

E-Newsletter

May 2022

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From The President- Sylvia Soeth

How sweet it is! I don't mean the fudgy brownies COLA served at the May meeting, either. It was sweet to have the first May member meeting since 2019.

This was the first of **THREE** meetings this season at the Otter Tail Community Center. We will gather again on Thursdays, June 16 and August 18 at 7:00 p.m. COLA has **THREE** VIP speakers scheduled starting with Steve Henry from RMB Labs who talked about COLA water testing this meeting. Board member Jeff Vansteenburgh, who is in charge, reported water testing is moving on from

April distribution of coolers! There were lots of good questions.

On June 16, Land and Resource Manager Chris LeClair, will be with us to talk about results of new OTC regulations. More questions! At the Annual Meeting on August 18 Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist for OTC, will bring us up to date.

OTC COLA is forging on with **THREE** special events, also. Read about them in this newsletter. We are working with Becker and Hubbard Counties to bring the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to Detroit Lakes on June 9. On July 11 COLA and the AIS Task Force have a Starry Stonewort bus tour to Lake Koronis. August 18 to September 10 COLA has docents (volunteer guides) lined up for We Are Water MN in Fergus Falls. Be sure you register and attend!

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



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.

- June 9, 2022. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Conference, MN State, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- June 16, 2022- Member / lake property owner meeting
 - Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County, Land & Resource Management Director
- July 11, 2022- Starry Stonewort Bus Tour to Lake Koronis
- August 18, 2022- OTC COLA Member Annual Meeting
 - Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
- August 18, 2022 to October 10, 2022 We Are Water Exhibit

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

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



LeClair To Address COLA On Shoreland Ordinance

Since adoption of the revised Ottertail County Shoreland Ordinance last year many lake property owners are interested in how changes in the ordinance have affected their ability to understand and comply with the changes.

Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County Land & Resource Director lead the effort to formulate the revisions and will speak at the June meeting of OTC COLA Members and OTC Lake property owners, on June 16, 2022, at the Ottertail Community Center, 7:00 p.m.

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



Member and Lake Property Owner Meeting May 22

The May 2022 meeting of OTC COLA Members and other interested Otter Tail County lake property owners was held on May 19, 2022.

The featured speaker for the evening was Steve Henry, Freshwater Sciences Project Manager, RMB Laboratories. Steve extolled the efforts of volunteers who have diligently sampled OTC COLA lakes since 1996. The data captured and analyzed has contributed to a valuable archive of information.

Steve also spoke on trends of AIS impact on lakes and water quality analysis testing.

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



OTC COLA Receiving More Donations!

A **BIG THANK YOU** to readers of this E-Newsletter who have made donations to OTC COLA! COLA has now received several donations of various denominations.

Donations OTC COLA receives go completely and directly to OTC COLA to augment the effectiveness of COLA, to promote stewardship of lakes in Otter Tail County. OTC COLA regards these donations as recognition of the effort COLA makes to accomplish its missions.

In 2022 COLA has post-pandemically resumed a full schedule of Member/OTC Lake Property Owner seasonal monthly meetings and is once again sponsoring the water quality monitoring program initiated in 1996. It is currently actively engaged in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education by co-sponsoring the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research (MAISRC) Update on June 9, 2022 in Detroit Lakes, MN and the Starry Stonewort bus tour to Lake Koronis on July 11, 2022.

Donations are 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.



Water Monitoring Program Kickoff

The OTC COLA water quality monitoring program was officially kicked off at the Ottertail Community Center on April 21, 2022. Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director and Steve Henry, Freshwater Sciences Project Manager, RMB Laboratories assisted in distribution of coolers to water sampler volunteers for the COLA Members.

OTC COLA has sponsored the program since 1996. Currently there are 50 participating COLA Members representing 65 Otter Tail Lakes, representing 70% of lake acreage in Otter Tail County.

[Jeff Vansteenburgh](#), 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 Task Force Update - May 2022

- Months of planning come to fruition in May
- CLEAN DRAIN DRY exemplified by 15 Watercraft Inspectors
- Watercraft Rinse Stations are being installed at OTC lakes
- AIS Task Force to co-host MAISRC event in Detroit Lakes June 9

[MORE](#)

Get Involved In We Are Water

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. The exhibit will be showcased at the Fergus Falls Public Library from August 18-October 10, 2022. There are spaces for people to talk with their neighbors, add their own stories and water actions, and learn from video and audio stories. There are also puzzles, puppets, and kids' books so the littlest learners can participate too!

Starry Stonewort



Starry Stonewort Bus Tour July 11

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.

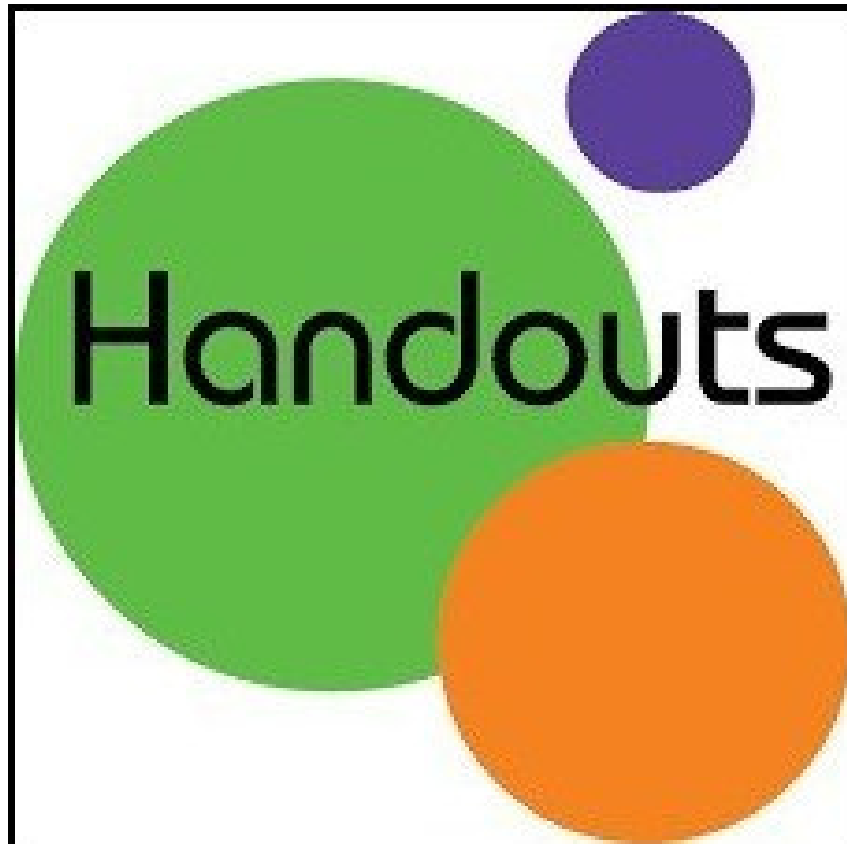
Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) and the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is sponsoring a bus tour from Fergus Falls, MN to Lake Koronis on July 11, 2022. The tour will include a two-hour travel to and from Lake Koronis and approximately two hours visiting two sites of starry stonewort 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.

[**Starry Stonewort Bus Tour Flyer**](#)

[**REGISTER HERE**](#) for the event

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



Handouts Are Available For Distribution To COLA Members And To Otter Tail County Lake Property Owners

OTC COLA has begun offering handouts for distribution at meetings for Otter Tail County Lake Associations and Lake Improvement Districts. The handouts include an Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Card and the new OTC COLA Brochure. Lake Organizations or individual lake property owners who are not Members of OTC COLA are also invited to request a supply of the handouts.

Approximately 450 sets of handouts were distributed to representatives of Lake Organizations at the recent OTC COLA May 19, 2022 Members and lake property owners meeting in Ottertail, MN. These handouts will be used for Lake Association Annual Meetings or other similar events.

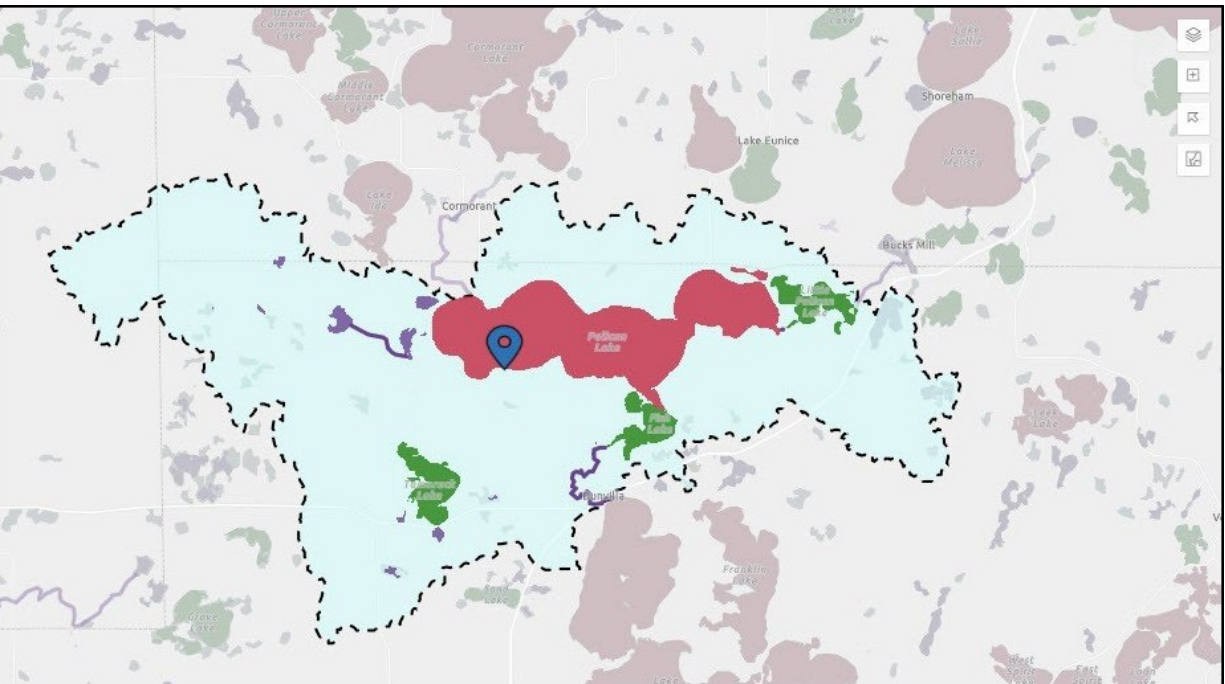
To receive handouts contact [**John Kruse**](#) .

[**OTC COLA Membership Brochure \(NEW\)**](#)

[**Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Card**](#)



- **DNR reminds anglers to know and follow northern pike zone regulations**
- **DNR offers tips on how to catch, release fish**
- **Get your fishing questions answered on DNR fishing webpage**
- **DNR webinars cover fishing lures, walleye fishing basics**
- **DNR app helps people take active role in protecting game, fish resources**
- **Anglers can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species**



EPA's How's My Waterway

An updated version of the [How's My Waterway](#) (HMW) application, developed by the Environmental Protection Agency, was released in June 2020. HMW provides a comprehensive overview of water quality data and information in the United States on three different scales: community, state, and national. Collecting data from eight databases across EPA, HMW answers questions about aquatic life, eating fish, swimming, drinking water, restoration, and protection. This tool can help users:

- Explore information about their drinking water, local stream conditions, and whether their waterways are suitable for swimming or eating fish and if they support aquatic life.
- Discover if their waterways are being monitored and the location of local monitoring stations.
- Learn what issues might be affecting their waterways.

[How's My Waterway Website](#)

[MORE](#)



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

Featured Posts - May 2022

- [The Case For Water Quality Monitoring](#)
- [DNR Infested Waters List](#)
- [Lake Stewardship](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [April 12, 2022](#)
 - [April 26, 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