

# E-Newsletter December 2020

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### From The President - Sylvia Soeth *Season's Greeting from COLA!*

And the winter season has arrived! You can hear the ice "booming" as it's created on the lake and we've turned white again. It was the same season when we went into this pandemic; it seems so long ago. OTC COLA meetings were put on hold and we missed the summer of meetings with Members.

The COLA Board kept on track and it was important that we could carry on the water testing program in spite of the coronavirus. We are thankful for the dedicated volunteers that persevered so we didn't lose the data for 2020. In the November Newsletter, John Kruse highlighted the 10-year Water Quality Analysis Reports he puts together annually for our 64 Member Lake

Associations. Did you check your lake? You can find this information in every Newsletter. If your lake isn't on the list, you should get with it and join COLA.

You can follow the condition of your water quality. It can indicate a developing problem or an improvement. It could involve a point of pollution or an Aquatic Invasive Species present. One year does not make a trend but 10 years can show you one. Many agencies can make use of such numbers but lake residents are on the front line, literally, to take action if needed.

There's a light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccine rolled out today. A Christmas wish is to get back to "normal", to meet and bring the information and speakers we anticipated in 2020 to COLA Members in 2021. Meanwhile, stay safe, wear your mask and wash your hands so we can see you then. Enjoy Christmas even if it is different and...

***Happy New Year !***

**[President Doonie Soeth](#)**

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### **Lake Property Owner Lists- Most Popular Interest**

Lake property owner directory listings offer a valuable tool for use by lake organizations. They also assist in promoting social interaction and enjoyment of communities at the lake. Lake property owner contact data can be accessed from counties and formatted for a wide variety of purposes.

A recent analysis of lake-resident interest shows that lake property owner directory listings are overwhelmingly the most popular item of interest.

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### **OTC AIS Task Force Update**

I hope you and yours had a Happy Thanksgiving! As the days shorten and the lakes ice over you might think the AIS work is done. While our summer programming has concluded, Otter Tail County's AIS Task Force is busier than ever reviewing the previous year's accomplishments and preparing for 2021!

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**[AIS Task Force Membership](#)**

## [Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist](#)

Spencer McGrew is applying to serve on the Statewide AIS Advisory Panel. The panel is made up of 15 stakeholders from across Minnesota. The purpose of the panel is to provide recommendations about Aquatic Invasive Species Policy to the MN DNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources). Members are appointed by the Commissioner of the MN DNR.

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### **DNR's Newest Officers Set To Hit The Field**

Within the next several weeks, 12 communities across the state will once again have full-time, dedicated service from a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer. In addition, a new CO will join the Enforcement Division's Aviation Unit as a pilot.

The 13 conservation officers who will occupy these previously vacant stations have spent the past year training in all aspects of public safety and natural resources protection.

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### **Extra DWI Enforcement For The Holidays?**

By Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol Question: Did I hear there is extra DWI enforcement going on over the holidays? The answer is yes.

“The holidays are going to be different this year, that’s for sure. With Minnesota’s pandemic restrictions in place for now, friends and family likely aren’t coming into town to celebrate, and even if they do, you won’t be going out to a bar or restaurant with them to catch up. But no matter where you’re drinking, you still need to plan ahead for a sober ride.

The consequences of a DWI are unpleasant at best. You can lose your license for up to a year, and even possibly serve jail time. And that’s not to mention the cost to a first-time DWI offender: about \$10,000. Do you have 10 grand just lying around? Better to drive smart.

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### **DNR Seeking Applicants To Serve On AIS Advisory Committee**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking applications from Minnesota residents interested in serving on the statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22.

Aquatic invasive species are one of the state’s most pressing natural resource issues. Preventing the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, invasive carp, starry stonewort and other invasive plants and animals is of critical environmental, recreational and economic importance.

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The advertisement features a dark blue header with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources logo (a green fish head) and the text "MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S FISHING OPENER" in white. Below this, "LUND BOAT RAFFLE" is written in large, bold letters, with "LUND BOAT" in white and "RAFFLE" in green. The main image shows a silver Lund boat with a black outboard motor, carrying two people on a body of water. In the bottom left corner, a blue starburst graphic contains the text "\$20 Ticket".





## Need A Stocking Stuffer Idea?

How about the chance to win a \$50,000 Lund Boat? Buy a raffle ticket today!

1st National Bank Henning, Ottertail and Battle Lake

Farmers Merchant NYM

Lakeland General Store in Pelican Rapids

Rays Sport and Marine in Perham

Perham Chamber of Commerce

Sportsman's Bar in Clitherall

Fergus Falls Liquor Stores

Previously purchased tickets are still valid and will be included in the May 8th drawing.

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## How Does Smart911 Work?

What 9-1-1 Sees...



What individuals create...



Be Smart About Safety

### Smart 911

Don't forget to create your Safety Profile in the Smart911 alert system! Be sure to add resident information, medical conditions, and vehicle & pet information you would like responders to have in the event of an emergency. With a Safety Profile, calling 9-1-1 now provides greater detail to the dispatcher, allowing them to send help faster and more efficiently. Questions? visit <https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/smart911/>

Otter Tail County now offers Smart911 as its countywide weather and local emergency notification system.

Smart911 provides location-based alerting for severe weather and local emergencies (missing child, road closures, evacuation notices, and other health & safety hazards) for all communities.

Community members and visitors can also create a Safety Profile for their household – featuring location & occupant/resident information, medical conditions, and vehicle & pet information you would like responders to have in the event of an emergency. With a Safety Profile, calling 9-1-1 now provides greater detail to the dispatcher, allowing them to send help faster and more efficiently.

[Sign Up For Alerts](#)



## **An Emergency Can Happen At Any Time And Any Place.**

Call 911 instead of trying to take an injured or ill person to the hospital yourself. It seems like waiting for an ambulance will make it take longer to get help, but ambulance crews can start providing care as soon as they arrive. They can get the patient to hospital quickly, legally, and more safely.

1. Stay on the line with 911 and follow emergency instructions.
  2. Stay calm and try to keep the patient calm.
  3. Don't move a patient who was injured in an automobile accident or fall, or who was found unconscious.
  4. If the patient is cold, cover them with a blanket.
  5. Don't give an injured person anything to eat or drink (unless instructed by the 911 dispatcher).
  6. Have someone watch for the ambulance and show the crew how to get to the patient. (This is especially important in an apartment or office building, or if your address is hard to see from the street).
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## Green Gifts

Green up your holiday shopping by giving reusable and refillable gifts! Check out great gift ideas that help the planet in the [Green Gift Guide](#):



**Red River Basin Partnerships Deliver Solutions**



Working with local, regional, and international partners, and funded by the Legacy Amendment, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is finishing its first cycle of the watershed approach in the Red River Basin. First cycle Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) reports have been completed in 12 of the 17 major watersheds in the basin. The remaining reports will be completed by 2021.

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[AIS](#) \* [Water Quality](#) \* [Administration](#) \* [Regulation](#)

### **Featured Posts - December 2020**

- [Components of a Successful Lake Stewardship Program](#)
- [MN Invasive Species Laws](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

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### **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**

- [December 14, 2020](#) draft
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### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [November 17, 2020](#)
  - [November 24, 2020](#)
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### **Instant Access Links**

- [Newsletter Article Index](#) - Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2020 samples\)](#) (includes 2020 samples) - Individual reports for 64 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2019 samples\)](#) (includes 2019 samples) - Includes available data for 102 OTC non-COLA Lakes

- [\*\*Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)\*\*](#)- 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
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Sylvia Soeth

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