

# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Vol. 49, No. 04

P.O. Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515

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County Commissioner,  
Betty Murphy

## Annual Meeting

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, June 29 at Zion Lutheran Church in Amor. Rolls and donuts from Ottertail Bakery were served along with juice and coffee to approximately 75 people. Pastor Jim gave the invocation and a short business meeting was held along with two guest speakers and a meeting followed at 9am.

County Commissioner, Betty Murphy spoke about her duties as County Commissioner. She discussed road repair throughout the county and the different committees that she is on.

Howard Fullhart from the DNR spoke about their purposed plan to put fish ladders at the dams in the county. The DNR is asking for input and approval from lake associations throughout the area.

It was a great morning to learn what is happening around the lakes and what is new from your OTLPOA Board and County Officials.

More photos throughout this issue.



Howard Fullhart  
DNR



## Two Sessions Of Red Cross Swimming Lessons

will be offered at Amor Park on Otter Tail Lake. The sessions will be held July 22-26 and July 29-Aug. 8. Aquatic staff from the Fergus Falls YMCA will provide instruction. Registration is provided through Battle Lake Community Education.

Registration Form is found on Page 15

This AIS inspector is going solo on Blanche Lake one Friday morning. He is alert and ready for business.



## 2018 OTLPOA Board of Directors



Left-right: Front - Linda Synder, Becky Kemling, Lynn Cave  
Middle - Tom Gedde, Bernie Steeves, Fred Rizk, Ken Wentz, Pat Hunke  
Back - Steve Mouritsen, Scott Simdorn, Rob Bope, Marc Wing  
Not pictured- Debbie Ness, Roger Anderson, Stan Fetters

Check inside for  
4th of July  
Photos and more  
Annual Meeting  
Photos.

Nitrate Water-  
Testing Clinic  
Friday, August 2  
10am-3pm  
See page 3 for complete  
article.

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## President's Corner

*Scott Simdorn  
OTLPOA  
President*

By the time you're reading this, the fourth of July will have already passed. Seems like just yesterday we were waiting for the ice to go off. We had great weather for the week of the fourth and hopefully everyone got a chance to enjoy some time at our area lakes with friends and family! Lets' not forget the significance of the fourth and all of those who past and present worked to give us our independence.

On June 29th, we had our annual meeting. This year's meeting was held at Zion Lutheran Church. Thanks to the church for the use of their facilities. It's a great venue for hosting our meeting. After a continental breakfast we had two interesting speakers. Howard Fullhart of the DNR spoke on fish ladders and fish migration upstream. Betty Murphy, County Commissioner, introduced herself and updated us as to the committees she will be participating on. Thanks to both of our guests for their presentations. I would also like to thank all the board members for their time and efforts to putting together a great meeting. Your efforts are greatly

appreciated!

Board members up for re-election were Fred Rizk of Blanche Lake, Becky Kemling of Otter Tail River North, Marc Wing of Walker Lake, Debbie Ness of Otter Tail Lake, and Steve Mourtisen of Round Lake. All members were elected for another term.

We still have money available for shoreline grants. If anyone is interested, please contact Marc Wing. His contact information is listed in this paper.

Bernie Steeves presenting information on worm spraying, AIS Task Force, and the foundation financials.

Pat Hunke provided the financial report and 2018 audit report.

Steve Mourtisen updated us on foundation activities for the last year. Steve is a previous foundation board member who is now representing Round Lake for the association. We welcome him to our board.

We have started water testing on the inlet and outlet of Otter Tail Lake. I am pleased to see both the phosphorous and total sed numbers to be very low. They both also decrease from the inlet to the outlet. While Otter Tail Lake clarity increased to the middle twenties last year, it is around 20 feet this year. This increased clarity is attributed to the zebra mussels. It does appear that the zebra mussels have peaked and this is reinforced by the decreasing water clarity numbers. We will report more as the summer goes on.

The AIS Task Force has placed a decontamination unit on the Sportsmans Access of Otter Tail Lake. If inspectors find your boat requires cleaning, they will request you have it decontaminated. This is a voluntary service and is currently free. We have had some boaters pull in just for this service.

We have a few directories remaining. If you haven't received one or would like another please let one of the directors know. This is a great time to meet your directors if you haven't already. We look forward to meeting our members. Please remember if you have new neighbors, or know of anyone who isn't currently a member, introduce them to your association and suggest they join. We currently have 1060+ members and would like to see this reach 1100 yet this summer.

Swimming lessons are also coming up. This is a great opportunity to get your kids/grandkids in the lake and experience lake swimming. Living on the north side of Otter Tail lake, our grandkids have found our what "big waves" really are.

With the longest day of the year already past, it's time to get out and enjoy your area lakes. Please remember our lakes belong to everyone and it's everyone's responsibility to protect and preserve them.

Have a great summer and remember July is Lakes Appreciation Month!

*Scott*

## MPCA's Citizen Lake & Stream Monitoring Program

*Submitted by Shannon Martin|  
Citizen Lake Monitoring Specialist  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

Summer is here and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen Water Monitoring Programs is ready for another great season of lake and stream monitoring across the state. Hundreds of lakes and streams are in need of volunteer monitors and we are hoping to recruit new volunteers to join the program this summer.

Check out our new program video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58HcXqldIRU&t=17s>, where volunteers reflect on their water monitoring experiences, share why they decided to get involved and encourage others to join them this summer.

In the words of stream volunteer Jason Benjamin, the program "enlightens families to protect our natural resources. Sometimes we forget that on a daily basis," and lake volunteer Michael Brinda, "it's one of the best volunteer opportunities out there." We couldn't have said it better ourselves!

Anyone interested in monitoring can find out more and sign up at [www.pca.state.mn.us/cmp/enroll](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/cmp/enroll).

## How Long Have They Been In The Lake?

New research from MAISRC is shedding light on the invasion history of spiny waterflea in Minnesota lakes. Results from a two-year study on Lake Mille Lacs and Lake Kabetogama are showing that spiny waterflea were present in the lakes for decades before they were detected in the water column.

Researchers used dated lake-sediment cores to reconstruct long-term ecological histories. Thanks to their namesake spine, spiny waterflea are very well-preserved in lake sediment. This allows researchers to study food web dynamics, when they were first present, their population growth trajectories, and their impacts on prey.

Cores from both lakes provide evidence that spiny waterflea were in the lakes as early as the 1970s. Their presence was reported in Lake Mille Lacs in 2009 and Lake Kabetogama in 2007.

Knowing that spiny waterflea can exist and persist in a lake for several years before the population is large enough to be detected emphasizes the importance of cleaning and sanitizing all watercraft to prevent the spread of AIS – even if no invasive species have been found in the water body. (A separate MAISRC research project is evaluating the highest-risk types of equipment for spiny waterflea spread in order to prioritize cleaning efforts.)

This research also helps give managers a clearer understanding of the magnitude of the problem posed by spiny waterflea and helps define threats to sport fishing, water quality, and the overall food web. Spiny waterflea is an invasive zooplankton that devastates the food webs of invaded lakes by consuming large numbers of native zooplankton. There are currently 66 waterbodies infested with spiny waterflea, per the Minnesota DNR. Learn more about this research on our website [www.maisrc.umn.edu/spinywaterflea-impacts](http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/spinywaterflea-impacts)

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wants to remind  
you about  
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### Worm Spray Summary

This year was one of the associations most successful worm payment participation programs. Thanks to you, we had a 50% participation level, which is up 20% from the previous two years. The following is a summary of each lakes participation as of June 26, 2019.

Lake	# of payments
Ottertail	517
Blanche	83
Deer	49
Long	46
Round	44
Walker	32
River	7
Pelican Bay	2
No name	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>

Thanks again for the great participation this year. *The Worm Committee*

### Starry Trek Sat., Aug. 17 - Sign Up Now!!!

Starry Trek is a statewide event focused on searching for one of Minnesota's newest aquatic invasive species - Starry Stonewort (and other invaders). Join MAISRC for a day searching at one of two sights in our area. These are: Battle Lake (Eagle Lake Public Water Access) and Detroit Lakes (Becker County SWCD Offices). Sign up at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/starry-trek-2019-registration-63798369641>

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## Boating Friendly by Steve Henry, RMB Environmental Labs

Summer has finally arrived and it's time to get out on the boat. Help everyone stay safe and have fun by "Boating Friendly".

- Help preserve our shorelines by limiting your wake while the water is high.
- Stay at least 150' away from docks and boats, 300' is better, when making a wake or moving at high speed.
- Use a spotter when pulling someone behind the boat so the driver can focus.
- Youths from 12 to 17 need to complete an online safety course and get a permit to operate watercraft over 25hp unsupervised.

- Give loons, SUP, sailboats, canoes, and waterfowl a very wide berth.
- Crossing: If two watercraft approach each other at a right angle, the watercraft to the right shall have the right-of-way.
- Don't enter bulrushes or weeds with your motor running because of shallow rocks.

For a complete reference to boating regulations in MN go to: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index)

**See you on the lakes!**

## Free Nitrate Water-Testing Clinic

Homeowners who rely on private wells for their drinking water supply should test for nitrates on a regular basis. Private well owners are encouraged to participate at the free nitrate testing clinic that will be held from 9:30am-2pm at

the West Otter Tail SWCD office in Fergus Falls on July 23, 2019. There is another nitrate testing clinic 10am-3pm at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail on August 2, 2019.

The clinics are sponsored by the East and West Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Nitrates are the most common contaminants in Minnesota's groundwater, and a significant number of the state's wells have high nitrate levels. In 2011, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) found that over 10% of private wells tested across the state had nitrate levels above the safe drinking water standard. In 2017 the MDA targeted several townships in the county for nitrate testing. Final results showed 2.5% of the wells tested were above the drinking water standard. Greater than 5% of the wells tested in Perham, Otter Tail, Compton, Inman, Clitherall, Elmo, and Woodside,

**Nitrate Water-Testing Clinic**  
Held at the **Ottertail Community Center**  
**Friday, August 2**  
10am-3pm

were above the drinking water standard. Greater than 10% of the wells tested in Parkers Prairie township exceeded the drinking water standard.

If you would like to know more about the nitrate level in your well, please bring

at least one-half cup of water in either a clean plastic or glass container or Ziploc-type bag to the nitrate testing clinic. To get a good sample, allow the water to run five to 10 minutes before filling the bag. Homeowners with distillators, reverse osmosis or other nitrate removal systems should take two water samples one before and one after the treatment process. This will determine if the nitrate removal system is working. Homeowners with just a water softener need to take one sample, either before or after the water passes through the water softener. Only water from private wells will be tested, water from lakes and rivers will not be tested.

Samples should be taken no more than 24 hours before the testing, and they must be refrigerated. Samples should be cool when arriving at the clinic. To ensure accuracy, homeowners should mark the bags with their name, phone number and a

## Water Quality Distorted By Zebra Mussels

Submitted by Steve Henry, Freshwater Sciences Project Manager, [steve.henry@rmbel.info](mailto:steve.henry@rmbel.info)  
RMB Environmental Laboratories

Recent studies have confirmed that if your lake has zebra mussels you cannot compare your past water quality samples to current water quality samples (2011 Higgins, Vander Zanden, et al.). By filtering all the lake water weekly zebra mussels consume the algae and pollutants that used to be found in the middle of the lake and deposit their excrement in the shallow waters where they live. Water samples taken from the middle of the lake can show dramatic declines in algae levels and increased secchi depths but these are "false positives" simply a reflection of how much pollution is being diverted to the shallows. Water sampling in zebra mussel infested waters, especially for total phosphorous, is still useful in detecting post infestation changes, environmental impacts such as bigger rain events, and water quality trends. Some zebra mussel infested lakes in RMB's Lakes Program have developed proven trends of decreasing water quality several years after infestation.

Scientists describe the effects of zebra mussels on pollution distribution and expression as the "nearshore shunt" and note that it causes "the nearshore zones of the lake (to) exhibit evidence of eutrophication, including some very negative symptoms

previously associated with serious excess nutrient loading" (Hecky et al., 2004). A common assumption is that increased light is the factor in this decline in recreational quality, but when the rocks in one foot of water get covered in green slime that isn't due to an increase in light. The first negative consequence of nutrient enrichment in the shallow water is the growth of a rooted green algae known as Cladophora which feeds on the nutrients in zebra mussel deposits. Next is dense weed growth and the development of a mucky lake bottom. The final stage is the water turning murky which doesn't happen until after the shallows get mucky and weedy. After zebra mussel infestation lake aging, eutrophication, doesn't start with murky water and end with slime instead it starts with slime and ends with murky water.

RMB Environmental Laboratories is proud to be your partner in lake preservation. We are always striving to ensure lake advocates have the best possible understanding of lake aging and preservation. We thank all the lake associations and sampling volunteers for their efforts, without you we would never get the big picture of Minnesota's lakes. As new ideas for lake monitoring and management develop we will keep you informed.



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well identification number if more than one well is sampled.

Homeowners may remain anonymous. In that case, they should simply choose another easily recognized number to put on the well samples. It is not necessary to provide information about the well or well location.

Samples are analyzed on the spot, the process usually takes less than five minutes and results are given directly to the homeowner. If the nitrate level in a sample is elevated, clinic staff can refer the homeowner to certified labs that will retest the water. For more information on the clinic, contact Ben Underhill, 218-228-2383 at the East Otter Tail SWCD or Mary Jensen, 218-998-5300 at the West Otter Tail SWCD.



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# Long Lake 4th of July Parade

Photos submitted by Lynn Cave



# AIS Prevention Enhanced By Watercraft Registration Increase

By Minnesota DNR

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

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

Reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species is a major focus for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and its partners. The surcharge increase allows the DNR and its partners to manage existing AIS infestations, reduce the spread to new waterbodies and help prevent the introduction of new species.

The increased fee will provide an increase of \$880,000.00 per year for the DNR's invasive species program for fiscal years 2020-21. This will allow the DNR to reinstate local AIS management grants, respond to new discoveries and continue to conduct AIS inspections.

The AIS surcharge increase was part of the budget package put forward by Gov. Walz and Lt. Gov. Flanagan. It was passed by the Minnesota Legislature as

part of this year's omnibus environment and natural resources bill.

"We're grateful to the lake associations, boating groups and many others who supported this long-needed increase," said DNR invasive species unit supervisor Heidi Wolf. "They are a vital part of the important and effective work Minnesotans are doing to prevent the spread of and manage aquatic invasive species."

The DNR reminds boaters and anglers to follow Minnesota laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species:

- **Clean** aquatic plants and animals from watercraft.
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving infested waters:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.

Details about aquatic invasive species and how to prevent their spread are available at [mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais).



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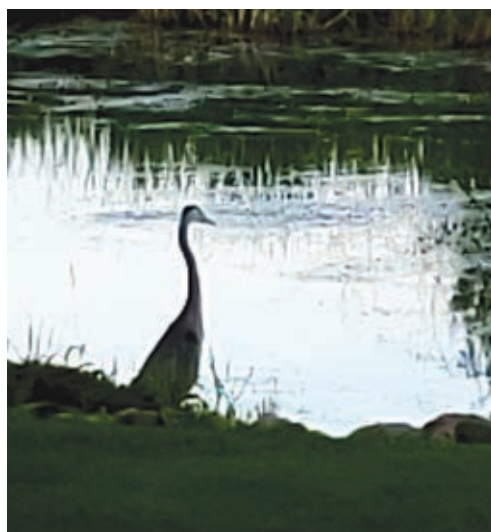
# Pelican Group LID Becomes Administrator For Prairie & Lizzie Dam Projects

Submitted by Steve Henry, PGOLID Lake Coordinator, [steve.henry@rmbel.info](mailto:steve.henry@rmbel.info)

The Fish Lake Rapids restoration project coordinated by the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID) replacing the failed outlet dam on Fish Lake with a natural rock rapids was a fabulous success. The project even came in under budget leaving a small pot of funds available that could be used on another river project. As interest in reconnecting rivers by replacing dams with natural rock rapids spread down the Pelican River PGOLID didn't have to look far to find another project.

With aging dams of their own to deal with Lizzie Lake and Prairie Lake approached the MN DNR interested in restoring them to rock rapids. The MN DNR acquired close to \$500,000 for river restoration from the

Clean Water, Land, and Legacy fund but not enough to complete both projects. For the projects to move ahead as planned a local organization would have to be found to be the project administrator. After a proposal by MN DNR's Howard Fullhart at the March 15th Board meeting the PGOLID Board of Directors agreed to assist our partner lake associations by becoming the project administrator and to allocate the remaining Fish Lake Dam project funding towards these projects. As Board Chair Jay Elshaug explained "As a Lake Improvement District accomplishing the Fish Lake project was a big success. By increasing interest in restoration projects, we affected water resources Statewide."



Otter Tail River Crane  
Photo submitted by Becky Kemling

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## Reporting AIS

You are out and about in the water and you find something that you are not sure if it is an AIS follow these steps:

### 1. Map it

Note where you found it (where on the lake, which access, near which road, if you have a GPS unit, you could take GPS coordinates).

### 2. Take photos or make a collection

If you have a digital camera, take photos of the plants. Include close-ups of the leaves, their attachment to the stem, and any flowering structures that might be present. For invertebrates (mussels, snails, etc.) collections are required. Positive identification cannot be made on photos alone.

When making a collection of an aquatic plant:

- Keep it in a plastic bag with water
- Label with specific location, date, your name
- Refrigerate the sample

When making a collection of an aquatic invertebrate:

- Label with specific location, date, your name
- Place the animal in a jar with

rubbing alcohol

- Deliver to an invasive species specialist

\* If it turns out you don't need to submit the sample to a DNR invasive species specialist, please dispose of the sample properly by sealing the aquatic plant in a plastic bag and disposing of it in the trash.

### 3. Identification

Do you know what you have? To help identify aquatic animals and aquatic plants go to <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/index.html> or <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>

Need more help with identification? Your local invasive species specialist can help you with identification. Contact the specialist and email your photos. If you made a collection, they may ask you to deliver it to them.

### 4. Who do I contact to report the species?

If the species is one that should be reported and hasn't been reported for your waterbody, contact your local invasive species specialist. In Fergus Falls, it is Mark Ranweiler, 218-739-7576 ext. 254, email [Mark.ranweiler@state.mn.us](mailto:Mark.ranweiler@state.mn.us)

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## 4th Of July Blanche Lake Celebration

Around 45 boats  
helped celebrate the  
4th of July of  
Blanche Lake

Photos submitted by Fred Rizk



### Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc. Board Meeting Minutes May 23rd - 7:00pm at the Ottertail Community Center

#### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Simdorn. Members present: Wentz, Steeves, Kemling, Fetters, Hunke, Snyder, Cave, Bope, Ness, Rizk, Anderson, Gedde, Wing and Mouritsen

**Approval of Agenda** - unanimously approved as distributed

**Approval of Minutes** - unanimously approved as distributed

**Approval of Bills** - approved unanimously as distributed

**Presidents Report** - Pres. Simdorn reported we need to renew our nonprofit with Sec. of States office. Kemling will get password from Jon to renew.

#### Committee Reports

**Membership** - Snyder reported we are at 912 members. More in latest mail. Wentz discussed how to respond to comments from members. A second membership mailing will be sent 1st of June.

**Auditing/Finance** - Audit of books is done. Discussed money owed to Foundation from last year. Motion made to approve payment to the foundation. Approved by board.

**DNR/GOV'T** - Steeves reported that a DECON unit will be at Sportsman access for the summer, hours are 7AM-6PM. LID cameras are up and operating. Fishing opener 2020 discussed, 600-700 volunteers needed. Steeves will ask for someone to speak at annual meeting.

**Water Testing/COLA** - Water testers should have their kits. Simdorn and Anderson will be testing river outlets. Otter Tail reading is 19 ft. and Blanche at 16 ft.

**Communications** - Discussed Lakeshore News being sent to all. Approximately 1700 sent out. 2nd membership will be sent early June.

**Worm** - Wentz reported a good response from worm mailer.

**Foundation** - Discussed how payments from board to foundation are accounted for. Foundation would like payments made within calendar year.

**Rearing Pond** - Bope reported that WCI will have 1 page flyer ready for Memorial Day weekend. Project will be in next Lakeshore News and briefly outlined at Annual Meeting. Committee will meet May 29th, 1pm to discuss plan going forward.

**Social** - Ness reported plan for Annual meeting June 29th. Doughnuts and rolls from Ottertail Bakery, juice, coffee water will be provided. Lynn will check on sound system. Notice of meeting will be placed in LSN and Midweek.

**Old Business** - Steeves is waiting for confirmation from speakers for annual meeting.

**New Business** - Annual meeting will be held June 29th. Continental breakfast at 830AM meeting at 9AM. Volunteers needed morning of annual meeting.

Board members terms expiring Kemling, Wing, Ness, Rizk, and Mouritsen. All agreed to remain and be voted on at annual meeting.

#### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm. Next meeting is June 27th at 7pm.

## Collaborating With Counties To Optimize AIS Inspections

Source: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

A model created by MAISRC researchers to optimize watercraft inspection checkpoints to prevent the movement of starry stonewort and zebra mussels has now been pilot-tested with three counties: Crow Wing, Ramsey, and Stearns.

The model — a product of another MAISRC project (*see article Eco-Epidemiological Model To Assess Aquatic Invasive Species Management\* on Page 12*) incorporates estimates of boater movement among lakes within each county and assesses risk of AIS spread based on boater movement and environmental suitability conditions. The model can be used by counties to allocate their limited inspection resources among various lakes and landings. It can help counties decide how many inspectors to hire, where to station them, even what times of days or days of the week they should be scheduled, for the optimal intervention of AIS.

MAISRC collaborator Bob Haight, a research economist with the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station in St.

Paul, has been working directly with counties as they plan their summer budgets and inspection schedules. "What makes this model so helpful is that we can tailor it for each county to directly respond to their needs," said Haight. "Collaborating directly with counties is mutually beneficial — they tell us nuanced details about their county's lakes and boater movements, and we use that information to inform and improve the model. It gives both parties buy-in to the process."

Haight recently partnered with Crow Wing County to incorporate data their boat movement data into the model. They also included multiple public landings per lake in order to create a custom report that recommends the number of inspectors and the best locations to minimize the risk of spreading AIS.

"It's simply impossible for there to be an inspector at every lake, around the clock," added Haight. "This model allows counties to make the best decisions possible to minimize the spread of AIS."

# More Photos From The OTLPOA Annual Meeting

Photos submitted by Ken Wentz



Marc Wing and Fred Rizk we're in charge of all the registrations.



Scott Simdorn, President of OTLPOA



## Runoff & Sediment, Managing Lake Aging

Steve Henry, RMB Environmental Labs, [steve.henry@rmbel.info](mailto:steve.henry@rmbel.info)

Much of the focus now is on invasive species but the largest threat to Minnesota lakes is still runoff. Nutrients and sediment in runoff accumulate in lakes over time. This feeds the growth of plants, muck, and bottom slime eventually causing a decline in the recreational suitability of our lakes. This process of a lake aging is called eutrophication.

Nutrients and sediment can enter lakes through many routes, even rain and snowfall bring sediment and nutrients into lakes. Did you see the brown snowfall we had in April of 2019, it was caused by dust from Texas and New Mexico that was drawn up into the winter storm. Impervious surface such as driveways, patios, roofs, compacted lawns, and parking areas increase the amount of rainfall that turns into runoff. Turf grass lawns have shallow root zones allowing the soil to compact easily making it difficult for runoff to soak into the ground. Linked impervious surfaces where a downspout drains onto a driveway which drains down onto a road cause large increases in runoff, especially with the large rain events we have been having. This water carries nutrients and sediment into the lake. As water passes through a lake most of the sediment and nutrients is left in the lake.

As a lake ages the sediment at the bottom of the lake and the water just above it becomes enriched in phosphorus. Especially where zebra mussels have deposited their excrement on the bottom. The enriched lake bottom fuels the growth of weeds and rooted algae increasing the muck content of the bottom. The enriched layer of water can be mixed up to the lakes surface by wind events or boating activity feeding the growth of algae blooms. Once a lake has aged

significantly the nutrients in the lake sediment can be a significant contributor to annual weed and algae growth. Lakes with high nutrient levels in the sediment can be impossible to restore.

Careful runoff management using redirection, reduction, and filtration by realigning downspouts, installing raingardens and infiltration swales can extend the lifespan of the lake. Trees, shrubs and native plants have deep roots that loosen the soil, sturdy stems and leaves that intercept rainfall, and provide food and habitat for wildlife especially birds and butterflies. Invasive species alter how a lake changes as it ages but when we manage the land around the lake better we can slow the aging process.



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(Owners Lake Property) (Does not own lake property or shares ownership)

Name of Property Owner living at lake property address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Property \_\_\_\_\_  
(this is the blue house number/street for your lake home) House/Street # \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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(must be valid US Postal deliverable address) House/Street # \_\_\_\_\_  
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Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): \_\_\_\_\_  
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City/State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (please print legibly) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)  
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• Foundation \$10.00  
Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation \$ 35.00

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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](http://www.OTLPOA.com) to pay by credit card (under the membership section)

How can the association better serve you? (On another sheet of paper)  
What lake related topic or issue is most important to you? How do you think our Association can help?

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2019 Upcoming OTLPOA Board Meetings

July 25 • Aug. 22 Sept. 26 • Oct. 24  
7pm • Ottertail Community Center (103 Lake Ave. S)

[www.otlpoa.com](http://www.otlpoa.com)



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## 4th Of July Photos On Otter Tail Lake

Photos  
submitted by  
Scott Simdorn



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# Photos From The OTLPOA Annual Meeting Held On Sat., June 29

Photos submitted by Ken Wentz



**Pastor Jim**



**Bernie Steeves** presenting info on worm spraying, AIS Task Force, and the foundation financials.



**Lynn Cave** was in charge of all the refreshments



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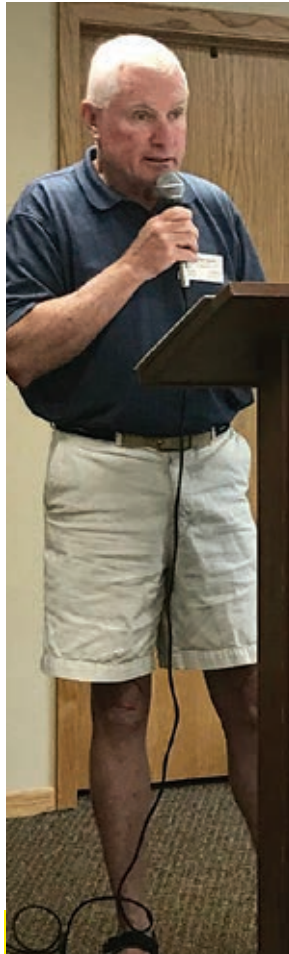
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# More Photos From Annual Meeting

Photos submitted by Ken Wentz



Pat Hunke provided the financial report and 2018 audit report



## Zion Lutheran Church Activities

- Bible Study - Tuesdays 10am
  - Faith N' Films - 2nd Sundays at 6:30pm
  - Vacation Bible School - July 15-18
  - Harvest Garden Sunday Market - Aug.-Oct., 9-11am
  - Patrick Murphy Concert God's Acres Extravaganza - Aug. 18, 6pm
  - Fall Supper, Wed., Sept. 25, 4-7pm
- Zion Lutheran Church of Amor, is located off of Co. Hwy. 1. If you have any questions call 218-495-2563.

## Farmers Market In Battle Lake

The Farmers Market is held Saturday mornings from Memorial Day Weekend to Labor Day Weekend in Battle Lake. You can find locally grown produce and handmade crafts.

For more information, or follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/blfarmersmarket/](http://www.facebook.com/blfarmersmarket/)

## OTLPOA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

have been mailed. If you do not receive a renewal form you are encouraged to let us know immediately. Renewal forms can be found in this issue - please fill out and mail to PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515 or you can visit [www.OTLPOA.com](http://www.OTLPOA.com) and under the membership section pay online.

## East Otter Tail County Fair Thurs., July 25-Sun., July 28

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## Glendalough State Park

### JULY

- Sat., July 20, 12:30-3pm --- Archery in the Park\*\*\*
- Wed., July 24, 9:30-11:30am --- Beginning Canoeing\*
- Wed., July 24, 1-2:30pm --- Wild Wednesdays Jr. Naturalist Program\*\*

### AUGUST

- Wed., August 7, 9:30-11:30am --- Beginning Canoeing\*
- Wed., August 7, 1-2:30pm --- Wild Wednesdays Jr. Naturalist Program\*\*
- Wed., August 24, 10am-12pm --- Monarch Butterfly Tagging Demonstration\*\*\*\*

\*Beginning Canoeing - Meet at the Molly Stark Fishing Dock to learn canoeing basics from a Naturalist. We will cover safety, parts of the canoe and paddles, and learn strokes, before heading out on to the water to practice our skills. Equipment is provided, so come enjoy a paddle on a quiet lake. Space is limited so call the park at 218-864-0110 to register.

\*\*Wild Wednesdays Junior Naturalist Program - Join the park naturalist for a different program every Wild Wednesday as you explore the natural wonders of Glendalough State Park. More details on each program will be available soon. Programs are designed for children aged 5-15, but all are welcome. Children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

\*\*\*Archery in the Park - Learn this valuable skill from trained archery instructors who will be on hand to introduce families and individuals to the sport and teach the basics of shooting a

bow. No experience is needed. No reservation is required, but groups over 10 should call to arrange a separate time. All equipment and instruction is provided for free. Stop in anytime during the workshop hours. Children must be at least 8 years old to participate, and anyone under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

\*\*\*\*Meet at the Prairie Hill trailhead. All ages can learn how to catch and handle a monarch, determine whether it is male or female, and properly tag it. All monarchs will be released after they are tagged to continue their long migration to Mexico. Bring your own butterfly net if you have one, or share a park net if you don't. Long pants are recommended. Tagging will continue as long as there are enough tags and butterflies.

Check the events calendar for more programs at [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/events.html?location=spk00167](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/events.html?location=spk00167)



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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**

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## What Happened To Lake Levels & Precipitation In 2018 - 2019?

Spring 2018 was a near-historic late lake ice out in Minnesota, and the latest start to our Spring Lake Gage Run in our 49 year old history. Plus, the ice-out happened statewide in a very short time frame. The most memorable weather event of May 2018 was the July-like heat wave at the end of the month -which we did not see on Memorial Day 2019. In another wet month, the June 2018 lake levels showed that 61% of the statewide gaged lakes were above their average lake level of the entire historic record, 16% at their average, and 23% of the lakes were below their average lake level. Heavy rain events occurred on Father's Day weekend, the end of June, and July 3. Areas in the Northwest persisted with Abnormally Dry conditions.

Rainfall was mixed in July, but 65% of the gaged lakes were above their average level. Some areas were extremely wet in the southwest and parts of east central Minnesota. Another heavy rain event on July 12 dropped up to 7 inches of rain over Kanabec and southern Pine County, as well as another big storm for the same area at the end of August. Most lakes dropped from the end of July to the third week of September, but remained mostly in the Normal percentile. Abnormally Dry and Moderate Drought areas spread across the whole northern region by the third week of September.

Many lakes that had been decreasing in September received a bounce from rainfall in the last 2 weeks of the month and first part of October. September finished above normal for precipitation statewide, although there were pockets in central Minnesota that fell short of normal. October was the fifth month of 2018 that had above normal precipitation, with some areas in the southern counties reporting total precipitation in 2018 over 13 inches above normal. Looking at records from 1895 to 2018, October 2018 tied for the 13th wettest October on record. The wettest locations were in the northern, southern, and eastern parts of the state. We ended with over half of the gaged lakes were still above their average lake level at the end of October.

The first widespread snow of the season fell on October 14, and ushered in a gloomy, damp, and cold autumn. Fog, mist, dust, smoke or haze were noted on 18 days of October, 17 days in November, and 11 days within December 1 - 12. October was the 14th coldest since 1895 - 2018 records, as well as the coldest since 2009. November continued the trend with a below normal temperature.

The good news is that December was well above normal temperatures - until a major Winter storm brought heavy snow, rain, and wind December 26 - 28, with snow in the northern half, rain in the far south, and a mix in between those areas. Maybe you were still happy with the above normal temperatures in the first half of January 2019 and the small number of snow events. Then winter came fast and furious for the next 7 weeks. The second half of January was fourteen degrees below normal, with days of Arctic air in a row and some of the coldest wind chill temperatures seen in decades. And if you didn't like the January temperatures, how about the ice storms and snow storms every few days in February? In some southeastern locations, precipitation totals for February 2019

## Summer Concerts In Ottetail

The Ottetail Business & Community Association's (OTBCA) 2019 Music Series will be performing at the Ottetail City Park. Dates, performers and times are listed below:

- Tuesday, July 23  
Chris Frost Band, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, August 13  
Castaways, 6:30-8:30pm
- Tuesday, August 27  
Anthony Miltich, 6-8pm

These are free concerts. Hot dogs, pop, popcorn will be available. If there is rain it will be held indoors at Thumper Pond.

were 300% of normal.

During an already historically-snowy month, a winter storm began on February 22, 2019, and turned into a massive and crippling blizzard in southern Minnesota by February 23rd and 24th. The rapid intensification qualified this storm as a rare "bomb cyclone." The storm produced 10-14 inches of snow and 50 mph wind gust. The snow and wind led to extraordinary drifting in open areas, with many open-country roads covered with 5 to 8 feet of drifted snow. Images of isolated 15 and 20' drifts flooded social media. The harsh conditions ended up closing virtually all roads in the southern 1/5 of the state.

February snowfall records were broken across the state, with monthly totals often exceeding the previous records by 50-100%. February 2019 also featured an unusual number of significant snowfall events, with many locations having four or five different calendar days with at least 4 inches of snow - double the normal number of events. This was also the snowiest February on record at 47 of Minnesota's older National Weather Service cooperative observing stations, from all corners of the state.

March came in like a roaring lion with two more snow storms in the first two weeks and exceptionally cold with another Arctic air mass blanketing us, breaking numerous cold weather records. A very deep snowpack covered the state with many locations ranging from 18 - 24 inches, with up to 30 - 40 inches in the Lake Superior Highlands. The good news was that Minnesota was free of drought by March 7 for the first time since May 2017. Despite moderating temperatures in March and an ideal melt of all that snow, winter wasn't over yet in April with a spring storm and blizzard, April 10 -12. Precipitation totals of 1-2 inches covered the majority of Minnesota, with isolated areas in western and southwestern Minnesota receiving higher amounts. Over 60% of Minnesota received at least 6 inches of snow, with accumulations ranging from just a trace near the Iowa border, to nearly 20 inches in western Minnesota. Lake ice out was running a week behind the median for April into early May, May 8-9, 2019 was one of the largest May snowstorms in Minnesota history and dumped up to ten inches of snow in Duluth.

I would encourage you to make sure that future generations know what happened when with your lake's ice in 2018. See statewide internet information about climate at: <http://climate.umn.edu> and [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice\\_out/index.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ice_out/index.html)

Source: Sandy Fecht, Surface Water Hydrologist & Lake Level MN Monitoring Program Statewide Coordinator Water Monitoring & Surveys Unit, MN DNR Division of Ecological & Water Resources

On May 16 at 10am, Ken Wentz, the water tester for Blanche Lake, is ready to check the clarity & phosphorus levels

## Secchi Disk Depth (Clarity)

For the month of June readings were

Blanche	13 ft.
Deer	18 ft.
Long	1 ft.
Otter Tail	20 ft.
Round	8 ft.
Walker	9 ft.

Submitted by Ken Wentz

# Otter Tail Lakes

# Property Owners

# Association

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### President:

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### Vice President:

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### Secretary:

secretary@otlpoa.com

### Treasurer:

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Marc Wing mwing@prtcl.com 218.495.3570

# Eco-Epidemiological Model To Assess Aquatic Invasive Species Management\*

Source: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

MAISRC researchers are working to develop a first-of-its-kind eco-epidemiological model that will forecast the potential risk of spread of zebra mussels and starry stonewort across Minnesota. The model will take into account introduction probability, establishment probability, and levels of management interventions. This model will be used as a decision-making tool to generate effective

intervention strategies and design cost-effective surveillance programs to mitigate and prevent the spread of AIS.

To establish introduction probability, pathways among lakes will be evaluated based on water connectivity, boater movement, and geographic proximity. To understand the establishment probability, researchers will use next-generation ecological niche modeling

techniques with remote sensing data. Cumulatively, this will identify lakes or areas of the state that are at higher risk for AIS, including lakes that are highly vulnerable and lakes that may be “super-spreaders,” both of which will help prioritize management efforts.

Data from this project is now available for download and use:

This project resulted in a predictive risk model for zebra mussels and starry stonewort that estimates the probability of a lake becoming infested by 2025.

The model evaluated all 25,000 bodies of water in Minnesota that are recognized by the Minnesota DNR and took into account the three abovementioned factors for each. The simulation was run 10,000 times to produce a percentage probability of whether a lake will become infested with either invasive species. For example, a score of 0.3245 means that when the model was run 10,000 times, the lake became infested 3,245 times by 2025 – a 32.45% chance.

To download the starry stonewort risk scores go to <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/files/starrystonewortriskscores83118.xls>

To download the zebra mussel risk scores go to [zebra\\_mussel\\_risk\\_scores.8.31.18.xls](https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/files/zebra_mussel_risk_scores.8.31.18.xls)

Note that each county is on a separate tab of the Excel spreadsheet.

Final report summary:

**Ecological Niche Models:** We created ecological niche models for starry stonewort under current and future climate scenarios, zebra mussels, and *Heterosporis sutherlandae*. These models provide projections of theoretically suitable lakes in Minnesota, based on known environmental conditions of the species in the native and invaded ranges. While the potential range varies for each species, it is clear from this project that there are many suitable, but not yet invaded, lakes in Minnesota. Efforts to prevent spread should remain a high priority for managers. It is also important to note that not all lakes are considered suitable and efforts to more strategically target intervention is warranted.

**Network Models:** We created network matrixes for watercraft movement, water connectivity and geographic proximity. These matrixes provide a robust dataset from which we can estimate connectivity through known high-risk human-mediated (watercraft) and natural (water and proximity) pathways. The watercraft and water connection data both provide directionality and weighted edge (e.g. number of boats and river distance) and were further developed for use in other parts of the project. Significant effort was made to adjust the sampling bias inherent in the watercraft

inspection data to account for unequal sampling effort and sampling locations. This is achieved through a series of statistical models, including random forest (biased effort), logistic regression (biased location), gamma regression (number of boats) and linear regression (number of boats staying on the same lake, e.g. self-loop). Understanding and evaluating connections between lakes will help managers to prioritize prevention and early detection efforts. These data are now being used to inform the MAISRC project. **See article *Decision-making Tool For Optimal Management Of AIS on Page 13.***

We successfully built predictive risk models for zebra mussels and starry stonewort to estimate the probability of a lake getting infested by 2025. The risk models quantified the risk by incorporating both watercraft and water connectivity and lake suitability (see above for data). The simulation allowed an infested lake to spread the AIS to uninfested lakes through these pathways following a stochastic process. Even with introduction, an uninfested lake could only become infested if the lake was suitable for the specific AIS. Once a lake switched from uninfested to infested, the lake became a new source from which the AIS could continue to spread in the model. Using known location data (confirmed zebra mussel infestations as of 2011 or starry stonewort infestations as of 2015) and a Bayesian modeling approach, the model was calibrated for the time period 2012-2017 (zebra mussels) or 2016-2017 (starry stonewort) with 26-time steps per year. The outputs were the number of infested lakes for each species each year. The model calibration performed very well and was used to project future risk scores for uninfested lakes from 2018-2025 using 10,000 simulations.

In addition to overall trends, the results provided a lake-level breakdown of likelihood of introduction via boats or water, and combined for both. For example, a score of 0.3245 means that 3,245/10,000 times the lake became infested by 2025. While the model is not perfect (no models are), the results are robust and provide useful information from which to make decisions. In isolation, this may not be entirely useful, but when considered across a watershed, county or state, the ability to rank waterbodies based on actual, not perceived, risk is a game changer. These data will also be useful overtime to assess the trends of AIS invasion (i.e. what happens if we do nothing?). In both cases, the scenarios project a future with more infested lakes, albeit not equally distributed. For example, NE Minnesota remains at relatively low risk, while Central Minnesota increases significantly.



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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS			
July 12-14	Rothsay Prairie Days	Aug. 10	Art & Craft Affair, Battle Lake
July 12-14	Henning Area Festival	Aug. 13	Music in the Park, Ottertail
July 12-21	Northwest Water Carnival, Detroit Lakes	Aug. 15	COLA Annual Member Meeting*
July 13	Wendell Lions Motorcycle Run	Aug. 15	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center
July 13-14	Phelps Mill Festival, Maine	Aug. 16	Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections - Wadena
July 17	Turtle Races, 10:30am, City Hall, Perham	Aug. 16	Corn Feed/Puppet Pageant, New York Mills
July 17-20	West Otter Tail County Fair, Fergus Falls	Aug. 16	Annual Turkey BBQ/Crazy Day, Henning
July 18	COLA Member Meeting*	Aug. 16-18	Black Powder Rendezvous, Perham
July 18	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center	Aug. 17	Starry Trek 2019
July 19-21	Art of the Lake Studio Tour	Aug. 17	Watermelon Day, Vining
July 19-21	Ashby Appreciation Days	Aug. 17	Monarch Butterfly Event
July 20	Henning Fly-In	Aug. 17-18	Pioneer Days, Perham
July 22-28	Dance BARN Festival & Activities, Battle Lake	Aug. 18	God's Acres Extravaganza - Patrick Murphy Concert
July 23	Music in the Park, Ottertail	Aug. 22	OTLPOA Board Meeting*
July 24	Turtle Races, 10:30am, City Hall, Perham	Aug. 22	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center
July 25	OTLPOA Board Meeting*	Aug. 23	Landmark Corn & Brat Feed, Henning
July 25	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center	Aug. 23-24	Barnesville Potato Days
July 25-28	East Otter Tail County Fair, Perham	Aug. 24-25	Finn Creek Festival
July 26	Tuffy Nelson Golf Classic, Perham	Aug. 27	Music in the Park, Ottertail
July 26	Pebble Lake Youth Triathlon, Fergus Falls	Aug. 30- Sept. 2	Steam Threshermans Reunion, Rollag
July 26-27	Wizard of Oz, Vergas	Aug. 31	Gathering of the Airplanes, Battle Lake
July 26-28	Wenonga Days, Battle Lake	Sept. TBD	COLA Member Meeting
July 27	Hoot Lake Triathlon, Fergus Falls	Sept. 6	Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections - New York Mills
July 27	Prospect House Museum - Civil War Celebration, Battle Lake	Sept. 6-8	Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Assn., Dalton
July 27	Art in the Park, Pelican Rapids	Sept. 11-14	Wissota 100, Fergus Falls
July 31	Turtle Races, 10:30am, City Hall, Perham	Sept. 13-14	Disgruntled Daze 4th Annual, Perham
Aug. 1	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center	Sept. 14	Dream for Kids, Perham
Aug. 1-3	WE Fest, Detroit Lakes	Sept. 14	542 Foundation Fundraiser - Tastes.
Aug. 2-3	Perham Crazy Days	Sept. 18	Toasts & Traditions & Stubs, Battle Lake
Aug. 2-4	Flekkefest, Elbow Lake	Sept. 18	AIS Research & Management Showcase
Aug. 3	Rail Trails 100 Bike Run, Fergus Falls to St. Joseph	Sept. 20	St. Paul Campus, U of M
Aug. 4	Classic Car Show, Fergus Falls	Sept. 20	Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections - Wadena
Aug. 8	Turtle Races 11am, Free Concert 7:30pm at Battle Lake Community Center	Sept. 25	Fall Supper, Zion Lutheran Church, Amor
Aug. 8-11	Looney Daze, Vergas	Sept. 26	OTLPOA Board Meeting* TBD
Aug. 9	Derby Demo, Ottertail	Sept. 28	Lakes Area Home Tour, Perham
Aug. 9-10	Otterfest, Ottertail		
Aug. 10	Parade, Ottertail		
Aug. 10	Fly-in/Drive-In, Pelican Rapids		

\*Held at the Ottertail Community Room in Ottertail unless indicated by TBD.

**Art Of The Lakes Studio Tour**  
**Fri.-Sun., July 19, 20 & 21**

The Art of the Lakes Studio Tour is a scenic, drive-yourself tour of 56 artists in 24 studios. Many of the artists, marked with yellow signs, are tucked away throughout Otter Tail, Douglas and Grant counties. This is your opportunity to shop for unique works of art while you get to know the artists.

Hours of the tour are Fri. & Sat., July 19 & 20, 10am-5pm and Sun., July 21, 11am-3pm. Not all studios are open on Sunday.

For more info go to [www.artofthelakes.org/studio-tour.html](http://www.artofthelakes.org/studio-tour.html)

**Patrick Murphy Concert**  
**at God's Acres Extravaganza**



**Sun., Aug. 18**  
**Adjacent to Zion Lutheran Church of Amor**  
**Junction Co. Hwy's 1 & 74**  
**3-4:30pm - Golf Cart Tours God's Acres**  
**4:30-6pm - Hot Dog Barbecue**  
**6pm - Patrick Murphy Concert**  
**Bring Your Own Lawn Chair**  
**Freewill Donation**

## Decision-Making Tool For Optimal Management Of AIS\*\*

Source: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)

This project will develop a decision-making tool to help AIS managers, counties, and other agencies prioritize their resources for optimal prevention and intervention of AIS, specifically zebra mussels and starry stonewort. The tool will answer two major questions:

- Can it get here? To assess this risk, researchers will take into account the geographic proximity to an infested lake, boater movement in Minnesota, and water connectivity.

- Can it survive here? This will be answered using species-specific ecological niche models. These suitability models take into account lake and landscape variables such as temperature, precipitation, pH, conductivity, and chlorophyll.

A static version of this model has already been created by a previous MAISRC project. This new model will take that, integrate new data, and build it so it can incorporate up-to-the-minute changes. Once input from counties and other stakeholders is taken into account and the model is finalized, it will be put online in a user-friendly format for AIS managers and agencies to use.

Once the decision optimization model is created, reports will be created and distributed

to counties to help them prioritize their resource allocations in order to have the biggest impact on reducing the risk of spread of AIS.

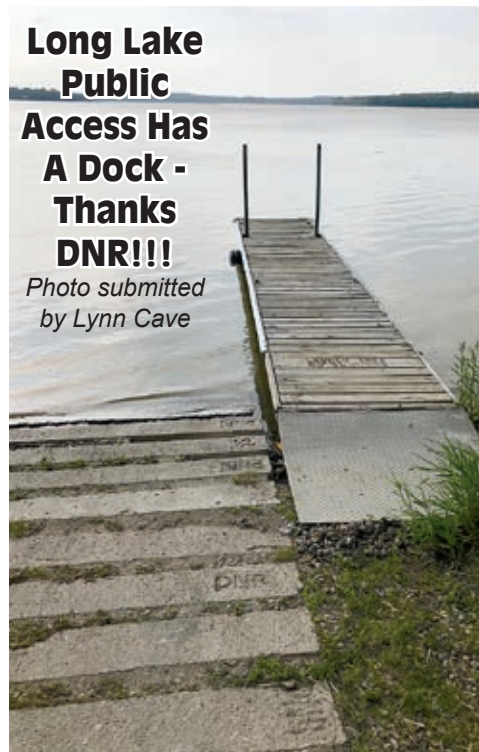
Preventing the spread of AIS through human-associated pathways is a priority for many state and local agencies. A science-based tool to inform planning and decision-making is urgently needed.

Progress:

The first step of developing AIS risk estimates for each lake in Minnesota is completed, with the creation of a hydromorphological network model. The model suggests that while water connectivity is important, other factors are also clearly influencing the spread of AIS. Researchers have now begun to evaluate optimal management scenarios based on the data available for lake connectivity and suitability.

### Long Lake Public Access Has A Dock - Thanks DNR!!!

Photo submitted by Lynn Cave



## Wenonga Days In Battle Lake

Saturday, July 27

9am-2pm - 8th Annual Craft & Vendor Fair at Battle Lake City Parking Lot. 40 plus vendor, food and more!

11am - Turtle Races

12pm - Spirit Dancer Dennis Rogers

7pm - Big Parade

9pm-12am - Street Dance at Rusty Nail

9pm-12am - Indoor Dance - Stubs

Sunday, July 28

8am-1pm - Battle Lake Lions Krusteaz Pancakes & Sausage Breakfast

## OTLPOA Foundation Has Six Buoys For Sale

These solar powered "Marker" Illuminating BUOYS have a reflective stripe and the anchors are included Wt. - 12#, H - 21", W - 20"

Contact Bernie Steeves for more info - 701-371-3361

**Dave ERWIN CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

Lic. BC520694

**218-640-3713**  
**Battle Lake, MN**  
[www.daveerwinconstruction.com](http://www.daveerwinconstruction.com)

*Victor Lundeen Company*

So much to offer...

Surprise yourself each time you stop into Fergus Falls' oldest retail store.

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M-F 8am-5:30pm • Thurs. 8am-7pm • Sat. 9am-3pm  
126 W. Lincoln Ave., Fergus Falls, MN  
218-736-5433

## CENTURY 21

Vista, Inc.

316 Hwy 78 N, Ottertail, MN

**Erin Olson**  
320.293.1123

**Connie Caspers**  
701.640.3161

erino@century21vista.com connie@century21vista.com

**Recognized. Respected. Recommended.**

**OTTER TAIL LAKE • 29715 WAVEFRONT DR., BATTLE LAKE**

• 128' "level" frontage at the walkout **\$849,000**  
• Stunning upscale 4BR/3BA cottage casual home  
• Beautiful lake views!

**OTTER TAIL LAKE • 38692 ELDORADO BEACH RD., BATTLE LAKE**

• Beautiful deep lot w/60' frontage **\$349,900**  
• 3BR/2BA home w/huge lakeside deck  
• Detached SUNROOM w/wood burning fireplace

**OTTER TAIL LAKE • 28887 HI VISTA DR., BATTLE LAKE**

• 150' of level frontage **\$419,000**  
• 1+ acre expansive lot w/amazing lake views!  
• Beautifully kept 4BR/2BA open living walk-out

### 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 7:00 pm  
Ladies' Bible Study - 3rd Thursday  
Men's Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday 7:00 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](http://www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org)  
Sunday Worship 9:30 am  
Fellowship & refreshments 10:30 am

### BATTLE LAKE ALLIANCE

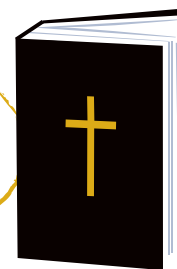
401 W. Gilbertson St., Battle Lake  
Derek Mansker, Pastor • Church—218-864-5539   
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am  
Fellowship & refreshments after service  
Find us on the web at [battlelake.org](http://battlelake.org)

### CATHOLIC

Father LeRoy Schik, Pastor  
Mass Times—218-864-5619  
[www.ollsj.org](http://www.ollsj.org)  
**St. James Catholic** - Maine Township   
Sunday Mass 8:30am, May 1 - Sept. 30  
**Saint Edwards** - Henning   
Saturday Mass 4pm, May 1 - Sept. 30   
**Our Lady of the Lake** - Battle Lake   
Saturday Mass 6pm, Memorial Day-Labor Day   
Sunday Mass 10:30 am



# Lakes Area Church Directory 2019



**Join us in worship!**

Indicates Barrier-Free Access

### LUTHERAN

**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
Battle Lake Campus:  
Meets at Lakes Area Community Center  
112 West Main St., Battle Lake  
218-862-4903  
Sunday School 9:15 am  
(no Sunday School during summer months)  
Worship: 10:30 am  
Website: [bethellutheran.church](http://bethellutheran.church)

**First Lutheran - ELCA**   
505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake  
Bradley Skogen, Pastor  
Rob Nelson, Visitation Pastor  
[bfirslutheran.org](http://bfirslutheran.org)  
Church—218-864-5686  
Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 am  
Worship: 10:00 am  
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

**Sverdrup Lutheran Church**   
PO Box 70  
209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood  
Martha Halls, Pastor  
Church—218-826-6919  
Worship 9:00 am

**Tingvold Lutheran Church**  
6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35  
Martha Halls, Pastor  
Church—218-826-6487  
September 1-May 31: Service 11:00 am  
Fellowship 10:00 am  
June 1-August 31: Service 10:30 am  
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@ptel.com](mailto:zionamoroffice@ptel.com)  
Website: [www.zionamor.org](http://www.zionamor.org)  
Summer Services May 12-September 15  
Worship 8:15 am & 10:00 am  
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays  
8:15 am - Traditional Service Weekly  
10:00 am - Informal Service 1st & 4th Sundays (Piano)  
Contemporary Service; 2nd & 3rd Sundays (Praise Team)  
Fellowship and refreshments between services.  
Bible Study - Tuesday 10:00 am, Evening Bible Study -  
Contact church office for date and time

### METHODIST

**Ottertail United Methodist Church**   
104 Shores Drive, Ottertail  
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 10:30 am  
Coffee Fellowship following Worship 2nd & 4th Sunday

### PRESBYTERIAN

**Maine Presbyterian**   
30761 Co. Hwy. 45, Maine Township  
2 miles north of Phelps Mill  
Ed Morgan, Reverend  
Website: [mainepresbyterianchurch.org](http://mainepresbyterianchurch.org)  
Church—218-495-2539  
Summer - Worship 9:30 am (Thru August)  
Coffee Following Worship Service  
Winter - Worship 10:00 am



## Long Lake-Riviera Lake Association Annual Meeting And Potluck Held June 23

The Long Lake-Riviera Lake Association Annual Meeting and Potluck was held June 23 at the Ottertail Community Center. Attendance was up this year, with 50% of property owners in attendance.

Paul Oxberry reported that water quality is improving. Phosphorus levels have decreased for the first time in 3 years. We are beginning to see the impact of buffer zones planted along the shoreline.

2019 Improvement projects approved are: Working with the DNR for dock placement at the public access.

Water quality improvement - Continue to encourage shoreline property owners to place buffer zones through grants available.

Monitor lake out flow & canal flow

Work to reduce the number of carp in the lake

Continue to monitor/prevent AIS as Long Lake remains zebra mussel free.

Request speed limits be reduced on Sugar Maple Drive (Ottertail Township Meeting, July 15, 7pm, Township Hall)

Improvements to road entry with planter boxes

### Upcoming July Events:

July 6 - 4th of July Parade & Root Beer Floats. Parade line up, 6:30pm at public access. Root Beer Floats at the cul-de-sac, following the parade.

July 10 - Hearing on proposed campground on Long Lake Commissioners Room, Fergus Falls, 7:30pm

July 15 - Request for speed limit change. Ottertail Township Hall Meeting, 7pm, Ottertail Township Hall

July 26 & 27 - 1st Annual Carp Fishing Derby, 6pm. Gift certificate from the Woodshed for most carp caught.

Lynn Cave, LLRPOA President  
Long Lake Director OTLPOA



Mother with her 20 little ones.

**Did you know...** Mergansers average 10 young but often take on orphans as this mother has!

Photo submitted by Fred Rizk

## When We Protect Access To Our Lakes And Rivers, What Are We Actually Trying To Protect?

Written by Jeff Forester, first published in the Star Tribune

If a tree falls in the forest, and there is no one there to hear it, does it make any sound? Or if there is a lake in Minnesota that no one can access, does it provide any benefit?

**There are two answers.**

The first is moral, even spiritual. I like the notion that I might discover an unvisited lake and venture into a place that has not yet know the hectic push of modern life. As Edward Abby said, "Wilderness is not a luxury, but a necessity of the human spirit."

But the more real answer is that if there is a lake in Minnesota that no one can access, it provides no benefit to the public. Public benefit is the point of public policy, that utilitarian effort to do the most good for the most people most of the time.

Access to water resources is a crystal clear public good. Most of Minnesota's towns and cities are adjacent to water. Water-related tourism provides over \$12.5 billion in revenue. Lake-based recreation is the primary economic engine of Greater Minnesota and lakeshore property is the drivetrain. The average cabin owner spends about \$5,000 annually on local goods and services.

Cabin owners also pay property taxes. A lot of property taxes. A recent Star Tribune article by John Reinan noted, "In 10 of Minnesota's 87 counties, they (cabin owners) shoulder more than 40 percent of the residential property tax burden.... And in several counties, they pay more than 50 percent." In some counties, cabins make up nearly 60% of the tax capacity.

**Water Access is Part of Minnesota's DNA, But AIS is An Existential Threat to It as Well as Local Economies**

Minnesota's people, the indigenous peoples, the voyageurs, the settlers, the immigrants and all of us have all enjoyed completely unfettered access to any and every water body in the state. With passage of the Dingell - Johnson Act in the 1950s, the Federal Government created a pipeline of money from the federal treasury to the states to provide for greater access to water resources. Minnesota receives about \$35 million in federal funds annually and today it has over 3,000 water access sites. How many thousands of other private ramps are out there is unknown.

Open access to lakes and rivers is egalitarian, benefiting all races and classes of Minnesotans. Access to our lakes is an indisputable public good. Until recently no one has questioned the public good of open access to lakes because there has been no reason to question it. For thousands of years there has been no down side.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have changed that.**

AIS are an existential threat to local lake-based economies and way of life because they are spread by humans. They are spread by access: I can hear the barstool biologists claiming that ducks, turtles and other critters spread it. So far there is no scientific evidence that they have. But even more to the point, if AIS were spread via natural means, we would be measuring the

spread in terms of centuries, not summers. There has been a 160% in AIS infested waters in the past five years, from 402 in 2013 to 1049 in 2018. That is not turtles.

Of the 181 lakes with DNR carry-in access only, none of them are designated as zebra mussel infested. Four have Eurasian milfoil. Many of these lakes are near infested lakes with waterfowl moving freely between them.

Now, with the rapid spread of destructive aquatic invasive species across Minnesota, it is time to define what access means. Is access simply the ability to get into a lake. Or does access mean more - does it mean access to a resource that people want to get into?

Put another way, is providing a boat ramp into a lake so clogged with aquatic invasive species that boating, fishing and swimming are impossible really providing access? Do we have to protect the lake itself if we are to honor our outdoor heritage and provide access to a resource that supports our economy and way of life?

If the utility of a lake drops, if the fishing crashes, or runoff-generated algae blooms or aquatic invasive species take over, or water levels rise or fall too much, "access" is undeniably impaired. Our ability to enjoy the resource is diminished: We have less "access" to the resource we value, recreation. Without access to recreational opportunities, tax base and business suffers. Schools and other public services collapse.

With AIS access is not only the problem, it is also the public good we must protect. If boat ramps on infested lakes are shut down the decline in tourism, recreation and way of life is the same as it would be if the lake is so choked with AIS as to be unusable. Local economies and way of life take the same hit either way.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota and the DNR are now finding that the combination of spiny water flea and zebra mussels in Mille Lac are a significant driver of walleye decline in that lake. Do the fishing restrictions and subsequent loss of revenue in Mille Lacs communities represent a loss of "access" to the resource. You bet they do and the financial consequences of that loss of access have been significant.

Aquatic invasive species impair access to resources because they diminish the value of those resources. So if we want to protect the utility of our natural resources, we must find, stop, and prevent the boats, trailers, docks and boat lifts that are carrying these destructive species over public roadways between lakes.

**States Out West Set High Fines for Boats with Invasives (Including Many from Minnesota) But Get Results**

The DNR estimates that it would cost Minnesota about \$68 million annually to put an inspector at every boat ramp for the duration of open water season. With some 13,000 lakes and about 900,000 registered watercraft, that estimate might be low.

continued to Page 16

# BALMORAL

## GOLF COURSE

Located SE side of Otter Tail Lake

*Voted the Areas Favorite  
Golf Course*

Search & Select Your Tee Time at  
[www.golfbalmoral.com](http://www.golfbalmoral.com)

218-367-2055 or 218-864-5414  
18 Hole Championship Golf Course



**Morning Beauty - 5am  
Moon Setting Over Blanche Lake**  
*Photo submitted by Ken Wentz*

## Otterfest 2019

- Friday, Aug. 9**  
• 7pm - Demo Derby
- Saturday, Aug. 10**  
• 7:30/8am - Kids Fun Run & 5K Run Walk, Reg. 6:45am A Measure of Healing Hearts Mhccgold.org  
• 7:30-11am - Pancake Breakfast Sponsored by the Ottertail Lions  
• All Day - Vendor Show  
• 10am-3pm - Inflatables, City Park  
• 10am - Classic Car Show - Contact Stacy Olson 218-731-1400 - Entry Fee \$20  
• 11am - Big Parade  
• 12-2pm - Carriage Rides & Face Painting  
• 1pm - Family Games in City Park Win a bike & other goodies also see a Snake display by Bucky Hamlett  
• 1-3pm - Nick the Magician strolling with a Show at 3PM  
• 1:30-3:30pm - Bingo  
• 2pm - Chicken Poop Bingo  
• 3:30pm - Otterwalk for Prizes  
• 4:30 - Pork & Corn Feed Sponsored by OTBCA & Buehler Farms  
• 5-8pm - Street Dance Featuring "Night Shift"  
• Dusk - Fireworks Sponsored by the Ottertail Lions

## Red Cross Swim Lessons

Red Cross Swim Lessons held at Amor Park will again be reimbursed at 100% of the cost to families that have paid their dues and belong to Otter Tail Property Owners Association, Inc. These lessons will be held on Otter Tail Lake on July 22-26 and July 29-Aug. 2, 2019. Registration fees are \$52, or \$40 for preschool. Please register in advance at [www.battlelake.k12.mn.us/community](http://www.battlelake.k12.mn.us/community), make payment and then once the attendee passes the class the OTLPOA Foundation will reimburse the families on the last day of the session.

### July 22-26

- 3:15-4pm - 1, 3, 5/6 combination
- 4:05-4:50pm - 2, 4
- 4:05-4:35pm - Preschool

### July 29-Aug. 2

- 3:15-4pm - 1, 3, 5/6 combination
- 4:05-4:50pm - 2, 4
- 4:05-4:35pm - Preschool

Swimming lessons, instructed by the Fergus Falls Area Family YMCA, 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.

### 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, 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.

## LAND TRANSFERS June 10, 2019 until July 9, 2019

TWP	LAKE	PROPERTY TYPE	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	PRICE
Amor	Walker	Residential < 4 Units	West, Robert	Figgins, James	\$140,000
Everts	Silver	Seas Res Unimproved	Anderson, Sara J. & Kerry D.	Johnson, Troy M. & Sarah P.	\$200,000
Everts	Round	Residential < 4 Units	Orbeck, Jeanette	Mohs, Thomas J & Marilyn M	\$456,550
Girard		Residential < 4 Units	Cheshire, Frederick Henry	Shea, Kevin & Susan	\$221,027
Girard		Residential < 4 Units	Johnson, Scott & Amy & Todd & Melissa	Kugler, Aaron / Weber, Paige	\$130,450
Girard	West Battle	Seas/Rec Improved	Love-Gack, Kendra V / Gack, Gregory W.	Aasness, Peter P. & Katherine A.	\$387,800
Girard	West Battle	Seas/Rec Improved	Lockaby, Heidi & Todd	Frederick, Matthew J. & Amanda	\$200,000
Otter Tail	Otter Tail	Residential < 4 Units	Smith, Gerald & Shirley	Mohagen, Martin J. & Susan M.	\$449,000
Otter Tail	Long	Residential < 4 Units	Junkert, Thomas E. & Jane E.	Bajwa, Gurjot	\$312,500
Otter Tail	Otter Tail	Seas/Rec Improved	Mohagen, Martin J. & Susan M.	Engels, Chad & Amy	\$244,400
Ottertail City		Seas Res Unimproved	Maskoski, Thomas / Masloski, Brenda	Rock'n R. Investments LLC	\$54,075
Ottertail City		Residential < 4 Units	Hutmacher, Joan E. & Randal	Carney, Stephen J.	\$219,000
Ottertail City		Residential < 4 Units	Johnson, Marlowe & Darlene	Obright, Llewellyn / Woodall Obright, Cynthia	\$392,500

**So Much Fun At The Lake!!!**

*Photo submitted by Fred Rizk*



**Bachelor Party On Blanche Lake**  
The guy in green is getting married. No matter the weather the party must go on!

*Photo submitted by Ken Wentz*

## 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:

<b>July 22-26</b>					
___ Otter Tail Lake 3:15-4pm	Level	1	3	5/6	
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:50pm	Level		2	4	
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:35pm	Level			Preschool	
<b>July 29-Aug. 2</b>					
___ Otter Tail Lake 3:15-4pm	Level	1	3	5/6	
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:50pm	Level		2	4	
___ Otter Tail Lake 4:05-4:35pm	Level			Preschool	
<b>July 8-12</b>					
___ West Battle Lake 3:15-4pm	Level	1	3	5/6	
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:25pm	Level		2	4	
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:25pm	Level			Preschool	
___ West Battle Lake 4:55-5:40pm	Level	1	2	3	
<b>July 15-19</b>					
___ West Battle Lake 3:15-4:00pm	Level	1	3	5/6	
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:50pm	Level		2	4	
___ West Battle Lake 4:05-4:25pm	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: \$52 (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 \_\_\_\_\_

When We Protect Access to Our Lakes and Rivers, What Are We Actually Trying to Protect? continued from page 14

Fortunately there are models in other places around the U.S. based on mandatory, regionally organized inspection and decontamination services that benefit from the economics of scale. Most of the Western States use a version of this model.

There are many different programs, all variations on the same theme. Convenient roadside inspection stations are set up at ports of entry and other traffic chokepoints. Boats and equipment are inspected and then tagged as clean. When the boater reaches their destination, half of this tag is put into a lock box at the ramp, the other half goes on the dashboard. Law enforcement officers check these boxes to make sure that all the vehicles at the ramp have complied, and they write tickets if they have not.

Some remote access sites have self inspection. Boaters fill out a checklist of actions they must take. The boater signs it, declaring that they have complied.

As a result, invasive mussel spread across the western half of the US is much slower than in Minnesota, even though the West has more lakes, more boats, more geography than we do. The Pacific Northwest employs coordinated mandatory regional inspection programs and remains free of invasive mussels. Fines for an AIS violation in Idaho are \$10,000.

Colorado set a goal of 100 percent inspection prior to launch in 2008, using mandatory regional roadside Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) programs. They have intercepted 144 watercraft with live zebra or quagga mussels attached. A number of these infested boats were from Minnesota. Last year, instead of adding new lakes to their infested waters list, Colorado was able to remove a lake. It remains invasive-mussel free.

Mandatory roadside inspection prior to launch seems like a lot of inconvenience just to intercept 144 infested boats a decade. But those boats are

the source of spread, 144 lakes that might have been infested -- along with all the connecting waterways to those lakes. What would have been the value if we had stopped, intercepted and decontaminated the boats or water related equipment that carried zebra mussels and spiny waterflea into Lake Mille Lacs?

Is the 2017 Wright County Pilot the Right Model?

In 2012 Minnesota passed a law giving the MN DNR the authority to use a mandatory centralized inspection protocol, and they have employed some temporary roadside stations. In 2018 Wright County passed an ordinance to test a centralized inspection program on three lakes. Local Lake Associations, with partial funding Legacy Amendment funds, partnered with the Wright County SWCD, volunteered thousands of hours, and tens of thousands of dollars in matching funds. Annandale donated a site for the inspection station. Wait times last year were about

30 seconds. Cost per inspection was less. The number of inspections was up.

This year the county hoped to pilot a program on 9 lakes within a 15 mile radius. This year the Wright County folks have invited some of the local angling groups to work with them to create a self-inspection process for those that use the lakes repeatedly over the summer.

Some have complained that this program provides no exit inspection since some of the lakes are already infested, but this is a strawman argument. Minnesota provides very little exit inspection on any of our infested lakes due to the costs involved. The point of the Wright County model is to interrupt the vector of spread, to find that rare infested watercraft or water related equipment, and then clean it. The deeper gripe, I think, is inconvenience - with inconvenience seen as a barrier to access.

The Wright County Pilot required a DNR permit. On April 5th of this year, the DNR sent a letter to the Wright County Board approving the pilot for the three original lakes, but denying the expansion to six more lakes. The result is that the economics of scale are lost, and the project is unaffordable. However, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Funding omnibus does contain language to advance the Wright pilot and may save the planned expansion by the end of the session.

If we value access to the utility of our recreational resources as a public good, we may have to endure a measure of inconvenience while we look for those needles in a haystack -- those few dozen boats and aquatic equipment a year that carry enough live mussels, plant fragments, snails and so forth to infest a waterbody.

Which raises the question, how much inconvenience is too much? Minnesota state statutes dictate that efforts to inspect and decontaminate watercraft cannot unduly restrict access, and the DNR has offered a rule of thumb limit of 15 minutes. By utilizing good traffic data, it would be possible to create a network of centralized inspection stations and provide protection with a minimum of disruption to the user. We just need to meet people where they already are, near the bait and gas stores, where highways intersect and so forth. In places where centralized inspection does not make sense, we can use self inspection programs.

Life is busy. Work is busy. In order to access our lakes most of us have to rush to get home, load up groceries, drinks, bait, gear, kids, dog. We have to get gas, get on the road, get through traffic. AIS inspection creates yet another barrier when you have to stop, get your boat inspected, maybe decontaminated. Another chore before we can get on the water.

To my mind, though, being in a rush to recreate is oxymoronic. Fishing, boating, paddling are about not being in a rush. They are about getting away from that pressure, abandoning that timetable.

When I was a child in Chicago, we would travel to my mother's cabin in northern Minnesota. It has no electricity, a lake water system and outhouse. My mother had only two rules at the cabin -- watch your cigarettes if you smoked. And when you arrived at the kitchen door she confiscated all watches. "How will we know when it's time to eat," one guest asked. She said, "We eat when we're hungry, drink when we're dry, and fish in between."

So yes, to my mind, time spent to ensure that we protect access to our natural resources is not only a wise investment, but part of the state of mind we're seeking when we go to those resources in the first place. In fact, if we really drill down, that sense of "getting away from the rat race" is actually the resource we most need to invest in and protect, and that might mean taking a bit of time before launch to ensure that the access to the resource is not impaired by zebra mussels, spiny waterflea or stary stonewort.

**It's Fair Time!**

**Mark Your Calendar**

**WEST OTTER TAIL COUNTY**

**FAIR**

**WED., JULY 17**  
THROUGH  
**SAT., JULY 20**

*There's Something To Watch Every Night!!*

**Wed., July 17**  
"Touch A Truck"  
7pm Grandstand  
**FREE Event**

**Thurs., July 18**  
Buddy Night  
Buy 1 Wristband Get 1 FREE  
Modified Tractor Pull  
6:30pm Grandstand

**Fri., July 19**  
Extreme Bull Riders  
7pm Grandstand

**Sat., July 20**  
Demo Derby  
6:30pm Grandstand

**South Pebble Lake Rd., Fergus Falls, MN • 218-736-0272 • www.wotcountyfair.com**