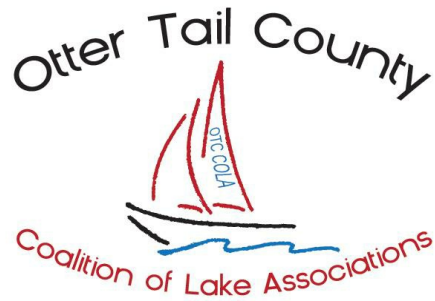


IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter September 2019



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?

Go to the Website link above to sign up for the monthly newsletter.

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From The President - Sylvia Soeth

How could fall come so soon? It clearly has changed with the cool temps and even the sound of the wind in the trees. A few trees have turned bright red and yellow leaves have blown down.

OTC COLA had it's last member meeting of the season in August. The Board continues to meet monthly through the winter until members come together in May. New Board members were elected. Jeff Vansteenbergh and David Helgersson joined the Board during the summer. Ronald Christensen volunteered for the Board at the Annual Meeting. We look forward to working together.

We recognized the retirement of longtime Board members Bernie Steeves and Dave Majkrzak as well as Russ Severson who has been supervising water testing the last two seasons. They have been instrumental in the success of COLA and we wish them well as they keep very busy with ongoing interests. Thank you for all the years!

OTC COLA will host the meeting of the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) on September 17. It's been some years since we've welcomed MN COLA to Otter Tail County. Jeff Stabnow represents OTC COLA at the MN COLA meetings.

We Love Our Lakes all year round. Clean, drain and dry as you use your boat and duck boat or remove docks and lifts!

[Sylvia Soeth](#)



August 2019 General Meeting

The Annual Member Meeting for OTC COLA was held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN on August 15, 2019. Featured speakers for the evening were Erik Osberg and Eric Lindgren.

Governor's Fishing Opener
Eric Osberg, OTC Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator, presented an overview of planning and scheduling of activities associated with hosting the Governor's Fishing Opener (GFO), May 8-10, 2020. The County



of 1048 lakes was selected to host the event as a county-wide celebration to showcase Otter Tail County's diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. Otter Tail Lake will be host to Governor Walz and other state leaders fishing on May 9, 2020.

[Erik Osberg](#)

[Slide Show](#)

I-LIDS Explained

Eric Lindgren, Founder of Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC Explained how the company's product, I-LIDS (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors) contributes to preventing lake cross-contamination of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Launches of boats are captured on video which is uploaded to a server where they can be reviewed for any suspect AIS violations.



[Eric Lindgren](#)
[Slide show](#)

NTLA Featured Lake Association

The North Turtle Lake Association was the featured lake association at the August Meeting. Jim Wilkus, President, described the make up and activities of the organization as well as the process of becoming an association in 2018.

[Jim Wilkus](#)

[Slide show](#)

Welcome Ronald Christensen

The OTC COLA Board of Directors welcomes Ronald Christensen as the newest Director. Ronald responded to a call for nominees at the Annual Meeting and was approved by unanimous consent of the Members present. Ronald is Vice President of Spitzer Lake Property Association, one of COLA's newest Members.

WE ♥ OUR LAKES

FREE FOR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

- Water quality analysis reports for one hundred OTC lakes
- Lake property owner directories for one hundred OTC lakes

DID YOU KNOW?

- The OTC Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits the burning of all solid waste.
- You can help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. **CLEAN—DRAIN—DRY.**
- It's a law. Don't use fertilizer with phosphorus on lake property lawns.
- Boating safety is your responsibility. See the DNR Boating Guide.
- A permit is required to move a dock or lift to another body of water in OTC.
- The OTC Sanitation Code for septic systems is under review.

Get the details at otccola.org/wlol

We Love Our Lakes Post Card Sent

In August 2019 OTC COLA sent post cards to all Otter Tail County lake property and river property owners to promote compliance with County and State regulations and encourage best practices. The postcards contained reminder bullet points that owners may not be fully aware of and links to get detailed information.

- **FREE**
 - **Water Quality Analysis Reports for 100 lakes**
 - **Lake Property Owner Directories for 100 lakes**
- **DID YOU KNOW?**
 - **The OTC Solid Waste Ordinance prohibits the burning of all solid waste**
 - **You can help stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species: Clean - Drain - Dry**
 - **It's a law- Don't use fertilizer with phosphorus on lake property lawns**
 - **Boating safety is your responsibility. See the DNR Boating Guide**
 - **A permit is required to move a dock or lift to another body of water in OTC**
 - **The OTC Sanitation Code for septic systems is under review**
- **Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is here to help all OTC lake property owners to protect and preserve their lakes. For information on these important topics go to:**

WWW.OTCCOLA.ORG/WLOL

Welcome South Turtle LID

Earlier this year South Turtle Lake Improvement District (STLID) joined OTC COLA. They participated in the 2019 COLA Water Quality Analysis program. OTC COLA welcomes STLID as one of the four new OTC COLA Members in the last 14 months!

Shoreland Regulation Survey

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners have asked OTC COLA to reach out to lake and river shore property owners in Otter Tail County to get their views on the Shoreland Management Ordinance.

The Ordinance impacts us as lake and river property owners in that it governs what we can do on our shoreland properties within 1,000 feet of the shore. The DNR requires Counties to have an ordinance that can't be less restrictive than the DNR minimum standards. The County Commissioners periodically review and revise the Ordinance with input from the public through one or more public hearings.

The Ordinance governs minimum lot sizes, setbacks, density, when permits are required, the process of obtaining variances and other requirements and regulations. The full ordinance can be found online at:
<https://ottertailcountymn.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/OTC-Shoreland-Management-Ordinance-SMO-01-15-2017.pdf>

OTC COLA is sending a post card to all lake and river property owners in Otter Tail County inviting them to participate in the survey. The survey is designed to be completed in 5 minutes or less. Participating in the survey involves going to the OTC COLA website, www.otccola.org where on the home page there is a link to the survey. Please consider providing your input on shoreland regulations either by following directions on the postcard or going directly to the COLA website from this E-Newsletter.

2019 AIS Research and Management Showcase



Registration now open!

Breakout session schedule announced!
Register today for the 2019 Aquatic Invasive Species

Research and Management Showcase

Join the [Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center on campus on Wednesday, September 18](#) for a selection of talks about the latest MAISRC research on starry stonewort, zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, invasive carp, and much more. [The list of breakout sessions is available here.](#)

[MORE](#)



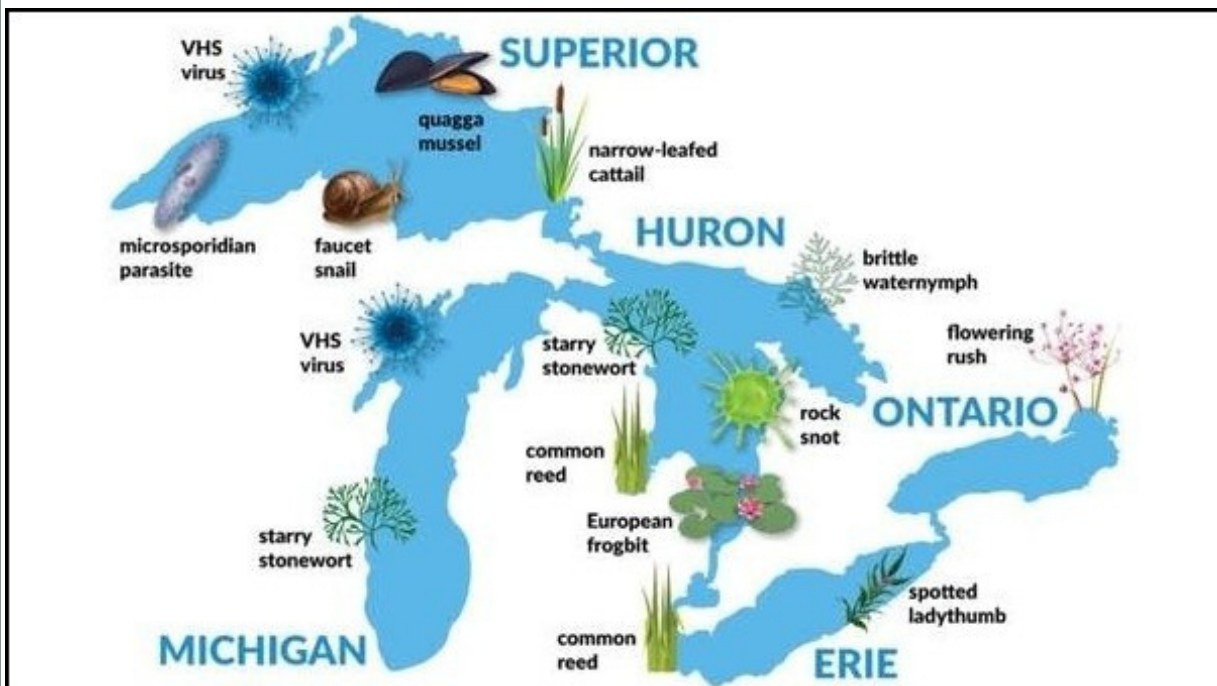
Tourism Takes A Hit From Disappearing Resorts And Campgrounds

Resorts and campgrounds, a heavy portion of the Minnesota's tourism allure, are vanishing one by one from lakeshores all across the state.

According to data from Explore Minnesota Tourism, the state has lost 317 resorts and 191 private campgrounds over the last 16 years. In Becker County, there are 62 resorts, down six from 2012.

Changing customer tastes, competing attractions, and growing regulations make this a challenging time for the resort and campground industry. That, coupled with the increasing price of lakeshore property, means it's becoming more and more appealing for owners to sell, a challenge for cities and counties that rely on the tourism revenue brought in by those vanishing resorters.

[MORE](#)



Great Lakes Freighters To Treat Ballast Water To Curb AIS

More than \$375 billion in cargo — iron ore, coal, cement, stone, grain and more — has flowed between Great Lakes ports and foreign nations since 1959. That is when Queen Elizabeth and U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower christened the St. Lawrence Seaway, heralding it as an engineering marvel.

But that series of locks, dams and channels connecting the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean also carved a pathway for invasive plants and animals to wreak billions of dollars in ecological damage to the lakes. At least 80 invasive species have arrived in the ballast water that transatlantic ships take in and discharge for balance.

[MORE](#)

AIS Inspector Cites 2 For Zebra Mussels

Two men not properly trained or certified were seen removing a pontoon boat from Pickerel Lake in Maine Township Aug. 11 with zebra mussels attached to its sea-legs.

The men told an aquatics invasive species inspector the pontoon boat had previously been on a lake known to have the invasive species.

According to an Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office release, contact with the two men was made a short time after the initial report at 11 a.m. The two men were cited for their offense along with other traffic violations.

[MORE](#)





Starry Stonewort Confirmed In Lake Beltrami

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a small population of the invasive algae starry stonewort in Lake Beltrami, near Bemidji in Beltrami County.

Last August, a volunteer found a strand of starry stonewort near the public access in Lake Beltrami during the University of Minnesota Extension's annual "Starry Trek" event. Subsequent searches and ongoing monitoring did not reveal any additional starry stonewort in the lake until last weekend.

DNR divers confirmed starry stonewort in a three-foot area, two smaller areas, and separate strands tightly intermingled with a high diversity and abundance of native chara and aquatic plants. Starry stonewort is similar to chara in appearance, but starry stonewort has telltale star-shaped bulbils that typically aren't visible until August.

[**MORE**](#)



First-time Winners Take Trout And Walleye stamp Contests

First-time winners took top honors at two habitat stamp contests that determined the artwork for the 2020 versions of the Minnesota trout and salmon stamp, and the walleye stamp.

Purchasing a walleye stamp is voluntary, and the DNR uses revenue from walleye stamp sales to purchase walleye for stocking in Minnesota's lakes. Customers can buy walleye stamps any time, even if they already have a license.

[**MORE**](#)

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 encouraged to contact:

[**Sylvia Soeth, President**](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[**August 13, 2019**](#) Draft

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[July 30, 2019](#)

[August 6, 2019](#)

[August 13, 2019](#)

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
- [Lawmaker Hotline](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor
- [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

David Helgerson · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh ·
Patrick Prunty · Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Sylvia Soeth

OTC COLA Members

Bass Lake Underwood Association · 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 · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer 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

