#) for over 100 OTC lakes

Many Lake Associations in Otter Tail County (OTC) publish Lake Association Directories for their Members. Common sections in these Directories include listings of property owners on lakes by street and by name. Some also provide locations of the properties on maps.

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MLR 2019 Annual Meeting

Planning is currently underway for Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates 25th annual meeting, MLR Members will enjoy a two day celebration of our iconic lakes and the organization we have built together to protect our shared lake heritage. The event will be held at the Northern Lights Casino in Walker, MN.

This year we are holding the MLR annual meeting starting with a dinner on Monday, June 17th followed by a full day of programming on June 18th. Specific times and locations have not yet been finalized.

On Friday night, June 17, MPR meteorologist Paul Huttner will speak on the impacts changing weather is having on Minnesota's lakes, and what that might mean for the future. American Public Media will broadcast the presentation on MPR. Sen Carrie Rudd, Chair of the Senate Environmental Policy and Legacy Funding Committee, and Rep. John Percell, Chair of the House Environmental Policy Committee will provide a legislative update.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Strommen will be our plenary speaker on June 18th. We have partnered in this celebration with MN COLA, Cass County, Pine River Watershed Alliance, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, MN DNR, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, and the Association of Cass County Lakes.

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester](#), MLR Executive Director

Citizen Lake Monitoring
Program
Instruction Manual



**MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program
Instruction Manual**

This manual has been prepared to help answer any questions that new or veteran volunteer monitors may have about the MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program and/or lake monitoring in general. It is our hope that you will find this booklet useful as well as informative.

[MORE](#)



More Fish Kills Expected This Spring In Oxygen-Starved Lakes

And that's not necessarily a bad thing.

Brian Schultz, of the Department of Natural Resources office in New Ulm, said their agency measured some very low levels of oxygen in many lakes, "more so than usual."

Once a lake is covered with ice, the amount of dissolved oxygen in the lake depends on how much is produced by aquatic plants. Winter kill occurs when snow and ice limit the amount of sunlight reaching those plants.

"A lot of the lakes were good in early February, then we got all that snow," Schultz said. e fish kills expected this spring in oxygen-starved lakes

[**MORE**](#)



MN COLA / MLR Joint Meeting June 17, 18

MN COLA (Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations) is partnering with MLR (Minnesota Lakes and Rivers) for an event at Northern Lights Casino, Walker, MN on June 17 and 18. For a review of the schedule of events see the MLR article above. Currently the MN COLA Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00 am.

MN COLA Reports

Recently published reports are currently available from MN COLA. They include:

- Minutes from the MN COLA meeting in Buffalo (Wright County), March 19, 2019
- Secretary's Report of the March 19 meeting discussions with links
- Wright County Regional inspection Ordinance Amendments

For copies of these MN COLA reports contact:

[Tom Nelson](#), MN COLA Secretary

MN COLA Website: mncola.angelfire.com/

Join The OTC COLA Board Of Directors

OTC COLA is a private volunteer group working with lake associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes. We are currently looking for individuals to join the Board of Directors and participate in the management of the organization. Interested candidates are welcome to contact

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[March 13, 2019](#) Draft

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[February 12, 2019](#)

[March 5, 2019](#)

[March 12, 2019](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for over 100 OTC

Lakes

- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- [OTC COLA Membership Application](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Membership Application for 2019
- **We want to hear from you!**- Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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