

E-Newsletter

April 2017



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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

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Making "lemonade from lemons" is an old saying when you are forced into accepting something you cannot change.

Some people feel that way about AIS, and other lake issues, what can we do?

An "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is an old medical expression that I believe applies to all AIS. If you can eliminate or minimize your risk, you increase your odds of never having to try to find a cure.

Not all AIS are the same. Zebra Mussels (ZM) have received much of the conversation the past few years, but now starry stonewort (SS) is rapidly rising to the number one spot. We have lived with ZM on our lake since 2009, and while I would never say it is something you want, it has turned out to be something we have learned to tolerate, to this point.

But the real problem with introducing any non-native to an ecosystem is not just what you see "tomorrow". It is the "long term cumulative effects" of these changes that will eventually land in the lap of future generations. While today

the effects of ZM might seem tolerable to some, the long term cumulative effects have yet to be understood. ZM change the food chain, and with clearer water, the weed growing areas of the lake, both of these have the potential of significant long term impacts to plant and fish populations.

So what can we do? Learn about ways to prevent the spread of any and all non-native species into our lake ecosystems. Below is an announcement about an upcoming presentation about SS in St. Cloud. I would encourage you to attend, with other members of your lake associations. It appears that "making lemonade" out of the SS issue is going to be much more difficult in both the short and long term. And prevention is still the best first step.


The ice is off the lake, it must be summer.....

[David Majkrzak](#)

Living on the Edge

Lake Stewardship

A workshop that focuses on the nature around and on your lakeshore property
Because your shoreline is as unique & special as the lake you live on



Key Speaker: Steve Woods,
Executive Director of the
Freshwater Society

"Woods has an engineering and water policy background and worked at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) since 1999, most recently as its assistant director. He has been involved with water conservation and pollution prevention, and is familiar with the condition of Minnesota's groundwater, wetlands, lakes, and rivers" - Star Tribune

Living on the Edge Workshop

OTC COLA is one of the sponsors for the Living on the Edge Workshop Saturday, May 6th at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail, MN. Featured speakers include Steve Woods, Executive Director of the Fresh Water Society and Babe Winkelman, outdoors expert





"I once thought I had a pretty firm involvement in the outdoors but it soon became apparent that I had been more of a user than a contributor to the outdoor experience"

Babe Winkelman, Outdoors Expert

As the host of "Good Fishing" and "Outdoor Secrets," Babe has succeeded in fulfilling his dream of being self-employed in the outdoors industry through a combination of hard work, good business instincts, and a gift for communicating his love of hunting and fishing.

See [FLYER](#) for details



April 22nd, Koronis/Greater Lake Sylvia Starry Stonewort Summit- St Cloud, MN

Lake Koronis and Greater Lake Sylvia are both infested with starry stonewort, a new micro alga that can have profound negative impacts on both lake health and lake utility. They are holding this Summit, with Guest Speaker Dr. John Rogers, Clemson University, to provide other lake associations with the best information on starry stonewort, how to prevent it from entering a lake, how to identify it, and what might be done after the fact IF it becomes established.

[READ MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester MLR](#)



OTC COLA April 20 Member Meeting

The first OTC COLA Member meeting of the 2017 season will be held April

20, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Ottertail Community Room, Ottertail, MN. Moriya Rufer will speak on the importance of water testing and what it can do to protect your lake. Statewide lake survey information will also be shared. The proposed schedule is:

5:15 Lake water testing training for samplers (brief refresher course)
5:45-7:00 pm Pass out coolers (All are invited to stay for the meeting)
7:00 COLA Member meeting

Otter Tail COLA volunteers have been monitoring their lakes for 20 years! The MPCA uses these data for million dollar state-wide decisions in water management. Because of the importance of these water quality data, RMB Lab would like to do a brief refresher training this year to keep our skills and methods up to date. We ask that lake volunteers attend a brief refresher training from 5:15-5:45pm and then cooler pickup is from 5:45-7:00 pm before the regular COLA meeting.

The subject of the regular COLA Member meeting will be the importance of water testing and what it can do to help your lake. The speaker will be **Moriya Rufer** from **RMB Lab** (<http://rmbel.info/about/staff/moriyarufer/>).

From Moriya:

Water Quality Monitoring

Otter Tail COLA is celebrating their 20th year of lake monitoring! These data collected by volunteers are sent to the MPCA's statewide database each fall and used to make million dollar decisions in water planning at the state and local levels.

To learn more about the program and watch a few brief videos of the process, visit the RMB Lab website video page here: <http://rmbel.info/lakes/videos/>

To become a volunteer monitor and/or to get your supplies for testing, come to the April 20 Otter Tail COLA meeting at 5:30pm.

Moriya Rufer



New sheriff intown:

DNR creates Straight River Groundwater Management Area

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has decided the Pineland Sands Aquifer, which runs beneath the Ponsford, Osage and Park Rapids area, is too sensitive to ignore any longer, and has created a groundwater management area.

The Straight River Groundwater Management Area includes parts of southern Clearwater, northeast Becker, southwest Hubbard and northwest Wadena counties.

It includes Bad Medicine Lake, Many Point Lake, Shell Lake and Two Inlets Lake in Becker County, as well as Fish Hook Lake and Long Lake near Park Rapids, and includes the Straight River, Shell River and Fish Hook River. It covers all of Pine Point, Osage and Todd townships, and large portions of Shell Lake, Round Lake, Forest, Carsonville, Two Inlets, Green Valley and Straight River townships.

[READ MORE](#)

WE LOVE OUR LAKES!

OTC COLA has embarked on an aggressive effort to enlist Otter Tail County lake associations and lake property owners to join the effort to preserve and protect OTC lakes. A major component of this effort is testing and monitoring for water quality. Participants in OTC COLA's water monitoring program have compiled over 20 years of valuable data (read Moriya Rufer's article above).

Read the "[WE LOVE OUR LAKES!](#)" letter currently being sent to lake property owners.



Minnesota Legislature So Far Cool To Outdoor Fee

Increases

St PAUL — Despite lobbying by a coalition of Minnesota outdoors and environmental groups, Minnesota legislators have so far not included hunting and fishing license fee increases in bills before both the House and Senate.

Nearly 50 of those conservation groups from across the state have asked legislators to include nominal fishing and hunting license fee increases in legislation this session to shore up Department of Natural Resources budgets. Several weeks remain in the legislative session.

The DNR's fee increase proposals were submitted to the Legislature as part of Gov. Mark Dayton's proposed state budget.

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OTC COLA to Assist Member Lake Associations With Remote Administration Tools

It is difficult to assemble Lake Association Board Directors for meetings during the off-season. Often Directors and Officers move to warm climates and take winter vacations. Also there is Lake Association business that needs to be conducted during this time as well. OTC COLA can assist with such tools as remote electronic meeting software and electronic voting applications.

These tools are very easy to use and are currently offered to member OTC COLA Lake Associations at no cost. For details contact John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant.

[John Kruse](#)



Sora Rails Thrive in Minnesota Marshland

Oh glorious springtime! On my evening walk down the narrow dirt township

road that passes by my home, I enjoyed the songs and calls of birds not seen or heard for many months. Indeed, whereas most birds such as American robins, red-winged blackbirds, mallards, Canada geese, and killdeer were last observed just five to six months ago, prior to their annual fall migrations, some avian vocalizations haven't been heard in more than a year.

The courtship calls and flight songs of American woodcock, for example, is an avian arrangement of notes that haven't been heard since March and April 2016. And on my walk just a few days ago, March 28, the male woodcocks' nasally peent call emitted from the ground, followed by their fascinating aerial courtship flight displays of wing twittering and softly whistled warbles, were all about me as I strolled beside their favorite coverts within nearby mixes of forested wetlands and fields.

It won't be long until other birds return to the northland, too. Shorebirds, wading birds, and other wetland-dependent species of birds will show up soon after the last bit of ice disappears from their favorite wetland and waterway.

One such bird is the tiny and secretive sora rail.

[READ MORE](#)

Lake Association Issue Updates

OTC COLA will be advocates for lake associations on issues and provide information and education to COLA members without necessarily endorsing the positions of individual lake associations on specific issues. If your lake association is currently involved in an issue or project, OTC COLA would like to help by including it here. Send items to [John Kruse](#)

UPDATE FROM SLCCG

Letter to OTC COLA from Jason Gorr, Star Lake Property Owners Association- Director. The Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG) and Star Lake Property Owners Association (SLPOA) are objecting to the Star Lake Resort and Casino project asserting the detrimental environmental impact of the development.

[READ MORE](#)

[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant
