

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

## E-Newsletter March 2024

### [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?

Go to the link above to subscribe to the  
monthly E-Newsletter.



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

---

**Problems viewing?**  
[View as Webpage](#)

---

### **In This Issue:**

- **From The President**
- **Upcoming Events**
- **OTC COLA Speaker Team**
- **Watch To Find Us In Your Paper**
- **E-Newsletter Metrics 2023**
- **Forwarding OTC COLA Newsletters**
- **Fishers, DNR, Capture 83 Carp**
- **Brace For Curly-Leaf Outbreak?**
- **Tips To Combat Nuisance Species**
- **DNR Changes To Record Fish Program**
- **Rainfall Monitoring Volunteers Sought**
- **Integrated Sample Device Workshop**
- **MN COLA Update March 2024**
- **AIS Task Force Update March 2024**
- **AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2023**
- **AIS Prevention 2023 Report**
- **New AIS Handbooks - Available Soon**
- **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
- **[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org) -Featured Posts**
- **Instant Access Links -**
  - [Newsletter Article Index](#)
  - [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2023 samples\)](#)
  - [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2019\)](#)

---

**From The President**

What a difference a year makes! Last year we wondered if ice-out would come before opening weekend. This year we have open water in March! Will we have one last blizzard before we can safely say Winter is over?

COLA is definitely thinking summer. Member meetings will start in May, but April is the month for loyal water samplers to pick up coolers and instructions to be ready for getting samples in for the season. COLA began meeting in 1992 and the water testing program with RMB Labs has been a focus since. Data goes to the State of Minnesota and Lakes Associations can find Annual Water Quality Reports on the COLA website. Jeff Vansteenburgh from the COLA Board has samplers, sites for dropping off coolers and those who deliver to the Lab in Detroit Lakes lined up for another year. Thanks to all of these volunteers!

Then on May 16 we can all get together at the Ottertail Community Center at 7:00 p.m. for the first meeting of the Summer

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

---



## **Upcoming Events For 2024**

OTC COLA is looking forward to an exciting lake season in 2024. The Board of Directors have been working hard to put together programs and activities to attract and engage Lake Associations and lake property owners. The emphasis this year is to increase OTC COLA awareness and outreach to all lake property owners.

### **Currently scheduled events.**

Water monitoring kickoff and meeting events are scheduled to be held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN on 3rd Thursdays, April, May, June, July and August.

- April 18- Water monitoring kickoff for distributing sample coolers
- May 16- Lake property owner meeting
  - Featured speaker: Heather Jacobson, OTC Tax Assessor
- June 20- Lake property owners meeting

- Featured speaker: Chuck Becker, safewakes.org
  - July 18- Lake property owners meeting
    - Featured speaker: to be scheduled
  - August 15- OTC COLA Annual Meeting
    - Featured speaker: to be scheduled
- 



## OTC COLA Speaker Team

Members of the OTC COLA Board of Directors will be available to speak at Lake Association meetings in 2024. OTC COLA is fortunate to have a Board consisting of individuals having a variety of talents, experience and expertise in technical and administrative fields. Supplemental literature and other various handouts are being developed providing valuable take-aways from the events.

To reserve a speaker for your event please contact John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant. We will do our best to accommodate scheduling requests.

**[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](#)**  
**701-219-0465**

---

**Watch To Find Us In Your Local Publication**

Consistent with OTC COLA's desire to increase awareness and engagement of lake property owners, it has developed a program of placing ads in local and regional publications. Watch for us in the Pelican Rapids Press, Henning, New York Mills, and Frazee/Vergas newspapers. Please send me an email telling me where you saw our ad.

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

---



## **OTC COLA E-Newsletter Metrics 2023**

The present format for the OTC COLA E-Newsletter was established in 2016. Since that time OTC COLA has maintained a record of sending monthly issues without interruption. In May 2016 there were 516 subscribers. OTC COLA currently sends approximately 1,400 monthly newsletter emails. It is estimated that the current monthly readership is between 2,000 and 3,000 readers. The number of newsletter emails that go directly to subscribers are easily tracked. Additional readers access newsletters from links to Newsletters that are posted on the [www.otccola.org](http://www.otccola.org) website as well as on Lake Association websites.

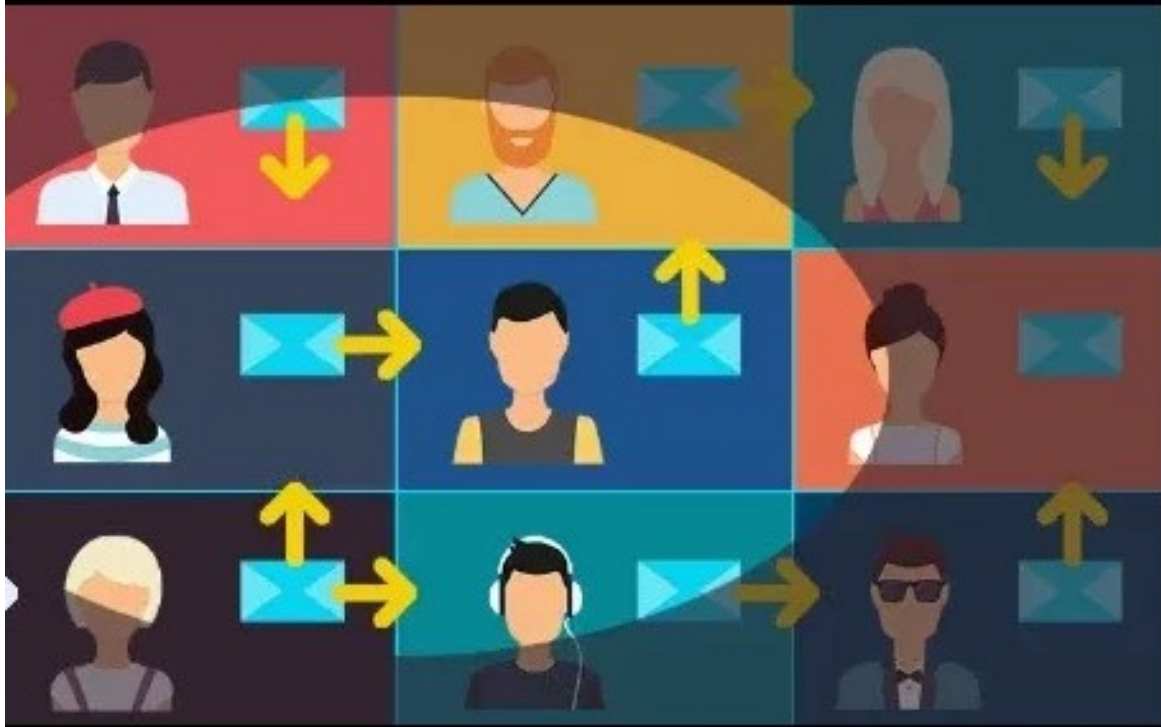
The purpose of the newsletter is to inform, educate and engage lake property owners in Otter Tail and neighboring counties. Content concentrates not only on news and upcoming events but also on lake stewardship, education, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and other issues threatening the quality of living and recreating at the lakes.

**[MORE](#)**

**[COLA/Lake Association Newsletters](#)**

---





## Forwarding OTC COLA E-Newsletters

### **Lake Associations Forwarding Newsletters to Members**

Forwarding monthly issues of the OTC COLA E-Newsletters to lake stakeholders, especially in Minnesota, is always encouraged. News and education on good lake stewardship and best practices is beneficial for all of our lakes. The OTC COLA E-Newsletter has never been just for "Members". We would like everyone who can benefit from the Newsletter to receive it.

Some Lake Associations are sensitive to some of their Members who are reluctant to subscribe to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter directly, thinking that they are safeguarding the confidentiality of Member email addresses. This is understandable. OTC COLA's policy is to keep email addresses of its subscribers confidential to OTC COLA. The email subscriber data is never shared with any outside organization for any outside purpose. There are several ways to accommodate distribution of OTC COLA E-Newsletters to Members while respecting confidentiality of email addresses.

[MORE](#)



Photo credit: MN DNR

## **Commercial Fishers, Minnesota DNR Capture 83 Invasive Carp**

In the latest in a series of tag, track and capture operations, commercial fishers working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources captured 82 silver carp and one bighead carp Feb. 13-14 in Pool 5A of the Mississippi River, near Winona. The DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are examining the captured fish to evaluate age, reproductive condition, and information about their origin.

**[MORE](#)**

---



## Brace For Curly-Leaf Pondweed Outbreak?

You may have heard in the news lately how this winter's unseasonably warm weather may affect [curly-leaf pondweed](#). While it is impossible to predict exactly what will happen, two studies in Minnesota have found that winters with deeper snow cover on frozen lakes are associated with declines in curly-leaf pondweed frequency. These studies do not verify that there is a cause-and-effect relationship.

However, we know from diving reports that curly-leaf pondweed plants are present all winter under the ice. Since these plants get energy from sunlight through photosynthesis, it is likely that heavy snowpack on top of ice limits the amount of sunlight that can pass through. So, it is possible that a winter without snowpack would not lead to a decline in curly-leaf pondweed frequency.

To read the two studies mentioned, you can click on the DOI links provided in these citations:

- Valley, R. D., and Heiskary, S. (2012). Short-term declines in curlyleaf pondweed in Minnesota: potential influences of snowfall. *Lake and Reservoir Management*, 28:4, 338-345. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07438141.2012.745911>
- Verhoeven, M. R., Larkin, D. J., and Newman, R. M. (2020). Constraining invader dominance: Effects of repeated herbicidal management and environmental factors on curlyleaf pondweed dynamics in 50 Minnesota lakes. *Freshwater Biology*, 65:5, 849-862. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fwb.13468>

### **Angelique Dahlberg**

DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Grants Coordinator

<mailto:angelique.dahlberg@state.mn.us.mndnr.gov>

---





## **Tips To Combat Nuisance Species- Fish And Wildlife**

Nuisance species may be appealing in some settings but not welcome to share the lakeshore with you and your family. They can damage lawns or degrade your living area. This group includes muskrats, Canada geese, and even mallard ducks (particularly in urban areas) that are capable of damaging your lawn or degrading your living area. Here are some tips to combat these species

[MORE](#)

---

## **MN DNR Makes Changes To Record Fish Program**

Anglers will have new opportunities to claim the glory of catching a Minnesota state record fish.

Starting March 1, anglers can earn catch-and-release records for 18 species beyond the four current species that are recognized, a change the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is making in response to the increasing popularity of catch-and-release fishing and to raise the profile of native rough fish.

[MORE](#)

---

## **Rainfall Monitoring Network Seeks Volunteers**

The Minnesota State Climatology Office is seeking rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge.



Participants submit their precipitation reports online. The data from backyard rain gauges are a critical source of information and it's beneficial to add more volunteer weather observers each year, even in areas where there are already volunteers.

[MORE](#)

---

## **Integrated Depth Sample Device Construction Workshop**

OTC COLA would like to know if there is interest among its Membership for an integrated depth sample device construction workshop to be held in April. Depending on the interest of registrants, the workshop could include constructing the devices and training on collecting samples with the new tool. There would also be a discussion on sampling techniques as well as tips from folks who have been using the integrated depth sample devices in past seasons.

If you are interested in a sampler device construction workshop, please contact us via email at [otccola2@gmail.com](mailto:otccola2@gmail.com).

[MORE](#)

---



## **MN COLA March 2024 Update**

MN COLA sets 2024 member meeting dates <https://mncola.org/mn-cola-sets-2024-meeting-dates/>

Go [HERE](#) for a review of the benefits of joining MN COLA

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

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

[Contact MN COLA](#)



---

### **AIS Task Force March 2024 Update**

- Hiring watercraft inspectors for 2024 season
- New self-service stations proposed for Battle Lake and Fergus Falls
- Self service cleaning tools approved for 14 DNR accesses
- NEW AIS Handbooks are being printed
- Dock and lift relocation registration underway

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist

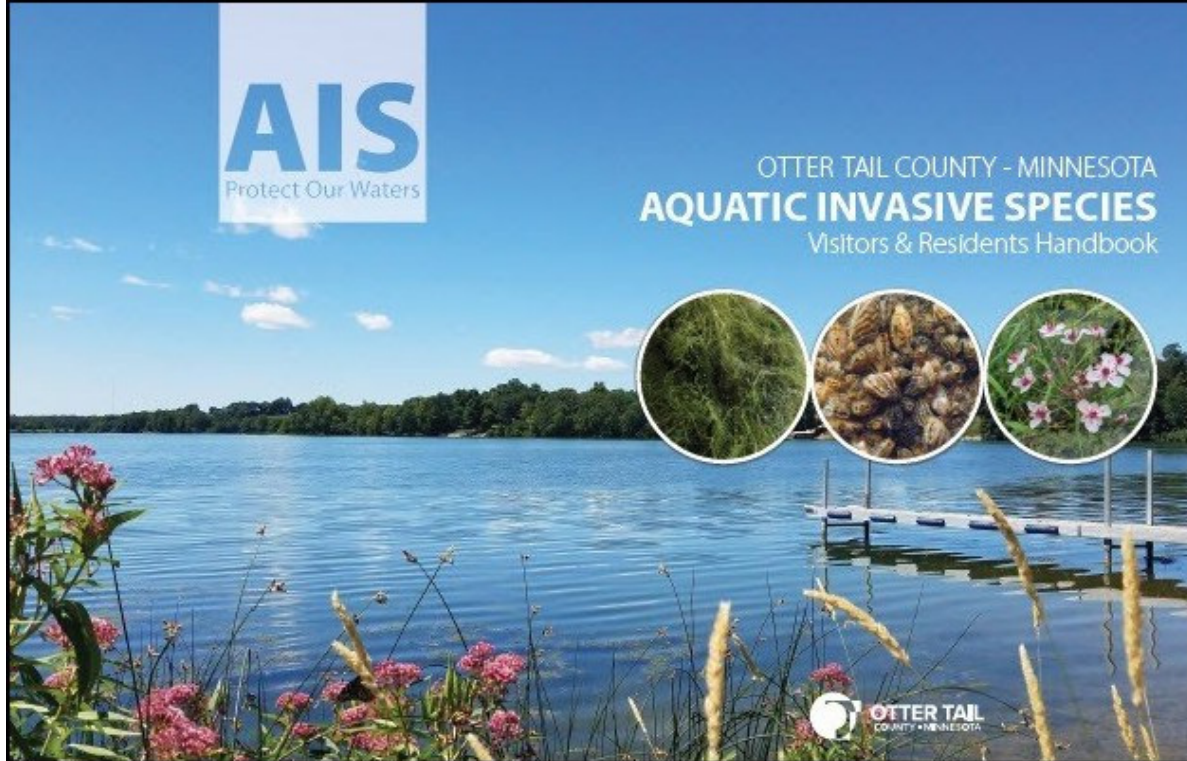
---



---

[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2023](#)  
[AIS Prevention 2023 Report](#)

---



Click on image for Handbook

## **AIS Handbooks Second Printing**

The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force will soon be available. The Handbook will be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners, and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities can be reserved from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the AIS prevention information will also be published in area newspapers and included in social media posts.

[\*\*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**

- [\*\*February 13, 2024\*\*](#)
-





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

## **Featured Posts - March 2024**

- [Lake Associations Annual Filings](#)
- [5 W's + H of Journalism](#)
- [Antibiotics Accumulating In MN Lakes](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

[Subscribe to the FREE lakeadmin.org BULLETIN](#)  
to learn about new and featured posts

---

## **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

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

---

### **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 · Lida Lakes Improvement District · 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

---

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