

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter December 2023

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From The President

Are you dreaming of a white Christmas? Mother Nature will do her thing. We never know! Most of us have been happy with a warm and long fall season, but there are others waiting to snowmobile, ski or ice fish.

There's a campaign urging everyone on the ice to contain and remove all trash from frozen lakes. Those of us who love our lakes should understand the need to protect the lake in the winter as we do in the summer, yet every year what's left on the ice pollutes the water or ends up on someone's beach. Groups organize for clean-up when it's each person's responsibility!

John Kruse has completed the Water Quality Analysis Reports for 2023. Data is the result of samples taken to the lab from COLA water testers for our member lakes. Check out the health of your lake! With a few clicks in this newsletter you get a wealth of information. If your lake isn't listed, join us in COLA and it will be.

Enjoy the holiday season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with Peace, Joy and Love!

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

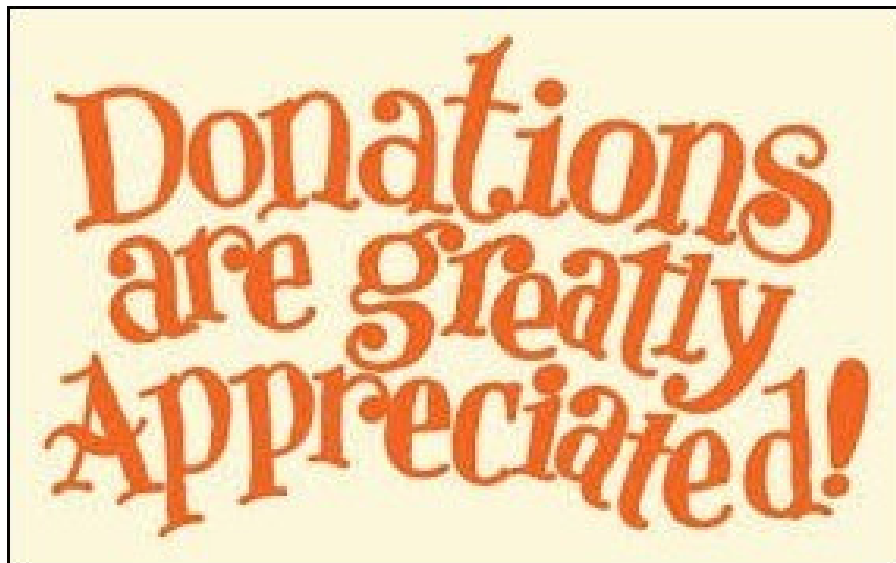
Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
Clitherall 56-0238-00 206	2014	11.2	3.7	12.1	41.0
	2015	10.1	3.0	16.6	38.2
	2016	12.2	4.0	14.7	40.6
	2017	9.1	4.1	13.9	37.0
	2018	9.1	3.7	14.0	39.2
	2019	9.6	3.7	14.2	39.6
	2020	8.4	4.5	15.5	38.4
	2021	9.4	3.2	12.8	39.8
	2022	10.8	3.7	12.3	40.4
	2023	7.0	2.4	18.0	35.0
		9.9	3.6	14.4	39.2
Clitherall 56-0238-00 206 Total					

2023 Water Quality Analysis Reports Published

Sponsoring of the OTC COLA water quality monitoring program has been a major pursuit of the organization for over 20 years. In the quest for encouraging stewardship of Otter Tail County lakes, COLA maintains a program that facilitates the administration and the funding for Lake Associations to participate. OTC COLA has also appreciated the opportunity to pass on to Member Lake Associations a discounted rate from RMB Laboratories for sample analysis.

The results generated by analysis of water samples have been compiled for 2023. The data has been combined with historical records for inclusion into a ten-year trend analysis format. The tables of yearly readings have been incorporated into the individual annual [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#) and posted in the [2023 report library](#). Over 70 tables show individual analysis of sites on over 60 lakes represented by over 50 Lake Associations in Otter Tail County.

[MORE](#)



OTC COLA Appreciates Donations

For a good look at what OTC COLA does, 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



New Guide To Native Plants

Are you a home gardener, plant enthusiast, naturalist, teacher of native plants, waterfront property owner, pollinator lover, or land/ water resource manager? Then you need to check out this new electronic resource by Patrick Goggin, Wisconsin Healthy Lakes & Rivers team members! This e-guide seeks to show and tell the story of all the gifts these native plants give us, and contains species profile pages for 112 different plants, each including these five topic areas:

1. Biology notes
2. Beneficial insects and other wildlife support
3. Seasonal interest notes
4. Complementary native plants
5. Water conservation and erosion control tips

In September 2023 OTC COLA and the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District sponsored the Shoreline Restoration Bus Tour highlighting the benefits of using native plants to preserve lake shoreline. See the article in the [September 2023 OTC COLA E-Newsletter](#) for more information.

Get the [Guide to Native Plants \(a.k.a. Local Beings\)](#) from the Wisconsin Healthy Lake & Rivers initiative www.healthylakeswi.com



Minnesota And Wisconsin DNRs Partner To Capture 323 Invasive Carp

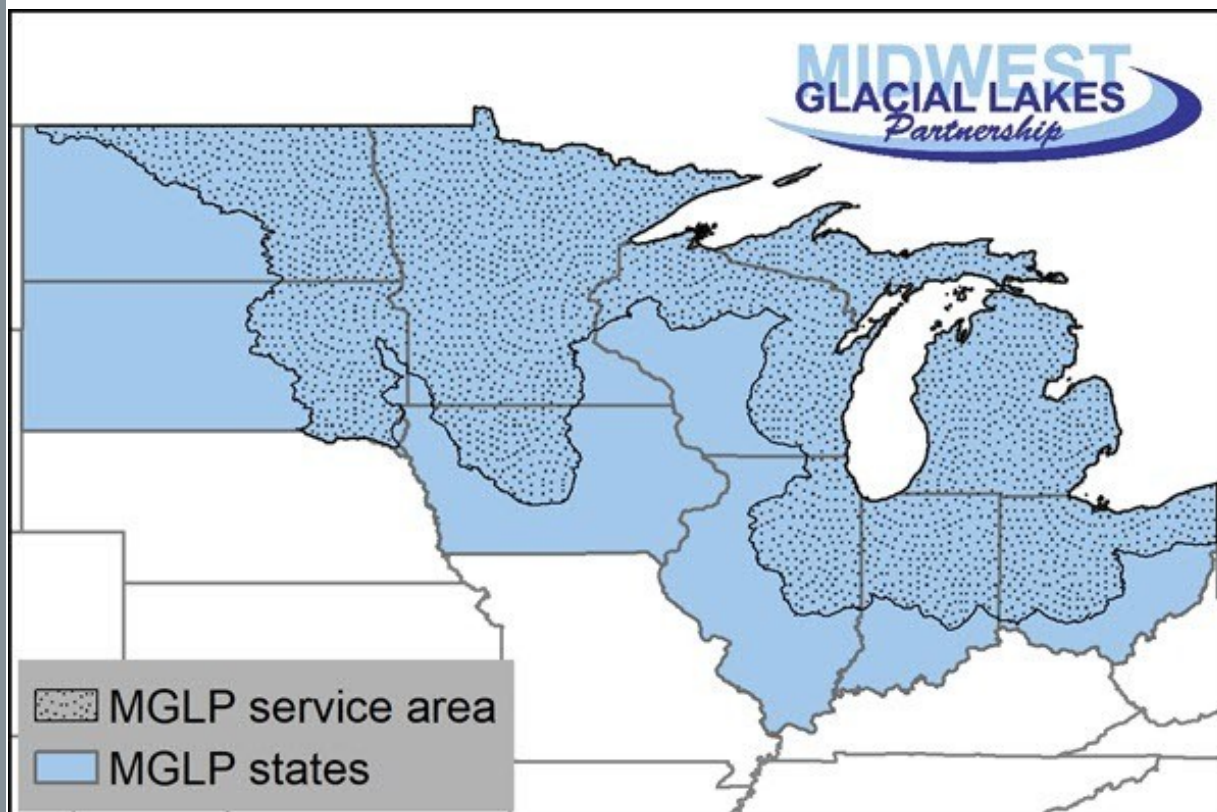
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has confirmed the capture of 323 invasive carp on Thursday, Nov. 30 in Pool 6 of the Mississippi River, near Trempealeau, Wisconsin. Species captured were 296 silver carp, 23 grass carp, and 4 bighead carp. This is the largest single capture of invasive carp that has occurred in Minnesota to date. The capture was made possible by tracking tagged invasive carp, which led agency staff and contracted commercial fishers to them for removal.

[**MORE**](#)

Caution Paramount As Ice Season Gets Underway

The ice season got off to a quick start in parts of Minnesota in recent days, with ice forming on some water bodies and numerous reports of ice anglers already testing their luck. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone to stay on shore until there's at least 4 inches of new, clear ice.

[**MORE**](#)



Request for proposals: 2025 Lake Conservation Grant

We are seeking project proposals for funding from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) [2025 Lake Conservation Grant](#). The MGLP is one of twenty partnerships that span the nation under the umbrella of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The MGLP area of focus is glacial lakes and their watersheds (see figure). Nine Midwestern states, numerous federal agencies, tribal governments, and private natural resource entities have been integral partners in the development and operation of the MGLP.

[MORE](#)



MN COLA December 2023 Update

- MN COLA Board reports four new lake associations recently joined MN COLA. Life Memberships continue to grow.
- MN COLA sponsored a table at the MAISRC 10th anniversary celebration on December 7, titled "From the Lab to the Lake: Celebrating 10 Years of AIS Research in Minnesota." <https://maisrc.umn.edu/events/10years>
- Please see MN COLA's newsletter "Current Waters" for more interesting news and upcoming events. <https://mncola.org/current-waters/>

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

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[Contact MN COLA](#)

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



Click [HERE](#) for the Annual Report

MAISRC Annual Report

Another busy Minnesota winter is behind us, where we organized, analyzed, and planned. Spring is now in full swing, and with it comes another field season for our researchers: We will wear life jackets and sunscreen. We'll pack our lunches and gear to collect samples from across the state. Some of us return to the MAISRC Containment Lab each day, methodically mapping out research scenarios. Others crunch data at the computer or around a conference room table. The work doesn't stop - each moment spent studying the aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota is a step to reducing their harmful impact on our lakes, rivers, and wetlands. Good science takes time.

Dr. Nick Phelps Director, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

<https://maisrc.umn.edu/>



AIS Task Force December Update

- OTC Job Fair at area schools
- Hiring for 2024 begins in February
- Ice is never perfectly safe
- Pack in and Pack out regulations

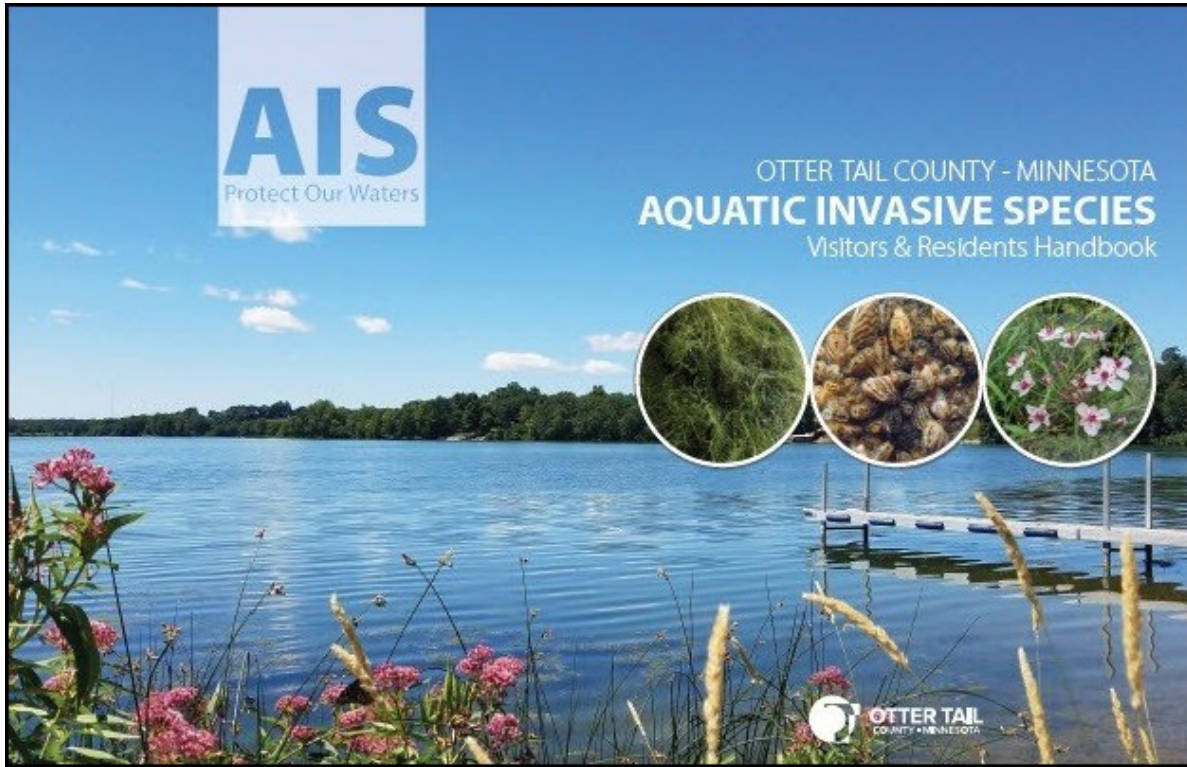
[MORE](#)

[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

- [November 14, 2023](#)
-



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

Featured Posts - December 2023

- [Enhanced Lake Association Directories](#)
- [Ground Water Connection Videos](#)
- [Lake Associations- Who They Are, What They Do](#)

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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 \(2023 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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McDonald Lake Association · Wymer Lake Association

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