



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

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Meet Debbie Ness One Of OTLPOA's Newest Board Members

Debbie Ness lives on Otter Tail Lake with her husband, Paul, and their 3 children: Dawson 19, Morgan 17 and Madison 13. She likes OTLPOA because it helps property owners be informed about what is happening in and around our lakes.

Welcome to the board Debbie!!!

Debbie's family has owned and operated a resort on Otter Tail Lake for 17 years. They are still running the resort but are transitioning it into a common interest community. They have sold 7 of our 14 cabins. A common interest community is an economical way to enjoy Otter Tail Lake living. Contact Debbie if you are interested in receiving more information.

Meet Melanie (Lynn) Burham Cave

OTLPOA's Newest Board Member

Melanie (Lynn) Cave lives on Long Lake with her husband, Rick. They have two children: son, Matthew (Kayleen) and daughter, Kate (Braden) Darnell; 3 grandchildren: Rylie (13), Walker (10), Brooklyn (6); and two furbabies: Gidget (5) & Gunner (3).

Melanie likes the dedication of the OTLPOA Board and membership to protect, preserve, and improve our lakes. Over the next year she is looking forward to continuing the education and prevention of invasive species to our lakes. And she also is really looking forward to working with the other board members to improve the quality of lake life for our OTLPOA members.

Welcome to the board Lynn!!!



Note: New Time & Location For The Annual OTLPOA Meeting

The OTLPOA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 24, 2017, 8am at the Zion Lutheran Church in Amor.

Years ago, the Annual Meeting was held at the Zion Lutheran Church and it was noted that over 200 members attended. The

OTLPOA Board would like to see a large number of members attend again so please mark your calendars and set this day aside.

As of printing not all the speakers have been confirmed so watch for more information in the June Lakeshore News issue.

Swimming Lessons

This summer, the OTLPOA Foundation will again be reimbursing 100% of the cost of Red Cross swimming lessons held at Amor Park. The reimbursement is for families that have paid their dues and belong to Otter Tail Property Owners Association, Inc. This project is in cooperation with the Battle Lake Community Education and the Fergus Falls YMCA.

So how does this work? Families need to fill out the registration form found on page 15, attach payment and mail in their forms. On Friday, July 14 or Friday, July 21, the last day of each session, OTLPOA Foundation's treasurer, Steve Mouritsen, will reimburse the families 100% of the registration cost after completion of registered swimming level.

Steve said, "OTLPOA Foundation has been sponsoring lessons for many years (10+). I started reimbursing the students on the last day of the lesson about six years ago. It gives us a chance to discuss with the parents: Water Safety, Aquatic Invasive Species, and the OTLPOA."

Greetings Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA)

By: Judy Corrigan, MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates

Thank you for your support of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR). Without your association membership and energy we would be unable to continue providing strong advocacy at the Minnesota Legislature.

Thanks for all the work you do on behalf of our lakes.

Included in this newsletter are articles provided by MLR. They include Lake Home And Cabin Owners Protect Minnesota's Water Heritage on page 18, DNR Firewise Program Helps Rural Homeowners Reduce Wildland Fire Risks on page 17 and Enforcement Key Gap in Local AIS Programs on page 19.



Ken Wentz presenting Steve Nelson, chairman of the Glendalough State Park Board, with a check from OTLPOA.

Walk for Glendalough

On Saturday, April 22 Glendalough State Park celebrated Earth Day with "Walk for Glendalough". The walk was a perfect opportunity for people to see new park developments and learn about future park projects. This year, they unveiled plans for a new trailhead building that would provide bike trail orientation, additional historical exhibits, a new equipment rental facility, and restrooms. Over the years, the walk has contributed close to \$300,000 in park improvements. A portion of the proceeds from this year's event will go towards finishing the outdoor seating area, funding archery equipment for the park, and installing group-size pedestal grills at the picnic shelter.

This year OTLPOA donated \$500 to Glendalough State Park.

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President's Corner



Ken Wentz,
OTLPOA
President

Wow!!! May 1st and it's snowing but with an expected high of 60 degrees tomorrow, all the snow will be gone. A little added moisture for the May flowers. The level of Blanche Lake is up a couple of inches for this time of year, according to my "scientific" measurement at my annual measuring spot at the end of our dock. I'm looking forward to summer visits from family and friends as well as the happenings of our Association. Following the theme of doing what we can to improve our attendance at our annual meeting, we will start at

a different time, at a different place. More details are in this issue and please make plans to attend!

Jan Johnson, your Board member of over twenty years and representative of Long Lake, has sold her home and is no longer living on a lake. Being the organized person she is, Jan arrived at the March meeting with her resignation letter and potential replacement member to serve out her term. (Thank you, Jan!) Her resignation and replacement were approved by the Board. Rita Buntje, another of our Board members, has also resigned, also due to moving off Otter Tail Lake and her resignation was approved by the board as well. Jan and Rita are moving to new residences and we wish them well in their new endeavors. Our sincere thanks goes to Jan and Rita for their service on the Board for so many years. Their knowledge of past events was always a valuable asset to the Association in our planning and

operation. Jan and Rita, you will be missed!

A number of questions have been asked in regard to the worm account. Please see the article in this issue which addresses the worm account and how it is being handled. For further questions, please feel free to contact any Board member serving on the worm committee (Stan Feters, Bernie Steeves, Marc Wing, or myself).

Membership renewals are flowing in with the count at over 850 at this time. Again this year you, the members, are being generous with your added donations for the Foundation. We will have a complete accounting at our annual meeting in June. In my perusal of the transfers of properties over the last eight months, over 125 lake properties have been transferred among the six lakes in our Association. I do understand that all of these transfers may not have been members, but I also understand that

these new lake owners could be new members to our association.

For any new members, we wish to say welcome and to our renewal members, thank you for your continued support. For those that have not yet sent in their membership dues I encourage you to do so at this time. Your association needs and wants you!

I look forward to seeing more of all of you this summer and wish you all a very relaxing, memorable season.

Your Association President,
Ken Wentz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

were mailed out this past January. If you did not receive a renewal form you are encouraged to let us know immediately. Renewal forms can be found on page 11 please fill out and mail to PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN, 56515 or you can visit www.OTLPOA.com and under the membership section pay online.

2017 Ice Off Dates

The Minnesota DNR keeps track of ice off dates on area lakes. Due to the variable definitions of what "Ice Off" means, they attempt to contact the same individuals each year to maintain a consistent record for a particular lake.

Three of the OTLPOA's lakes can be found on the DNR site. They are Otter Tail, Blanche and Rush Lakes.

This year Otter Tail and Blanche Lakes were almost two weeks ahead of the median, while Rush Lake was right on.

Otter Tail -

Ice Off Date: Sun., April 2, 2017
Median: April 15
Earliest: Sat., March 24, 2012
Latest: Mon., May 13, 2013
Period of record: 1988 to 2017

Blanche Lake -

Ice Off Date: Fri., March 31, 2017
Median: April 15
Earliest: Tues., March 15, 2016
Latest: Thurs. May 9, 2013
Period of record: 1994 to 2017

Rush Lake -

Ice Off Date: Sun., April 2, 2017
Median: April 2
Earliest: Wed., March 21, 2012
Latest: Fri., April 10, 2015
Period of record: 2012 to 2017

Source: MN DNR

I think we are all ready for summer so hopefully the warm weather will continue to shine.

Emil's Electric



Serving The Lakes Area!

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Commercial Residential

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Phone: 218-495-2244

How To Keep Kids Hooked On Fishing? Catch Some Big Fish

Take a kid fishing and they may find that catching a real, live fish can be an exciting contrast to the programmed reality of scrolling through social media – at least, for a while.

But how do kids stay hooked on fishing once they reach the panfish plateau?

"There are a few ways kids can get to the next level and have fun catching a variety of species," said Jeff Ledermann, angler recruitment, retention and education supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "As fun as it is to catch lots of panfish, there's more to fishing than the fishing pier."

First, consider trying to catch other species. Bass put up a good fight and the angling tactics to catch them are not that different than panfish. The catch-and-release season for bass in most of the state begins on the Saturday, May 13, fishing opener. Bass harvest season begins Saturday, May 27 (in the northeast, you can keep bass starting at the opener).

Taking beginner anglers in a boat can be another step up from the pier. Many fish roam the tops and edges of the plants, so Ledermann recommends drifting and trolling along the weeds with a small

"beetle spin." Trolling a mini spinnerbait with a blade on one end of a wire frame and a small jig head (1/16th ounce) and plastic tube jig or grub on the other end is ideal for new anglers.

"All they need to do is cast it back or let out several feet of line and hold on. Let the boat or wind do the work and set the hook when they get a bite, and reel them in. This technique is especially effective on crappies, but all kinds of fish from bluegills to bass to northern pike can be caught this way and there's no messing with live bait," Ledermann said.

Ledermann also recommends spinnerbaits – what he calls "the magic lure."

"When kids get better at casting and old enough to handle larger equipment, 1/4- or 3/8-ounce spinnerbaits are a great all around bait," Ledermann said. "They are less likely to hook plants, rocks, trees or fellow anglers. And especially early in the year when fish are shallow, they are a great bait for northerns and bass."

Another exciting way to fish is casting topwater lures like artificial frogs in the lily pads. For kids that are not as skilled or old enough to cast these bigger rigs, Ledermann does the casting to likely spots for bass and lets the kids have the fun working the bait back, setting the hook and reeling them in.

"With topwater fishing, you need to bulk up with heavy duty rods, reels and line (20 pounds) so you can horse fish out of the plants, but catching that first big bass out of the slop is a memory that will last forever," Ledermann said.

Of course, for young anglers who've never fished before, start with the basics. Find lakes with panfish, a fishing pier, bathrooms and a playground. Keep it simple and focus on the kids as they catch fish with light line, a small hook, sinker and worms. Find fishing locations on the Fishing in the Neighborhood page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fishing/fin/index.html>

Visit the Fish Minnesota page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/FishMN/index.html> to find fishing regulations and data on more than 4,500 lakes and rivers in Minnesota.

CLEAN UP DAY FOR AMOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS ONLY

Saturday, June 10, 2017

9am–1pm

AT AMOR TOWN HALL

Photo ID with property tax statement, or proof of residency will be required

\$10 per load/ 1 truck & trailer per parcel

• No Hazardous Waste Products

• No Electronics

• Tire Limit (6)

* Limited help for unloading

Posted by
Amor Township Board

Brenda Hildebrand, Twp. Clerk

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Otter Tail Lake Property Owners Association Inc. Board Meeting Minutes - Approved October 28th, 2016- 7:00pm at the Ottortail Community Center

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL- Present board members: Bope, Steeves, Simdorm, Wing, J. Johnson, Buntje, Hunke and Wentz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion Steeves, second Wing

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion J. Johnson, second Wing

4. FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion Steeves, second Wing

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion Steeves, second Wing

- Secretary \$400
- Midwest Printing \$177.99
- Karen Young \$400
- Battle Lake Fire \$500
- Battle Lake Rescue \$500
- Ottortail Fire & Rescue \$1000
- Ottortail City Rent 2016 \$350
- Ottortail City Rent 2017 \$350
- Rita Buntje \$1000
- Linda Snyder \$1000
- Crystal Wiese \$100
- Paying bills throughout the winter

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership Committee – Wentz, Snyder, J. Johnson 1084 Members
- Auditing/Finance/Budget Committee – Steeves, Simdorm, Carlisle, P. Johnson, Bope – Karen Young will be doing our end of year audit and that report will be our audit for the

2017 annual meeting

- DNR & Government – Steeves, Carlisle, Kemling
- Water Testing/COLA – Wing, Wentz, Carlisle
- Communications Committee
 - i. Lakeshore News – Steeves, Wentz – Send Ideas for May Issue
 - ii. Website – Bope, Wentz
 - iii. Lost and found:
 - Worm Committee – Steeves, Fetters, J. Johnson, Wing, Wentz – New worm policy when one lake sprays, all lakes are sprayed
 - Ottortail Wastewater/Sewer District Committee – Simdorm, Bope
 - Foundation – Steeves, Fetters, Carlisle

8. OLD BUSINESS:

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- Robe Bope gave us a presentation
- Bernie Steeves provided a video on Starry Stonewart
- Acceptance of Rita Buntje resignation

10. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 24th, 2017 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Amor, time 8am
- The next meeting will be March 23rd, 2017, 7pm at the Ottortail Community Center

11. ADJOURNMENT

Otter Tail Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes - Approved March 23rd, 2017 At The Ottortail Community Center

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL- Meeting was called to order with Bope, Steeves, Fetters, Nelson, Carlisle, Simdorm, Ness, J. Johnson, Hunke and Wentz

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion Hunke, second Steeves

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- We will need to approve the October 27th, 2016 board minutes at our April 27th, 2017 meeting

4. FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion Fetters, second Bope

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS: Motion J. Johnson, second Simdorm

- \$100 reimbursement for computer reinstall of windows software
- \$300 for 2017 The Midweek Vacation Guide map spot

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership Committee – Wentz, Snyder, J. Johnson – First membership mailer has been sent out.
 - i. \$29,475 has been deposited and over \$3,000 has come in through our website
 - Auditing/Finance/Budget Committee – Steeves, Simdorm, Carlisle, P. Johnson, Bope
 - Steeves would like to establish a budget for 2017, Karen Young completed our year end financials.
 - DNR & Government – Steeves, Carlisle, Kemling – MN legislation is taking funds from the DNR. The DNR is reducing money for inspectors. Steeves will be presenting to the OTC Commissioners April 11th on AIS for the county.
 - Water Testing/COLA – Wing, Wentz, Carlisle – Cooler pick up at April COLA meeting, Third Thursday
 - Communications Committee –
 - i. Lakeshore News – Steeves, Wentz

- Send Ideas for May Issue
 - ii. Website – Bope, Wentz – The website is working well and we have received many members through our online payment processor.
 - iii. Lost and found:
 - Worm Committee – Steeves, Fetters, J. Johnson, Wing, Wentz – Worm mailer date TBD, new policy when one lake sprays, all lakes are sprayed
 - Ottortail Wastewater/Sewer District Committee – Simdorm, Bope
 - Foundation – Steeves, Fetters, Carlisle – The foundation is going to purchase 6 more buoys for Otter Tail Lake. They will also be funding the Red Cross swimming lessons at Amor Park.

8. OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Meeting updates 8am breakfast with meeting to follow
- I-Lids install date
- 2016 Lakeshore directories request
- Welcome new board member Debbie Ness
- OTC AIS is considering purchasing several decontamination units for our area

9. NEW BUSINESS:

- Worm spraying mailing update
- Discussion on getting a remote deposit desktop scanner
 - i. 1st National Bank will allow us to send our return envelope to their Ottortail branch office and they will be doing our deposits.

10. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 24th, 2017 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Amor time 8am
- The next meeting will be April 27th, 2017, 7pm at the Ottortail Community Center

11. ADJOURNMENT

Welcome Back!



Photos submitted by Ken Wentz



The lake is waiting for the arrival of you and your family. The boat lifts are empty or just starting to get occupied. Canoes and other water toys are sitting on docks or beaches just waiting to plunge into the water. Summer is just around the corner lets make this a summer filled with memories of fishing, boating, pontooning and other water fun.

Arts

Are you and your family interested in the arts? If you are check out the Art of the Lakes, located at 10 Lake Ave S., Battle Lake. They are gearing up to celebrate fifty years as an art association and not only can you check out the gallery which includes artwork on the walls, displays and bins but they also have workshops open to members and nonmembers.

Workshops scheduled this year include: A Practical Perspective in Landscape Figures and Still Life, Transparent Watercolor Landscapes, Clay Sculpture, Carry Basket Weaving, Fine Silver Jewelry with Precious Metal Clay, Realism Through Design and Hard Pastel, Foraged Color - the Art and Science of Eco-Printing, Sami Bracelet: Reindeer Leather and Pewter, Print and Stitch, Oil Painting Essentials, Blown Glass Tumblers, Kids Art Camp, and Art Academy.

If you are interested stop by the gallery, call 218-864-8606 or go to www.artofthelakes.org.

BIRAK SHRINE CIRCUS

TUES., JUNE 20 & WED., JUNE 21

West Otter Tail County Fairgrounds
1812 Pebble Lake Road, Fergus Falls, MN



**GoKarts
Falcon 200
Buggy**

will award to the
lucky ticketholder

(MSRP \$3,795)

LIC. #X-56021-17-001

**TICKETS:
\$10.00**

Tickets For the Buggy
are available at
The Midweek

831 E. Vasa Ave. | Fergus Falls
or see a Birak Shriner

Drawing will be Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at 8:30pm during
the Shrine Circus show at Otter Tail County Fairgrounds
Must be 18 years or older to purchase ticket or win prize. Ticket purchase not
tax deductible. Winner responsible for any applicable fees or taxes.

NEED NOT TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ZUHRAH TEMPLE AND

BIRAK SHRINE CLUB

2017 Calendar of Events

May

May 13 Fishing Opener
 May 18 COLA Member Meeting
 May 19-20 KRCQ Reel Country Classic Fishing, OTL
 May 19 Henning HHW Mobile Collection
 May 19 I-94 Speedway Races
 May 20 Archery in the Park, GSP*
 May 24 WWI Cemetery Tour, Henning
 May 25 OTLPOA Board Meeting
 May 26 Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Tour, Clitherall
 May 26 I-94 Speedway Races
 May 27 Bass Fishing Opener

June

June 2 I-94 Speedway Races
 June 3 Lake Region Run, FF
 June 3 Paddle the GSP Chain of Lakes, GSP*
 June 5 Military Round Table MN Vet Home, FF
 June 6 Concert at Ottertail City Park - Flashbacks
 June 9-10 Summerfest, FF
 June 9 Ottertail HHW Mobile Collection
 June 9 I-94 Speedway Races
 June 9 Downtown FF Mystery Tour
 June 9 Movie at Kirkbride, FF
 June 9-10 Prairie Fire's Jack and the Bean Stalk, BL
 June 10 Amor Township Clean Up Day
 June 10 Archery in the Park, GSP*
 June 10 NYM Youth Baseball 11th Annual Walleye Tournament, Big Pine Lake
 June 10 Running Wild Trail Run, MSP
 June 10 Ronald McDonald House Ride, NYM
 June 10 NYM Great American Think Off
 June 11 Lake Country Sportsmen's Club 23rd Annual Walleye Tournament, OTL
 June 14-18 Perham Turtle Fest
 June 15 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 June 15 Walking Tour of Historic Downtown, PHM
 June 15 COLA Member Meeting
 June 16 I-94 Speedway Races
 June 16 Movie in the Park, BL - A Dog's Purpose
 June 16 Lake Alice Cyclone Tour
 June 16 Relay for Life WOTC, MState, FF
 June 17 Bulls N Barrels Rodeo, EOT Fairgrounds
 June 17 33rd Annual West BL Walleye Tournament
 June 17 The Viking Challenge & Crusade
 June 17 Henning Citywide Garage Sale
 June 20-21 Birak Shrine Circus, FF
 June 20 Free Concert at Ottertail City Park
 June 20 OTC in WW1, EOT Museum, PHM
 June 21 Wild Wed. Jr. Naturalist Programs, GSP*
 June 21 Beginning Canoeing, GSP*
 June 21 Lake Alice Cyclone Tour, FF
 June 22-25 32nd Annual Prometheus MC Zoo Run
 June 22 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 June 22 OTLPOA Board Meeting
 June 23 I-94 Speedway Races
 June 24 OTLPOA Annual Meeting
 June 24 Rib Fest, Perham
 June 28-30 Turkey Days, Frazee
 June 28 Perham HHW Mobile Collection
 June 29 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 June 30 I-94 Speedway Races

July

July 4 OTC in WW1, OTCHS, FF
 July 4 4th of July Parade & Celebration, Erhard
 July 5 Beginning Canoeing, GSP*
 July 5 Wild Wed. Jr. Naturalist Programs, GSP*
 July 6 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 July 7-9 Rothsay Prairie Days
 July 7 I-94 Speedway Races/Fireworks
 July 7 Summer Celebration, NYM
 July 7 Fish House Festival, NYM
 July 7 Lund Mania Fishing Tournament, OTL
 July 7 Stories from the FF State Hospital, FF
 July 8 Phelps Mill Festival, Maine
 July 8 Archery in the Park, GSP*
 July 10-13 Looney Days, Vergas
 July 13 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 July 13 Shop, Move & Groove, FF
 July 14-16 Ashby Appreciation Days
 July 14-16 Art of the Lakes Studio Tour
 July 14 Vergas HHW Mobile Collection
 July 14 I-94 Speedway Races
 July 14 Perham Relay for Life
 July 14 Movie in the Park, Rothsay

July 15 Henning Area Festival
 July 19-22 West Otter Tail County Fair, FF
 July 19-23 MS Tram
 July 19 OTC WW1 Nurses, EOT Museum, PHM
 July 19 Beginning Canoeing, GSP*
 July 19 Wild Wed. Jr. Naturalist Programs, GSP*
 July 20 COLA Member Meeting
 July 20 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 July 20-22 Dough For Joe
 July 20-23 East Otter Tail County Fair, Perham
 July 21-23 Bike-MS Tram
 July 21 I-94 Speedway Races
 July 21 Movie in the Park, BL - Rogue One: A Star Wars Story
 July 21 Walking Tour of BL
 July 22 & 23 BL Wenonga Days
 July 22 Art in the Park, Pelican Rapids
 July 23 Art in the Park, Detroit Lakes
 July 26-29 Becker County Fair
 July 27 OTLPOA Board Meeting
 July 27 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 July 27-28 I-94 Speedway Races - King of the Dirt
 July 28-30 Frazee Turkey Days
 July 28 Tuffy Nelson Golf Tourney, Perham
 July 28 Pebble Lake Youth Triathlon
 July 29 Hoot Lake Triathlon
 July 29 DanceBARN Festival's Community Performance, BL
 July 31 OTC in WW1, OTCHS, FF

August

Aug. 2 Wild Wed. Jr. Naturalist Programs, GSP*
 Aug. 2 Beginning Canoeing, GSP*
 Aug. 3-5 We Fest
 Aug. 3 Movies in the Park, FF
 Aug. 4 I-94 Speedway Races
 Aug. 4 Movies in the Park, Erhard
 Aug. 4-5 Perham Crazy Days
 Aug. 4-6 Flekkefest, Elbow Lake
 Aug. 5 Archery in the Park, GSP*
 Aug. 5 Little Pine Lake Angler Youth Angler Tournament, Little Pine
 Aug. 10-13 Looney Daze, Vergas
 Aug. 10 OTC Men in WW1, EOT Museum, PHM
 Aug. 10 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 Aug. 11 I-94 Speedway Races
 Aug. 11 Movie in the Park, BL - Up
 Aug. 11 Rod & Gun Demo Derby
 Aug. 12 Otterfest & Otterfest Lions Breakfast
 Aug. 12 BL Art & Craft Affair
 Aug. 12 Vergas Street Fair
 Aug. 12 Wild Wed. Jr. Naturalist Programs, GSP*
 Aug. 16 Beginning Canoeing, GSP*
 Aug. 17 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 Aug. 17 COLA Member Meeting
 Aug. 18 I-94 Speedway Races
 Aug. 18 World Famous Turkey BBQ Henning
 Aug. 18 Walking Tour of Historic Downtown, PHM
 Aug. 18 Evening Campfire Program, GSP*
 Aug. 19 Watermelon Day, Vining
 Aug. 24 OTLPOA Board Meeting
 Aug. 24 Concerts & Movies in the Park, FF
 Aug. 25-26 Barnesville Potato Days
 Aug. 25 I-94 Speedway Races
 Aug. 26-27 Finn Creek Festival, NYM
 Aug. 30 Perham Harvest Fest

September

Sept. 1-4 Western MN Steam Threshermans Reunion, Rollag
 Sept. 1 I-94 Speedway Races
 Sept. 8 Ottertail Lions Polka Daze
 Sept. 8 NYM HW Mobile Collection
 Sept. 8-10 Lake Region Pioneer Thresherman's Association, Dalton
 Sept. 13 2017 MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research & Manage Showcase
 Sept. 21 COLA Member Meeting
 Sept. 21 OTLPOA Board Meeting
 Sept. 23 Central Lakes Cycle Duathlon
 Sept. 24 Colors & Textures of MN Autumn, BL
 Sept. 24 Pumpkin Fest, BL

October

Oct. 7 Vergas Hairyman Festival
 Oct. 26 OTLPOA Board Meeting

BL - Battle Lake, FF - Fergus Falls, GSP* - Glendalough State Park - check with website for availability, MSP - Maplewood State Park, NYM - New York Mills, OTL - Otter Tail Lake PHM, Perham



OPENING MAY 12TH

May Hours: Fri.-Sun. • 5-9pm

June-Aug. Hours:
Wed.-Sun. • 5-9pm

Sept. Hours:
Fri.-Sat. 5-9pm

Mother's Day Hours:
11am-9pm

Think of us when planning your big parties. We have a separate party room that can hold 50 people.

Call for reservations.



Enjoy an evening on the patio
218-589-8845
www.tenmilelakeresort.com
Check us out on Facebook

Aquatic Invasive Species - Above And Below The Waterline

Have you ever seen aquatic invasive species really at work? If not check out a short film collaborated by Wildlife Forever and Wired2Fish. This film displays rarely seen footage of several Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from unique perspectives.

On this short film you will see the effects of Starry Stonewort on Lake Koronis, Zebra Mussels on Mille Lacs Lake, Rusty Crayfish on Leech Lake, and in general the effects of Curly-Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

To see this film go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MS2frO0QWHI>

Remember to Clean, Drain Dry Stop Invasive Species!

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- Quality Lumber Products For All Your Building Projects**
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 - Dock Systems • Tools
 - Drafting & Design For New Construction Or Remodels
 - Benjamin Moore & Cabot Stain & Paint

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Our Mindset Is Biggest Obstacle To AIS Success

by Dr. Nicholas Phelps, Director, Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

One of the biggest threats to Minnesota's lakes, rivers and wetlands and the economic and environmental benefits they provide are aquatic invasive species (AIS). The challenges we face to prevent further spread of AIS already in Minnesota, and preventing the introduction of even more destructive species that have not yet been introduced to our waters are sobering.

Still there is hope. We do not have to accept a future for our children and grandchildren defined by unchecked AIS spread. We do not have to accept destroyed health and biodiversity of aquatic ecosystems, impaired water quality, threatened native species, and impeded access for recreational use. We do not have to bequeath a water legacy of negative economic impacts to businesses, tourism, property values, and in turn, the local tax base. We can be successful in our efforts to prevent the further spread of AIS both into Minnesota and within Minnesota.

The first and biggest hurdle, the one upon which all success ultimately depends, is our mindset.

We must set success as the outcome and give up the notion that there is nothing that can be done. Conceding defeat ensures one inevitable outcome: AIS will continue to spread, establish and degrade our lakes, rivers, and wetlands – likely at an increasing rate.

We are not naive to the seemingly insurmountable challenges posed by AIS and work every day to address them. We know that solutions will not be easy, fast or cheap. However, we are hopeful for many reasons and believe that if anyone, at any time, could move forward to solve AIS problems, it is Minnesota right now.

Success will require navigating a core dilemma. AIS are almost exclusively spread by human use of our waters. Yet, the use of our lakes and rivers is the core value we are trying to protect. There is no AIS spread without human use, and there is no value without human access.

Solving our water problems will require broad partnerships, education, scientific advancements and political will.

In recent years Minnesota has been coming together to fight back against AIS. New partnerships have been organized to include lake associations, watershed, soil and water conservation districts, MN DNR resource managers, county AIS specialists, tournament anglers, business leaders, academics, law enforcement, resort owners, faith community and Tribal leaders to put good AIS programs in place. With strong local involvement in these programs, buy-in has been near universal and both efficiency and efficacy greatly improved.

Never before have local citizens been so proactive and engaged. Their energy is driving both local and statewide action. Due to demand by citizens and local units of government, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates hosted the Aquatic Invaders Summit for the last two years. It is one of the largest citizen led water conferences in the state. Many people are also contributing their time to find and report new infestations as part of programs like AIS Detectors, a statewide network of trained volunteers, offered by University of Minnesota Extension. In many areas local people have formed AIS Task Forces within their county, and are driving programs and innovation.

Even with the best intentions, we cannot solve the problems of today with the solutions from yesterday. Researchers with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) have been working quickly to develop science-based solutions. MAISRC scientists have developed a deterrent strategy to prevent Asian carp from making their way up the Minnesota and St. Croix

Rivers, are beginning to understand the role AIS have played in the collapse of the walleye fishery on Mille Lacs, are starting to convert research findings into science-based tools to prevent pathways of AIS spread, to name a few. We know more questions exist, but we also know, they can be answered.

Importantly, AIS efforts in Minnesota have been markedly bi-partisan in an era of political division. Legislators and policymakers at both the federal and state level have been engaged and effective. Minnesota's Congressional delegation was able to close the locks at St. Anthony Falls to prevent the northward migration of Asian carp into the upper Mississippi river valley. State Legislators have provided the MN DNR a powerful legislative framework within which to implement AIS programs. However, they also correctly recognized that the MN DNR cannot do the job alone, and created MAISRC in 2012 and the County AIS Prevention Aid Program in 2015 to make local partnerships between the counties and other agencies robust, authentic and effective. Not only are these innovative programs having immediate on-the-ground impact, they are also leveraging additional local involvement. Philanthropic giving to AIS efforts by local communities has nearly doubled since the County AIS Prevention Aid Program began. Continued funding is needed to advance solutions-based research - as well as for implementing solutions at the state and local level once they are identified.

Still, there are those prone to believe that, "We cannot stop AIS. Life will find a way. It is only a matter of time until AIS spread to every lake in the state." If everyone agreed with this view, we would be destined to that end. We ask you to imagine this world - every lake choked with weeds and toxic alga, devoid of walleye and other game fish, mats of invasive vegetation so thick that navigation is impossible, swimming dangerous, the very smell repellent.

If this is the vision we pursue, even if only by inaction, impaired lakes and rivers will be the future our children and grandchildren endure.

We pursue a different vision, a vision that has active citizens both inside and outside government working together to protect a cherished public good of healthy lake and river ecosystems.

We will work together to achieve the scientific breakthroughs, to further develop the critical civic frameworks of partnerships and relationships and grassroots energy that will put effective local programs on the ground and ensure programs are informed by science.

The future of Minnesota's lake and river heritage is being written now. There is a place for every citizen to choose a role for themselves, to call their local lake association, county AIS planner or water resource manager or Extension office, to commit the time, energy, expertise or financial support to this cause.

In our work in science and in public policy we have learned a simple truth: If we envision failure we will fail always. If we envision success, and work towards success, we may fail many times, but in the end we will build the future we have imagined.

Provided by Dr. Nicholas Phelps, Director,

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, www.maisrc.umn.edu.

Jeff Forester, Executive Director,

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, www.mnlakesandrivers.org

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Amor Park - Your Next Event Gathering

Not sure where to hold your next family reunion or event? Think about Amor Park.

Amor Park is a 4 acre wooded public park located on the shores of beautiful Otter Tail Lake. The shelter is covered, has electricity, a charcoal barbeque pit and a well for fresh water. There's several picnic areas overlooking the lake and has restrooms with chemical toilet and handwashing stations.

Other features include

- Swimming access with dock and stairs.

- Playground
- Large grassy area for recreation.
- Horseshoe pit (call to reserve horseshoes)

- Geo-caches within the park.
- Parking lot with side street parking as well.

To reserve the shelter at the park, please contact Brenda Hildebrand at 218-495-3297. The use of the shelter is free but donations are appreciated for park improvements.

DanceBARN Festival Community Performance

The DanceBARN Festival brings professional dancers and choreographers from all across the country for a week of creating in Battle Lake.

Get moving with the whole family during the DanceBARN Festival's Community Dance Class! This class will be held on Thursday, July 27, 12:30-1:30pm at the Battle Lake School. During this free, all-ages class, you will play improvisational dance games and help create a dance! Don't miss this opportunity to learn and explore movement with professional dancers here from all across the country.

Then on Saturday, July 29th the DanceBARN Festival Community Performance will be held at the Battle Lake School Auditorium from noon to 1:30. There is no cost to attend.

This performance features choreography created during the festival in many different styles of dance. Learn more about dance with the whole family during this diverse performance!

For more info contact the Battle Lake Community Education Office at 218-862-4603 or email communityed@isd542.org

Prairie Fire Children's Theater Residency Production Of Jack And The Bean Stalk

The Prairie Fire Children's Theater Residency will be performing Jack and the Bean Stalk in Battle Lake this summer. This production is sponsored by Battle Lake Area Community Foundation.

Children going into second through 12th grade are welcome to join this exciting production. The cost to participate is \$25. Volunteers are also needed for tech positions and a variety of other tasks.

Please call the Battle Lake Community Education Office to register your child or to volunteer at 218-862-4603 or email communityed@isd542.org

Audition Schedule

Mon., June 5, 1-3pm. Rehearsal schedules will be given at 3pm. Some students will stay until 5:15 pm for continued rehearsal.

Tentative General Schedule

Please consult the specific rehearsal schedule for your child's part. Schedule is subject to change; each child will receive an updated schedule from the directors. Tuesday, June 6, 1pm; Wednesday June 7, 1pm; Thursday, June 8, 1pm; Friday, June 9, 3-7pm (Performance at 7pm); Saturday, June 10, 10-11 am (Performance at 11am)

The public is also invited to attend performances of Jack and the Bean Stalk on Friday, June 9 at 7pm and on Saturday, June 10 at 11am in the Royal Broberg Auditorium at Battle Lake Public School. Tickets are available at the door. Admission is \$5 for adults; \$3 for students; and free for preschool. Please note that all parents of participating students must purchase admission. An admission ticket purchased on Friday may be used for admission on Saturday.



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Beautiful Morning Sky Over Otter Tail River
Photo submitted by Becky Kemling



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BAPTIST ■■■■

Basswood Baptist Church B.G.C. ♿

38188 340th St., Richville, MN 56576
Bert Holmquist, Pastor—218-495-3800
Church—218-495-3771

Sunday School 9:30 am, refreshments following
Worship Service 10:45 am
Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids Club - Wednesday 7 pm
Ladies' Bible Study - 3rd Thursday
Men's Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday 7 am
Potluck Dinner - 2nd Sunday

First Baptist (ABC) - Battle Lake

"The Little Brown Church on the Hill"

Lynn Hansen, Pastor—651-485-7378

www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org

Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Fellowship & refreshments 10:30 am

CATHOLIC ■■■■

Father Leroy Schik, Pastor

Mass Times—218-864-5619

www.ollsj.org

St. James Catholic - Maine Township ♿

Saturday Mass 5 pm, October 1 - May 1

Sunday Mass 8:30 am - May 1 - October 1

Our Lady of the Lake - Battle Lake ♿

Sunday Mass 10:30 am

Saturday Mass 6:00 pm, Memorial Day-Labor Day

Saint Edwards - Henning ♿

Saturday Mass 4:00 pm, May 1 - October 1

Sunday Mass 8:30 am - October 1 - May 1

LUTHERAN ■■■■

Bethel Lutheran Church

Battle Lake Campus:

Meets at Lakes Area Community Center

112 West Main St., Battle Lake

218-862-4903

Worship: 10:30 am

Website: bethellutheran.church

First Lutheran - ELCA ♿

505 Holdt St. W., PO Box 268, Battle Lake

Bradley Skogen, Pastor

bfirslutheran.org

Church—218-864-5686

Sept. - May:

Worship at 10:00 am

Coffee Fellowship at 9:00 am

June - Aug:

Worship at 9:00 am

Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 am

Sverdrup Lutheran Church ♿

PO Box 70, 209 Southeran Ave. E., Underwood

Nancy Monke, Pastor

Church—218-826-6919

Worship 9:00 am

♿ Indicates Barrier-Free Access

LUTHERAN ■■■■

Tingvold Lutheran church

6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35

Nancy Monke, Pastor

Church—218-826-6487

May: Worship 11:00 am

June 1-Sept. 1: Summer Worship 10:30 am and Fellowship 9:30am

Zion Lutheran - ELCA

36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Amor

Hwy. 1 & 74, 10 miles north of Battle Lake

James Gronbeck, Pastor • Church—218-495-2563

Email: zionamoroffice@prtcl.com

Website: www.zionamor.org

Summer Services: May - September

Worship 8:15 am & 10:00 am

Fellowship & refreshments between services

Regular Services: Worship 10:00 am

Fellowship & refreshments after service

Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

Bible Study - Tuesday 10:00 am (year round)

Contemporary Worship Services - 2nd & 3rd Sundays

METHODIST ■■■■

Ottertail United Methodist Church ♿

104 Shore Drive, Otertail

Rod Turnquist, Pastor

Church—218-367-2270

Worship 8:45 am

Coffee Fellowship following Worship

Richville United Methodist Church

130 SW 1st Ave., Richville

Rod Turnquist, Pastor

Church—218-346-5656

Worship 10:15 am

Coffee Fellowship following Worship 2nd & 4th Sunday

PRESBYTERIAN ■■■■

Maine Presbyterian ♿

30761 Co. Hwy. 45, Maine Township

2 miles north of Phelps Mill

Tom Junkert, Pastor

Website: mainepresbyterianchurch.org

Church—218-495-2539

Summer - Worship 9:30 am (Thru September)

Coffee Following Worship Service

Winter - Worship 10:00 am

BATTLE LAKE ■■■■

ALLIANCE ♿

401 W. Gilbertson St., Battle Lake

Derek Mansker, Pastor • Church—218-864-5539

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am

Fellowship & refreshments after service

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Summer Concerts In Ottertail City Park

The Ottertail Business & Community Association's (OTBCA) summer concert series begins on June 6th from 6:30-8:30pm. in the Otter Tail City Park. Throughout the summer these concerts will be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month.

Check back next month with the names of the upcoming bands who will be performing.

The OTBCA's mission is to raise funds through various events, which are non-profit and charitable. The OTBCA partners with the city of Ottertail and other non-profit organizations to enhance the quality of life for our community by providing residents and area tourists with many family opportunities throughout the year.



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	Stan Feters	sfeters@prtel.com	218.495.2324
	Lynn Cave	iasewtaquilter@gmail.com	641.373.6021
	Pete Johnson	toad1@arvig.net	218.864.5529
	Becky Kemling	beckykemling@msn.com	218.371.9095
	Rob Nelson	pastorrob.n@gmail.com	218.371.6853
	Debbie Ness	deb@yourresort.com	218.495.2468
	Lee Rosenquist	jrosenquist1941@gmail.com	612.723.4373
	Linda Snyder	whip56520@yahoo.com	218.862.6285
	Bernie Steeves	bsteeves@arvig.net	218.367.2104
	Marc Wing	mwing@prtel.com	218.495.3570

2016 Summary Report Of Watercraft Inspection Results At Otter Tail Lake

Author: Mike Bolinski, Regional Watercraft Inspection Supervisor MN DNR Region 1, Ecological and Water Resources

Introduction:

The watercraft inspection program's goal is to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into and around the state. To accomplish this we conducted watercraft inspections at public water accesses throughout the state, worked with citizen groups concerned about AIS, and educated the public at events such as the state fair.

In January of 2008 the MN DNR Invasive Species Unit created a grant program to allow citizen groups to increase the number of hours of inspection at water accesses important to them. This was done as a way to increase watercraft inspections throughout the state, and satisfy requests from citizen groups for more hours of inspections at accesses important to them.

Inspection Process:

The inspection process involves the watercraft inspector visually and tactily searching for aquatic invasive species or anything else that could potentially spread aquatic invasive species such as water, mud, plants or other debris. Watercraft inspectors also complete a survey while educating boaters about the issues surrounding aquatic invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of aquatic invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread.

Inspectors are trained to observe and document when watercraft enter a public water access with any violations, including boats with attached vegetation as well as watercraft whose drain plugs have not been removed. Information gathered by DNR and LGU authorized inspectors can help show potential risks. During the inspection process watercraft users are asked to voluntarily disclose the last water body visited, as well as the location of the next planned trip. This

information can be used in the future to gauge potential risks if multiple boaters report zebra mussel infested water bodies as their last visited lake. Information gathered by DNR and LGU authorized inspectors can help show potential risks.

Inspection Results:

The Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association received an AIS prevention grant in May for 175 hours of inspection time performed by MN DNR staff during the 2016 watercraft inspection season. The contract dates were May 16th through September 13th of 2016. Two DNR watercraft inspectors were hired in the Otter Tail County area and were assigned to work at the Otter Tail Lake accesses as part of their duties. Inspectors were scheduled during peak times as much as possible. The data in this report will be based on all hours and inspections done at Ottertail Lake in the 2016 season. In instances where two inspectors were working together, only one set of hours was used to analyze the data to prevent generating artificially high or low results.

Inspection Hours - Riviera

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Insp. Hrs.	1	10	0	0	0	2.5	1
Drive Time	2.5	40	0	0	0	13	2

MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 72 hours (57.5 hours of access time and 14.5 hours of drive time) at the Riviera Access.

Inspection Hours - Sportsman's

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Insp. Hrs.	3.25	15.25	0	0	0	1	9.2
Drive Time	16.5	84.75	0	0	0	9	30.75

MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 169.75 hours (141 hours of access time and 28.75 hours of drive time) at the Sportsman's Access.

Inspection Hours - Riverside

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Insp. Hrs.	2.5	18	0	0	0	0	2
Drive Time	7.5	72	0	0	0	0	8

MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 110 hours (87.5 hours of access time and 22.5 hours of drive time) at the Riverside Access.

Inspection Hours - Otter Tail Lake

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Insp. Hrs.	6.75	43.25	0	0	0	3.5	12.25
Drive Time	26.5	196.75	0	0	0	22	40.75

MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 351.75 hours (286 hours of access time and 65.75 hours of drive time) at all the accesses on Otter Tail Lake.

of Inspections - Riviera

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Exiting	0	7	0	0	0	10	1
Entering	5	56	0	0	0	3	1

During the 2016 season 65 entering, and 18 exiting watercraft were inspected by the DNR at the Riviera Access.

of Inspections - Sportsman's

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Exiting	0	33	0	0	0	0	21
Entering	6	67	0	0	0	0	9

During the 2016 season 82 entering and 54 exiting watercraft were inspected by the DNR at the Sportsman's Access.

of Inspections - Riverside

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Exiting	0	70	0	0	0	0	4
Entering	2	87	0	0	0	0	2

During the 2016 season 91 entering and 74 exiting watercraft were inspected by the DNR at the Riverside Access.

of Inspections - Otter Tail

Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
Exiting	0	110	0	0	0	10	26
Entering	13	210	0	0	0	3	12

During the 2016 season 238 entering and 146 exiting watercraft were inspected by the DNR at Otter Tail Lake

Drain Plug Status

Drain Plug	Is In	Is Out
Riviera	9% (6 boats)	91% (58 boats)
Sportsman's	12% (10 boats)	88% (72 boats)
Riverside	2% (2 boats)	98% (89 boats)
Otter Tail	92% (219 boats)	8% (18 boats)

Per Minnesota statutes, drain plugs are required to be removed when transporting watercraft. Watercraft users were directed to remove drain plugs prior to launching.

Items Found During Entering

Items	Plants	Mud	Water	Zebra	Mussels
Sportsman's	1	0	0	0	0
Riverside	0	2	0	0	0
Otter Tail	1	2	0	0	0

Items found during entering inspection at all accesses

Out of State Boaters

State	AZ	FL	IO	IL	ND	SD	TX	WISC
Riviera					12			
Sportsman 1					11	1		
Riverside		1	3	2	12		2	3
Otter Tail	1	1	3	2	35	1	2	3

Boaters from outside the state of Minnesota

How Often Are Boaters Speaking With Inspectors

Access	1 month or more	
	Or Never	Within the last Month
Riviera - Exiting	0	6
Entering	30	34
Sportsman's - Exiting	3	52
Entering	37	45
Riverside - Exiting	2	72
Entering	16	74
Otter Tail - Exiting	5	130
Entering	83	153

Discussion:

The MN DNR goal for the 2016 season was to accomplish 175 hours of inspection at Otter Tail Lake. We accomplished 351.75 hours. 238 entering and 146 exiting inspections were performed. Inspections per hour was highest in May, at 1.63. The average inspections per hour for the entire season was 1.34. The MN DNR designates a lake as high use for any amount of inspections per hour greater than 0.9. Additionally, 8% (18) of boats arrived at an access on with their drain plug installed. Unfortunately, Otter Tail Lake was designated as infested with zebra mussels in 2016. This does not remove the need for continued education and inspection at Otter Tail Lake. There are multiple other species of concern that pose a threat to Otter Tail Lake, such as spiny waterfleas and starry stonewort.

NATURAL RECIPES FOR YOUR LAWN & GARDEN

Feeding The Birds

Please don't risk hurting the birds with red dyes and preservatives. Try this simple recipe instead made from water and sugar.

Mix
4 cups water
1 cup sugar

Tick Repellent

- 20 drops Lemongrass Essential Oil
- 20 drops eucalyptus Essential Oil
- 4 oz. of water

Add all ingredients in a spray bottle, shake well

Spray on shoes, socks and pant cuffs

Safe for humans and dogs

Garden Tip

1 tsp. Epsom salt in 4 cups warm water
Spray on plants and then again 10 days later
Produces more due to boost of magnesium especially for tomatoes, peppers and roses

Despite Constitution, Legislators Attack Environment

Permission to reprint - Originally published on the St. Cloud Times Opinion page on April 22, 2017

In the past 60-plus years, Minnesotans have been asked five times through constitutional amendments if and how much they value the state's natural resources. Every time their answer has been loud and clear and the same: Yes, a lot!

Yes, we want to establish (and financially sustain) a Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Yes, we want to guarantee our right to hunt and fish. And most recently, yes, we will even raise our own taxes for 25 years to protect water resources, enhance natural habitat and support parks and trails.

The collective message to legislators is crystal clear: Preserving and protecting Mother Nature is a — perhaps even the — top Minnesota priority.

That's why it's both puzzling and stunning so many legislative proposals this session are directly contrary to that priority.

Obvious attacks

Make no mistake. Proposals rooted solidly in Republican House and Senate majorities undoubtedly aim to weaken, even remove, scores of rules, regulations, public-input processes and funding put in place to uphold the very values Minnesotans have placed through the state Constitution on the state's natural resources. Among the easy-to-see examples:

- Weaken water quality standards. A multitude of proposals eat way at measures improving water quality. They come even though at least 40 percent of the state's waterways fail to meet water quality standards because of pollution. And, again, they stand squarely against what voters approved in the 2008 Legacy Amendment, which has allowed \$759 million in public money to be spent addressing water quality.

- Use courts, not science. As MinnPost recently noted, part of the attack on water quality standards includes taking key decisions out of the hands of scientists and giving them to judges in courtrooms. Yes, judges are very smart. But they are not experts in scientific fields. Nor are most scientists' jobs dependent on re-election.

- Repeal the buffer law. This measure — passed in 2015, amended last session and moving toward implementation — aims to protect resources by requiring natural buffer strips between farmland and water sources. Think ditches, creeks, wetlands, etc. What's needed with this law is reasonable accommodation, not a complete repeal nor a one-size-fits-all solution.

- Mess with Legacy Amendment funds. Voters approved these sales tax funds for clean air, water and land, helping parks and trails, and cultural amenities. Legislators

this session, though, don't seem to care. Proposals seek to do everything from raid the funds for road projects to override the process used to decide how and where funds are spent.

- Put profits above protections, public input and transparency. One proposal (courtesy of Rep. Jim Knoblach, R-St. Cloud) allows mining and industrial permit applications to be fast tracked. Really? A majority of voters are constitutionally steadfast on a clean environment yet lawmakers want to fast-track permits for operations that don't just take nonrenewable resources, but can scar the land and pose pollution risks for centuries?

Another proposal makes it easier to double the size of a proposed feedlot before an environmental assessment is required. Yet another keeps certain parts of environmental assessments private. Plus, there's apparent disdain for everything from protecting pollinators to acquiring more public land and public access to waterways.

Indirect attacks

The intent at the Legislature to reject voters' constitutional mandate to protect and sustain natural resources runs much deeper than direct legislation.

Despite a \$1.6 billion surplus, Republican majorities are touting budget proposals that cut funds to the Department of Natural Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and others.

There also is a push to curb or even eliminate the Environmental Quality Board, which for almost a half-century has served as a centerpoint for managing water resources while ensuring the public has a voice in those issues. Could that board be reformed or made better? Probably. Should it be neutered or eliminated? No.

And then there is this: Powerful groups representing hunters and anglers are urging legislators to raise their own license fees a minimal amount so the state has the resources to ensure they have a good experience when they pursue their constitutional right to hunt and fish.

Republican leadership, apparently oblivious to those five constitutional amendments, is having none of it. Instead, they're trying to use that grassroots push as political leverage in crafting the DNR's budget.

What's it going to take to show these legislators Minnesotans value — and are willing to pay for — clean air, water and land?

We'd say a constitutional amendment. But that's already been done — five different times! — and these legislators apparently don't think those votes matter.

Zebra Mussel Ecology Study

Prepared for Otter Tail County AIS Task Force, January 2017. Prepared by Daniel C. McEwen, Ph.D., RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc, dan.mcewen@rmbel.info

Over the past seven years 23 lakes have become infested with zebra mussels in Otter Tail County such that one quarter of lakes greater than 500 acres in surface area had become infested by December 2016. RMB Environmental Laboratories was contracted by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force to collect and analyze historically available data to accomplish four goals. Each of these goals and the conclusions reached are highlighted below.

Goal 1: Identify factors that make one lake more susceptible to infestation than another

We recovered enough data to study 54 lakes, 12 infested and 42 not infested, using 101 different variables of which 11 could be statistically associated with zebra mussel colonization probability. Neither watershed characteristics nor measures of water quality could be related to infestation likelihood. We produced a predictive model to generate estimates of the likelihood that currently uninfested lakes would become infested. We found the highest future risk for Dead, Scalp, East and West Silent lakes.

Goal 2: Determine what effects zebra mussels have on lakes after invasion

We then used a statistical test to determine which, if any, fisheries and/or water quality data were affected in lakes colonized by zebra mussels after invasion. We found significant reductions after zebra mussel infestation in total phosphorus and chlorophyll a. There was a significant increase in water clarity after invasion for Pelican, Fish, Lizzie, and North Lida, but not for Little Pelican, Prairie, or South Lida. Some interesting patterns emerged for fisheries data, but we did not have enough statistical power to associate those with zebra mussel infestation, likely due to low sample size.

Goal 3: Review the literature for known relationships between zebra mussels and the environment

A literature review provided for some consistent themes. Zebra mussels remove energy and nutrients from the open water zones of the middle of lakes to the littoral zones near the shore. They increase water clarity, which influences the depth and spatial distribution for aquatic plants. As the plant beds increase in size, fish that

hide or feed within them are helped. Zebra mussels may facilitate the spread of starry stonewort by creating more plant habitat and some evidence suggests that zebra mussels are well adapted to living in complexes of stoneworts. Giving these relationships, a positive feedback might be hypothesized to develop between zebra mussels and starry stonewort. Zebra mussels are known to shift algae communities from edible forms to toxic blue-greens. While constrained by many variables, zebra mussels tend to be most sensitive to calcium, pH, and total suspended solids. They reduce numbers of zooplankton, which are a critical food source to newly born young-of-the-year recreational fish species. Zebra mussels are thought to be particularly harmful to walleye because zebra mussels become aggregated and biofoul shoals where walleyes like to lay eggs, and they increase water clarity which reduces the habitat size for walleyes.

Goal 4: Develop a field study to determine previously unknown environmental relationships with zebra mussels

- Colonization Study: Aimed toward determining what factors make one uninfested lake more likely to be colonized by zebra mussels than another. The value of this study would be to increase the accuracy of models predicting which lakes would most likely next become infested. Those lakes could then be prioritized in terms of prevention tactics.

- Suitability Study: Aimed to determine what habitats within a lake have high densities once zebra mussels become established. The value of this study would be to begin the process of considering containment strategies for lakes where zebra mussels have already become established. If we were able to determine where these areas were, localized treatments could be applied to reduce zebra mussel adult breeders thereby mitigating zebra mussel effects much like is done currently for invasive or nuisance lake plants.

Multiple designs are given for each of the two general types of studies (Colonization & Suitability) with wide ranging costs from a low of \$199,373 to a high of over \$17,330,962. While we have no expectation that the higher cost designs could or should be funded, it illustrates the high cost of obtaining comprehensive knowledge that may lead to the demise of the zebra mussel.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2017 Upcoming OTLPOA Board Meetings

May 25 • June 22 • July 27 • Aug. 24
Sept. 21 TBD • Oct. 26

7pm • Ottertail Community Center (103 Lake Ave. S)

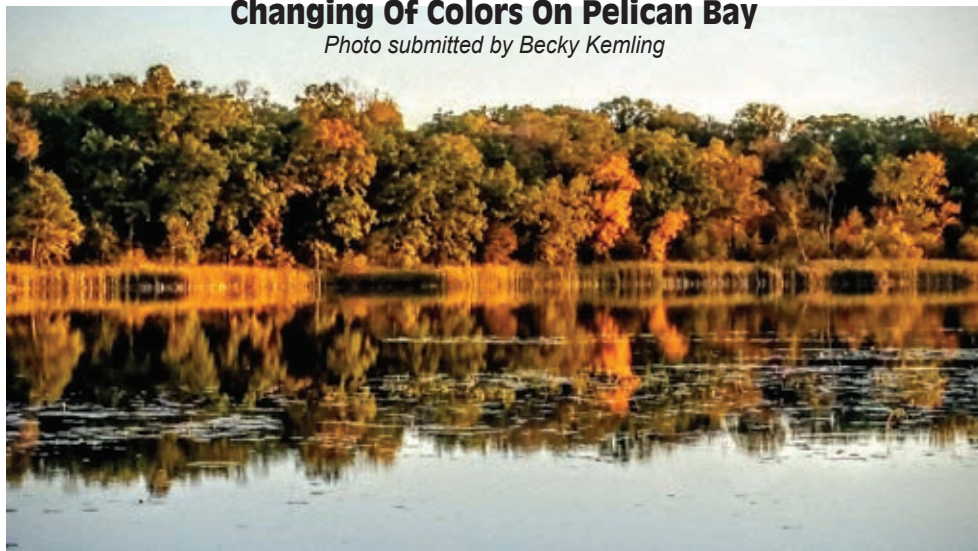
Annual Meeting June 24, 8am

Note **NEW** location - Zion Lutheran Church, Amor

www.otlpoa.com

Changing Of Colors On Pelican Bay

Photo submitted by Becky Kemling



Love Loons? Volunteers Needed In Otter Tail County For DNR Loon Survey

Provided by Christine Herwig, DNR Northwest Region nongame wildlife specialist, 218-308-2641, christine.herwig@state.mn.us

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking volunteers to help monitor the loon population in Otter Tail County. The survey will take place during monitoring period that runs from June 30 through July 10 monitoring period. Volunteers can choose one (or more) lakes to count the number of adult and juvenile loons seen and report these observations to the DNR for data analysis. The time commitment is thirty minutes to four hours per lake, depending on the size of the lake. Surveyors visit a lake once between 5am-noon on one day during the monitoring period.

Volunteers are asked to complete one or more assigned lakes and consider participating in the program for multiple years. Surveys can be conducted from shore or by boat or canoe. DNR will provide detailed instructions, training materials, maps and a data form.

For the past 23 years, with the assistance of hundreds of volunteer observers, the DNR has gathered information about common loon numbers on more than 600 lakes distributed among six regions, or "index areas," throughout the state.

"The survey offers a unique opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while being part of a team that monitors the health and welfare of Minnesota's state bird," said Christine Herwig, DNR Northwest Region nongame specialist. "The results allow the DNR to detect long-term

changes in loon population health and help assess impacts of events like the Gulf oil spill and ongoing lakeshore development."

"The survey wouldn't be possible without volunteers," Herwig said. "I'd like to thank all of our current volunteers and hope they consider helping us again with this important survey by giving another morning to the loons," she said.

Lakes that need volunteers include:

Otter Tail County: Annie (Annie (Aunie), Crane, Duck, Elbow, Fiske, Glorvigan, Holtz, Larson, Moen, Mud, Norway, Peterson, Round, Second Silver, South Nelson, Spring, Tamarack, and a number of unnamed lakes.

For more information on Minnesota's loon monitoring program or to view a map of where these lakes are located, visit http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html

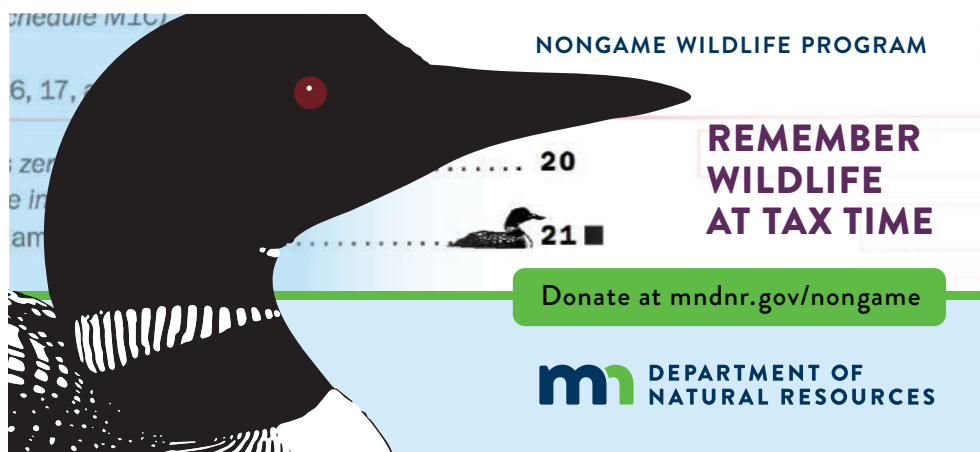
People interested in being a volunteer loon surveyor should contact Keila Granger, Northwest Region, at 218-308-2620 or keila.granger@state.mn.us.

For more information about loons or about the survey contact, Christine Herwig at 218-308-2641 or christine.herwig@state.mn.us. or go to www.mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/projects

For more information about common loons, visit www.mndnr.gov/birds

Loons are

- Good indicators of water quality because they need clean, clear water to observe and catch food.
- Sensitive to disturbance and lakeshore development.
- Indicators of the effects of contaminants like mercury and lead in the environment or the impacts of events like the BP oil spill.
- Enjoyable for Minnesotans to watch!



MN DNR's Nongame Wildlife Program is a citizen-funded program. Please consider making a donation to support nongame wildlife and check us out on Facebook (no account needed!):

Otterfest Food Or Craft Vendors Wanted

Are you interested in being a food or craft vendor for the 2017 Otterfest held on August 12? This is an entire day of fun in Ottertail city with various events happening throughout the day.

If you are interested please contact Marnie Whitehead for vendor information and application forms. Her phone number is 218-457-0193 or email her at contact@thewilliamscompanystore.com.

Movies In The Park In Battle Lake

Not sure what to do on a Friday night. Why not take the whole family to the "Movies in the Park" at 9pm in Battle Lake. Here's what will be playing:

- Friday, June 16, "A Dog's Purpose", rated PG
- Friday, July 21, "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story", rated PG-13
- Friday, Aug. 11, "Up", rated PG

And what's even better it's a free event provided by Park Region Mutual Telephone Co./Otter Tail Telcom.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc.

2017 Membership

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.) \$ 35.00

• Membership \$25.00

• Foundation \$10.00

TOTAL \$35.00

• Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation \$ 35.00

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)

\$10.00 \$20.00 \$50 Other \$

The OTLPOA Foundation was established to obtain financial resources to maintain water quality for recreation, fishing, and enjoyment when Government resources are not provided.

(Total enclosed) \$

Make check payable to: OTLPOA and mail to: PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515

Or visit www.OTLPOA.com to pay by credit card under the membership section.

(Please return this form to ensure accurate information)

MEMBER INFORMATION

Lake property address: _____

(this the blue house number and street for your lake home)

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): _____

(this will be used for the summer Lakeshore News)

(must be valid US Postal deliverable address)

Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): _____

Winter edition of Lakeshore News will be mailed here

Email: (please print legibly) _____

How can the association better serve you?

- What lake related topic or issue is most important to you? How do you think our Association can help?
- Suggestions for Lakeshore Newsletter
- Email secretary@otlpoa.com with any questions or concerns

Environment Omnibus Bills

The Minnesota House and Senate Conference Committee on the Omnibus Environment bill have begun their deliberations. The Conference Committee members will combine the House and Senate Environment Omnibus Bills into one bill that will go to Governor Dayton.

The bills are long and there are some significant differences between them. Our goal is to support the measures that will help improve lake heritage and oppose those measures that would not be good for lakes.

First, there are some good measures that we should support:

- Both House and Senate positions create a pilot project for Gull Lake marina owners as they attempt to manage watercraft with AIS. The hope is that this pilot will make the management of water related equipment both more efficient and secure.

- A Senate provision accelerating water quality goals 25% by 2025.

- Both supply funding for ongoing mitigation of starry stonewort on Lake Koronis.

- The Senate seeks funding for the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, (MAISRC) by appropriating funding directly from the general fund.

Unfortunately, neither the House or Senate increase the AIS surcharge on boater registrations. While the House bill does not cut funding to the MN DNR, without an increase, there will not be funding available to restore local AIS grants. The Invasive Species account has a structural deficit going forward.

The Senate bill cuts \$1 million each year from DNR EcoWaters activity. This will severely hamper AIS efforts. We prefer the House position.

There are other concerning measures in the two Omnibus Bills that should be addressed before going to Governor Dayton:

- Doubles the size of feedlots before triggering a full environmental review and public comment from 1,000 animal units to 2,000 units.

- Fails to increase hunting or fishing license fees - without an increase many outdoor management activities will need to be reduced or curtailed, including fish stocking programs.

- Repeals the authority of the Environmental Quality Board to appoint special task forces and citizen committees.

- Delays implementation and scope of the Buffer Laws passed last year.

- Reduces rule-making capacity.

- Reduces funding and capacity of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, all of which will impact water programs and efforts.

MLR has four major concerns regarding the legislation currently under debate.

1. Funding levels are not high enough to meet the needs.

2. There is a great deal of energy around AIS efforts at the local level. The MN Legislature could leverage this energy by restoring the DNR grant programs. There are more infested lakes in Minnesota, and more species of concern spreading inside the state and others advancing towards our doorstep. Now is the time to step up AIS efforts.

3. Lake associations are doing wonderful work to protect the public's waters and should have a seat at the table where policy decisions are being made that impact local water resources. Language in both House

and Senate bills, along with funding decisions, will make the process less transparent and less open to lake home and cabin owners, and local lake associations.

4. There is a need to increase the efficiency and efficacy of AIS programs by increasing fines, providing for mandatory centralized inspection/decontamination services, and creating a watercraft operator's permit that includes training for AIS - none of these needs is addressed by the current bills.

Minnesotans of both political parties value water. Both recognize that Democracy begins at the local level and that local engagement in efforts to protect and restore water resources should be increased, not diminished. All recognize that local citizens need to have a seat at the table if we are to be successful at protecting water for future generations. Act now and send Legislators and Governor Dayton an email sharing your thoughts about the Environmental Omnibus Bills.

Act NOW!!!

Not sure on how to go about it go to <http://www.congressweb.com/MLRA/20> for a sample letter provided by MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

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In Ottertail If Dogs Are Running At Large Owners Property Owners May Be Subject To Penalty!

Tips for Transporting Your HHW for Safe Disposal

- Seal containers tightly
- Bring Items in their original containers inside a sturdy box.
- Secure all fluorescent bulbs.
- If original container is leaking or damaged, transfer the product to a safe container and re-label.
- Be prepared to leave your containers. We do not empty them.

Product Exchange

The Product Exchange Facility is located within the HHW Collection Facility. County residents may bring their household hazardous materials to the facility for no cost.

Rather than dispose of good condition materials they are offered to the public free of charge.

For free paint, automotive products, herbicides, or pesticides please visit the product exchange facility.

How Do You Safely Dispose Of Toxic Household Products?

It's way past time to get the garage cleaned up but what do you do with it? The best way to safely dispose of these products is by either taking these items to the Otter Tail County Solid Waste or by participating in a Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection.

The Otter Tail County Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection will be holding Mobile Collections in the nearby towns of Henning, Ottertail, Perham, Vergas and New York Mills. Here's the towns, dates, times and locations:

Henning - Hwy. Garage - 102 Douglas
Friday, May 19, 10am-2pm

Ottertail City - Fire Hall - 93 Lake Ave. S.
Friday, June 9, 10am-2pm

Perham - City Garage - 802 6th St. NE
Wednesday, June 28, 10am-2pm

Vergas - Fire Hall - 121 W Linden St.
Friday, July 14, 10am-2pm

New York Mills - City Building -
102 N Boardman

Friday, September 8

So what is acceptable to bring?

Automotive Items: Antifreeze, Battery Acid, Brake Fluid, Carburetor Cleaner, Car Wax/Polish, Degreasers, Fuels, Gasoline, Leather Cleaners, Transmission Fluid, Used Motor Oil, Oil Filters (Automobile & Small Engine filters ONLY, maximum of 4 per household).

Lawn & Garden: Bug Spray, Charcoal Lighter Fluid, Fertilizer, Fertilizer with Weed Killer, Pesticides, Herbicides, Insecticides, Pool Chemicals, Rodent Bait.

Household Items: Aerosols, Batteries - Button, Batteries - Rechargeable, Drain Cleaners, Floor Care Products, Furniture Polish, Gun Cleaning Solvents, Mercury Fever Thermometers, Metal Polish, Mothballs, Nail Polish/Remover, Oven Cleaners, Spot Removers, Window Cleaners, Fluorescent Light Tubes/Bulbs - maximum of 10 per household.

Home Improvement Items:

Adhesives, Caulking, Concrete Cleaner, Crack Fillers/Putty, Driveway Sealer, Latex Paint, Oil Base Paint, Paint Remover/Thinner, Roofing Tar, Solvents, Stain/Varnish, Turpentine, Varnish, Wallpaper Paste, Wood Preservative.

What are unacceptable materials:

Explosives, Home Medical Waste, Business Hazardous Waste

The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department is located at 1115 N Tower Rd., Fergus Falls. Their hours are Mondays & Thursdays, 7:30am-4:00pm (May through October) and Mondays - Fridays, 7:30am-4:00pm (November through April). If you have any questions please call 218-736-2161.

For the complete Collection Schedule go to <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/202/Household-Hazardous-Waste>



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Saturday, June 17th

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Lake Area
Docks & Lifts



WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

Please submit to secretary@otlpoa.com and include a byline and brief description

Polaris Ranger Falls Through Thin Ice On Otter Tail Lake

On February 12, 2017 Tri-State Diving recovered a Polaris Ranger that went through thin ice when it got too close to the mouth of the Otter Tail River on Otter Tail Lake. The Ranger went through the ice on February 10th when they got lost using their GPS. Not knowing the lake they headed toward shore and followed the shore to where it showed a public access on the lake. The access was the one on the west shore right next to the mouth of the river.

Meet All Your Waterfront Needs At Lake Area Docks & Lifts

Have a house or cabin on the lake? Four words for you: Lake Area Docks & Lifts. This is a family run, community based, service oriented company carrying ShoreMaster products, the best waterfront products in the United States. They are the largest U.S. dealer of ShoreMaster products.

Lake Area Docks & Lifts was started by brothers Donovan and Jeff Rasmusson in 1994. Donovan started as a welder at ShoreMaster in 1984, became plant manager, then a sales manager for their Southwest Region, headquartered in Dallas, TX. He transferred back to the Fergus Falls area to take over the Midwest Region sales manager position. Brother Jeff also worked in sales. In 1994 Donovan and Jeff started Lake Area Docks & Lifts in Pelican Rapids, first selling from their uncle's ditch with a display of boat lifts and docks on Hwy 59 near Pelican Rapids, MN. They purchased land just north of Pelican Rapids and built a store in 1995. They worked at the store in summer months while also working as ShoreMaster Regional Sales Managers. Donovan and Jeff resigned from ShoreMaster in 1998 to focus full-time at Lake Area Docks & Lifts, with Donovan running the Pelican Rapids store and Jeff starting a store in Brainerd. In 2000, Donovan expanded to Battle Lake and in 2003 Jeff expanded to Cross Lake.

Look for a new store opening this spring on Highway 1 just north of Fergus Falls. Donovan and wife Renae are co-owners of that new building and the LAD&L entity holding all three of their locations.

It's a family business established in the

community. Donovan is originally from nearby Carlisle and Renae is from Underwood. They have raised their family, son Jordan (Harvard graduate) and daughter Brianna (Junior at NDSU where she plays volleyball) coming through the Fergus Falls school system. Renae trained herself in accounting and manages the finances for the business. They have been involved thoroughly in the community, being members holding board & council positions at Bethlehem Church, and Renae is on the PioneerCare foundation board and past Young Life board member. Renae was an assistant volleyball coach at M-State for 17 years, then coached girls' basketball at Fergus Falls H.S. for 6 years when daughter Brianna was an all-state player for the Otters.

Check out their website at www.lakeareadocks.com. They carry all of the top line ShoreMaster waterfront products, the more economy Shoreline models, WeedRollers, PaddleWheeler pedal boats and recently added a line of paddleboards. They also have an extensive used inventory. Donovan used his welding skills to start his home-made brand of products built specifically for the special needs of customers called LA Docks. For example, he has built handicapped accessible viewing stands for football fields in Pelican Rapids and Fergus Falls. They service all their products and help with seasonal installs and removals of docks and lifts.

With Donovan's 33 years of experience and knowledge in all aspects of the waterfront equipment business, he will find or build the right product for all of your waterfront needs.



Otter Tail County is now using the **CodeRED® Emergency/Weather Warning Notification System** - a high-speed community communication service. This system allows us to send specific information to individuals, businesses, and organizations throughout the county - or just in affected areas - in case of an emergency or severe weather situation.

The **CodeRED® Emergency/Weather Warning Notification System** also delivers weather warning information to anyone that signs up to receive it - whether on your phone, by text, or email.

Self-registration is easy.



Go to <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/BF58FD528F29> for the new **CodeRED®** registration page. If you need assistance to sign up, or have any questions about the system, please contact **Otter Tail County Emergency Management: 218-998-8067**



A Bug's Life

Photo submitted by Becky Kemling

Downtown Fergus Falls Mystery Tour

A twilight stroll through downtown Fergus Falls reveals legendary events from the city's past. Meet at the River Inn Apartments, 133 S. Mill St, Fergus Falls before 8pm on Friday, June 9th. The tour will be last from 8-10pm.

If you have any questions contact the Otter Tail County Historical Society at otchs@ptel.com



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LAND TRANSFERS February 6, 2017 until May 8, 2017

TWP	LAKE	PROPERTY TYPE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	PRICE
Amor	Otter Tail	Seas Res Unimproved	Davenport, Susan Wickersham/ Stuart, Michael G.	Erickson, Timothy C. Trustess & Julie K. Trustee	\$320,000
Everts	Otter Tail	Residential < 4 Units	Eileen Behl Estate	Aldrich, Kenneth/ Johnson Aldrich, Leslie	\$248,500
Everts	Otter Tail	Seas/Rec Improved	Spranger, Delphine/ Scott, Diane & Ronald	Fiskum, Brian & Teresa	\$302,220
Everts	Silver	Seas Res Unimproved	Kolodjski, Terry D. & Michele Ramler	Rondestvedt, Aaron L. & Allison M.	\$50,900
Everts	Silver	Seas Res Unimproved	Cleveland, Randall & Shelby	Geneaux, Mike & Heidi	\$45,000
Everts		Residential < 4 Units	Eilers, Dwayne R.	Carlson, Lara	\$150,000
Everts		Residential < 4 Units	Peterson, Kenneth E. & Alice	Vondal, Valerie & Edward	\$41,900
Everts	Blanche	Seas/Rec Improved	Ferron, Alan William & Mary Elizabeth	Dorl, James J. & Jan/Ferron, John & Julie	\$30,000
Everts	Silver	Seas Res Unimproved	Lakes Country LLC	Neitzke, David & Mary	\$125,000
Everts		Residential < 4 Units	Brenda L. Avant-Biederman, Trustee Of Avant F.	Graff, Harlan A.	\$179,600
Everts		Seas/Rec Improved		Olson Properties	\$56,000
Everts		Seas Res Unimproved		Olson Properties	\$23,000
Girard	East Battle	Residential < 4 Units		Larson, Craig D. & Stacey	\$67,900
Girard	East Battle	Seas/Rec Improved		Castle Drive, LLC	\$327,900
Girard	West Battle	Seas/Rec Improved		Malmstrom, Daniel P. & Lisa M.	\$298,500
Girard	West Battle	Seas/Rec Improved		Pfeifer, Douglass E.	\$388,200
Otter Tail	Hanson	Farm Improved > 35 AC		Hager, David	\$350,000
Otter Tail		Rural Land Unimproved > 35 AC		Luella Trites Revocable Trust	\$68,000
Otter Tail	Long	Residential < 4 Units		Hoff, Bryan J./Solberg - Hoff, Sara J.	\$85,000
Otter Tail	Long	Seas Res Unimproved		Cooney, Daniel E. & Judith R.	\$7,000
Otter Tail		Residential < 4 Units		Schnoes, Amy Beth	\$146,750
Otter Tail	Otter Tail	Seas/Rec Improved		Hunt, Robert B. & Diane E.	\$192,000
Otter Tail	Donald	Seas/Rec Improved		Grobeck, Ronald & Kathleen	\$89,000
Otter Tail	City	Res Unimproved		Carlisle, Daniel T. & Jeannie L.	\$36,800
				Stroh, Terry & Mary	\$56,000
				Hull, Tori P.	\$23,000
				Hjellming, Gordon E. & Sheryl M.	\$67,900
				Meyer, Gregory & Karry	\$327,900
				Sandberg, Philip M.	\$298,500
				Anderson, Mark A. & Ann I.	\$388,200
				HB Investments LLC	\$350,000
				Isakson, Gary & Elaine & Dean S.	\$68,000
				Barnes, Gordon D.	\$85,000
				Olsund, Steven L. & Leanne J.	\$7,000
				Davis, Robert & Alison M.	\$146,750
				Devries, Kyle & Aimee	\$192,000
				Johnson, Michael & Carrie	\$89,000
				Miller, Jeffrey N. & Ronette E.	\$36,800

New Zebra Mussel-Sniffing K9s Take Aim At Aquatic Invasive Species

Provided by the Minnesota DNR

With the fishing opener, two new K9 dogs, trained to quickly locate zebra mussels on boats and trailers, will be helping the Department of Natural Resources prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The K9s help by quickly sniffing out any zebra mussels attached to boats or equipment. Newly certified K9s Shelby and Storm join veterans Brady and Reggie on the force for 2017.

"The invasive species program is excited to have two more K9 officers ready to detect zebra mussels on water-related equipment in the field and to educate people about aquatic invasive species and what each of us can do to stop the spread," said Heidi Wolf, invasive species unit supervisor.

More DNR-trained watercraft inspectors, more decontamination units, expanded training efforts and greater public engagement all help prevent the spread of zebra mussels, stary stonewort and other aquatic invasive species.

"We need anglers, and everyone who enjoys

Minnesota's waters, to follow three simple steps: Clean, Drain, Dispose," said Jackie Glaser, DNR enforcement operations manager. "It's not only the best way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, but it's also the law in Minnesota. Clean aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from watercraft; Drain lake or river water and keep drain plugs out during transport; and Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water."

In addition to these required steps, especially after leaving infested waters, the DNR recommends that anglers:

- Spray boat and trailer with high-pressure water.
- Rinse boat and trailer with very hot water (120 degrees for two minutes; or 140 degrees for 10 seconds).
- Dry boat and equipment for at least five days.
- Less than 2 percent of Minnesota lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels.

More information is available on the aquatic invasive species page at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html>



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Ottertail: 218-367-2598
Perham: 218-346-2598





Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons will be taught again by the Fergus Falls Area Family YMCA this summer and will meet five times for 45 minutes each time. (Preschool lessons are 30 minutes each.) Instructors will not have much time between lessons, so swimmers are asked to be ready to begin their lesson immediately at their start time. Parents are encouraged to stay and watch lessons. If parents leave the swimming area during lessons, they are asked to be back promptly at the end of the lesson. Instructors will not be able to supervise swimmers in the water who are not in a lesson. Swimming lessons meet regardless of weather. If it is unsafe to swim due to weather, safety skills will be taught in the shelter located near each beach.

PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE. No registration at the beach.

Levels:

Preschool—approximate ages 2-1/2 to 5 years. Learn water adjustment skills, front and back float. Learn to move in the water on front and back. Learn to be comfortable in the water. Lessons meet Monday through Friday, five lessons of 30 minutes each. Limited enrollment; register early.

Level 1: Introduction to Water Skills — approximate ages 5-7. This level is ideal for the child who has not had previous swim instruction or is unable or uncomfortable with putting their entire face in the water. The purpose of this level is for students to become more comfortable in the water. Students will become proficient in skills such as: entering and exiting the water safely, submerging entire face, using a life jacket, and beginning front and back float.

Level 2: Fundamental Aquatic Skills — approximate ages 7 & 8. This level is ideal for the child who is able to put their face in the water but is unable to independently float on their front and back. The purpose of this level is for students to begin to develop fundamental water skills. In this level, students will learn to swim unaided 15 feet on either their front or back as well as entering the water by jumping or stepping from the side, treading water, roll over from back to front and front to back.

Level 3 Stroke Development — approximate ages 8 & 9. In this level, students will continue to build on the fundamentals learned in the previous levels. The skills mastered in this level include: rotary breathing, front and back crawl, butterfly kick and body motion, standing or kneeling dive, survival float, tread water for 30 seconds, as well as emergency situation Check-Call-Care.

Level 4: Stroke Improvement — approximate ages 9 & 10. In this level, students develop confidence in the skills learned in previous levels as well as improve other aquatic skills. The skills mastered in this level include: swimming 25 yards of front and back crawl as well as 15 yards of butterfly, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke. In addition to these skills, water safety will also be implemented through the learning of a throwing assist, safe diving rules, and how to care for a choking victim.

Level 5: Stroke Refinement — approximate ages 9-12. In this level, students will further coordinate and refine skills they have learned in past levels. Students will master the following skills: front and back crawl, sidestroke, breaststroke, front flip turn, and elementary backstroke.

Level 6: Swimming and Skill Proficiency — approximate ages 11-13. In this level, students will focus on endurance and stroke technique. The purpose of this level is for students to refine strokes and be able to swim with ease, efficiency, power and effectiveness over great distances. Some skills for lifeguarding and fitness will be taught.

Red Cross Swimming Lessons

Staff from Fergus Falls Area Family YMCA



Check the date/location/time on left side and circle the level on right:

July 10-14

___ Otter Tail Lake 3:15-4:00 pm	Level	1	3	5
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:50 pm	Level		2	4
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:35 pm	Level			Preschool

July 17-21

___ Otter Tail Lake 3:15-4:00 pm	Level	1	2	3	5
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:50 pm	Level	1		4	6
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:35 pm	Level				Preschool

July 24-28

___ West Battle Lake 3:15-4:00 pm	Level	1	2	3	5
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:50 pm	Level		2	4	6
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:35 pm	Level				Preschool

July 31-August 4

___ West Battle Lake 1:00-1:45 pm	Level	1		3	5
___ West Battle Lake 1:50-2:35 pm	Level		2	4	6
___ West Battle Lake 2:50-3:35 pm	Level	1		3	4
___ West Battle Lake 3:50-4:35 pm	Level	1	2		
___ West Battle Lake 3:50-4:20 pm	Level				Preschool

Questions regarding location or registration, please call Kathy at 218-862-4603.

Questions about specific swimming skills and placement in class, please contact Emily at 218-739-4489 ext. 27.

Registration Fee: \$50 (Preschool lessons are \$40)

NO REGISTRATIONS AT THE BEACH. PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE.

Otter Tail Lake lessons are at Amor Park Beach
West Battle Lake lessons across from Lions Park in Battle Lake

Name _____ Age: _____
 Address _____
 E-Mail _____

Emergency Contact Information

Parent Name _____ Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 2nd Contact Name _____ Home Phone _____
 Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Please attach payment. Please make checks payable to Battle Lake Community Education. Mail to Battle Lake Community Education, 402 W. Summit, Battle Lake, MN 56515.

YMCA staff and Battle Lake Public School will take every step possible to provide adequate supervision. However, as with any physical activity, there is a certain amount of risk of injury. The participating individual, parent, or guardian agrees not to hold the YMCA, Battle Lake School, employees, contractors, and volunteers responsible for claims resulting from training, attendance in, or participation in swimming lessons.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____
 I am requesting a 50% United Way Scholarship; my child attends Battle Lake School.

Worm Spraying Spring 2017

Around the beginning of June each year, lake residents start to notice a creepy-crawly phenomenon: worms. They seem to be everywhere! They cover your roof, the sides of your house, the lawn, your trees and bushes and even fall onto your plate as you're enjoying lunch on the deck. No birds or animals eat the worms, so once they start multiplying there is no natural process that controls the worm population. Left unattended, these small creatures will happily defoliate every tree and bush in your yard by the end of summer. If this happens too many years in a row, eventually your vegetation will die.

Fortunately, there is a solution! You are probably aware that area lakes have been sprayed for these pests in the past... Those who choose to participate in the program pay a small fee of \$30 and come spring, their property will be sprayed to prevent the otherwise inevitable nuisance.

Not only is it smart to take advantage of this program for yourself, it's also a good idea to tell your neighbors about it as well. If you spray your property, but your neighbors don't pay the fee, thinking they'll get enough of the residual chemical blown onto their own trees and bushes, their worms may migrate to your yard and you could end up being just as worm-infested as if you never sprayed. Because of this, it's very important that you join the program, and urge your neighbors to as well.

The eggs hatch in late May/early June, and approximately one week later, when

the worms are about ¼ inch long, the sprayers come through. The database of paid participants of the worm-spraying program is downloaded into the aircraft's GPS system, which keeps track of what properties to spray and what properties to skip.

The Otter Tail Lakes Property Owner's Association hires West Central Ag-Air out of Fergus Falls for the spraying. Residents taking advantage of the program are notified of the spraying schedule a couple days before it begins. Once the spraying starts, the lakes receive two swipes of the spores and endotoxin of a soil born bacteria called *Bacillus Thuringiensis*, commonly abbreviated as Bt.

Bt affects nothing but the worms and has been in use for decades for caterpillar control throughout the United States and Canada. The commercial name of the product that is used is Foray 48B. Since the worms crawl to the top of the trees and eat their way down, aerial spraying is the most effective way of applying Bt. Spraying is most effective on a very windy, dry day. Because the Bt could wash off the trees before the worms ingest it, it's important to spray when it won't rain for at least two days.

Send in your \$30 as soon as possible to protect the foliage around our favorite lakes!! Please make checks payable to OTLPOA. For more information please visit the Otter Tail Lakes Property Owner's Association website: www.otlpoa.com or the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Mosquito Facts

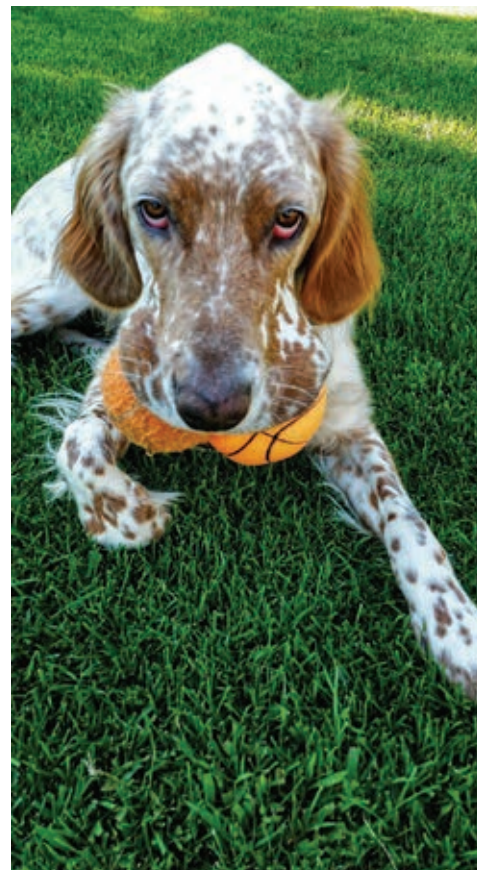
FACT: Clothing is effective in defending against mosquito bites, depending on the type of clothing you wear. Although mosquitoes go for exposed skin first, they can bite through thin clothing that fits tightly against the skin. It's best to wear long-sleeved, light colored, loose fitting clothing when mosquitoes are abundant. Hint: They're attracted to dark clothing!

Do mosquitoes need bodies of water to breed? **FACT:** It depends on what you mean by "bodies of water." Mosquitoes need standing water to hatch their eggs but can do so in as little as a bottle cap or tablespoon of water. So mosquitoes don't need ponds or drainage ditches. They can hatch in places like gutters, plant container saucers, poorly drained yards and discarded tires – meaning you probably have a mosquito nursery in your back yard. No water, no mosquitoes. It's that simple.

Prevention Is The Key!

When you're doing your Spring yard work, remember: All you have to do is make sure you don't have anything around your yard that will hold water for more than a week in the summer. Bird baths, old tires, clogged gutters, discarded wading pools and toys — Use your imagination!

When in doubt, dump it out!



Will You Play With Me?

Photo submitted by Becky Kemling

10 Reasons To Get Vaccinated

CDC - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

There are many important reasons to get vaccinated. Talk to your doctor to make sure you are up to date on the vaccines that are right for you.

Did you know that adults need vaccines too? If you didn't, you are not alone. Many adults in the U.S. are not aware of the vaccines recommended for them – and that means they are not taking advantage of the best protection available against a number of serious diseases. Talk to your doctor to make sure you are up to date on the vaccines that are right for you.

There are many reasons to get vaccinated; here are just 10.

- You may be at risk for serious diseases that could be prevented by vaccines. Many of these diseases (like influenza, pertussis, and shingles) are common in the U.S., and many can be spread easily.

- You may be at increased risk for complications from certain diseases if you have a chronic health condition or weakened immune system. Adults with chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease and those with weakened immune systems are more likely to develop complications from certain vaccine-preventable diseases. These complications can include long-term illness, hospitalization, and even death.

- You can reduce the chance that you'll pass on a serious disease to your loved ones. Most vaccine-preventable disease can be contagious, like influenza, meningitis, and whooping cough. Receiving your recommended vaccines can reduce the risk that you get sick and spread disease on to others.

- You can help protect those who can't get vaccinated. Some people may not be able to get certain vaccines based on age, health conditions, or other factors even though they are vulnerable to illness. Vaccines can help prevent the spread of contagious diseases to them. For example, newborns who are too young to get vaccinated for whooping cough are also most at risk of severe illness from the

disease. By getting vaccinated when you're pregnant, you can pass on protection to your baby.

- You don't have time to get sick. You have too much responsibility to risk getting sick, including people counting on you at work and at home. Vaccines can help you stay healthy so you don't waste time being sick.

- You don't want to miss what's important to you. Spending time with family and friends or taking time out for your hobbies may not be possible if you get sick. Vaccines can help you stay healthy and enjoy the things you like to do.

- You don't want to pay the price of getting sick. Adults who get a vaccine-preventable disease face the financial costs of medical visits and treatment, in addition to other costs like taking time off work, hiring babysitters, and traveling to and from doctors' offices.

- You like to travel - or have to travel for work. Travel can present exciting opportunities, but it can also put you at risk for certain diseases. Make sure you only bring back great memories, not illness! If you are going to travel internationally, you might need additional vaccines. See the vaccinations and travel checklist.

- You want the peace of mind that comes with protecting your health. People sometimes wait to get vaccines until they hear of outbreaks of disease like pertussis or influenza in their community. The time to be vaccinated is before disease arrives. It's important to stay up to date on your immunizations because no one can predict when disease will appear.

- You don't want to feel crummy if you can prevent it! No one wants to feel sick. There are more than a dozen diseases that you can protect against simply by getting vaccinated! Adult vaccines are available at doctor's offices, health departments, pharmacies, and even workplaces.

Do you know which adult vaccines you need? Go to https://www2.cdc.gov/nip/adultimmsched/?s_cid=bb-adults-adultquiz-026 to get your results.

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Cyclone Tour

It's the 98th Anniversary of the Great Fergus Falls Cyclone. On Wednesday, June 21, 7-8pm the Lake Alice Cyclone Tour will walk around Lake Alice. Meet at St James Episcopal Church, 321 S. Lakeside Dr., Fergus Falls before 7pm.

If you have any questions contact the Chris Schuelke, Otter Tail County Historical Society at 218-736-6038.

Walking Tours

Chris Schuelke, from the Otter Tail County Historical Society will help you discover Perham and Battle Lake on Walking Tours.

The Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Perham will be held on Thursday, June 15. Meet at NP Park before 7pm and this tour should last one hour. Discover the historic buildings, people and events in downtown Perham.

You can also discover some of Battle Lake's past as you stroll through Historic Downtown Battle Lake on Friday, July 21. Meet at the Lakes Community Center, Battle Lake before 6:30pm. The tour will leave at 6:30pm and should last one hour.

If you have any questions contact the Chris Schuelke, Otter Tail County Historical Society at 218-736-6038.

Cemetery Tours

Are you interested in touring the resting spots of World War I veterans or checking out some of Otter Tail County's first settlers?

Two tours will be held around the area. They include a cemetery tour of World War I Veterans that will be held at Trinity Cemetery in Henning on Wednesday, May 24, from 6:30 to 7:30pm. The second one will talk about Otter Tail County's first settlers at the Tour of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. This tour will be held Friday, May 26 from 6:30-8:30pm by Clitherall.

If you have any questions contact the Otter Tail County Historical Society at otchs@prtcl.com

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Military Roundtable Show And Tell

The military roundtable will meet at 2pm at the Minnesota Veterans Home on Monday, June 5 from 2-3pm. Education Coordinator, Missy Hermes will lead the presentation. There is no charge. For more information, please email mhermes@otchs.org.

DNR Firewise Program Helps Rural Homeowners Reduce Wildland Fire Risks

by Dan Carroll, DNR northwest region Firewise specialist, Park Rapids, MN

Seven out of 10 structures destroyed by wildfire are ignited by the embers that land on the property and start small fires. These embers find a suitable fuel bed (woodpile under deck, pine needles in gutters, tall grass in yard) that ignites a portion of a home or cabin.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Firewise program provides tips to rural homeowners to reduce the risks of wildfires to their homes and cabins. Property owners who reduce the likelihood that an ember finds a suitable fuel bed, can significantly reduce the likelihood that their home or cabin will ignite.

The Firewise program identifies four factors homeowners can control that affect whether a home will survive a wildfire - access, site, structure and burning practices.

Access

Access affects how easily firefighters and emergency vehicles can find and access a home. Without good access and escape routes, firefighters will not endanger themselves to save a home.

Defensible zone

Creating a 100-foot "defensible zone" around your home or cabin, especially the 30 feet surrounding it, is critical to its chance of surviving a wildfire.

Anything flammable, including firewood piles and accumulated leaf and needle fall around foundations and decks should be removed.

Firewood or other combustible materials should not be stored in the zone. Decks within 5 feet of the ground should be enclosed with metal screening or sheeting. The area under decks, unless completely enclosed with metal screening, should not be used for storage.

A 10-foot minimum space should be maintained between evergreen tree crowns, and the tree crowns and home. This prevents fire from jumping tree to tree and tree to home.

Grass, leaves and branches provide a ladder for fuel to climb from ground to tree crown. These fuels can be eliminated by mowing tall grass, trimming shrubs and pruning the lower tree branches up 6 to 10 feet, or one-third of the tree height. Lawns should be kept green and mowed short to prevent fire from carrying to other areas. Reducing fuels in the wooded area within the 100-foot zone and beyond will reduce the intensity of an approaching wildfire. Trees should be thinned/removed to increase their spacing, underbrush reduced and remaining trees pruned up 6 to 10 feet or one-third of the tree height. This will reduce the fuels and lessen the wildfire intensity.

Structure

Home modifications that further reduce wildfire risk include re-siding with brick, stone, stucco or steel, replacing shake roofing with class A shingles or steel, and enclosing foundations, decks and overhangs with steel, masonry or less expensive flame-resistant sheeting.

Burning Practices

The number one cause of wildfires in Minnesota is escaped debris burning fires. If you burn leaves and debris, consider alternatives like composting. Recreational fires should be located in a fire-safe pit or container and completely extinguished before left unattended.

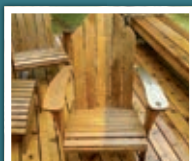
For more information, visit mndnr.gov/firewise

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Home / Lakeshore News

Lakeshore News



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

As an organization, OTLPOA recognizes the importance of a well-informed, well-educated membership. Strong effort has been made to not only increase membership, but to assure our members are well-informed through our "Lakeshore News" publication. By teaming with Midweek Publications, we have improved our five publication/yearly news source by increasing the number of members' photos included, informing members in an up-to-the-minute fashion of critical events, legislation, and problems/solutions, and by addressing individual members' concerns when possible or referring them on to a source for answers. Additionally, because of our concern and belief regarding not only a well-informed membership but a well-informed public, stacks of The Lakeshore News are placed in businesses in the surrounding communities.

Now accepting online payments for:

- Annual Membership
- Worm Spraying
- Foundation Donations

Radon - Be Safe

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. But not only is it harmful to people it is also harmful to pets.

- Pets are exposed to the dangers of radon gas more because of how small they are
- Pets breathe in twice as much contaminated air as humans because of how much time they spend in the house
- Symptoms include weight loss, coughing, trouble breathing, loss of

appetites, lameness, extreme tiredness, and coughing up blood

- Symptoms are sometimes difficult to see
- Test for radon gas to keep your pets safe

Be safe not only for you and your family but also for your pets. Check out your local home improvement stores to buy a radon test kit. Follow the directions on the packaging for the proper placement of the device and where to send the device after the test is done to get your reading.

Free Acting And Music Workshops!

Sod House Theater of Minneapolis will offer a series of free music and acting workshops led by professional theater artists Luverne Seifert & Darcey Engen, and professional musicians Brian Laidlaw & Ashley Hanson in Battle Lake on June 12 and 13th. During the workshops they will also hold an information session and call for actors, musicians & volunteers to participate in their performance of An Enemy of the People - a site-specific performance that will take place in Fergus Falls & Battle Lake August 22-27. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! We provide a playful and safe environment to learn skills for performance.

Monday, June 12: 6:30-8pm - The Power of Your Voice: Developing Your Voice for the Stage - This workshop will introduce and encourage performers to develop the components of vocal production such as projection, dynamics, pitch, rate, resonance, variety, articulation as well as relaxation and breathing. This workshop will help the performer increase vocal energy, strength, range, flexibility, and clarity and apply it directly into their performance. No preparation is necessary. Dress to move comfortably. Best for participants 15 years and older.

Tuesday, June 13: 4:30-6pm - Kick in the Pants: Physical Comedy Routines - This workshop will introduce stage techniques of physical comedy; slaps, kicks, trips, falls, fixed points and awkward timing decisions. Participants will develop a 1-2 minute comedy routine that they will develop and perform. No preparation necessary. Dress to move comfortably. Any age welcome!

Tuesday, June 13: 6:30-8pm - Hometown Ballad Songwriting Workshop - In this workshop, you will share stories about your community, discuss the craft songwriting, and start to turn stories shared into original songs. Open to all ages and levels of experience; singers, musicians, and writers encouraged to attend; instruments are invited, but not required.

Each of these classes are held at the Battle Lake High School.

To reserve your spot e-mail Kathy at communityed@isd542.org or call 218-862-4603.

Lake Home And Cabin Owners Protect Minnesota's Water Heritage

by Jeff Forester

This year's MLR Annual meeting, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center in conjunction with the Lake Home and Cabin Show (MLR attendees received free admission to the show) surprised us. The room that we have used in past years was full to capacity, and there were people standing in the back of the room and in the hallway outside.

We are going to need a bigger room.

Excitement and energy in MLR is building year to year. Legislators and the press are beginning to recognize the work, generosity and impact lake home and cabin owners are having on our lakes. Word is finally getting out that lake associations, taken collectively, are the largest, most generous and hardest working conservation group in Minnesota, and they make significant contributions to the health of our most precious resource, our lakes and rivers.

This year MLR Executive Director Jeff Forester gave a great recap of the year and presented a new grassroots advocacy model that will help protect Minnesota's lake and river heritage for future generations. Minnesota's iconic lakes and rivers have no better advocates than lake home and cabin owners. It is up to all of us, working together, to solve our water quality issues.

In 1993 when MLR was first formed by a small group of cabin owners from Lake Vermilion the annual meeting was just a few dozen people. Some of those original members attended this year. That is a remarkable complement and shows the true grassroots strength of the organization. The members of MLR deserve a clap on the back - together we have built the best grassroots lake and river advocacy force in the land of ten thousand lakes.

Some of MLR's key activities and accomplishments in the last year:

- Continued Growth of Lake Association membership - MLR now largest lake association group in Minnesota.
- Strong media presence for lake issues in statewide and local press.
- Change in narrative at MN Legislature.
- Aquatic Invaders Summit.
- Webinar Series.
- Formation/Reformation of two COLA organizations in 2016.

But lake and river trends are not rosey. We all know personally how lakes have changed over the years. There is more to do, and MLR has a strategy for protecting our lake and river heritage into the future.

The MLR mission statement is, "Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates protects Minnesota's lake and river heritage by forging powerful links among lakes, lake advocates and policy makers."

The first part of the mission captures a value all lake home and cabin owners share, heritage. We want to leave our lakes in rivers in at least as good, if not better, condition than we found them. We are doing much of this work for the benefit of our children and grandchildren.

The second part of the mission statement focuses on "links." These links are critically important and will be the main focus of MLR work, in addition to pushing a pro-lake agenda at the Capitol. The two are closely connected.

Even if MLR is successful at pushing a pro-lake agenda at the state level, much of this work can be undone at the local level OR even if MLR fails at the state level, work can be accomplished at the local level.

One example is riparian buffers and shoreland development rules. For instance, the state does have minimum shoreland development standards but these are often undone with variance boards. Or in the case of riparian buffers, some counties were able to pass stronger riparian buffers above and beyond what is required by Minnesota law. Many good programs for lakes and lake protection efforts could move from the local level up to the state level. When lake associations increase their relationships and engagement in local policy making, they can have a huge impact that benefits lakes outside their area.

As MLR unifies our message and strategy across the state and brings more lake associations into partnership with all the lake associations in Minnesota, the impact of all will increase as will the energy and hopefully membership of individual groups.

Legislative efforts in St. Paul are a numbers game, but legislators do often act without that. By building relationships with legislators and bringing them into your lake association work, they will understand the issues you face, the value that your organization and other lake associations provide Minnesota, and they will be better able to represent their constituents issues in St. Paul.

Here is what your lake association can do to increase the impact we will all have on protecting lakes and rivers in Minnesota:

- Put your State Representatives, Senators and County Commissioners on your mailing list so that they receive your Newsletters and other materials, and know the work you are doing.
- Invite your State representatives, Senator and County Commissioners to a one-on-one coffee to learn what their vision is for the lakes and rivers in your area.

- Invite these elected officials to your annual meeting. Ask them in advance if they would like to simply attend, or if they would like to have a few minutes to speak and answer questions.

The goal is to build a relationship and educate them on the issues you are facing, the work you are doing to protect and enhance the public good of the lake. You want to learn why they believe what they do about water issues in your area, and what solutions they have. Let them know that your group is ready to be a part of the solution.


There is a role and a jurisdiction for lake home and cabin owners in protecting lakes and rivers in Minnesota. Lakes are a primary driver of both economics and quality of life in Greater Minnesota, and without lake associations across the state engaging on lake related issues, we will fall short of our goals to protect these values for future generations. Now is the time.

Jeff Forester is executive director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

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Dan Carlisle

Enforcement Key Gap In Local AIS Programs

by Jeff Forester

Many of you write to MLR with a simple question about aquatic invasive species (AIS) programs in Minnesota; "Why can't Minnesota use mandatory roadside inspections. Trying to cover all accesses is so difficult and expensive." Others ask if it is possible to, "Tag inspected boats so that they can launch safely without having to be re-inspected," or "Can we set up a system so that boaters who launch into and out of one lake can get a special pass since they pose no threat of transporting AIS.

Many of us have traveled to western states where these types of programs are well established.

These are good questions. A tagging system combined with a centralized inspection/decontamination program would make Minnesota's efforts to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species both more effective and far more efficient. We have laws on the books that would allow us to start using these tools.

So why have we not done these things?

In early March a number of Minnesota legislators, legislative staff and members of the Statewide AIS Advisory Committee learned the answer. Lack of effective partnership and collaboration. Let me explain.

On Thursday, Feb. 24th, at 3:00 legislators were invited to an AIS learning session held by Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Senator Carrie Rudd, and Rep. Dan Fabian, Chairs of the Environment committees in the Minnesota House and Senate. The event was organized and sponsored by Gabriel Jabbour of Tonka Bay Marina, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, and the MN DNR Statewide AIS Advisory Committee.

The speaker was Stephanie Showalter Otts, Executive Director of Sea Grant Law Center. Stephanie has spent the last six years working with the assistant attorney generals of western states to craft a legal framework that is effective, comprehensive and consistent. Western states have been able to accomplish many of the things Minnesota has not, and the reason seems to be the process used to draft the legislation used to create inspection and decontamination programs.

Ms. Showalter Otts convened a series of conferences for the Western Regional Panel that built program consensus by inviting AIS specialists, assistant attorneys general, and state law enforcement officials to help draft the enabling language for AIS laws in the Western Region, which is everything past the 100th Meridian. This language was then

packaged as a legislative framework that the various western states could change or adopt.

In Minnesota MN DNR attorneys drafted our AIS laws. They were based in part upon the Western Regional Panel's, but unlike in the west, none of those who would have to enforce the laws were consulted in advance, not county attorneys, AIS specialists, local law enforcement or the public. The MN DNR did not first build program consensus by including county attorneys and county sheriffs in the process as they were drafting language.

As Ms. Showalter Otts said during the presentation, "Attorneys are concerned with worst case scenarios, and so we say 'no' a lot. We are trained to say 'no.'" For this reason some county attorneys have been cautious to allow local law enforcement to set up centralized inspection stations at "choke points" on Minnesota's roads, to offer paperwork or a tag certifying inspection or decontamination.

If a driver parks a car illegally, they can expect that it might be towed away. Any resulting damage is on the owner, not the towing company. But with AIS prevention, concerns are raised that if a boater is directed from a public access to a specific decontamination station, and is involved in an accident on the way, the local government could be held responsible for damages.

The take-away is clear - partnering is important in all public policy discussions, and the earlier the partnership forms, the better. It is not just water related stakeholders that must be brought into AIS work, but enforcement agents, including the attorneys who will prosecute AIS laws and support law enforcement officers. There is a role for local AIS advocates to reach out to county attorneys, and educate them on the threats of AIS, the potential economic impacts that can follow an infestation (Mille Lacs) and the need to put together workable solutions to protect local economies and way of life.

It is time to bring together law enforcement, including county attorneys, to review the current statutes, agree on a workable framework, and then work to get these changes into law. MLR would like to thank Gabriel Jabbour, the MN DNR and Stephanie Showalter Otts for all the work they did to put this presentation together. Special thanks to Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen, Senator Carrie Rudd, and Representative Dan Fabian for sponsoring the event.

Jeff Forester is executive director of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates.

Webinar Recording - Fishing Tournaments And AIS - New Program Lowers Risk

by Jeff Forester

Almost weekly I receive emails from lake folks concerned about the risk of AIS spread during fishing tournaments. With tournaments permitted in infested lakes one week, and uninfested lakes the next, their concern is not unfounded. Also, public accesses tend to be heavily infested and so more likely to contaminate exiting watercraft. Starry stonewort raises concerns even higher.

While fishing boats tend to be lower risk than other types of water craft such as wake board boats, and anglers tend to be well informed about AIS issues in general, the sheer numbers and movement of watercraft give legitimate cause for concern.

So far neither DNR permitting rules or the MN Legislature has taken action to regulate fishing tournaments in an effort to reduce use of infested lakes, or to schedule tournaments in such a way as to minimize risk of spread.

Local action, however, has made progress. Shortly after the County AIS Prevention Aid was passed, the Cass County AIS Task Force took a look at the fishing tournament issue. Rima Smith Keprios, the Cass County AIS Coordinator called Eric Bakke, tournament director of Minnesota's largest fishing event, the Frank J. Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament, put on by the Twin Cities

Chapter of Muskies Inc. They made a plan.

This tournament is Muskie Inc.'s oldest tournament, 40 years old, and includes over 500 fishermen on 20 lakes in Minnesota. It is large and complex - the perfect situation to try a pilot project. The first year there were a few bumps. Tournament organizer Eric Bakke and Rima Smith Keprios received a lot of phone calls. Rima had to go the extra mile to do late night inspections and provide tournament AIS forms to participants who forgot to bring theirs.

But last year the issues were ironed out and things ran smoothly. This year they are ready to share their program with you. You can now avoid their mistakes and lower the risk of AIS spread during a fishing tournament.

On Wednesday, April 12th MLR hosted a free Webinar by Rima and Eric that will laid out the program they have developed. Open water is just around the corner, so now is the time to begin to lay the groundwork to close this vector of spread.

View a Recording of the Webinar at https://www.anymeeting.com/WebConference/RecordingDefault.aspx?c_psrId=E955DC8689483C. You will need to type in your name and email address.

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