



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Vol. 50, No. 02

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

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1) Busy Beavers near Blanche Lake

Photos submitted by Mary Jo Wentz

Thank you to everyone who has submitted photos and/or articles! Please continue to do so!

Worm Spraying

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. Your property and neighbors will not be sprayed if we do not receive enough money.

Continued on page 2



2) Ice Shoves on Blanche Lake

Anglers Can Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species

May 5, 2020

This weekend's fishing opener comes with a reminder to always follow Minnesota's laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Along with taking care to follow social distancing guidelines while fishing and boating, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said it's also important to take a few minutes for invasive species prevention every time a boat comes

out of the water.

Lt. Col. Greg Salo, DNR Enforcement Division assistant director, said that's true every time, whether or not an enforcement officer or watercraft inspector is present.

"All anglers and boaters in Minnesota are required to take three simple steps: clean, drain, dispose," Salo said. "It's not only the best way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, but it's also the law in Minnesota." *continued on page 4*

Fortifying Against the Threats of Aquatic Invasive Species in the BWCAW

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) has remained mostly free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) except for spiny water flea, but the threat is moving north. And this spring -- amid the Coronavirus pandemic -- it is impossible not to recognize the similarities between the CV-19 virus and the many AIS that are in play in Minnesota.

Disregard for protective rules: Recent data from MN DNR enforcement show that 19% of the watercraft stopped on

highway 53 leading up to the BWCAW watershed were in violation of current AIS laws, one of the highest violation rates reported in the state.

Potential damage to the natural world: Both spiny water flea and rusty crayfish are predominate north of the Laurentian -- and are serious invader species: The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, MAISRC, linked a reduction in the size and abundance of walleye and perch species to spiny waterflea, while rusty crayfish wreak

continued on page 11

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President's Corner



Scott
Simdorn
OTLPOA
President

As I sit down to write this month's letter, the sun is shining, ice is gone from the lake, the grass is turning green, and many docks/lifts are already in the lake. It's one of my favorite times of the year and the installation of docks/lifts is the ultimate sign of lake season finally beginning. We actually got out on the pontoon in April this year!

Spring will be a little different this year than those in the past due to the Covid-19 issues. Many events have been cancelled or re-scheduled due to the federal/state guidelines. Please be mindful of these guidelines and protect all your family, friends, and neighbors during these times.

These guidelines have affected your association also. We had to cancel our earlier meetings and are working on dates for our annual meeting. We are hopeful we will be able to have our first meeting in late May as normally scheduled. Look for updates in the next issue of Lakeshore News or from your local newspaper in regards to the annual meeting. Some other Covid-19 related updates are as follows. The Red Cross has not determined if they will put on swimming lessons at this time. The AIS task force will not have an ambassador program this year. The AIS inspectors will

be at the public launches and the decontamination unit will be operating at the Sportsman's public access on Ottertail Lake. We are looking at alternative methods for delivering the lakeshore directories which are currently in print. The Foundation group will be installing buoys this week.

We have sent out our first membership mailer and have had a great response. There are currently close to 900 paid members with more coming in every day. We thank all of you have responded so quickly and ask that those of you who haven't to please join our association. If you have not received your membership in the mail please let one of the directors know and we will be glad to get one out to you. You may also renew on our website at otlpoa.com. This is an easy way to renew your membership or join as a new member. The site also has lots of great area information. Please make sure we have your correct lake property address for both summer and winter locations.

Now that the ice is out of the lake, our water testers will be doing their sampling and sending them into Detroit Lakes to the lab for results. This is very important to our lakes as it gives us a history of our lakes quality. We are currently working with the county to do more testing of inlets and outlets of Ottertail. Hopefully this will help determine what is actually happening to the water quality from inlet to outlet. Depending on the success of these samplings other sampling areas may be added.

With spring also brings the opportunity for worms. Many of you certainly can remember the

devastation they can cause. You will be receiving the "worm letter" in the mail soon if you haven't already. Please help support your association members by having your property sprayed and donating to the program. We would like to see the participation increase on this project. If there is not enough participation, we will not be able to continue this project. It is one of the more expensive projects we take on and the percent participation is lower than we would like to see it. Once again this year we will adopt the one lake, all lakes approach. If the worms are found on any lake, all the association lakes will be sprayed.

The Foundation would like to thank all of our members who have so generously contributed this year. The association is responsible for the placement of new and additional buoys on the lake, swimming lessons, AIS ambassador program, and other functions.

Hope to see you all out on the lake soon!

Scott

Worm Spraying continued from page 1

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. (Send e-mail to 'secretary@otlopa.com' with property identification if you want to be skipped)

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 of 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 Worm Fund and send to: PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515-0021. Also please add the name of your lake on the check.

For more information please visit the Otter Tail Lakes Property Owner's Association website: <http://www.otlpoa.com/> or the DNR website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Buoys

The OTLPOA established a Buoy program to alert watercraft users of rocks that may be present in the water. The buoys are located in areas that may have the largest threat to cause damage to a watercraft. The Buoys are placed and removed by a local dock and lift provider.

Citizen Water Monitors Needed in Minnesota!

Three cheers for clean water - we drink it, we play in it, we rely on it!

Water binds Minnesotans together. Memories are made at the lake. Adventures are had on rivers. Wetlands teem with musical life. We need water, but not just any kind of water. Clean water. Clear water.

Knowing the clarity of water helps us understand the health of water. With 69,000 miles of rivers and over 12,000 lakes checking the clarity of all that water is a big job. The MPCA needs more volunteers across the state to help monitor the clarity of Minnesota's lakes and streams, so we can better understand and protect them.

Volunteers perform a short and simple

water clarity test at their favorite lake or stream twice a month throughout the summer. Equipment and training are provided free of charge and no prior experience is needed - just a love of water! Find out if your favorite lake or stream needs monitoring by using the MPCA's interactive map at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/d4awwwd>.

To become a volunteer or learn more about the program, visit the program's website at www.citizenwater.mn, or call 651-296-6300 (Twin Cities) or 800-657-3864 (Greater Minnesota).

Photo and article shared by Shannon Martin, Citizen Lake Monitoring Specialist Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



GOD'S ACRES PREPARES FOR SUMMER & A VETERAN'S & FAMILY TRIBUTE

God's Acres 36051 County Hwy. #1 Battle Lake, MN located adjacent to Zion Lutheran Church of Amor, a thirty acre park is preparing for summer enjoyment per MN distancing restrictions. The park will be open to all young & old from dawn to dusk seven days a week. Equipment will not be sanitized & sanitizers are not available. God's Acres is supported only with volunteers & donations.

We welcome volunteers whose ages presently range from ten to eighty-eight years old. This spring Inga Nelson eighty-eight years old from Fergus Falls, was working in the Prayer Garden to ready it for meditation & enjoyment. Many volunteers have spent several hours preparing the park for visitors. God's Acres has at least fifteen different sporting areas & meditation places as well as a picnic area space. It is truly a "Diamond in the Rough". Come & enjoy social distancing.

This year's addition to God's Acres will be a Veterans & Family Tribute to recognize past & present veterans who have served our country. Anyone interested may purchase an 8"x16" granite stone for \$150.00 or provide a general financial donation to the tribute

to be listed or anonymous. Stones to be placed this summer must be ordered by May 31. For questions or brochures contact Zion Lutheran Church 218-495-2563 or Mick Baumann 218-371-1867.

God's Acres will be hosting its annual "Discover God's Acres" event Saturday August 1 4:00-7:30pm with tours 4:00-5:00; "Grill Fill" 4:30-5:30; music by the "Flashbacks" 5:30-7:30.

Come & enjoy & discover God's Acres this summer.



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Anglers Can Prevent continued from page 1

People must clean aquatic plants and debris 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, the DNR also 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); or
- Dry boat and equipment for at least five days.

More information is available at mndnr.gov/AIS.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Executive Order 20-38 allows people to be outdoors, engaging in activities such as walking, running, fishing and hunting. We urge outdoor enthusiasts to:

- Stay close to home.
- Not congregate when outdoors.
- Follow social distancing guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health .
- Remain home if they are ill or exhibiting any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

Social distancing guidelines while boating include:

- Only boat with people in your immediate household.
- Do not invite guests or anyone outside your household onto your boat.
- Do not go boating if someone in your group is feeling sick or may have been exposed to someone who is sick.
- When launching your boat, keep a safe distance of at least six feet from others.

Most state-managed public accesses are open, though the availability of amenities, such as docks, are contingent upon seasonal maintenance.

More information, including a video with social distancing tips while boating, is available on the DNR COVID-19 Response webpage.



You OTTER stay safe!!
Photo submitted by Mary Jo Wentz



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ottertailcountymn.us/department/aquatic-invasive-species



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DO I NEED TO BUY A FISHING LICENSE?

You need to buy a Minnesota fishing license if you're 16 or older. Annual licenses allow you to fish from March 1 to the last day of February the following year. Lower-cost licenses are available for shorter time periods. There is an added cost to fish for trout, salmon or sturgeon. In most cases, Minnesotans don't need a license if you're fishing in a state park. The DNR's complete listing of fishing licenses can help you decide what to buy.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html>



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Dalton with some windy day walleyes on Otter Tail Lake
Photo submitted by Steve Mouritsen

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It's Time to Get The Lead Out and Protect Waterfowl from Lead Poisoning

By Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Minnesota's state bird, the common loon, faces many threats. Shoreline disturbance, excessive wakes during nesting season, boat collisions and natural predation by eagles, muskie, large northern and mink, fishers, fox and pine marten. Swans and other waterfowl are also impacted.

But two of the biggest are oil pollution from the Deep Water Horizon catastrophe. Thousands of Minnesota's loons were impacted during their winter migration. Lead fishing tackle which loons and other waterfowl ingest thinking it gravel for their crops, pose a significant threat.

This year, using funds from the Deep Water Horizon settlement, the MN Pollution Control Agency is rolling out its Get the Lead Out program to encourage anglers to turn in their toxic lead tackle in exchange for free non-lead alternatives.

The objective of the Get the Lead Out! Program is to prevent loon deaths and increase adult survival rates by reducing exposure of common loons to lead through advocacy of intervention activities that promote the use of non-toxic fishing tackle in Minnesota.

Lead poisoning, resulting from ingestion of lead fishing tackle is recognized as one of the leading causes of death in breeding common loons, and ingestion of lead fishing tackle has been found to be the cause of death in 10 to 20% of MN loons. Studies indicate that replacing lead fishing sinkers and jigs with non-toxic alternatives provide immediate benefits to loon populations.

Get the Lead Out! A program facilitated by the Minnesota

Pollution Control Agency hopes to provide a proactive educational and assistance program that encourages Minnesota anglers, retailers, tackle manufacturers, nonprofits and schools to use environmentally friendly non-lead fishing tackle. Some program activities are lead tackle exchanges, providing retailer point of purchase displays, and presenting/abling events. Because lake associations have such deep ties to their local communities, including angling tournaments, town festivals and other events, are uniquely positioned to lead on this effort.

There are numerous opportunities for partnership with GTLO! through hosting one of the following events: tackle exchange, education/ outreach, and sportshows. If there are any opportunities not listed above that you would like to partner with us on please contact us.

This spring, the MPCA and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers hosted an hour long webinar on the topic. A recording is available to view on MLR's website at www.mnlakesandrivers.org

Contact: Noelle Hitz & Alero Moju MN GreenCorps Members

Email: noelle.hitz@state.mn.us & alero.moju@state.mn.us



God's Acres Drone Port



While watching a number of recreational drone flyers use God's Acres ballfield as a practice area, creativity led to determination to develop an area in God's Acres for them to have their "fun area". So Amor International Drone Port was established this spring. Here one can touch and go to visit 7 difference countries around the world in a 2 1/2 acres course! When one feels accomplished enough, fly through the hoop (and hopefully will not have to pick up parts) between each country. One can even use it as a timed event to fly against one's own time. Have fun and follow the state and national recreational drone rules.

Photo & Article submitted by Rob Bope

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2020 Upcoming OTLPOA Board Meetings

May 21 • June 25 • July 23
Aug. 20 • Sept. 17 • Oct. 22

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

Annual Meeting June 27
Zion Lutheran Church, Amor

www.otlpoa.com

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May 2020 Featured Plant: Rue anemone (*Thalictrum thalictroides*)



Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery

Planting Recommendations

Rue anemone grows best in dappled shade and dry to moderately moist, humus-rich soils. It is often helpful to amend soils with leaf compost when planting. A good choice for woodland gardens and in plantings under deciduous trees, it also can be grown in shady rock gardens. Plants are available in containers or as bare-root tubers from native plant nurseries.

Seeds can be dormant-seeded in October or November, or they can be cold-and-moist stratified for three months in a refrigerator.

Plants usually take a few years to flower after seeding. In early spring or late fall, rue anemone plants can be propagated by division. If plants will be divided in the fall, it's best to flag them in late spring so they're more easily found after the plants go dormant. Divided plants take a few years to build sufficient roots before they can be divided again. It is important to water plants after they are divided. Rue anemone is no longer common; avoid disturbing plants found in natural habitats.

Developed by Lorinda Balfanz, horticulturalist at the Minnesota Governor's Residence

Family: Buttercup (*Ranunculus*)

DESCRIPTION: Typically found in deciduous forests, this perennial spring ephemeral provides pollen to a wide range of native bees and flies from April to early June, and adds spring interest to woodland gardens.

USES: An attractive groundcover for shade gardens, rue anemone can grow under trees including oaks, maples, basswoods, birch and poplar. Its delicate flowers offer pollen — but not nectar — to native flies and several kinds of bees

(including honey, carpenter, cuckoo, mason, sweat and mining bees). It goes dormant during summer heat. All fresh parts of the plant are considered poisonous. Historically, infusions made from its roots treated diarrhea and vomiting.

SPECIES:

Woodland Meadow rue (*Thalictrum dioicum*) grows up to 30 inches tall. Wood anemone's (*Anemone quinquefolia*) leaflets are coarsely toothed with fine hairs. False rue anemone's (*Enemion biternatum*) leaflets are more deeply lobed; its flowers have only five sepals.



Visitors

Church Directory

2020

Join us in worship!

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.firstbaptistbattl lake.com
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
Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Website: bethellutheran.church

First Lutheran - ELCA 
505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake
Bradley Skogen, Pastor
blfirstlutheran.org
Church—218-864-5686
Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 am
Worship: 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

LUTHERAN ■■■■

Tingvold Lutheran Church
6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35
Nancy Monke, Pastor
Church—218-826-6487
September 1-May 31: Worship 11:00 am
Fellowship 9:30am
June 1-August 31: Worship 10:30
Fellowship 9:30am

Zion Lutheran - ELCA
36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Amor
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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, Ottertail
Rod Turnquist, Pastor
Church—218-367-2270

Richville United Methodist Church
130 SW 1st Ave., Richville
Rod Turnquist, Pastor
Church—218-346-5656
Joint Worship 10:00 am at Ottertail United Methodist Church while renovation is being done at Richville United Methodist Church - Call either church phone number for updates.

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 
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OTLPOA Mission Statement

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.

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 on page 6 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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc. 2019 Membership (Check one)

Property Owner Member: _____ **Associate Member:** _____
(Owners Lake Property) (Does not own lake property or shares ownership)

Name of Property Owner living at lake property address: _____

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

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): _____ House/Street #
(must be valid US Postal deliverable address) _____ City/State Zip

Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): _____ House/Street #
 _____ City/State Zip

Email: (please print legibly) _____
 Notification of date for tent caterpillar/worm spraying, updates of possible lake changing issues, etc. (If you don't personally have an email address, you can substitute one for a family member who will let you know of these notifications).

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)

- Membership \$25.00
- Foundation \$10.00

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

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)
\$10.00 _____ **\$20.00** _____ **\$50.00** _____ **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)

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?

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Source: www.thespruce.com

Did You Know?

For most Minnesotans, it is against the law to burn or bury household garbage—it's been illegal since the 1980s.

Algae

Algae are an essential part of the lake food web, but high levels of nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen in our lakes can contribute to large, unsightly algal blooms. Some algae species (called blue-green algae or cyanobacteria) can produce toxins that are harmful to pets, people, and wildlife. EPA detected the algal toxin microcystin in 39% of lakes, but very rarely at levels that represent moderate or high risk to the public.

Play it safe: keep people and pets away from water that is green, scummy or smells bad. Report algae blooms to your local or state health department or environmental agency. Learn more at epa.gov/nutrientpollution.



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Minnesota At-Risk Lake Modelling Map Available Soon

In 2017, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) launched a project intending to model all lakes in Minnesota and their risk of being infested by zebra mussels and/or starry stonewort. When completed, the model can be used as a decision-making tool to help resource managers, counties, and other agencies prioritize their resources (such as watercraft inspection checkpoints) for optimal prevention and intervention of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The project was pilot-tested with three counties (Crow Wing, Ramsey, and Stearns) in early 2019. The models incorporated estimates of boater movement among lakes within each county and assessed the risk of AIS spread based on boater movement and environmental suitability conditions. The models were then used by counties to allocate their limited inspection resources among various lakes and landings. The models also helped counties decide how many inspectors to hire, where to station them, and even what time and day 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. It's simply impossible for there to be an inspector at every lake, around the clock. This model allows counties to make the best decisions possible to minimize the spread of AIS," concluded Haight.

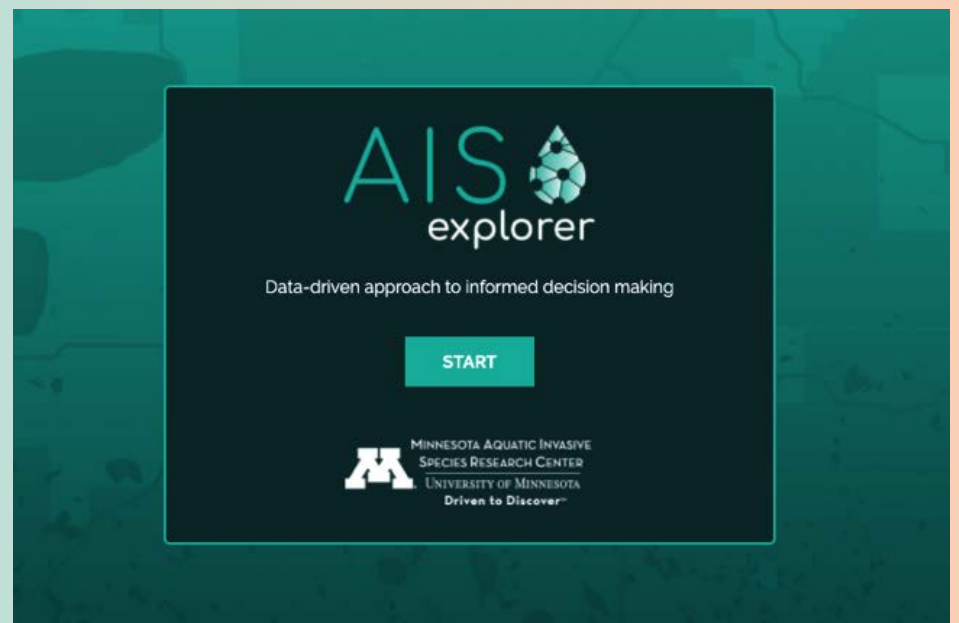
With the success of the three county-based models, MAISRC is now developing an online interactive tool for all counties in the state that will help inform the location of watercraft inspectors looking for zebra mussels, starry stonewort, Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny water flea. When completed, the dashboard will also have an interactive map with the risk of zebra mussel and starry stonewort introduction for all lakes, updated in near real-time. The map will be open to the public and free to use. MAISRC hopes to launch the statewide map by the end of summer 2020. This is later than originally planned—developers of the map have also been busy developing online tools to inform urgent COVID-19 decision making. Though slightly delayed, the tool promises to be an important tool for resource managers and local governments.

Learn more about this one-of-a-kind model on MAISRC's website: www.MAISRC.umn.edu/decision-tool. While on our website, be sure to subscribe to our newsletter for more AIS research updates sent straight to your inbox.

By Kristin Loobeek, MAISRC Communications Specialist



Photo courtesy MnDNR.



The online interactive tool will be called 'AIS Explorer' and will be free and open to the public once it launches.

Articles and Photos Submitted by Kristin Loobeek, MAISRC Communications Specialist

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Post-Pandemic, Remove -- and Don't Replace -- Lines 3 and 5

The decommissioning and removal of Enbridge's old Line 3 pipeline is a shovel-ready project that can help Minnesota move forward after the pandemic crisis abates. As Minnesotans, we should spare ourselves the upheaval that will result if Enbridge begins to lay a new pipe. Markets are recoiling from the Canadian tar sands collapse – and the long-term threats of climate change aren't going away -- even as Enbridge's plans for a new Line 3 continue to divide the state.

Many are unable to see a world free of fossil fuel dependence. However, we all need to reassess our perspectives about how Line 3 could serve communities that have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The old Line should be dug up and removed. That would be an environmentally-sound jobs plan that would unite rather than divide.

The Mainline is running with unused capacity. Enbridge's claim to need the increased volume a new line would provide them is simply not true based on the Department of Commerce's findings. Enbridge hoodwinked the PUC into granting them their certificate of need for a new line by painting a grim picture of the old lines condition while also testifying that they can operate it safely indefinitely. Why should a manipulative foreign corporation with millions to spend on lobbying, door knocking and calling Minnesotans have it both ways: The state could be left holding the bag for what could well become a stranded, unnecessary pipeline asset?!

We should remember that the question of removing old pipe arose when Enbridge revealed that they intended to abandon 282 miles of pipeline. Landowners balked at the idea that an abandoned pipeline on their property was the only option. Enbridge insisted that it would be too risky to remove the old line given its proximity to the rest of the Mainline corridor. This narrative shifted when the pipeline workers began to openly admit

that they could in fact remove an old pipeline because they had put it in there in the first place.

Seeing the writing on the wall, this giant tar sands enabler hatched the Landowner Choice Program among a handful of seeming concessions in order to entice the PUC to give them their new line. The Landowner Choice Program would allow a particular landowner to have old pipe on their land to be removed at Enbridge's expense after the new line was operational. There are many unanswered questions about how that program would operate or what mechanism would be used to enforce it if Enbridge was not treating landowners fairly. Or if it fell into financial ruin.

The admission that Enbridge and pipeline workers have the ability to take out what they put in has great value for our current moment. Climate change is bearing down on us and we all must take responsibility for transitioning to a livable future. What's required is for people to muster the political will to work together.

The Midwest states have formed an agreement to coordinate the re-opening of their economies in response to the pandemic. We share much in common with our neighbors. In Wisconsin we see controversy where Enbridge's Line 5 is being expelled from the Bad River reservation yet Enbridge's planned reroute keeps them inside the watershed. Numerous private landowners would bear the weight of that decision. In Michigan, Enbridge's heavy-handed tactics are on display as they forge ahead with a plan to place Line 5 in a tunnel under the highly sensitive Straits of Mackinaw. Would it not be better for everyone if Line 3 and Line 5 were decommissioned and removed?

Sean MacManus is an artist living in Duluth.

Article Submitted by Martin Keller on behalf of Sean MacManus

Don't forget social distancing!
Photo submitted by Rob Bope

Otter Tail County: Restricted - Variance Required

Current Burning Restrictions
2020-05-18

Current Restrictions: Individuals with Burning Permits for Agricultural, Industrial or Management are required to follow all instructions including the valid start and end times listed under the Special Conditions & Requirements section on the permit.

Due to an increase in fire danger, no permit activations are being issued at this time.

Source: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html

© MNDNR

Fortifying Against the Threats ... from page 1
 havoc on native crayfish and aquatic plants.

· ASI headlines that could warn of cratering northern economies: “The very real risk we face is that a headline could appear across Minnesota newspapers this very summer that zebra mussels were found in Basswood, noted Carrie Ohly-Cusack, a concerned citizen who owns a cabin near Ely. “That would be devastating for the economy of Northeastern Minnesota and a particularly bitter defeat for everyone seeking to stop the spread of AIS into Minnesota lakes.”

Currently there is no lake association organization —generally the first line of AIS defense and management in any locality -- to take on the work of bringing together partners and doing the work of implementing an AIS prevention plan for the BWCAW.

The good news is that has changed.

In the Fall of 2019 a broad-based coalition of concerned citizens, nonprofit, for-profit and government organizations started to meet and work together to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the BWCAW. It consists of The Ely Area AIS Task Force; local resource managers; DNR; U.S. Forest Service; 1854 Treaty Authority; Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR)

Bending the AIS Invasion Curves as Summer Approaches

The coalition group hopes to have a more substantial working plan in place which prevents the infestation of all water bodies that drain into the BWCAW for open water by 2021. But for the 2020 season, the group -- working with local AIS Coordinators at Lake County SWCD and Northern St. Louis SWCD -- have accomplished much for the upcoming, 2020 open water season.

· Total AIS Inspections in the previously underserved Kawishiwi Watershed lakes in the Ely area will be increased by almost 1,000 hours.

· Inspections on some key lakes are being increased and some other lakes are being Inspected for the first time.

· 18 lakes in the watershed will now get at least some Inspections. This will expand the reach of AIS boater education to many boaters that have been missed by the system in the past.

· AIS inspectors will receive a small pay increase, recognizing competition for these jobs from the 2020 Census.

Even with these 2020 stop-gap enhancements, the risk of infestation still remains high for many lakes and rivers adjacent to this world-class destination. On April 26th, John Myers at the Duluth News Tribune declared, “Minnesota effort to slow aquatic invasive species is working.” In that article Myers notes that “only eight percent” of Minnesota’s lakes and rivers have become infested with AIS, and while this is true, and reason to celebrate, it is also true that among these eight percent are Minnesota’s largest and most popular lakes. Back of the napkin math shows that 28% of Minnesota’s surface waters are most likely infested.

Still, as the recent Duluth article suggests, there is reason to be hopeful. Minnesotan’s effort to prevent the spread of AIS, like our efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19, demonstrate that we are bending the invasion curves. In the past, much of this effort has been driven locally, often by lake associations leading the way with local, state and federal resource managers.

“Lake associations often lead citizen AIS efforts, and this is a big benefit for the entire local community,” surmised Ohly-Cusack who has joined the coalition. “The discovery of zebra mussel veligers in Lake of the Woods, however, is a wake-up call. We realized that the Boundary Waters had no civic organization working to protect it from aquatic invasive species.”

Coalition Using New “Civic Organizing” Tool to Prevent AIS Spread, Engage Citizens

The overlapping agencies, tribal governments, lake associations, and interested citizens and business groups involved in the management of the BWCAW are as complex as the geography of this area. Unlike other areas of the state, MN DNR, North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cook County, Forest Service and the International Joint Commission as well as lake and river groups on the Canadian side of the watershed all have different responsibilities, capacities and authorities in the area. In addition, there are a number of citizen stakeholder groups deeply engaged in both protecting the wilderness values of the Boundary Waters and the recreational economy of the area. The stakes could not be higher. The Boundary Waters is at high risk of AIS infestation.

The group is using a new approach to guide their efforts, “Civic Organizing,” driven largely by an initiative forged by my organization, Minnesota

Lakes and Rivers Advocates. This is an organizing approach, not a mobilizing, or an activities-centered approach. We will define the problems, with a focus on the capacities of each partner, and then focus on solutions that leverage those unique capabilities and resources of the many different groups. What is impossible for one is possible for a broad cross sector base with each contributing.

The coalition group hopes to have a more substantial working plan in place which prevents the infestation of all water bodies that drain into the BWCAW for open water by 2021. Those of us focused on this issue do not think more money and more inspections are the only answer. There are many practical alternatives that could be implemented immediately, and would save money. By using an organizing approach, we hope to be able to build these partnerships and solve the problem going forward.

As waters in the rest of the state warm, the BWCAW represents an even more valuable reservoir of cold-water fishes like walleye, lake trout, and tullibee. The economic benefits of this great fishery, the wilderness, the unique nature of the landscape, the singular recreational opportunities, and the great fishing all suggest that protecting the BWCAW from aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, or starry stonewort is a fundamental public good. It deserves a special investment of time, knowledge, money and diverse constituencies. If you’re interested in protecting this special resource, please join us!

Jeff Forester is the Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, a non-profit group with members throughout Minnesota who are interested in preserving the state’s natural resource for current and future generations: <http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org/>



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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.

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