

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

# E-Newsletter September 2022



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## **From The President: Sylvia Soeth**

The air is crisp and golden leaves are landing on the grass. The last water samples went to the lab for testing. Summer has slipped into Fall and COLA ended the season with the Annual Meeting after four months of meetings and special events. Member meetings featured speakers to educate and answer

questions about water, county ordinances and land use, and Aquatic Invasive Species. Now that we are able to mingle again we could spread our wings to work with other agencies and counties to organize and promote the U of M Research Center update and Starry Stonewort bus trip.

COLA members continue to serve as docents (guides) at the WE ARE WATER MN exhibit that is open at the Fergus Falls Library until October 10. All aspects of water from agriculture to recreation are covered. There are interactive displays, take aways, a puppet theater for children, all colorful and educational. Wander at your own pace during library hours.

So now, the COLA Board is planning ahead to the next lake season. There's a list of possible speakers and ideas for a bus trip. We'll keep spreading our wings and educating!

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

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## **OTC COLA 2022 Annual Meeting**

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) was held on August 18, 2022 at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, Minnesota. Thirty individuals representing 20 lake associations and lake organizations were in attendance.

Seven Directors were unanimously reelected. They are Ronald Christensen, Scott Gaudette, David Helgersen, Roger Neitzke, Sylvia Soeth, Jeff Stabnow and Jeff Vansteenburgh. Sylvia Soeth will continue as President.

It was reported that David Helgersen has been appointed liaison to the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) following the resignation of Jeff Stabnow from the position.

Scott Gaudette gave a presentation featuring Round Lake and the Round Lake Property Owners Association.

The Featured Speaker for the evening was Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist. He reported on the activities of the Otter Tail County boat inspectors in 2022 and the progress of implementing innovative, cost-effective boat cleaning stations on multiple lakes in Otter Tail County.

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### **Round Lake Association Featured at Annual Meeting**

There are currently 50 Members of the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations. Member Lake Associations have lake property owner memberships ranging from just a few lake property owners to over a thousand. OTC COLA has discovered that there is high interest in sharing how fellow Lake Associations are structured and how they address serving their members. OTC COLA has included "Featured Lake Association" segments at the summer Member and OTC lake property owners meetings normally held May - August.

Scott Gaudette, President of the Round Lake Association, gave a presentation on Round Lake Association at the Annual Meeting on August 18, 2022. The structured slide presentation covered a general description of the lake, information on lake association membership and review of events and activities of the Association.

[Round Lake Association slide presentation](#)  
[Scott Gaudette](#)

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**One Watershed One Plan  
Executive Summary Released**

The Otter Tail River Watershed spans from Mahanomen County all the way to the Red River in Breckinridge. Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Watershed Districts are working together to create a plan that focuses on water quality in the watershed. The plan will focus on the watershed upstream of Orwell Dam because the Lower Otter Tail River was included with another planning effort.

Water quality is extremely important in this watershed and to the strong communities of lakeshore owners, ag producers, urban landowners, and many more. With such a diverse community there are a range of issues, concerns, and opportunities.

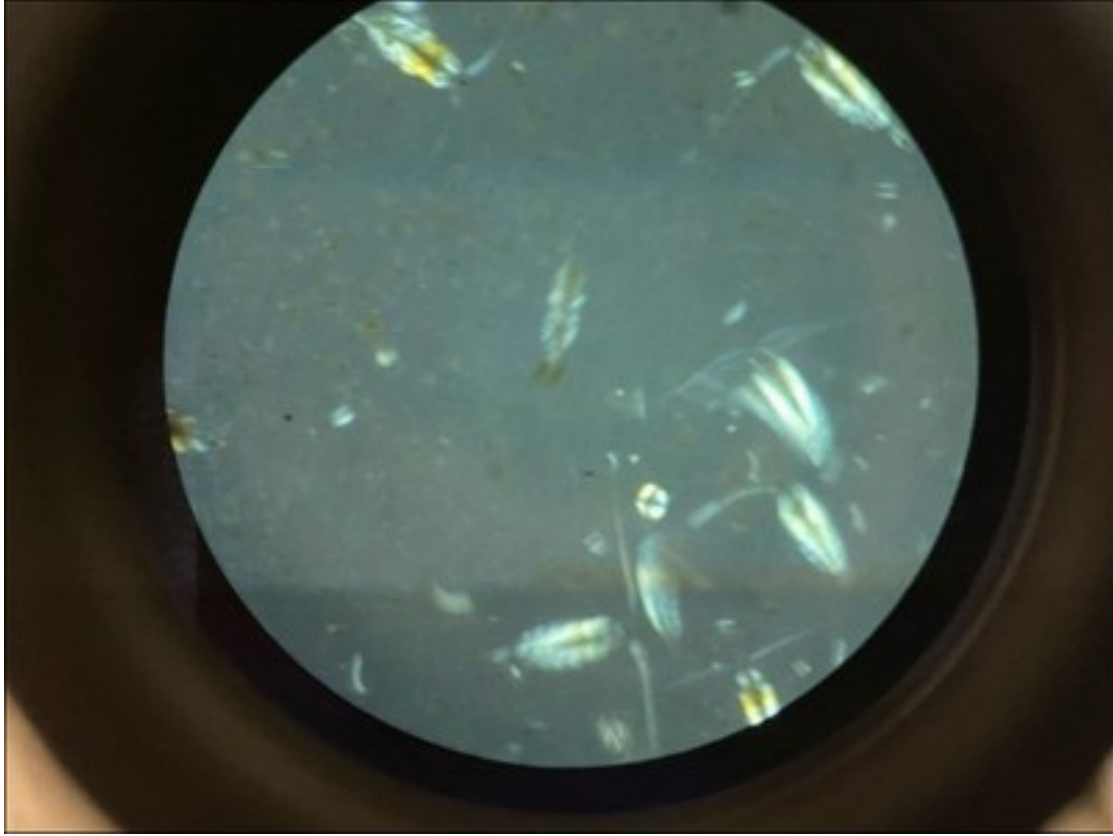
Jeffrey Vansteenburgh, Environment Director for the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations recently attended a meeting of the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Citizen Committee. A draft Executive Summary has been compiled and published. A 60 day comment period has begun inviting comments to the Summary.

### [1W1P Executive Summary Draft](#)

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Zebra Mussel Veligers

## **Copper Treatment Shows Promise to Control Zebra Mussel Density in Lakes**

The most cost effective strategy to deal with AIS is to prevent them from spreading. This is the only solution that is 100% effective.

But while prevention strategies are being deployed, lake associations benefit both in terms of cost savings and good outcomes if they also focus on early detection and making a strategy for a response should prevention efforts fail. Justin Townsend, AIS Coordinator in Ramsey County has created a strategic and deliberate plan, the [New Infestation Response Plan](#), NIRP.

Management of zebra mussels is complicated. There are not ready bio-solutions like introducing a predator that feeds on zebra mussels, and these strategies often create other problems. There is no way to mechanically remove them at scale. Any chemical treatment would have to be safe for all native mussels and creatures. But the biggest challenge is that when chemicals are put into a waterbody to kill mussels, the “clam up.” Zebra mussels can stay closed for hours, so it is nearly impossible to keep chemical concentrations at high enough levels to kill zebra mussels for hours in an open water setting.

But new research from the USGS shows promise with zebra mussels. They have been working in Lake Minnetonka to test a zebra mussel treatment.

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**[Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#)**

**[Jeff Forester, Executive Director](#)**

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Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates:  
**Shoreland Guide to  
Lake Stewardship**



**MLR's Shoreland Guide To Lake Stewardship  
Available On Amazon**

Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR) has revised a Guide created by Itaska Waters, Cass County Environment Services and the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation. The Guide helps landowners manage their shore land properties in a way that protects or improves water quality in lakes.

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**OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA**

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**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION**

# 2021 PROGRAM SUMMARY

## [OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)

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### **AIS Update September, 2022**

- Watercraft inspection 2022 program concluded
- Engaging and educating public continues
- Remove zebra mussels from docks and lifts

### [MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist

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## **OTC Water Patrol Concludes Successful Summer**

Otter Tail County Water Patrol Concludes Successful Summer Download this news release September 14, 2022 – Otter Tail County, MN– The Sheriff's Office Water Patrol deputies wrapped up another season on the 1,048 lakes of Otter Tail County. May through September water patrol deputies are on duty to promote safety on the lakes and rivers in the county.

### [MORE](#)

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We are Water MN display at the Fergus Falls Public Library

## **We Are Water Open To October 10, 2022**

Otter Tail County, MN– It is here! The We Are Water MN-Otter Tail County interactive exhibit is open. The free exhibit will be showcased at the Fergus Falls Public Library through October 10, 2022. The exhibit is free to the public

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

[\*\*Press Release\*\*](#)

[\*\*We Are Water Poster\*\*](#)

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## **Are You Planning To Store Docks Or Lifts In The Highway Right-of-Way? Please Don't**

Do you have personal property close to the highway right-of-way? Otter Tail County Highway Department reminds you to move property, signs, and items for sale back from the roadway. Public safety for all drivers including snowplow drivers is critical. We do not want your property damaged. Please keep the right-of-way clear.

The Otter Tail County Highway Department has noticed several docks and lifts and other property stored too close to the highway. It is understandable that sometimes space is limited, and these areas are often convenient for storing property or selling items. However, Otter Tail County asks for voluntary compliance with State Statute 160.27 that makes it illegal for "the unauthorized use of public highway right of way." Public safety is the priority.

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**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**



## **Starry Stonewort Confirmed In Thunder Lake In Cass County**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Thunder Lake, near Remer in Cass County. DNR staff conducting a survey of algae in Thunder Lake found starry stonewort. Funding for this research was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Follow-up surveys are being conducted to determine the extent of starry stonewort distribution in Thunder Lake. If surveys confirm that starry stonewort is in localized areas of the lake, removal in those areas might be pursued. Such a response could include hand pulling, herbicide applications and other methods as appropriate.

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## **DNR Seeks Input On Proposed Special Fishing Regulations**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for input on several special fishing regulation proposals.

Each year, the DNR proposes new special fishing regulations that apply to individual waters and asks the public for input about the proposals. The regulations, if enacted, are reviewed on a regular basis.

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**MGLP Provides \$324,238 In Grants To Conserve Fish Habitat In Lakes**

The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) is awarding \$324,238 through its 2022 Lake Conservation Grant to five projects across the Upper Midwest. Together, these projects will benefit glacial lakes and their fish habitats, fish populations, and fisheries for years to come. Funds for the Lake Conservation Grant are provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and will be matched by over \$1,597,000 in contributions from partners, for a total conservation impact of over \$1,921,000

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## **Eight Essential Knots Every Boater Should Know**

**Tying Marine Knots Is A Key Part Of Boating**

If you've spent any time out on the open water, you'll already know just how crucial knowing how to tie a secure knot can be. While marine technology has improved leaps and bounds over the decades, knots remain a vital, basic tool for keeping equipment safe and secure onboard — a poorly-tied knot can be the difference between life and death. Knowing how to tie a number of knots is an essential skill for seafarers, sailors and yachters and one which has changed relatively little since ancient times.

The term 'knot' was derived from the manner in which ancient mariners measured the speed of their ships. Knots were tied at regular intervals in a piece of rope (with one knot every 14.3 meters). The rope was then cast out behind the ship as it sailed, allowing the sailors to calculate the vessel speed by counting how many knots had been cast over a certain time period. Whether you're going on a gentle cruise or a lengthy expedition, here are some essential knots you'll need to know.

[MORE](#)



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

## **Featured Posts - September 2022**

- [OTC Shoreland/Septic Ordinance Results](#)
- [5 W's Of Journalism](#)
- [12 Ways To Protect Your Lake](#)

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

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## **AIS Task Force Minutes**

- [August 18, 2022](#)

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [July 26, 2022](#)
- [August 9, 2022](#)
- [August 23, 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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David Helgersen · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh  
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Scott Gaudette · Sylvia Soeth

**OTC COLA Members**

Bass Lake Underwood Association · Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association · Clitherall Lake Association · Dead Lake Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Long Lake at Vergas Association · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle Lake Association · Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association · Pebble Lake Association · Pelican Lake Property Owners Association · Pickerel Lake Improvement Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore Association · Round Lake 56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association · Silver Lake Property Owners Association · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

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