

E-Newsletter November 2018



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Spencer McGrew, OTC AIS Specialist

More Than 12,000 Boats Inspected By OTC AIS Team In 2018

Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Specialist, submitted a report to county board members about AIS inspections.

These inspections take place when boats enter and exit the lakes at boat accesses throughout the county.

Otter Tail County employed 25 AIS inspectors in summer 2018. There were 12,059 inspections completed during the 2018 boating season.

[**MORE**](#)

OTC COLA Water Quality Analysis Reports Are Now Available

[**To get the 2018 Water Quality Analysis
Report for your Lake, Click HERE**](#)

2018 was another successful year for the COLA water quality sampling and analysis program! Thanks to COLA Members and dedicated volunteers who take the samples, the data from 2009 has been compiled, analyzed and now has been integrated into a multi-year trend analysis report. This information is valuable to lake property owners concerned about the future of living at the lake. It is also an important resource for state and county agencies for making beneficial decisions on lake management.

The reports include averaged phosphorus, chlorophyll and Secchi readings. Lake health evaluation tools help with recognition of adverse trends. Also included are suggestions for improving lakes and offers a directory of organizations and agencies for more information, education and even potential funding assistance.

The OTC COLA water quality sampling and analysis program currently covers 56 lakes in the County and has been running for over 20 years. OTC COLA Members include Lake Associations, Lake Improvement Districts and individuals. Lakes included cover 70% of lake acreage in OTC. The program provides organization and education of volunteers and also includes

discounted rates for water analysis.

Non-COLA Water Quality Analysis Reports Are Also Now Available

OTC COLA has compiled limited water quality data from an additional 49 non-Member lakes. Included is data from at least 2017 and 2018. Find reports for your lake even if not a member of OTC COLA [HERE](#).

[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](#)

Invasive Species Citation Issued For Moving Water Gear To Pickerel Lake

Sheriff deputies take seriously those who violate Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) regulations. On Sept. 18, at 9:37 a.m., they issued a citation at Pickerel Lake, northwest of Otter Tail Lake. Individuals, addresses unknown, were about to enter the lake with water-related equipment that was prohibited under Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) state regulations.

Invasive species that included zebra mussels and/or other species had been unlawfully transported from another body of water to Pickerel Lake.

In 2017, on a statewide basis, there were 127 total AIS violations at various lakes in Minnesota, including civil and criminal cases. There were 557 verbal warnings.

Murphy Elected, Johnson Reelected OTC Commissioners

Murphy Elected to Otter Tail County Commission

Betty Murphy has won a seat on the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners representing District 4. Murphy is best known in Perham for her role as director of the Perham Area



Community Center. She beat out her opponent, Robert Lahman of Parkers Prairie, with 52.73 percent of the vote, compared to Lahman's 47.11 percent.

Wayne Johnson Retains Seat For District 2

Wayne Johnson, of Pelican Rapids, will retain that seat after overcoming a challenge by Jeff Gontarek, of Erhard, 54.95 percent to 44.81 percent. District 2 covers the northwestern corner of the county, including the Maplewood State Park area, Vergas, Elizabeth and Pelican Rapids.



[**MORE**](#)



Nornes Reelected

Incumbent Bud Nornes will keep his seat in the Minnesota House of Representatives after overtaking democrat Brittney Johnson in the race for district 8A, which includes most of Otter Tail County.

Nornes took 59.8 percent, or 11,329 votes, while Johnson, a DFL'er and farmer, took 40.2 percent or 7,625 votes.



Zebra mussels confirmed in Walker Lake in Otter Tail County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Walker Lake, connected and navigable to Otter Tail Lake in Otter Tail County. Zebra mussels were confirmed in Otter Tail Lake in August 2016.

[MORE](#)

List Of Minnesota Infested Waters

The list of Minnesota Infested Waters has been updated by the DNR to October 26. Go [HERE](#) to see the list.

About 7% of Minnesota's more than 11,000 lakes are on the infested waters list. Less than 3% of Minnesota lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels. As of October 2018, the DNR has confirmed zebra mussels in 180 lakes and wetlands. The DNR has listed 167 bodies of water as infested with zebra mussels because they are closely connected to a waterway where zebra mussels have been found.

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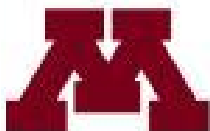


Why A Minnesota Lake Has Become A Giant, Living Laboratory

A Minnesota lake has become a giant, living laboratory to study invasive plants. Starry stonewort was found for the first time in our state in Lake Koronis in 2015. The aquatic invader has now spread to 13 Minnesota lakes.

Koronis is a 3,000-acre lake in Stearns County. When starry stonewort was discovered three years ago it had already taken over 250 acres; it has since doubled in size.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM



Researchers Find New Methods To Combat Invasive Zebra Mussels

A University of Minnesota study released last week looks at ways to kill as many of one of Minnesota's most harmful invasive species as possible.

Zebra mussels have encrusted boats, disrupted food chains and cut the feet of beach-goers across Minnesota for decades. In an effort to reduce their population, a paper released by the University in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey demonstrates the most effective ways to eradicate the inch-long critters, even in the icy waters of the North Star State.

[MORE](#)

[Zebra Mussel Treatment White Paper](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[October 8, 2018](#)

[November 19, 2018](#)

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[October 2, 2018](#)

[October 16, 2018](#)

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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