

E-Newsletter October 2016



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak



Many of us attended the AIS Summit in St. Cloud a few weeks ago. This was another great event sponsored by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and the IF Foundation.

As usual there were two full days of great information presented. What was an "eye-opener" though was the two videos (below) on Starry Stonewort on Lake Koronis.

The effect Starry Stonewort has on shallow water areas around our docks and beaches for recreation, fishing, and boating is of major concern. We have had ZM on our lake since 2009, and while it is a nuisance and never something you want, it seems to pale when compared to the problems brought on

by Starry Stonewort.

All this points to the need to do more in the area of AIS prevention and control. While it might seem too late for some AIS, remember that new AIS, or combinations of AIS may create situations for somelakes that could cause major economic impacts not seen before in Otter TailCounty. For example, the only lake in MNknown to have both ZM and Spiny Water Flea (and also non-native muskie) is Mille Lacs, and the collapse of the walleye fishing and economic impact in this area is well documented.

Please read andview the information below, and help us take more significant steps to stop the spread of AIS in OTC, and MN, and nationwide.

Read a comprehensive review of the AIS Summit II by David Majkrzak [HERE](#)

[David Majkrzak](#)

AIS Video from AIS Summit Created by Wired2Fish



Wired2Fishgraciously produced a short video on the impacts of AIS for the recent AquaticInvaders Summit. We've had a lot of inquires on the availability of the video. Here is a link. Please feel free to use it to advance our purpose - and a HUGEThank You to [Wired2Fish](#).

Go [HERE](#) for the video.

FOX News Story on Starry Stonewort



This disturbing video from FOX News graphically shows the danger posed by Starry Stonewort.

[FOX STARRY STONEWART VIDEO](#)

DNR Coordinating New Starry Stonewort Treatment

Public access closed during treatment

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association on an aggressive new treatment method for the invasive algae starry stonewort in West Lake Sylvia in Wright County. This week's treatment is the first time the diver-assisted suction harvest, or DASH, method has been used in Minnesota.

Earlier this month, DNR invasive species staff confirmed a half-acre of sparse to moderate growth of starry stonewort at the public access to West Lake Sylvia. The public access, which also provides access to adjoining East Lake Sylvia, will be closed for about a month during the treatment. An alternative public access site has been made available at Camp Chi-Rho, located on a peninsula directly east of the temporarily closed public access. The DNR is working with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association to provide signs and directions to the temporary access.

The lake association is sharing in the cost of the effort to remove the half-acre of starry stonewort from the lake.

Diver-assisted suction harvest is a manual control method that combines hand pulling with machine suction to physically remove starry stonewort while sparing native vegetation, followed by application of a selective herbicide.

"We're hoping for effective treatment of the relatively small area where starry stonewort is present," said Heidi Wolf, DNR invasive species units supervisor. "While no treatment method has eradicated starry stonewort from any lake in the United States, this aggressive treatment will at least remove enough of the algae to minimize the risk of spread to other parts of the lake and to other lakes."

Starry stonewort are grass-like algae that may produce dense mats, which could interfere with use of the lake. The invasive algae also may choke out native plants.

The algae is typically spread by lake users who transport fragments of the plant from an infested body of water. Lake users must follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, whether or not a lake has invasive species:

- Clean aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.

- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To prevent their spread, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another body of water, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees F for at least two minutes or 140 degrees F for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

More information about aquatic invasive species and how to report them is available [HERE](#)

Pelican Lake AIS Cruise

The September, 2016 Member's Meeting for OTC COLA was held on The Big Pelican on Pelican Lake. Ignoring the threat of rain, a hearty group of almost 50 persons gathered for a hands-on seminar on the various AIS species that are encroaching onto Otter Tail County lakes.



Materials used on the AIS instructional cruise were from the program developed by Moriya Rufer and Jerry Horgen to present to schools and other civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Participants were given a Becker County Aquatic Invasive Species Handbook for Visitors & Residents folder showing examples of various AIS.

Moriya Rufer, Aquatic Ecologist at RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes, MN led the two-hour long discussion on AIS. Topics covered included "What are AIS and why are they a problem?", "What's the difference between a non-native and an invasive species?", "What AIS are in Minnesota and how did they get here?". She also covered how to test for AIS and how to identify AIS. Lastly she explained how we all can help to combat the incursion of AIS into Minnesota lakes.



Mice are Coming Out of the Woodwork

By NathanBowe on Oct 5, 2016 at 9:02 a.m

An influx of outdoor mice has area homeowners on the verge of mouse madness.

Mouse traps and mouse bait have been selling at record levels, exterminators are staying busy and people who have never had house cats before are bringing in "mousers" to join the fight.

Read [MORE](#)

Vote for Water on November 8th

I know that this election seems to be grinding on forever, and that many feel disgusted by both the tone and the content of the national political debate. But this election is an opportunity to make progress on a core, nonpartisan issue: healthy lakes and rivers.

Elections matter for our lakes. What happens in St. Paul DOES impact us at the end of our docks. Right now is your best opportunity to advance your lake goals.

Candidates, both incumbent and challengers, are actively looking for your vote as they run for State House and Senate seats, many of which are won or lost by a few hundred votes or less - about the size of the average lake association.

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While Presidential politics are dominated by party affiliation and ideology, local elections are more dependent on local issues - and water is neither a Republican nor a Democratic issue. Nothing is more important to the economies, the way of life and the communities of Greater Minnesota than healthy lakes and rivers.

You may want to research the positions Minnesota legislators take on lake issues. What we would like to encourage them to do is:

- Pass a law to stop building additional boat access sites until there are no more lakes being infested with aquatic invasive species,
- Close access sites, like Koronis, when there is local support and a clear need to do so,
- Support mandatory roadside inspection for trailered watercraft and water related equipment at roadside "choke point" inspection sites to lessen the need to try to protect every boat ramp,
- Empower citizen Lake Associations to take a more active governance role in decisions that impact their lakes, so that their local quality of life and economies are protected,
- Support an incentive program for those that protect, enhance and restore shoreline above the minimum standards required by law,
- Support establishing a citizen advisory committee to oversee the spending of the County AIS Prevention Aid.

This website will take you to a list of all the incumbents and challengers currently seeking office in the Minnesota

House: https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota_House_of_Representatives_elections,_2016

Here is a list of incumbents and challengers running for a seat in the Minnesota

If you are not registered to vote, you can register [HERE](#)

[Jeff Forester](#), [Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)

Tourism: The Importance of Visitors to Our Local Economy

Nick Leonard, Otter Tail County Economic Development Director, has compiled an analysis of the economic impact from visitors to Otter Tail County. He expresses his concern regarding the decline in the resort industry. Go [HERE](#) to see the Nick Leonard paper.

DNR Looking for Applicants for Fish Work Groups

Volunteers can apply to join one of five citizen-agency work groups that will discuss how the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources manages fish. There will be individual work groups for bass, catfish, panfish and walleye, and one that will focus on both northern pike and muskellunge.

"Fisheries work groups help improve discussion between citizens and the DNR. Group members can talk about angler points of view and fisheries issues in detail, and these are valuable discussions," said Don Pereira, DNR fisheries chief. "We want to have groups with a variety of viewpoints represented and members will work together to discuss topics including recreation, water quality, fish habitat and effects on local economies."

Volunteers can apply to one of the five groups from Monday, Oct. 3, to Sunday, Nov. 6. Each group of about 15 people will include volunteers and DNR staff who meet two or three times per year to discuss new research, population, harvest trends and fisheries management. Meetings average three to four hours, not including travel time.

Participants will be selected by the DNR and can serve a term of either two or three years. The groups are advisory and do not make decisions on policy or fish management.

For more information or an application form, Go [HERE](#) or call 651-259-5182.

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.

OTC COLA Newsletter editors desiring to be included in the exchange should contact [**John Kruse**](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant.

Lake Association Issue Updates

Is your lake association dealing with water quality or commercial development issues? Let me know and I will include your update in this section of the E-News letter. Readers with experience and expertise will have the opportunity to contact you and assist you with information and advice on the matter. [John Kruse](#)

Star Lake- Casino- After completion of the EAW and receipt of a conditional use permit, the County has an opportunity to require an EIS. The Star Lake Property Owners Assoc. and Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group are lobbying VERY strongly for this EIS.

STAR LAKE

Lake Six- Grant application

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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