

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter July 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Upcoming Events For 2024

Currently scheduled events.

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

- July 18- Lake property owners meeting
 - Featured speaker: Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Executive Director
- August 15- OTC COLA Annual Meeting and lake property owners meeting.
 - Featured speaker: Nicholas Kludt, MN DNR Fisheries- DNR rock rapids



Forester To Speak At OTC COLA Lake Property Owners

Meeting July 18

Jeff Forester joined the MLR Board in 1993 and has been the Executive Director of [Minnesota Lakes and Rivers \(MLR\)](#) since 2001. MLR seeks to protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for current and future generations by forging powerful links between lakes, lake advocates and policy makers. Jeff was Hubert Humphrey Public Policy Fellow and Shannon Leadership Fellow. His book, *Forest for the Trees, How Humans Shaped the Northwoods* (Minnesota Historical Society Press) examines fire and forestry in northern Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He was associate producer of *TRANSPLANT, A GIFT FOR LIFE*, which won a midwestern Emmy.

MLR believes that much work can be done at the local level to protect water, and that there is a significant role for citizens to play. Our agencies and public resource managers cannot protect and improve water in isolation. To that end MLR works to build civic infrastructure around water in local communities, and to build the capacity of partnerships to protect Minnesota's most valuable resource, our lakes and rivers.

Jeff lives with his wife, two daughters, two dogs and five chickens in Uptown Minneapolis, but spends as much time as he can on family land adjacent to the Boundary Waters.

The OTC COLA Meeting will be held on July 18, 2024 at the Ottertail Community Center, 93 Lake Avenue South, Ottertail MN 56571. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early for coffee and bars and a time of socializing and networking. All Otter tail County lake property owners are invited to attend.

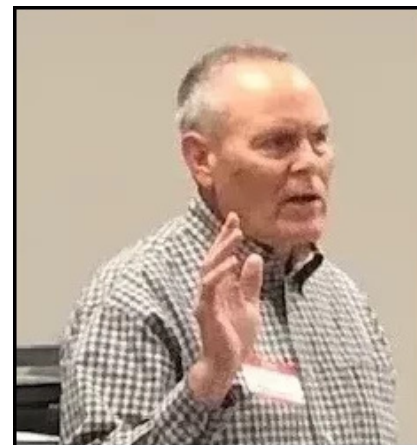
For more information contact John Kruse, otccola2@gmail.com

OTC COLA Lake Property Owner June Meeting

Wake Boats On Minnesota Lakes

The featured speaker for the OTC COLA June 20, 2024 lake property owner meeting was Chuck Becker of [SafeWakes.org](#).

Chuck outlined the concern lake property owners have regarding the effects of wake boats on lakes. He related that the boats not only disrupt the relaxation and activity of others on lakes but they also adversely affect lake bottom and shorelines environments. He gave an update of research conducted by U of M's St Antony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory where the results of phase II research is due to be published soon. He also spoke on the state, county and township regulatory developments in progress.



[Chuck Becker bio](#)
[MI Fisheries Report - Wake Boat Study](#)
[MI DNR Fisheries Executive Summary](#)

Huebsch Spoke On Threat To Rural Emergency Medical Services (EMS) At The OTC COLA June Meeting



Guest speaker at the June 20 OTC COLA Lake Property Owner's Meeting was Rebecca Huebusch, Perham Area EMS Director. Rebecca described the threat to rural emergency services caused by rising costs of operation and the influx of populations in the summer months.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to staff services with volunteers. The advent of employees replacing volunteers, having to provide emergency services, has caused dramatic changes in the organizational model. Equipment and medical technical devices have escalated in costs. At the same time the number of service recipients has risen exponentially. Otter Tail County estimates that the county population grows by 100,000 or possibly doubles in the summer.

There are some positive aspects to these changes. EMS employees are better trained and have been provided more sophisticated equipment. The effectiveness of quality service compares more directly with that obtained in emergency rooms. Townships and other local governments are starting to step up and subsidize rural EMS services. However, a viable, long-term funding solution has so far proved elusive.

Hear the recording of Becca's presentation at the meeting [HERE](#)

[Ambulance Operations Info Flyer](#)

For more information contact:
[Rebecca Huebsch](#), Perham Area EMS Director



VRBO Ordinance OK'd In Otter Tail County

County commissioners, on June 11, approved a revised vacation home rental ordinance after previously tabling a decision. The vote was 4-1 in favor of the revised ordinance. The revised ordinance allows private vacation home rentals and mitigates possible adverse impacts on the public's health, safety, and quality of life.

The owner or owner's agent of the vacation home rental property is expected to enforce the ordinance rules. The vacation home rental also must be connected to a compliant subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS). "With the revised vacation home rental ordinance, I believe we balance the rights of businesses and neighbors," Johnson said. "We appreciate previous input from lake associations and others."

[**MORE**](#)
[**OTC VRBO Home Rental Ordinance**](#)

OTC COLA Speaker Team On The Move

The Members of the 2024 OTC COLA Speaker Team have been busy presenting at Lake Association Annual Meetings. Currently 4 of 7 presentations have already been made. The Team is made up of COLA Board Members and the OTC Administrative Assistant. Most presentations utilize a projector for a Power Point slide show.



Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association - June 1, 2024

John Kruse presented at the Trowbridge-Leek Association annual meeting at the Vergas Community Center in Vergas, MN on Saturday, June 1, 2024. The venue was invitingly accommodating with big screen and PA system. The comradery of the Association Members was very evident.

Big McDonald Lake Association - June 8, 2024

Scott Gaudette was the speaker at the Big McDonald Lake Association. Big McDonald lake property owners report the presentation was well received and the subject matter was very informative and enlightening.

Star Lake Association - June 8, 2024



The Star Lake Property Owners Association held their annual meeting at Camp Joy on June 8th. One of the featured speakers was Jeff Vansteenburgh, environmental director for the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations. Vansteenburgh spoke on the lakes sampling program coordinated by the OTC COLA. The presentation covered how the water samples and transparency readings are taken as well as the interpretation and importance of the data that is generated. The citizen sampling data has been used for various purposes including DNR fisheries and MPCA watershed restoration and protection projects. Citizen water sampling data has also

been used in requests for Clean Water Legacy funds as well as providing long term assurance that the lakes in the county are maintaining their quality for recreation and ecological health. Currently 61 lakes are being monitored covering 70 percent of the waters in Otter Tail county.

The Star Lake Association has been an enthusiastic supporter and participant in the sampling program. There was a good turn out of members

with a good discussion following the presentation.

Ten Mile Lake Association-

June 15, 2024

John Kruse presented to the Ten Mile Lake Association. Like a majority of COLA Lake Associations, many of the property owners have a legacy of loving the lake going back several generations. Ten Mile lake enjoys a group of engaged property owners interested and invested in stewardship of their lake.



Watch For OTC COLA In Your Paper

OTC COLA is placing ads in several regional newspapers promoting the monthly meetings, events other news items. We would like to know if you see them. Please drop us an email and tell us which paper you found us in.

Thank you

John Kruse, otccola2@gmail.com



EOT Breakfast On The Farm

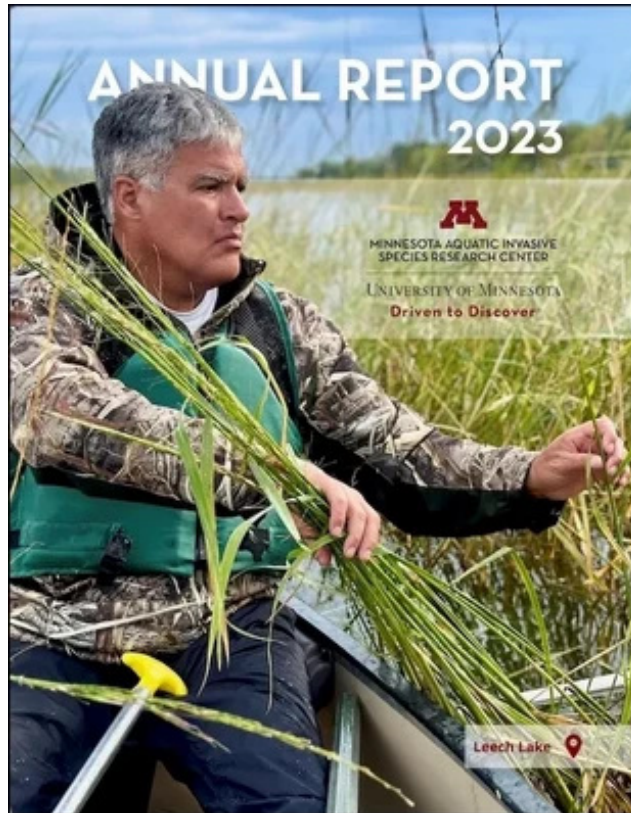
With summer in Lakes Country comes a variety of community events that celebrate our towns and communities. One of those events is the EOT Breakfast on the Farm. The local agriculture community and a host of volunteers are all geared up for this year's EOT Breakfast on the Farm event. This year's event will be held on Saturday, August 3rd, on the Mick and Sandy Dombeck Farm located northwest of Perham at 44734 410th Ave, Perham. (follow the signs).



Summer is here, and so is the MAISRC June newsletter! We've packed this edition with exciting updates, initiatives, and information to keep you in the loop about the latest in aquatic invasive species research. Here are some highlights:

- **Introducing Lab to Lakes:** We are thrilled to announce our new initiative, Lab to Lakes, aimed at tackling the ecological threat posed by common carp in Minnesota's lakes.
- **eDNA: The Future of Monitoring Aquatic Ecosystems:** Dive into the fascinating world of environmental DNA (eDNA)! Our comprehensive articles explore how eDNA technology is revolutionizing the way we monitor and manage aquatic invasive species. Discover its potential, current projects, and future applications.
- **Recap of the Governor's Fishing Opener:** Relive the excitement of the Governor's Fishing Opener with our detailed recap. See highlights from the event, and how MAISRC played a role in promoting sustainable fishing practices and aquatic invasive species awareness.
- **Species Highlight: Starry Stonewort:** This month, we're shining a spotlight on Starry Stonewort, an invasive algae that poses a significant threat to our lakes. Learn about its impact, ongoing research, and what you can do to help prevent its spread.

Don't miss out on these stories and other important updates. Click the link below to read the full newsletter and stay informed about how MAISRC is working to



MAISRC Annual Report: 2023

We are pleased to share the 2023 Annual Report from the **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)**. This comprehensive report highlights our key achievements, research advancements, and the impactful work MAISRC carried out over the past year.

In 2023, MAISRC made significant strides in **understanding and mitigating the effects** of aquatic invasive species on Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Our dedicated team of researchers works diligently to develop innovative strategies and solutions to protect our waterways and address the impacts of aquatic invasive species.

A few highlights include:

- A new **online tool to locate watermilfoil strains** and herbicide tolerance in Minnesota
- **Successful new volunteer project** to test environmental DNA (eDNA)
- MAISRC's **10th anniversary event!**

Click the image to [download a PDF](#) of our report, or click the button below to [read our report online](#). Thank you for another amazing year of working together for the preservation of Minnesota's lakes and waterways!

We are grateful for our **supporters, partners, and the community** for an amazing year of working together for the preservation of our lakes, rivers and wetlands! Together, **we can find solutions to the AIS problems that face our state.**



AIS Research and Management Showcase

We are excited to announce the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's **AIS Research and Management Showcase** returns to in-person on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024**. This event is a one-of-a-kind opportunity to meet our researchers and learn about the latest tools, information, and technologies being developed at MAISRC.

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024
- **Time:** 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
- **Location:** **St. Paul Student Center**, University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus ([Google map](#))
- **Parking:** Hourly parking available in the **Gortner Parking Ramp** and daily rate parking available in lot #S101 and #S106. Accessible parking is available on Buford Ave. There are also some metered parking spots available on this campus. Visit [Parking and Transportation Services](#) for rates and maps.
- **Tickets:** \$50; discount codes will be available (*more to come*).

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!



MN COLA July 2024 Update

Interested in an inside look at MAISRC's state-of-the-art facility and discover the

innovative research underway? Register for a lab tour of the MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) facility. <https://form.asana.com/?k=Ua3KramhzBkS2feUnuWQpw&d=939683240123509>

Read about the Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory's "Healthy Waters Initiative," researching the potential impacts of boat-generated waves and propeller wash on Minnesota's lakes. https://cse.umn.edu/safl/Healthy_Waters

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

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

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

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



DNR Updates Infested Waters List

What's new in the June 11, 2024 update?

- Starry stonewort was confirmed in Middle Cullen (Crow Wing County)

What is the infested waters list?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regularly updates the state [infested waters list](#), which includes Minnesota lakes and rivers containing certain aquatic invasive species.

If you harvest bait, fish commercially, or divert or take water from lakes or rivers on this list, you may need to follow special regulations.

- The most complete and up-to-date list of infested waters is an Excel spreadsheet available on the DNR website.
- Using the Excel spreadsheet, you can sort, search or filter the list by water body name, county, species, or year. If you have questions about what the information means, see the tab called "Column descriptions".

Questions about aquatic invasive species? [Contact us](#)



Flooding Prompts Closure Of DNR Roads

Due to recent heavy rains causing unsafe conditions, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources cautions visitors throughout the state to watch for flooding and damage to roads and trails.

Flooding has particularly affected forest roads in the northeastern part of the state, but with more rain in the forecast, additional areas could see impacts over the coming days.

“Multiple areas of the northeast were impacted by this week’s heavy rains,” said Matt Huseby, roads coordinator for the DNR’s Forestry Division. “Staff are working to assess flooded roads, washouts and culvert failures. Please use caution, do not drive on closed roads and avoid any dangerous conditions you observe.”

[**MORE**](#)

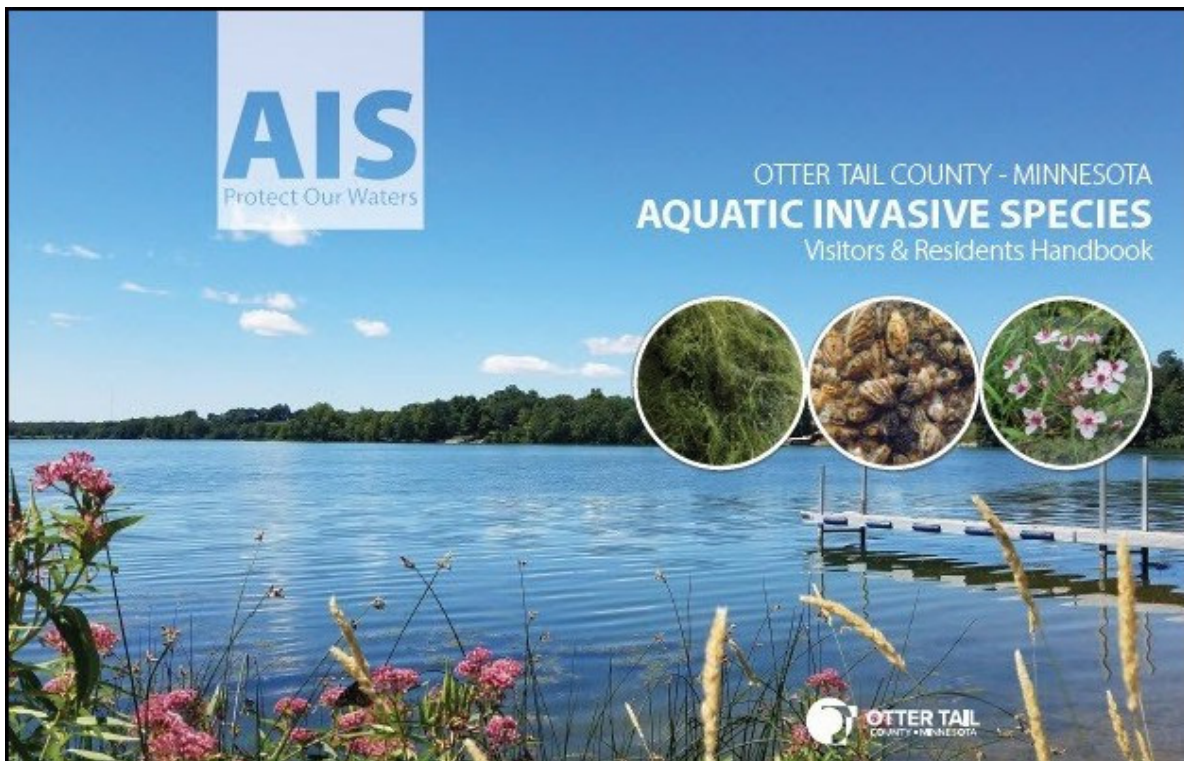


OTTER TAIL
COUNTY - MINNESOTA

2023

PROGRAM SUMMARY

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



AIS Handbooks Now Available

The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County

AIS Task Force is now 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

- [**May 21, 2024**](#)
- [**June 11, 2024**](#)



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

Featured Posts - July 2024

- [**Landscaping & Shoreland Restoration**](#)
- [**MN Lake Organizations & Agencies**](#)
- [**Curly Leaf Pondweed**](#)

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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**

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