

E-Newsletter February 2018



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In This Issue:

- From the President
 - Sandhill Dairy, Toad River Farms Earns State Conservation Honors
 - Littering On The Ice- Request For Clean Up
 - Starry Stonewort Featured At AIS Summit
 - DNR Solicits Grant Applications
 - Don't Let Septic System Freeze
 - How Best To Address Watershed Issues
 - Rapids, Falls Dams, Smoke On The Water
 - Tungsten Jigs Good For Crappie Action
 - Pesky Common Fungus Gnats
 - Here Comes The Plow- What Do You Do?
 - Vehicle At The Bottom Of The Lake?
 - Lake Travelers Going Through The Ice Again
 - Nine Smart Salting Tips To Protect MN Waters
 - Legal Trailer Registration- Trailers And Tabs
 - A Great Year for Hunting, Fishing
 - Lake Association Issue Updates
-

From the OTC COLA President- Sylvia Soeth

**Bob and Tiffany Dombeck Receive
MN Water Quality Certification**

Congratulations go out to Bob and Tiffany Dombeck who farm along the Toad river north of Big Pine Lake. OTC can be proud they were named Minnesota's State Conservationists for 2017. They became Minnesota Water Quality Certified with the help of East Otter Tail Soil And Water Conservation District (EOTSWCD). They implemented a number of conservation practices aimed at protecting water in this county of over 1,000 lakes. We've known the Dombeck family to use best management practices since the beginning of the Pine Lakes LID. Bob has alerted Big Pine Lake Association (BPLA) to beaver dams in the Toad river also. Farms around the Pine Lakes are water friendly. Lakes and agriculture are closely related and as EOTSWCD offers grants for agriculture they do for lakeshore improvements as well. Just ask for their assistance. That's in addition to \$1,000 from the Otter Tail County Pine Lakes Improvement District (OTCPLID).

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



Sandhill Dairy, Toad River Farms Earn State Conservation Honors

Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farms of Perham, were recently recognized as Minnesota's Outstanding Conservationist for 2017. This is a great honor for Otter Tail County and local farmers, as the Dombecks were chosen from 60 other nominees in the state.

The Sandhill Dairy and Toad River Farm operations were honored this year as Minnesota's State Conservationist for 2017 by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) at their annual meeting held December 3-5 in Bloomington.

They were selected by the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District for the county award and the MASWCD for the state award. These two operations were selected from a pool of 61 outstanding conservationists in the state, each one representing a different county in Minnesota. The Dombeck family received the award on behalf of the farms.

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Littering On Lakes Leads To Request For Clean-up Consideration

OTC COLA's own, Jerry Horgen, was featured in a recent news piece on WDAY TV focusing on the importance of cleaning up ice fishing sites in Otter Tail county.

Click [HERE](#) for the video.

BATTLE LAKE, MN - As ice thickness has increased on area lakes, so has the pollution, according to Jerry Horgen of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA).

Horgen has called West Battle Lake home for the last 15 years....

He said, "I know firsthand what it's like to clean up, and in the springtime, had we not cleaned up in the winter, after the fish houses are gone, I go around my shoreline and pick up all the garbage. It's a real issue."

His passion for preserving the lakes has led him to battle pollution through joining both COLA and being the president of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA).

"We're aggressive about taking care of our lakes and we want people to come to Otter Tail County because it's so pretty in the summer and the winter," Horgen explained.

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[Jerry Horgen](#)



MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates

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Aquatic Invaders Summit III

An Exploration of Local Collaboration, Innovation and Opportunity

Starry Stonewort, Minnesota's Newest Invasive Species,



Aquatic Invaders Summit 2018

In 2015 a new invasive alga, Starry Stonewort, was discovered around the DNR public access on Lake Koronis. This highly destructive invasive species has been called the most destructive invasive species in Michigan by one resource manager. Starry stonewort can overtake spawning beds, make boat navigation almost impossible and is so aggressive it can even crowd out Eurasian watermilfoil.

When the first case was reported in Wisconsin in 2014, the local lake association president called it "the start of the death of a lake," [according to FOX 6](#). The next year, 2015, starry stonewort was discovered in Silver Lake, Washington County, Wisconsin. [Washington County officials closed the lake to all boat traffic](#) in an effort to contain the spread and try different treatment options.

When starry stonewort was discovered in Lake Koronis many, including a resort owner, the Lake Koronis lake association and local units of government called for the temporary closure of the lake while a strategy to prevent spread was developed.

Minnesota DNR took a less aggressive approach in an effort to protect public access. The MN DNR tried a late fall chemical treatment (ineffective) and increased inspection hours at the public boat ramp. The [Lake Koronis Association](#) formed a partnership with the MN DNR, Stearns County resource managers and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Center with advice from Dr.

John Rogers at Clemson University. Since 2016 they have been attempting to treat and contain the invasive alga. All accesses to the lake remain open. Funds for this effort were raised by the lake association with grants from both the Minnesota Legislature and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council through the Initiative Foundation made available.

[Learn More About Lake Koronis Efforts to Contain Starry Stonewort](#)

Starry Stonewort has been discovered in nine other Minnesota lakes. At the 2018 Aquatic Invaders Summit members of the Lake Koronis Association, MAISRC and Dr. Rogers will share their experience, the results of their efforts, lessons learned and important next steps. If you are concerned about this invasive alga getting into lake and river systems in your community, this is a presentation that you must not miss.

This year we have to cap registrations at 450 due to space constraints. So register today.

To learn more about the 2018 Aquatic Invaders Summit, including directions, hotel information and event schedule, [CLICK HERE](#).

Register Now
[HERE](#)

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



DNR Solicits 2018 Park Trail Grant Applications

Published on December 27, 2017 at 8:26am CST | Author: Sara Brosowske

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails

Division is accepting applications for the following grant programs: outdoor recreation, natural and scenic areas, regional trails, local trail connections and federal recreational trails.

These grants help local governments throughout the state create partnerships with the DNR to fund projects such as local parks, regional trails and trail connections.

The application due dates are Wednesday, Feb. 28, for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program and Friday, March 30, for the other programs. The DNR anticipates that both federal and state funding will be available during 2018 for these programs.

For information about eligible projects and how to apply for a grant, visit the recreation grants page of the DNR website at www.mndnr.gov.

For more information: Contact the grants staff listed online.

Contact the DNR Information Center at info.dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday).

Don't Let Septic System Freeze

"Snow helps to insulate septic systems and keep them from freezing. Unfortunately, a lot of our snow cover has melted and temperatures across the state are dropping." Dan Olson, public information officer with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says.

The university has a list of seasonal tips for homeowners on how to prevent septic system freeze-ups as the winter season progresses and how to deal with them should they occur.

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Eight Watersheds In A County The Size Of Rhode Island... Otter Tail Focuses On How Best To Address Watershed Issues

A watershed is an area of land that drains all the streams and rainfall to a common outlet such as the outflow of a reservoir or any point along a stream channel. The word watershed is sometimes used

interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment.

Otter Tail County commissioners addressed watershed challenges during the county board meeting on Tuesday morning, Jan. 9.

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Rapids, Falls, Dams, Brick, Mortar, Cement -And Smoke On The Water...

Rapid rise; steep falls; rising rapids; slow flow; fast flow; dry riverbed; frozen waters; raging river; flame; brimstone; timber; concrete; brick; mortar; and smoke on the water...the Pelican River and the Pelican city dams site has seen fire-and it's seen rain.

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Tungsten Jigs Give Good Winter Crappie Action

By now the hot early ice walleye bite has passed on many lakes and many ice anglers are looking for some biting fish. One bite that is often good this time of the year is a deep-water basin bite for crappies.

Mid-winter crappies roam deep basins searching for food. Lots of the basin areas I fish are in the 20- to 30- foot depth ranges, some of the deepest water available in my favorite lakes. Other lakes, however, have deeper basins where crappies can be found.

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Pesky Common Fungus Gnats: Flying Pests

A fungus gnat is a mosquito-like, very tiny insect. They are about a 16th of an inch long, skinny, dark, with very long legs and are very poor fliers. They stay close to where their larvae are developing. The larva is a small worm-like insect about a quarter inch long. It is pale white, almost translucent, with a black head and no legs or other appendages. If it looks like a worm, it's a worm to Petunia and she wants no truck with it.

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Here Comes The Plow - What Do You Do?

If you find yourself driving behind a snowplow or see one coming toward you on the road, you should know what to do. Not enough drivers do that.

So far this winter season, there have been at least 22 crashes in Minnesota involving vehicles and snowplows.

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Vehicle At The Bottom Of The Lake?

Vehicle at the bottom of the lake? Minn. dive team explains process
Ask Gary Thompson why people break through the ice, and he'll say they usually don't do a good enough job of testing it before they venture out.

There's more to "reading" ice than measuring how thick it is. The Eskimos have more than 100 different words for snow, Thompson says. And while his vocabulary for describing ice is less extensive, it's no less accurate.

There's clear, black ice; milky ice; honeycomb ice-which is fairly good until there no longer is water visible on top of it, Thompson says-and finally, there's the ice he puts in the "oh (expletive)" category.

"That's when you go through," he says.

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Lake Travelers Going Through Ice Again

Reports surfacing of central Minn. Lake travelers going through ice again

Despite the recent long stretch of below-zero weather in Minnesota in recent weeks, ice fishermen have been going through the ice on central Minnesota lakes in the past few days.

Three incidents were reported on Friday, Jan. 19. Similar reports surfaced on lakes throughout the state earlier this winter.

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Nine Smart Salting Tips That Protect Minnesota Waters

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) recommends a low-salt diet for our lakes, streams, and rivers. Much like table salt, rock salt's benefits are peppered with danger. Salt helps melt ice on roads and sidewalks and protects drivers and pedestrians. But when the snow melts, de-icing salt, which contains chloride, runs into nearby bodies of water and harms aquatic wildlife. Chloride accumulates in the water over time, and there's no feasible way to treat or remove it.

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Legal trailer registration: Trailers and tabs

If your trailer is a small utility trailer that has 3,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or under, it would receive a permanent Minnesota registration sticker.

The Minnesota registration sticker issued is displayed on the tongue of the trailer and no plate is required.

For registered trailers weighing over 3,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, they would require one license plate with yearly registration displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters facing outward from the trailer and mounted on the rear of the trailer.

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A Great Year For Hunting, Fishing And Getting Outdoors

Fergus
Falls
JournalSM

Published 9:59 am Tuesday, January 2, 2018

The year 2017 saw an increase in the number of Minnesotans getting outdoors and enjoying the state's abundant natural resources, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR opened two new state campgrounds, added new resources to combat aquatic invasive species, connected more Minnesotans to

information about the state's natural resources, and engaged Minnesotans in the decision-making process on how to best plan for the future of the state's natural resources.

"Minnesotans had more occasions in 2017 to engage with us on conservation decisions," said DNR Commissioner Tom Landwehr. "I want to thank the outdoors-loving residents of this state for taking the time to share their ideas and opinions with us."

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Lake Association Issue Updates

OTC COLA will be advocates for lake associations on issues providing information and education to COLA members as well as providing a forum to express their opinions in this E-Newsletter. OTC COLA does so without necessarily endorsing the positions of individual lake associations on specific issues.

SLCCG (Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group) Update on Casino Status

It is nearing the end of January 2018 and you might be wondering "Anything happening with the casino?" Here is a quick recap:

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

See what's happening on our social sites

