

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

# E-Newsletter

## March 2022



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## **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.

- April 21, 2022, Annual OTC COLA Water Sampling Kickoff
- June 9, 2022. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Conference, MN State, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- July 11, 2022, Starry Stonewort Field Trip to Lake Koronis
- Return to Otter Tail County Lake Property Owner meetings, Otter Tail Community Center, April, May, August (Annual Meeting), September.

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

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

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## **OTC COLA Lake Monitoring Program Kick Off**

The distribution of the sample storage coolers, bottles and data sheets to sampler volunteers will take place Thursday, April 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Ottertail Community Center parking lot. The discounted cost to OTC COLA Members for 2022 is \$265 per site. OTC COLA invoices for sample analysis and Membership fees will be sent soon.

If you have questions contact:

Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director  
**[jeffery.vansteenburgh@gmail.com](mailto:jeffery.vansteenburgh@gmail.com)**, 641-420-0928

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MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

Join us for an informational day.  
MN AIS 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, AIS Success Stories, and MAISRC  
Overview

***\*\*Lunch will be served—free will offering***

**AIS Research Update June 9, Detroit Lakes**

OTC COLA is among a group of regional lake advocate organizations hosting the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Update at the M-State Campus in Detroit Lakes, MN on June 9, 2022. Tables for distribution of information will be present. Organizations hosting the event are Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations ([BC COLA](#)), Becker County Soil & Water District ([BC SWCD](#)), Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations ([HC COLA](#)), Otter Tail

County ([OTC AIS Task Force](#)), Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations ([OTC COLA](#)) and Pelican River Watershed District ([PRWD](#)).

Invited are regional lake organizations, lake property owners and anyone interested in preserving and protecting Minnesota lakes. Please forward this email to anyone and print the [EVENT FLYER](#) to post on any appropriate places. A QR code on the Flyer has been included for convenient and easy Registration.

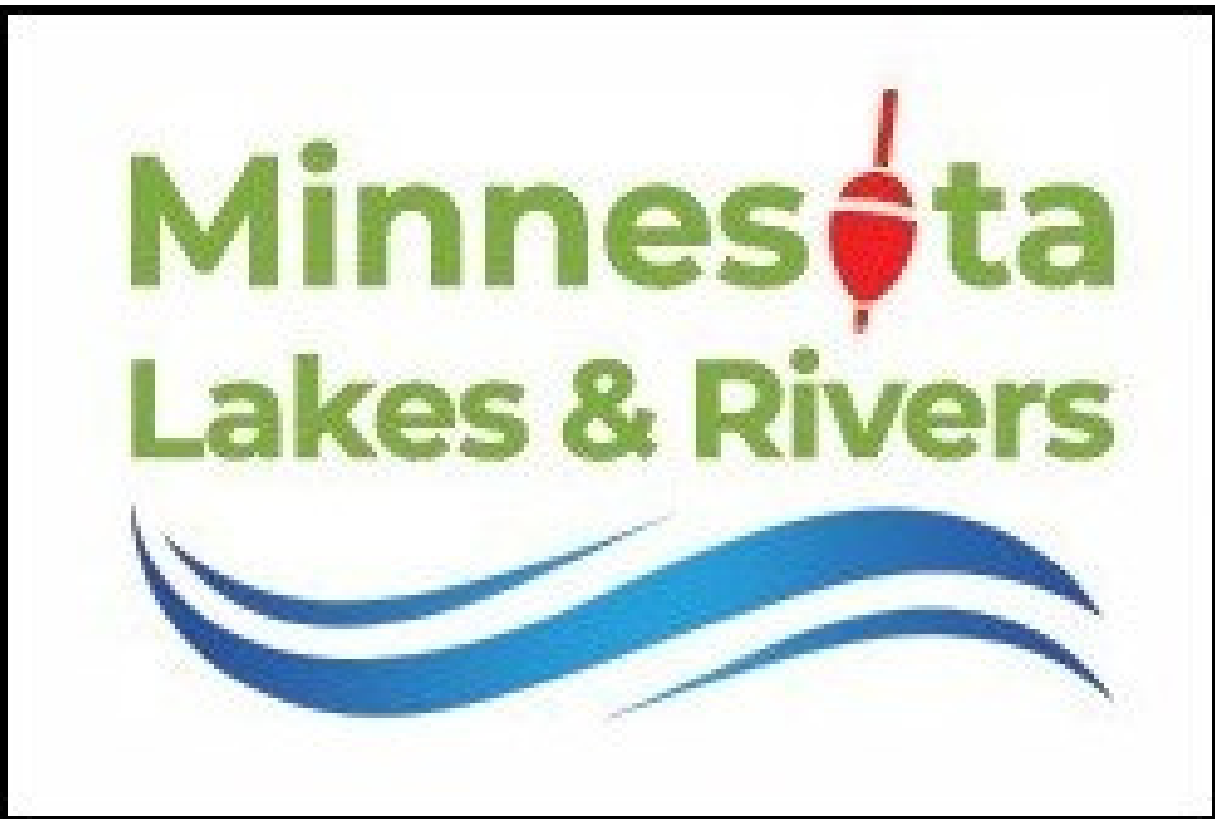
[MAISRC EVENT FLYER](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[MAISRC](#)

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

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**MLR's Lake Steward Program**  
**Helping lake associations meet their water quality goals**

[Jeff Forester](#), Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Two years ago, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MLR developed a program to improve water quality that allows individuals to be the change. The Lake Steward Program promotes shoreline restoration projects among lakeshore homeowners, making the restoration process easier through our team of helpful volunteers and resource guides that give property owners the direction they need for lake health improvement. In two short years, over two and a half miles of Minnesota's shorelines have been protected by the Lake Steward program and the efforts of dedicated, lake-conscious property owners. Minnesota Lakes and River Advocates hopes to continue this momentum,

encouraging lake association members to earn their very own "Lake Steward" sign as a badge of honor for their commitment in protecting Minnesota water quality.

[MORE](#)

[Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#)

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**Let's Make Everything About Water  
This Year In Otter Tail County**

***Take part in the We Are Water project through your community,  
organization or schools***

Have you ever asked yourself this question: What does water mean to me? Otter Tail County would like you to join the We are Water project and share your answers with others. Beginning on August 18 and running through October 10, 2022, you are invited to visit the traveling exhibit and share your water story.

[MORE](#)

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## **Backyard Composting Program**

Up to 500 Otter Tail County residents are eligible to receive a backyard compost bin and kitchen compost pail at no charge in an expanded backyard compost program that will run through June of 2023. This program is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Composting is an easy way to keep food waste out of the landfill, or the Perham Resource Recovery where heavy and wet food waste does not burn well. Approximately 20-30% of your waste is organic matter that could be composted instead of trashed. Organic materials break down in nature all the time, and through composting we can support and manage natural decomposition in a way that reduces smell and speeds up the process to create compost for our yards and gardens. Even if you don't have a garden, finished compost can be raked into your yard, or used as mulch around trees and shrubs for an all natural nutrient boost.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## **Composting 101 Workshop**

The first week in May is International Compost Awareness Week! Composting returns valuable nutrients to the soil, reduces your waste, and keeps food waste out of the landfill. Learn the basics of composting, from choosing or building a bin, choosing a location, knowing what to compost, turning or mixing your compost, troubleshooting, and using your finished compost. Composting is pretty simple, and this event will get you started or help you resolve issues if you already compost. The workshop will be primarily outside, dress for the weather. In case of extreme weather, the workshop will be held inside. You must register for this workshop so that enough copies can be made for attendees. Register Now

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## Property Valuations Reflect Current Strong Market

March 15, 2022 – Otter Tail County, MN– Approximately 65,000 property valuation notices will be mailed to Otter Tail County property owners starting around March 24. Generally, property owners may see increases of 10-30% depending on the type of property they own. The increase in property values does not necessarily mean that taxes will rise 10-30%.

[MORE](#)

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## 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](mailto: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

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## Land & Resource Management: New Location

Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management Department to Move to New Location Download this News Release March 15, 2022 – Otter Tail County, MN– Otter Tail County has purchased the former Daily Journal building at 914 East Channing in Fergus Falls. The building will temporarily house the Land and Resource Department.

[MORE](#)

## **New Sunfish Regulations In Effect On 52 Lakes**

**Anglers will find this and other changes in the updated fishing regulations booklet**

Sunfish anglers need to closely check the 2022 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet and signs at water accesses for new sunfish limits in effect on 52 lakes and connected waters starting March 1.

The new regulations lower limits on specific waters as part of a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources initiative to protect and improve sunfish sizes. These changes are in response to angler-driven concerns over the declining sizes of sunfish in Minnesota.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## **Helping Hobbyists And Sellers Prevent Invasive Species Introductions**

**Focus on aquariums, gardens, bait and other live organism trades**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Invasive Species



Program is hosting an online presentation on recent efforts to prevent invasive species introductions through the live organism trades and how you can help. Bring your lunch and [click here to join the meeting](#) at noon April 12.

The webinar will focus on recently completed DNR projects to assess risks of invasive species introduction through the live organism trades and steps hobbyists and sellers can take to help. Businesses and activities involving live organisms, such as the pet, horticulture, seafood, bait, and classroom and laboratory biological supply trades, have led to invasive species introductions. For example, “football-sized” goldfish were recently found in a Minnesota lake.

[MORE](#)

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## **Itasca Waters Offers Water Quality Webinar Series**

[Itasca Waters](#) is offering a webinar series Itasca Waters has set up for the first Thursday each month from April thru November. Presenters will identify and explain the science behind some of our Minnesota water issues. They will also share strategies and practical actions that you can use to maintain and protect the water quality we all value.

Join the monthly series to learn from experts in their fields. These online sessions will be held at noon, the first Thursday of each month, April through November. Each session will also include an interactive question and answer segment.

[MORE](#)

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

### **Featured Posts - March 2022**

- [OTC Lake Organizations and Agencies](#)
- [Integrated Communications Scenarios](#)
- [Minnesota Lake Organizations and Agencies](#)

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

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# OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [March 14, 2022 Draft](#)
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## OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [February 15, 2022](#)
  - [March 1, 2022](#)
  - [March 15, 2022](#)
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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 \(2021 samples\)](#) - 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