

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter March 2023

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Upcoming Events 2023

OTC COLA has scheduled events and activities for the 2023 season. The Water Sampling Program Kickoff where samplers pick up their sample coolers will be held on April 20 at the Ottertail Community Center. Otter Tail County lake property owner meetings are scheduled for the third Thursdays of May, June, July and August. Watch future OTC COLA E-Newsletters for updates.

- **Water Sampling Kickoff**
 - **April 20, 2023**
 - Water Sampling Kickoff - Ottertail Community Center
 - **Lake Property Owner Meetings**
 - **May 18, 2023**
 - Otter Tail County Drainage Ditch Inspection
 - Colby Palmersheim
 - Featured Lake Association- First Silver- Jeff Vansteenburgh
 - **June 15, 2023**
 - Featured speaker- DNR Fisheries- Jim Wolters
 - Featured Lake Association- David Helgersen- West McDonald
 - **July 20, 2023**
 - Lake property owner property taxes- Kevin Scheidecker, OTC Assessor
 - Featured Lake Association- Spitzer Lake
 - **August 17, 2023**
 - OTC COLA Annual Meeting
 - Featured Speaker- East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District- Darren Newville
 - **September, 2023**
 - Bus Tour- rain gardens and shoreland restoration
-



OTC COLA Lake Monitoring Program Kick Off

The distribution of the sample storage coolers, bottles and data sheets to sampler volunteers will take place Thursday, April 20 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Ottertail Community Center parking lot, Ottertail, MN.

The OTC COLA water quality sampling and analysis program has provided valuable data to lake property owners for over 20 years. Over 50 Otter Tail County lakes are included in the program covering over 70% of Otter Tail County lake acreage. Volunteers from the lakes are an important component of the program collecting the samples and ensuring that the samples get delivered to RMB Laboratories (RMB) in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Water samples are collected once a month for May, June, July, August and September. Activities for the season begin with a kickoff event in April each year. At this event coolers and sample containers are distributed to volunteers.

If you have questions contact:

[Jeff Vansteenburgh](#),

OTC COLA Environmental Director

641-420-0928



Shelter Removal Deadlines

Dark houses, fish houses and portables must be off the ice no later than 11:59 p.m. (end of the day); dates published for northern or southern Minnesota regions. County sheriffs may prohibit or restrict the use of motorized vehicles if dangerous ice conditions are present. If shelters are not removed, owners may be cited. A conservation officer also may confiscate, remove or destroy any ice structure and its contents if not removed by the deadline.

[MORE](#)

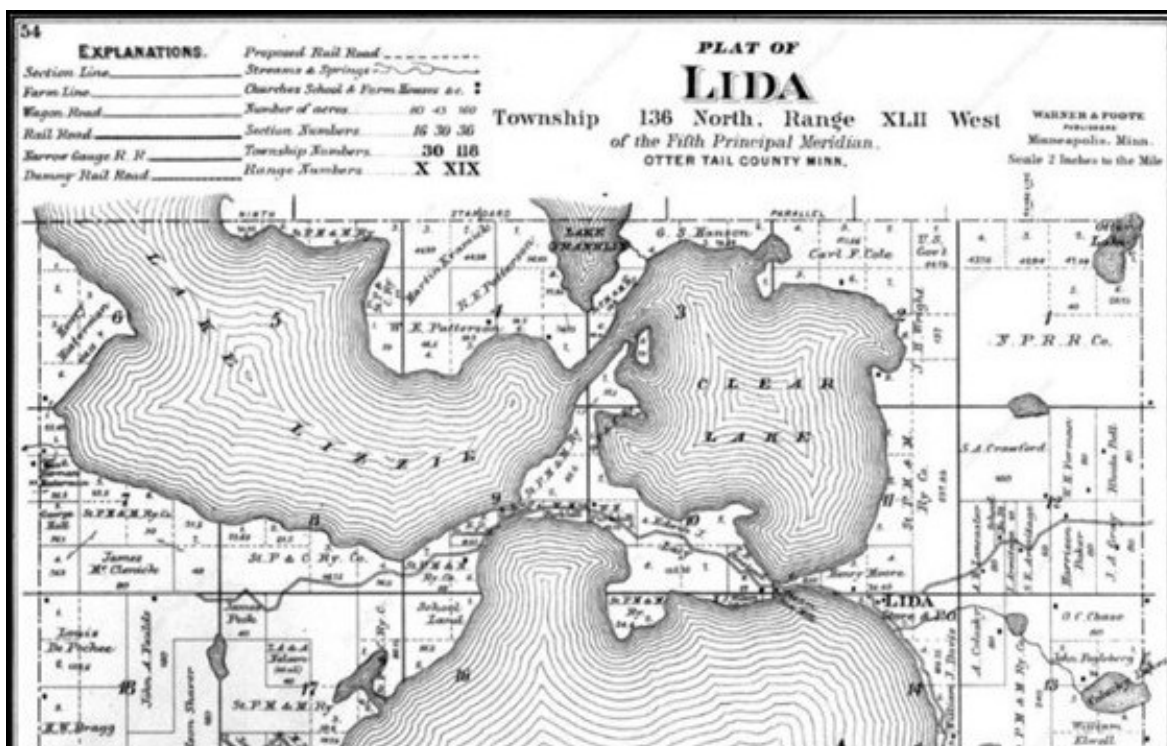




MLR Action Alert- Ice House Waste Bill

The availability of large trailered ice fishing houses has greatly increased the number of people that go ice fishing, and the amount of time they spend out on the ice. Increased use has also created increase waste left on the ice at the end of the season. Minnesota House Bill HF 2745/SF 2789 will require anglers to keep all garbage and sewage inside the ice house, or in a container that is attached to the outside of the ice house.

[MORE](#)



Remember When Crystal Lake Was Clear Lake?

How many of our area lakes changed names over the years?

There have been many, and reader Harold Holt called our attention to one lake right in our neighborhood. Holt is a retired coach-educator at Pelican Rapids schools and a local history enthusiast.

And, he found an image of a Lake Lida plat map, circa 1884, to prove it.

Note that Crystal Lake, just east of Lizzie and north of Lida, was named “Clear Lake” nearly 140 years ago.

[Pelican Rapids Press](#)



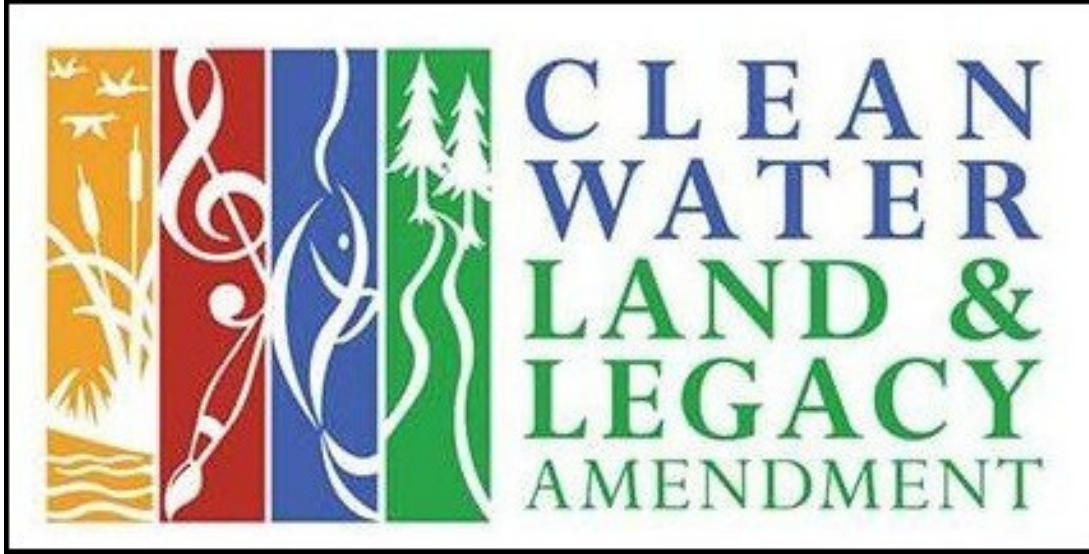
RMB February 2023 Newsletter

- **2023 Lakes Monitoring Program**
 - **OTC COLA Water Monitoring Program will be unchanged from previous years**
- **Where Does Our Water Come From?**
- **Summer Internships**

[MORE](#)

[Emelia Thielman](#), Lakes Program Coordinator





Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment

The **Clean Water Funds** are distributed through the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR). BWSR grants provide the funding to local units of government to deliver soil and water conservation services to their communities. Grant funds support and increase local capacity to implement programs and provide cost-share to landowners who install conservation practices on the land to benefit state water and soil resource.

[MORE](#)

BWSR Awards Lawns To Legumes Grants

Individual Support grants reimburse Minnesota residents for up to \$350 in costs associated with planting pollinator habitat in their yards. Recipients have access to workshops, coaching opportunities and gardening resources to help ensure project success. Recipients are required to contribute a 25% match in the form of purchasing materials, hiring contractors or as in-kind time spent planting and maintaining their projects.

[MORE](#)



February 2023 Featured Plant- Canada Wildrye

BWSR's monthly Featured Plant includes information on native species identification, range, preferred habitat, uses and planting recommendations. Focusing on plants that are important for conservation projects and native gardens, BWSR's ecological science conservationist curates the feature with occasional contributions from other experts. If you'd like to check out past editions, you can browse the Featured Plant Archive [HERE](#).
Subscribe to Featured Plant [HERE](#).

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/featured-plant>





OTC Drivers License and Land & Resource Return to Remodeled Offices

Otter Tail County Motor Vehicle/Driver's License and Land & Resource Management Services Return to Remodeled Offices

Otter Tail County completed several building enhancements at the [Government Services Center](#) (GSC) at 500 West Fir Avenue in Fergus Falls. Motor Vehicle/Driver's License and Land and Resource Management offices will be CLOSED to the public March 16-17 as equipment and supplies are moved to the GSC. Motor Vehicle/Driver's License and Land and Resource departments resume services to the public in the newly remodeled spaces on March 20, 2023.

[MORE](#)

2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY

[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2022](#) [AIS Prevention 2022 Report](#)

AIS Task Force Update March 2023

- Watercraft inspectors are being installed
- Education and outreach programs are initiated
- Handbook for Visitors and Residents in development

[MORE](#)



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

Featured Posts - March 2023

- [Lake Association Annual Filings](#)
- [Shoreline Living Booklet](#)
- [MN Annual Corporation Filing](#)

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OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [February 14 2023](#)
- [February 28, 2023](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2022 samples- Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes](#)
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2019\)](#)- 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

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