

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter August 2019

[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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In This Issue:

- **From The President- Sylvia Soeth**
- **OTC COLA General Meetings 2019**
- **August 15 2019 General Meeting**
- **I-LIDS Explained at August 15 Meeting**
- **Welcome BLUA to OTC COLA**
- **OTC Governors Opener 2020**
- **OTC COLA - What Is It? - July General Meeting**
- **OTC COLA for Betterment of Area Waters**
- **Fix for Flowering Rush Problem**
- **WLOL Post Card To Be Mailed**
- **Starry Trek 2019**
- **MAISRC Showcase**
- **Join the OTC COLA Board of Directors**
- **Power Loading Damages Launch Ramps**
- **West Nile Virus Killing Loons**
- **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](#)
 - [Lawmaker Hotline](#)

From The President - Sylvia Soeth

Could it be August already? We look forward to summer "at the lake" and the days go by so fast! Not long ago it was too cool and now we've been through the too hot.

August is traditionally the Annual Meeting of OTC COLA. Continuing with the Board's desire to inform members, we will have the creator of I-LIDS used at 13 accesses in OTC to show us just how the I-LIDS work. Looking forward to 2020 we can hear how the Governor's Fishing Opener will go in OTC. Even with all this and the regular features of COLA meetings, the meeting will move

along and not take up much of your summer evening.

Be on the lookout soon for postcards from COLA. They will be sent to property owners on lakes and rivers. There will be useful information for you and for us!

Come for cookies and stay for the door prizes on August 15, 7:00, at Ottertail Community Center.

[Sylvia Soeth](#)

OTC COLA General Meeting August 2019

I-LIDS / Governor's Opener / Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 15 2019, 7:00 p.m. Ottertail Community Center

Eric Lindberg: Internet Landing Installed Device (I-LID)

Erik Osberg: Fishing for the Governor in 2020

COLA annual meeting

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.

August 2019 GENERAL MEETING

Featured at the August 15, 2019 General Meeting of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) will be presentations on the Internet Landing Installed Device System (I-LIDS) by Eric Lindberg and the Otter Tail County 2020 Governor's Fishing Opener by Erik Osberg. The event is also the Annual Member Meeting for OTC COLA.

The OTC COLA General Meeting will be held at the Ottertail Community Center, 93 Lake Avenue South, Ottertail MN 56571. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. following a meet-and-greet time, coffee, cookies and an opportunity to network with other OTC lake property owners. All OTC lake property owners are invited to attend.

For more information please email otccola2@gmail.com or call 701-219-0465.

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



I-LIDS To Be Explained At OTC COLA August 15 Meeting

The I-LIDS automated inspection and education systems are in use at 13 launches within Otter Tail County. Sensors identify when boaters are present. The launches are captured on video which is uploaded to a server where they can be reviewed for any suspect AIS violations. Educational reminders to inspect and cleanoff are audible to the boater at the time of use. Increased boater awareness of the need to inspect and cleanoff has been seen. Eric Lindberg (designer) will provide a brief overview of what results have been captured over several seasons of operating the automated systems and play some of the video highlights.

[Eric Lindberg](#)
[Lake Sentry Website](#)

Welcome BLUA To OTC COLA

Bass Lake Underwood Association (BLUA) is the newest lake association in Otter Tail County and the newest Member of OTC COLA. BLUA registered its charter members at the 2nd organizational meeting July 13, 2019. At the meeting the Board of Directors and Officers were elected and installed. Curt Jundt is President, Rick Rydmark is Vice President and Karen Mostue is Secretary/Treasurer. The goal of BLUA is to preserve the quality of the lake for future generations. The Association plans to participate in COLA's water quality analysis testing program to establish a multi-year trend analysis. BLUA regards its mission to not only preserve the lake for lake property owners but also to recognize the contribution the organization can make to extend the lake experience to the entire surrounding community.



Otter Tail County 2020 Governor's Fishing Opener Planning Has Begun

The county of 1,048 lakes is hosting the Governor's Fishing Opener (GFO) May 8-10, 2020. Otter Tail County was selected to host the event as a county-wide celebration to showcase Otter Tail County's diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. Otter Tail Lake will be host to Governor Walz and other state leaders fishing on May 9, 2020.

[**MORE**](#)



OTC COLA - What Is It?

July 2019 was self-designated as OTC COLA MONTH. The July 18, 2019 meeting was held at the Ottertail Community Center. Russ Severson, OTC COLA Environment Director gave a review of Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA), the featured Lake Association for this event. Patrick Prunty, OTC COLA Director repeated a presentation he made to the Otter Tail

County Commissioners last fall describing the structure and activities of OTC COLA. John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant gave an overview of reporting and communications projects released in recent months.

[PLPOA slide show](#)

[OTC COLA slide show](#)

[OTC COLA projects slide show](#)



OTC COLA Works For Betterment Of Area Waters

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA), during its meeting July 18 at the Ottetail Community Room, outlined its goals and efforts to improve lakes throughout the county.

“We represent 50 lake associations and lake improvement districts. This equates to 70 percent of the 150,000 lake acres in Otter Tail County,” said COLA Director Pat Prunty, past president of the Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association, south of Battle Lake.

“Close to 11 percent of our county consists of water.”

He said that COLA is a good resource to the individual lake associations and lake improvement districts.

[MORE](#)



Detroit Lakes Found A Fix For Flowering Rush Problem, Other Cities Taking Notice

Almost 100 acres of flowering rush have been wiped out from local lakes since the first test treatments began in 2013, and once-dense plant populations that made waters impassable have been thinned enough that boats can now get through without trouble.

The pretty-yet-widely-despised plant is far from eradicated — and never will be entirely — but broad swaths of it that once crippled shoreline activity around parts of Big Detroit and Little Detroit lakes as well as Curfman, Sallie and Melissa lakes, have all but disappeared. Shoreland areas once stagnated by thick growth both above and below the water are now enlivened with boaters and swimmers again.

[MORE](#)



OTC COLA is reaching out to all Otter Tail County lake property owners to promote compliance with County and State regulations and encourage best practices. Post cards will be mailed to lake property owners across the County containing reminder bullet points as well links to clarifying information.

Below is the content of the post card.

- **FREE**
 - Water Quality Analysis Reports for 100 OTC lakes
 - Lake Property Owner Directories for 100 OTC lakes
- **DID YOU KNOW?**

- The OTC Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits the burning of all solid waste.
 - You can help stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species: Clean- Drain- Dry.
 - It's a law- Don't use fertilizer with phosphorus on lake property lawns.
 - Boating safety is your responsibility. See the DNR Boating Guide
 - A permit is required to move a dock or lift to another body of water in OTC.
 - The OTC Sanitation Code for septic systems is under review.
- **Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA)** is here to help all OTC COLA property owners to protect and preserve their lakes. For information on these important topics go to:

www.OTCCOLA.ORG/WLOL



Starry Trek 2019:

Volunteers Needed for Citizen Science Event

Fergus Falls, MN – Volunteers from across Minnesota are needed on Saturday, August 17 to participate in a statewide search for starry stonewort, one of Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive species. Hundreds of volunteers will gather at local training sites statewide to learn how to identify starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species and search for them in area lakes.

Starry stonewort is an invasive algae that was first found in Minnesota at Lake Koronis in 2015 and has since spread to fourteen Minnesota lakes. Early detection of this species is critical for control. Starry Trek volunteers have found starry stonewort in two lakes – Grand Lake in Stearns County and Wolf Lake at the Hubbard/Beltrami County border – as well as other aquatic invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels during this event.

[MORE](#)

2019 AIS Research and Management Showcase



Registration now open!

[Join the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center on campus on Wednesday, September 18](#) for a selection of talks about the latest MAISRC research on starry stonewort, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, invasive carp, and much more. The list of breakout sessions and full presentation descriptions will be announced soon.

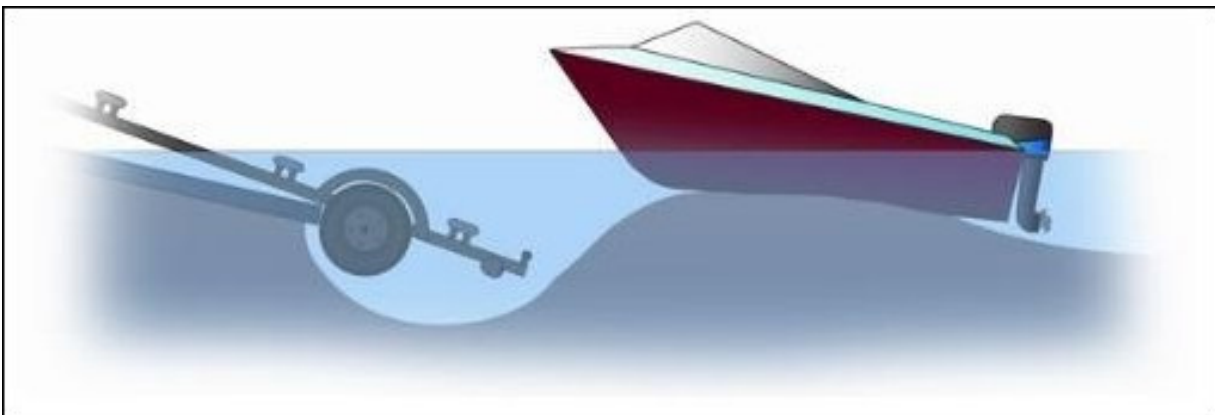
Interact with faculty over lunch, get an inside look into our state-of-the-art lab, learn tools you can apply on your own, and enjoy a poster session reception.

This is the best opportunity to learn all about MAISRC's research and the latest in AIS management recommendations. [Space is limited and pre-registration is required](#). If you wish to attend a lab tour, please be sure to choose that option when registering. Note that all lab tours are identical.

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 encouraged to contact:

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



Power Loading Boats Causes Damage To Launch Ramps!

"Power loading", can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water. "Power loading" is a term used to describe using the motor to load and unload the boat onto and off the trailer. Many of the state's 3,000 public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces generated by today's larger and more powerful boats or the practice of power loading. Propeller wash creates a significant force that can erode the lakebed and create a large hole at the end of the ramp. Eroded material is often

deposited beyond the ramp to create a mound, which can result in a barrier for launching and loading. Boats and equipment can incur damage if the boat or lower unit runs aground on the mound or if the trailer becomes stuck in the hole. In the worse cases, the end of the ramp could collapse, resulting in an unusable launch ramp. In low water conditions the mound created from propeller wash can obstruct launching and loading.

[MORE](#)

See the video "[Do Not Power Load Your Boat](#)"



West Nile Virus Killing Minnesota Loons

West Nile virus appears to be the culprit behind a recent increase in the number of dead loons showing up around northeastern Minnesota lakes, the Department of Natural Resources reported.

It is not uncommon for people, animals and birds to be exposed to the virus in Minnesota, land of many mosquitoes. Most people, birds and animals successfully fight off the virus and develop antibodies against future infection. But some birds, like loons, crows and jays, are especially susceptible to the infection

[MORE](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[July 8, 2019](#) Draft

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[June 25, 2019](#)

[July 16, 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
- [Lawmaker Hotline](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor
- [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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OTC COLA Board of Directors

Bernie Steeves · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh ·
Patrick Prunty · Roger Neitzke · Russ Severson · Sylvia Soeth

OTC COLA Members

Bass Lake Underwood Association · 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 ·
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Property Owners Association · Spitzer 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