

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter

April 2022



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From The President- Sylvia Soeth



OTC COLA Receiving Donations

Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) has been around for over 20 years. It is a private volunteer group working with Lake Associations and lake property owners for the common good of all Otter Tail County lakes. The enduring success of the organization is attributed to the programs and activities initiated and maintained by its dedicated Board of Directors and engagement of Lake Associations and lake property owners.

In the past year OTC COLA has been honored to receive unsolicited, sizeable donations from individuals who have expressed their appreciation for OTC COLA's mission of protecting and preserving Otter Tail County lakes.

OTC COLA has maintained its programs for Lake Associations as economically as possible. Annual Membership fees are nominal based on the number of Lake Association Members. The costs of administering the water quality monitoring program, discounted for OTC COLA, that has been so successful over the years, is a pass-through cost for analysis with no revenue set to come back to OTC COLA. OTC COLA has been fortunate to receive funds from the Otter Tail County AIS Task force, contributing to the offset of administrative costs.

Donations are being accepted and encouraged to continue the mission of OTC COLA. Please consider including OTC COLA in your support of the protection and preservation of lakes in Otter Tail County. Please contact Sylvia Soeth, President of OTC COLA for more information. You can also send your donation to OTC COLA, 4302 13th Ave S, Suite 4-333, Fargo, ND 58103.

[Sylvia Soeth, President OTC COLA](#)



OTC COLA Events Planned for 2022

OTC COLA has several events planned for 2022. Some events will be conducted

in collaboration with regional organizations and agencies.

- May 19, 2022- Member / lake property owner meeting
- June 9, 2022. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Conference, MN State, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- June 16, 2022- Member / lake property owner meeting
- July 11, 2022- Starry Stonewort Bus Tour to Lake Koronis
- August 18, 2022- OTC COLA Member Annual Meeting

Current updates will be published in future OTC COLA E-Newsletters.

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



OTC COLA Member and Lake Property Owner Meeting

The first 2022 meeting of OTC COLA Members and other interested Otter Tail County lake property owners will be held in May. The meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ottetail Community Center in Ottetail, MN.

The featured speaker for the evening will be Steve Henry, Freshwater Sciences Project Manager, RMB Laboratories. Steve will speak to current issues threatening Otter Tail County Lakes and introduce RMB expanded water testing offerings. He will also address questions brought to him from those in attendance.

Refreshments will be provided prior to the meeting. You are welcome to come early and enjoy the fellowship and networking with other lake property owners

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

Heroes Of OTC COLA's Water Monitoring Program

The OTC COLA Board of Directors recognize that the heroes of COLA's water monitoring program are the samplers, couriers and those providing collection points. Jeff Vansteenburgh, COLA's Environmental Director informed the Board that everything is in place for the 2022 season. In 2021 136 volunteer samplers

diligently performed the task of collecting samples and delivering them to collection points to be analyzed by RMB Laboratories in Detroit Lakes. Special appreciation and thanks go out to Duane Lysne- Perham, Mike Allman-Battle Lake and KC Lawn- Battle Lake for providing collection points and courier service, making the process more convenient for samplers.

[Jeff Vansteenburg](#), OTC COLA Environmental Director

YOU ARE INVITED!

MAISRC Aquatic Invasive Species Update June 9

Join us for an informational day with the
**Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species
Research Center (MAISRC)**

Aquatic Invasive Species Research Update

Thursday, June 9, 2022

M-State Campus

Large Auditorium (C101)

900 Hwy 34 East, Detroit Lakes, MN

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Research Updates: Starry Stonewort Research, Plant Survey Database, Zebra Mussel Research, Success Stories in AIS Management, and MAISRC Overview

AIS Research Update June 9, Detroit Lakes

Researchers and staff from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) will be presenting at M-State in Detroit Lakes on Thursday,

June 9 from 9:00 to 3:00

Speakers and topics will include:

- **Welcome & Opening Remarks**, Jeff Forester
- **Ecology & management of starry stonewort**, presented by Dr. Daniel Larkin
- **Steering invasive plant management into the future by looking backward**, presented by Mike Verhoeven
- **Updates from the field and lab on using copper to control zebra mussels**, presented by Angelique Dahlberg
- **Success stories in local AIS management**, panel moderated by Meg Duhr
- **Closing comments** by Dr. Nicholas Phelps, MAISRC Director

[Agenda](#)

[Press Release W/Bios](#)

[Event Flyer](#)

[Register](#)

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



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

**2021 PROGRAM
SUMMARY**

[OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)



AIS Detectors Offers Educational Opportunities

The University of Minnesota AIS Detectors is offering learning opportunities for AIS Detectors

[MORE](#)

AIS Task Force Update - April 2022

- Hiring watercraft inspectors completed
- MAISRC AIS Research Update June 9
- Self-service rinse stations availability

[MORE](#)

Get Involved In We Are Water

Get Involved in We Are Water Otter Tail County. Otter Tail County is hosting a cool, new project called We Are Water MN. It's run by the Minnesota Humanities Center, and it's a traveling exhibit and community engagement initiative.

[MORE](#)



Starry Stonewort Bus Tour

Starry stonewort is a noxious, matting algae posing a clear and present danger to lake property values and the quality of lake experience across Minnesota. The alarming outbreak of starry stonewort on Lake Koronis, near Paynesville, MN is creating high awareness of the threat and prompting aggressive action to stop its spread.

Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) and the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is sponsoring a bus tour from Fergus Falls, MN to Lake Koronis on July 11, 2022. The tour will include a two-hour travel to and from Lake Koronis and approximately two hours visiting two sites of starry stonewort infestations. Kevin Farnam, Starry Stonewort Control Advocate and James Wooton, MAISRC Starry Trek Detector will provide valuable information and answer questions on the bus and at selected sites on Lake Koronis.

Watch for more information in future OTC COLA E-Newsletters.

[REGISTER HERE](#) for the event

[Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist](#)

New Otter Tail County GIS App

Otter Tail County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department has implemented an innovative solution for county residents and public service organizations. The new Address List and Mailing Label Creator application allows users to create up-to-date address spreadsheets and Avery mailing labels.

The new application allows users to create mailing lists and labels with just a few clicks of a mouse

[MORE](#)



Handouts For Your Lake Association Meetings

OTC COLA has received requests from Lake Associations for materials to be handed out at Association meetings or other events this summer. OTC COLA and the OTC AIS Task Force have numerous items of 4-color glossy handouts available at no cost. We will be assembling packages of updated and new materials. Lake Associations are invited to submit requests for these packages for distribution. Please send an email to otccola2@gmail.com including the name and email address of the Association contact person and the estimated quantity of handouts being requested. Below are samples of items to be included. More items are being produced at this time.

[Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Card](#)

[OTC COLA Membership Brochure](#)

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



DNR Announces Temporary, Seasonal Fishing Closures

To protect spawning fish, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has begun to close certain portions of some Minnesota waters. The closings are

routine and based on local conditions.

Closings occur each year as ice-out begins and waters begin to warm. The DNR closes the spawning locations to fishing only where habitat is limited and fish are very concentrated in one location, such as a river or the bay of a lake where fish are congregated during spawning.

Areas closed to fishing are listed and updated on the [DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/Regulations/Fishing/Fishing-Seasonal-Closures.html) (mndnr.gov/Regulations/Fishing/Fishing-Seasonal-Closures.html). Portions of waters closed to fishing also are posted at access sites and in other visible areas. Anglers may fish in areas that are not posted.

[MORE](#)



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

801 Jenny Ave SW, Suite 2, Perham, MN 56573 • (218) 346-9105 • www.eotswcd.org • www.facebook.com/eotswcd



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

EOT SWCD 2021 Year In Review

East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District has published their 2021 Year In Review.

[EOT SWCD 2021 Year In Review](#)



www.lakeadmin.org

Everything Lake Organization Administration

Featured Posts - April 2022

- [Brochure Tri-fold](#)
- [Components Of A Successful Lake Stewardship Plan](#)
- [Steps To Start A New Lake Association](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [April 11, 2022 Draft](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [March 29, 2022](#)
-

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#) - Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2021 samples\)](#) - Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)](#) - Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [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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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant