

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter September 2023

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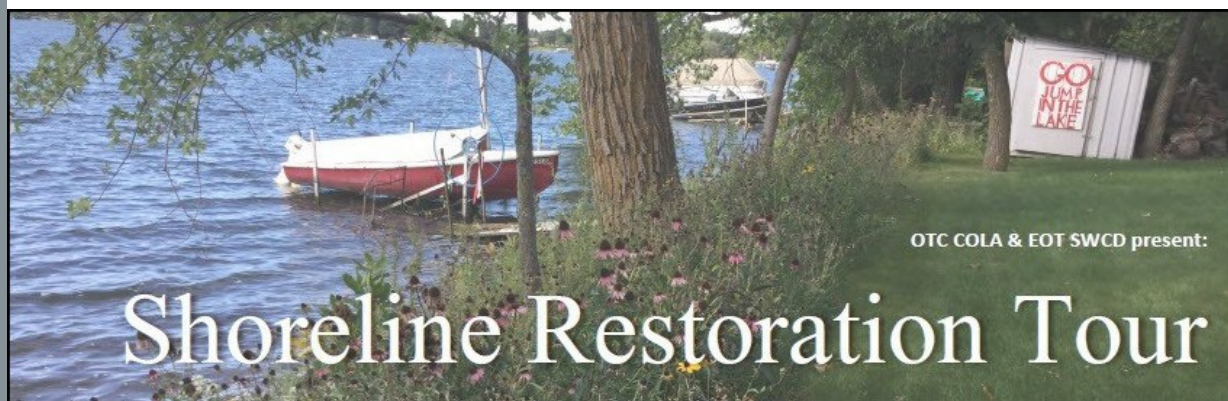
From The President

It was a cool September morning perfect for a bus ride. It couldn't have gone any better! John and I were so happy to fill the bus. Breakfast was served at the Soil and Water Conservation District office and we were off with one stop to get batteries for the microphone. The Anderson bus driver was accommodating and maneuvered gravel roads and narrow driveways with ease.

On the 20 minute ride to Lake Seven riders asked good questions that showed the interest and enthusiasm of the group. Impressive growth on a slope and a unique rain garden were in that area and we headed back to Big Pine on Highway 60, passing the leftover cars of the train wreck on the way. Established plantings demonstrated what could be done to prevent erosion and eliminate mowing a steep lawn. Grasses and flowers are eye-catching in all the yards. Our homeowners were willing to share their experiences with the group. Again, many good questions.

Liz and Pete kept us on schedule and shared so much information. OTC lakeshore property owners are fortunate to have SWCDs to advise and work with them. COLA thanks them and the homeowners who shared a successful COLA-SWCD Bus Tour to wrap up the lake season! Now the COLA Board will plan for 2024!

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)



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) sponsored a bus tour of successful native plant shoreline and rain garden projects.

The event started at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2023 with registered attendees assembling at the EOT SWCD offices in Perham MN. The close to 50 tour participants then embarked on a 3-hour educational excursion visiting four sites on two regional lakes.



At each stop the property owners themselves described the unique challenges and opportunities they encountered installing and maintaining the native plants.



There were dramatic examples of the natural beauty of the flowers and grasses. Also remarked was the relief from not having to mow steep lots.

The Tour Guides were Liz Wiese and Pete Guck of EOT SWCD. There were constant questions from the group on the bus between stops. Liz and Pete demonstrated their extensive knowledge and experience working with lake property owners for many years. They related the availability of EOT SWCD to work with lake property owners offering technical consultation, advice and financial assistance. Pete says "We want to help lake property owners do things that are good for Otter Tail Lakes"



[Shoreline Restoration Tour Flyer pdf](#)

[Shoreline Restoration Tour Handout pdf](#)

[EOT SWCD Shoreline Restoration Flyer pdf](#)

[Our Lakeshore Connection Video](#)

[Our Lakeshore Connection Video -Transcribed pdf](#)

[EOT SWCD Shoreline Program pdf](#)

[DNR-Maintaining and Restoring Shorelines pdf](#)

[Lake Property Owner Event Administration](#)

[Liz Wiese, EOT SWCD Shoreline Specialist](#)

[Pete Guck, EOT SWCD Shoreline Specialist](#)

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



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Minnesota's lake
and river heritage
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Lake Steward Update

Lily Carr, MLR Lake Steward coordinator, finds that Lake Steward can drive an area's real estate market. Buyers value lakeshore property in a community that helps protect their investment in that lake.

Another example that clean water is good business.

[MORE](#)



Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director

eDNA Testing on Lakes Powerful New Tool for AIS

Early detection of an AIS in a lake can result in more effective management. In over 6 lakes in MN, early detection, followed by a quick strategic response, has resulted in either the eradication of the AIS, or containment to the point it is no longer invasive. Control following early detection is not only often more biologically effective, but is often more cost effective.

All living organisms shed DNA. eDNA or Environmental DNA testing looks for this DNA in water. This tool could make it far easier to detect AIS than with current monitoring methods.

This summer Executive Director Jeff Forester participated in Phase Two of a MAISRC study to test the effectiveness of citizen volunteers in using eDNA kits to test lakes for AIS. In 2023 MLR successfully lobbied for funding to support MAISRC's Lab to Lakes program that brings cutting edge science to engaged volunteers.

If successful, eDNA testing will be a powerful new tool to protect lakes from the damage of AIS.

[**MORE**](#)

[**Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates**](#)

[**Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director**](#)

MN COLA



Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

MN COLA September Update

MN COLA held a membership meeting on September 19 via Zoom. Topics included:

1. Update on Vermont's proposed rules for use of wake boats, considered the most restrictive in the U.S. (<https://mncola.org/vermont-proposes-rules-for-use-of-wake-boats/>)
2. Presentation on the impact of climate change to our Minnesota water by Dr. Mark Seeley, Meteorologist/Climatologist, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water, and Climate.
3. Best Practice in Action. Presentation by Nick Bluhm, Treasurer, Association of Cass County Lakes, and Steve Henry, AIS Technician, Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District. Informative discussion about their AIS Cleaning Station concept - For more information, contact cleaningstations@acclakes.org.
4. 2024 Legislative Agenda presentation by Tom Watson & Steve Frawley. Discussed MN COLA's top priorities... Watercraft use, Boater AIS compliance, 2nd tier (non-riparian property development), Update AIS prevention aid models, Funding of MAISRC (maisrc.umn.edu).

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

Starry Stonewort Continues To Spread In MN

Starry stonewort confirmed in Long Lake in Hubbard County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the invasive algae starry stonewort in Long Lake, near Park Rapids in Hubbard County.

An aquatic vegetation survey company hired by the Long Lake Association discovered starry stonewort in the lake, and a Minnesota DNR invasive species specialist confirmed its presence. Available treatment options could include hand pulling, herbicide applications or other methods as appropriate.

Starry stonewort confirmed in Dora Lake in Itasca County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of the invasive algae starry stonewort in Dora Lake, near Wirt in Itasca County.

Minnesota DNR staff conducting an LCCMR-funded algae survey discovered starry stonewort near the Dora Lake public access. A follow-up survey to determine distribution confirmed a roughly 100 square foot area where starry stonewort is intermingled with other aquatic plants. Available treatment options could include hand pulling, herbicide applications or other methods as appropriate.

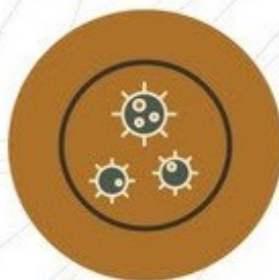
Funding for the Dora Lake algae survey was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources , Project 2021-055: Protecting Minnesota's Beneficial Macroalgae – All Stoneworts Aren't Starry.

[MORE](#)



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

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Save the Date! >

Thursday, December 7, 2023

FROM THE LAB TO THE LAKE

Celebrating 10 Years of Aquatic Invasive
Species Research in Minnesota

Photo by Lee Yue

MAISRC 10th Anniversary Celebration

From the Lab to the Lake: Celebrating 10 Years of AIS Research in Minnesota

The staff and researchers at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) are excited to invite you to a special 10th anniversary celebration on Thursday, December 7, 2023 (new date!)

[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 September Update

- 11,500 watercraft were inspected during the 2023 season
- Otter Tail County Continues to remind boaters to CLEAN, DRAIN and DISPOSE

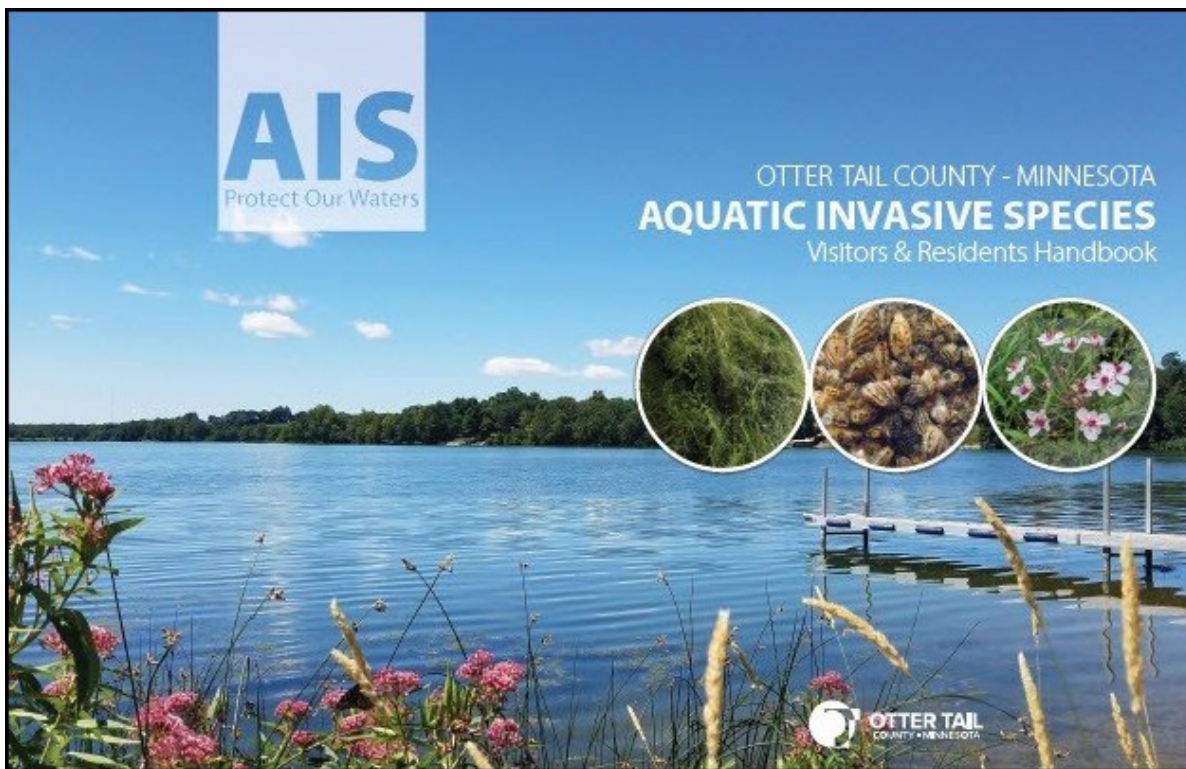
- Paul Miller Park rinse station to be installed this fall
- AIS Task Force to work with high school fishing leagues
- Be sure to check for AIS when taking watercraft out of lakes

[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**](#)

AIS Task Force Minutes

- [**August 10, 2023**](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [**August 22, 2023**](#)
-



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

Featured Posts - September 2023

- [**Lake Property Owner Event Administration**](#)
- [**Power Loading Causes Damage**](#)
- [**Starry Stonewort Video**](#)

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