

## President's Letter

Greetings to all lake goers. I hope your summer was more of a sustained experience than mine. It was 39F the other night, and I am putting my short sleeve shirts away. Horrors!?! Time goes too fast.

The presence of this newsletter means that our next and last COLA meeting is coming up this week. Whether you are a designated COLA representative or an interested participant, please take advantage of the cool weather to join us Thursday night. Our program and necessary discussions are reaching a head as we attempt to understand and attempt to impact high water levels, oil pipeline routes, highway maintenance, and AIS funding, among others. We want to know your ideas, and work with your knowledge to successfully provide solutions for issues affecting you, our members. Working together, we can make a difference.

I also want to announce that our website is finally up and running. It isn't finalized yet, but it is a start. We will place our most current documents initially on the site, and ultimately move all the older documents as a repository of our archives eventually. Check it out at URL = [ottertailcountycola.org](http://ottertailcountycola.org)

Finally, I certainly want to congratulate Roger Nietzsche for his receipt of the most honorable of awards, "Volunteer of the Year" from our Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations. He follows another great volunteer award recipient, Bernie Steeves, from last year. Congratulations and thanks for all you do. And thanks to all the volunteers out there.

Respectfully yours,

Dave Sethre  
President



*Dave Sethre is President  
of the OTC COLA  
for 2014 & 2015*

## Join Us for Our COLA Meeting

Hope you can join us for our last meeting of the summer on September 18th at the Ottertail Community Center at 7:00 p.m. Our main program feature for the evening will be provided by our regional hydrologists from the Department of Natural Resources. Discussion will include groundwater, irrigation, stream flow, lake levels, and outlet dams. This program item is a carry-over from a previously scheduled but canceled program earlier this summer. In light of the disappointments conveyed on the previous cancellation, this topic will likely interest many of you. Hope you enjoy this presentation and discussion.

Our next Executive Committee meeting will follow on Monday, September 22nd at Thumper Pond. You are invited to join this great group of volunteers to do the behind-the-scenes work now and also throughout the winter months. As you know, the work is necessary 12 months a year. Meeting starts at 5:00 p.m.



## Check Your Docks & Lifts for Zebra Mussels

We are all in the process of removing our docks and lifts from the lakes and rivers for the season. Please remember to look them over once on shore. Your inspection for the presence of zebra mussels stuck to these hard surfaces could be most important. Let the DNR know if you suspect their presence and they will come and verify this. And remember, "Clean, Drain & Dry" applies to moving docks and lifts from one lake to another. You and your neighbors can do important work to stop the spread of AIS, and especially these zebra mussels.

## Ideas for Projects to Stop the Spread of AIS

As we now know, Otter Tail County and other lake intensive counties will receive significant moneys to fight the spread of AIS. If you have ideas to use this unique opportunity of funding for an effective project, let us know. Your idea may be the one to make the ultimate difference in this fight. Email me at [dsethre@arvig.net](mailto:dsethre@arvig.net) or any of your other local volunteers on the county AIS task force.

## Muskie Editorial Update: *by Dave Majkrzak*

We are continuing to meet with the MNDNR Fisheries to investigate what data they have on the effects of 54 inch Muskies on other fish populations in MN lakes. Also, we are asking for research on tagged Muskies in Mille Lacs Lake which show they are living to 23-29 years of age, and up to 58 inches. We remain very concerned that the combination of AIS and 54 inch muskies will not be good for other gamefish and fishing in our lakes.



# Train the Teachers to Train the Kids

*By Jerry Horgen, Program Developer*

Fall Update 2014

The purpose of “Train the Teachers to Train the Kids” is to have the science teachers trained by competent people and then have their kids come up with a unique format whereby “kids train other kids” on aquatic invasive species. Moriya Rufer (biologist) and Jerry Horgen have been providing workshops for teachers, giving kids formats where “kids” can go into classrooms and train other kids and outdoor experiences for those kids on infested waters. We had one spring outdoor experience on an infested lake and have a second one scheduled on September 18, 2014. We plan on having more in the spring of 2015.

This coming fall and next year we’re “hooking up school districts” with lake management plans and lake assessments in order for kids in science classes to take on projects. We’re seeking newsletters from lake associations and seeking kids to help out lake associations. One such winter example is having kids clean up the lake after ice fishing and the lake association making a contribution to the school. The eleven school districts involved in this program are looking for AIS ideas and what better way to receive ideas than from members of a lake association. It’s a connection that’s critical to our success.

Finally, this program will provide “11” presentation in the school districts this fall/winter, a workshop for teachers to update them on current material, tying lake activities to each school district, work with any lakeshore organization for ideas and finally provide an incentive grant to a school district that comes up with a unique idea on kids training other kids on aquatic invasive species-preferably with a technology format.

We’re always open to new ideas from lake shore associations and its members. Send those ideas/suggestions to [jhorgen@arvig.net](mailto:jhorgen@arvig.net).

## **PUC Delays Approval of Sandpiper Pipeline**

A vote of the Public Utilities Commission of Minnesota has delayed the approval of any route of the Sandpiper pipeline, likely for a year or so. Their reasoning was essentially to gather more information and input on routes chosen. An article in the Star Tribune noted that Enbridge is committed to the northern-most route, a more direct connection to the Duluth Superior pipeline connections which are the intended target for the pipeline. This route has also been the route fought by the Friends of the Headwaters group. This group was formed in opposition to that pipeline particular route.

Both Becker and Otter Tail County groups, including COLA, have submitted comments to request additional time for review of new alternate routes drawn through our localities. It cannot be ascertained whether the new routes are serious considerations, or just “lines colored in crayon” on a Minnesota map, as the article noted. It was also noted that moving the pipeline to Becker and Otter Tail County would only move the environmental exposure from one sensitive area to another. In any case, the Friends of the Headwaters group have convinced three of the five commissioners to postpone approvals of the initial route.

It appears the pressure is currently off for immediate action on this. Please keep up an awareness of the ongoing debate over the pipeline location and the impacts if located in our region. We know a pipeline is beneficial to most, as we continue to discuss the potential environmental hazards of an oil train derailment near a lake or on the Otter Tail River. Any pipeline built would reduce the oil traveling on the BNSF and CP substantially.

DCS



Otter Tail County



***Contact Info for OTC COLA:***

Jeff Stabnow, Past President  
40186 N. Clitherall Lake Road  
Clitherall, MN 56524  
218-864-8401 or 218-770-1276  
Email: stabnow@arvig.net

Dave Sethre, President  
304 County Hwy. No. 1  
Ottertail, MN 56571  
218-367-3322 or 701-371-4497  
Email: dsethre@arvig.net

Dave Majkrzak, COLA Vice President  
Residence - Pelican Lake  
Telephone (Cell): 701-238-8406  
Email: davidmajkrzak@msn.com

***Interested in joining COLA or  
forming a Lake Association?  
Contact the Membership Committee!***

Pat Prunty, Committee Chair  
45056 County Hwy 35  
Dent, MN 56528  
Home: 218-342-2226  
Cell: 612-750-6276  
email: pprunty@deloitteiretired.com