

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter May 2025



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Picture courtesy Vern Whitten Aerial Photography

Symposium Day Approaching Fast You Are Invited

The one-day event will be held at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail City from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on May 31, 2025. There is no cost for the event including a free lunch.

News of the Symposium has been enthusiastically received by regional lake property owners. Seven speakers will give presentations addressing a variety of issues and opportunities. The Symposium will feature speakers addressing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention, Minnesota legislation updates, vacation lake home rentals (VRBOs), shoreline restoration opportunities, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) updates and presentations from Minnesota lake organizations and regional Coalitions of Lake Associations.

The Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) are sponsoring the Lake Stewardship Symposium.

Though walk-ins at the event are welcome to attend, registrations are greatly appreciated to help in planning.

Register [HERE](#)

[Stewardship Symposium Flyer](#)

[Stewardship Symposium Speakers](#)

[Stewardship Symposium Attendee Agenda Handout](#)





OTC COLA Upcoming Events 2025

Saturday May 31, 2025 - Lake Stewardship Symposium

Thursday June 19, 2025 - OTC COLA Lake Property Owner June Meeting

Thursday July 17, 2025 - OTC COLA Lake Property Owner July Meeting

Thursday August 21, 2025 - OTC COLA Lake Property Owner August Meeting

Lake Property Owner Meetings 2025

Summer meetings normally held on 3rd Thursdays of May, June, July and August at the Ottertail City Community Center have been announced. A variation for 2025 is the replacement of the May 15 meeting at the Community Center with the Lake Stewardship Symposium at Thumper Pond Resort on May 31, 2025 (see the lead article this newsletter).

Featured presenters at June, July, August Ottertail Community Center meetings:

- **June 19 - Jeff Vansteenburgh**, OTC COLA Board Environmental Director. Jeff has an extensive background working with water quality and fisheries. He will cover the elements and benefits of Water Quality Reports.
- **July 17 - Ezri Farnum**, Ezri will give an update on Koronis Lake Association's 10-year fight against starry stonewort. She will report on initial and current funding opportunities, stakeholder/shoreowner investment and current research conclusions.
- **August 21 - Darren Newville**, East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District, District Manager. Darren will present an update on the [One Watershed, One Plan](#) program. The East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was named SWCD of the Year for 2024.

OTC COLA summer meetings are an excellent opportunity access materials and information to bring back to Lake Associations and to network with other lake property owners.



OTC COLA Water Monitoring Program Kick Off

The Kick Off of the OTC COLA Water Monitoring Program was marked with chilly, rainy conditions at the Ottertail Community Center on April 17. Undeterred were Jeff Vansteenburgh OTC COLA Environmental Director and Tracy Borash of RMB Laboratories to distribute the first coolers to water samplers. 53 coolers were given out to 27 lake associations. Remaining coolers will be given out directly at RMB Laboratories. Dedicated volunteers from OTC COLA Member lake associations collect water samples five times May through September for delivery to RMB Laboratories in Detroit Lakes for analysis. Data resulting from the analysis is compiled by OTC COLA and reported by Water Quality Analysis Reports for each lake and lake site in the program.

[Jeff Vansteenburgh](#) OTC COLA Environmental Director 641-420-0928

2025 Lake Sampling Dates Announced

The lake sampling dates for the 2025 Season are:

- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 22

If you have been using the courier drop off site on Lake Marion that location is no longer in use. The new location is 43620 Round Lake Rd. Ottertail MN. There is a small garage on the opposite side of the address where the samples coolers will be collected.

If you have used the Battle Lake site or taken the samples directly to the lab in

Detroit Lakes That has not changed.

Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director 641-420-0928



Dates Still Open For OTC COLA Speakers

In 2024 five OTC COLA Directors gave presentations to Seven Lake Association Annual Meetings. The most popular topic is the OTC COLA Water Quality Analysis Program and discussion about their Water Quality Analysis Reports produced by OTC COLA each year. Also included in the presentations is a review of OTC COLA's 33-year history of educating, informing and advocating for Otter Tail County lake associations.

The Team is currently responding to Lake Association requests to schedule speaking dates. There is no cost. Early submissions are the best way to help secure a desired place on the schedule.

To request an OTC COLA speaker at your meeting email John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant, at otccola2@gmail.com.

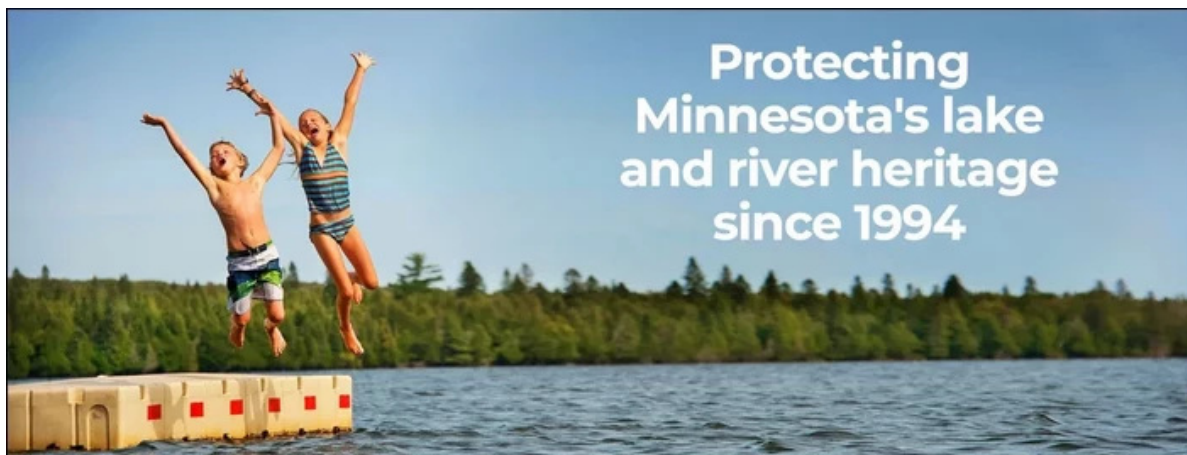


RMB Acquires Beckton Environmental Laboratories

RMB Environmental Laboratories Inc. (RMB), a trusted provider of regulatory testing and analytical laboratory services, is thrilled to announce the addition of Beckton Environmental Laboratories, Inc, a full-service environmental laboratory services company based in Ponce, Puerto Rico to its network of accredited laboratories.

Through the acquisition, RMB will add a full-service environmental testing laboratory in Ponce, Puerto Rico, continuing their mission to protect and enhance the natural environment through scientific excellence, innovative solutions, sustainable practices, and dedicated customer service.

[MORE](#)



Minnesota Lakes & Rivers April Newsletter

For over 30 years, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) has been the go-to organization for those passionate about safeguarding our lakes and rivers and the memories created along the shore. Our journey began with a simple yet vital mission: ensuring fair lakefront property taxes. But as the challenges of shoreline development, aquatic invasive species (AIS), and climate change grew, so did

MLR's role. Today, we stand as a central force in addressing the complex issues that impact Minnesota's waterways.

- Stop starry stonewort - Aligning resources for AIS prevention and Management
- The ABC's of AIS prevention
- Lake Steward: A neighbor-to-neighbor approach to shoreline protection
- The Minnesota Natural Shoreline Partnership
- The Lake and the Wake: Understanding wake boat impact on lakeshores
- Building effective Lake Associations

[MLR Newsletter April 2025](#)



MN COLA May 2025 Newsletter

- Governor proposes 50% cut in AIS Prevention Aid
- Copper-nickel mining resurfaces... again!
- MN COLA hosts seminar with SafeWakes
- The DNR 2024 Invasive Species report is out
- MN DNR AIS organization update
- Fish consumption guidelines updated by MN Health Department
- New research paper on managing starry stonewort

[MN COLA May 2025 Newsletter](#)

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

[MNCOLA.ORG](#)

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



Spring is here, and with it comes new challenges and opportunities in the fight against aquatic invasive species! Our April newsletter is packed with the latest research, innovative control strategies, and success stories from across Minnesota.

What's inside?

- Updates on legislative actions affecting Minnesota's waters
- Expert insights on managing invasive species
- Results from a CO₂/sound barrier to deter invasive carp
- Upcoming events and ways to get involved

Don't miss out on these stories and other important updates. Click below to read the full newsletter and stay engaged in protecting Minnesota's waters.

[MAISRC April 2025 Newsletter](#)



Minnesota Fishing

Stay informed! Here's a summary of upcoming fisheries and habitat management activities and ways you can discover, explore and experience Minnesota's outdoors.

- Minnesota moms: Join the Mother's Day weekend fishing challenge
- Get fishing questions answered on DNR fishing webpage
- Get Out MORE investments in fishing infrastructure, boating access and more
- Health officials update fish consumption guidance in some waters due to PFAS
- Minnesota DNR: Safety must be the priority around cold water
- Lookback at fishing news topics
- Fish species profile: logperch
- Share your fishing photos

[View webpage](#)

Clean, Drain Dispose- Every Time

The approaching walleye fishing season comes with a reminder from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to always follow state laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Most anglers and boaters in Minnesota take the clean, drain, dispose steps for invasive species prevention every time they leave a lake or river. DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said prevention takes action by anglers and boaters, watercraft inspectors and enforcement, and partnerships with governments and organizations.

[MORE](#)



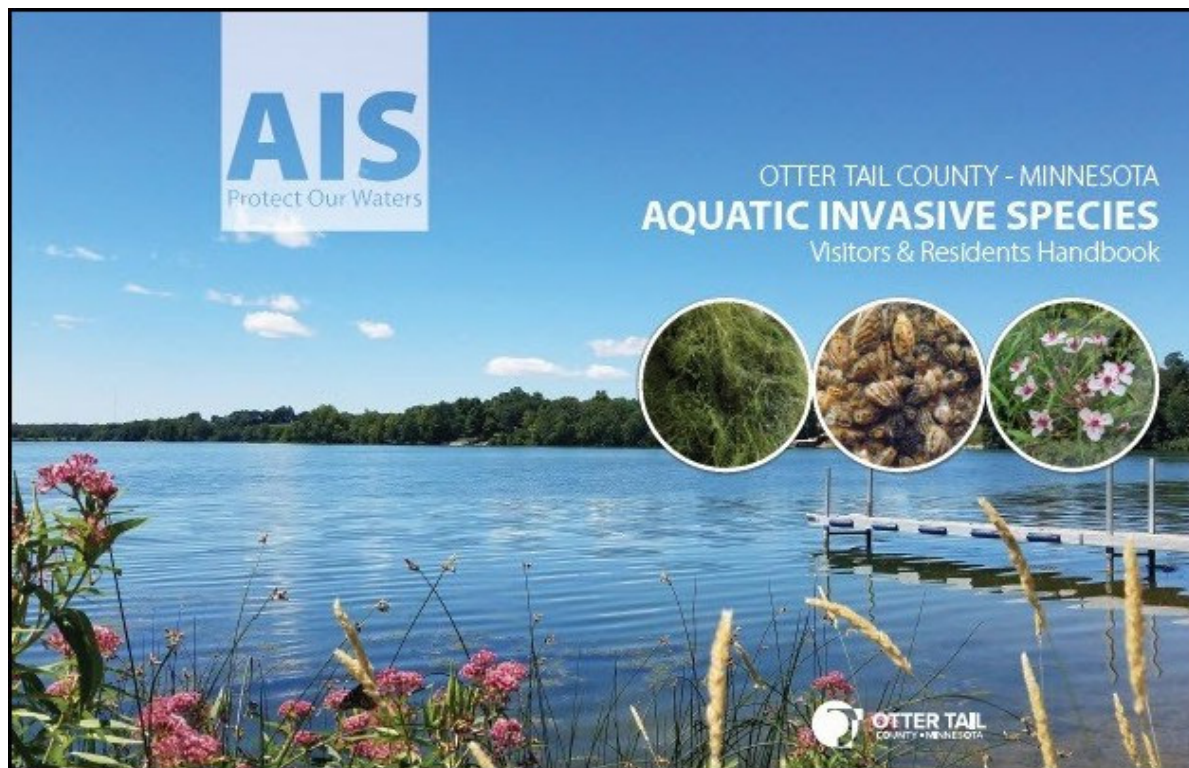
2022 PROGRAM SUMMARY

AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2024

The AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot is prepared annually for submission to the state of Minnesota outlining use of funds provided for control of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota lakes and rivers. The Snapshot for 2024 has been created and submitted to the state of Minnesota. Supporting details for the Snapshot will be published in the Annual AIS Prevention Report currently in the process of being compiled.

Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist

[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2024](#) **[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](#)

- [April 8, 2025](#)



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

Featured Posts - May 2025

- [EPA- How's My Waterway](#)
- [Get The Lead Out](#)
- [Lake Improvement Districts Q&A](#)

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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 \(2024 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

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