

# E-Newsletter

## March 2021

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### From the President- Sylvia Soeth

We have hope! There's hope we're through the worst of the winter and through the worst of the pandemic. We can always expect a snow storm in March with gale force winds but the snow will soon melt away. With COVID numbers down now we may be back to meeting this summer.

The COLA Board met at the Ottertail Community Center in February with masks and social distance. When we will be able to resume member meetings on the third Thursday of the lake season, no one knows. The Board will plan to have the Annual Meeting in August whether it is held outdoors or indoors, so look forward to that with us.

New Board member Scott Gaudette has been appointed and will have this affirmed by the Members at the Annual Meeting. Scott is the President of the Round Lake Association. He is eager to learn more about water issues and share with the property owners on Round Lake.

Even with the pandemic OTC COLA successfully completed the water testing in 2020. [Check out your results through this newsletter.](#) Jeff Vansteenburgh is talking with RMB Labs to set up testing for 2021. They will contact water samplers before distributing coolers on April 22 in Ottertail.

Meanwhile, stay warm and stay safe!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President

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## **OTC COLA 2021 Lakes Monitoring Program**

It's that time of the year, time to start planning for the 2021 lake monitoring program. The distribution of the sample storage coolers, bottles and data sheets will be on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day!) from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The distribution will be like last year, at the Ottertail Community Center parking lot, where you will be able to drive up and receive your sampling supplies. During the distribution event, RMB staff and OTC COLA board members will be masked and practicing social distancing as was the practice in 2020.

Good news is we will be going back to the system we had in previous years; where after collection, the sampling volunteers will drop off a cooler and pick up a cooler with the next month's bottles. There will be no need to transfer filled containers into a larger cooler.

Tuesday, April 27 at 4:00 PM, RMB Labs will present its lakes sampling kickoff webinar. The webinar will cover the sampling and the introduction of the new sampling data forms. The new forms will be preprinted with much of the lake specific information already on the form. The laboratory is going to be using a new system for data entry and the use of the preprinted forms will be part of the new system procedures. If you are unable to participate on April 27th, the session will be available online.

[\*\*OTC COLA Lakes Monitoring Program\*\*](#)

[\*\*RMB Laboratories Lakes Monitoring Information\*\*](#)

If you have questions contact:

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[jeffery.vansteenburgh@gmail.com](mailto:jeffery.vansteenburgh@gmail.com), 641-420-0928

Ellie Kriese, RMB Labs  
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## 10-Year Trend Analysis

| Lake / Site                   | Year | Phosphorus Ave | Chlorophyll a Ave | Secchi Ft | TSI Ave |
|-------------------------------|------|----------------|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| Big Pine 56-0130-00 207       | 2011 | 32.4           | 17.6              | 9.3       | 53.4    |
|                               | 2012 | 31.6           | 14.8              | 7.6       | 54.0    |
|                               | 2013 | 35.2           | 19.2              | 7.4       | 55.4    |
|                               | 2014 | 31.6           | 19.0              | 7.4       | 53.8    |
|                               | 2015 | 31.6           | 10.8              | 7.6       | 53.8    |
|                               | 2016 | 50.8           | 19.6              | 8.0       | 59.6    |
|                               | 2017 | 37.8           | 24.8              | 8.1       | 55.6    |
|                               | 2018 | 36.2           | 16.2              | 7.6       | 55.0    |
|                               | 2019 | 39.6           | 16.5              | 9.8       | 57.0    |
|                               | 2020 | 29.4           | 12.3              | 10.1      | 52.2    |
| Big Pine 56-0130-00 207 Total |      | 35.6           | 17.1              | 8.3       | 55.0    |

## The Case For Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring and the resulting data may appear complex to lake property owners. The science is solid but includes many components that are either difficult for people to understand or that may appear to be inconsistent.

Help in gaining insight to the subject is considering why people are attracted to living at the lake, what makes lakes unique from one another and how result data can be packaged to be used as a tool to assist in constructing actionable policies and practices.

[MORE](#)

[John Kruse](#)

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## OTC AIS Task Force Update

Otter Tail County's Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention program is in full swing.

As of this writing 17 partners have joined the project across the state and 141,000 bait bags have been ordered.

Otter Tail County owns and operates 15 I-LIDS at strategic public water accesses in the County.

New I-LIDS, which will bring Otter Tail County's inventory to 16, will be piloting a new feature—night vision. The night vision is being developed with a new power management system to ensure battery reserves exist to support night operations.

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), AIS Specialist

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# East Otter Tail

## Soil & Water Conservation District

### **EOT SWCD 2020 Year In Review**

East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District has released the 2020 Year In Review.

[EOT SWCD 2020 Year In Review](#)

<http://www.eotswcd.org/>

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### **Aquatic Plant Management Survey**

Mike Verhoeven at the University of Minnesota is working to bring together more than 4000 surveys to one central database. Keeping one foot in management and one foot in research.

Every year lake associations spend tens of thousands of dollars on point-intercept studies in order to get aquatic plant management permits. These surveys then go in a drawer since they are not in a suitable format or even accessible to researchers looking at long term trends in the state. MLR believes this is a waste. MLR believes that this data is too valuable not to be used for ongoing research.

In addition, there will be an opportunity for lake association leaders to raise

other important issues, share programs and advice, and develop relationships with the others in the state doing the work you are doing.

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester](#) Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
952-854-1317

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### **DNR Adjusts How Married Anglers Buy Combination Licenses**

Both members of married couples who want to purchase a combination angling or hunting license in person will need to be present at the sales location starting Feb. 18, when the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will begin requiring both spouses to provide and verify their own complete customer records on file to purchase a combination license.

[MORE](#)

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### **DNR Deadline To Remove Fish Houses Quickly Approaching**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers that the deadline to remove fish houses from Minnesota lakes is coming up. Although the coldest spell of winter occurred just days ago, fish house removal deadlines are set in state statute and not dependent upon seasonal conditions.

Don't just remove your fish house — make sure you clean up everything around it and leave only in impression in the ice or snow. It's been heartening this winter to see people's willingness to clean up the litter other people leave, but it's unfortunate some people don't take the time to clean up after themselves."

Anyone who's caught leaving litter — including any part of a fish house — on the lake may be cited for littering.

[MORE](#)

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MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER



## AIS Management 101 Course

The Aquatic Invasive Species Detectors team at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center & University of Minnesota Extension is excited to announce our next offering of AIS Management 101, an online course for those who want to learn more about AIS management and be better informed consumers of lake management services. See below for more information about the course and how to register.

### [Registration for 2021 course now open!](#)

This online class is perfect for anyone who wants to be better informed about AIS management strategies. If you would like to be a more informed consumer about what's happening on your nearby lake, have a better understanding of what lake management professionals are doing, or are considering new AIS control efforts, this class is for you!

### [MORE](#)

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## OTC To Host MN Governor's Fishing Opener

When anglers across Minnesota drop their lines on Saturday, May 15, Otter Tail County is committed to hosting the 2021 [Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener](#) in a reimagined way from the previous 70 plus years. By design, the event will be safely shaped to proceed within the guidelines of the Stay Safe MN initiative during the global pandemic.

Otter Tail County is planning to host this year's opener celebration May 13-15, 2021. One of this year's highlights includes a friendly virtual fishing derby on any body of water throughout Otter Tail County. With 1048 lakes, the county has a rich diversity of fishing opportunities [Otter Tail Lakes Country](#). Lund Boats donated a new Lund 1875 Impact XS with a 150 horsepower Mercury motor, which will be raffled on May 8. Raffle tickets are at multiple locations, see [ottertailakescountry.com](http://ottertailakescountry.com) for details.

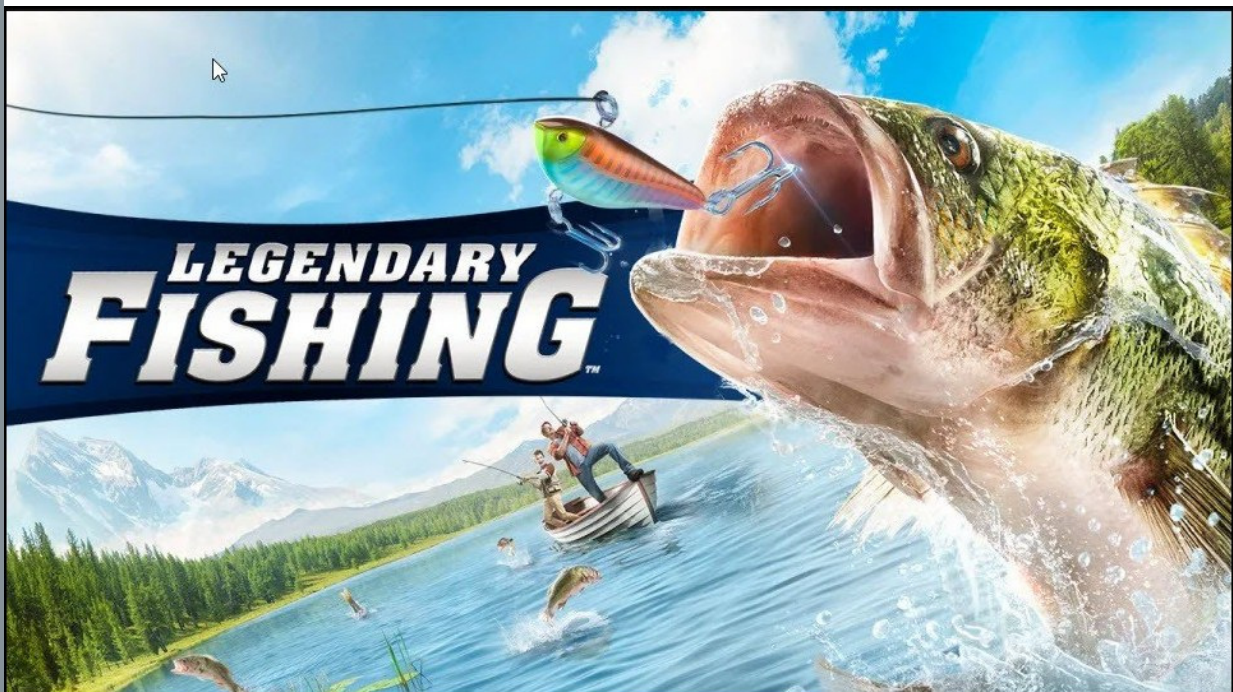


### **Lund Boat Raffle**

Otter Tail Lakes Country Association is selling raffle tickets to win a Lund 1875 Impact XS - 18' 10" boat, a \$50,000 prize package. The drawing will be held Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm at Thumper Pond Resort. You do not need to be present to win.

[MORE](#)

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## **Fish, Lake Stories Of Otter Tail County Sought For Projects**

If you live in Otter Tail County the chances are high that you have a story revolving around one of the county's 1,000+ lakes.

Local educator and historian Jan Smith is in the process of documenting these stories as part of the Otter Tail County Story Mapping Project, a collaborative project between Rethos, the Otter Tail County Historical Society, and Springboard for the Arts.

The Otter Tail County Story Mapping Project is a pilot project by Rethos: Places Reimagined in partnership with the Otter Tail County Historical Society and Springboard for the Arts. The purpose of this project is to collect and map the stories of Otter Tail County by engaging community members through small projects led by local organizations, historians, artists, students, businesses, etc.

**[MORE](#)**

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### **Lovin' OTC Lakes**

Hello! My name is Rebecca Umland and I am gathering photos from all lake-loving residents and visitors of Otter Tail County. I am working with the OTC Historical Museum and Rethos to build a map of the lakes with the great memories we have with our favorite lakes! Would you help me get the word out? Visit my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/loveOTClakes/> to see what others have shared! Thank you for sharing - the lakes we love so much!

**[MORE](#)**

**[Rebecca Umland](#)**

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

### **Featured Posts - March 2021**

- [It's Not Too Early – 2021 LA Directories](#)
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#)
- [Minnesota Invasive Species Laws](#)

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

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

- [February 8, 2021](#) Draft

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### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [January 26, 2021](#)
- [February 9, 2021](#)

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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

**OTC COLA Board of Directors**

David Helgersen · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh ·  
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Sylvia Soeth

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