

E-Newsletter

June 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.

- 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 Featured Speaker At OTC COLA June Meeting

Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County Land & Resource Director was the featured speaker at the June 2022 OTC COLA Member and Otter Tail County lake property owners. The event was held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail Minnesota.

Chris highlighted provisions of the new Otter Tail County Shoreland Ordinance introduced last year. There were many issues addressed by Chris providing explanation and insight for the group.

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

AIS Research Update June 9

OTC COLA is among a group of regional lake advocate organizations that hosted the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Update at the M-State Campus in Detroit Lakes, MN on June 9, 2022. Speakers from the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Research Center ([MAISRC](#)) gave updates on research being done at the University Of Minnesota. Minnesota agencies and lake stakeholders set up tables to interact with lake property owners for distribution of lake stewardship information. Working on the event committee were representatives of 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](#)).

Pictures From The MAISRC Event



Attendees

Lake stakeholders from seven counties in the region were invited by multiple media methods. The response was indicative of the interest and sense of responsibility lake property owners and other stakeholders have for Minnesota lakes.



Thank You Volunteers!

The event was supported by a legion of volunteers. Representatives from the hosting organizations and many others helped make the event as successful as it was.

The mid-day meal of pulled pork sandwiches, salads, and more was served by OTC COLA and OTC Task Force Directors.

Left to right: Bernie Steeves- AIS Task Force, Scott Gaudette- OTC COLA, Dave Sanderson- AIS Task Force, David Helgersen- OTC COLA, Sylvia Soeth- OTC COLA.

Spencer McGrew Presents Innovative Cleaning Stations

Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist, gave a presentation on OTC Task Force's innovative answer to providing boaters at boat launches a viable and cost effective solution for promotion of AIS prevention best practices.



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION



Local Students Learn First-Hand The Importance Of AIS Prevention

June 1, 2022 – Otter Tail County, MN– The New York Mills High School Life Sciences class took a field trip to Fair Hills Resort on Pelican Lake to learn about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The students learned to identify zebra mussels on watercraft, measure the water's clarity, and understand strategies used to mitigate the spread of AIS. Students received a valuable hands-on learning experience to apply lessons learned in the classroom.

[**MORE**](#)



Otter Tail County Reports Good Strides In Fight Against Invasive Species

The Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program, in its ninth year in 2021, continued to take a proactive approach to stop the spread of invasives throughout the county.

Among the achievements, in a prepared statement by county AIS Specialist Spencer McGrew for county board members on March 15, were 22 watercraft inspectors logging 9,465 watercraft inspection hours at 97 county public water accesses totaling 12,660 inspections.

[MORE](#)

**2021 PROGRAM
SUMMARY**



We Are Water MN Otter Tail County

“We Are Water MN” is an interactive story collecting exhibit that focuses on individuals’ relationships with and responsibilities to water. The exhibit includes stories from people reflecting on the meaning and experience of water in Minnesota, stories from local people from each host site community, and space for visitors to the exhibit to add their own stories and images.

For more information or to get involved please contact [Shannon Terry](#) or [Chris LeClair](#)

[We Are Water Poster](#)

[We Are Water Press Release](#)

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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.

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

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

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

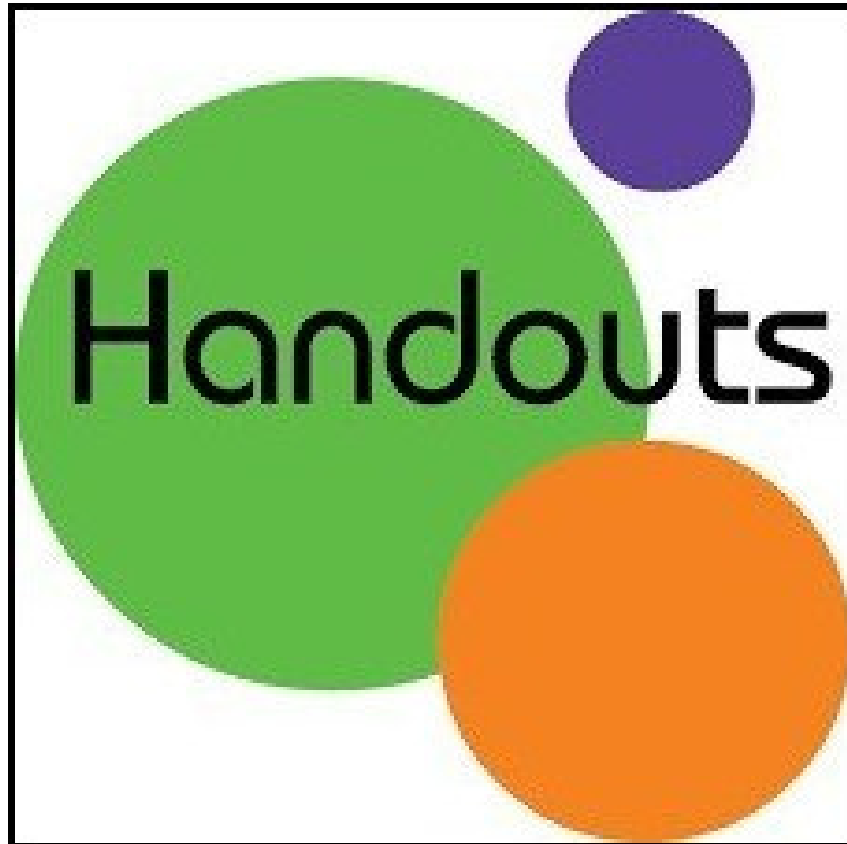


**Invasive Pondweed To Be Treated
As Part Of Ongoing Lida Project**

The assault on curly-leaf pondweed has been bolstered by a bigger budget generated by the Lida Lake Improvement District.

The invasive aquatic weed was one of the factors that led to the establishment of the Improvement District. The taxing authority enabled the District to double the budget for battling the pondweed.

[MORE](#)



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

Handouts for distribution at meetings for Otter Tail County Lake Associations and Lake Improvement Districts are available. 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.

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

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

[Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Card](#)

DNR Reminds Anglers To Follow Northern Pike Zone Regulations

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers who might want to keep northern pike to familiarize themselves with the regulations and be prepared to measure the fish. Minnesota has three northern pike zones that apply to inland waters and reflect the differing characteristics of pike populations across the state:

- North-central: Limit of 10 northern pike; anglers must release all fish 22 to 26 inches, with only two fish longer than 26 inches allowed in possession.
- Northeast: Limit of two northern pike; anglers must release all fish 30 to 40 inches, with only one fish over 40 inches allowed in possession.
- South: Limit of two northern pike; minimum size 24 inches.

Throughout the state, special regulations that cover individual lakes, rivers and streams remain in effect and take precedence over the zone regulations. The northern pike zone regulations do not apply to border waters. More information about northern pike zones, including a zone map, is available on the DNR's [northern pike page](http://mndnr.gov/NorthernPike) (mndnr.gov/NorthernPike).

Take The Pledge To Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species Spread

Heading into the summer recreation season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is rolling out a new online pledge to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Anyone 18 or older can go to the [new Pledge to Protect Minnesota Waters page of the DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/AISPledge) (mndnr.gov/AISPledge) to take the pledge and upload a photo, if desired. The pledge affirms that participants will follow Minnesota's "Clean, Drain, Dispose" laws and will encourage others to do so.

[MORE](#)

Volunteers Needed In Otter Tail And Becker Counties For DNR Loon Survey

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking volunteers to help monitor the loon population in Otter Tail and Becker counties. Volunteers can choose one (or more) lakes to count the number of adult and juvenile loons seen and report these observations to the MNDNR for data analysis. The survey will take place from July 1 through July 11, 2022. Volunteers need to monitor their lake(s) for one day during this survey period.

For the past 28 years, with the assistance of hundreds of volunteer observers, the MNDNR has gathered information about common loon numbers on more than 600 lakes distributed among six regions, or "index areas," throughout the state.

To view a map of the lakes and create a Loon Account to sign up to monitor a lake, visit mndnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects.

People interested in being a volunteer loon surveyor may also contact Jerica Loken at 218-671-7977 or jerica.loken@state.mn.us.

DNR Cautions Lakeshore Property Owners About Improper Use Of Hydraulic Jets

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though you can buy one in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of the lake or uproots plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed high enough off the lake bed so that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed upward toward the water's surface, which can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

Aquatic plants are important to lakes. They help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom and provide habitat for fish and wildlife and are therefore protected under state law.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/ShorelandMgmt/Apg/Regulations.html) (mndnr.gov/ShorelandMgmt/Apg/Regulations.html). To apply for a permit, visit the DNR's [permitting and reporting system](https://mndnr.gov/MPARS) (mndnr.gov/MPARS).

Handling Big Fish Is Subject Of Video

Published on April 20, 2022 at 2:58pm CDT | Author: Pelican Rapids Press

A new video by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources aims to educate anglers about how to properly handle large fish during catch-and-release.

Being properly equipped and understanding how to handle a large fish is critical to ensuring the fish's survival after release. The video covers the proper equipment for large fish, minimizing the time the fish is out of the water, protecting the fish's slime coating, holding the large fish horizontally and supporting the fish's body, and how to release the fish.

The flathead catfish fishing season begins Friday, April 1. Additionally, seasons are around the corner for other large fish like lake sturgeon, muskellunge, northern pike, steelhead and others.

The video can be found on the [DNR fishing page](#).



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

Featured Posts - June 2022

- [AIS Harvesting Concerns Raised](#)
- [Brochure Tri-fold](#)
- [Ground Water Connection Videos](#)
www.lakeadmin.org

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [May 12, 2022](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [May 10, 2022](#)
- [May 24, 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