

E-Newsletter July 2018



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OTC COLA General Meeting Lineup 2018

2018 General Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm, June, July and August at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN. To be announced is the September Day Trip.

- Thursday, July 19, 2018
 - OTC Commissioners and candidates invitational
- Thursday, August 16, 2018
 - OTC COLA Annual Meeting
 - Lake Association and volunteer awards
- Thursday, September 20, 2018

- Day Trip to be announced

We Want To Hear From You!

OTC COLA is very interested in informing and assisting OTC lake associations and lake property owners. Click [HERE](#) to quickly give us your **comments**, **suggestions** for OTC COLA and **ideas** for our General Meetings on third Thursdays in the summer.



Rufer And Underhill Present At OTC COLA June Meeting

Moriya Rufer, Environmental Services Director, RMB Laboratories and Ben Underhill, Water Planner/Watershed Director, East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District presented at the June 2018 OTC COLA General Meeting in Ottertail, MN.

Rufer concentrated on Understanding Lake Data. OTC COLA partners with RMB Laboratories in an extensive program to monitor COLA Member lakes each year. Samples are



collected each month during the season by volunteers at each lake. The samples are then analyzed by RMB and data is made available on the RMB website. The data is used by multiple government agencies, municipalities and other organizations.

[Moriya Rufer](#)
moriya.rufer@rmbel.info

Understanding Lake Data

Underhill focused on assessment of the Otter Tail River Watershed. Ben addressed how lakes are perceived to be impaired and what are the causes of impairment. He explained how the Trophic State Index is used to compile phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and Secchi measured transparency data to determine levels of impairment. He went on to explain what lake property owners can do to reduce impairment levels.



[Ben Underhill ben.underhill@eot.mnswcd.org](mailto:ben.underhill@eot.mnswcd.org)
Otter Tail River Waterhed Assessment





Free Nitrate Water-Testing Clinics Ottertail and Fergus Falls

Homeowners who rely on private wells for their drinking water supply should test for nitrates on a regular basis. Private well owners are encouraged to participate at the free nitrate testing clinics.

Fergus Falls- Thursday, July 19

Ottertail- Friday, July 27

In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) found that over 10% of private wells tested across the state had nitrate levels above the safe drinking water standard. In 2015 the MDA targeted several townships in the county for nitrate testing. Initial results showed about four percent of the wells tested were above the drinking water standard.

Fergus Falls, Thursday 19 [MORE](#)
Ottertail, Friday July 27 [MORE](#)

[Ben Underhill](#)



Zebra Mussels Found In Becker, Otter Tail County Lakes

FERGUS FALLS, Minn.-Zebra mussels were found in Jewett Lake in Otter Tail County and Floyd Lake in Becker County, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said.

According to a DNR news release, watershed district staff alerted the DNR of an adult zebra mussel attached to a native clam in Floyd Lake. DNR invasive species specialists found several adult zebra mussels in three areas of the lake.

[**MORE**](#)

OTC COLA General Meeting July 19, 2018 Otter Tail County Legislative Forum

County Commissioners, County Commissioner Candidates and Otter Tail County Sheriff Candidates have been invited to the OTC COLA County Legislative Forum in July.

This regular General Meeting for OTC COLA will be held 7:00 pm on July 19, 2018 at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN. Planned for this event is an opportunity for lake property owners to meet and greet existing and potential public officials to share challenges and opportunities for Otter Tail County lakes.

The image is a public service announcement (PSA) for 'Be a Hero Transport Zero'. It features a central circular logo with the text 'BE A HERO TRANSPORT ZERO' in blue and red, with a blue wave graphic at the bottom. To the left, there are two photographs: the top one shows a woman with glasses and a red 'UNWANTED' stamp over her face, with the name 'STARRY STONEWORT' below; the bottom one shows a large pile of green and brown aquatic plants, with the text 'Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center' and 'Starry Stonewort' below. To the right of the logo, the text 'FIGHT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVADERS' is written in bold blue letters. Below this, three red boxes contain the words 'REMOVE', 'DRAIN', and 'DRY', each followed by a list of instructions: 'REMOVE' (PLANTS, ANIMALS AND MUD FROM ALL EQUIPMENT.), 'DRAIN' (ALL WATER FROM YOUR BOAT AND GEAR.), and 'DRY' (EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY WITH A TOWEL.). At the bottom, the website 'TRANSPORTZERO.ORG' is displayed in blue. The entire PSA is set against a background of crumpled white paper.

**BE A
HERO
TRANSPORT
ZERO**™

**FIGHT THE SPREAD OF
AQUATIC INVADERS**

REMOVE PLANTS, ANIMALS AND MUD FROM ALL EQUIPMENT.

DRAIN ALL WATER FROM YOUR BOAT AND GEAR.

DRY EVERYTHING THOROUGHLY WITH A TOWEL.

TRANSPORTZERO.ORG

Brought to you by: Counties of Douglas, Otter Tail, Pope, Cass, Becker, Aitkin and LARA and PLA of Crow Wing County and J&K Marine.

Announcing 6 New PSA's On Aquatic Invasive Species

A creative series of six, 30-second public service announcements and accompanying social media posts have been professionally produced to gain attention on aquatic invasive species while sharing actions people can take to stop the spread. The videos and social media posts are available for download to be used and shared across Minnesota and the Midwest.

This video series is available as a free resource thanks to funding from the Minnesota counties of Douglas, Pope, Otter Tail, Cass, Becker, and Aitkin along with the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance and the Pelican Lakes Association in Crow Wing county.

Remove Weeds

https://youtu.be/IsIT8s_F7nw

Drain All Water

<https://youtu.be/ATivXTSYoRo>

Clean Off Anchor

<https://youtu.be/sPs39ZohIQ8>

Dry 21 Days

<https://youtu.be/uWylqku-rtI>

Decon Station

<https://youtu.be/majL-hcnKwU>

Drain Livewell

<https://youtu.be/1tpPZCkMJdY>

The impacts from aquatic invaders like Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort, zebra mussels, and spiny waterflea are hitting home in Minnesota. The quality of Minnesota lakes and rivers is threatened by these invasive species that hurt enjoyment of our lakes, property values, tourism, fish populations, cause algae blooms, fouled beaches, and wreak economic havoc by clogging boat motors and water supply and drainage systems.

It is vital to our current and future local, state and regional economy to greatly increase our education efforts to inform the public about aquatic invasive species and steps to prevent their spread. To receive files to download and share or learn more, please contact [Erika Gilsdorf](#).

"As a former AIS inspector, it was my goal with this project to provide a fresh and creative 'hook' around aquatic invasive species messaging and the actions people can take to stop the spread. The response with this series has already been phenomenal. We're excited to be part of a multi-county project that can offer these videos and social media posts at no charge to lake associations, organizations, businesses, government agencies, and individuals to share." [Erika Gilsdorf](#), producer

The videos were produced in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota by LB Video Productions, a division of Leighton Broadcasting.

We are encouraging everyone to share the videos via the links and they can also contact me, [Erika Gilsdorf](#) to receive the free, downloadable files for social media, website and to give to the media to air.

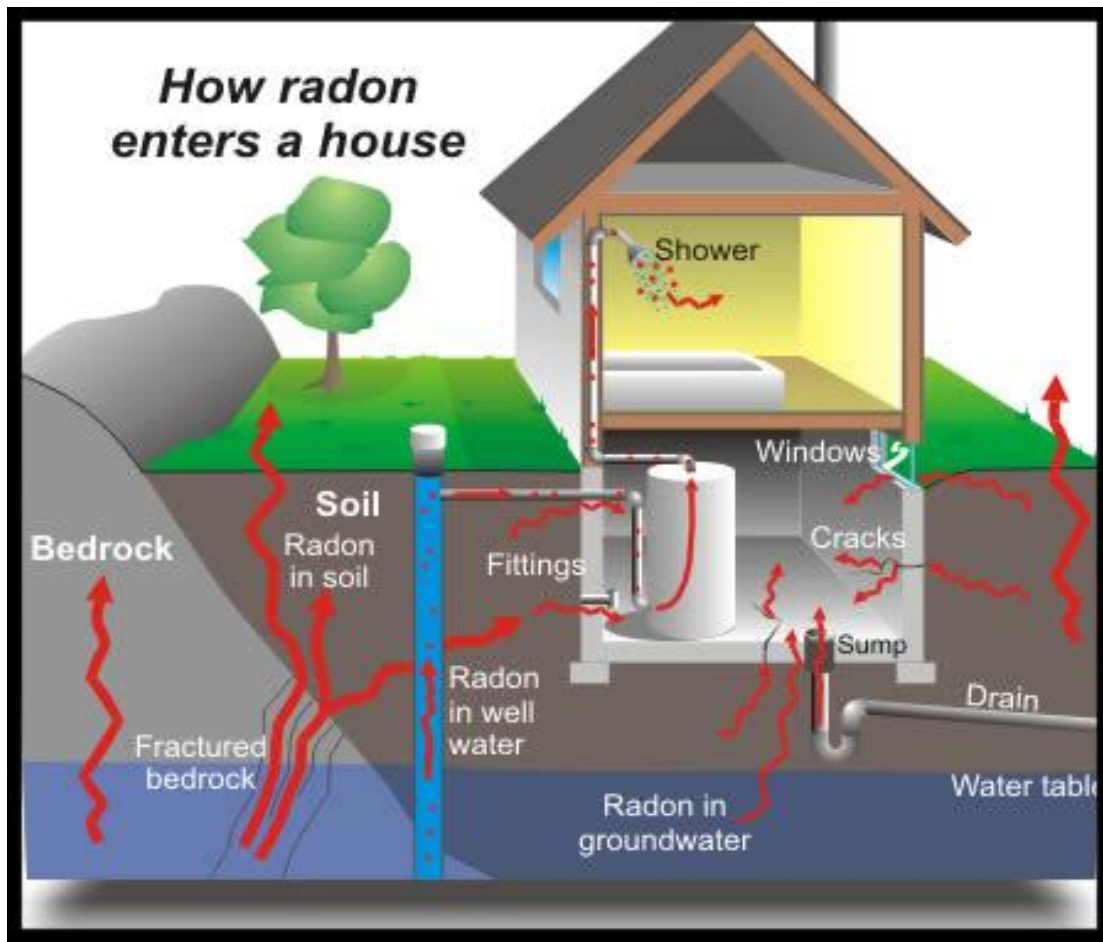
Also available are social media posts/pictures:

[Starry Stonewort](#)

[Bait](#)

[Dock-lift](#)
[Spiny Waterflea](#)
[Eurasian watermilfoil](#)
[Zebra Mussels](#)

Erika Gilsdorf
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egilsdorf@leightonbroadcasting.com



What About Radon Gas at the Lake??

Radon gas is a cancer-causing radioactive gas. You cannot see, smell or taste radon, but it may be a problem in your home or lake cabin. You might have read where a North Dakota woman died last Fall, and the cause of death was listed as "exposure to radon gas". Radon is not produced as a commercial product. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas and comes from the natural breakdown (radioactive decay) of uranium.

[MORE](#)

[Dave Majkrzak](#)

OTC COLA Annual Meeting And Volunteer Awards Night August 16, 2018

The deadline for nominating the OTC COLA Volunteer and Lake Association of the year is August 1, 2018. We ask that you honor your volunteers who tirelessly share their time and talent, either individually or as a group.

The OTC COLA's Volunteer of the Year and Lake Association of the Year is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging volunteers to assist in protecting and preserving the lakes they love. Self-nominations are accepted.

Do not pass up this opportunity to inspire, recognize, encourage and engage your volunteers who have demonstrated that they have the fortitude to meet challenges and accomplish goals.

[**MORE**](#)



New Bio-Control Pilot For Eurasian Water Milfoil

This summer the Christmas Lake Association is testing to see if a weevil native to Minnesota can be used to eat and control Eurasian water milfoil.

This is a huge development. As I travel around the state and meet with lake associations, two big concerns emerge:

1. Lake Associations struggle with fundraising, and often face huge lake treatment bills for problems like eurasian water milfoil,
2. Lake Association leaders fear that their membership is aging, and they are searching for ways to engage younger members.

I, along with other lake association leaders, DNR personnel and [MAISRC](#), toured a pilot project on Christmas Lake that could provide a solution strategy for both of these issues.

The pilot is based on research by Dr. Sallie Sheldon, Middlebury College, VT. She has developed a process to catch native weevils out of a lake, raise them on the invasive Eurasain watermilfoil, and then release these weevils back into the lake to achieve some control of the invasive and costly plant.

[**MORE**](#)

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

MN COLA Board Of Directors Minutes
[**June 19, 2018**](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes
[**June 11, 2018**](#)

OTC Board of Commissioners Minutes

June 5, 2018

June 12, 2018

OTC COLA Board of Directors

Bernie Steeves · Dave Sethre · David Majkrzak · Jeff Stabnow ·
Patrick Prunty · Roger Neitzke · Russ Severson · Sylvia Soeth

OTC COLA Members

Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association ·
Clitheral Lake Association · Dead Lake Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle
Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake
Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake
Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore
Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association ·
Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Long Lake At Vergas Lake Association ·
Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement
Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle Lake Association · Otter
Tail Lakes Property Owners Association · Pelican Lake Property Owners Association
· Pickerel Lake Improvement Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore
Association · Round Lake 56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association ·
Silver Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake
Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association ·
Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation
Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West
Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

John Kruse OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

See what's happening on our social sites

