

**IMPORTANT NEWS** from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

# E-Newsletter

## June 2019



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### **From The President - Sylvia Soeth**

Hello Summer!!!! We went from frost warnings up north to 90 degrees in a day! The summer weather makes us appreciate lakes' country even more.

OTC COLA will not have the usual third Thursday Member meeting in June. We agreed to assist Land and Resource Management Director Chris LeClair on June 8 with the Homeowner Septic System/Well Workshop at Thumperpond. Our Members certainly have a stake in that information.

So, we look forward to the July meeting at the Otter Tail Community Center at 7 p.m. on July 18. COLA Board Member Pat Prunty has an excellent power point that was presented first to the OTC Commissioners in February to explain what COLA is all about, something Members also asked about in the 2018 survey of meetings. Where did we come from and what are we doing now? COLA Administrative Assistant John Kruse will then review reports and

information he has designed to make it easier for Lake Associations and Members to understand and advocate for waters we need to protect. We begin with coffee and cookies and we end the meeting with door prizes!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 15, too. You must have heard by now that the 2020 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener will be in Otter Tail County! Chairman Erik Osberg will be at the COLA meeting to tell us first hand what's going down in 2020. Maybe you want to volunteer and be part of the fun! August is the Annual Meeting and we hope our legislators will be able to join us.

Love your lake!

[Sylvia Soeth](#)

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## **OTC COLA Member Meetings 2019**

Member May through September meetings are planned for 2019 including several special events; some scheduled for different locations and times. Meeting programs scheduled for the Ottertail Community Center will begin at 7:00 pm. These meetings will include time for refreshments and networking prior to the programs

### **OTC COLA - What is it?**

Thursday, July 18 2019, Ottertail Community Center  
OTC COLA, what is it? Overview by Patrick Prunty. Water Quality Analysis reports, Member Directories by John Kruse.

### **COLA Annual Meeting with Legislative Review**

Thursday, August 15 2019, Ottertail Community Center  
Eric Osberg: Fishing for the Governor in 2020  
COLA annual meeting, legislative review.

### **OTC COLA will Host MN COLA Meeting**

Tuesday, September 17 2019, Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN  
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) meeting hosted by OTC COLA.

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Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist

## **McGrew Featured Speaker At May General Meeting**

Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist, OTC AIS Task Force, was the featured speaker at the May Member meeting of OTC COLA.

Highlights of Spencer's presentation included a review of the 2018 Summary of activities of the AIS Task Force.

In 2012 the County Board of Commissioners established the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, charging them with the mission to "develop programs and strategies to support and enhance the protection of Otter Tail County Waters." The Task Force "will promote public awareness, education, containment, research, and provide recommendations to the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners."

[\*\*AIS Task Force Story\*\*](#)

[\*\*AIS Task Force 2018 Summary\*\*](#)

[\*\*Spencer McGrew\*\*](#)

[\*\*AIS Task Force Website\*\*](#)

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## **Water Safety Grant Totaling \$68,000 Boosts Otter Tail County Lakes Area**

*Pelican Press: Author: Tom Hintgen*

With the height of the tourist season close at hand, Otter Tail County Sheriff Office Chief Deputy Reed Reinbold informed county board members on May 21 with the acceptance of \$68,000 for boat and water safety programs.

Funding comes from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Otter Tail County Sheriff's Water Patrol, based in the county operations center in the town of Ottertail (east of Otter Tail Lake), is responsible for the safety of county residents and visitors who use lakes and rivers within the borders of the county.

Water Patrol deputies maintain a visible presence and enforce compliance with the Minnesota Boat and Water Safety Act, as well as compliance with Otter Tail County ordinances.

Duties also include promoting safe boating activities, assisting boaters in distress, investigating boating-related complaints, conducting safety inspections of watercraft and coordinating educational talks to various organizations.

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## **Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association Holds Organizational Meeting**

The Organizational Meeting of the Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association (SLPOA) was held at Inspiration Point Bible Camp on Spitzer Lake on May 18, 2019. The Meeting was conducted by Gary Olson. John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant gave a presentation on organizational concepts and steps to be taken to form the Association. Patrick Waletzko, Otter Tail County Emergency Manager spoke about the Commissioner's action to impose a no-wake restriction on Spitzer Lake. Stephanie Adams, Grant Coordinator for Pom De Terre watershed spoke about grants that may be available for shoreland projects to prevent further erosion.

Unanimous consent was garnered for the Association to join OTC COLA. Attendees recognize the advantage of not only gaining visibility and credibility by forming the Association, but also to align with OTC COLA to take advantage of the programs, networking and educational benefits it provides.

Spitzer Lake is experiencing unprecedented high water levels. Property owners who have been on the lake since the 70's, report that they have never seen the lake this high. Leaders of the Association are making gallant efforts to pursue relief from the flooding waters. Lake property owners are being encouraged to contact County and State legislators for assistance in finding solutions to the problem. OTC COLA is assisting Spitzer lake property owners in finding phone, address and email contact information for County, State and even federal legislators.

At the meeting Officers were elected; Gary Olson- President, Ron Christensen- Vice President, Linda Olson- Secretary, Linda Christensen- Treasurer. Linda Olson and Connie Dummer will be consulting with John Kruse to create the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and other organizational documents.

[SLPOA Minutes](#)

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## **OTC COLA *Lawmaker Hotline***

Your legislators want to hear from you! The [\*\*OTC COLA Lawmaker Hotline\*\*](#) is an easy and effective way for Otter Tail County lake property owners to impact legislative actions affecting life at the lake.

Otter Tail County lake property owners and Lake Associations continue to be challenged with environmental and regulatory issues. Almost always, resolution of these issues involves coordination with County, State and even Federal government departments and agencies.

Legislators at the various levels of government are anxious to hear from their constituents for their opinions and input. They publish various methods of using the phone, email and snail-mail to communicate with them. It is unfortunate when they become victims of volumes of broadcast emails and mass mailings from people who are not constituents or when they receive messages that are not relevant.

The [\*\*OTC COLA Lawmaker Hotline\*\*](#) is a compilation of contact information for Otter Tail County legislators. Included are all of the OTC Commissioners, State Representatives, State Senator, US Representative, US Senators, Lt. Governor and MN Governor. Telephone numbers and addresses are listed. One-click emails and links to email forms are readily available for electronic expedience.

For helpful information and tips for achieving maximum impact, go [\*\*HERE\*\*](#)

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

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### **Dock Regulations Balance Public Water Use And Protection**

Docks and dock platforms provide access to Minnesota's lakes and rivers, and are regulated to help protect public safety as well as aquatic habitat.

As summer approaches, the Department of Natural Resources encourages property owners and lake service provider businesses to review the regulations, to ensure the equipment they own, sell or install is in compliance.

Extensive dock systems may shade out important aquatic plants and eliminate

critical habitat where fish spawn, feed, grow and find shelter from predators. They can also obstruct navigation or even create a safety hazard if they are too large or improperly placed.

[MORE](#)

[MN DNR State Dock Requirements](#)  
[MN DNR Website](#)

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## **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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## **DNR Continues Aggressive Starry Stonewort Management**

As the 2019 fishing and boating season gets underway, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is continuing and expanding a multi-faceted approach to combating the spread of starry stonewort, an aquatic invasive species.

The agency is issuing permits for pilot projects, working with local governments and lake associations, and partnering with researchers to limit starry stonewort in Minnesota after it was first confirmed in the state in 2015. This first confirmation was in Lake Koronis in Stearns County.

[MORE](#)





## **Dead Lake, Franklin Lake Donate Funds To Video-Audio Fight Against AIS**

*Pelican Press, Author: Tom Hintgen*

Lake associations representing Dead Lake and Franklin Lake plan to donate funds which will support I-LID (Internet Landing Installed Device) operations in order to curtail the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Otter Tail County.

"We appreciate the support of these lake associations in our ongoing efforts to fight invasive species," said County AIS Specialist Spencer McGrew to members of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners on May 7.

[MORE](#)

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## **Otter Tail County To Host 2020 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener**

*Valley News Live*

Minn. (Valley News Live) - Next year's Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener will be held May 7-10 in Otter Tail County, with Thumper Pond Resort serving as event headquarters.

Explore Minnesota, the state's tourism promotion office, organizes this event each year in coordination with a host community. The 73rd annual Governor's Fishing Opener will be hosted by a committee of volunteers from Otter Tail County.

"Otter Tail County offers terrific fishing," said Governor Tim Walz. "Thank you to all the community leaders for hosting this Minnesota tradition. I'm excited to kick off the summer fishing season in central Minnesota and I can't wait to get out on the lake."

[MORE](#)

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**OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes**



## OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[April 23, 2019](#)

[May 7, 2019](#)

[May 14, 2019](#)

[May 21, 2019](#)

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### Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for over 100 OTC Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map
- [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

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