

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter November 2023

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Keep It Clean - Be Nice To Our Ice

When winter comes to Minnesota you may have noticed our lakes freeze and ice anglers appear in big numbers. The sport of ice fishing is booming from traditional ice shacks to comfortable Fish Camp trailers.

Garbage and human waste are being left on Minnesota lakes. In the spring this garbage and human waste infiltrates our waters sinking to the bottom, washing up on shore. Something must be done to fix this issue and you can do it.

[MORE](#)



Walleye Myths You Should Know About

The Wisconsin DNR after completing the process of updating the state's walleye management plan included an extensive public input process that was conducted as a part of that plan. Through this process, valuable insight was gained into current attitudes about walleye and preferences for walleye management. Also found were a lot of interesting myths and misconceptions about this species.

[MORE](#)



OTC COLA Continues to Promote Healthy Lakes

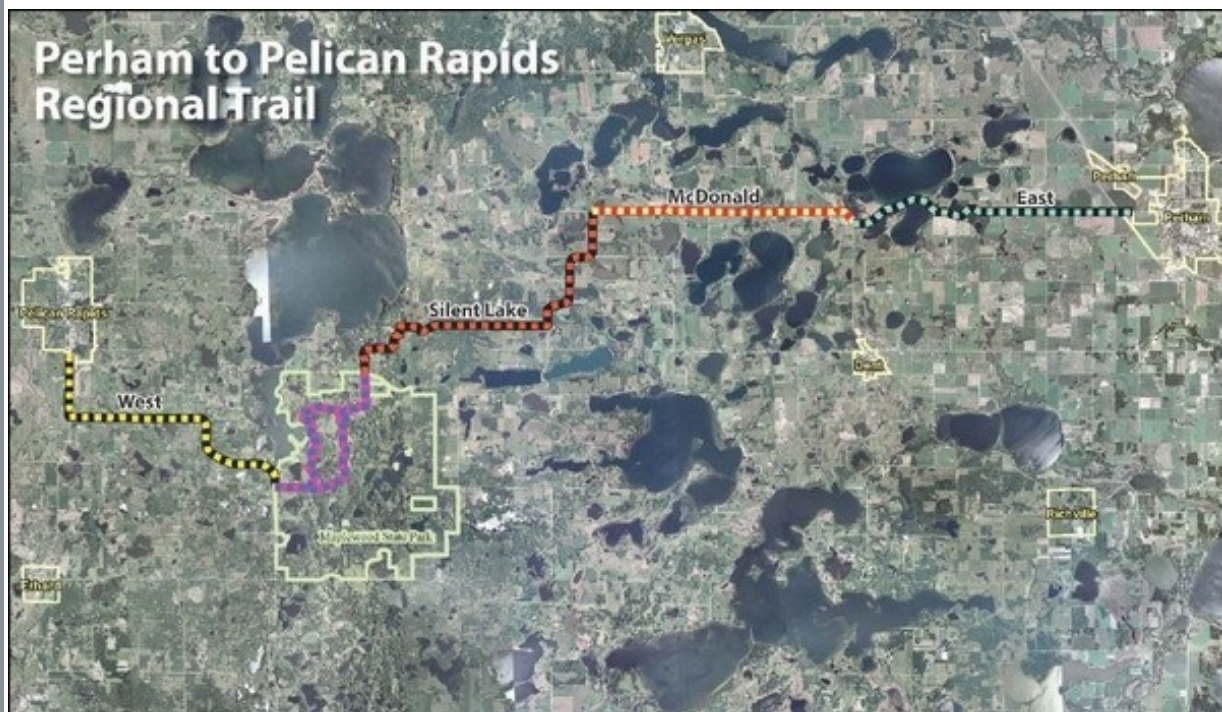
Check out the review of [Major COLA Events and Campaigns](#). See the progress in engaging lake property owners since 2017. They focus on AIS prevention, shoreland preservation and demonstrate COLA's longstanding contribution to lake stewardship in Otter Tail County.

OTC COLA appreciates the donations it has received from foundations, Member Lake Organizations and individual lake property owners. It is also especially grateful for support from the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force.

OTC COLA has established a long and distinguished reputation working with lake property owners for stewardship of Otter Tail County Lakes. We look forward to continuing to contribute to the effort of protecting and preserving our lakes.

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 otccola2@gmail.com



Maplewood Park Trail Wins Approval

On Oct. 10, the county board of commissioners accepted an agreement with Fargo-based Houston Engineering for design services pertaining to the Glacial Edge Trail-Maplewood State Park segment. This trail segment will run along the east side of Highway 3 within Maplewood State Park.

[MORE](#)

MN COLA



Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

MN COLA November 2023 Update

Upcoming events for MN COLA:

- Annual MN COLA Membership meeting (online), Tuesday, December 5, 9 am - 11 am. Register [HERE](#) to attend
- Great Lakes Virtual PFAS Summit, December 5 - <https://egle.idloom.events/2023-PFAS-Summit/register>
- 3. Webinar on the unique pathways of invasive mussel spread <https://invasivemusselcollaborative.net> December 13, 1 pm - 2:30 pm ET. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unique-pathways-of-invasive-mussel-spread-tickets-746124166467?aff=oddtcreator>

Go [HERE](#) for a review the benefits of joining MN COLA
[MNCOLA.ORG](https://mncola.org)

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



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Signal Crayfish Confirmed in Minnesota

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of signal crayfish, an invasive non-native species, in Lake Winona, adjacent to Alexandria in Douglas County. This is the first confirmation of signal crayfish in Minnesota waters.

Signal crayfish are larger and more aggressive than Minnesota crayfish and the invasive rusty crayfish. They eat aquatic plants, detritus, fish eggs, smaller crayfish species and other beneficial native invertebrates. Signal crayfish might outcompete native species for food and habitat. Signal crayfish can spread between connected waterways or be transported by people. They can also crawl over land at night and during wet weather.

[MORE](#)

Remind Kids About Dangers Of Cold Water

Unseasonably warm weather during the first half of November means many lakes and ponds remain free of ice, but the water is dangerously cold. With holidays approaching the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources urges parents and guardians to talk with kids about the risks of cold water.

[MORE](#)

2024 AIS Management Grant Applications Open

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is offering grants to lake associations and other groups for projects to manage invasive aquatic plants. Applications will be accepted starting at 12:01 a.m. Friday, Nov. 17. The application deadline is 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11.

As was the case for 2023 grants, invasive aquatic plant management permit applications will not be required at the time of grant application. Instead, grantees will apply for permits after receiving a grant, as a step in their grant work plan.

Application materials and details about the grant program are available on the [DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html) (mndnr.gov/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html).

Invasive aquatic plants are non-native plants that can potentially reduce native plant diversity and create recreational nuisances in lakes. The DNR's invasive plant management goal is to minimize harmful effects caused by invasive aquatic plants while also protecting lake habitats and their use.

Questions can be directed to Angelique Dahlberg, DNR aquatic invasive species research and grants coordinator, at angelique.dahlberg@state.mn.us, or to DNR [regional invasive species specialists](https://mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html) (mndnr.gov/invasives/ais/contacts.html).

Zebra Mussels Confirmed In East Leaf Lake

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in East Leaf Lake, near Henning in Otter Tail County. A lake property owner contacted the Minnesota DNR after finding zebra mussels on equipment being removed from East Leaf Lake for the season. A Minnesota DNR invasive species specialist found five zebra mussels on a dock at the public access, about one-half mile from the location of the initial report.

[MORE](#)





MAISRC Newsletter: November 2023

Check out the recent news coming out of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) in our [November newsletter](#). A few highlights:

- Welcoming new Research Outreach Specialist [Maddie Hayden](#)
 - Upcoming [10th anniversary](#) event (*You're invited!*)
 - Meet graduate research fellow [Sawyer Lorentz](#)
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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](#)



AIS Task Force November Update

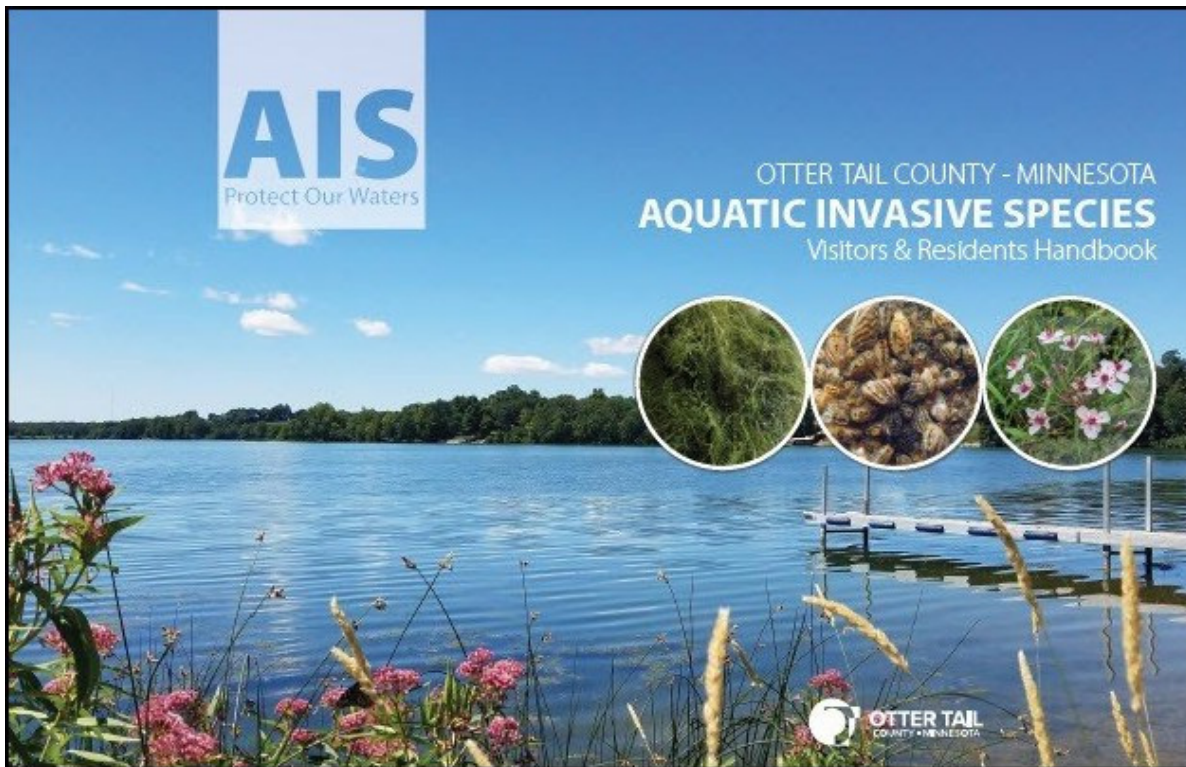
- Signal crayfish discovered in Lake Winona
- Never release unwanted pets in lakes
- AIS Task Force presents at Perham High School

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist



[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

- [**October 12, 2023**](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [**October 10, 2023**](#)
 - [**October 24, 2023**](#)
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[AIS * Water Quality * Administration * Regulation](#)

Featured Posts - November 2023

- [EPA How's My Waterway](#)
- [Integrated Communications](#)
- [Lakeshore Owners- Loving Their Lakes To Death](#)

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