

TABLE DISPLAYS

- OTC Land & Resource Department
- OTC AIS Task Force
- EOT Soil & Water Conservation District
- Cass County AIS Prevention
- MAISRC– UMN
- MLR Lake Stewardship Program
- MLR “It’s Shore Important”
- OTC Coalition of Lake Associations
- MN Coalition of Lake Associations



WELCOME

*To the Lake Property Owner
Lake Stewardship Symposium!*

*Minnesota lakes are a vital component
for enjoyable living in America’s
northwest. Value of this resource is
measured in recreation opportunities,
family bonding, lake property asset
value appreciation and tourism.*

*The Lake Stewardship Symposium is for
Minnesota lake property owners to learn
how to engage best practices for the
protection and preservation of lakes.*

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AGENDA

- 9:00** **Welcome— Spencer McGrew**
Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist for Otter Tail County
- 9:15-10:00** **Chris LeClair**
Vacation Home Rentals
- 10:15-11:00** **Spencer McGrew**
AIS Rinse and Tool Stations
Overview of County AIS Program
Statewide AIS Committee Update
- 11:15-11:30** **Break and Table Displays**
- 11:30-12:30** **Lunch**
- 12:30-1:15** **Pete Guck**
Shoreline restoration projects
SWCD partnering with lake property owners
- 1:30-2:00** **Steve Henry**
Cass County AIS Program
AIS Cleaning Stations
Working with partners
- 2:00-2:30** **Madeline Hayden**
MAISRC Update
- 2:30 –3:00** **Lily Carr and Sami Selter**
MLR Lake Stewardship program
“It’s Shore Important” Interactive tool

SPEAKERS

Chris LeClair is the **Director of the Land & Resource Management Department for Otter Tail County**. Chris began his career in 1993 as a regulator in the environmental health field at Anoka County while finishing his B.S. in Natural Resources & Environmental Studies at the University of Minnesota. In 1996, Chris was the Environmental Health Specialist at Washington County where he remained for 22 years. In 2002, Chris was assigned to the septic system regulation program at Washington County. In 2018 Chris came to Otter Tail County taking the position of Department Director for management of regulating septic systems, wetland conservation and shoreland development. In 2024 Chris began supervising the County’s environmental health specialists.

Spencer McGrew is the **Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist** for Otter Tail County. He has led the county’s AIS Prevention Program since 2016. He studied history and geosciences at Minnesota State University Moorhead and received his M.A in Geography at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. His master’s thesis explored the economic impact of zebra mussels on lakeshore property values. In 2025 he was elected Chair of the Statewide AIS Advisory Committee.

Pete Guck is the **Riparian Conservation Specialist** at the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District. He specializes in riparian conservation partnering with Otter Tail County lake property owners providing technical, financial, and educational opportunities to restore shorelines. This all by incorporating methods and expertise that benefit water quality throughout our regional watersheds

Steve Henry is the **Coordinator of the Cass County AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Prevention and Cass County AIS Inspection and Decontamination Programs**. He also manages an Aquatic Plant Survey business serving northern Minnesota, excluding waters in Cass County. His work focuses on improving watercraft user self-cleaning effectiveness for the prevention of the spread of AIS. He partners with native nations, Counties, and other organizations for the management and containment of aquatic invasives

Madeline Hayden serves as the **Research Outreach Specialist** at the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC), playing a crucial role in connecting research projects with stakeholders and providing vital support for outreach and research translation initiatives. With over 12 years of experience in freshwater mussels and river ecology, Maddie previously led the freshwater mussel propagation program at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). Her background in conservation biology gives her a unique perspective on science communication, allowing her to bridge the gap between research and public engagement while fostering a deeper understanding of aquatic ecosystems.

Lily Carr is the **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Civic Lead Organizer and the Lake Steward Program Coordinator**. The Lake Steward Program works to foster Positive Neighbor-to-Neighbor Engagement to Drive Shoreline Management Change. In her role, she focuses on creating a framework conducive for facilitating productive conversations among neighbors about shoreline management and lake health. Through the Lake Steward Program, she recognizes and celebrates individuals who model best practices in shoreline maintenance, promoting approaches that enhance water quality and raise lake association capacity.

Sami Selter is the **Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Associate Executive Director**. As an environmental educator and civic lead organizer, she works to provide resources that raise public awareness of the issues impacting Minnesota’s waters. In collaboration with members of the Minnesota Natural Shoreline Partnership, Sami helped develop “**It’s SHORE Important**”. This interactive game is a tool to visualize and quantify the impact of human actions on lake shorelines.