

**IMPORTANT NEWS** from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

# E-Newsletter

## May 2019



### [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- Sylvia Soeth**
- **OTC COLA Member Meetings 2019**
- **Spencer McGrew Speaker At May COLA Member Meeting**
- **New Dock And Riparian Use Ordinance**
- **OTC Lakes' War Against Curly-Leaf Pond Weed**
- **OTC COLA Water Sampling Kick-Off**
- **Call For Cooler Courier**
- **Homeowner Septic System / Well Workshop June 8**
- **Meet Jeff Vansteenburgh - New OTC COLA Director**
- **OTC Let's Go Fishing Starts In June**
- **OTC Works With State Conservation Officials, Agencies**
- **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**
- **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
- **Instant Access Links -**
  - [Newsletter Article Index](#)
  - [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#)
  - [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)
  - [Interactive Access to OTC GIS maps](#)

---

### **From The President - Sylvia Soeth**

We wondered if the ice would ever go off, and it did. Now we can enjoy the open water! The pine siskins that ate me out of house and home and thistle seed all winter have moved on to make room for the bright yellow goldfinches. I was sitting on the deck thinking it must finally be spring when the weather forecast called for cold rain and a blizzard warning in Duluth.

It really is May, though, and it's time for the first "member meeting" of OTC COLA on May 16. We say member meeting because of the Board for COLA meets year round, keeping COLA on task. Surveys from members who attended 2018 meetings showed 88% of members are concerned about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The topic for our May meeting is "AIS - What should we do?" and we have Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist Spencer McGrew to address that topic and to tell you about the decontamination units available this season.

Spencer is with Land and Resource Management in Fergus Falls. Several COLA Board members are on the AIS Task Force for OTC and work regularly with him and they are willing to share information and answer questions, also. Please join us for coffee and cookies, door prizes, information and sharing on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Ottertail Community Center!

[Sylvia Soeth](#)

---

## **OTC COLA Member Meetings 2019**

Member May through September meetings are planned for 2019 including several special events; some scheduled for different locations and times. Meeting programs scheduled for the Ottertail Community Center will begin at 7:00 pm. These meetings will include time for refreshments and networking prior to the programs

### **AIS - What should we do?**

Thursday, May 16 2019, Ottertail Community Center  
Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist, OTC AIS Task Force will outline the various activities and functions of the AIS Task Force and provide a summary of projects in 2018.

### **Rural Homeowner Septic System and Well 101 Workshop**

Saturday, June 8 2019 Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN  
Septic system / well seminar sponsored by OTC Land & Resource Management

### **OTC COLA - What is it?**

Thursday, July 18 2019, Ottertail Community Center  
OTC COLA, what is it? Overview by Patrick Prunty. Water Quality Analysis reports, Member Directories by John Kruse.

### **COLA Annual Meeting with Legislative Review**

Thursday, August 15 2019, Ottertail Community Center  
COLA annual meeting, legislative review.

### **OTC COLA will Host MN COLA Meeting**

Tuesday, September 17 2019, Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN  
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) meeting hosted by OTC COLA.

---



Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist

### **Spencer McGrew - Speaker at May COLA Meeting**

Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist, OTC COLA AIS Task Force, will be the featured speaker at the at the May Member meeting of OTC COLA. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm, May 16, at the Ottertail Community Center, Ottertail, MN. Refreshments and member networking will be available prior to the program.

In 2012 the County Board of Commissioners established the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, charging them with the mission to "develop programs and strategies to support and enhance the protection of Otter Tail County Waters." The Task Force "will promote public awareness, education, containment, research, and provide recommendations to the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners."

[\*\*AIS Task Force Story\*\*](#)

[\*\*AIS Task Force 2018 Summary\*\*](#)

[\*\*Spencer McGrew\*\*](#)

[\*\*AIS Task Force Website\*\*](#)

---



## **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**

[POSTCARD](#)

[MORE](#)

---

## **Otter Tail Lakes' Gallant War Against Curly-Leaf Pond Weed**

Recent media releases focus on the gallant effort to combat curly-leaf pond weed in Lida and Pelican Lakes.



## **Clogged Boat motors, ‘Pea Soup’ Waters Prompt Lake Lida Action**

Published on April 24, 2019 at 9:29am CDT | Author: Louis Hoglund

Chemical treatments to control curly-leaf pondweed are being planned for application by the Lake Lida Property Owners Association.

Algae growth in the summer of 2018, especially on South Lida, was among the worst ever experienced, according to some Lida residents.

“Nearly impossible to eradicate,” is how curly-leaf was described by Phil Oswald, RMB labs, Detroit Lakes, who will be working with the Pelican Lake Chain and Cormorant as well.

“We can really only manage what already exists,” said Oswald. “Controlling the spread is very difficult once it is in a lake.”

“Pea soup” is how one property owner described the color of a collected sample of the water.

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



## **Pelican Lake: Battling The Curly-Leaf Assault Since 2005**

*Published on April 24, 2019 at 9:30am CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press*

Curly-leaf pondweed surveys and treatments have been conducted on Pelican Lake since at least 2005.

Surveys continue this year in areas that have historically had curly-leaf. Surveys are done early in the spring when the ice goes out to ensure that the treatment company can spray before the water temperature gets above 60 degrees F.

Treatments of about 28.5 acres on the Pelican chain cost about \$15,000 in 2018.

Heavily invested lakes, including some Twin Cities suburban area waters, have been treated at a cost in six figures.

[MORE](#)

---





## **Water Sampling Kick-Off April 25**

The Kick-Off of the OTC COLA Water Sampling Program took place at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN on Thursday April 25, 2019. The event was organized by Russ Serverson, OTC COLA Environmental Director and Ellie Kriese, Aquatic Ecologist Project Manager, RMB Laboratories.

Ellie reports that she usually prepares over 100 coolers to start the annual testing program. At this event testing volunteers came to receive their initial supply of coolers to begin testing in May. The testing dates for the summer are May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19 and September 16. These are the 3rd Mondays of each month. The water samples will be collected on Sundays before, or early on, designated Mondays. They will then be delivered to RMB Laboratories in Detroit Lakes or to designated drop-off locations. The Monday delivery days are called "lakes days at RMB". Ellie says "Some of the volunteers have had the opportunity to see lakes day and all of the samples that come in. Plus, there are always treats for the volunteers as our way of saying "thank you"! They are very dedicated to helping the lakes of Otter Tail County and it shows! We are all fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers. We wouldn't have the volume of data that we have without them."

The data collected for the OTC COLA water testing program has provided data for over 20 years contributing to the compilation of valuable trend analysis for COLA Members. It is widely accepted that 8-10 years of water quality data is important to establishing lake stewardship strategies, including qualification for financial grants from state and county agencies. To see the library of trend analysis reports go [HERE](#).

### **[OTC COLA Water Testing Program](#)**

**[Russ Severson](#)** OTC COLA Environmental Director  
**[Ellie Kriese](#)**, **[RMB](#)** Aquatic Ecologist

---

## Call For Cooler Courier

OTC COLA is looking for someone to help transport coolers back and forth to RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes for the water testers in the Dead Lake area including Boedigheimer, Star, Pickerel, Marion, Silent, and the McDonald Lakes. You would need someplace for the testers to drop off their coolers at your place and then where they could access them for the next month. This would be for the months of June through September. If you can help, please contact me.

[Russ Severson](#) Environmental Director  
218-841-5862

---



Dr. Sara Heger

## Homeowner Septic System / Well Workshop

Learn how to operate a septic system efficiently. Join Dr. Sara Heger, a researcher from the University of Minnesota (U of M) Water Resource Center, and the U of M's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Program. Dr. Heger has been with the University Water Resource Center since 1999 and is one of the primary educators for septic professionals in the State of Minnesota. Dr. Heger



is also recognized nationally, training septic professionals across the country, as well as serving as President-Elect of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association. Dr. Heger will demonstrate how to maintain a compliant system to prevent costly repairs and water contamination. This is a great opportunity to get answers to your questions about septic systems in Otter Tail County.

The Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management department is proud to host the “Rural Homeowner Septic System and Well 101 Workshop” at Thumper Pond on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 10am-12pm. Thumper Pond is located at 300 Thumper Lodge Road in Ottertail. If you would like to attend this workshop, please RSVP by May 22 to [Brittany Walters](#), Land & Resource Management, at 218-998-8095 or [bwalters@co.ottertail.mn.us](mailto:bwalters@co.ottertail.mn.us). This workshop is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided. For more information about septic system regulations in Otter Tail County please visit the [OTC Land & Resource Management](#) website.

[MORE](#)

---



Jeff Vansteenburg

### Meet Jeff Vansteenburg

Jeff Vansteenburg is the newest member of the OTC COLA Board of Directors. Jeff comes to COLA from 15 years as Environmental Program Supervisor, Iowa DNR Environmental Services Division. Jeff and his wife have retired to Silver Lake near Battle Lake, where his family has been members of the Lake Association for many years.

---



## Otter Tail 'Let's Go Fishing' starts in June

*Published on May 1, 2019 at 9:54am CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press*

The Otter Tail County Chapter Let's Go Fishing Leadership Committee has announced they will launch their first excursion for this year at the beginning of June.

Let's Go Fishing is a statewide program that enriches the lives of people age 55 and older through free fishing and pontoon excursions that strengthen communities, build relationships and create memories. The organization has Chapters throughout Minnesota.

Those first LGF guests will be a group of seniors from a local senior living facility here in Otter Tail County. The group will have an opportunity to spend the morning on Wall Lake catching fish or just enjoying the view.

Many of the seniors who participate have commented on how they have looked forward to these pontoon and fishing trips. Many have lived in the Otter Tail County Lake Country for most of their lives and have shared with the volunteers how it has been many years since they have been able to take a pontoon ride or go fishing.

The Otter Tail County Chapter is in need of additional volunteers to operate the pontoon. If you are interested in becoming a LGF volunteer, contact Jan Nygaard, Volunteer Coordinator at 218-998-2556 or email at [janet.nygaard@gmail.com](mailto:janet.nygaard@gmail.com).

[MORE](#)

---

## Otter Tail Works In Association With State Conservation Officials, Agencies

*Area News | Published on April 3, 2019 at 11:02am CDT | Author: Tom Hintgen*

Three years have gone by since the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) honored managers of Otter Tail County's two soil and water conservation district offices.



Brad Mergens manages the west Otter Tail County office and Darren Newville manages the east county office. They each received District Employee of the Year awards from BWSR.

“The BWSR mission is to help improve Minnesota’s water and soil resources by working in partnership with Otter Tail County, local organizations and private landowners,” Mergens said.

Adds Newville: “Core functions of our offices here in Otter Tail County, in coordination with BWSR, include implementing the state’s soil and water conservation policy, comprehensive local water management and the Wetland Conservation Act.”

Mergens and Newville, in recent years, have been leaders in working with county landowners to comply with buffer initiatives to protect Otter Tail County’s public waters. They have provided inventory, mapping assistance and financial assistance to farmers.

The state of Minnesota, in turn through BWSR, seeks to assist Otter Tail County and the Otter Tail soil and water conservation district offices with protection of lakes, rivers, fish and wildlife.

BWSR is the state’s administrative agency for 90 soil and water conservation districts, 46 watershed districts, watershed management organizations throughout Minnesota and 80 county water managers.

---

## OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[April 8, 2019](#) Draft

---

## OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[March 26, 2019](#)

[April 2, 2019](#)

[April 9, 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
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map
- [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

[\*\*Subscribe to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter\*\*](#)

---

**OTC COLA Board of Directors**

Bernie Steeves · David Majkrzak · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh ·  
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 · Long Lake at Vergas Association · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle 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

---

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