

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

## E-Newsletter July 2023

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[OTCCOLA.ORG](http://OTCCOLA.ORG)

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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**
    - **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
-



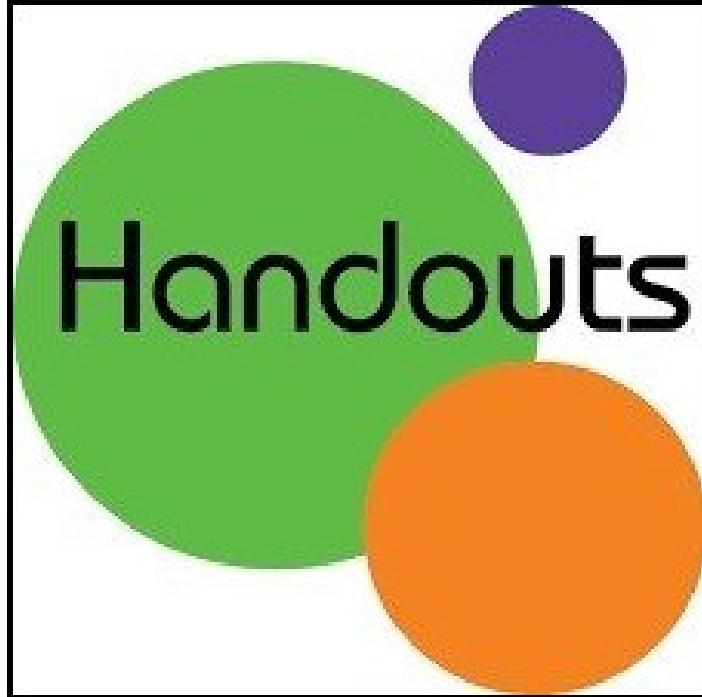
## **Darren Newville To Speak At OTC COLA August Meeting**

Darren Newville, District Manager of the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) will be the Featured Speaker at the OTC COLA Annual Meeting. The event will be held August 17, 2023 at the Ottertail Community Center, 93 Lake Avenue S, Ottertail, MN 56571. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. All Otter Tail County lake property owners are encouraged to attend.

Darren will be providing an update on the work of the SWCDs in Otter Tail County and the progress on the Watershed Planning efforts. He will also provide an update on the Otter Tail River dam modification projects that are being completed this summer with funding from the DNR and the USF&WS.

**[Darren Newville](#)**

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### **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 August 17.

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

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### **Breakfast On The Farm August 5, 2023**

With summer in Lakes Country comes a variety of community events that celebrate our towns and communities. One of those events is the EOT Breakfast on the Farm. The local agriculture community and a host of volunteers are all geared up for this year's EOT Breakfast on the Farm event. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 5th, on the Ed and Alisyn Keil Farm located north of Perham at 44703 490<sup>th</sup> St, Perham (follow the signs).

[MORE](#)



Jeff Vansteenburgh with water sampling device

## **July 2023 Featured Speaker Demonstrates Innovative Sampling Tool**

The Featured Speaker at the July OTC COLA Lake Property Owner meeting was Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director. Jeff's talk outlined COLA's water monitoring program that has been running for over 25 years. The data captured has been used to provide 10-year trend analysis reports. Trend analysis shows if lake health is improving, declining or maintaining. Pollution sources can be identified. Data can help determine how projects can improve lake water quality.

During Jeff's presentation he demonstrated the two meter integrated depth sampler. This tool is preferred over collecting samples dipped from surface water in that it collects a more representative sample from two meters of depth. Jeff has used it for collecting samples on First Silver Lake. A future issue of the OTC COLA E-Newsletter will include a how-to-do-it article for constructing the tool.

**[Presentation slides](#)**

## **Water Sampling 2023**

Remaining 2023 sample drop-off dates are:

August 21

September 18

Samples can be hand-delivered to the RMB Detroit Lakes laboratory, 22796 County Highway 6, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501, 218-846-1465 or dropped off at the following locations:

### **Perham Area:**

Duane Lysne

218-346-5378

40810 North Marion Drive

Perham, MN 56573

### **Clitherall / Battle Lake Area:**

KC Lawn

Mike Allman

218-864-5318

21443 380th Ave

Battle Lake, MN 56515

### **DNR Water Transport Permit**

The [Transport Water for Water Quality Sampling Permit](#) is required to collect and transport surface water for water quality sampling in Minnesota. If you want to transport water for any other purpose, you may need to apply for an [Infested Waters Permit](#).

### **[Water Quality Sample Transfer Permit](#)**

### **[Infested Waters Permit](#)**

### **[2023 RMB Lakes Monitoring Program](#)**

[Jeff Vansteenburgh](#), OTC COLA Environmental Director

641-420-0928

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Sylvia Soeth at EOT County Fair

## OTC Booth At EOT County Fair

OTC COLA hosted a booth at the East Otter Tail County Fair in Perham MN, July 20-23, 2023. Information on the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations, water quality analysis reports, aquatic invasive species prevention and lake association creation and lake organization administration was offered to the fair attendees. Operating the booth were COLA Directors Scott Gaudette, David Helgersen and President Sylvia Soeth.

*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE**

## **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



Current Waters

## **MN COLA Introduces New Website!**

MN COLA announces a new website! It provides a great new external face for MN COLA and provides for easy navigation and a robust offering of news and resources.

And, please consider subscribing to MN COLA's newsletter, Current

Waters. It's free, but we'd love to have you join as a dues paying member.

To review the benefits of joining MN COLA, click here

<https://mncola.org/benefits-of-mn-cola-why-be-a-member/>

[MNCOLA.ORG](https://mncola.org)

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## **Starry Stonewort Continues to Encroach On MN Counties**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the invasive algae starry stonewort in North Twin Lake, near the town of Turtle River in Beltrami County. Starry stonewort has now been confirmed in 25 water bodies in Minnesota. It was first confirmed in the state in 2015.

[MORE](#)





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## Help Report And Control Invasive Phragmites

**Invasive *Phragmites*** (*Phragmites australis* subsp. *australis*) is an aggressive, non-native wetland grass that can harm wildlife, recreation, and ecological functioning. While it has taken over vast acreages in other states, the scale of invasion in Minnesota still offers hope for effective management. **We have a window of opportunity to reduce invasive *Phragmites*' impacts to Minnesota's lakeshores, wetlands, riparian areas, and other habitats.**

[MORE](#)

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## MAISRC Annual Report 2022

We are excited to share our 2022 Annual Report with you! The **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center** (MAISRC) spent the year translating research learned in the field and the lab to better inform decisions made in aquatic invasive species management.

Some highlights:

- [Good science](#): A letter from Nick Phelps, MAISRC director.
- Our outreach program connected with over [3000 people](#) across Minnesota
- [88% of survey respondents](#) believe that AIS is a moderate or severe problem in Minnesota
- AIS Detectors program surpasses [400 volunteers](#)!
- ...and more

[Annual Report](#)

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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\*\*](#)

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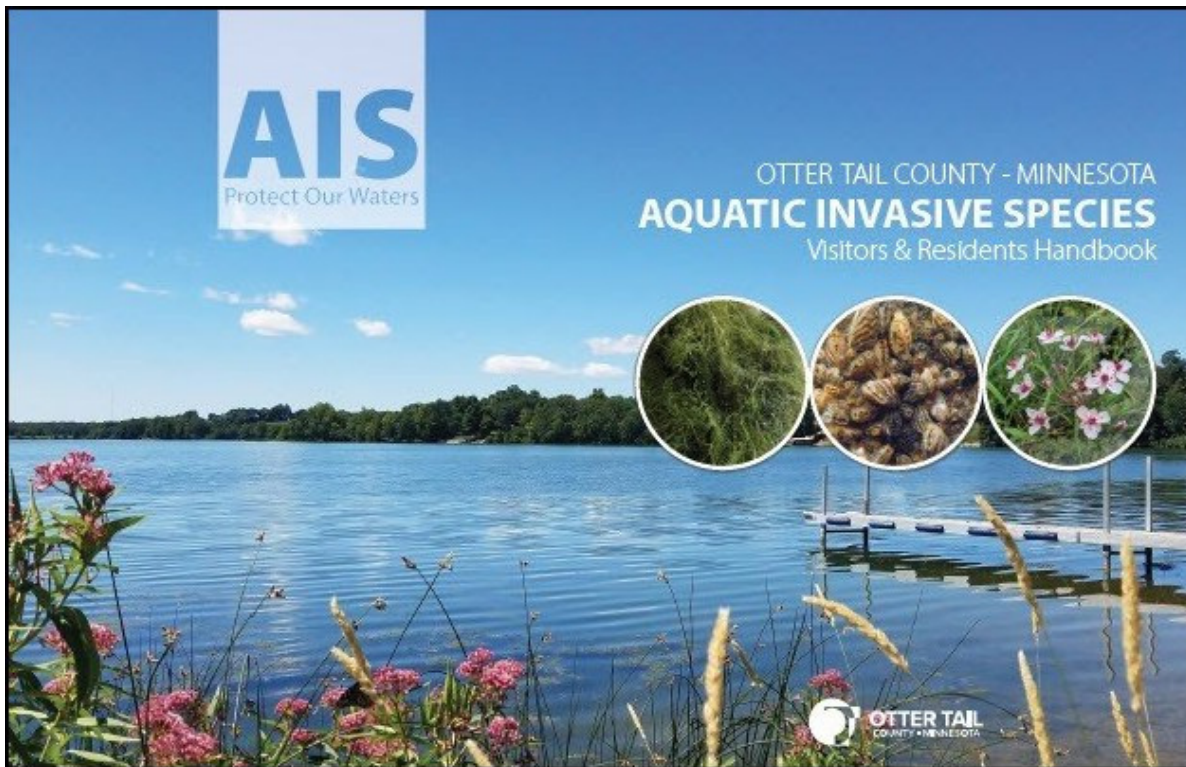


## **NHTSA And OTC Safe Communities Coalition To Host Speeding Campaign**

Speeding is a dangerous and aggressive behavior that accounts for more than one-quarter of all traffic-related fatalities nationally. In 2020 alone, there were 11,258 people killed in speeding-related traffic crashes. This loss of life represented a dramatic increase (17%) in speeding-related crash fatalities from 2019-2020, with another projected 5% increase from 2020 to 2021. Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition is teaming up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to remind drivers to stop speeding and to help put an end to this risky driving behavior. NHTSA and OTC Safe Communities Coalition will host the speeding campaign Speeding Catches Up With You from July 1-31, 2023.

# 2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY

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



Click on image for Handbook

### **AIS Handbook In Distribution**

The recently produced AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is being distributed to lake property owners by a number of means. Availability has been advertised in the OTC COLA E-Newsletter prompting receiving them directly from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Lake Associations have requested quantities directly for Association events and meetings. To date close to 500 Handbooks were collected by Lake Associations at OTC COLA lake property owner meetings for distribution to their Members. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the information has also been published in area newspapers and

included in social media posts.

To receive a quantity of Handbooks for distribution to lake property owners contact Spencer McGrew AIS Specialist 218-998-8113

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents](#)

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

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

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [June 13, 2023](#)
  - [June 27, 2023](#)
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[AIS \\* Water Quality \\* Administration \\* Regulation](#)

## **Featured Posts - July 2023**

- [Walleyes Are Smaller In Lakes W/AIS](#)
- [Seven Reasons People Love Lake Living](#)
- [AIS Harvesting Concerns Raised](#)

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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 \(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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#### **OTC COLA Board of Directors**

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 Lakeshore 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 · Wymer Lake Association

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