

E-Newsletter September 2018



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From the President

Fall is definitely in the air when we have cool nights and a leaf or two floats by my window. We've appreciated the positive comments and valued suggestions for member meetings which will guide plans for 2019. I hope you've learned from the four meetings of 2018!

COLA ON THE MOVE

OTC COLA will finish the season with a bus trip on Saturday, September 15. EOT Soil and Water Conservation District Director

Darren Newville spoke at the August meeting about actions we can take on our lake shores. COLA ON THE MOVE will follow through to show you ambitious projects here in Otter Tail County that property owners and SWCD have successfully implemented for the good of the lakes and rivers.

I'm constantly amazed that 1 pound of phosphorus can grow 500 pounds of weeds! With the hot summer I hear lots of people complaining about more weeds in the lake. Soil rolling into the water brings phosphorus. What can you do to hold the soil back?

Have you heard of rain gardens? Maybe you have a spot in your yard that would be a perfect rain garden.

Do you love to watch the butterflies and hummingbirds? Plant native flowers to bring them to you.

Are there grants available to help you? Yes, and technical assistance, too.

Hop on the bus with us on September 15, 9 a.m. at the EOT SWCD office. Continental breakfast in their office will give us a good start. Water and treats will keep us going. Darren, Aimee and Lisa will guide us on our tour and have us back by 12:30.

A bonus will be the leaves that are already turning red and yellow!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President OTC COLA



COLA ON THE MOVE

Saturday, September 15

9:00 to 12:30

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
801 Jenny Avenue, Perham, behind the Dairy Queen**

Visits to successful projects on OTC shorelines

Tips from SWCD to protect your lake

Question and answer time

With Darren, Aimee & Lisa

Snacks and restroom on the bus

Parking at and around EOT SWCD

Reservations by email: otccola2@gmail.com



**Newville- Featured Speaker
At August OTC COLA Annual Meeting**

**Soil & Water Conservation District, Conservation
Service, Soil Office, Soil and Wa-What? DNR?**

Darren Newville, District Manager, East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) was the featured

speaker at the OTC COLA Annual Meeting at the Ottertail Community Center August 16, 2018. Darren explained how the EOT SWCD serves as an integral partner to lake property owners and government agencies in the preservation and protection of lakes in Otter Tail County. He pointed out that we all agree that our natural resources need to be protected, Also, that we are all consumers and have a negative impact on those resources. The result is that we all are responsible for the preservation and protection of our natural resources.

What is a Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), other than a mouth-full?

-SWCD's are a local unit of government, established to encourage private landowners to conserve soil and water resources

-SWCD's are political subdivisions of the State

-Provide technical, financial and educational assistance to local private landowners to help them conserve our soil and water resources

-Most of our programs are voluntary

-We have a unique partnership with Federal, State, and Local Resource Agencies

-Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA)

-Board of Water and Soil Resources, Dept of Natural Resources, Dept of Agriculture, Dept of Health, Pollution Control Agency,

-County Land & Resource Department

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

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** to make your OTC COLA the best it can be.



Minnesota Association of Soil-Water Conservation Districts Mark 80 Years

Area News | Published on August 14, 2018 at 12:27pm CDT | Author: Pelican Press

On August 14, the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) will join other conservation organizations in celebrating the 80th anniversary of the first established Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in Minnesota.

"This anniversary represents a major milestone in voluntary conservation with landowners not only for the Southeast Minnesota region, but for the state as a whole," said Kurt Beckstrom, President of MASWCD. "The Winona County SWCD supervisors and staff should take pride in the legacy of resource stewardship they've helped create over the years."

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Terry Janes - Diane Lund

Dead Lake Association Featured At OTC COLA General Meeting

Dead Lake Association was featured at the OTC COLA Annual Meeting on August 16. Presenting were Terry Janes and Diane Lund.

Contrary to its name, Dead Lake is actually teeming with fish and supports an abundance of waterfowl and other wildlife. At almost 8,000 acres, Dead Lake is the largest Natural Environment lake in the state. The Dead Lake Wildlife Management Area will now consist of over 660 acres, miles of shoreline on Dead Lake and a small waterfowl interior lake.

"With nearly a mile of lakeshore and abundant wetlands and uplands, this sensitive natural area provides critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including migrating and nesting waterfowl. It also provides great public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing and wildlife observation," commented Bob McGillivray, senior project manager of The Trust for Public Land, who was instrumental in conveying the 60 acres from Blue Heron Bay Land Company to the DNR.

[**MORE**](#)

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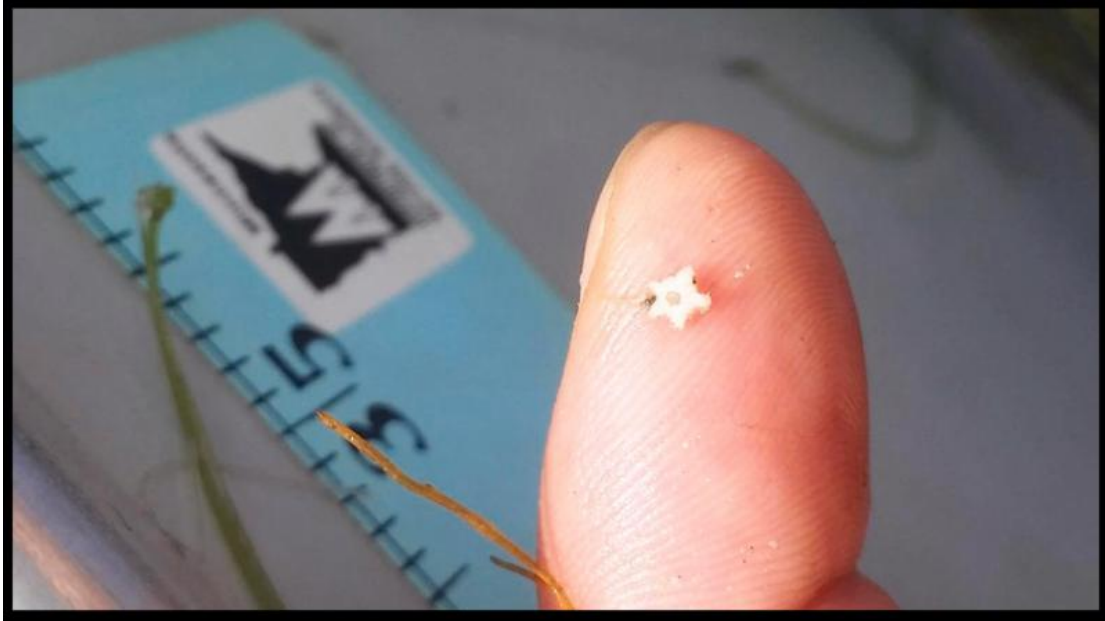
Otter Tail Water Patrol Mission Is Safety On Area Lakes

Area News | Published on August 7, 2018 at 8:44am CDT | Author: Pelican Press

Water Patrol Deputies promote safe boating activities, assist boaters in distress, and investigate boating related complaints and accidents.

Throughout the year Water Patrol Deputies also provide boating and water safety educational presentations to various groups and organizations. In addition, they conduct safety inspections of all rental, lease, charter, and resort watercraft that operate in Otter Tail County. The patrol deputies are busy throughout the boating season monitoring safe boating conditions on the lakes, rivers, and waterways.

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Volunteers search 187 Minnesota lakes, find only one with invasive algae

INFORUM Barry Amundson

PARK RAPIDS, Minn. - After scouring 187 lakes in Minnesota, a team of 225 trained volunteers found only one lake that had the invasive algae called starry stonewort.

It was Wolf Lake in Hubbard County in north-central Minnesota.

During a follow-up survey in the lake, DNR invasive species specialists found a one-third-acre bed of starry stonewort at an undeveloped access off a township road.

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Pontoon Party Guidelines Proposed For Otter Tail

Area News | Published on August 14, 2018 at 7:43pm CDT | Author: Tom Hintgen

A flotilla of pontoons float on the southeast shore of Pelican Lake on arecent Sunday. Pontoon and boat parties and events are being discussed by the Otter Tail County Board.

Concerns about pontoon parties and music events, sometimes out of control at area lakes, prompted the Otter Tail county board of commissioners to have a three-person panel work on a set of guidelines.

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Kevin Farnum pulls off a segment of starry stonewort from a mat of vegetation that was pulled up from Lake Koronis. Paul Middlestaedt for MPR News

As Lake Invaders Dig In, Minnesota Worries What Comes Next

Standing on a small metal boat on Lake Koronis in Stearns County, Kevin Farnum watched a mass of green weeds being pulled up onto a conveyor belt.

"Here's a star, but it's really small," he said, pointing to a tiny, white, star-shaped nob called a bulbil. "Can you see the shape?"

The "star" is a dead giveaway that this is starry stonewort, a plantlike algae that has been causing major problems for Lake Koronis since it was discovered here three years ago. It was the first time the invasive had been found in a Minnesota lake. Since then, it's been confirmed in 12 others in Minnesota.

But it wasn't caught right away on Koronis. Starry stonewort can be mistaken for native weeds, and the infestation spread undetected to 250 acres of the 3,000-acre lake before the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources finally identified it.

[MORE](#)



A USED DOCK OR LIFT?

New Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance

To comply with the Otter Tail County Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance, a dock, pier, wharf, or boatlift must be registered with the Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management Office before being moved from one body of water to another.

Registration is free and easy. Call Otter Tail County at:

218-998-8113

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[DOCK AND RIPARIAN USE ORDINANCE](#)

What Is That Light Green Vine Taking Over The World?

Local News | Published on August 28, 2018 at 10:04am CDT |

Author: Louis Hoglund

Wild Cucumber' is particularly prolific this year-but the widespread coverage shouldn't damage existing foliage.

County Road 31, which winds around the east side of Pelican Lake, resembles the thick, swampy vegetation of the Mississippi Delta--with wild cucumber vines blanketing foliage by the equivalent of a city block.

A native Minnesota "wildflower or weed," depending on your viewpoint, the wild cucumber appears to be choking everything beneath it--but the plant is not likely to harm existing vegetation.

County Road 31, which winds around the east side of Pelican Lake, resembles the thick, swampy vegetation of the Mississippi Delta--with wild cucumber vines blanketing foliage by the equivalent of a city block.

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Biologist Will French, left, maneuvers a boat during a research outing on Lake Carlos in west central Minnesota on Aug. 2, 2018. Ann Arbor Miller for MPR

Measuring The Impact Of Invasives In Minnesota Lakes Is Complicated, Inconclusive

The most visible invasives, like zebra mussels and starry stonewort - which clogs a lake so thickly you can't swim or boat through it - get people talking, and spending money. But are invasive species destroying the lakes Minnesotans love?

More than 20 years after invasive species started spreading in Minnesota's waters, scientists don't have a clear answer.

Lakes are complicated. Life happens underwater, mostly out of sight. So it's a challenge for researchers to understand the impact invasive species have on the underwater ecosystem.

[MORE](#)



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 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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www.mndnr.gov

MN COLA Meeting Scheduled 09/18/18

Go [HERE](#) for details

[MN COLA](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes
[August 13, 2018](#)

OTC Board of Commissioners Minutes
[July 24, 2018](#)
[August 7, 2018](#)
[August 14, 2018](#)
[August 28, 2018](#)

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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