

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter November 2025



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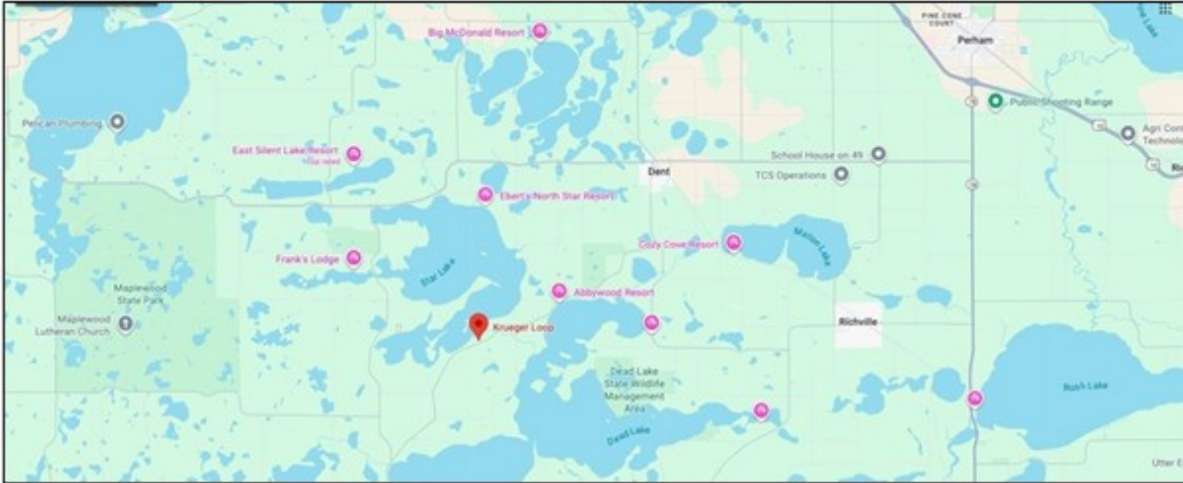
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Star Lake's Bermuda Triangle?

Pelican Rapids Press

by Louis Hoglund and Brian Burgess

According to the Otter Tail Sheriff's Office, a Star Lake resident called 911 shortly after 10 a.m. to report what appeared to be an airplane nose-diving into the water. The location was supposedly near County Road 35 and Krueger Loop, east of Pelican Rapids.

Multiple agencies responded, including sheriff's deputies, Perham Ambulance, fire departments from Perham, Vergas, and Dent, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, plus medical and search helicopters.

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Thank You For Donations to OTC COLA!

Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is grateful for donations already received in 2025. The recognition for OTC COLA's efforts to promote stewardship of Otter Tail County lakes is enormously appreciated.

OTC COLA's ability to continue its efforts to protect lakes is in jeopardy. OTC

COLA funding will be drastically impacted by Minnesota's defunding of the AIS Prevention Aid program that was created in 2014. Please consider your donation to OTC COLA to help save Otter Tail County lakes.

To learn more about what OTC COLA does, please go to www.otccola.org

[Learn more about Minnesota's defunding of the AIS Prevention Aid Program](#)

Please send your gift to:

OTC COLA
4302 13th Ave S, Ste.4-333
Fargo ND 58103.

For questions please contact
[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](#)
701-219-0465



RMB Pequot Lakes- Full Operation

We're a little over a month into our new location in Pequot Lakes, and it's been a great move for our team and our clients. The new space has already proven to be a convenient and efficient hub for supporting local projects and expanding our environmental testing services throughout the region.

We're excited about the opportunities this location brings and really want people to take advantage of it, whether that means dropping off samples, connecting with our staff, or learning more about the testing and support we can provide.

RMB has established courier routes throughout the Brainerd Lakes Area to transport your samples directly to our laboratory. We also have supplies readily available at our Pequot Lakes lab and can deliver them to you as needed. Our new location:

30968 S Washington Avenue
Pequot Lakes, MN

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at 218-828-2118. We look forward to continuing to serve you and your community.

[RMB Laboratories](#)



Your gift Helps Power The Science That Protects Our Waters

Time is everything when it comes to stopping aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Minnesota's lakes and rivers. For many years, the search for AIS has meant relying on finding the individual organisms themselves; zebra mussels **clinging to docks**, starry stonewort bulbils **hidden in sediment**, or spiny water fleas **tangled on fishing lines**. But now, a breakthrough in environmental DNA (eDNA) technology is transforming how we detect and respond to AIS.

eDNA is genetic material that organisms shed into their environment, like a biological footprint left behind in the water. By collecting and analyzing water samples from lakes and rivers, scientists can identify the presence of AIS **even when populations are small** and the organisms are difficult to find.

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It's Business Renewal Season!

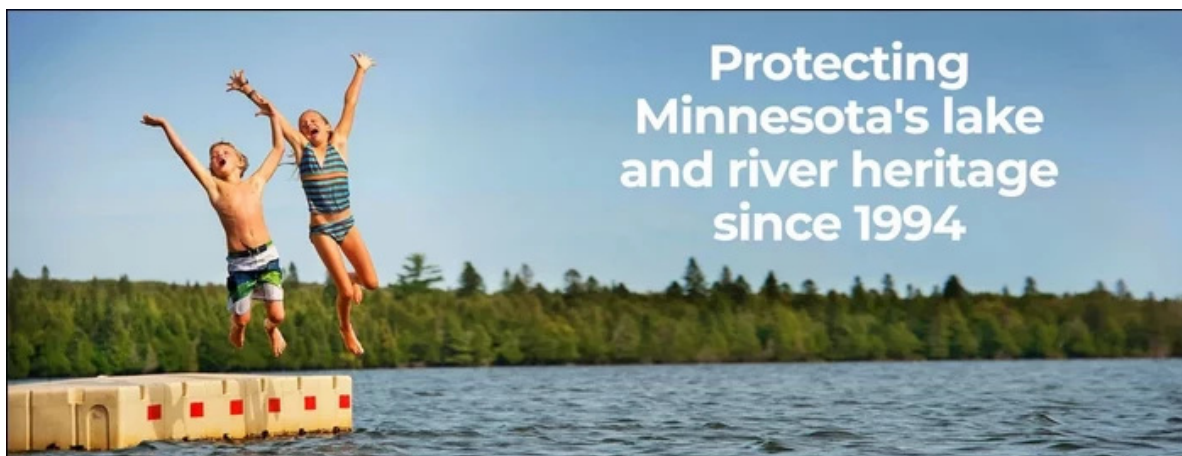
OTC COLA Newsletter editor's note:

"If you filed a Certificate of Assumed Name, Minnesota Business Corporation, Foreign Business, or Non-Profit Corporation, or a Cooperative, Limited Liability Company, Limited Liability Partnership or Limited Partnership, you must file an annual renewal once every calendar year, beginning in the calendar year following your original filing with the Secretary of State. Your entity will be "statutorily dissolved" (no longer be recognized as existing in Minnesota) if you fail to file your annual renewal. If your entity has been statutorily dissolved, you may have it retroactively reinstated (as long as the name is still available) by filing a renewal for the current year and paying a fee."

Notice from Steve Simon, Secretary of State, November 2025:

As we move toward the end of the calendar year, it's the season for all registered businesses and nonprofits to renew their filing, and the deadline for 2025 renewals is December 31, 2025. For most businesses, renewing is free, and you can complete the process at any time during the year, so there's no need to wait until the deadline. Keeping your business up to date also saves you money over time: while Minnesota's filing fee for starting a new LLC is \$135, Minnesota is one of only ten states that offer free annual renewal filings, helping reduce long-term operating costs for business owners.

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[November 2025 Newsletter](#)



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

2026 Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Grants: Application Period Open Nov. 10

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has up to \$1,060,000 available to local entities such as lake associations, watershed districts, cities, and counties, as well as Tribal governments, for the management of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, flowering rush and/or starry stonewort.

Funding comes from Minnesota's invasive species account, which is largely funded by the invasive species surcharge on watercraft registrations and on nonresident fishing licenses.

The application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8. Unofficial award notices will be issued in January 2026, and funded awards will begin as soon as March 2026.

Application materials and details about the grant program are available on the [DNR website \(mndnr.gov/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html\)](https://mndnr.gov/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html).

Invasive aquatic plants are non-native plants that can potentially reduce native plant diversity and create recreational nuisances in lakes. The DNR's invasive plant management goal is to minimize harmful effects caused by invasive aquatic plants while also protecting lake habitats and their use.

Questions can be directed to DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Grants Coordinator Angelique Dahlberg, angelique.dahlberg@state.mn.us or to DNR [regional invasive species specialists \(mndnr.gov/Invasives/AIS/Contacts.html\)](https://mndnr.gov/Invasives/AIS/Contacts.html).

DNR- Prepare Yard Trees for Winter

"Trees face extra stress as the seasons change, from hungry wildlife to harsh winter winds, especially in an urban environment," said Mark Kruse, DNR urban and community forestry project specialist. "A little care now can go a long way toward protecting your trees and ensuring they thrive next spring."

Water trees until the ground freezes, especially newly planted or young trees. A typical yard tree that was recently planted needs around 15 to 20 gallons once a week if it doesn't rain more than 1 inch. Maintaining soil moisture helps keep trees healthy.

Mulch helps insulate tree roots, especially on extremely cold days with no snow. Apply a layer of mulch three inches deep around the base of the tree, keeping it three inches away from the trunk and three feet wide.

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Funding What Matters to Minnesotans

In Minnesota, we value the outdoors as a place to relax, be well, adventure, connect, marvel, continue traditions and try something new. Minnesota's identity is entwined with the natural features and wonders that make the state an incredible place to live and visit.

While Minnesotans continually demonstrate their support for the environment and outdoors, Minnesota's current natural resources funding system can't sustainably support the conservation efforts, natural resource management, and outdoor recreation opportunities we value for the future.

Starting in 2021, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources led a transformational effort, in collaboration with a diverse cross-section of people, to identify what Minnesotans value for the future of conservation and outdoor recreation and what steps we collectively need to take to reach that future.

[MORE](#)

DNR- Hook-setting Devices- 2025-26 Ice Fishing Season

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has changed the rule surrounding ice anglers' use of automatic hook-setting devices and has clarified rules about multiple hook configurations and length. These fishing rule changes will be in effect for the upcoming ice fishing season.

"We want to make sure anglers are aware of these recent rule changes as they enjoy the last days of open water and prepare for ice fishing season," said John Dunn, DNR's fisheries rules and regulations coordinator. "Robust public input helped guide our development of these rules, and we are excited to implement them beginning this winter season."

[MORE](#)



Share Your Deer Tales

Deer hunting can bring experiences, laughs, and special moments that are shared around the campfire year over year and generation to generation.

From wildlife sightings in the stand to helping a youngster get that first harvest, deer hunting offers incredible experiences that should be remembered.

Take a minute to use the Deer Tales form to share your story and a photo from the hunt. Stories will have the chance to be featured on the DNR website, social media, emails and more.

[Deer Tales Form](#)

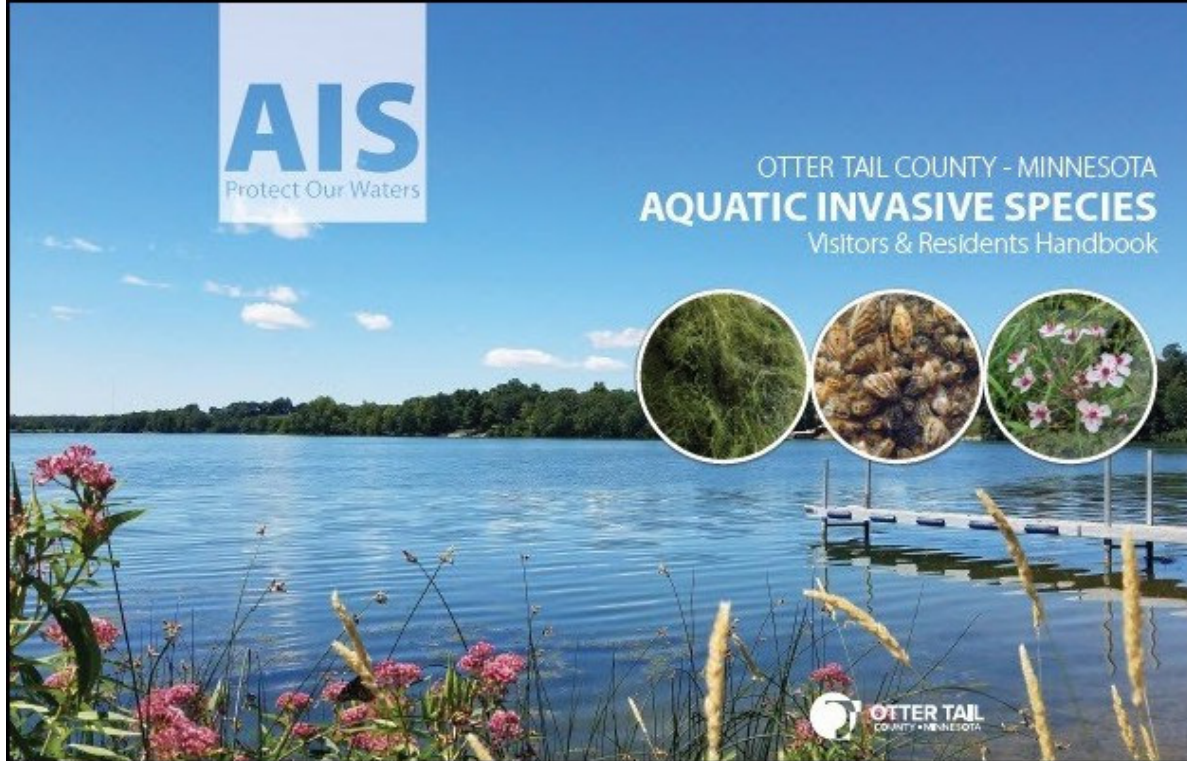


AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2024

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**](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [**October 14, 2025**](#)
- [**October 28, 2025**](#)
- [**November 4, 2025**](#)



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

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

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