

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter May 2023

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From The President

The lake season has arrived! We went from too much snow to it's too hot in record time. In April, when it was the day to pick up coolers for water testing, some hardy volunteers made it to Ottertail in a snow storm and by May we had a lovely summer day for the first member meeting of the season. RMB Labs came again to distribute the water testing equipment. Thank you to the those that take samples each month and those who transport the samples to RMB in Detroit Lakes!

The May meeting featured the past and future of Otter Tail County ditches. Thanks to Ditch Inspector Colby Palmersheim many of us learned something new! Education is the goal of COLA meetings. It was a pleasure to have many lakes represented along with County Commissioners, Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force Chair and members, and the Mayor of Perham. Each summer month is an opportunity to mingle and share ideas.

We hope to welcome you to the meeting on June 15. Fisheries are a hot topic and Jim Wolters from DNR always has lots of information to share. Read the details in this newsletter. You'll learn about many topics compiled by editor John Kruse!

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



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**
 - **June 15, 2023**
 - Featured speaker- DNR Fisheries- Jim Wolters
 - Featured Lake Association- David Helgersen- West McDonald
 - **July 20, 2023**

- Lake property owner property taxes-
 - 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
-



Star Lake 2018 Summer Survey

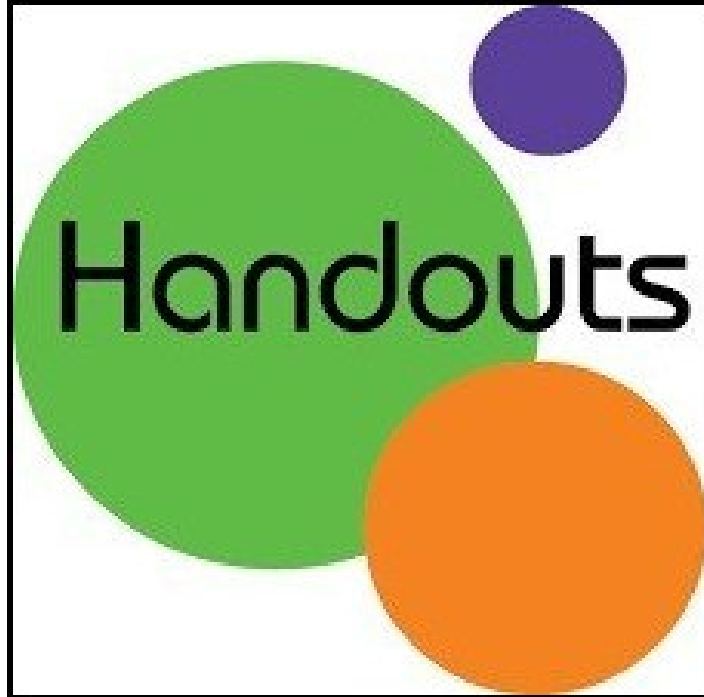
June 2023 OTC COLA meeting

The June, 2023 Otter Tail County Lake Property Owner meeting will be held June 15, 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 Jim Wolters, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, Fergus Falls Fisheries. Jim's presentation will focus on fish populations in Otter Tail County lakes. He will talk about the Fisheries Surveys program and how they contribute to lake management plans. He will also address the fish winter kill experienced this year and what Fisheries is doing to reestablish populations.

[Jim Wolters, DNR Area Fisheries](#)

218-671-7954



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 throughout the summer. Over two hundred sets were distributed at the May 2023 meeting. To reserve a quantity to be picked up at a future meeting, send an email to me with the approximate number of handout sets you are requesting.

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



OTC COLA Lake Property Owners May Meeting

Colby Palmersheim, Otter Tail County Manager of Public Drainage Systems was the featured speaker for the May 18, 2023 meeting of Otter Tail County lake property owners. The Otter Tail County Drainage Inspector presented on the history of County Drainage systems, their current utilization, needs, and the county's plan to provide pro-active responses and bring all systems to present day value and functionality by completing re-determination of benefits. A map of County Drainage Systems and ditch specific information can be found at <https://ottertailcounty.gov/department/ditches-and-drainage-systems/>. Any questions, comments, or concerns about the drainage systems can be directed to the Drainage Inspector – Colby Palmersheim, cpalmers@co.ottertail.mn.us 218-998-8473

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

[Colby Palmersheim](#)

218-998-8473



Thursday - Sunday
July 20th - 23rd
2023

EAST OTTER TAIL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS \ PERHAM, MN

See You At The Fair

Come to the East Otter Tail County Fair and visit the OTC COLA booth! The fair will be Thursday - Sunday July 20- 23. Watch for updates and more information in future E-Newsletters.

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



OTC COLA Receives Donations Again in 2023

Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) continues to receive unsolicited donations. Donations are "in recognition of the excellent work of OTC COLA". OTC COLA enjoys support from the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force. It also receives support from foundations, Member Lake Organizations and donations from individual lake property owners. Donations are invited to not only enable OTC COLA to continue its current programs and services but also to expand them.

OTC COLA is a 501 (c)(3) allowing donations to qualify for tax deductions.

To donate to OTC COLA please send your check to:

OTC COLA
4302 13th Ave S, Suite 4-333
Fargo, ND 58103

Please direct questions to:

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



Toward Zero Deaths (TZD)

The Otter Tail County Communities Coalition campaign, Toward Zero Deaths (TZD), is aimed at **reducing impaired driving around the lakes during the summer months**. Impaired driving continues to be one of the top contributing factors in fatal and serious injury crashes on our roads. Our plan is to decrease impaired driving on our roads and improve the public's awareness of sober driving among people going to and from and living near the lakes.

This summer, a project we're working on is getting signage up around some of the lake access points in our county. The messaging is simple, "**Find a Sober Ride Home**". These signs will be up during peak times like the Fishing Opener, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. We hope to encourage people to stay safe on the roads and make the smart decision to not get behind the wheel if they've been drinking.

[MORE](#)

[Letter to Lake Associations](#)

[How to Spot An Impaired Driver Card](#)

MN COLA Introduces New Website!

To better serve our members MN COLA developed its new website. Our goal was a clean, modern, and inviting website with up-to-date information useful to members and other visitors. We organized our areas of focus and put them in one place (Our Focus Areas). We provide a list of water-oriented events and webinars for professionals from Minnesota and surrounding states. We also provide current news from around the region and beyond, and there's a quick reference page for links to organizations, government and private. Take a look at mncola.org and let us know what you think!

MNCOLA.ORG

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DNR Offers Tips On How To Catch, Release Fish

Anglers who intend to release any of the fish they catch can boost the chances those fish will survive by following best practices for catch and release

- Plan fishing trips
- Set the hook quickly
- Support the fish with both hands
- Attempt to revive the fish before releasing

[MORE](#)

Improper Use Of Hydraulic Jets

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in a way such that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

[MORE](#)

Counties Added To Spring Burning Restrictions

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has expanded the area subject to open burning restrictions as warm and dry weather spreads throughout the state.

Beginning Friday, May 5, additional counties in which burning restrictions apply are:

Becker, Beltrami, Cass, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, **Otter Tail**, Pennington, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Roseau, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, Wilkin

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Starry Trek Scheduled August 19, 2023

Starry Trek volunteers have been responsible for the discovery of 4 previously unknown populations of starry stonewort, 1 new zebra mussel population, 2 newly reported Eurasian watermilfoil infestations, the discovery of [Corbicula fluminea in an Sherburne County lake](#), and much more.

[MORE](#)



Lab To Lakes: A MAISRC Regional Workshop

Join the **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center** (MAISRC) and **regional leaders** in a two-day workshop about priority aquatic invasive species concerns for **North Central Minnesota**.

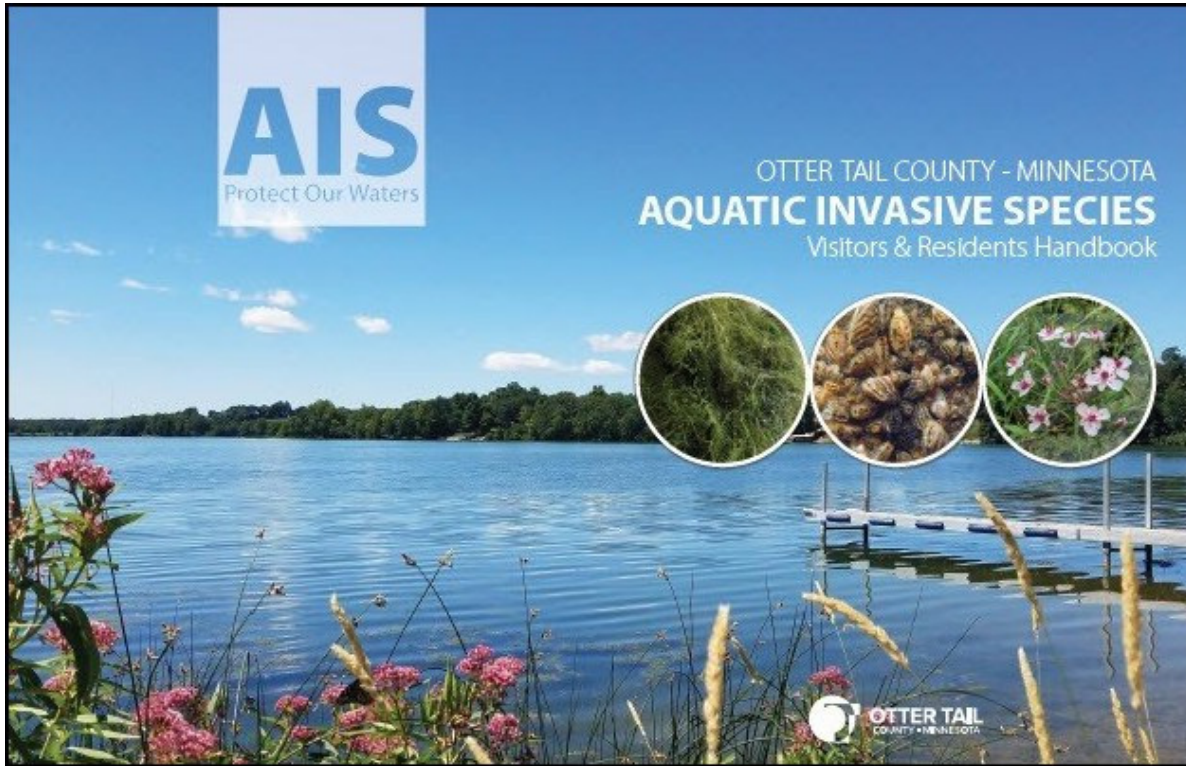
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2022 **PROGRAM**
SUMMARY

[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2022](#)

[AIS Prevention 2022 Report](#)



Click on image for Handbook

AIS Task Force Update May 2023

- Eighteen Water Inspectors completed 2023 orientation
- Sixteen I-LIDS cameras installed
- Improvements to self-service rinse station
- AIS Handbook is available for distribution

[MORE](#)

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents](#)

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

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

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [March 23, 2023](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [April 11, 2023](#)
- [April 25, 2023](#)
- [May 9, 2023](#)



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

Featured Posts - May 2023

- [DNR Infested Waters List](#)
- [COLA / Lake Association Newsletters](#)
- [Five W's + H Of Journalism](#)

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