

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter November 2022



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From The President

There's no doubt the seasons have changed when the view out the window goes from brown to white, when we go from sweatshirts and baseball caps to winter jackets, stocking hats, scarves and mittens. I do like the wintry white, but not the cold wind and icy roads. Deer hunters suffered through that wind, although they like a little snow on the ground. There are those who can hardly wait for the lake to ice over, I know, but to me, it's way too early!

This same weather has postponed the COLA Board meeting and AIS Task Force meeting meant to plan for the future twice. Both are determined groups, though, and will carry on over the winter months. COLA already has a list of inspiring and informational speakers for member meetings in 2023. We look for opportunities to work with AIS and neighboring counties as we have done this lake season.

Meanwhile, please continue to follow OTC COLA with the newsletter. You can keep up-to-date on the latest developments that affect our lakes.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and all the holiday festivities!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President OTC COLA



MAISRC Newsletter: Fall 2022

Read the latest newsletter at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). A few highlights:

- Starry Trek is a statewide event focused on searching for one of Minnesota's aquatic invasive species, starry stonewort. Check out the results from this annual event!
- MAISRC hosted the annual Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Management Showcase on September 21st. All presentations were recorded. You can watch a sneak peek of one presentation: "Refining copper-based treatment to suppress zebra mussel populations", presented by Diane Waller, Angelique Dahlberg, and Matthew Barbour.
- MAISRC Researcher Julia Bohnen Receives Carol Mortensen Award
- Notes from the field with Meg Duhr
- Partner Organization: Call for Input on Invasive Species
- Staff Highlight: Alex Bajcz

[MAISRC Fall 2022 Newsletter](#)

In The News

8/24/22: [New Sequencing Method Tackles Environmental DNA Contamination for Cell-Free DNA Samples](#)

8/24/22: [Researcher says investment worthwhile to slow zebra mussels](#)

9/2/22: [Scientists try to get a handle on invasive carp at St. Paul's Como Lake](#)

10/4/22: [Study: Why are Lake Superior's quiet winters so important?](#)

10/24/22: [Scum on your boat? Permit needed to let zebra mussels hitchhike to storage](#)





No Child Left Inside Grants

Minnesota Lakes and River is an advocate of the MN DNR's program of offering grants to lake associations for use to support or launch youth lake education programs.

The MN DNR is now accepting applications for the 2023 grants. Applications must be received by **2:00 p.m. CST, Wednesday, December 7, 2022**. Submitted applications will not be reviewed until after the deadline. Please [visit the MN DNR website](#) to learn more.

The 2023 grants will consist of two types of grant awards. Applicants must choose only one.

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[**Minnesota Lakes And River Advocates**](#)



Near Shore fish habitat is particularly important for fish survival

Our Lake And River Shorelines Are At A Turning Point

Our lakes are in trouble and the situation is urgent. If we want to manage water, we must manage land. As lake shore property owners we have both a significant opportunity and exposure to negative impacts from water quality decline.

According to shoreline specialists at the MN DNR, about half our natural shorelines in Minnesota have been developed. In some areas it is even more.

If we do not protect our natural shorelands, we will risk losing lake and river water quality and the ability to swim and recreate in our lakes. We risk the call of the loon, the spring chorus of frogs, habitat for birds, butterflies and more. We will lose the unique character of Minnesota.

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[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates](#)



Embrace Ice Fishing In Minnesota

The arrival of January and February in Minnesota triggers a parade of ice houses to favorite fishing spots statewide.

Seeking everything from the hallowed walleye and easy panfish to northern pike and eelpout, about 10 percent of Minnesota's 1.5 million license-holding anglers head back to the lakes once they freeze. They can turn an empty, snow-covered bay into a winter village overnight, complete with houses, makeshift streets, lighting and laughter that often comes with this social winter sport.

All You Need For Ice Fishing

Never tried ice fishing? Don't let fanatics, winter weather or the mind-boggling array of gear intimidate you. At its roots, ice fishing ranks among the more basic outdoor sports and can accommodate any skill level. Considering you don't need a boat to get on the water, winter fishing can be more accessible, too.

[MORE](#)



Free Entrance To All Minnesota State Parks November 25

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will waive entrance fees to all 75 state parks and recreation areas Friday, Nov. 25 — the day after Thanksgiving.

This “Free Park Day” is one of four days each year on which the DNR waives the vehicle permit requirement to enter state parks and recreation areas. The goal of Free Park Days is to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the health and wellness benefits of spending time in nature.

[**MORE**](#)

2023 Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program

The DNR has made up to \$400,000 available to all local entities such as lake associations, watershed districts, cities and counties to receive state funding from the DNR for the control of [curly-leaf pondweed](#), [Eurasian watermilfoil](#), [flowering rush](#) or [starry stonewort](#).

Funding is for reimbursement of expenses incurred while conducting local AIS control projects under Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) Permits. AIS control projects consist of a pre-treatment delineation survey conducted by a third party and a treatment. Only one application per waterbody (as defined by its unique [Lake ID](#) number) will be accepted. Applications will be selected by a random order until funds are spent, and grant award amounts will be determined by proposed and DNR-reviewed project acreage.

[**MORE**](#)



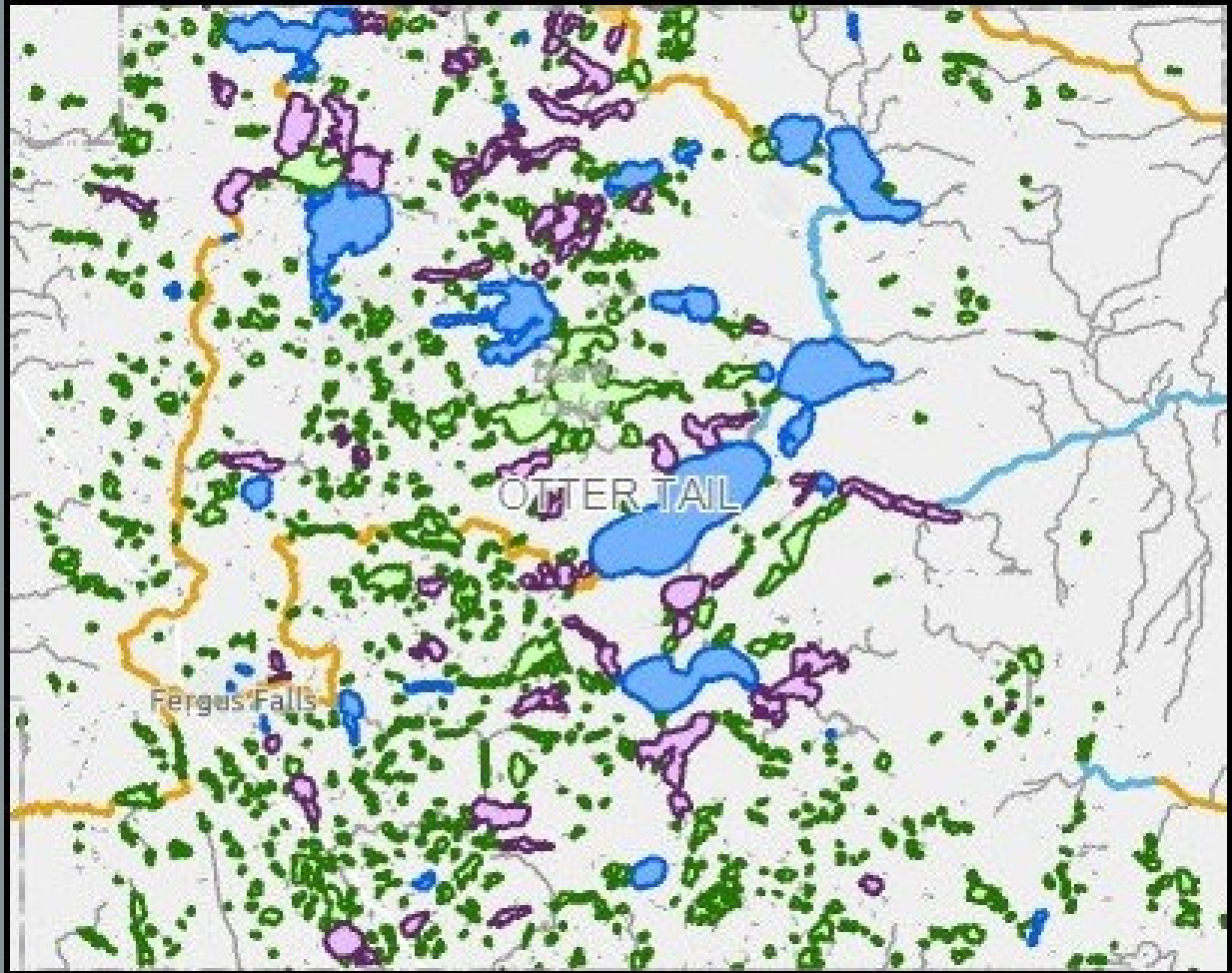
Starry Stonewort Infestation Thwarted By Watercraft Inspector

Vigilant DNR watercraft inspectors prevented the introduction of starry stonewort to Lake Superior, which is currently not known to be infested with the harmful invasive species.

A DNR watercraft inspector saw what appeared to be grass in the motor intake of a boat whose owner approached the Agate Bay public water access to Lake Superior in Lake County. Upon closer examination, the inspector noticed the small star-shaped bulbils that indicate starry stonewort. The boat owner said the boat had been on Bowen Lake in Cass County the previous weekend. Starry stonewort was confirmed on Bowen Lake in August. The inspector used the decontamination station on site to ensure the invasive species was removed before the boat entered Lake Superior.

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DNR Shoreland Classifications



DNR Shoreland Classifications

DNR Shoreland Classifications for Public Water Basins

-  General Development
-  Natural Environment
-  Recreational Development
-  Multiple

DNR Shoreland Classifications for Public Water Watercourses

-  Agriculture
-  Forested
-  Natural Environment
-  Remote
-  Transition
-  Tributary
-  Urban

DNR Special Waterbody Designations

Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) Boundary



Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers



Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River (WSR) Boundaries



Lower Saint Croix Riverway (LSCR) Boundaries



North Shore Management Zone Boundary



Lakes and watercourses for Otter Tail County are color-coded for classification

Purpose Of Shoreland Classifications

The purpose of shoreland classifications is to guide development along lakes and rivers consistent with their ability to withstand human development and recreational activity. Minnesota's lakes and rivers are complex natural systems

with varying sensitivity to human development and recreational activity. Minnesota's shoreland rules establish shoreland classifications for lakes and rivers based on their sensitivity. Lakes and rivers that are more sensitive are assigned a more restrictive classification and those that are less sensitive are assigned a less restrictive classification.

The shoreland classification is used in local shoreland zoning ordinances to regulate the following development standards, which vary based on classification:

- Lot area and width
- Structure and septic system setbacks from the water
- Size of the shore impact zone (SIZ), wherein vegetation and land alteration activity is limited

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How To Submit A MN State Record Fish

When you catch a big fish, no matter what the species, it is always a thrill, and it usually requires exceptional fishing skill. The Minnesota DNR honors any angler who breaks a state record.

There are two kinds of Minnesota state records: One for catching and keeping the biggest fish in each species based on certified weight; and the other for the length of a caught-and-released muskellunge, northern pike, lake sturgeon or flathead catfish.

Catch-and-release length

With the increased popularity of catch and release fishing and higher minimum lengths, many anglers are reluctant to harvest record-weight fish. To address this concern, DNR has created a record program for catch-and-release length for four species: muskellunge, northern pike, lake sturgeon and flathead catfish.

This program is being cross-promoted with the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame's Master Angler Program, which recognizes 60 fish species. We hope that anglers will consider this new program if they catch a large muskie, northern

pike, lake sturgeon or flathead catfish.

To enter, submit [this application](#) PDF.

[MORE](#)



Take The Pledge To Protect Minnesota Waters

Anyone 18 or older can go to the [new Pledge to Protect Minnesota Waters](#) page of the DNR website 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.

"The pledge allows people to demonstrate their commitment to protect Minnesota waters," said Tina Fitzgerald, aquatic invasive species prevention planner. "Aquatic invasive species, such as zebra mussels, starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil, are spread by people, which means people can prevent their spread."

Visitors to the page can also see other public pledges and share the page with friends.

Regardless of the activity—boating, paddling, fishing, moving shoreline equipment, using recreational gear on the water, or caring for aquarium pets or water gardens—everyone can pledge to do their part and take several simple actions to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

**2021 PROGRAM
SUMMARY**

[OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)

AIS Task Force Update November 2022

- [Curly Leaf Pondweed Flips The Script](#)



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Featured Posts - November 2022

- [Total Phosphorus](#)
- [Why Does Our Lake Have More Weeds?](#)
- [What is the Trophic State Index?](#)

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- [October 11, 2022](#)
 - [October 25, 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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