

E-Newsletter December 2018



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?
Go to the Website link above to sign up for
the monthly newsletter.

In This Issue:

- **From The President- Sylvia Soeth**
 - **Kids Training Other Kids**
 - **Pike Fishing- New Regulations**
 - **Do Waterfowl Spread Zebra Mussels?**
 - **Use De-Icing Salt Sparingly**
 - **New Boat Designs- Stop Spread of AIS**
 - **Teach Kids The Dangers of Ice**
 - **Record Pike Caught On The Rainy River**
 - **How To Register Your State Record Fish**
 - **Join the OTC COLA Board Of Directors**
 - **OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes**
 - **OTC Board of Commissioners Minutes**
 - **Instant Access Links- Includes Lake Analysis Results
100 OTC Lakes**
-

From The President- Sylvia Soeth

It's a Winter Wonderland on the lakes now! Please be careful on the ice! The ice fishing men and women are excited to be out there and, from what I hear, fishing is good, but we've already heard of a few going into the water. Be cautious and stay safe.

We're quickly coming close to the end of a successful year for OTC COLA. Good information was shared at member meetings from May to August with attendance increasing each time and culminated with a Day Trip in September to learn about shoreland restoration and rain gardens. Numbers of readers of the COLA newsletter continue to increase making pertinent information available year around. A new lake association was formed at North Turtle Lake and then became a member. Water

testing was done on COLA and non-COLA lakes that have a DNR access to continue monitoring water - our valuable asset - in the county.

Thank you to all who have participated in 2018. We especially appreciate those who volunteer to do the water testing in the season. We look forward to a new year and on behalf of the COLA Board I wish you a blessed holiday season!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sylvia Soeth



Sophomore students teaching elementary kids on invasive species in Henning

Kids Training Other Kids

"Kids Training Other Kids!". That's the goal of Otter Tail County's aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program ("Train the Teachers to Train the Kids") approved by the Otter Tail County's AIS Task Force and funded by the Otter Tail County Commissioners.

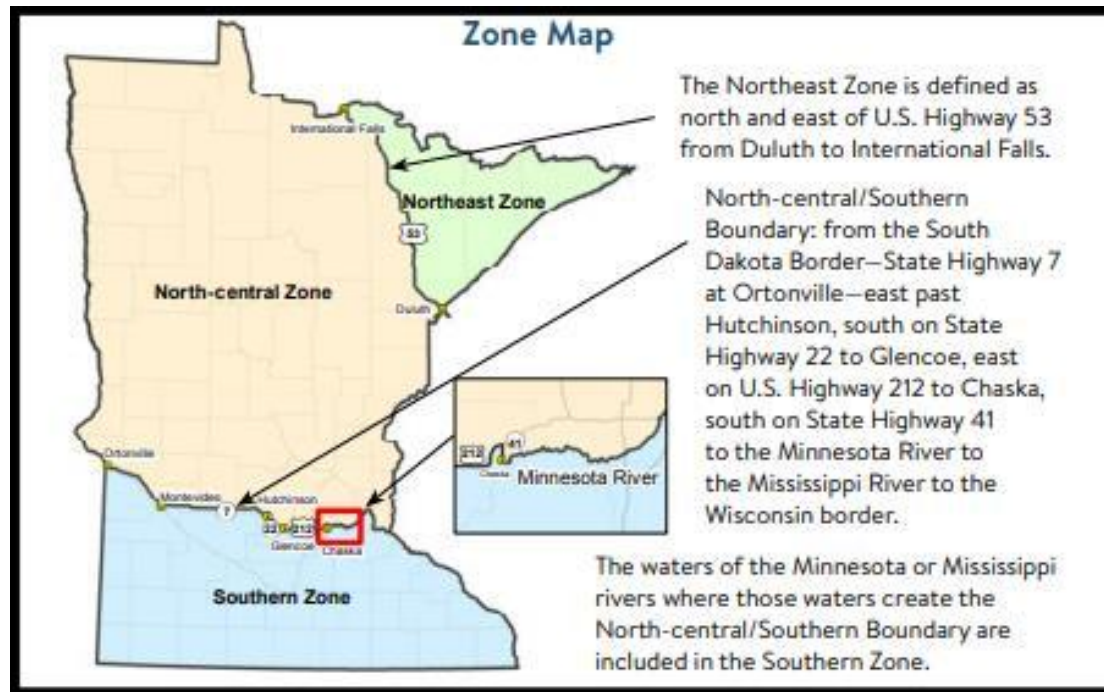
Its mission is to give accurate data to science teachers through visits to their classrooms in eleven school districts. The format is to do an introduction to AIS issues in Otter Tail County, then go in depth on those issues followed by a game (double jeopardy) whereby Jerry Horgen and Moriya Rufer (RMB Labs) tests the kids on the material being presented. When kids answer the questions in a correct fashion, they receive a prize-each student is tested.

In Henning, Dana Damn, the science teacher brings in an English

teacher (Marjorie Qammen) with her students and the English students then write up articles on aquatic invasive species and give speeches on AIS topics to other, younger kids..."kids training other kids."

The program has been in operation for a few years and each year it expands in new directions. If any parent is worried about the commitment kids have to taking care of their lakes, they need not worry...kids care about their lakes and want to be good stewards of our lakes. We can be proud of our students!

[Jerry Horgen](#)



Pike Anglers and Spearers Gearing Up For Winter Action, New Regulations

This will be the first ice fishing season of new northern pike zone regulations throughout Minnesota, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

The new regulations went into effect in May 2018 and created three distinct zones. While not designed to manage for trophy pike, the new regulations are meant to move pike populations to a larger size more desired for table fare, particularly in the southern and north-central zones.

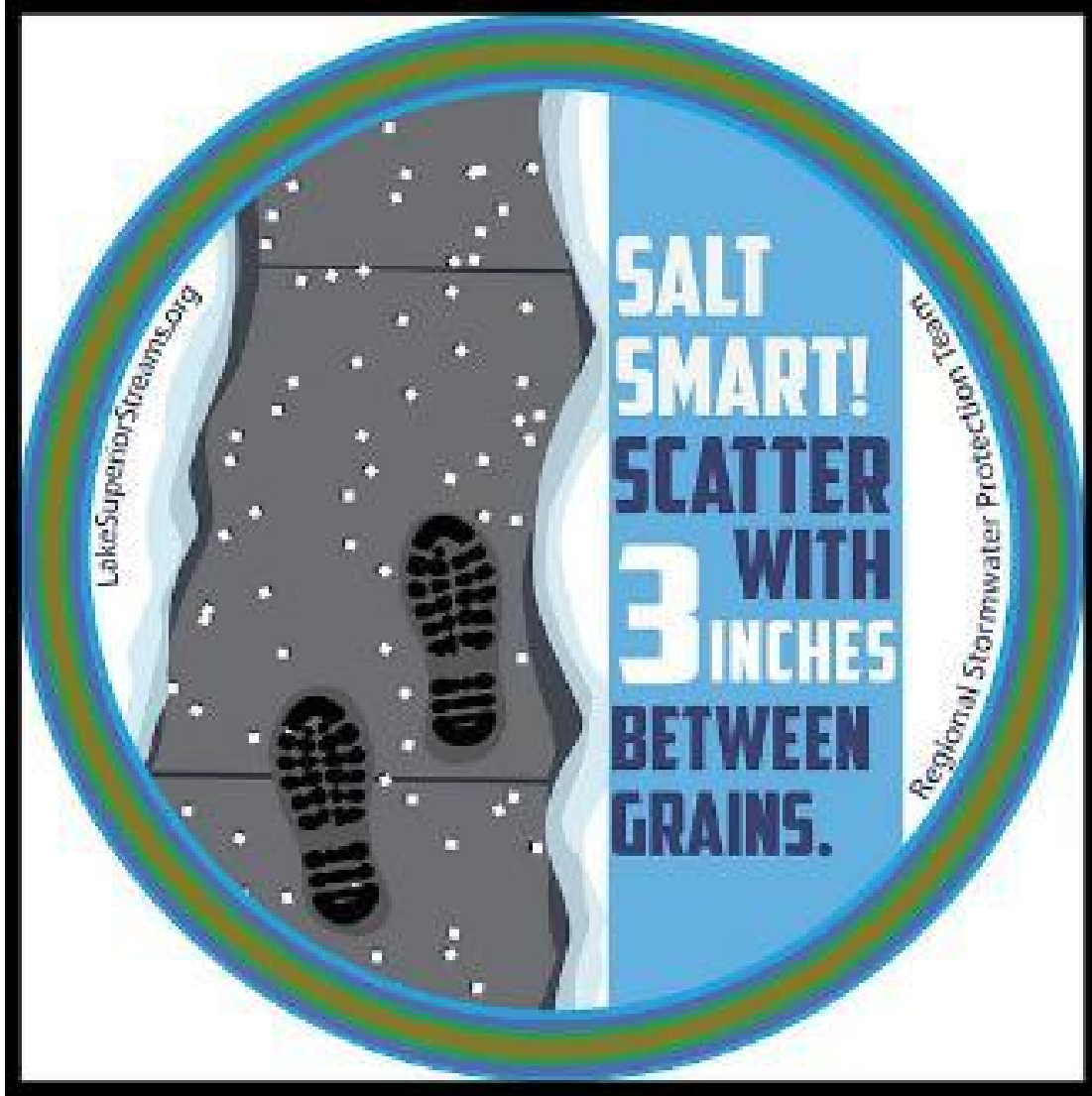
[MORE](#)



Do Waterfowl Spread Zebra Mussels?

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) continue to spread throughout Minnesota. With its many popular lakes, Otter Tail County is certainly not immune to their spread. Indeed, we see popular lakes in Otter Tail County, such as Otter Tail, Lida, West Battle, and Pelican, infested with zebra mussels. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as countless other natural resource agencies and water quality groups, recognize that the spread of AIS is hastened by movement of boats, docks and lifts, and other water-related equipment from lake to lake. However, there seems to be a lot of misinformation spread among Minnesotans (and others around the country), blaming the movement of AIS on waterfowl and other water birds. We are here to debunk that theory.

[**MORE**](#)



Use De-Icing Salt Sparingly To Protect MN Waters

As the first snow of the season arrives, Minnesotans start thinking about clearing snow and ice from pavement - sometimes with salt. But when the snow melts or it rains, the salt, which contains chloride, runs into storm drains and into nearby lakes, rivers, and groundwater.

We scatter an estimated 365,000 tons of salt in the metro area each year. But it only takes a teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. There's no feasible way to remove chloride once it gets into the water, and we are finding increasing amounts of chloride in waters around the state. Salty water harms freshwater fish and other aquatic wildlife.

[MORE](#)



New Boat Designs Could Help Stop Spread Of AIS

New boat designs can help reduce the spread of zebra mussels in Minnesota lakes and rivers. That's the finding of a new research project just completed by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

Boats are notorious for spreading invasive species like zebra mussels.

For the last three years, MAISRC graduate student Adam Doll has been collecting water samples from compartments in watercraft, including live wells, ballast tanks and motors. He then looked for zebra mussel larvae (veligers).

[**MORE**](#)

Teach Kids The Dangers Of Ice

Now is the time to talk with kids about the dangers of ice. Ice thickness varies greatly on lakes, ponds and rivers throughout the state. Some water bodies have none, while others have several inches, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"Ice, especially early ice with snow cover, is extremely deceptive because you can't see dangerous cracks or the thickness of the ice under the snow," said DNR Conservation Officer Adam Block. "Parents need to teach their kids that ice is never 100 percent safe. If your child is near the ice, you should be near your child."

[MORE](#)



Record Pike caught on the Rainy River

Matthew Swanson of Woodbury has claimed the record with a 45 1/4 inch northern pike caught on the Rainy River. The record surpasses the first ever record set in early October when Maddy Ogg caught and released a 43 1/2 inch pike from Mille Lacs; however, Swanson reeled in his pike five months earlier, in May. The Department of Natural Resources received Swanson's application on Oct. 29 and certified the fish soon after.

[MORE](#)

How To Register Your State Record Fish

It is good to know what measurements and images are needed to properly register your potential state record fish. You are going to need a witness, measuring tape and camera. After that, a simply entry form filled out and signed and you are on your way.

If you are looking for the official MN DNR form to register a catch and release fish, click [HERE](#). To view the current catch and release records for MN, click [HERE](#).

Join The OTC COLA Board Of Directors

OTC COLA is a private volunteer group working with lake associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes. We are currently looking for individuals to join the Board of Directors and participate in the management of the organization. Interested candidates are welcome to contact [Sylvia Soeth, President](#).

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[November 19, 2018](#)

[December 10, 2018](#)

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[November 6, 2018](#)

[November 13, 2018](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
 - [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for over 100 OTC Lakes
 - [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
 - [OTC COLA Membership Application](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Membership Application for 2019
 - **We want to hear from you-** Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions
 - [Subscribe to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter](#)
-

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 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

