

PR SRT STD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 8  
 ANNANDALE, MN  
 56302

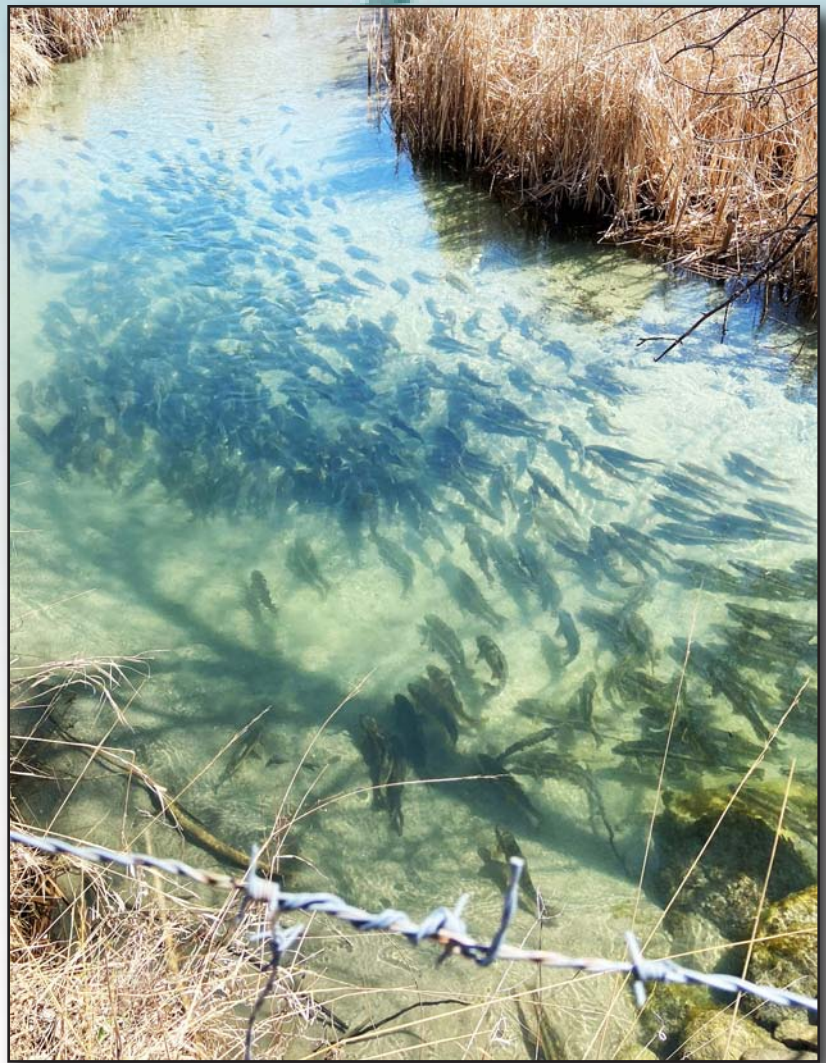
The Official Newspaper of  
 Otter Tail Lakes  
 Property Owners  
 Association



Volume 54 - No. 4  
 - May 2024 -



# Lakeshore News



The carp were out in full force in Blanche Creek April 24, 2024. Photo by Ken Wentz

## Minnesota Fishing Facts

The 2024 fishing opener is Saturday, May 11. Below is 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation information conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and others. A report summarizing the survey results for Minnesota is available at [mndnr.gov/licensedollarsatwork](http://mndnr.gov/licensedollarsatwork).

billion in 2022; average annual \$3,600 per angler was spent in 2022; fishing supports 28,000 Minnesota jobs.

- Anglers and waters: 1.7 million anglers fished in 2022 with 1.2 million residents and 508,000 non-residents; 500,000 expected to fish this opener; Minnesota has 11,842 lakes; 162 species of fish are found in Minnesota waters.
- Economy: Anglers spent \$5.9

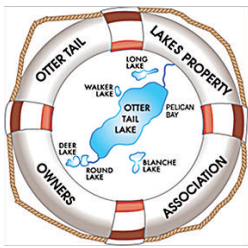
- Who goes fishing? Estimated 26% residents aged 16 and older fished in 2022 with 38% male and 14% female; 36% who did not fish expressed an interest in future; barrier to fishing is lack of friends and family to fish with.

- Fishing license monies go into Game & Fish Fund dedicated account used for fish, wildlife, law enforcement and other outdoor-related activities.

### • What's Inside •

Mission Statement, Board of Directors, President's Corner	
New Website Launched.....	2
Calendar of Events, Rainfall Monitoring Volunteers Needed.....	3
MN DNR Makes Changes To Record Fish Program.....	4-5
Launching Boats Might Be Difficult This Spring.....	5
2nd Annual Fire & Ice Games.....	6
Use Pesticides/Fertilizers With Care, Membership Form.....	7
Lake Levels: Facts and Myths.....	8-9
Swimmer's Itch, Church Directory.....	10
Art of the Lakes Builds Community Through Art.....	11
Land Transfers, 10 Smart Reason For Keeping Your Dog on a Leash, Report Anything.....	12
Tent Caterpillars, Treatment.....	13 and 16
Rearing Pond Trail.....	14
Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. You Can!	
Know What's Below - 811, Service Ads, Most Asked Questions.....	15

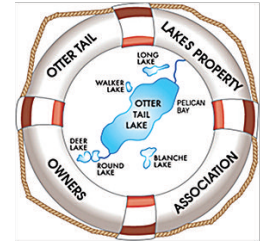
**Good Luck To  
 All Area  
 Fisherpeople!**



# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 54 - No. 4 • May 2024 • Battle Lake, MN



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.

## Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) Mission Statement

### – OTLPOA Board of Directors –

- President –**  
Eric Gerken (Otter Tail Lake) .....gerkot24@gmail.com - 320-491-1277
- Vice President –**  
Mark Long (Deer Lake) .....mdl原因mark@outlook.com - 701-640-1033
- Blanche Lake Directors –**  
Ken Wentz .....kwmjmw@gmail.com - 760-885-9668  
Fred Rizk .....frizk@aol.com - 701-635-6477
- Long Lake Directors –**  
Paul Oxberry .....poxberry@outlook.com - 612-703-3116
- Round Lake Directors –**  
Steve Mouritsen .....Steve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927

- Treasurer –**  
Pat Hunke (Otter Tail Lake) .....phunke@hunkestransfer.com - 218-639-4910
- Secretary –**  
Becky Kemling (Otter Tail River N) ....beckykemling@msn.com - 218-371-9095
- Otter Tail Lake Directors –**  
Duane Hanson.....duanehanson55@gmail.com - 701-367-4249  
Tom Kuder .....tom.kuder@gmail.com - 612-747-5021  
Beth Madson .....Ottertailbeth@gmail.com - 320-808-6492  
Debbie Ness .....deb@yourresort.com - 218-495-2468  
Julie Swanson.....julieswansonproperties@gmail.com - 218-282-0044  
Jerame Tysdal .....otproperties@arvig.net



### – OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

Ben's Bait in Battle Lake is looking forward to an exciting and busy opener this year. The warm weather conditions this past winter and an early ice out, along with warmer than usual spring weather and water conditions should have expedited the walleye spawn and left them eager to bite!

**Happy Spring Everyone!**

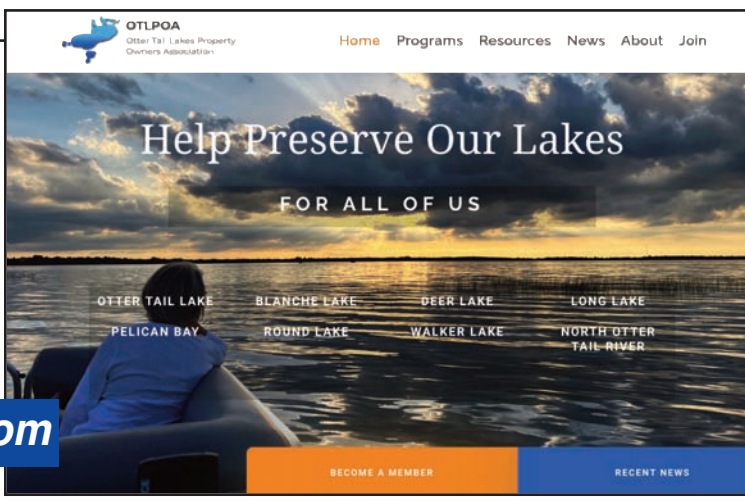
Saturday, May 11th, Minnesota will celebrate one of our state's greatest unofficial holiday, the Minnesota Fishing Opener.

This Minnesota tradition for the Land of 10,000 Lakes dates to 1948 and is like no other, as fisher people chase delicious Walleye, Sauger and Northern Pike! Traditionally opening weekend brings half-a-million anglers to our beautiful lakes and rivers two weeks before Memorial Day weekend to fish their favorite fishing spots.

Mother's Day this year lands on the same weekend as our Minnesota Fishing Opener so "Happy Mother's Day" to all those amazing mothers who raised us to enjoy fishing our beautiful lakes! Mother's Day doesn't always land on the Minnesota Fishing Opener but when it does, we need to make sure we wish them a very special thank you! So, take your mother fishing or at least bring some fish home and tell them you love them and appreciate them!

**Good Luck Fishing and Happy Mother's Day!**

### OTLPOA Launches New Website Check It Out At OTLPOA.com



The Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association has launched a redesigned website for members and visitors, located at otlpoa.com.

The new site has a fresh new look, a simpler navigation menu, and updated content about your Association.

- The **Home** page provides a quick overview of the organization
  - The **Programs** page describes each of our active initiatives and programs
  - The **Resources** page puts information about our partners, the environment, and lake life at your fingertips
  - The **News** page gives you access to the latest news and events
  - The **About** page details our mission, identifies Board members and provides contact information
  - Finally, the **Join** page helps you become a member of this vital lake association
- The new site was designed and built by OTLPOA Board member Tom Kuder, President of Entente Marketing. Submitted by Tom Kuder

**Mark Your Calendars!**

**OTLPOA 2024 Meetings**

May 23 • June 27 • July 25  
 August 22 • September 26 • October 24  
 November 28 • December 26

*Ottertail City Community Center  
 Meeting at 6:30 p.m.*

**Calendar of Events 2024**

- May 11 . . . . . Minnesota Fishing Opener (Walleye, Sauger and Northern)
- May 23 . . . . . OTLPOA Board Meeting**
- June 1 . . . . . Minnesota Muskellunge Opener
- June 2 . . . . . Lake Region Healthcare Run - Fergus Falls
- TBA . . . . . Ottertail City-wide Clean-Up
- June 7-8 . . . . . Fergus Falls Summerfest
- June 8 . . . . . Maplewood State Park Running Wild Trail Run
- June 17 . . . . . Perham's 19th Turtle Fest
- June 15 . . . . . Ottertail City Hazardous Waste Collection
- June 27 . . . . . OTLPOA Board Meeting**
- July 12 . . . . . Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County in Perham
- July 13-14 . . . . . Phelps Mill Arts Festival
- TBA . . . . . Downtown Fergus Falls Shop Move'n Groove
- TBA . . . . . Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
- July 18-20 . . . . . West Otter Tail County Fair - Fergus Falls
- July 25-28 . . . . . East Otter Tail County Fair - Perham
- July 26-28 . . . . . Battle Lake's Wenonga Days
- July 25 . . . . . OTLPOA Board Meeting**
- August 1-4 . . . . . WE Fest - Detroit Lakes
- August 2-4 . . . . . Parkers Prairie Fall Festival & Bull Ride
- August 10-11 . . . . . Vergas' Loony Days
- August 9 . . . . . Rod & Gun Club Demo Derby - Ottertail
- August 10 . . . . . Ottertail City's Otter Fest
- August 17 . . . . . Vining Watermelon Day
- August 22 . . . . . OTLPOA Board Meeting**
- August 30-31 . . . . . Barnesville Potato Days
- Underwood's Harvest Festival
- August 31 . . . . . Battle Lake Area Community Fund's Gathering of Planes
- September 6-8 . . . . . Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Reunion - Dalton
- September 26 . . . . . OTLPOA Board Meeting**

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

**Rainfall Monitoring Network  
 Seeks Volunteers**

*Participants provide important data about precipitation, climate trends*



The Minnesota State Climatology Office is seeking rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge.

Participants submit their precipitation reports online. The data from backyard rain gauges are a critical source of information and it's beneficial to add more volunteer weather observers each year, even in areas where there are already volunteers.

"Rainfall and snowfall amounts can vary widely over a short distance, so a variety of reports is helpful in the same community or area," State Climatologist Luigi Romolo said. "We have some areas in greater Minnesota that have very few reporting stations. The more we have across the state, the better information we all have."

"Over time, as more volunteer reports make our precipitation maps more accurate, these observations provide critical guidance on Minnesota's changing climate," Romolo added. "This is also a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate."

Volunteers are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and how to submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online. Participants must purchase or provide a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS) and have internet access to submit reports.

For the past four years, Minnesota has won the "CoCoRaHS Cup" for recruiting the most new volunteers of any state. "We're hoping Minnesotans will again come through in 2024 to keep the cup in Minnesota and, more important of course, to improve our state's precipitation recording," Romolo said.

To sign up or for more information, visit [CoCoRaHS.org](http://CoCoRaHS.org) or contact Luigi Romolo at [luigi.romolo@state.mn.us](mailto:luigi.romolo@state.mn.us). Submitted by Becky Kemling

*"Selling Lake Property in Otter Tail County Since 1995!"*



M

ohagen Real Estate

www.mohagenrealestate.com

**Sue Mohagen**  
Broker

Email: [sue@mohagenrealestate.com](mailto:sue@mohagenrealestate.com)  
 Office: 218-998-4400  
 Cell: 218-731-7376



# Minnesota DNR Makes Changes To Record Fish Program

## Anglers will find these and other changes in the 2024 fishing regulations booklet

Anglers will have new opportunities to claim the glory of catching a Minnesota state record fish.

Starting March 1, anglers can earn catch-and-release records for 18 species beyond the four current species that are recognized, a change the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is making in response to the increasing popularity of catch-and-release fishing and to raise the profile of native rough fish.

“Angler stories and photos of the huge fish caught from Minnesota’s lakes, rivers and streams generate major excitement,” said Mandy Erickson, fisheries program consultant. “We also hope the buzz around some of these records brings more attention to native rough fish, which, besides being fun to catch, are important to aquatic ecosystems.”

Records established prior to requiring weight to be documented on a certified scale will continue to be recognized as historical records. After March 1, the Minnesota DNR will recognize three categories of record fish: historical weight records, catch-and-release documented by photos, and certified weight documented by keeping a fish and weighing it on a state-certified scale.

Anglers can also apply for a certified weight record for yellow bass, added to the category because the species has dramatically increased in both presence and popularity, particularly in south-central Minnesota.

Species being added to the catch-and-release category are blue sucker, bigmouth buffalo, bowfin, brook trout, brown trout, channel catfish, freshwater drum, lake trout, largemouth bass, longnose gar, rainbow trout, sauger, shortnose gar, shovelnose sturgeon, smallmouth bass, smallmouth buffalo, tiger muskellunge and walleye. The category will continue to include muskellunge, northern pike, lake sturgeon and flathead catfish. There will be a minimum fish length requirement for new submissions, which will prevent an abundance of record applications for commonly caught sizes.

Certified weight records will be available for black crappie, bluegill, brown bullhead, channel catfish, common carp, flathead catfish, lake trout, northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and yellow perch. For each species, anglers will be required to meet a minimum weight to apply for a record, which will prevent an abundance of record applications for commonly caught weights.

“Before making these changes we discussed possible approaches with angling organizations and tribal interests, and sought input via fishing-related Facebook pages and DNR email lists. Overall, we received very positive feedback,” Erickson said.

The record fish program has been managed by the state’s fisheries resource agency in various forms for nearly 100 years. More information, including minimum fish length and weight requirements for new submissions, is available on the Minnesota DNR record fish webpage.

### Other new regulations –

Other fishing regulation changes for 2024 include two changes that enhance protection for Minnesota’s native turtles. These protections went into effect January 1 as the result of a new law enacted in 2023.

Anglers need both an angling license and a recreational turtle license to harvest turtles using angling gear like hook and line, landing nets and gaff hooks. In the past, only an angling license was required. Traps are not allowed for turtle harvest. Individuals under 16 do not need a recreational turtle license and may still collect turtles for turtle races.

Commercial harvest of western painted turtles and snapping turtles is no longer allowed

in Minnesota. People will still be allowed to raise turtles for commercial purposes under an aquaculture license with a turtle endorsement.

New and modified regulations will also be in effect for a variety of other waters. Anglers are advised to check the regulations book available now for updated regulations pertaining to:

Sunfish in Winnibigoshish Lake and connected waters, Beltrami, Cass and Itasca Counties

- Northern pike in Gull Lake chain, Cass and Crow Wing Counties
- Sunfish in First, Second, Third and Fourth Crow Wing lakes, Hubbard County
- Walleye in Big Sand Lake, Hubbard County
- Northern pike in Balsam, Haskell and Scrapper Lakes, Itasca County
- Northern pike in Pearl Lake, Stearns County
- Crappie and sunfish in Clearwater and Maple lakes, Stearns and Wright Counties

The 2024 Minnesota fishing regulations are available on the Minnesota DNR website and printed copies will be available anywhere Minnesota fishing licenses are sold.

## Muskellunge

One of the largest and most elusive fish that swims in Minnesota, this apex aquatic predator is known as the "fish of 10,000 casts."



Muskies may indeed be elusive. But it is their low numbers in a lake – not craftiness – that makes them hard to catch. That's true in waters where they naturally occur and where DNR stocks them.

Many anglers are attracted to muskie because of their potential to get big. That same potential draws concern from others who believe the diets of bigger fish make fewer fish available to anglers. Despite the muskie's potential to attain large sizes, studies of predator diets and fish communities that contain muskie found muskie do not adversely impact gamefish populations.

### Facts –

- Muskies are native to Minnesota lakes and rivers.
- Muskies can be found in 102 lakes. Muskie were introduced to 48 of those lakes through DNR stocking.
- Anglers can't keep a muskie unless it is at least 54 inches long.
- Catch-and-release state record.
- Certified weight state record.
- Catch one yourself

### Identification –

The foolproof way to tell a muskie from a northern pike is to count the pores on one side of the underside of the jaw. A muskie has six or more. A northern has five or fewer. Take a closer look or find out more in the fishing regulations fish identification guide.

### Muskellunge –

Native muskies have darker markings (spots or bars) on a light background. That's the opposite of northern pike, which have light markings on a dark body. Muskies are silver, light green, or light brown. They look and behave much like northern pike.



### Tiger Muskellunge –

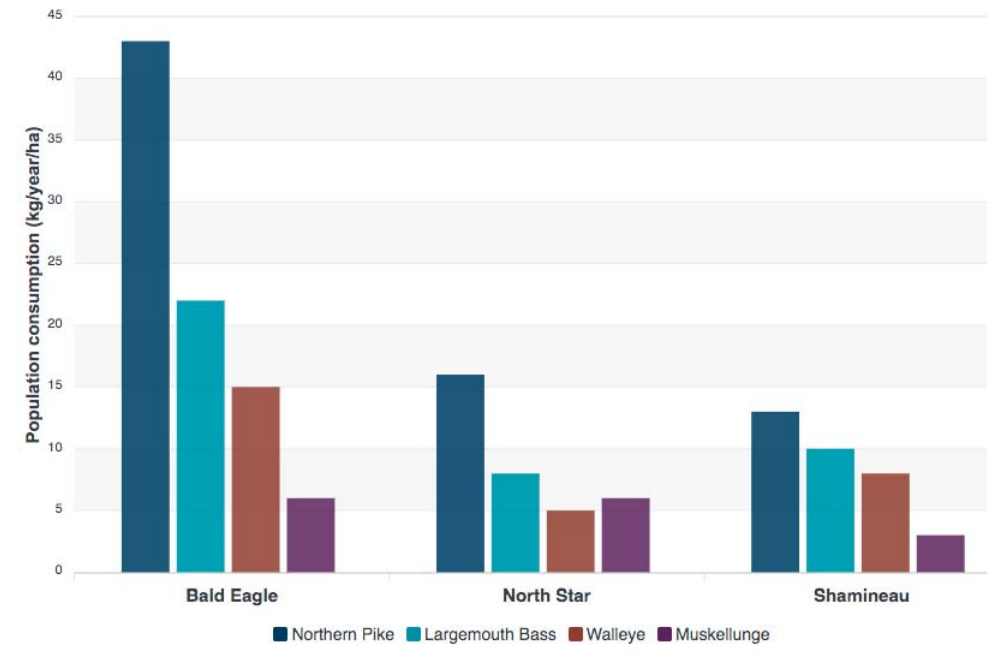
Rounded tail fins identify the tiger muskie, a sterile hybrid of the northern pike and the muskie that is stocked in several heavily fished lakes in the Twin Cities. Like native muskie, this fish has dark markings on a light background with the key difference its tail fins.



**Feeding Myths –**

Extensive research on muskies and their feeding habits show that muskies do not eat all the fish in the lake, including walleye.

In fact, the chart below details research showing pike and largemouth bass consumed more food than muskies in Minnesota lakes.



**Comparing how much muskie, walleye, pike and largemouth bass eat –**

Key findings from a study by Minnesota researchers Ahrenstorff, T.D., Herwig, B.R., Glade, K.C., Hafs, A.W., and Zimmer, K.D. Manuscript in prep. Comparing consumption patterns of Muskellunge, Walleye, Northern Pike, and Largemouth Bass populations.

In addition, here's a look at two recent studies from Minnesota DNR fisheries researchers that explore the role of muskies within the fish communities in which they live:

- Are stocked muskellunge affecting fish communities.
- Diet patterns of muskellunge and other carnivorous fish species in the same waters.

**Tell us what you think –**

Share your thoughts on how the DNR manages muskies in Minnesota. Your feedback will help us develop the next muskie long range plan. Submitted by Becky Kemling

**Join OTLPOA Today!**

See Page 7 For Membership Form

**Launching Boats Might Be Difficult This Spring As Drought Conditions Persist**

*More than 40% of Minnesota is in moderate or severe drought*

Minnesota boaters could find launching watercraft difficult this spring due to low water levels on many lakes and rivers. The lack of snow this winter and persistent dry conditions have left lakes without the normal spring recharge.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working to repair boat ramps damaged over winter and will extend boat ramps when possible. However, it is not possible to extend boat ramps on waterbodies that are naturally shallow beyond the ramp. Boat ramps damaged by power loading are also a challenge to repair. A boater might be able to launch into the space at the end of the boat ramp — however, a buildup of the material moved by power loading settles beyond the ramp can prevent boaters from getting to deeper water.

“With unusually low water levels, people launching larger boats and pontoons with longer trailers will need to pay extra special attention to ramp lengths and depths,” said Nancy Stewart, DNR water recreation consultant.

In addition to repair work, DNR crews will use the month of April to put docks in. For DNR public access sites, dock-in dates are shown on LakeFinder; search for the lake then click on water access sites noted on the lake map to find dock details on the water access site webpage.

Spring boaters should always anticipate and prepare for cold water conditions. This year, they should also watch out for obstructions such as rocks and sand bars that typically are not an issue for spring boaters.

Stewart offers the following tips for launching boats in low water conditions:

- Launch slowly.
- Have a spotter in the boat while launching so trailer tires and boat axles don't fall off the last plank where an existing blowhole might be present.
- Have hip boots or waders and a life jacket as it might help to get in the water and guide the boat or check the ramp for firmness and water depth.
- Lower the motor only after making sure there is enough water depth.
- Use a lake map as a guide to avoid shallow areas and watch for obstructions.

Boaters who encounter problems at a DNR public access site can contact their local DNR office or the DNR Information Center at 888-646-6367. For public water access maps, state water trail maps and boating information, go to the DNR's public water access webpage. Submitted by Becky Kemling

**Lakes Family Real Estate**

**Otter Tail Real Estate**

Follow us on Facebook

Providing a superior level of informed, professional and consistent real estate service to buyers and sellers in the lakes area!

 John Good Broker 218-731-000 john@lakesfamilyres.com	 Mark Stortroen Assoc. Broker GRI 218-731-6315 mark@ottertailres.com	 Deb Banta Realtor 218-821-5678 bantadeb43@gmail.com	 Zach Good Realtor 218-731-2761 zach@lakesfamilyres.com	 Luke Mostue Realtor 218-671-8457 luke@lakesfamilyres.com	 Shana Zimmerman Realtor 218-770-6936 shana@lakesfamilyres.com	 Phyllis Tysver Realtor 218-308-3775 phyllis@lakesfamilyres.com
 Todd Eklund Realtor 320-808-1005 todd@lakesfamilyres.com	 Scott Schauff Realtor 218-731-2813 sschauff@prtel.com	 Samuel Herzog Realtor 218-205-3573 samuelherzog@gmail.com	 Chad Landmann Realtor 218-731-28200 chad@lakesfamilyres.com	<p><b>SAME GREAT PEOPLE, SAME GREAT SERVICE</b></p> <p><b>ONE GREAT TEAM!</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.lakesfamilyres.com">www.lakesfamilyres.com</a></p> <p>1811 E. Fir Ave. • Fergus Falls • 218-739-4460</p>		

**Dave ERWIN CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

Lic. BC520694

**218-640-3713**

**Battle Lake, MN**

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

Dave Erwin Construction is a trusted and licensed contractor serving the Battle Lake, MN and surrounding area. We offer upscale construction services and unbeatable customer satisfaction.

Distinctive Homes. Distinctive Values



The 2nd annual "Fire and Ice" event was February 10 at the Lowell and Janet Schmidt cabin on Otter Tail Lake. The mild weather had come up short for many winter activities, but there was still enough winter for them to do some Minnesota things. With the help of a fire and some hot apple cider, they played some ice bocci ball, some boot hockey and had a puck toss competition. They had a fun day, but will still be looking forward to the soft water returning soon. Submitted by Lowell and Janet Schmidt

*Play Safely On The Water ... Watch Out For Others!*



**Service** *servicing you best!*  
FOOD MARKET

OPEN 7 Days A Week!

Cut to Order Meats Certified Angus Beef  
Seafood and Freshwater Fish  
Fresh Baked Bread and Cookies  
Fruit and Gift Baskets  
Party Trays Meat & Cheese, Fruit & Veggie

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

**FULL SERVICE GROCERY STORE • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED**  
Fergus Falls • 218-998-9000 | Perham • 218-346-7800

**Smart911**

**Plan ahead for any emergency**

Download the Smart911 App Today.

Available on the App Store and Google Play.

# MDA Reminds Minnesotans to Use Pesticides and Fertilizers with Care



Warm spring weather is here, and many Minnesotans are thinking about their lawns, trees, and gardens. Whether you do yardwork yourself or hire a professional, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) urges the safe use of pesticides and fertilizers on your property by following all label directions.

Pesticide and fertilizer labels specify how to use products safely and effectively. In Minnesota, it is unlawful to apply products without following label instructions. The label is the law.

If you hire a professional lawn care provider, do your homework. State law requires pesticide applicators to be licensed by the MDA to commercially apply pesticides and fertilizers, including weed and feed product. Applicators must know and understand state and federal regulations regarding all aspects of pesticide and fertilizer handling, application, and disposal to be licensed by the MDA. The following are helpful tips for a safe spring season.

### If you do it yourself: –

- Read and follow all label directions.
- Do not apply products in windy or adverse weather conditions. High wind can cause products to drift and potentially harm people, pets, or plants.
- Sweep sidewalks and hard surfaces of any dry or granular product and reapply to the intended site. Pesticides left on watertight surfaces easily wash into our water supply.
- Buy only what you need. Unused products must be stored according to the label. They can also lose effectiveness over time and be difficult to dispose of properly.

### If you hire a professional –

- Professionals must be licensed by the MDA and carry their pesticide applicator license with them. Ask to see their license before they start work. You can also look up license holders on the MDA website: [mda.state.mn.us/licensinglookup](http://mda.state.mn.us/licensinglookup). Search under “Fertilizer Companies with Commercial Pesticide Applicators” or “Pesticide Applicator/Manure License” with a “Commercial Pesticide Applicator – Turf and Ornamentals” license type.
- Be cautious of people who claim their products are completely safe or pressure you to sign a service contract.
- Recognize posted warning flags in areas that have been chemically treated.
- Applicators are required to provide an application record to you. Review the records, including products used and the amounts applied.
- Be sure the applicator sweeps the sidewalks and hard surfaces clean of any dry or granular products.

For information about applicator licenses, call the MDA at 651-201-6615. To report unlicensed applicators, please file a complaint on the MDA website or call 651-201-6333.

Consumers can call the Better Business Bureau at 651-699-1111 and check customer satisfaction histories for lawn care companies.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward.  
Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)



### Quality Forest Products

- Hardware - Tools
- Electrical - Plumbing
- Windows & Doors
- Millwork - Roofing
- Dock Systems
- Benjamin Moore Paint

218-864-5983  
[www.evertslumber.com](http://www.evertslumber.com)

205 Lake Ave S - Battle Lake  
M-F 7:30am-5:00pm and Sat. 7:30am-noon



# OTLPOA 2024 Membership Form

Check One:  **Property Owner Member** (Owners)  
 **Associate Member** (Does NOT Own or Shares)

Name of Property Owner Living at \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Property (This is the Blue House Number/Street of your lake home)

Home/Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Mailing Address (May 15-Aug. 30)

(Must be valid United States Postal deliverable address)

Home/Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Mailing Address (Sept. 1-May 15)

Home/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 (January-December)

- Membership ..... \$35.00
- Foundation ..... \$10.00
- Worm Payment..... \$30.00
- Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation ..... \$ **75.00**

### 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](http://www.OTLPOA.com) to pay by credit card (under 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 thin our Association can help?

# Lake Levels: Facts and Myths by Tom Kuder, OTLPOA Director, Otter Tail Lake



Exposed beach, Otter Tail Lake, November 2023 (Photo by Tom Kuder)

In Minnesota, people talk about the weather - a lot. And in our region, we also talk about the water level of our lakes - a lot. (Hint: They're related.)

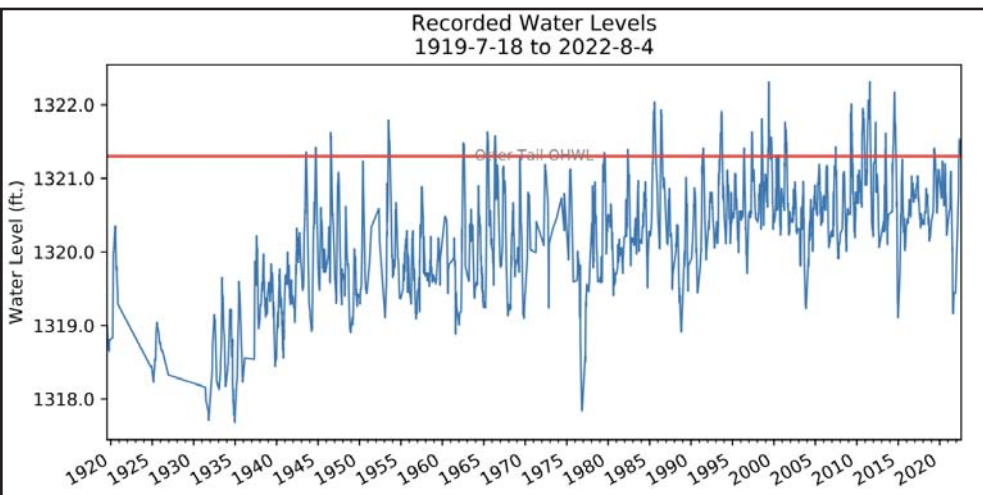
Low or high, local lake dwellers watch their shorelines closely!

It's no wonder that lake levels are a concern. When water's high, property owners deal with shore erosion and loss of beach access. When levels are low, residents face lake depths that can be too shallow for larger boats, difficulties at boat launches and docks, and increased exposure to hazards such as submerged rocks.

## Has it always been this way?

As 2024 begins, we're in a low water period. With diminished lake levels the past two to three years, there's a natural amount of concern, conversation - and grumbling - as well as a few misconceptions.

But actually, fluctuating lake levels have been a part of local lake life for decades, as many long-time property owners (and tracking charts) can attest.



Water levels 1919-2022, Otter Tail Lake (Credit: East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District)

So, why do our lake levels vary so much? It all comes down to two big factors: ecology and meteorology.

## Ecology: The Otter Tail River System –

Three bodies of water in our Association - Otter Tail Lake, Otter Tail River North, and Deer Lake - are part of the greater Otter Tail River ecosystem.

This system is fed by the Otter Tail River, which starts about 60 miles north of us at Elbow Lake, near Lake Itasca. The river flows south and west to the North Dakota border,

passing through more than twenty lakes and reservoirs and gathering more water along the way. From beginning to end, land elevations drop some 500 feet.



Otter Tail River System (Credit: Otter Tail Power Co.)

Each lake in this chain has a river inflow and an outflow, creating a connected system of water levels. No single lake stands by itself; they're all impacted by what happens upstream in the watershed.

## Changes in water flow –

As you might expect, incoming streams and local runoff generally mean that the amount of water flowing out of each lake is greater than the amount flowing in at the Otter Tail River's inlet. For most lakes in the chain, that's true. But, surprisingly, it's not true of Otter Tail Lake, where the outflow is actually significantly less than the inflow. (MN DNR)

How is that even possible? The answer is **evaporation**.

With nearly 14,000 acres of surface area, Otter Tail Lake experiences some serious evaporation - enough to actually reduce its outflow to less than what entered the lake upstream.

## The lake bottom factor –

Besides its large surface area, Otter Tail Lake's unique lake bottom also factors into evaporative water loss. Much of the lake's structure near shore consists of broad, shallow flats, which warm quickly in the sun and evaporate faster than deeper areas.

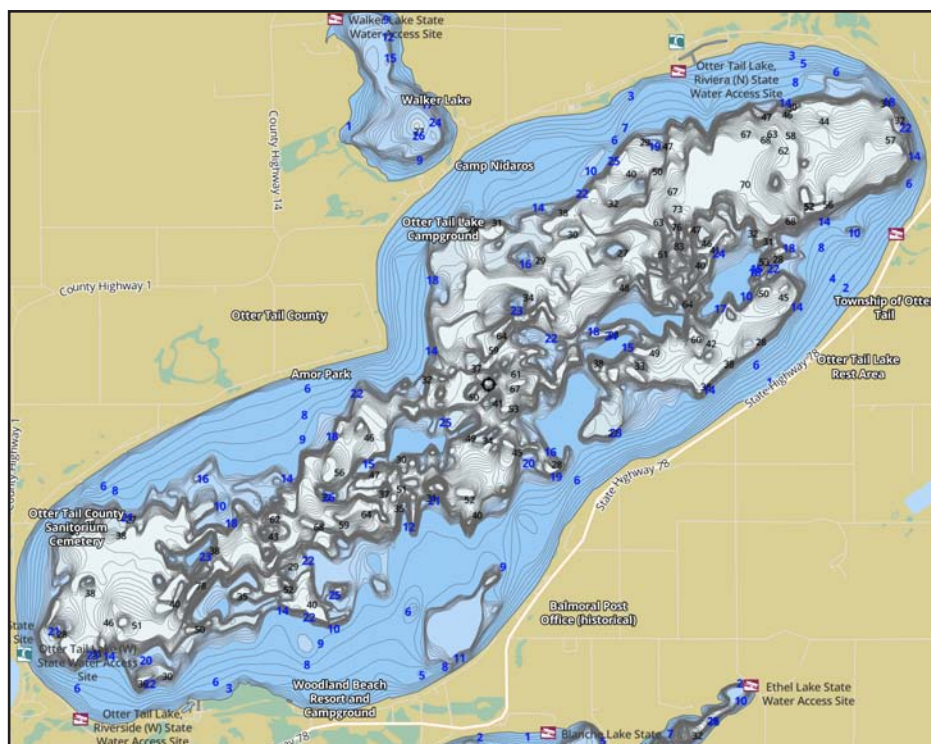
(see depth map on page nine)

These wide, shallow-sloping shorelines (often only two to three feet deep) can visibly exaggerate the effect of dropping water levels, exposing wide stretches of beach in late summer and fall even when water levels drop by only a small amount.

## Meteorology: Precipitation, Temperature, Wind –

The unique ecology and structure of our river ecosystem interacts with meteorology -





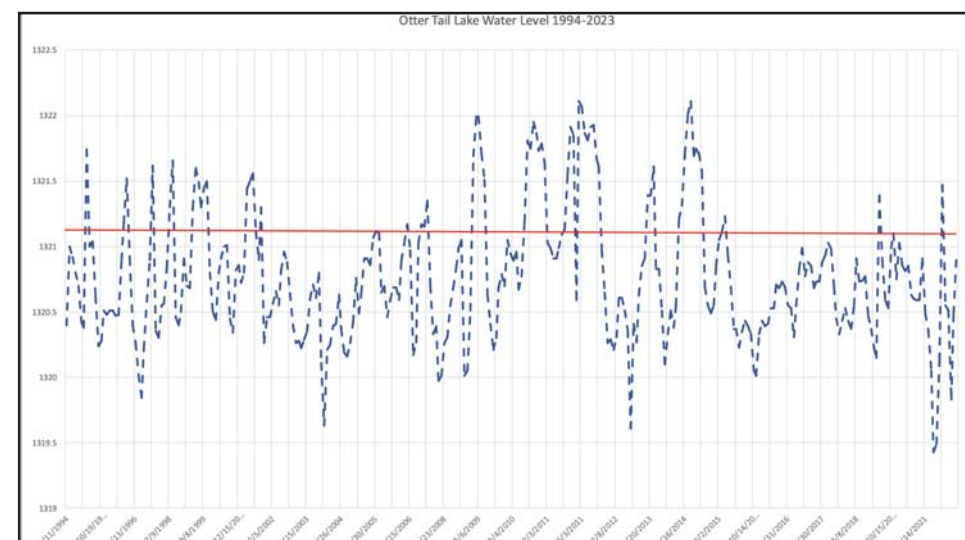
Otter Tail Lake Depth Map showing Shoreline flats. (Credit: GPS Nautical Charts)

to determine lake water levels each year.

### Precipitation –

Annual rain and snow greatly affect the amount of water being added (or lost) across the entire watershed.

In drier years, such as those we're experiencing now, lake levels along the entire chain drop. In the recent past, Otter Tail Lake saw notable low levels in 1976, 1989, 2004, 2013 and 2021 during periods of low precipitation. With extremely low snowfall this past winter, precipitation is likely to start out at a deficit in 2024.



Lake levels 1994-2023, Otter Tail Lake  
(Source: East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District)

### Temperature and wind –

To a lesser degree, higher summer temperatures and high winds have an effect on lake levels, too, by accelerating evaporation, particularly on larger waters such as Otter Tail Lake.

### Dispelling the Myths –

Although fluctuating lake levels have concerned property owners for many generations, and are a direct result of our region's ecology and meteorology, it's human nature to wonder if other factors might be at play. Unfortunately, this can result in some misleading myths about how our lake levels - and our lives - are affected.

### Myth: Anything Goes On The Lake –

Being a lake property owner doesn't mean that any and all lake uses will be supported by our ecosystem.

Residents years ago experienced the same periodic low water levels as we have in more modern times - but their boats and motors were a lot smaller, so it affected them less. Today's deep-draft boats and motors with hundreds of horsepower can be fun, but in some years they simply may not be compatible with our variable-level lakes.

### Myth: Dams Are At Fault –

The Minnesota DNR has installed a number of outlet dams along the Otter Tail River. Each of these dams controls the flow at a set elevation for that lake, called the "Design Runout." When water is high, more water runs out. When water is low, less outflow occurs.

Some dams have a "Low Flow Opening" to allow a small amount of water to flow even if the lake has dropped below the set level of the dam.

Dams have actually helped smooth out the periodic fluctuations in water levels, while ensuring continued flow for downstream property for downstream property owners and cities.

### Myth: Dam Control Gates Would Be Better –

Some earlier models of the DNR dams had gates that could be closed to retain more water. Otter Tail Lake, for example, had a control gate at its outlet until that dam was replaced in 1993.

Unfortunately, retaining more water in one lake by using a control gate, means less water will flow downstream to the next lake. We're all enjoying the same connected chain of lakes, so who's to say which lake's level is more important than another's?

### Myth: The New Rock Ramps Will Empty The Lakes –

In 2023, several dams along the Otter Tail River were modified to incorporate rock ramps. The ramps restore natural fish migration, eliminate dangerous safety issues of the Low Flow Openings, and reduce dam maintenance costs. They also look and sound more appealing!



Otter Tail Lake Outlet Dam and Rock Ramp, December 2023 (Photo by Tom Kuder)

Some lake residents have wondered if these modifications will be "free flowing," causing the lakes above them to drain faster. In reality, the ramps were engineered and built with precise GPS and elevation tools to maintain the same flow and level controls of the pre-existing dams. As an example, at the Otter Tail Lake outlet, the bulk of the pre-existing concrete dam is still in place, at the same level as before the rock ramp was installed.

### The (Lake) Bottom Line –

Fluctuating lake levels are a fact of life in our OTLPOA region.

As with many aspects of lake property ownership, the benefits we enjoy are subject to the influence of the natural world around us. The more we know about how that world operates, the better we can be in tune with it.

The Otter Tail River and its chain of lakes are a vital resource for which we are the current stewards. As we care for this natural asset, let's celebrate the beauty of the ever-changing waters around us, no matter what their level.

# Swimmer's Itch ...

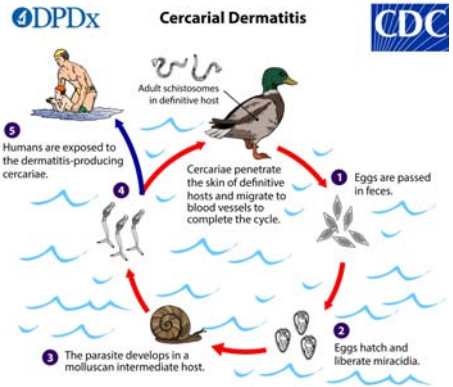
**What is Swimmer's Itch?** Swimmer's itch is a **temporary skin rash** that is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that are carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals, and snails. As a part of their life cycle, these parasites are released by infected snails into the water, where they may come in contact with people and burrow into their skin.



The good news is the organism that causes swimmer's itch cannot complete its life history in the human body. Your body's immune system detects it as a foreign protein, then attacks and kills it shortly after it penetrates your skin. The itching and **welts are not caused by the organism living under your skin, but by an allergic reaction.**

Not everyone is sensitive to swimmer's itch. Some people show no symptoms of swimmer's itch even though others swimming at the same time and place break out severely. Much like poison ivy, however, your sensitivity to swimmer's itch will increase with each exposure. There are several over the counter remedies your pharmacist can recommend to help relieve the discomfort, but see your physician for a definitive diagnosis.

**Where does it come from?** The organism that causes swimmer's itch has a complicated life history.



- It starts out as a worm (parasite) in the intestinal lining of aquatic birds and mammals (host).
- The worms lay eggs inside the the host animal.
- The eggs are eliminated by the host and drop to the bottom of the lake.
- Then the eggs hatch into miracidia that swim around in the water until they find a snail.
- Once they find a snail, they live inside them and develop into cercariae.
- The snails then release the cercariae back into the water where they look for another host - aquatic birds, mammals or humans.
- When the cercariae find a potential host, they burrow into the host's skin.
- If the host is suitable, the life cycle starts all over again.

- Humans are not a suitable host and the cercariae die after penetrating the skin.

Swimmer's itch is not spread from person to person.

**Reducing the odds of getting swimmer's itch** – The cercariae only live for a day or so and typically swim around in the upper few inches of lake water. This increases their chances of coming into contact with a duck. Once the cercariae is in the duck, it easily moves around the lake as a parasite, and ultimately along the shoreline.

There are actions you can take to help reduce your odds of getting swimmer's itch.

- **Keep waterfowl away from your dock and shoreline.** If you are feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock, stop. If ducks like to rest on your dock, do what you can to discourage them. You can try putting an owl wind sock or statue on your dock and move it around occasionally so the ducks don't become accustomed to it.
- **Stay out of the water by the shore.** The swimmer's itch organism may originate somewhere else in the lake and is being brought to your shoreline by wave action or currents. You may want to try swimming from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria. Of course, this strategy may not be practical if you don't swim or have young children who want to play in the water near shore.
- **Apply a water repellent substance** such as petroleum jelly, waterproof sunscreen or other skin oils to reduce the ability of the Cercariae from penetrating the skin.
- **Dry off with a towel as soon as you get out of the water.** When you get out of the lake, **don't let the water evaporate off your skin.** The organism in the droplets of water on your skin will look for somewhere to go as the droplet of water evaporates.

**If all else fails...** Copper sulfate may be used to kill the snails which are an intermediate host of the parasite.

- Lake shore property owners **MUST** get a permit from the DNR to use copper sulfate.
- The copper sulfate will only kill the snails present at the time of application, any snails which enter the area afterwards will not be affected.
- Copper sulfate may only be temporary and will require more than one treatment.
- Usually only a small percent of the snails in a lake carry the infection, and they may not be the ones around your dock.

**More information** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: [www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html)




# Lakes Area Church Directory

## ~ Baptist ~

**Basswood Baptist Church BGC**   
 38188 340th St., Richville 218-495-3771  
 Bert Holmquist, Pastor 218-4953800  
**Sundays** – Sunday School 9:30 a.m., refreshments following  
 Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
 Potluck Dinner (2nd Sunday)  
**Wednesdays** – Bible Study, Youth Group and Kids Club 7 p.m.  
**Thursdays (third)** – Ladies' Bible Study  
**Saturdays (first)** – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.


**First Baptist Church**  
 An American Baptist Church  
 "Little Brown Church on the Hill"  
 121 Lake Ave. N., Battle Lake 218-864-5319  
[www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org](http://www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org)  
**Sundays** – Worship services 9:30 a.m.


## ~ C & M Alliance ~


**Battle Lake Alliance Church**   
 401 W. Gilbertson St. 218-864-5539  
 Derek Mansker, Pastor [www.battlelake.org](http://www.battlelake.org)  
**Sundays** – Sunday School 9 a.m.  
 Worship Service 10 a.m. or online  
**Wednesdays** – Kids 4 Truth Youth with meal 5:20 p.m.  
 Club 6-7:30 p.m.

## ~ Catholic ~

**St. James, St. Edwards and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Churches** Father LeRoy Schik 218-864-5619

**St. James Catholic (Maine)** -   
 32009 Cty. Hwy. 74, Underwood  
**Mass** – Saturdays 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.  
**Confessions** – Saturdays 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.  
**Faith Formation** – Saturdays 6:30 p.m.  
**Holy Hour** – Wednesdays 8 a.m.

**St. Edwards Catholic Church**  
 201 Douglas Ave., Henning   
**Mass** – Sundays 8:30 a.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.  
**Confessions** – Sundays 8 a.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** – Friday 9-10 a.m.


**Our Lady of the Lake Catholic** -   
 407 N. Lake Ave., Battle Lake  
**Mass** – Sundays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.  
**Sunday School** – Sundays 9:15 a.m.  
**Confessions** – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** – Thursdays 9-10 a.m.

– Parish Notes –  
**Battle Lake Good Samaritan Center** – Rosary Mondays 3:15 p.m. and Mass Tuesdays 3:15 p.m.

## ~ Lutheran ~


**Bethel Lutheran Church**   
 Battle Lake Campus - 21744 State Hwy. 78, Battle Lake  
 Pastor Nick Laven Visit [bethellutheran.church](http://bethellutheran.church)  
**Sundays** – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship service 10:30 a.m.

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**   
 Lynn Melchior, Pastor  
 505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake - 218-864-5686  
**Thursdays** – TOPS 8 a.m.  
**Sundays** – Worship 10 a.m. with Communion 1st and 4th  
 Coffee Fellowship 11 a.m.  
**Mondays** – Quilters 9 a.m.  
**Wednesdays** – WAFL and Confirmation


**SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH**   
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor  
[www.SverdrupLutheran.org](http://www.SverdrupLutheran.org)  
 209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood 218-8826-6919  
**Sundays** – Worship 9 a.m.

**TINGVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 218-826-6487  
 2801 Cty. Rd. 35, Underwood  
**Sundays** – Worship: Sept.-May 11 a.m., June-Aug. 10:30 a.m.

## ~ Lutheran ~

**ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR**   
[office@zionamor.org](mailto:office@zionamor.org) [www.zionamor.org](http://www.zionamor.org)  
 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake 218-495-2563  
 Doug Stave, Interim Pastor  
**Sundays** – Sunday School and Confirmation 8:45 a.m.  
 Worship 10 a.m. (Traditional with Communion 1st, 3rd and 5th; Contemporary 2nd/4th); Fellowship following.  
**Mondays** – Quilting 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Tuesdays** – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon  
**Wednesdays** – Praise Team 4 p.m.; Choir 5:15 p.m.

## ~ Methodist ~

**Ottertail United Methodist Church**   
 104 Shores Drive, Ottertail 218-367-2270  
 Ricardo Alcoser, Pastor  
**Sunday** – Worship 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship following.

**Richville United Methodist Church**  
 130 SW 1st Ave., Richville Rod Turnquist, Pastor  
**Sundays** – Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Coffee Fellowship following (2nd and 4th Sundays).  
**Wednesdays** – School 6 p.m.

## ~ Presbyterian ~

**Maine Presbyterian Church**   
 Bob Kersten, Pastor  
 30761 Co. Hwy. 45 Underwood - 218-495-2539  
[www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org](http://www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org)  
**Sunday Worship** – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May 10 a.m. Coffee following worship.

# Art of the Lakes Builds Community Through Art



*New Creative Arts Center Established for Residents and Visitors*  
by Kristi Kuder

For over 50 years, Art of the Lakes has sponsored the visual arts in the community surrounding Battle Lake. Now the organization has launched a new quest: to reach and benefit even more people through the power of art.

Leveraging their recent \$100,000 Blandin Grant, Art of the Lakes has signed a lease for its new Creative Arts Center in Battle Lake. The Creative Arts Center, housed the former First Lutheran Church building at 112 Main, allows Art of the Lakes to grow beyond their current visual arts footprint to add experiences in performance, digital media, culinary arts and more.

“Our existing art gallery and events have been a vital part of Battle Lake’s quality of life,” said Kristi Swee Kuder, President of Art of the Lakes Association. “With this expansion, we’re able to broaden our vision of what art is all about, and serve even more people in the community.”

Art of the Lakes builds community in Battle Lake and Otter Tail County in several ways. In 2018, MN Citizens for the Arts reported that, “the total annual economic impact of Otter Tail County’s non-profit arts and cultural organizations, their audiences, and its artists and creative workers is \$6.9 million.” Art of the Lakes is an expanding part of that impact. “With our growing series of programs, we expect to draw even more visitors - and their pocketbooks - to the community,” said Kuder.

With over 120 local artists, Art of the Lakes gives creatives a platform to showcase their talents, while also bringing more art into the Battle Lake community. This support helps

artists gain recognition and income, making their careers more sustainable.

Together, arts and culture can revitalize and reshape a community. Art of the Lakes’ contributions to the arts make the region more vibrant and attractive, drawing in visitors and residents who are proud to call it home.

Art of the Lakes Association, a Minnesota-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, is a member-driven group that celebrates creativity, helps artists succeed, and contributes to community growth through the arts.



### May Happenings at the...



Creative Arts Center

- May 13th @ 6pm - Life Drawing
- May 14th @ 7pm - Roxy Movie Night “Rear Window”
- May 19th @ 1pm - Plant a Barn Quilt
- May 20th @ 6:30pm - Planting for Pollinators

Register at [artofthelakes.org](http://artofthelakes.org)

Summer CAC Hours Summer Gallery Hours

- Wed-Sat: 9am-12:30pm
- Wed-Thur: 3pm-8pm
- Mon-Wed: 10am-5pm
- Thurs-Sat: 10am-8pm
- Sun: 10am-4pm

**301 MN Hwy. 78 • Ottertail, MN 56571**  
**3 Bedrooms • 3 Baths • 2,280 sq. ft. • .47 acres**



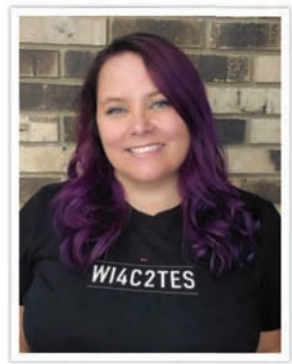
**Call Beth for private showing!**



**kww KELLERWILLIAMS.**  
CLASSIC REALTY NW  
INDIVIDUALLY OWNED & OPERATED



**Beth Madson, Realtor**  
ottertailbeth@gmail.com  
320-808-6492



**Kara, Realtor**

**Call Beth for specific pricing and spec sheet!**



## Got Storage? Own Your Own Storage Building!

**3 Sizes: 32x40x14 • 36x54x14 • 32x80x14**

Includes:

- Reinforced Concrete Floors
- Basic Electric
- Low Association Fees

Upgrades Available:

- Insulation Package
- Electric upgrades
- Garage Door Opener

**CONVENIENT LOCATION: 29474 CO. HWY. 5/HWY. 78 NEAR OTTERTAIL, MN**

# - Land Transfers (January 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024) -

PDF_Name	Description	DNR_Code	Sale_Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale_Amount	Description
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	4/25/24	MYKLESTAD LIVING TST	STEVEN & LISA YOUNG	325,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	56024200	3/25/24	DEBRA J BOYER	BRADLEY & ANGELA CONZEMIUS	360,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	3/1/24	CAITLIN A HEMQUIST	THOMAS & CHARLOTTE SCHULER	1,096,000	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	1/29/24	SCOTT AHLERS ET AL	RYAN AMUNDSON	365,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	1/29/24	SCOTT AHLERS ET AL	RYAN AMUNDSON	365,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	4/11/24	DUANE & MARY GUBRUD TST	SCOTT & KELLEY HELEY	450,000	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	56023900	4/5/24	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	BRIAN & KIM JENC	60,000	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560201 - LONG(OTCITY & TWP)-FF	56020100	3/8/24	JACK E JOHNSON	KURTIS & KATHLEEN PESCH	70,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	56021000	2/29/24	JOSEPH J & KRISTI HAMMERS	MOORETON DOGHOUSE LLC	130,000	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	004712 - OTTERTAIL RIVER(OT)-F		4/15/24	BLUE LIBELLE PROPERTIES LLC	RYAN DAY	474,900	Residential

## 10 Small Reasons For Keeping Your Dog On A Leash!



Fenced backyards and leash-free dog parks provide space for dogs to run wild and let out their inner racehorses. But on the street and other public places, it's safer to keep them leashed. Here's why:

- 1. Cars** – It's a devastating moment for all involved when a dog gets hit by a moving vehicle. Even well-behaved dogs may suddenly run in the path of a moving car or not be seen by someone backing up in a parking lot. Parking lots, sidewalks, and roadside excursions are safer with a leash.
- 2. Greetings and Salutations** – When your pup is leashed and greets another leashed pup, the dogs are usually on good behavior. They know their people are close, and they'll sniff to say "hi." If there's a hint of aggression, you can quickly pull your dog away and defuse the situation.
- 3. Staying Cleaner** – If you've ever let your dog run loose in a park or other open space, only to watch in pain as they chased ducks into the muddy lake, then you know what we mean. No one really wants the extra chore of spontaneous bath time with their pooch.
- 4. Preventing Jumping on Others** – Have you ever been at a park (not a dog park, a regular people park) and someone's off-leash dog terrorizes a toddler eating an ice cream? It's not that the dog is trying to scare the kid, but can you see how a 3-

- foot-tall person waving about a popsicle just out of reach of the dog's face can seem like a game to the one with the wagging tail? No one is making friends with this.
- 5. Loss Prevention** – Dogs who accompany their people on leashes are less likely to get lost. For example, you can stop your dog from chasing after a cat. They won't go on solo exploratory missions, and you'll know exactly where they are and what they're doing.
  - 6. Preventing Them from Eating Something They Shouldn't** – Garbage, offerings from strangers, and non-edibles: we all know dogs explore the world with their mouths, and some of them are very food-oriented. Eating things they shouldn't can lead to upset tummies and worse.
  - 7. No Accidental Puppies** - Not every animal is spayed or neutered, and if a pup gets out of the house and meets up with another animal in heat, well, it doesn't take long for new puppies to be on the way.
  - 8. Prevents the Spread of Disease** – Some dogs like to eat other animals' "leavings," and those can carry disease. Such dining is less likely to happen if your pet is leashed.
  - 9. Marks Them as a Pet** – Well-trained dogs are a pleasure to walk on the leash, and it identifies them as your pet. Well-behaved dogs with identification are easier to reunite if you somehow get separated.
  - 10. It's the Law** – In most places, leash laws are in effect for the safety of your dog and those around them. This can be the most compelling reason to leash your dog; it's simply required!

Our dogs come to us understanding doggie codes, but they look to us for training and expectations for happily living with people. It's our role to teach them how to walk on a leash and guide them to other means of pleasant co-existing. This National Walk Your Pet Month, keep your dog on a leash when you're in public places. It offers you more control, and your dog feels more confident knowing you're right there.

## Report Anything Not In The Right Place To Authorities!

### SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

Unattended briefcases or bags may simply be forgotten or discarded items – but it's better to be safe than sorry. **Don't be afraid to report any of the following:**

- Bags, boxes or other packages left unattended on buses and trains, in stations, on platforms or on train tracks—especially if partially hidden or in unusual locations.
- Exposed wiring, leaks, strange smells or other signs of potential tampering on buses and trains.
- Suspicious carry-on items such as large backpacks, gym bags and luggage weighing more than normal.



#### If You Observe Suspicious Objects:

- ❖ **DO NOT** touch or move any suspicious objects
- ❖ **DO NOT** use a cell phone or radio in the direct vicinity
- ❖ **DO** evacuate the area to a safe distance
- ❖ **DO** notify appropriate authorities as soon as possible

### SAY SOMETHING?

(Who to tell)

Once you **see something**, how do you **say something**? Below are helpful hints on how to report it – it could save your life.

#### Describing "Something Suspicious"

Tell the authorities who, when and where you saw something, and specifically what you saw. Be sure to note the number of the bus or train, or name of the transit station. Explain why you thought there was cause for suspicion.

#### Tell...

- POLICE OR SECURITY OFFICER
- EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
- TRANSIT DRIVERS
- CALL 9-1-1 IF NO ONE IS AVAILABLE.

## What is Forest Tent Caterpillar?

The forest tent caterpillar is a Minnesota native that feeds on (defoliates) the leaves of various hardwood trees and shrubs, including aspen, birch, basswood, and oak.



Forest tent caterpillars are often mistakenly called armyworms because they congregate in groups to feed. Despite the common name of tent caterpillar, they do not make tents or webs but make silk mats they rest on during molting.

Forest tent caterpillar population outbreaks happen every 10-16 years and may last two to four years. When there is a large outbreak, thousands of caterpillars congregate on trees and buildings from late May to mid-June, defoliating trees and creating a nuisance, making outdoor activities unpleasant and sometimes causing slippery conditions as caterpillars migrate across roads.

According to normal predictions, an outbreak of forest tent caterpillars was expected beginning in 2013. There was a relatively small population increase in 2013, but it didn't become what is usually considered an outbreak. Based on forest tent caterpillar population dynamics, the next population peak may occur between 2023 and 2029 (assuming a true population peak occurred in 2013). Find detailed accounts of damaged acres in the Forest Health Annual Reports. In the last 120 years, populations peaked in 1891, 1898, 1912, 1922, 1937, 1952, 1969, 1978, 1990 and 2001. In 2001, more than 7.5 million acres of hardwoods were defoliated, the most ever recorded in Minnesota.

**Egg masses:** Adult moths lay small brown egg masses that wrap around twigs.



**Caterpillar:** Larvae hatch from egg masses in early to mid-May, about the time aspen leaves are beginning to open. The larva has

blue stripes along the sides of its dark, hairy body. Its most identifiable characteristic is the white key-hole or footprint-shaped spots along the back of its body. Mature caterpillars grow to 2 to 2½ inches.

**Cocoon:** Mature caterpillars spin whitish silk cocoons attached to vegetation, buildings, and other stationary objects from early to late June.



**Adult:** Adult moths are small and tan. They can be attracted to lights in large numbers in mid-July.



**Forests:** In forests managed for timber and pulp production approaching typical rotation age, forest managers are encouraged to consider regenerating stands defoliated for three or more years in a row by forest tent caterpillar. By doing this, managers will salvage the value of timber that would otherwise die with additional defoliation or stress such as drought.

Defoliation from forest tent caterpillar usually causes little damage to healthy, vigorous trees, as most hardwood trees develop a second set of leaves by mid-July. Trees suffering drought stress, root damage, or are over-mature might be killed, but this allows other tree species to grow that are better adapted to the site.

**Yard trees:** The upside of forest tent caterpillar outbreaks is that natural enemies and other natural factors eventually control large populations.

- Starvation is the biggest reason outbreaks come to an end. After a year or two of buildup, the caterpillar population needs more foliage than is available. Starvation typically kills up to 95 percent of the caterpillars during the final year of an outbreak.

(continued on page 16 ... Forest Tent Caterpillar)

# WE'RE YOUR NEIGHBOR AT THE LAKE!

Lake Area  
Docks & Lifts

SHOREMASTER

FERGUS FALLS, MN | 23156 COUNTY HWY 1 | 218-998-5400

BATTLE LAKE, MN | 106 MEMORY LANE HWY 210 W | 218-862-3625

PELICAN RAPIDS, MN | 1200 NORTH BROADWAY HWY 59 | 218-863-1833

Lakeareadocks.com



Developed by the DNR in the late 40s and early 50s as a fish rearing pond that refused to hold water, the land instead has been enjoyed by families and wildlife for generations.

When the DNR scheduled this piece of land for public auction, the Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association stepped forward with an alternate plan. The association in conjunction with West Central Initiative raised \$90,000 to help the Otter Tail Water Management District purchase the land from the DNR and maintain it as it currently exists through volunteer support.

The dedication for the trail was May 29, 2021 with cooperative effort between a Rearing Pond citizens group, OTLPOA, Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners, WCI, OT Water Management District and Mn DNR.

*These conservation lands and trails were donated to the Otter Tail Water Management District by concerned citizens and wildlife organizations dedicated to preserving our water quality and wetlands for use by future generations. We hope you enjoy these beautiful trails and all that nature has to offer. Submitted by Mary Jo Wentz*

### Check Out The Rearing Pond Trails

Nestled between Otter Tail and Blanche Lakes, the 58 acres of wood and paths known informally as Rearing Pond Trail have been an oasis for residents and visitors of the area.



# Coming June!

## 2022 Lakeshore Directory



Preserve Your Lake Property  
**Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.**

... representing ...  
**Blanche Lake, Deer Lake, Long Lake, Otter Tail Lake, Otter Tail River North, Pelican Bay, Round Lake and Walker Lake**

### If you would like to advertise in the New 2024 Lakeshore Directory!

Contact Ed today at 651-270-3991 or [publisher@battlelakereview.com](mailto:publisher@battlelakereview.com)



# Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. YOU CAN!



## Subscribe to Smart911

Smart911 is an important countywide service designed to enhance your personal and family emergency preparedness. Signing up for Smart911 allows you to:

- 1. Opt-in** to receive location-based severe weather and local emergency alerts by phone call, text, and/or email.
- 2. Create a Safety Profile** that contains your family's critical care information. Your Safety Profile will appear on the 9-1-1 Dispatcher's screen when you make an emergency call, and will help emergency responders find and help you faster and more efficiently when you need it most.

Fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical responders throughout Otter Tail County join the county in urging you to sign up for Smart911 as a part of your family's emergency plan!

Check out the short video on the website for details on how to sign up.



### Information in Your Safety Profile

## Identifying Smart911 Emergency Alerts

Knowing when you receive an emergency alert from Smart911 is quick and easy. Look for the following information on each device.

### Telephone:

Weather & other emergency alerts sent by Otter Tail County will show the caller ID as 218-998-8067. Caller ID numbers for alerts sent by local communities are set by the city, though will always include the area code 218 and 3-digit prefix for the community.

### Text:

Text messages will be received from one of the following "shortcodes" depending upon your service provider: 226787, 67283, 77295, 78015, 81437. The introductory message will include the community name and "Alert." (Ex. Otter Tail Alert)

### Email:

Emails will be sent from a local email address, specific to the community sending the alert. The sender name will appear as the community name followed by "Alert." (Ex. Otter Tail Alert)

## Download the Smart911 App

Want to receive alerts for your current location? Download the Smart911 Mobile Alert app to receive free emergency alerts directly to your phone no matter your location\*. In addition, you will have direct access to your Safety Profile to easily recall and update important medical, vehicle, and other personal information.

\* Your device's GPS/Location feature must be turned on.

To download the app, look for the Smart911 logo in the App Store or Google Play.



## • Service Ads •

To place your ad, contact Ed Pawlenty at 651-270-3991 or publisher@battlelakereview.com

**BOLL REALTY** CELEBRATING 49 YEARS IN BUSINESS

217 MN HIGHWAY 78 N., OTTERTAIL, MN 56571

"LAKE HOMES, CABINS, LAND, HUNTING & COMMERCIAL... WE DO IT ALL"

218-367-2716

BOLL@ARVIG.NET WWW.BOLLREALTY.COM

Open 7 DAYS A WEEK

**Dah's Decorating & Restoration**

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

218-481-4654

"Quality and Professional Service"

- Painting • Staining • Repairs • Decks
- Log Homes • Custom Finishes • Drywall
- Texture • Wallpaper Removal

Lic. BC520694

**Dave ERWIN CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

218-640-3713

Battle Lake, MN

www.daveerwinconstruction.com

Dave Erwin Construction is a trusted and licensed contractor serving the Battle Lake, MN and surrounding area. We offer upscale construction services and unbeatable customer satisfaction.

*Distinctive Homes. Distinctive Values*

Ask the Experts at Esser!

**ESSER** AIRESERV. HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Plumbing & Heating a neighborly company

218.346.3530 | 218.346.2138

EsserPlumbingandHeating.com

**BUDKE SERVICES**

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

- ✓ Shrub Replacement
- ✓ Shrub Pruning
- ✓ Flowerbed Design
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Grass Seeding
- ✓ Lawn Mowing
- ✓ Paver Patio Repair
- ✓ Skid Steer
- ✓ Retaining Walls

218-770-7065

## ? Most Asked Questions ?

1. Does it matter if I use capital letters in my email address? No, it does not matter. Email address read capital and lower case letters the same.
2. Can I have notices from OTLPOA sent to a second email address? Sorry but we can only store one email address per member at this time.

## Know What's Below Know The Color Codes

**811**

- White: Proposed Excavation
- Yellow: Natural Gas
- Pink: Survey Markings
- Red: Electric
- Orange: Cable, Internet, Phone
- Blue: Water
- Green: Sewer
- Purple: Reclaimed Water

# Forest Tent Caterpillar (continued from page 13) –

## Yard Trees ...

• A native fly (called the "friendly" fly because of its persistent habit of landing on people) becomes common in the environment as it parasitizes forest tent caterpillar cocoons. It strongly resembles a large house fly.

- The caterpillars are a food source for birds, rodents, and other animals.
- Bacteria and viruses that attack caterpillars help to knock down populations as they reach their peak.

Weather also plays a role in knocking down young populations of forest tent caterpillar. Late spring frosts that kill the first flush of leaves cause tiny caterpillars to starve. Cool, wet spring weather slows down caterpillar development and makes disease transmission easier.

Because of the natural ebb and flow of forest tent caterpillar populations, the DNR does not use insecticides to control large populations. Changes in forest dynamics and regeneration patterns have been linked to large outbreaks, and it is likely the forests we see in our state today are the result of periodic forest tent caterpillar outbreaks happening for thousands of years.

That said, if you want to reduce the numbers of forest tent caterpillars in your own yard, try these methods:

- **Brush** caterpillars and cocoons off houses, picnic tables, or decks with a stiff broom or brush or knock them down with a forceful spray of water.
- **Turn off outside lights** to avoid attracting adult moths. This may help reduce the number of egg masses laid on nearby trees.

**Insecticide Use:** Forest tent caterpillars rarely cause severe damage to trees, and the forest does not normally need the protection of pesticides. However, for some landown-

ers such as resort owners, applications of an insecticide to control the caterpillars may be an option to consider. Private landowners may want to protect trees from defoliation, preserve trees' appearance, or provide nuisance control. Insecticide treatments only reduce caterpillar numbers and defoliation during May and June when the caterpillars are active; there is no effect on next year's population because moths from outside the treated area can enter and lay eggs. For detailed information on pesticide choices, see Forest tent caterpillars, UMN Extension opens in a new browser tab.

## OTLPOA Sprayer is West Central Ag-Air Inc., Fergus Falls –

Sometimes mistakenly called army worms, Forest Tent Caterpillar have become a nuisance to land owners throughout Minnesota.

## West Central Ag-Air can apply a microbial pesticide for control of these pests.

The pesticide contains the spores and endotoxin of a soil born bacteria called Bacillus Thuringiensis. (Commonly abbreviated as Bt.) Bt only has effect on caterpillar species and has been in use for decades for caterpillar control throughout the United States and Canada. The commercial name of the product that we use is called Foray 48B.

## Remember

- One spray area representative must call or email me as soon as the caterpillars are 1/2 inch long.
- Actual spray date/time will depend on pest stage and weather.
- We do not spray caterpillars on the weekends or holidays.
- Weather effects on Foray applications.



For more information, see their website: [scentralagair.com/forest-tent-caterpillar](http://scentralagair.com/forest-tent-caterpillar)

**Call or email Ryan today for how to get your area sprayed.**

**Office: 218-736-7220 • Cell: 218-770-0130 • Email: [wcagair@live.com](mailto:wcagair@live.com)**

**Fergus HOME & HARDWARE**  
WE ARE YOUR HOMETOWN HOME CENTER!  
1005 N. Tower Rd. • Fergus Falls, MN, 56537



Appliances & Service  
Cabinets/Counter Tops  
Flooring • Fireplaces  
Hardware • Lighting  
Furniture • Mattresses  
Paint & Supplies  
Pet & Farm  
Grills/Smokers • Skate Shop  
Window Treatments & More!

**We offer Curbside, Pick Up, Walk-ins and Delivery Services**

**HARDWARE** **GRILLS**

**FURNITURE** **APPLIANCES**

**FLOORING**

**218-998-5070**  
Shop online: [www.fergushh.com](http://www.fergushh.com)

*Real Quality!  
Real Service!  
Real Values!*

**• IMPORTANT NOTES •**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect your social security number when you apply for a non-commercial hunting or fishing license.

License prices listed do not include any additional fees or the \$1 agent fee.

Commercial licenses applications require a Federal Employer Identification number, Minnesota Tax Identification number or Social Security Number. Commercial licenses are issued at the DNR license center.

**Share Your Memories At The Lake!**



Submit your photos to [blreview@arvig.net](mailto:blreview@arvig.net)

note in subject line OTLPOA Lakeshore News Photos and include a brief description, when and by who!