

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter August 2023

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From The President

I heard it said at the Annual Meeting a week ago, "I can't believe we've had four meetings already this summer!" Time flies by. There were exceptional speakers that brought much information to members, both new faces and familiar faces in attendance, from many different Lake Associations. These leaders can take

information and contacts back to share.

We are fortunate that COLA Board members accepted re-election to the Board of Directors. This is a group with a wide variety of knowledge and a dedication to making COLA the best it can be for members year round, as well as during the lake season. Each takes his role to heart. Thanks to them!

We wind up the season and move to Fall with the CoLA-SWCD Bus Tour on Saturday, September 16. If you've gone on a bus with us before, you know it's a comfy bus with snacks and always educational! You could be surprised what has been done to protect the shorelines. [It's so easy to sign up](#) right in this newsletter. No cost to you. We hope to see you on the Bus!!!

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



Upcoming Event 2023

- **September 16, 2023**
 - Bus Tour- rain gardens and shoreland restoration
-



OTC COLA & EOT SWCD

Invite You to the Shoreline Restoration Bus Tour

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) and East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) are sponsoring the bus tour on September 16, 2023. During the 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon tour 4-5 properties will be visited. There is no cost for the event.

The [**Shoreline Restoration Bus Tour Flyer**](#) provides more information from the EOT SWCD and MN Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), showing the benefits and advantages of shoreline restoration. Also outlined is how the EOT SWCD can help with property assessment, planting design and may cover up to 75% of the cost of installation.

Thank you to those who have already registered. The bus is almost half full! Still plenty of room for more. Registrants include County Commissioners, Otter Tail County Lake Association Members and lake property owners from Otter Tail and neighboring counties.

[**2023 Shoreline Restoration Bus Tour Flyer**](#)

See responses to the follow-up survey taken after last year's Starry Stonewort Tour.

[**2022 Starry Stonewort Bus Tour Survey Responses**](#)

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



Darren Newville

Darren Newville Featured Speaker At OTC COLA Annual Meeting

Darren Newville, District Manager of the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) was the Featured Speaker at the OTC COLA Annual Meeting. The event was held August 17, 2023 at the Ottertail Community Center

Darren, a veteran of working with the EOT SWCD for over 30 years, explained its mission is to protect soil and water resources. EOT SWCD programs include the Shoreland Program, Shoreland Buffers, Water / Watershed Planning, Native Grass Program and Education and Outreach Programs. Darren explained that EOT provides free technical assistance addressing shoreland restoration and erosion concerns. He also outlined the availability of financial assistance for up to 75% of installation costs.

[EOT SWCD Slideshow](#)

[Darren Newville](#)

Thank You!

Thank You Lake Monitoring Volunteers!

OTC COLA wants to express our gratitude to the volunteers that make our lakes monitoring program possible. Thanks to Duane and Darlene Lysne for the use of their place as sample cooler collection point and for transporting the samples to the lab. Thank you to Mike Allman who transports sample coolers from our Battle Lake collection point. Thanks to Kurt Maethner at KC Lawn for allowing us to use his building as a collection point. This past year Kurt remodeled his facility but made sure there was still a location for our sample coolers. An extra thanks for considering us in the planning. Lastly, we want to say thank you to all the volunteer sample collectors from all our lake associations for the time and expense that goes into collecting the samples for analysis. The analytical results are valuable and are put to use by various agencies involved in lake water quality programs in the state.

Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director

Water Sampling 2023

Remaining 2023 sample drop-off date is 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



Protecting
Minnesota's lake
and river heritage
since 1994

The Natural Shoreline Partnership Releases Their Report On The Condition Of Minnesota's Shorelines

As the lakes warm many of us are seeing unprecedented algae blooms in our lakes. It is not your imagination. These blooms are larger and more frequent than in the past.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is leading efforts to change this.

In January of 2021 the MN DNR reached out to key stakeholders in state agencies, local government resource offices and nonprofits to have discussions about, "about ways to improve shoreland protection and restoration programs in Minnesota."

Jeff Forester, Executive Director of MLR, now Chairs this working group. We have broadened our base of participants, thoroughly researched the many programs across the nation that are being used to help protect and restore shoreline, defined the amount of shoreline that has had its function impaired by poor developments, and outlined various solution strategies.

We will continue to work with this group to align our collective resources and build and coordinate the many aspects of a strategic plan to restore impaired shoreline and protect the undeveloped shoreline that remains.

[Full Report](#)

[Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#)

[Jeff Forester](#), MLR Executive Director

MN COLA



Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

MN COLA August Update

The MN COLA September meeting is Tuesday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Initiative Foundation Offices in Little Falls, MN. Topics of discussion will include the 2024 legislative agenda, wells and septic systems, and best practices for keeping COLAs, LARAs and lake/river associations strong. The event will also include a round robin session giving attendees a chance to talk about issues in their respective areas.

The University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is continuing its wake boat study. Read about what Vermont is proposing [HERE](#)

- 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)

[Subscribe to the MN COLA E-Newsletter](#)

[Contact MN COLA](#)

[David Helgerson](#), OTC COLA Director Liaison with MN COLA



AIS Research And Management Showcase: Early Bird Registration

The showcase, which will be held on Wednesday, September 20th, is a one-day online event where you can hear updates from our research teams on their latest discoveries in the world of aquatic invasive species (AIS). **Ticket price of \$25-\$20 (early bird pricing!) includes exclusive access to recordings of the showcase**, before the general public. [Click this link](#) to register!

[MORE](#)



MAISRC 10th Anniversary Celebration

The researchers, staff, and volunteers at the **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)** are excited to invite you to our **10th anniversary celebration** on **Thursday, October 5, 2023!**

[McNamara Alumni Center](#)

200 SE Oak St

Minneapolis, MN 55455

Connect with researchers and luminaries across Minnesota in the field of aquatic invasive species, play and learn with interactive exhibits (live fish!), and hear what's in store for the future of MAISRC! Your ticket includes a **cocktail hour, plated dinner, and MAISRC swag**. Registration opens in September; **save the date now, and get ready for an exciting evening with MAISRC!**

[MAISRC](#)



OTTER TAIL
COUNTY - MINNESOTA

AIS Task Force August Update

- **Over 9,000 watercraft have been inspected by Watercraft Inspectors so far in 2023**
- **Inspection staff to take Starry Stonewort / Eurasian Watermilfoil field trip to Lake Minnewaska**
- **AIS Handbooks still available**

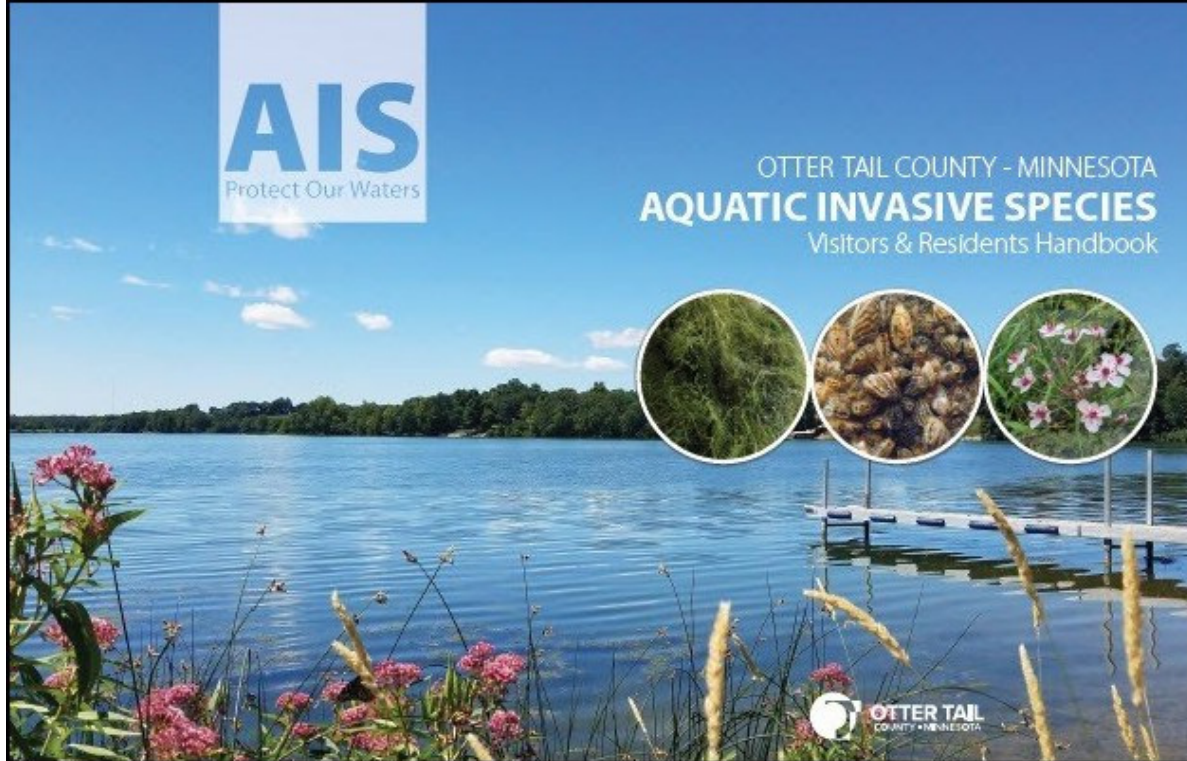
[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist

2022

PROGRAM SUMMARY

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



Click on image for Handbook

AIS Handbooks Still Available

The recently produced AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force continues to be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners, and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities are still available from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the AIS prevention 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**](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [**July 11, 2023**](#)
 - [**July 25, 2023**](#)
 - [**August 8, 2023**](#)
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[AIS * Water Quality * Administration * Regulation](#)

Featured Posts - August 2023

- [Why Does Our Lake Get More Weeds](#)
- [Water Quality Distorted By Zebra Mussels](#)
- [Algae Blooms](#)

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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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Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald
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Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement
Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle Lake Association ·
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Association · Silver Lake Property Owners Association · South Turtle Lake
Improvement District · Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker
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Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake
Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West
McDonald Lake Association · Wymer Lake Association

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