

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter October 2022



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Thank You!



Water Testing Program - Another Successful Year!

The [OTC COLA Water Testing Program](#) has completed another successful year. 49 COLA Member Lake Associations were included in the program collecting samples from 117 lakes by 108 samplers.

The Program depends on the diligent efforts of OTC COLA Lake Association Members to collect the water samples five times during the summer season and deliver them to centralized collection points or to RMB Laboratories in Detroit Lakes. Some of these dedicated heroes have been doing so for over 20 years!

Thank you to the OTC COLA Member Lake Associations for their continued support of OTC COLA and the Program. For over 20 years the Program has contributed to uninterrupted creation of trend analysis data. The data is not only used for promoting individual lake stewardship but also is shared with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to assist county and state agencies for the regional management of lakes.

Special thanks go to Kurt Maethner of KC Lawn Service for his drop off site in Battle Lake, MN. Mike Allman of Battle Lake is a courier that collects coolers from samplers and takes them to RMB. Providing both a drop off point and courier service is Duane Lysne of Perham MN.

Emelia Thielman of RMB Laboratories assisted Jeff Vansteenburg, OTC COLA Environmental Director in coordinating the program.

THANK YOU to all who helped make the 2022 OTC COLA Water Testing Program a success!!

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



RMB October 2022 Newsletter

FALL TURNOVER

As the leaves are turning over this fall, so are our lakes!

In summer, the sun heats up the top layer of the water column, also known as the epilimnion. The lower layer, or hypolimnion, does not receive as much sunlight, so it remains cold. Changes in water temperature also cause changes in density. Water is most dense at 4°C (39°F) and becomes less dense as it warms or cools. The less dense epilimnion floats above the hypolimnion, and the layers do not mix. This layering process is called stratification. There is more oxygen available to support life in the epilimnion. The hypolimnion has less oxygen, and can even become anoxic in some lakes.

In fall, there is less sunlight and temperatures are cooler. The epilimnion begins to cool off, and there is less of a difference in density between the layers, so they mix. Wind also contributes to this mixing process, or turnover. The oxygen and nutrients that were separated during summer stratification become evenly distributed throughout the water column.

[**MORE**](#)



Lake Property Owner Event Administration

OTC COLA partnered with regional organizations in 2022 for two major events. They were the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) research update in Detroit Lakes, MN on June 9, 2022 and the Starry Stonewort Bus Tour to Lake Koronis on July 11, 2022. Otter Tail County and neighboring county lake property owners were invited to attend. The Research Update hosted close to 100 attendees and the Koronis starry stonewort tour filled the bus with over 40 riders. Innovative new tools were employed to advertise the events, accommodate multiple, uncomplicated methods of registration, notify registrants of updates, enhance event experiences and provide review opportunities for follow up. This new Lake Property Owner Event Administration format will be used for future events.

To learn more about event administration and other opportunities of how OTC COLA can assist Lake Associations in engaging and educating lake property owners, contact [John Kruse](#).

[MORE](#)

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



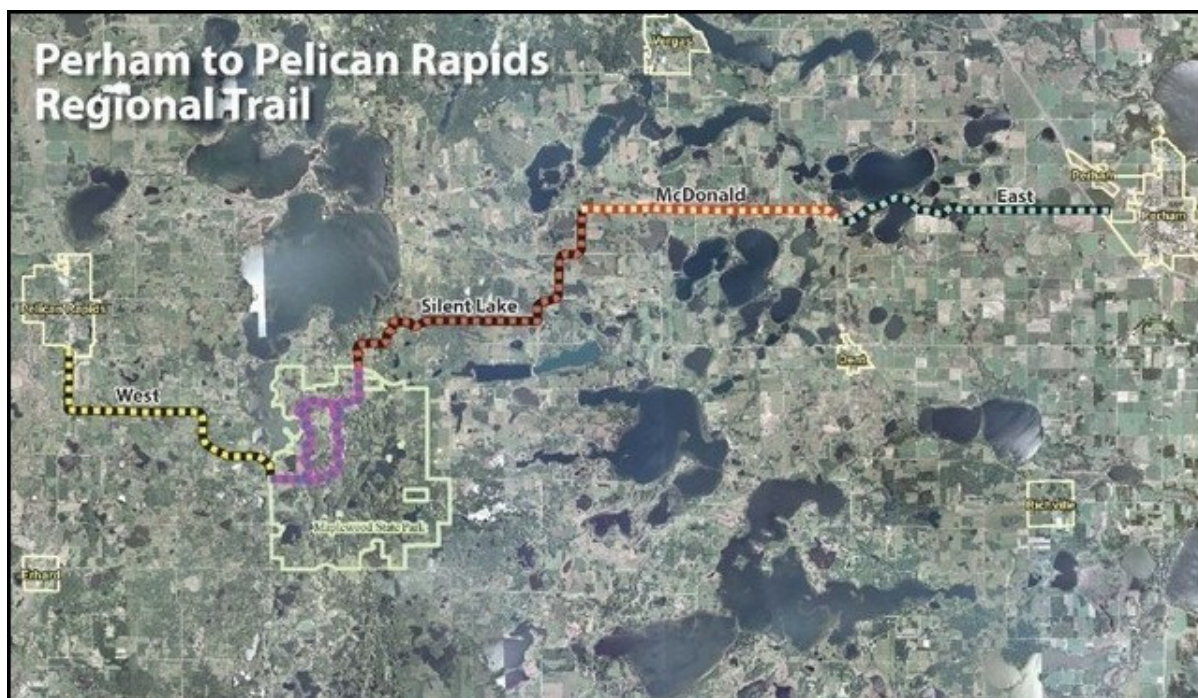
MLR Lake Steward Program

The Lake Steward Program with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates works with lake associations to award property owners that protect lake health through land management. Improving water quality is a community goal that can be achieved when each individual recognizes the need to protect water quality and acts to align their property management with practices that sustain a healthy environment.

[10 Tips To Lake Stewardship](#)

[Jeff Forester Executive Director](#)

[Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#)



Heart Of The Lakes Trail Updates

The Heart of the Lakes Trail (unofficially referred to as the Perham to Pelican Rapids Trail) is a 10-foot wide, 32-mile long, multi-use recreational trail connecting the communities of Perham and Pelican Rapids via Maplewood State Park. The trail is comprised of five segments: Pelican Rapids, Maplewood, Silent Lake, McDonald, and Perham. Otter Tail County, the Cities of Perham and Pelican Rapids, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the West Central Initiative and the PartnerSHIP4Health worked together to develop the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail Master Plan.

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[News Release](#)



Clean Water Act - 50th Anniversary

October 18, 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Before 1972, water – and the life that depends on it—was in peril. Many lakes, rivers, and wetlands in the United States were suffering from uncontrolled pollution and neglect. The control of sewage and industrial waste discharges were left to the devices of individual communities, states or businesses. Most were inadequate to protect water quality, and it was not unusual to see sewage and industrial waste dumped directly into nearby rivers. In fact, hard as it is for us to imagine now, that was the norm.

[MORE](#)

Freshwater.org



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

2021 PROGRAM SUMMARY

[OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)



Second Graders from Parkers Prairie Elementary pledged to Clean Drain Dry to Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, We Are Water Exhibit, Fergus Falls Public Library, October 2022

AIS Update October, 2022

- We Are Water Exhibit
- Winterize OTC's 16 I-LIDS camera systems
- AIS Task Force Board Retreat scheduled
- Task Force to align with High School Fishing Leagues

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Staying Safe On Cold Water

Is Everyone's Responsibility

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anyone whose autumn plans include spending time on or around the water to keep safety in mind. While more boating-related accidents happen during the summer, boating fatalities are higher during the cold-water season.

As water temperatures drop, water-based activities become riskier. A fall into a cold lake, pond or river can result in even a strong swimmer becoming incapacitated quickly. Further, cries for help can go unheard and rescues can take longer than in the warm-weather months when more people are on or near the water.

[MORE](#)



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

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AIS Task Force Minutes

- [September 15, 2022](#)
 - [October 13, 2022 \(Draft\)](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [September 13, 2022](#)
 - [September 27, 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