

E-Newsletter December 2017



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**From the OTC COLA President-
Sylvia Soeth**

From the OTC COLA Board of Directors we wish our

members and friends a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



Water Sampling Is Only The Start

The modern water quality legacy we leave for future generations begins now. Each of us who own or manage lakeshore have a duty to generate this positive legacy. Our legacy can be as simple as not using phosphorus based fertilizer on lawn or plantings near our lakes, or it could be as complicated as developing and implementing lake shore management legislation when needed to preserve water quality. In any case, organizations such as your lake shore association, LID or the Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) should be positioned to give guidance and organize education and mitigation on water quality matters.

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[David Sethre, OTC COLA Treasurer/Director](#)



MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates



Protect Our Lake Legacy www.mnlakesandrivers.org



Aquatic Invaders Summit III
An Exploration of Local Collaboration, Innovation and Opportunity
Feb 28-Mar 1, 2018 | Earle Brown Heritage Center | 6155 Earle Brown Dr. | Minneapolis, MN

There are over 200,000 lake home and cabin families in Minnesota. We all have one thing in common - we all love Minnesota's public waters and will work to protect them.

Data supports this. A recent Concordia College study found that lake home and cabin owners give about \$6.25 million annually to lake work and volunteer about 1.2 million volunteer hours yearly.

The energy, experience and passion of well-informed lakeshore residents working in partnership with local units of government, state agencies, local schools and lake associations is the very best asset Minnesota has in its efforts to protect our water resources for future generations.

This is both the motivation and vision of the [**Aquatic Invaders Summit III, an Exploration of Local Collaboration, Innovation and Opportunity.**](#)

The simple truth is that without well-informed and engaged lake advocates there is no way Minnesota can address our water quality problems, including the spread of aquatic invasive species. In 2014 MLR pushed for the creation of County AIS Prevention Aid to fund local action on this issue. The Aquatic Invaders Summit is the place where partnerships between a broad cross sector base of people working on lake issues learns the latest best management practices,

latest science, most innovative solutions and forms partnership that get the work done.

Some of the best ideas and programs and the most productive partnerships in Minnesota were born at past Aquatic Invader

[Jeff Forester](#)

[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)



Caution: Ice Thickness Varies Across Lakes

Column: Natural Resource News: By Jody Derks

With ice forming on Minnesota lakes, outdoor enthusiasts may be tempted to get out before ice is thick enough to support foot traffic. The Department of Natural Resources offers a message - stay off the ice until at least 4 inches of new, clear ice is present. Ice thickness may vary greatly across a body of water, making it important to check the ice conditions before heading out.

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Things That Make You Go Hmmm...

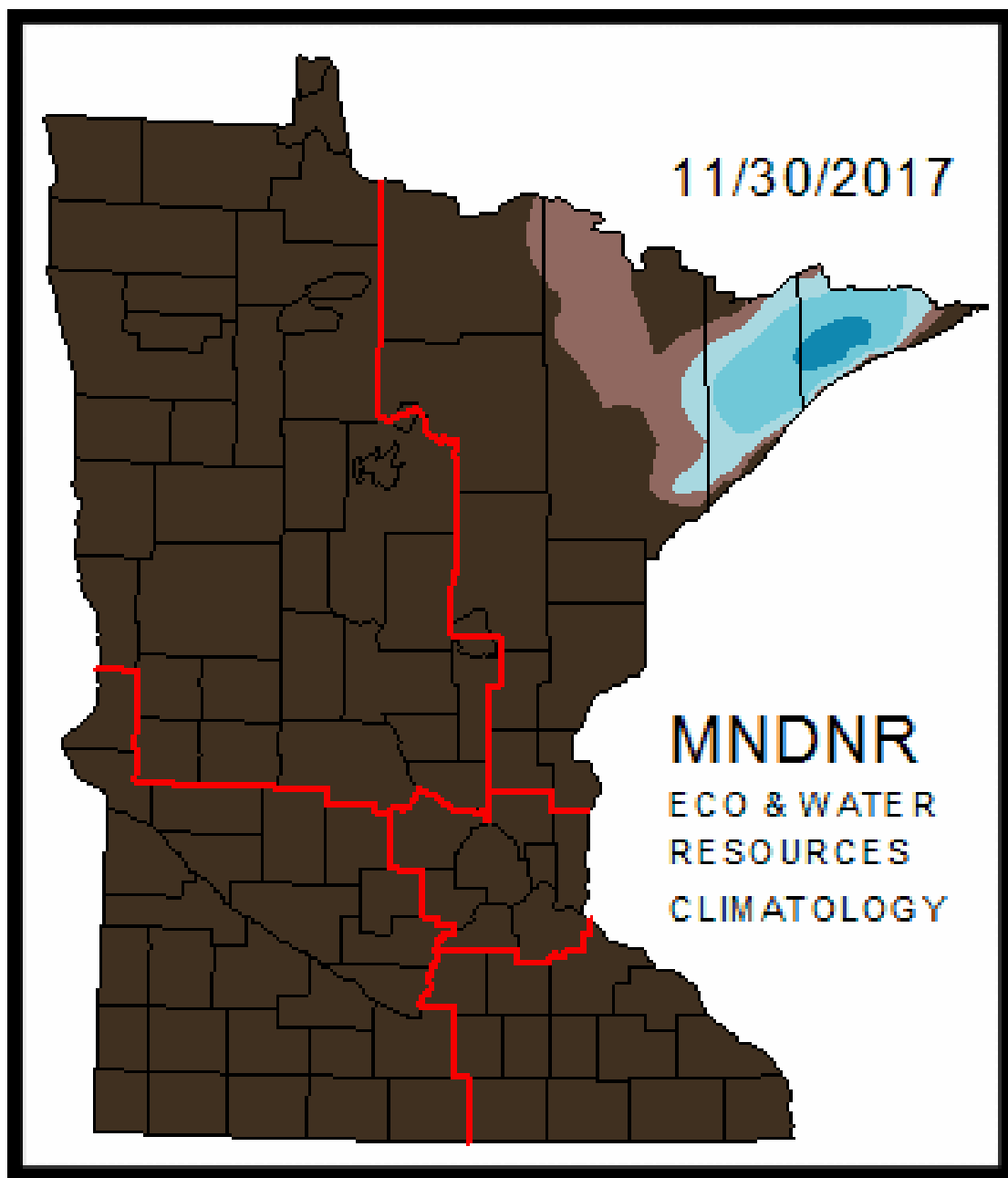


New Northern Pike Fishing Regulations Coming In Spring 2018

Anglers and spearers pursuing northern pike this winter can prepare for new pike regulations that will be in effect for the spring fishing opener on Minnesota's inland waters.

The new fishing regulations beginning in the spring take a cue from hunting regulations and will set up three distinct zones to address the different characteristics of pike populations in Minnesota.

[**MORE**](#)



Snow Depth And Trails Reports

Did you know you can check snow conditions and access winter trails reports from your phone or computer? The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources maintains a snow depth map that is updated every Thursday throughout the winter. In addition to snow depth information, you can find detailed reports on cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails around the state.

If you are planning a winter trip to explore outdoors, check the [Snow Depth and Groomed Trail Conditions](#) before you leave the house so you can plan accordingly. Most parks won't rent out skis or snowshoes unless there is adequate snow (6 inches or more).

[MORE](#)- check out the current snow depth map

Wheelhouses Require License Purchase For Ice Fishing

In effect this ice fishing season, [anglers using a wheelhouse type of ice or dark-house shelter are required to purchase a license](#) to place the shelter on the ice, even when occupying it.

A new definition for portable shelters has been provided in law, which states that a portable shelter is one that collapses, folds or is disassembled for transportation. In the past, anglers using wheelhouses could use them without shelter licenses as long as they were occupied, including overnight.

A shelter meeting the new definition of portable only needs a license when a person leaves it unattended, meaning they are farther than 200 feet from the shelter.

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OTC COLA In Review 2017

Your Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations was extremely active in 2017 with many activities and special programs.

Monthly OTC COLA Meetings April-August

Except for special events and programs OTC COLA has hosted regular member meetings each 3rd Thursday during April through August. Representatives from lake associations and individual lake property owners were treated to informational and educational presentations on aquatic invasive species (AIS) issues, water quality testing techniques and conversations with federal and state legislators.

- **April 2017**- Kickoff meeting for water quality testing volunteers to receive materials and instruction on testing procedures. Moriya Rufer of RMB Laboratories also talked on water quality trends. [Read about in May 17 E-Newsletter](#)
- **May 2017**- Tim James, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Darren Newville. East Otter Tail South West Soil

Conservation District (EOTSWCD). [Read about in May 17 E-Newsletter](#)

- **June 2017**- Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers
- **July 2017**- Legislative forum night; Bill Ingebrigtsen, MN State Senator and Bud Nornes, MN State Representative. [Read about in August 17 E-Newsletter](#)
- **August 2017**- OTC COLA annual meeting and volunteers awards night. Speaking was US Congressman, Collin Peterson. [Read about in September 17 E-Newsletter](#)

Living on the Edge Seminar

On May 6, 2017 OTC COLA along with several regional Minnesota agencies sponsored the Living on the Edge event at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail Minnesota. Many presentations and panel discussions were presented highlighted by key speaker, Steve Woods, Executive Director of the Fresh Water Society and Babe Winkelman, well-known outdoors expert.

[Read about in May 17 E-Newsletter](#)

Starry Stonewort Bus Tour September

Taking the place of the regular Thursday meeting time slot September 14m 2017 was a bus tour to Lake Koronis to investigate the threat of starry stonewort infestation. During the two-hour travel times to and from Lake Koronis, participants participated in discussions led by Dave Majkrzak, President of OTC COLA, Peter Sorenson, Professor, University of Minnesota and Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. [Read about in September 17 E-Newsletter](#) and [October 17 E-Newsletter](#)

We Love Our Lakes Campaign

OTC COLA's mission is to protect and preserve the lake experience in Otter Tail County. To accomplish this goal COLA promotes and supports water quality testing and provides education to lake associations and lake property owners. To raise awareness of OTC COLA in the the county COLA embarked on the We Love Our Lakes Campaign. The campaign included mailings to over 2,000 lake property owners that were not presently members of COLA who's lake had a DNR access. To help entice people to respond to the mailing COLA offered a free ranking report of lake quality results from nearly 100 most popular lakes. The respondents also received a lake property owner directory for their lake, at no cost. [Read about in November 17 E-Newsletter](#)

See all of the OTC COLA monthly E-Newsletters [HERE](#).

Train The Teachers to Train the Kids

Kids will help us take care of our lakes! Yes, "kids" in our public/parochial schools are up to the task of taking care of our lakes. Jerry Horgen and Moriya Rufer visit school classrooms in the county with a gaming (teaching) approach so kids have fun learning about aquatic invasive species. We also take kids on cruises on an infested lake with a three hour program (50 kids at a time) showing kids' aquatic invasive species followed up by a clean, drain and dry demonstration. Kids are encouraged to use technology and develop ideas on how "kids" would inform other kids on aquatic invasive species. Jerry and Moriya receive "student made" videos on aquatic invasive species in short videos. Those videos are then given to teachers in eleven school districts for their use. Finally, we offer assistance to science teachers in eleven school districts in terms of materials, ideas and consultation on issues of concern.

This fall, we had kids from three different school districts (Fergus Falls Public Schools, Hillcrest Lutheran Academy and Battle Lake schools) take pontoon cruises on an infested lake for a three hour program which is followed up by a clean, drain and dry demonstration. We also do cruises in the spring for the school districts. This fall, the in school presentations have included Parkers Prairie, Henning, Perham and Underwood. January 2018 we start up again with the remaining school districts. Two \$600 prizes we're given to two kids who made "exemplary" videos for other kids to learn from. The point of this program is to "train other kids to teach their fellow classmates" on how to take care of their lakes...and kids are up to the task. Moriya and Jerry have had great experiences in the classrooms, on the water and through kids making videos. Communication is conducted weekly with the school districts and our program works closely with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center at the U of M in being of assistance to science teachers.

This program was developed in concert with the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. The program is always open to "new ideas" and suggestions as to how we may do even more to assist kids to be servants of our lakes.

Kids care about our lakes and we're simply giving them the tools to "teach other kids!"

Jerry Horgen, OTC COLA Director



Coots And Bald Eagles

Only Benjamin Franklin objected to the designation of the bald eagle as national bird. He wrote: "For my part, I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen the representative of our country. He is a bird of bad moral character. He does not get his living honestly ... besides, he is a rank coward. The little king bird, not bigger than a sparrow, attacks him boldly and drives him out of the district."

Three thousand - or 2,998 - coots, honored by nobody and virtually unprotected, would probably agree with Ben Franklin.

[MORE](#)



"Clear" Lessons Looking Back On The Season

With another open-water fishing season nearly in the books, now is a good time to look back and see what the season brought, what was learned, and which of those lessons can be of good use for future fishing seasons.

For me, the lessons that come to mind from 2017 that seem most appropriate for the future involve the increased water clarity many lakes now have. Zebra mussels are often blamed for this situation, but other seemingly "good" factors have contributed as well. This, however, is not about the causes of clear water or if clear water is "good" or "bad," but rather how we as anglers can react.

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Fishing with Frisch: By Mike Frisch



On Sept. 26, 2017, the Operational Land Imager (OLI) on the Landsat 8 satellite captured these images of a large phytoplankton bloom in western Lake Erie.

Waterways Choked With Algae **The scourge has escalated from a nuisance to a severe widespread hazard.**

Pungent, sometimes toxic blobs are fouling waterways from the Great Lakes to Chesapeake Bay, from the Snake River in Idaho to New York's Finger Lakes and reservoirs in California's Central Valley.

Algae are essential to food chains, but these tiny plants and bacteria sometimes multiply out of control. Within the past decade, outbreaks have been reported in every state, a trend likely to accelerate with global warming.

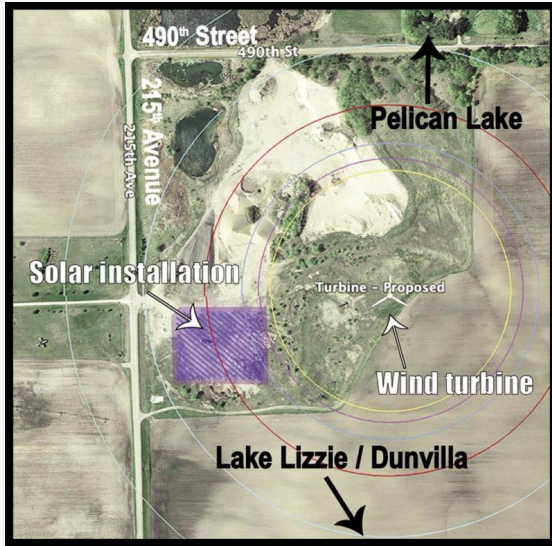
"It's a big, pervasive threat that we as a society are not doing nearly enough to solve," said Don Scavia, a University of Michigan environmental scientist.

Many monster blooms are triggered by an overload of agricultural fertilizers in warm, calm waters, scientists said.

[**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 [OTC COLA](#)



Pelican Lake Confronts Wind Turbine Issue

This is an alert to property owners on Pelican Lake of the Dunn Township meeting 12/18/17 at 7pm that will consider approving construction of a 500 foot tall wind turbine and solar panel installation a half mile south of Broadwater Beach,

near the intersection of 490th St and 215th Ave. It would require a variance to be built on land presently zoned as "agricultural preservation" and a "conditional use permit application for the construction of a solar wind hybrid project".

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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