

E-Newsletter November 2016



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

In This Issue:

- **From the President- Starry Stonewort threatens lakes**
 - **AIS Summit - Links to Presentations**
 - **Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects in 2017**
 - **Zebra mussels confirmed in Franklin Lake**
 - **ILIDS Summary**
 - **Impact of Fishing Tournaments on AIS**
 - **Lake Association Newsletter Exchange**
 - **Lake Association Issue Updates**
-

From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

With the leaves off the trees, obviously winter is near. The reports of new lakes with ZM's unfortunately keep coming in, as property owners inspect their lifts and docks as they are removed for winter. While no lake property owner wants to hear that bad news, the attention and awareness it brings, better prepares us for what is next.

Starry Stonewort, spiny water flea, hybrid milfoil and other less known AIS continue to concern us, as the effects and consequences of one or more AIS, in our northern MN waters, is not well known. Also, every lake is different, so the results on a given lake are only known with time.

What can we do? The recent elections have put some new faces and names at the MN State Legislature, along with some experienced and well known legislative members. It is important that we all talk to and inform our legislative leaders of the concern and impact that AIS has on the enjoyment and value of our lake property for all the public. We need to keep our local and state leaders, along with the MNDNR, aware of our concerns and priorities when it comes to lake issues.

Prevention is better than removal, or living with one or more new AIS. Prevention will only be effective with logical and common sense steps by all of us. The upcoming winter, and legislative session allows us some time to plan and put in place new laws and procedures to change the spread of AIS.

If you do nothing else today on AIS, at least click on this 3-minute video, and pay close attention to the first part on starry stonewort. This stuff is now North and South of Otter Tail County. Click [HERE](#)

All the AIS Summit presentations are in the MLR section below. I would also direct special attention to two of the presentations.

[Starry Stoneworm in Big Turtle Lake-MN DNR's Aggressive Manatement Response in Beltrami County. Nicole Kovar, MN DNR.](#)

[Economic Impact of Spiny Waterflea on a Madison, Wisconsin Lakes-Calculating the Ecosystem Services Cost of Invasive Species, Jake R. Walsh, Ph.D UW Madison, Center for Limnology.](#)

Please help by supporting all those who are working on these efforts. Communicate with your MN legislators. Tell them your concerns and ideas to control the spread of AIS.

[David Majkrzak](#)

AIS Summit - Links to Presentations



I want to thank all of you who contributed to the Aquatic Invaders Summit. MLR knows that developing strong and diverse partnerships is a Best Management Practice, not only for creating effective and efficient Aquatic Invasive Species programs across Minnesota, but tackling other water resource issues as well. Anyone who still questions the power of bringing active citizens together to address an issue need only look at the energy and outcomes of the Aquatic Invaders Summit as a model of what is possible when many different leaders come together.

Over 350 active citizens from 65 Minnesota counties, Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Montana and Canada participated.

The Aquatic Invaders Summit was a collaborative event. I asked for and received advice, contacts, suggested speakers and activities like the carp appetizer, that made the event. Volunteers from other organizations served as moderators, speakers, tech support, helping at the registration desk, promotion and planning.

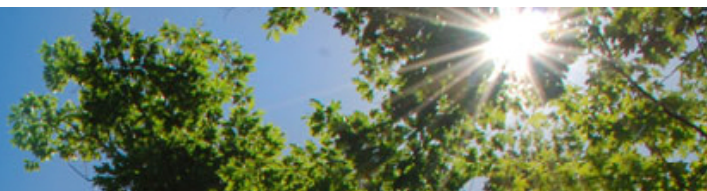
Many attendees and some who could not make the event have written to ask for links to the many PowerPoints that the presenters used at the Aquatic Invaders Summit. We have converted the PowerPoints to PDF files and loaded them [HERE](#) for you.

Some have also asked for a copy of my Plenary Comments. You can access them [HERE](#).

[Jeff Forester MLR](#)



www.mndnr.gov



Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects in 2017

Below is a reprint of a letter from Wendy Crowell, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator

You are receiving this notice because of your interest in the DNR grant program ***Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects in 2017***. We have not yet finalized the details of the grant program, such as the total amount of money available, however I can tell you that it will be offered in some form. We anticipate opening this grant program in mid to late January, 2017. When the grant program opens I will send you another email with details on the grant offer and instructions on how to apply, and the grant website:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html will be updated.

One of the requirements for application for this grant program has been to apply for an ***Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) permit***. This will also be required in 2017. The process for applying for an IAPM permit will change in 2017. In early 2017, we will start using the Minnesota DNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS) for accepting IAPM permit applications. Our anticipated roll out date is end of January/early February. We encourage you to use the new system, but if you need to use a paper application, you will be able to request one. More information about the new permitting system is available on this DNR webpage:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/eco/aquatic_plants.html.

Sign up for the email list for the grant program [HERE](#)

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Wendy Crowell
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator
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wendy.crowell@state.mn.us



DNR NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Nov. 14, 2016

Zebra mussels confirmed in Franklin Lake in Otter Tail County

Invasive species found on equipment being removed for season

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Franklin Lake in Otter Tail County. This is one of several recent confirmations across the state as lake property owners and lake service provider businesses check equipment for invasive species at the end of the season.

A lake service provider business notified the DNR of suspected zebra mussels on equipment they were removing from Franklin Lake. During a preliminary search of several dozen pieces of equipment in the area, DNR staff found and removed five adult zebra mussels from four locations. The DNR will conduct a more extensive search of Franklin Lake and consider potential treatment options early next spring.

“This new confirmation is another reminder of the importance of carefully examining all equipment when taking it out of the water,” said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species unit supervisor. “A few simple steps now can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.”

The DNR recommends these steps for lake property owners:

- Look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period.
- Hire DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses to install or remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. These businesses have attended training on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws and many have experience identifying and removing invasive species.
- Contact an area DNR [aquatic invasive species specialist](#) if discovery of the invasive species has not already been confirmed in the lake.

It's especially important to keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water. This state law is central to the training DNR-permitted lake service provider businesses receive. Anyone transporting a dock or lift from the adjacent shoreline property to another location for storage or repair may need a [permit](#), to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Zebra mussels are an invasive (non-native) species that can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes. Less than 2 percent of Minnesota's 11,842 lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels.

More information is available at www.mndnr.gov/AIS.

ILIDS SUMMARY

ILIDS devices (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) have been used on several locations on Otter Tail County lakes for two years. These devices work 24/7, and record a video of a boat launch/departure, and give an audio message to the boater when the device senses a boat present.

In use by lake associations for over 8 years, it has been shown to be an effective tool in changing boater behaviors through its presence and the dramatic reduction of weeds being seen launched.

[READ MORE](#)

Click [HERE](#) to see a sampling of videos captured during the 2016 season.



YLRA's Innovative Idea

Yellow Lakes and River Association
Inc. of Webster, Wisconsin came up



with the innovative idea to provide a weed-grabbing tool along side the ILIDS station. Remarkably, it is reported that no grabbers were lost during the season.

Impact of a DNR-Permitted Fishing Tournament on Lake Koronis

Fishing tournaments are continuing to be questioned as harmful to the efforts to fight the expansion of AIS in Minnesota. This article is reported to have been written by a Lake Koronis resident.

It is the opinion of this author that tournaments of this nature *do* provide some level of good to the community, with select businesses getting the majority of that benefit, but correspondingly, there are also costs to the community in the short-term and long-term risk. Once a lake is infested with new AIS, they typically have it for life. Along with being infested with an AIS, there are subsequent on going costs for living with that species; herbicides, harvesting, management cost. This would be the same for any lake getting Starry Stonewort. Unfortunately, the gain may not outweigh the cost.

In the same ways that planned public events are routinely charged for increased police presence, incremental short-term community costs for AIS prevention efforts should be funded by the tournament organization.

Long-term costs begin when any lake gets a new invasive species, and tournaments play a part in increasing the AIS risk. The increased risk due to tournaments of any size is significant, and can only be reduced by reducing the total number of tournaments.

As stewards of the public waters, we must realize that there is cost in protecting lakes from the increased AIS risks from tournaments. Tournaments simply aren't free!

See the entire paper [HERE](#)

Lake Association Newsletter Exchange

One of the primary goals of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is to assist lake associations to educate and inform their members, their elected officials, and the general public regarding the necessity of environmental concerns and policies that protect our lakes, rivers and streams. Communication is the key to accomplishing this goal.

A Newsletter Exchange database of lake association editors is being constructed so editors will be included on distribution lists for other lake association newsletters. The exchange will be very useful for editors to take appropriate copy from other lake association newsletters to use in their own newsletters. This process will provide the opportunity to disseminate valuable information like new regulations, AIS threats, etc. quickly and effectively throughout the County.

Lake Association Issue Updates

Lake associations across the county are addressing issues and pursuing projects to protect and preserve their lakes. Sharing information and strategies can make efforts to accomplish these objectives much easier and more efficient. If your lake association is currently involved in an issue or project OTC COLA would like to help by listing it here. Send them to [John Kruse](#)

Star Lake- Casino- The Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG) has been organized to oppose a massive resort and casino development on Star Lake. The SLCCG asserts that the proposed sensitive wetland is not suitable for such a development and is working diligently to ensure Star Lake and its related watershed are protected now and for future generations. Go [HERE](#) for the most recent update on the issue.

Go to the [SLCCG](#) website for more information and to sign up for future updates.

Lake Six- Freshwater Society Grant Application- We did receive \$1000 of the \$5000 for having the visioning session. The rough draft of the Lake Management Plan has been submitted. So we are waiting for the next \$2000 which is owed us when the rough draft is in. Our action plan was highly praised, so now the thing to do is to follow up on those ideas that are included in the action plan. [Lake Six](#)

Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA)- Golfcourse Conversion to RV Park- PLPOA is pursuing action to prevent the sale of a golf course to a new 150 unit RV Park, which would adjoin a 185 unit existing RV Park. Neither of the RV Parks own any lake frontage and use the public DNR access as the only access to the lake. [PLPOA](#)

Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID)- DNR dam on Pelican River-

The Pelican River dam controlling water flow out of Pelican Lake is deteriorating and is becoming unsafe. PGOLID is encouraging the DNR to repair the dam. [PGOLID](#)

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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