

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter

July 2019



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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From The President - Sylvia Soeth

Obviously you know about Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations; you're reading this newsletter. How much do you really know about what COLA does on a regular basis and what COLA can do for you and your Lake Association? July is OTC COLA month!

Water sampling continues to be the major connection for COLA to Lake Associations. We are into that season now. July will focus on what COLA is and how it works. Board member Pat Prunty will narrate a power point presentation that was first given to the OTC Commissioners. Administrative Assistant John Kruse has made water sampling data understandable for the average property owner. He will give an overview of the useful information you can read in the monthly newsletter or on the web page with just a click on the links. Board members will answer your questions.

We will gather at the Otter Tail Community Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July

18. Come for coffee and cookies and stay for a door prize!

[Sylvia Soeth](#)

OTC COLA Member Meetings 2019

Member May through September meetings are planned for 2019 including several special events; some scheduled for different locations and times. Meeting programs scheduled for the Ottertail Community Center will begin at 7:00 pm. These meetings will include time for refreshments and networking prior to the programs

OTC COLA - What is it?

Thursday, July 18 2019, Ottertail Community Center
OTC COLA, what is it? Overview by Patrick Prunty. Water Quality Analysis reports, Member Directories by John Kruse.

I-LIDS Used to Fight AIS

Thursday, August 15 2019, Ottertail Community Center
Eric Lindberg: Internet Landing Installed Device (I-LID)
Erik Osberg: Fishing for the Governor in 2020
COLA annual meeting

OTC COLA will Host MN COLA Meeting

Tuesday, September 17 2019, Thumper Pond, Ottertail MN
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) meeting hosted by OTC COLA.



Homeowner Septic System / Well Workshop

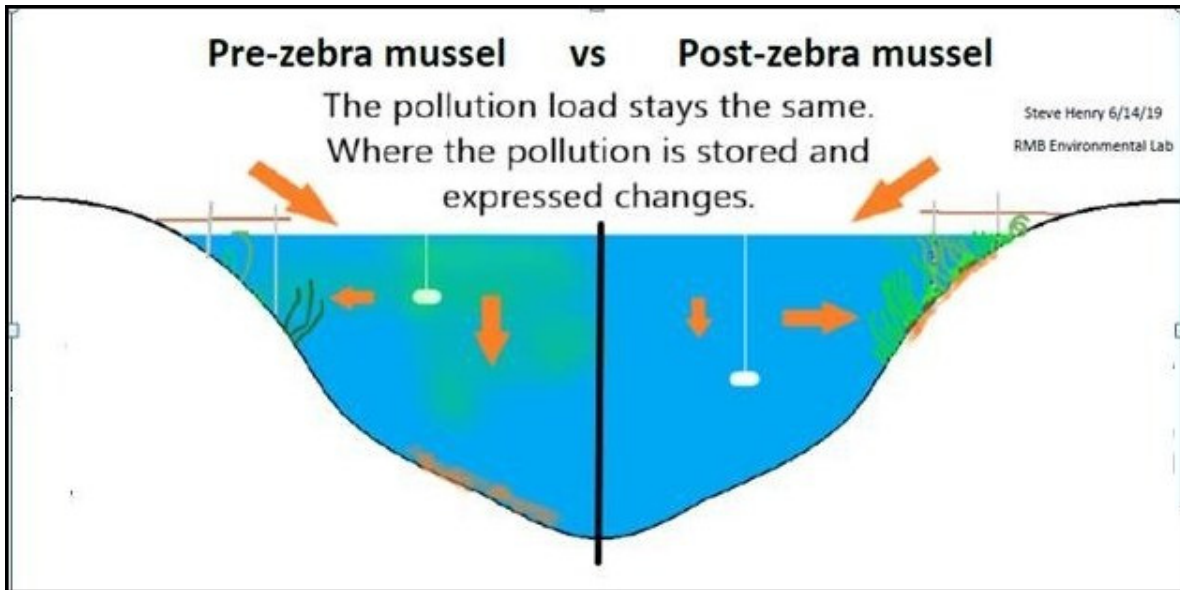
A workshop on maintenance of septic systems and well water quality was held at Thumper Pond in Ottertail MN, on June 8, 2019. The event was well attended by lake property owners in Otter Tail County. Dr. Sara Heger, a nationally recognized researcher from the University of Minnesota spoke on how to maintain compliant systems to prevent repairs and water contamination. Jeff Grugel, Hydrologist from the Minnesota Department of Health/Well Management provided information about ground water, ground water flow and drinking water. He emphasized what makes a good well with

consideration given to well construction materials, location and water quality testing.

www.septic.umn.edu

[Sara Heger](#)

[Jeff Grugel](#)



Water Quality Distorted By Zebra Mussels

Recent studies have confirmed that if your lake has zebra mussels you cannot compare your past water quality samples to current water quality samples (2011 Higgins, Vander Zanden, et al.). By filtering all the lake water weekly zebra mussels consume the algae and pollutants that used to be found in the middle of the lake and deposit it as pseudo-feces in the shallow waters where they live. Water samples taken from the middle of the lake can show dramatic declines in algae levels and increased secchi depths but these are “false positives” simply a reflection of how much pollution is being diverted to the shallows.

[Zebra mussel graphic](#)

[MORE](#)

[Steve Henry](#), Fresh Water Project Manager, RMB Laboratories



Cass County/Northern Lights Casino Holds “Water Connects Us All” Conference

Cass County and Northern Lights Casino hosted the “Water Connects Us All” conference that combined for the first time ever the annual meetings of both the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and Minnesota Coalition of Lakes Association. The two-day event was highlighted by Senator Carrie Rudd, Representative John Persell, Meteorologist Paul Huttner, and DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen giving presentations regarding the importance of taking care of the water in Minnesota.

"Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) organized our 25th Anniversary membership meeting, the "Water Connects Us All" conference in Cass County to highlight the great work being done through partnerships there. Effective efforts to protect lakes and rivers in Minnesota requires an active constituency working in partnerships at the local, county and state levels. This conference brought together individuals and organizations from across Minnesota to build capacity, connectivity and communication among all those who work to protect water in Minnesota. It was an energizing two days." [Jeff Forester](#), Executive Director, [MLR](#).

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[MPR News Interviews Jeff Forester, MLR](#)



Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director

Lakes Illimitable Are Lakes Lost

Aquatic invasive species have changed the context of public access. If there is a lake in Minnesota that no one can access, does it provide any benefit?

Time spent ensuring that we protect real access to our natural resources is not only a wise investment but part of the state of mind we're after when we seek out those resources in the first place. That sense of "getting away from the rat race" is actually the resource we most need to invest in and protect. And that might mean taking a bit of time before launch to ensure that "access" is not impaired by zebra mussels, spiny waterflea or starry stonewort.

[**MORE**](#)

[**Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates \(MLR\)**](#)

[**Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director**](#)



AIS Laws - Everywhere

Officers charged with enforcing aquatic invasive species (AIS) laws face an uphill battle in enforcing invasive species laws, and funding and personnel are ongoing challenges. As responsible anglers and boaters, it's up to all of us to know and follow the rules and guidelines to prevent the spread of invasive species beyond the waters that unfortunately already are contaminated. The future of the fishing opportunities we often take for granted depends on it.

[MORE](#)



Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Enhanced By Watercraft Registration Increase

Measure going into effect Monday is broadly supported by boating and lake groups

A broadly-supported measure going into effect Monday, July 1, will significantly enhance aquatic invasive species prevention and management in Minnesota.

The increase in the aquatic invasive species (AIS) watercraft surcharge on the three-year watercraft registration is increasing from \$5 to \$10.60. This is the first increase in the AIS registration surcharges since 1993. Watercraft owners will pay the increased fee when registering new watercraft, or when the registrations on existing watercraft come up for renewal.

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Anglers: Releasing Big Sunfish Helps Protect Against Stunted Population

Minnesota anglers harvest around 16 million sunfish each year, making them the state's most harvested fish. To protect big sunfish and avoid stunted populations of sunfish, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging anglers to release large sunfish, and keep smaller fish for eating. [MORE](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[June 10, 2019](#) Draft

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes

[June 4, 2019](#)

[June 11, 2019](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for over 100 OTC Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map

- [**Lawmaker Hotline**](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor
- [**OTC COLA Brochure**](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- [**OTC COLA Membership Application**](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Membership Application for 2019
- **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