

E-Newsletter August 2018



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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From the President

What can we do on land to help in the water?

As Lake Associations we're naturally focused on the water. Invasive aquatic species such as Zebra Mussels or Spiny Waterflea are a big concern, but so is the vegetation growing in our lake. I try not to call it "weeds." Native vegetation is good habitat and we'll always have vegetation. It isn't a swimming pool out in front, after all.

When the vegetation, whether native or invasive, interferes with

the enjoyment of your lake you want to do something about that. Members who have attended COLA meetings have asked for help to deal with "weeds." There are things you can do on the shore individually and as a Lake Association.

District Manager Darren Newville and his staff at East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District help OTC property owners find solutions. Over the years our OTC Pine Lakes Improvement District (Big Pine and Little Pine Lakes) has improved water quality with their expertise. COLA is happy to have Darren at our Annual Meeting to talk about problems and solutions, what you can do, how EOT SWCD could help with ideas and grants, and answer questions.

Did you know 1 pound of phosphorus grows 500 pounds of weeds? Phosphorus comes from many sources including soil that finds it's way into the water.

The Annual Meeting, itself, will not be long in order to have time for more information. There will be a featured Lake Association to share ideas which is a new COLA promotion this season. Come early for coffee and cookies and stay for the door prizes!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President OTC COLA



Newville- Featured Speaker At OTC COLA Annual Meeting

Darren Newville, District Manager for East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of OTC COLA, 7:00 pm, August 16, 2018 at the Ottertail Community Center, Ottertail MN. He will speak on "What can we do on land to help in the water?"

Dead Lake will be the featured Association at the meeting with a presentation by Terry Janes and Diane Lund.

All Otter Tail County lake property owners are welcome to come and participate. The evening will include refreshments and door prize drawings.

John Kruse, Administrative Assistant
Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations



SAVE THE DATE!

COLA ON THE MOVE

Saturday, September 15

OTC COLA
and

East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District

Invite you to hop on the bus with us

Continental breakfast at the SWCD office in Perham

Visits to successful projects on OTC shorelines

Tips from SWCD to protect your lake

Question and answer time

9:00 to 12:30

Learn the details at the Annual Meeting and in the September newsletter.

We Want To Hear From You!

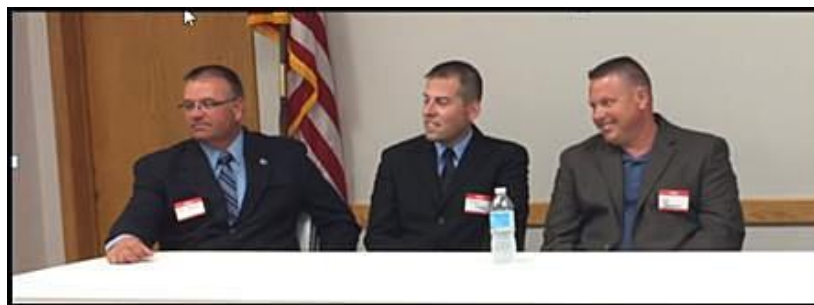
OTC COLA is very interested in informing and assisting OTC lake associations and lake property owners. Click [HERE](#) to quickly give us your **comments**, **suggestions** for OTC COLA and **ideas** for our General Meetings on third Thursdays in the summer.

OTC COLA Legislative Forum JULY 19, 2018



OTC Commissioner Candidates

Betty Murphy · Jeff Gontarek · Charles Debilzen · Everett P Erickson · Wayne Johnson · Robert Lahman



OTC Sheriff Candidates

Barry Fitzgibbons · Jason Hoaby · Kyle Bergren

The OTC COLA Legislative Forum 2018 was held at the Ottertail Community Center on July 19, 2018. Commissioner candidates participating in the event were Betty Murphy- District 4, Jeff Gontarek- District 2, Charles Debilzen- District 4, Everett P Erickson- District 2 and Robert Lahman- District 4. Candidates for OTC Sheriff were Barry Fitzgibbons, Jason Hoaby and Kyle Bergren.

The Forum was divided into two separate sessions hearing from the Commissioner candidates first and the Sheriff candidates second. The purpose of the event was not for the candidates to debate their individual qualifications but for the Commissioner candidates to discuss the importance of our lakes and hear their

views on what role, if elected, would be in protecting them. The Sheriff candidates were asked to express their views on enforcement and protection of lakes as a natural resource.

The Commissioner views universally indicated an appreciation for OTC lakes as a valuable resource that deserves substantive and immediate attention. It was recognized that OTC has made a valiant effort to protect and preserve lakes and has invested financial resources to back up that effort. It was also recognized that there is much more that needs to be done. Issues expressed included the need for lake associations, fishing organizations, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) and State of Minnesota to work together to make a united effort and direction toward a common goal.

Sheriff candidates expressed the realization that it is difficult to change the culture of people. Priorities of enforcement of lake related regulations are safety of citizens and protection of lakes as a natural resource. Specific examples of emerging challenges include enforcement of aquatic invasive species (AIS) clean-drain-dry regulations, fireworks shows and the proliferation of commercial music events on lakes involving vendors of food and alcohol. There are many components contributing to managing regulation enforcement including networking, leadership, presence and education. Conscientious use of common sense and diplomacy in enforcement of regulations contributes to accomplishing eventual behavior change.

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Clitherall Lake Association Featured At OTC COLA General Meeting

Clitherall Lake Association was featured at the July 19, 2018 General Meeting at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN. The second of a series of featuring OTC COLA lake associations was presented by Al Molde and Mike Lipke. Exchanging information and ideas is beneficial for lake associations to more easily run their organizations and accomplish their objectives.

Go [HERE](#) to see the slide show

3-Way Primary To Narrow Otter Tail County Board Hopefuls

Area News | Published on July 24, 2018 at 8:19pm CDT | Author: Pelican Press

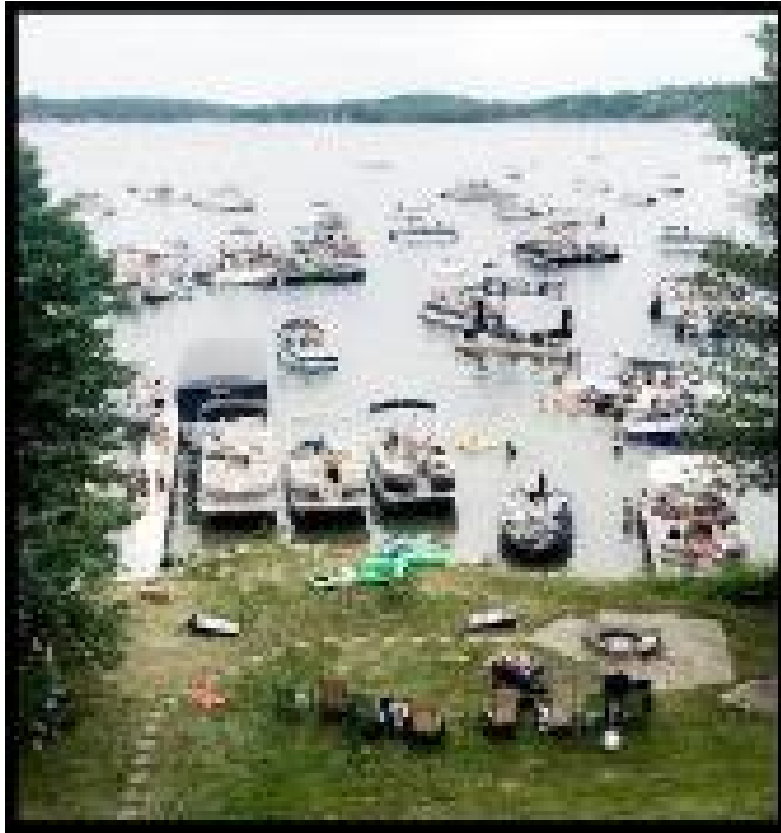
Lakes and waterways of Otter Tail County, and the role the county board serves in protecting them, was the focus of a candidate forum July 19.

Garbage scattered on the lakeshore; zebra mussels on boats and lifts; and state funding for water quality initiatives were among the topics covered at the Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations

(COLA) session.

Lake activists from throughout the county, about 40 in all, got a glimpse of the views of candidates for the Otter Tail County commission-as the August 14 primary election approaches.

[MORE](#)



Smoke On The Water... Fire In The Sky...Rockin' On The Lake...

Local News Pelican Press | Published on July 24, 2018 at 8:11pm CDT | Author: Louis Hoglund

Pontoon parties--some operating formally under special Otter Tail County lake event permits; and some entirely informal gatherings of dozens of watercraft on sandbars and shallows-are an increasing phenomena on area lakes.

Most people living around the Otter Tail County lakes area are more-or-less forgiving about illegal fireworks displays over the lakes and pastures-if it is only one or two nights a year.

But combined with increasingly loud and populous "on the water" parties, complaints and incidents have been on the rise.

[MORE](#)



Starry Stonewort Confirmed In Medicine Lake

First starry stonewort confirmation in 2018

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Medicine Lake, located within the city of Plymouth in Hennepin County. This is the first new confirmation of starry stonewort in Minnesota in 2018. There are now 12 lakes in Minnesota where starry stonewort has been confirmed.

Since starry stonewort was first confirmed in Minnesota in 2015, most new populations have been reported in the month of August, when the telltale star-shaped bulbils are most abundant and visible. Now is the best time of year to look for it. Information on how to identify starry stonewort can be found on the DNR's website. If people think they've found starry stonewort, they should report it to the DNR.

[MORE](#)

New DWI Law Goes Into Effect Aug. 1

Little Alan's Law provides consistent application of DWI laws

A new law that goes into effect Aug. 1 means people convicted of driving while intoxicated - regardless of the vehicle they're driving - will lose their driver's license and be prohibited from operating motor vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles, motorboats and snowmobiles. The state Legislature passed the law following the death of 8-year-old Alan Geisenkoetter Jr., who died in January after being struck by a snowmobile driven by a man whose driver's license was revoked after multiple DWI offenses.

[MORE](#)

You Can Find The Updated List

Of Infested Waters Online

What can I find on the list?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regularly updates the "infested waters list," which includes Minnesota lakes and rivers with certain aquatic invasive species. View the current infested waters list.

[MORE](#)



Eurasian Water Milfoil

Why Are AIS Inspectors In Otter Tail County?

Otter Tail County has produced a new video on AIS inspections

- * Otter Tail County is home to over 1,000 lakes
- * 38 water systems in OTC are known to have an aquatic invasive species
- * Bill Rollie is one of 25 watercraft inspectors in OTC
- * The clean, drain, dispose message is working
- * But more can be done to stop the spread of AIS
- * For a complete list of infested waters visit www.co.otter-

tail.mn.us and help us stop the spread of aquatic invasive species

Go [HERE](#) to see the video



MN COLA Sponsors Workshop

When: September 25th, Tuesday, 9:30-3:00

Where:

Douglas County Public Works Building
526 Willow Dr, Alexandria, MN

Who:

Lake Association Members and Leaders
Coalition of Lake Association members

Why:

The workshop is aimed at building additional community capacity by sharing information on local government responsibilities; by self-assessing your lake association's individual, relational, and organizational capacity; and by providing some practical tips for with working with your local and state agencies.

Facilitators:

Dr. Amit Pradhananga, Research Associate, University of Minnesota
Dave Rush, Douglas County Land & Resource Management Director
Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes & River Advocates

Chris Pence, Board Conservationist, BWSR
Paul Radomski, Lake Ecologist, DNR
Kris Carlson, Decision Support Specialist, DNR

Sponsor:

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

If you're interested please RSVP to paul.radomski@state.mn.us
(the event is free)

Please forward to people that you think might be interested!

Paul J. Radomski
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[MN COLA](#)

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

OTC Board of Commissioners Minutes
[June 26, 2018](#)
[July 10, 2018](#)

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

See what's happening on our social sites

