

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter April 2023

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In This Issue:

- **OTC COLA Upcoming Events**
 - **Weather Impacts Monitoring Kickoff**
 - **OTC COLA May 2023 Lake Property Owner Meeting**
 - **Handouts To Be Available**
 - **Time To Buy Hunting, Fishing Licenses**
 - **New Payment System for MN Parks, Campgrounds**
 - **Report Fish Die-Offs to DNR**
 - **Well Sampling Planned For Ground Water Atlas**
 - **Renew Watercraft Registration Online**
 - **Free AEDs to Lake Associations**
 - **MAISRC March 2023 Newsletter**
 - **Spiny Water Flea Surveillance**
 - **AIS Detector Course Workshop**
 - **MLR Invasive Carp Action**
 - **AIS Program Summary 2022**
 - **AIS Task Force Update- April 2023**
 - **Need To Repair Damaged Shoreline?**
 - **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**
 - **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
 - **www.lakeadmin.org -Featured Posts**
 - **Instant Access Links -**
 - [Newsletter Article Index](#)
 - [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2022 samples\)](#)
 - [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2019\)](#)
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Upcoming Events 2023

Otter Tail County lake property owner meetings are scheduled for the third Thursdays of May, June, July and August. A bus tour of rain gardens and shoreland restoration sites is planned for September. Watch future OTC COLA E-Newsletters for updates.

- **Lake Property Owner Meetings and Events**
 - **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- Gary Olson, 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
-



Weather Impacts Monitoring Kickoff

Old Man Winter strikes again!

Efforts of many OTC COLA samplers to pick up coolers for water testing were thwarted at the annual kickoff by bad weather. The event was held on Thursday, April 20th at the Ottertail Community Center. Though about a dozen coolers were distributed, snow, bad visibility and icy roads prevented safe travel for many to get their sampling supplies. Kudos go to Steve Henry of RMB Laboratories for braving the elements to serve those who were able to get there.

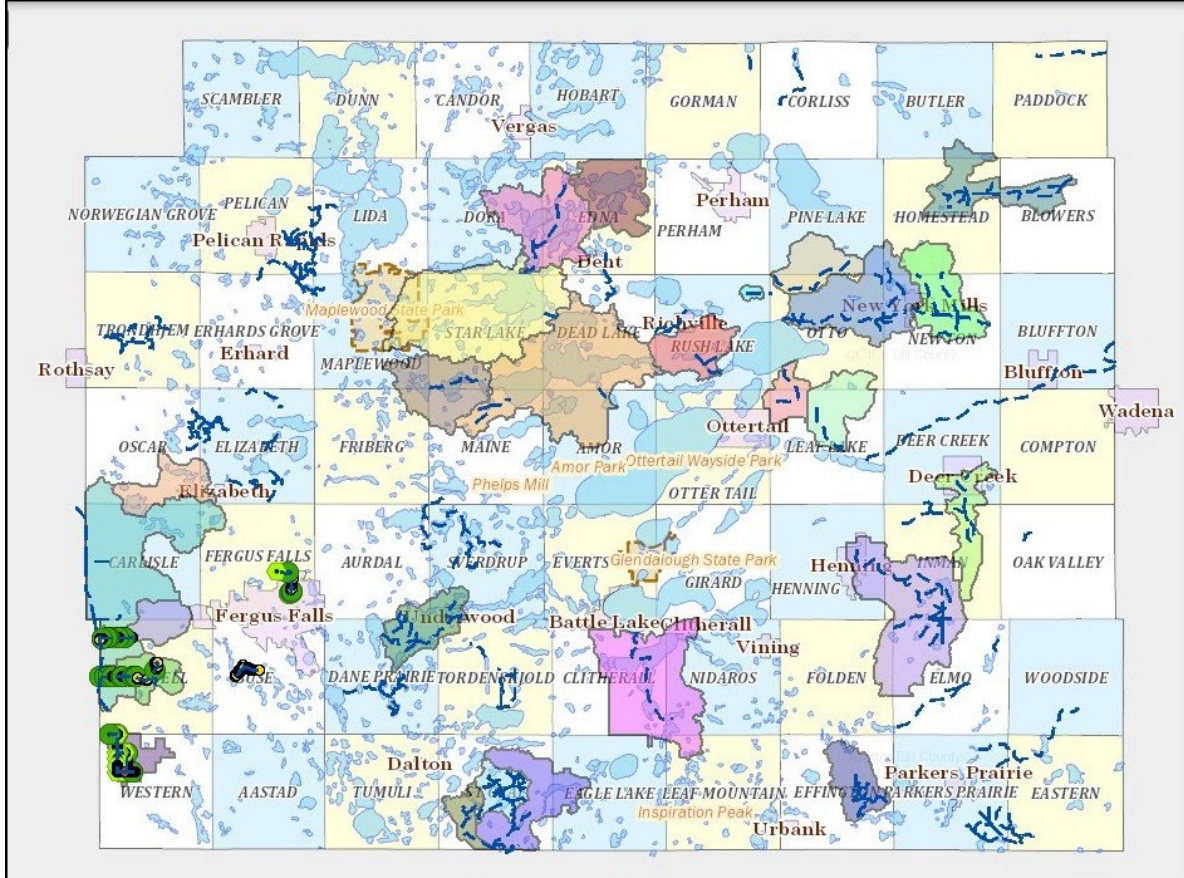
It's not too late! Because of the inclement weather April 20, cooler pickup for those who were not able to get to the kickoff will be available at the OTC COLA lake property owners meeting at the Ottertail Community Center, 5:00 - 7:00 pm on May 18, 2023. Coolers can also be picked up at RMB Laboratories, 22796 County Highway 6, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218-846-1465.

If you have questions contact:

[Jeff Vansteenburgh,](#)

OTC COLA Environmental Director

641-420-0928



Otter Tail County Ditch Systems Interactive Map
Click on image to view

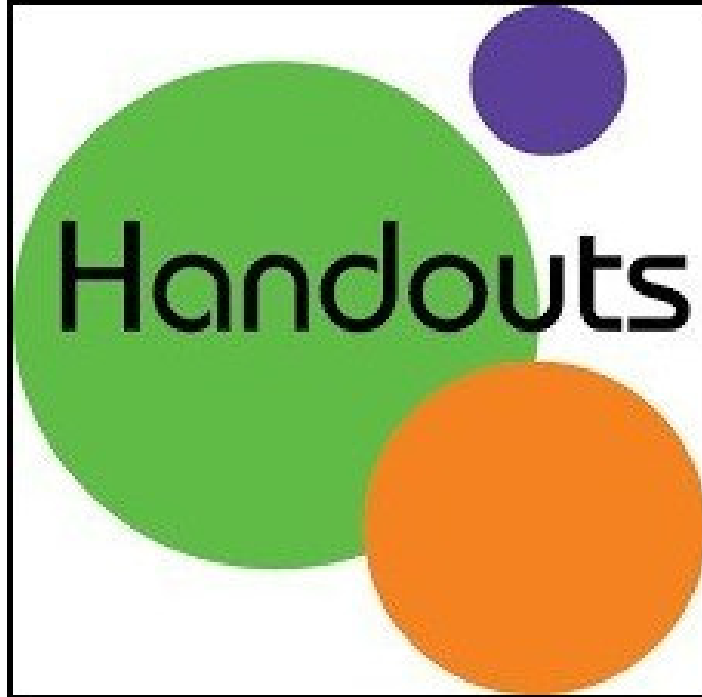
OTC COLA Lake Property Owners May Meeting

The first of four Otter Tail County Lake Property Owner meetings will be held May 18, 2023, at the Ottertail Community Center, 93 Lake Ave S, Ottertail, MN 56571. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for a time of socializing and networking.

The featured speaker for the evening is Colby Palmersheim, Otter Tail County Manager of Public Drainage Systems. Colby will speak on the history of County ditches, where they are today, and where the County hopes to see them in the future. He will explain that the goal of the County is the redetermination of benefits of ditches and the more equal sharing of responsibility of everybody that contributes to water in the ditches. Of special interest to lake property owners is how ditches are sometimes used to manage lake elevation.

For more information go to the [Ditches & Drainage Systems](#) web page.

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



Lake Association Handouts

OTC COLA and the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force have items and literature available for lake associations to distribute to lake property owners at meetings and events. Quantities of handouts will be available at OTC COLA lake property owners meetings. To reserve a quantity, send an email to me with the approximate number of handout sets you would like to reserve.

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



Time To Buy New Hunting, Fishing Licenses

It's the time of year when anglers and hunters need to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2022 expire Tuesday, Feb. 28. Licenses for 2023 are now available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold, [online](https://mndnr.gov/buy-license) (mndnr.gov/buy license) and by telephone at 888-665-4236. Mobile buyers receive a text or email that serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers. All 2023 fishing licenses become effective Wednesday, March 1. New licenses are required for 2023 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 28.

New Payment Options Available At Parks, Recreation Areas, Campgrounds

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is modernizing payment

options in state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds by discontinuing the use of on-site self-payment collection boxes and expanding electronic payment options. This includes deploying an app for mobile devices called Yodel.

[MORE](#)

Report Fish Die-Offs To Help DNR

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages Minnesotans to contact the state duty officer if they see evidence of a fish die-off in a lake or stream. Fish die-offs can result from a variety of natural and human causes. “People can help by reporting fish die-offs right away,” DNR Limnology Consultant Tom Burri said. “These reports alert state agencies to the situation and help us determine appropriate next steps.”

[MORE](#)

Well Sampling Planned For Groundwater Atlas

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect water samples from about 180 wells in Otter Tail County for use in developing the county’s Groundwater Atlas.

Selected well owners will be contacted by mail or phone to request permission to sample their wells. The process involves collecting a water sample from an outside spigot or hydrant for laboratory analysis. Dozens of different water components are analyzed to determine the natural chemistry of aquifers. Participation is voluntary and owners will receive a report of the laboratory results.

[MORE](#)

Renew Watercraft Registration Early Online

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages boat owners to renew expired watercraft registrations before this year’s boating season.

Boater owners are encouraged to renew registrations [online](http://mndnr.gov/licenses/online-sales.html) (mndnr.gov/licenses/online-sales.html) or at a local deputy registrar’s office rather than by mail. People renewing online can print out the confirmation page to use as their temporary permit. Boaters also may write down their temporary authorization number from the confirmation page. The registration card and expiration decals will then be mailed to the boat owner.

To renew online, visit the [DNR's online license sales page](http://mndnr.gov/licenses/online-sales.html) (mndnr.gov/licenses/online-sales.html), click on “Get Started” and follow the prompts. To renew in person, visit a deputy registrar. Deputy registrar locations are available on the [Minnesota Department of Public Safety website](#)

(dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/locations/pages/find-office-locations.aspx#search=registrar). People can also renew in person at the DNR Central Office, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul.



Would you like a **FREE Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for your lake association?**

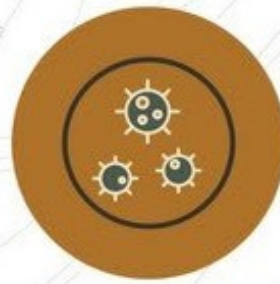
The University of Minnesota School of Medicine - Center for Resuscitation Medicine received a grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, to provide 8,000 AED's for first responders and others in Minnesota, including Lake Associations.

U of M Medical School received an \$18.8M grant from the Helmsley Charitable Trust

The three-year project aims to equip every law enforcement vehicle in Minnesota with an AED and train agencies to deliver immediate care prior to the arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Thanks to Mark Poppendeck, President, Nordheim Association, for sharing this information.

The website to apply: crm.umn.edu



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

SUPPORT
MAISRC



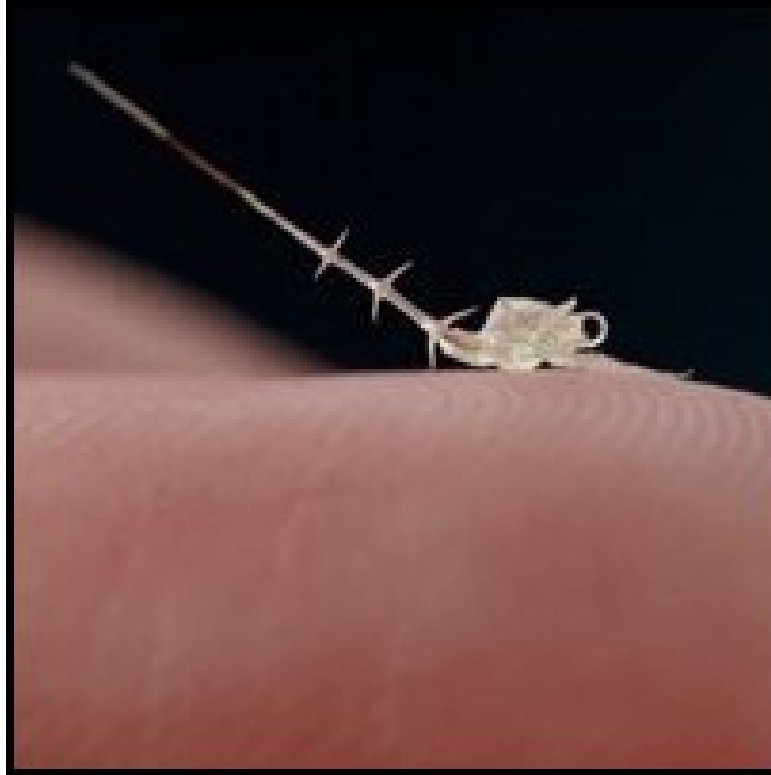
MAISRC March 2023 Newsletter

It's officially spring, although it doesn't quite feel like it in Minnesota. Field season for our researchers is coming up fast. Read all the latest news out of MAISRC in our March newsletter! A few highlights:

- 6 new MAISRC research projects
- Successful common carp workshop
- New publication: Simultaneous invasion decouples zebra mussels and water clarity

...and more!

[MAISRC MARCH 2023 Newsletter](#)



Spiny Water Flea Surveillance

MAISRC has a new program to help volunteers and local managers conduct **spiny water flea surveillance and early detection surveys**. We will provide local managers and volunteers with a simple protocol, including timing and equipment guidelines, aimed at optimizing spiny water flea detection in the field. You can learn more about this opportunity by joining an online informational session and QA with MAISRC staff later this month. These are free and open to anybody interested in helping stop the spread of spiny water fleas.

[MORE](#)

AIS DETECTORS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



CORE COURSE WORKSHOP DATES

May
5

In-Person: Minneapolis

May
12

In-Person: Wayzata

May
16/17

Virtual: Join from Anywhere!

June
2

In-Person: Park Rapids

Registration For The AIS Detectors Core Course Is Now OPEN!

The moment you've been waiting for is here! Registration is now open for the AIS Detectors core course. Check out the live workshop options above and click the "Register Here" button to register. If you have already taken the AIS Detectors Core Course and are interested in retaking it as a refresher, you should have received a special coupon code in your inbox. Retaking this course is NOT required to maintain your status as an AIS Detector.

[REGISTER](#)

[About the AIS Detectors Program](#)



Invasive Carp Pose A Serious Threat

For decades invasive carp (silver, bighead, black and grass carp) have been working their way up the Mississippi River. As they outcompete other fish for food and space, ecosystem diversity, water quality and recreational opportunities decrease in the river and tributaries from Minnesota to the Gulf.

[Minnesota Lakes And Rivers Publication](#)

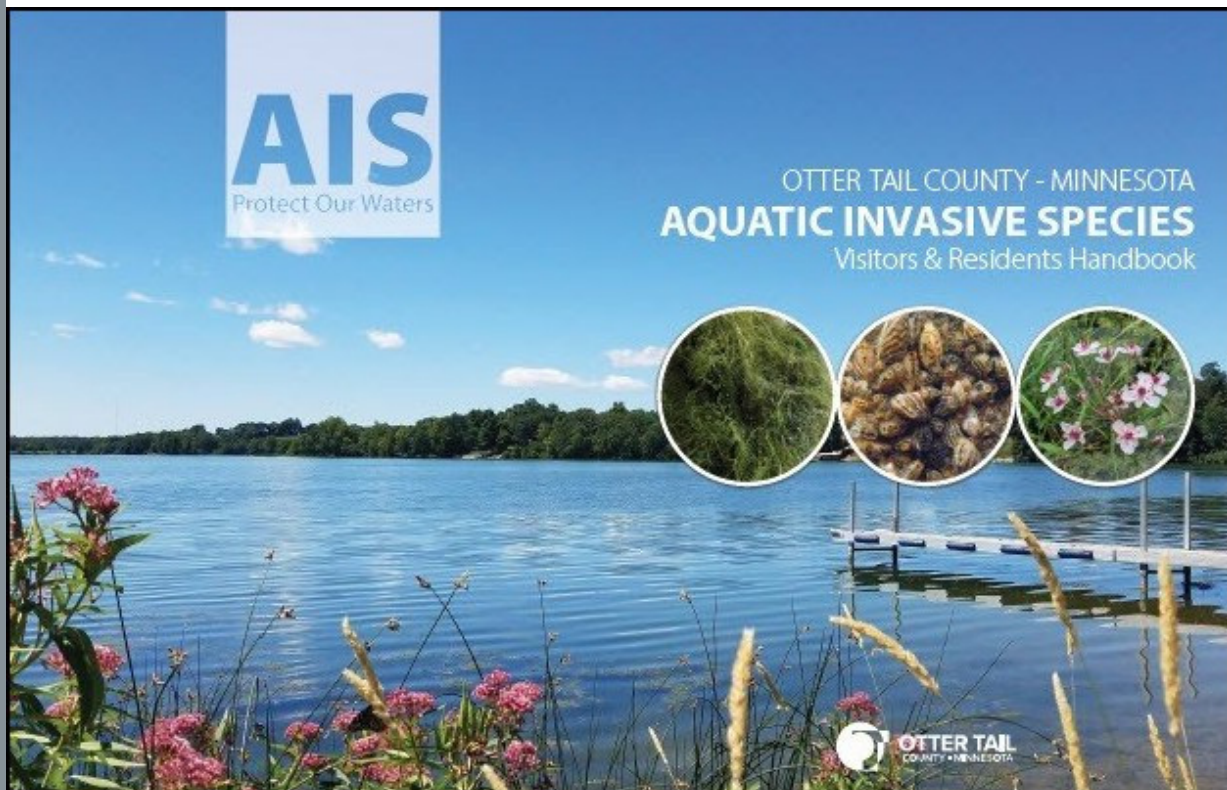
[Jeff Forester](#), MLR Executive Director



OTTER TAIL
COUNTY - MINNESOTA

2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY

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



[**AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents**](#)

Click on image for Handbook

AIS Task Force Update April 2023

- New Aquatic Invasive Species Handbook for Visitors and Residents
- OTC AIS Task Force / OTC COLA Board Retreat
- UMN MAISRC Research Center Update June 24, 25
- OTC watercraft inspection begins May 23

[MORE](#)

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents](#)

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents Cover](#)

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



Need to Repair Ice Damaged Shoreline?

A Conditional Use or a Lot Alteration Permit will not be required for earthmoving necessary to repair ice damaged shoreline provided:

1. The property owner's information, property information, lake information and signature are provided using the online [Ice Damage Repair Application](#).
2. The repair is limited to shoreline damaged during the winter of 2022 – 2023.
3. No more than 200 feet of shoreline per lot is repaired.
4. The ice ridge material is leveled and flattened in place when possible.
5. If conditions do not allow the ice ridge to be leveled in place, it may be

- pulled landward from the lake on upland areas or removed from the site.
6. No ice ridge spoil may be pushed towards the lake.
 7. No more than 10 cubic yards of topsoil may be placed within the Shore Impact Zone in order to restore the disturbed vegetative cover (i.e. wheel tracks).
 8. All disturbed areas are appropriately stabilized (i.e. straw roll, erosion control blanket, or hydro seed) within 10 days of completion of the repair.
 9. The shoreline repair is completed between April 25, 2023 and October 1, 2023.
 10. This policy will not apply to the lakes that are in the LMKP outlet project; Little McDonald Lake, Paul Lake, Kerbs Lake and Devils Lake (56-245), if the moratorium is reinstated.

[View Ice Damage Repair Policy](#)

[Ice Damage Repair Application](#)

Contact Information

[Land & Resource Management](#)

Phone: 218-998-8095

Email: Land@co.ottertail.mn.us

Provided By

[Land & Resource Management](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [January 12, 2023](#)
 - [February 9, 2023](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

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



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

Featured Posts - April 2023

- [Lake Property Owner Event Administration](#)
- [The Case For Water Quality Monitoring](#)
- [Components of A Lake Stewardship Program](#)

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- [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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