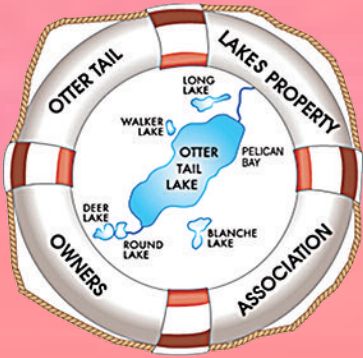
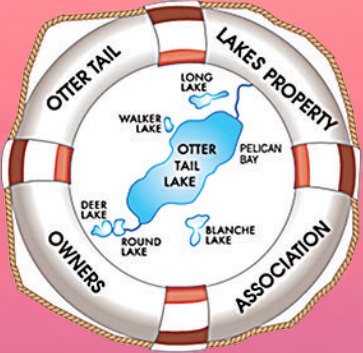


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The Official Newspaper of
 Otter Tail Lakes
 Property Owners
 Association



Volume 54 - No. 5
 – June 2024 –



Lakeshore News



Catching Fish Is Fun!

Last weekend my grandson took advantage of the nice weather and enjoyed decent fishing off the docks on Deer Lake. He was thrilled to have kept a few Crappies to supply supper. A bonus in the action was landing a couple Bass which were promptly returned to the lake, while his dad enjoyed casting his flyrod and the action that accompanied it. Nothing beats seeing the excitement on kids' faces when they are catching fish. Spring and early Summer dock fishing is very good, so don't pass that up in the rush to get out on the water. Tight lines. Submitted by OTLPOA Vice President Mark Long

Friendly Visitors!



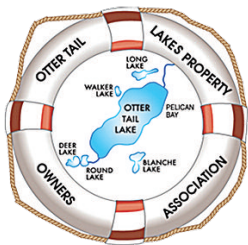
Visiting Otter Tail Lake Director Duane Hanson's place were these fawns.

OTLPOA Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 8
at 6 p.m. at Thumper Pond

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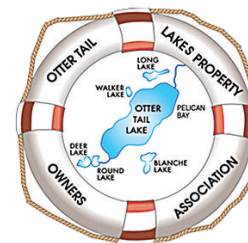
Sunset photo submitted by Tom Kuder, OTL Director



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 54 - No. 5 • June 2024 • Battle Lake, MN • Website: OTLPOA.com



Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (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 Board of Directors –

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- Vice President –**
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- Long Lake Directors –**
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- Round Lake Directors –**
Steve MouritsenSteve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927

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- Secretary –**
Becky Kemling (Otter Tail River N)beckykemling@msn.com - 218-371-9095

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Jerame Tysdalotproperties@arvig.net

– OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –



Welcome to Summer everyone!

I really would like to thank all you members who support the

OTLPOA. Without your support for our lakes, we might not have these beautiful resources available for us and our guests.

This month I would like to touch base on membership comments that we have received this year. These comments, concerns and remarks help us improve our association and lakes. The old saying is even negative press can be good for an organization.

We received several comments about the lake level being so low and what is being done to keep it up. Evaporation is a huge contributor when you have the 10th largest lake in Minnesota. However, rain is usually our friend and so far, this year we have received a good amount of it. Other comments are about swimmers itch, dogs running off leashes and VRBO rentals along with spraying for the Forest Tent Caterpillars. Unfortunately,

swimmers itch is currently not controllable; and as much as I wish I could prevent it, I can't as it's due to a parasite. VRBO concerns should be taken up with the county and are currently under discussion by the county commissioners. It looks like we aren't going to see many of the caterpillars this year from what I am hearing from our pilot.

These are all concerns of the board of directors also. Rest assured; we are working on all these items to make our lakes a better place for not only our residents but for our guests.

OTPOA Directories will be mailed out in the month of July so look for those in your mailbox. This is a new move for 2024, as we typically used to hand deliver them. If you do not receive one in the mail, we will have a drop off site at Lakeside Plumbing & Heating, 26720 MN-78, Battle Lake, MN just right off Highway 78.

We appreciate it when our members spread the word about OTLPOA and ask their friends to become members and get involved. Thank you for helping to grow our organization!

Enjoy our beautiful resource and have a fantastic summer on the lakes!

– Water Testing On Our Lakes –



First water testing was May 19 with the Clarity of our Lakes at ...

- Blanche 16 ft. (pictured)
- Otter Tail 221 ft.
- Deer Lake 14 ft.
- Long Lake 4 ft.
- Walker Lake 14 ft.
- Round Lake 16 ft.

Submitted by Blanche Lake Director Ken Wentz

Mark Your Calendars!

OTLPOA 2024 Meetings

June 27 • July 25

August 22 • September 26 • October 24

November 28 • December 26

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



**On The Water Laws and Rules
It's Against The Law ...**

- To operate a watercraft in a careless or reckless manner.
- To operate a watercraft so its wash or wake endangers, harasses or interferes with any person or property.
- To operate a watercraft so it obstructs ordinary navigation.
- To operate a watercraft within an area legally marked off as a swimming area or within 150 feet of a diver's warning flag (see page 37 of the MN DNR Boating Guide 2024).
- To ride or sit on the gunwales, bow, transom, or decking over the bow, sides or stern of any motorboat while underway, unless it is equipped with an adequate railing. It is also illegal to operate a motorboat while any person is riding or sitting in a manner as just listed.
- To chase wildlife with a motorboat or operate a boat where it is prohibited — including marked spawning beds. Avoid traversing any emergent or floating vegetation, if possible.
- To intentionally obstruct a seaplane.
- To attach a watercraft to any buoy, except a mooring buoy or to tamper, remove or destroy a navigational aid.
- To deposit or leave refuse in or upon the waters of the state or at public access areas.

Calendar of Events 2024

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
October 24	OTLPOA Board Meeting
November 28	OTLPOA Board Meeting
December 26	OTLPOA Board Meeting

Local Boating Restrictions

Certain bodies of water in Minnesota have local restrictions as to the type and size of watercraft or motor horsepower, areas which can be used by boats, boat speed, times for use and minimum distance between boats.

With few exceptions, local restrictions on boat use on Minnesota waters must be approved by the DNR and posted at public access points.

Questions regarding lakes or rivers with local restrictions can be directed to the appropriate county sheriff, or the DNR Information Center. A list of approved local restrictions is posted on the DNR webpage at: mndnr.gov/boatingsafety. Click on local water restrictions.

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Events are subject to change.
To submit an event, contact blreview@arvig.net

Minnesota's Boating (BWI) and Auto DWI/DUI Laws

Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) Laws and Penalties



Minnesota not only makes it illegal to drive a car while intoxicated but also to operate a boat while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. This article explains Minnesota's boating while intoxicated (BWI) and the penalties you'll face for a BWI conviction.

Minnesota's Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) Law

Minnesota law prohibits operating or being in actual physical control of a motorboat while intoxicated by drugs or alcohol. A person can be convicted of boating while intoxicated (also called "boating under the influence") for operating a motorboat while:

- impaired by alcohol or drugs to an extent that the person does not "possess that clearness of intellect and that control ... that the [person] otherwise would have" or
- having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or greater.

In other words, you can get a BWI for operating a boat with an excessive blood alcohol concentration or while drunk or high on drugs.



Minnesota's BWI Degrees and Conviction Penalties

In Minnesota, there are four degrees of BWI. Each type of BWI carries different penalties.

Minnesota's First-Degree BWI Penalties

A BWI offender can be convicted of first-degree boating while intoxicated if the person has:

- three or more prior BWI or DWI convictions that occurred within the past ten years
- a prior first-degree BWI or DWI conviction, or
- a prior felony conviction for certain types of vehicular homicide.

A first-degree BWI is a felony and generally carries up to \$14,000 in fines and three to seven years in prison.

Minnesota's Second-Degree BWI Penalties

A BWI offender can be convicted of second-degree boating while intoxicated if the person:

- has two or more prior BWI or DWI convictions that occurred within the past 10 years or

- refused to submit to chemical testing in violation of Minnesota's implied consent laws and has one prior BWI or DWI conviction that occurred within the past 10 years.

A second-degree BWI is a "gross misdemeanor" and generally carries 90 days to one year in jail and up to \$3,000 in fines.

Minnesota's Third-Degree BWI Penalties

A BWI offender can be convicted of third-degree boating while intoxicated if the person:

- has one prior BWI or DWI conviction that occurred within the past 10 years or
- refused to submit to chemical testing in violation of Minnesota's implied consent laws.

A third-degree BWI is a gross misdemeanor and generally carries up to \$3,000 in fines and either 48 hours to one year in jail or at least 80 hours of community service.

Minnesota's Fourth-Degree BWI Penalties

A standard first offense is a fourth-degree BWI, a misdemeanor. Convicted boaters typically face up to 90 days in jail and/or a maximum of \$1,000 in fines.

Boating Privileges Suspension for a Minnesota BWI

All boaters convicted of a BWI will have their boating privileges suspended for at least 90 days. The period of suspension must be between May 1 and October 31 and can span two consecutive years.

Talk to an Attorney

The consequences of a Minnesota BWI are serious, and the facts of every case are different. If you've been arrested for boating under the influence, get in touch with an experienced BWI lawyer. A qualified attorney can explain how the law applies to the facts of your case and help you decide on the best course of action.

Auto DWI (DUI) Laws and Violation Penalties

In Minnesota, the penalties you'll face for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol depend mainly on how many prior convictions you have. In this article, we cover how Minnesota defines the offense and the penalties you'll face for a conviction.

Minnesota's DWI Law

In Minnesota, a DWI, sometimes called "DUI," is defined as driving, operating, or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while:

- under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- knowingly under the influence of a hazardous substance that affects the body and substantially impairs driving abilities

(continued on next page)

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Minnesota's DWI Law (continued from page 4) ...

- having a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or greater (a "per se" DWI), or
- having any amount of a Schedule I or II drug, except marijuana, in the body (also a per se DWI).

Following being lawfully arrested for DWI, Minnesota law also makes it a crime to refuse to take a breath alcohol test. This offense is referred to as an implied consent or a test refusal crime.

What Are the Penalties for a DWI in Minnesota?

After being charged with a DWI, a person faces two types of penalties—administrative and criminal. The severity of these penalties increases when "aggravating factors" are involved.

Aggravating factors include:

- a record of prior DWI offenses in the past ten years
- a BAC of .16% or more, or
- the presence of a child who's under the age of 16 in the vehicle.

Generally, the penalties increase in severity with the number of aggravating factors.

Administrative (License- and Vehicle-Related) Penalties for Minnesota DWIs

Administrative penalties—which are administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety—are meant to provide a swift consequence. These penalties can be imposed upon or soon after a DWI arrest and may apply even if the offender is never criminally convicted of a DWI.

Administrative penalties can include:

- driver's license revocation or cancelation
- plate impoundment, and
- vehicle forfeiture.

However, a driver might not face all of these consequences for a DWI offense.

"Whiskey Plates" for DWI Convictions

Plate impoundment refers to the removal and surrender of a vehicle's license plates. The plate impoundment order applies to all vehicles registered in the offender's name, whether alone or jointly. To drive those vehicle(s) again, the offender must apply for special registration plates—more commonly known as "whiskey plates."

Jail Time and Fines for DWI Convictions in Minnesota

Criminal penalties are imposed by the court following a DWI conviction. There are four "degrees" (or levels) of DWI penalties, with fourth-degree being the least and first-degree being the most serious. Similar to administrative penalties, the severity of criminal penalties increases when aggravating factors are involved.

Here are some of the possible penalties for the different levels of DWI offenses.

	Fourth-degree	Third-Degree	Second-Degree	First-Degree
Offense Level	Misdemeanor	Gross misdemeanor	Gross misdemeanor	Felony
Maximum	90 days in jail	1 year in jail	1 year in jail	7 years in prison
Sentence	\$1,000 fine	\$3,000 fine	\$3,000 fine	\$14,000 fine

How to Get a Limited License Following a Minnesota DWI Revocation?

If the offender wants to drive during the license revocation period, the offender must:

- apply for a limited license to drive to work, school, or treatment, or
- pay for the installation of an ignition interlock device (IID), as well as any continuing servicing, monitoring, and insurance costs.

However, limited licenses aren't available to all offenders.

How Long Does a DWI Stay on a Person's Record in Minnesota?

DWI records are retained by the courts, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and Drivers and Vehicle Services (DVS).

By meeting certain conditions, a person can apply to have a misdemeanor or gross misdemeanor DWI sentence "expunged". An expunged record is sealed and cannot be viewed by the public. However, the record is still available to be used by the courts in future sentencing decisions and by DVS for the official (and permanent) driving record.

Keep in mind that a DWI from another state can count as a prior DWI for purposes of increasing administrative and criminal penalties. Minnesota also shares DWI records with other states.

When Is a DWI a Felony in Minnesota?

A DWI becomes a felony-level offense if the motorist has:

- three prior DWIs that occurred within the past ten years
- a prior felony DWI, or
- a prior felony vehicular homicide or vehicular injury conviction that involved alcohol or drugs.

Felony DWIs carry the possibility of three to seven years in state prison. A felony offender is also looking at up to \$14,000 in fines.

What Are Minnesota's Underage DUI Laws and Penalties?

Minnesota makes it a crime for a person under the legal drinking age to drive a vehicle while having any amount of alcohol in the body. This law is commonly referred to as the "Not-a-Drop" law. It represents a zero-tolerance policy on underage drinking and driving.

It's a misdemeanor for anyone under 21 to operate a vehicle while having any amount of alcohol in the body. A misdemeanor carries a penalty of up to 90 days in jail and a maximum \$1,000 fine. If the offender is under 18, the offense is prosecuted in juvenile rather than adult court.

A first-time offender's license is suspended for 30 days. The license suspension increases to 180 days for a second offense. For unlicensed offenders, the violation places future restrictions on the offender's ability to get an instruction permit, provisional license, or driver's license.

What Should a Person Do If Arrested for DWI in Minnesota?

Minnesota DWI law is complex, and the facts of every case are different. If you've been arrested for driving under the influence, talk to an experienced DWI attorney in your area. A qualified DWI lawyer can tell you how the law applies to the facts of your case and help you decide on the best course of action.



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Lightning Safety For Boaters



Late spring and summer is the peak season for lightning strikes across Ohio. Lightning strikes sometimes occur with little or no warning, which is especially hazardous for boaters and anglers out on the water.

If you are caught outdoors when a lightning storm strikes, take shelter inside a building or car and close the windows and doors. Get out of the water if you are swimming or boating and get away from it. If boating, stay low and avoid contact with the water.

WHAT IS LIGHTNING?

Lightning is a flow of current from negative to positive in most cases and may move from the bottom to the top of a cloud, from cloud to cloud, or from cloud to ground.

When lightning strikes, it will most often strike the highest object in the immediate area. On a body of water, that highest object is a boat. Once it strikes the boat, the electrical charge is going to take the most direct route to the water where the electrical charge will dissipate in all directions.

HOW LIGHTNING TRAVELS

Let's consider a few possibilities:

- Lightning strikes the ungrounded radio antenna on your boat. The metal antenna carries the electrical charge to the radio, which does not have a good conductor to the water. Your hand is on the radio, or on metal connected to the radio. Your feet are on a wet surface, which is in contact with metal which extends through the hull of the boat to the water. Your body may then become the best conductor for the electrical charge.
- Lightning strikes the mast of your sailboat. The electrical current follows the mast or wire rope to your hands, through your body to the wet surface and then through the hull to the water.
- While operating a motorboat, the lightning strikes you, passes through your body to the motor and then to the water.
- Sitting in your aluminum or fiberglass rowboat, you are holding a graphite fishing rod (a good electrical conductor) that gets struck by lightning. The electrical charge passes through the rod, your body, then to the boat to the water.

In all four examples, you could be seriously injured. You could be dead.

You don't have to be in contact with the components of the boat struck by lightning; there could be side flashes. A side flash occurs when the electrical charge jumps from one component to another seeking a better path to ground. You might be that "better path."

MINIMIZE LIGHTNING STRIKE DAMAGE

Do not become a lightning target:

- Preferably stay off and definitely get off, the water whenever weather conditions are threatening.
- Have an adequate lightning protection system installed and have it inspected regularly. About Lightning Protection Systems (Boatsafe.com)
- Never go boating without knowing the forecast. Sign Up for Notifications (NOAA)

Small, local storms might not be reported, so it is important that boaters learn to read the weather:

- Watch for the development of large well-defined rising cumulus clouds. Once they reach 30,000 feet, the thunderstorm is generally developing. Now is the time to head for shore. As the clouds become darker and more anvil-shaped, the thunderstorm is already in progress.
- Watch for distant lighting. Listen for distant thunder. You may hear the thunder before you can see the lightning on a bright day. Seldom will you hear thunder more than five miles from its source. That thunder was caused by lightning 25 seconds earlier (The sound of thunder travels at one mile per five seconds).

If you can't get off the water soon enough, it is critical to take safety precautions to protect the people in your boat:

- Stay in the center of the cabin if the boat is so designed. If no enclosure (cabin) is available, stay low in the boat. Don't be a "stand-up human" lightning mast!
- Keep arms and legs in the boat. Do not dangle them in the water.
- Discontinue fishing, water skiing, tubing, swimming or other water activities when there is lightning or even when weather conditions look threatening. The first lightning strike can be a mile or more in front of an approaching thunderstorm cloud.
- Disconnect and do not use or touch the major electronic equipment, including the radio, throughout the duration of the storm.
- Lower, remove or tie down the radio antenna and other protruding devices if they are not part of a lightning protection system.
- To the degree possible, avoid making contact with any portion of the boat connected to the lightning protection system. Never be in contact with two components connected to the system at the same time. Example: The gear levers and spotlight handle are both connected to the system. Should you have a hand on both when lightning strikes, the possibility of electrical current passing through your body from hand to hand is great. The path of the electrical current would be directly through your heart--a very deadly path!
- It would be desirable to have individuals aboard who are competent in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid. Many individuals struck by lightning or exposed to excessive electrical current can be saved with prompt and proper artificial respiration and/or CPR. There is no danger in touching persons after they have been struck by lightning.
- If a boat has been, or is suspected of having been, struck by lightning, check out the electrical system and the compasses to ensure that no damage has occurred.



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What Can We Do To Help Less Plastic Entering Our Lakes

Report from Bottless Nation Solutions For Your Business

Plastic pollution enters the Minnesota lakes through littering, sewage overflows, storm water runoff and even through the air. Plastic can also be directly released into the lakes from transporting goods, boats and recreational activities such as fishing and swimming.



An estimated 8 million tons of plastics enter the oceans yearly, but only 1% are estimated to be recovered. Plastics can now be found worldwide, mainly due to human activities including in aquatic environments.

Once plastics enter the lakes, they can cause various problems for both wildlife and humans. As plastics accumulate in the water, they can block sunlight penetration, reduce photosynthesis rates, and decrease oxygen levels. This pollution can lead to decreased dissolved oxygen concentrations, adversely affecting aquatic life and the marine environment. Additionally, plastic particles can absorb toxins from their environment, causing them to become even more hazardous to creatures that consume them. Furthermore, many wildlife species are known to mistake plastic debris for food, increasing the risk of ingestion or entanglement in these materials. These concerns lead to a decrease in the wildlife population.

Urban runoff is mainly responsible for macroplastic pollution entering the lakes through stormwater runoff. These pollutants include cigarette butts, plastic bags, packaging materials and single-use plastics washed away from streets or landfills into waterways that flow to the Great Lakes.

Industrial pollution also contributes to plastic bags, bottle caps, straws and other items discarded on land. This type of pollution is especially damaging because it can end up in streams and rivers.

Single-use plastics are an increasingly common source of plastic waste across the region. These items include plastic packaging like water bottles, straws, food packaging materials, and disposable cutlery. These items often end up in landfills or the ocean, where they can take hundreds of years to decompose, leaching toxins into the environment in the process. In addition to being an ecosystem, many factories use the Great Lakes for disposal or release untreated wastewater directly into them.

Microplastic Particles: Unfortunately, these vital ecosystems are threatened by a growing problem – plastic pollution. Plastics can be found in the form of microplastics (smaller than 5mm) or macroplastics (larger than 5mm). Microplastic pollution consists of fibers from synthetic clothing, microbeads from personal care products, and other fragments broken down from larger plastic items. Macroplastics include items such as bags, packaging materials and plastic bottles.

How Can We Contribute to Change? Plastic pollution has become an ever-growing problem for the lakes and its surrounding environment. We must take action now to reduce plastic pollution in the region and restore them to their former glory. By making sustainable consumer choices, supporting legislation and encouraging businesses to develop more eco-friendly packaging solutions, we can all contribute to protecting this vital freshwater resource.

To improve the quality, we must take steps to reduce plastic pollution. Consumers can start by avoiding single-use plastics such as straws, water bottles, and bags. It is also vital to properly dispose of all waste materials and avoid littering in areas near the lakes.



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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 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?

Native Plants Benefit Cleaner Water, Pollinators

Did You Know That Planting Native Plants On Your Property Contributes To Cleaner Lake and River Water?



Grants Are Available To Any Landowner In Minnesota Who Wants To Start Or Expand A Pollinator Garden.

When I heard about one of these grants available through LAWNS TO LEGUMES, I thought it was too good to be true. Who doesn't want clean water, more pollinators AND get paid to plant native Minnesota plants?

I contacted LAWNS TO LEGUMES and found out they are under the umbrella organization called BLUE THUMB. Here is some information about BLUE THUMB from their website, [bluethumb.org](https://www.bluethumb.org)

Who We Are –

Blue Thumb—Planting for Clean Water® is a network of clean water and native plant stewards creating change to bridge the gap between knowledge and action by offering resources and programs to Minnesotan residents. Our **Finest on Earth™ Blue Thumb Partners** include local governmental units, non-profit organizations, and private companies all working toward the same goals. Blue Thumb is coordinated by the non-profit **Metro Blooms**. Sign-up for the **Metro Blooms** newsletter to keep up with our work!

Our Shared Vision –

Blue Thumb engages with communities and shares accessible knowledge and resources to protect our environment and create a more sustainable future. We lead the way in changing landscaping norms among professionals, property owners, and renters. **We aspire to clean water resources supported by beautiful and sustainable landscapes that minimize runoff and create native habitat in our communities.**

Where We Started –

Blue Thumb began in 2006 as an outreach program of the Rice Creek Watershed District (located in Blaine, Minnesota) to help its cities meet mandated water quality goals set forth in the Clean Water Act. By 2015, Blue Thumb had expanded far beyond the bounds of any one watershed, and the licensed operation of the program was transferred to Metro Blooms.

Our Challenge –

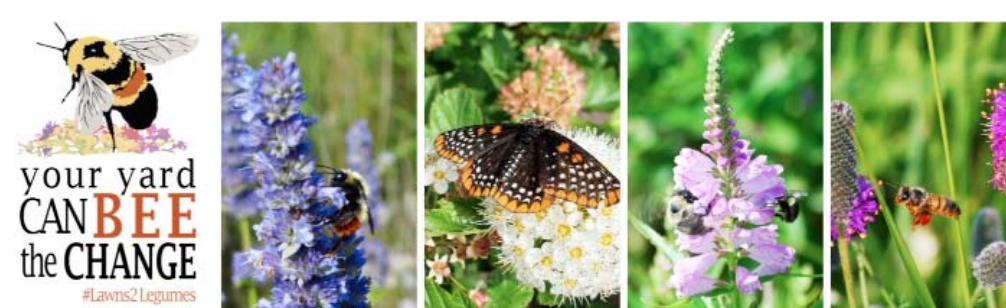
56% of Minnesota's lakes and rivers that we all enjoy and depend on are impaired. The EPA defines runoff as the nation's number one threat to the water quality of our lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands. Blue Thumb strives to offer resources so the public understands how runoff from their property impacts our clean water or how they can make a difference. Learn more on the website. So how does planting native plants contribute to cleaner water in addition to increasing pollinators?

The benefits of native plants –

- Long-rooted native plants retain and infiltrate more water, decrease soil compaction, filter out pollutants, and sequester carbon.
- Native plants require fewer inputs (less mowing and watering, no fertilizer or pesticides), leading to lower costs.
- Native plants provide habitat for pollinators and songbirds, protecting biodiversity.
- Native plants add beauty and resilience to the landscape.

Many counties and organizations in Minnesota are partnering with Blue Thumb to give grants to encourage property owners to be stewards of our land, to protect our waters, and plant native plants to preserve pollinators. If you go to the Blue Thumb website you can find a list of counties, municipalities and organizations that are partnering with Blue Thumb to give grants. Many of them are offering substantial reimbursement sums of their own that can be thousands of dollars.

One of these grant programs is through **Lawns to Legumes**. Anyone in Minnesota can apply for a grant that covers up to \$400 reimbursement for starting or adding to a pollinator garden. I applied and received one of these grants for adding to my existing pollinator garden. Here is a link to their website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>



Lawns To Legumes Individual Grants For Pollinator Gardens –

Minnesota residents can apply during active signup periods to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing pollinator habitat in their yards. The Lawns to Legumes individual grant program is currently not open for applications. **Our form will open again in June 2024 for Spring 2025 applications.** Individual Support grant recipients must provide at least a 25% match for their total reimbursement request. This match can be in the form of purchasing materials, hiring contractors or as in-kind time spent planting or maintaining plants (at \$25/hr).

Grant recipients are expected to map their completed projects in order to apply for reimbursement. If you did not receive an individual support grant, you can still map your project to help provide a clearer picture of where pollinator habitat can be found around the state.

(continued on page nine)

Workshops, free planting guides and online resources are available to anyone who wishes to pursue a DIY project.

Individual Support grant recipient resources:

- View a list of eligible expenses and plant materials
- Map your project and apply for reimbursement.
- BWSR's Planting for Pollinators Habitat Guide is your one-stop shop for planning, implementing and maintaining your pollinator habitat project.

Funding is provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and the state General Fund. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) administers the Lawns to Legumes program, and Blue Thumb — Planting for Clean Water and Metro Blooms coordinates the Lawns to Legumes Individual Support grants.

Lawns to Legumes has all the information you need to start a pollinator garden such as what plants to buy for sun or shade, how to layout the garden, what plants to buy for continuous blooming throughout the season and where to buy native plants and seeds.

I started with small 11'x17' patch. Now my pollinator is triple in size. Last summer our garden was full of native insects with hundreds of different pollinators including many bee species and butterflies buzzing and flapping around the flowers. We are also happy that we do not contribute pesticide or herbicide runoff into our lake or ground water. We have seen an increase in other beneficial insects, toads, frogs, birds, native reptiles and amphibians.

I have primarily used plants grown by Minnesota native plant nurseries such as Morning Sky Greenery in Morris, MN <https://www.morningskygreenery.com/> And Prairie Moon Nursery in Winona, Mn <https://www.prairiemoon.com/> Each fall I collect seeds, plant some, and distribute the remainder to friends.

My native pollinator garden is one of my happy places. Once it became established, it has been relatively easy to care for. I encourage you to explore the possibility of starting one in your own yard.

by Terry Shaw, Lake Level Reader for Round Lake

More Clean Water and Pollinator Garden Info –

HOW TO PLANT YOUR YARD FOR CLEAN WATER

<https://bluethumb.org>

LAWNS TO LEGUMES OVERVIEW FROM THE MN LEGISLATURE:

<https://www.house.mn.gov/comm/docs/d096cdf4-8dfa-40f5-9b15-a1f589e1ba89.pdf>

LAWNS TO LEGUMES INFO:

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/l2l>

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO START A POLLINATOR GARDEN NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL

APPLY FOR LAWNS TO LEGUMES GRANT:

<https://bluethumb.org/lawns-tolegumes/apply/>

MNL, MINNESOTA NATIVE LANDSCAPES:

<https://mnlcorp.com/>

MNL INFO FOR POLLINATOR GARDENS:

[https://mnlcorp.com/lawns-tolegumes/?](https://mnlcorp.com/lawns-tolegumes/?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwgJyyBhCGARIsAK8LVLMg0W3SYXjzdji6YdEZfNaVbL616WRcPFttjgulDnFK3Slaql5EngAaAilOEALw_wcB)

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US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, HOW TO BUILD A POLLINATOR GARDEN:

<https://www.fws.gov/story/how-build-pollinator-garden>



UNIVERSITY OF MN BEE LAB:

<https://beelab.umn.edu/lawns-legumes>

CBS NEWS, LAWNS TO LEGUMES GETS \$4 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/minnesota/news/lawns-2-legumes-program-minneapolis-st-cloud/>

WHERE TO FIND NATIVE PLANT NURSERIES:

<https://minnesotagrown.com/products/nursery-landscaping/wildflowers/?>

– OR –

https://minnesotagrown.com/landscaping-garden/?utm_term=&gad_source=1

MORNING SKY GREENERY,
MORRIS, MN

<https://www.morningskygreenery.com/>

PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY,
WINONA, MN

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/P>

Submitted by
Board Member Becky Kemling

**Join Now As An
OTLPOA Member!**

JUNE HAPPENINGS AT THE...



Creative Arts Center

KIDS EARLY SUMMER CLAY SERIES

Clay Fairy or Frog Dwelling
June 3rd, 5th, & 17th | 6pm-7:30pm
\$65 | 3rd-6th Grade

KIDS COOKING 101

June 10th | 1pm-3pm
\$50 | 3rd-6th Grade

TAKE IT OUTSIDE! KIDS PLEIN AIR

June 17th-18th | 1pm-3:30pm
\$50 | 3rd-6th Grade

JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE

June 22nd | 10am-5pm
108 Lake Ave S & 112 Main St W
Battle Lake, MN

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE ROXY

Night of the Living Dead | \$5 at the Door
June 11th | 7pm | 112 Main St W

SUMMER GALLERY HOURS

Mon-Wed: 10am-5pm
Thurs-Sat: 10am-8pm
Sun: 10am-4pm

SUMMER CAC HOURS

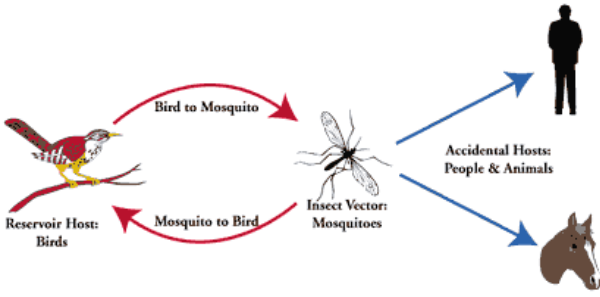
Wed-Thurs: 9am-8pm
Fri-Sat: 9am-1pm

Visit ARTOTHELAKES.ORG
to register and view more adult classes and events.



Mosquitos and West Nile Disease

TRANSMISSION CYCLE OF WEST NILE VIRUS



West Nile virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) in some people. This virus usually circulates between mosquitoes and birds in Africa and Europe. However, in 1999 an outbreak of West Nile encephalitis was reported in New York City. Since then, the virus has spread to 48 states and the District of Columbia. WNV was found in Minnesota in 2002 and will remain a public health concern in the foreseeable future. Fortunately, most people who are bitten by infected mosquitoes will experience either no symptoms or mild illness.

Signs and Symptoms

The typical incubation period for West Nile is 2-6 days, although it can be as long as 15 days.

- Most people infected with West Nile virus will be asymptomatic or experience a flu-like illness
- 20% of those bitten by an infected mosquito will develop the symptoms of West Nile fever
- 1 out of 150 people bitten by an infected mosquito will develop the more severe form of West Nile, West Nile encephalitis

West Nile fever symptoms include:

- sudden onset of high fever (usually >102°F)
- nausea
- backache
- prominent muscle aches and weakness
- rash (more commonly associated with West Nile fever than encephalitis)
- severe headache
- sore throat
- prolonged fatigue
- swollen lymph nodes

West Nile encephalitis

Less than 1% of those infected with West Nile will develop severe neurological symptoms consistent with encephalitis or meningitis.

West Nile encephalitis symptoms include:

- mental status changes
- altered reflexes
- Acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) occurs in a small percentage of severely affected patients
- vomiting
- joint pain
- seizures (less frequent)
- sensitivity to light
- 15% progress to coma

The death rate among those showing symptoms of severe West Nile infection (encephalitis or meningitis) is around 10%. Most severe cases occur in elderly people.

West Nile Virus Maps and Statistics

West Nile virus (WNV) was first found in Minnesota in 2002 and has since become the most commonly reported mosquito-borne disease in the state. The highest risk areas for WNV in Minnesota include the western and central portions of the state. Open areas, such as farmland and prairie, provide the best habitat for *Culex tarsalis*, the primary mosquito vector of the virus. Similar to other arboviruses, most WNV cases occur later in the summer when infected vector populations are at their highest level.

In 2022, 22 WNV disease cases were reported in Minnesota. The majority of cases, 82%, reported symptom onset in August or September.

- 13 (59%) cases were male
- Median age was 66 years (range, 24 to 88 years)
- 17 (77%) cases were hospitalized
- 17 (77%) cases had a severe illness affecting the central nervous system (encephalitis or meningitis) and one case died
- 4 WNV-positive blood donors who did not have any symptoms of illness were also identified

Protection for yourself and others

- Ensure all doors and windows fit properly, and are equipped with tight fitting, fine mesh screen.
- Wear light colored, loose fitting, long sleeved shirt and pants.
- Minimize outdoor activity during dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. Mosquitoes can be found in tall grass, bushes, and moist vegetation during the day.
- Equip baby carriages and strollers with fine mesh netting to protect infants.
- Use an EPA approved insect repellent on ankles, wrists, neck and ears; avoid areas around eyes, nose and mouth. Follow the manufactures instructions on when to reapply. DO NOT use on cuts, scrapes or on infants or pets.
- Wash all skin treated with repellent once you have returned indoors.
- Vaccinate horses with the WNV vaccine in the spring. West Nile Innovator Vaccines

Homeowner Control Tips

- Get rid of old tires, cans, bottles, jars, buckets, drums, or other containers, or keep them drained. Standing water in clogged gutters can also raise mosquitoes.
- Empty your small toddler-size plastic wading pool weekly and store it indoors when not in use. Make sure your backyard swimming pool is properly cared for while on vacation.
- Repair leaky pipes, outside faucets, and move air conditioner drain hoses frequently. Eliminate puddles created by lawn watering procedures.
- Change water and scrub vases holding flowers or cuttings twice each week - or grow cuttings in sand; scrub and change water in bird baths twice weekly; empty watering cans and pet dishes daily.
- If you are unable to drain standing water use mosquito dunks. These are safe for people, fish, animals, and birds.



Lakes Area Church Directory


~ Baptist ~

Basswood Baptist Church BGC 
 38188 340th St., Richville 218-495-3771
 Bert Holmquist, Pastor 218-4953800
Sundays – 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
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
Sundays – 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
Sundays – 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.

SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH 
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 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.

TREFOLDIGHED LUTHERAN CHURCH
 Armin Jahr, Pastor 218-864-5006
 18638 Trefoldighed Road, Battle Lake
Sundays – 10 a.m. Live stream on Facebook
 Open Communion 2nd Sunday of every month

~ Lutheran ~

ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR 
office@zionamor.org www.zionamor.org
 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake 218-495-2563
 Doug Stave, Interim Pastor
Sundays – Worship 9 a.m. (Traditional with Communion 1st/4th; Contemporary 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship following.
Tuesdays – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon
Wednesdays – Bridge 1 p.m.; Praise Team 4 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
Sunday Worships – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May 10 a.m. Coffee following worship.

Choosing Right Tree or Shrub For Area

Answering these key questions can help you choose the right tree or shrub –

1. Coniferous, deciduous or shrub? Coniferous trees keep their needles all year with the exception of tamarack. They are good trees to plant for privacy and wind breaks or shelterbelts

- Pines include native white, red and jack. They have long needles.
- Spruces, black and white and firs. They have short needles. They are important sources of wood fiber in northern Minnesota, and are excellent choices for wind-breaks or shelterbelts.
- Cedars include white or red. Cedars have scaled needles. Smaller than pines and spruces, cedars can provide wildlife cover and food.

Deciduous trees lose their leaves in fall or winter. They are good trees to plant on the south side of your home to provide shade in the summer and warmth in the winter when the sun can shine through. Deciduous trees are known for their beautiful leaf color when they drop their leaves each fall.

- Elms, maples, oaks, walnut, and beech, are some native trees used to provide excellent cover and food for wildlife, maple syrup, nuts and lumber for furniture building.
- Aspens, black walnut, butternut, and cherry are examples of native trees that are fast-growing and are often used for windbreaks, fiber and biomass.

Shrubs are multi-stemmed woody plants that rarely exceed 15 feet in height. Mixing shrubs with tree plantings adds visual diversity, wildlife cover and food.

- Shrubs include native dogwoods, hazelnut, crabapple, etc. Shrubs provide excellent year-round cover and food source for wildlife.

2. What size tree or shrub? Tree species vary in their height and width. For large restoration projects or planting several trees in one area, consider their mature size.

3. Other tree and shrub factors? Trees can add more to your home than shade or a wind block. Consider trees for their:

- Climate change resilience: Choose a tree that is likely to thrive in your part.
- Flowers: Flowers add color to the landscape and attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other wildlife.
- Fall color: Red, orange, yellow and purple are all colors that add beauty in the fall.
- Fruit/nut: Many varieties of trees and shrubs can provide food for wildlife.
- Soil moisture/texture: Different tree varieties have different growing soil moisture and types.
- Shade Tolerance: Different tree varieties have different levels of shade tolerance, from very tolerant to very intolerant.
- Shape: Trees can be V-shaped, pyramidal, oval, round; all add interest to your landscape.

4. Location, location, location

- Measure the area or areas you have selected to plant your trees and shrubs.
- Test your soil by taking it to your local nursery or U of M Extension opens in a new browser tab. Soil conditions, type of soil, and drainage can affect the health of your tree or shrub.
- Take a look around. Will other trees, shrubs or structures shade your new tree or shrub? List of trees based on shade tolerance

5. Decision

- Collect the answers to steps 1–4.
- Go to your local nursery and pick out the tree/shrub that will fit into your area.
- Plant your tree and don't forget to water trees weekly.
- Fence your tree to prevent animals from browsing.
- Sit back and watch it grow.

More information: www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/righttree-shrub.html

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



Kara, Realtor

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

Fish Kills and Die Offs

As many as 500 fish die-offs can happen each year in Minnesota, most of them from natural causes. If you see one, report it. Early reports allow timely water samples and other investigative responses to be taken if needed.



Most fish diseases and infection issues found in nature tend to be concentrated in fish of a specific species and size range. In contrast, when a die-off includes fish of vastly different sizes and multiple species, human activity is a more likely cause.

To report a fish kill

Call the state duty officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 to report fish die-offs. The duty officer provides a single point of contact for the incident and is available 24 hours a day seven days a week. Try to describe the fish types and sizes affected by the kill.

Spring and Summer

Groupings of dead fish usually are the result of common, opportunistic infections. These infections tend to affect fish as water temperatures warm and fish are stressed from the energy they spent on spawning. Such infections can kill sunfish, crappies and bullheads, and occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

Ice out

The retreat of lake and stream ice can sometimes leaves behind dead fish, commonly referred to as winterkill.

When snow and ice cover a lake, they limit the sunlight reaching aquatic plants. The plants cut back on the amount of oxygen they produce. If vegetation dies from lack of sunlight, the plants start to decompose, which uses oxygen dissolved in the water. If oxygen depletion becomes severe enough, fish die.

Winterkill potential is worse in winters with abundant or early snowfall. Lower autumn water levels increase the probability and severity of winterkill. Early ice-on and late ice-out dates also increase the winterkill potential. Wetlands and shallow, soft-bottom lakes are more winterkill-prone than deeper, hard-bottomed lakes.

Other causes

Human causes of fish kills can include water discharged at high temperatures; toxic chemicals discharged or spilled; pesticides and fertilizers; manure runoff; and low oxygen levels in a lake resulting from storm water that runs off urban or rural landscapes. Multiple causes often contribute to fish deaths.

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.



IN EVERY SEASON

We welcome you to enjoy our art!

“In Every Season,” an art tour - either in person or virtual - of the signature artworks at Minnesota State Community and Technical College Fergus Falls.

In person:



M State
1414 College Way
Fergus Falls, MN

Virtually:

ineveryseason.facmstate.org

Bring your phone or tablet to participate in the tour!

This self-guided art tour, on and off campus, is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from Lake Region Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



Fergus Area College Foundation



Get Fishing Questions Answered

Do we need a license? Minnesota residents age 16 or older and all non-residents need an angling license. Licenses can be purchased at sporting goods stores, bait stores, and some convenience and retail stores. Be sure to follow fishing regulations; a regulation booklet is available where you buy licenses. **NEW:** In some Minnesota State Parks you do not need a license to fish, some restrictions apply. More information.

Where should we fish? Many lakes have public fishing piers or docks. A lists and maps of lakes in the Twin Cities and a booklet with details on over 60 small lakes in the Twin Cities on website. Click on a county name on the left side to see maps of these lakes. **NEW:** Many Minnesota State Parks have weekly fishing programs called "I Can Fish". These are free events with equipment and bait provided. Locations and dates.

Once you are at the lake start on the dock, but if the fish are not biting try a new spot. Often it helps to try the other side of the dock, near plants or trees in the water, in shady areas, or near rocks.

What should we fish with? Your equipment should be the proper size for the type of fish you are trying to catch. Use a small hook or lure for fish such as sunfish and perch. If you want to fish for something bigger, use a bigger hook or lure.

What bait should we use? You will probably have best luck with worms - pinch a 1 or 2 inch piece and "thread" it on the hook. If you do not have live bait, try canned corn, pieces of hot dog, or marshmallow. Or try to find bait by looking under logs and rocks for worms.

What if my line gets tangled? Do not worry. This will happen. Try for a few minutes to untangle it, but do not spend too much time. It is easy to cut the line and retie the hook. There is a guide to fishing knots on Minnesota DNR website. Give the knot a tug to make sure it will not slip.

What if we catch a fish? Handle the fish firmly but carefully. Most fish have spiny fin rays that can poke your hand. Some fish have sharp teeth, so be cautious about putting your fingers in the fish's mouth. Get the fish back into the water as quickly as possible if you are going to release it. If the hook is in too deep to get out, just cut the line and let the fish go with the hook - it is easier on them.

What kind of fish is it? There is a guide to some of the more common fish found in Minnesota lakes at www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish/index.html.

Are the fish safe to eat? Generally, yes. The standard fish consumption advice for women and children is one meal per week for panfish, and one per month for larger fish. For adult men, it is unlimited for panfish and one meal per week of larger fish. Only keep what you need - practice catch and release. Keep fish cool until you get them home. See www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html

Safety - This is very important. Young children should always fish with an adult. If you fish from a boat or canoe ALWAYS wear a life jacket. If weather turns stormy, get away from the water. It is a good idea to wear sunscreen and sunglasses because sunlight reflects off the water. Be aware of your hook, it is sharp - do not let it swing around and do not swing it in front of people while casting.

Take a break - If you are fishing with young kids it is important to take breaks. Bring snacks, take a walk, go to the playground, go look for birds or turtles. Make fishing part of a fun outing. And remember that you will not always catch something. Have fun!

Be courteous - Follow park rules. Do not litter and do not throw old fishing line or tackle in the lake.

There is a Spanish publication *Vámonos de pesca!* (PDF) which gives license information details.

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Lakeareadocks.com



The park was established in 1918 when it was given to the citizens of Amor Township by John and Violetta Beck.

Amor Park is a 4-acre wooded public park located on the west shores of beautiful Otter Tail Lake.

- Native plantings on lake shore for wildlife habitat.
- Nesting boxes and birdhouses for birdwatching.
- Covered shelter with electricity and charcoal barbeque pit.
- Well for fresh water.
- Several picnic areas overlooking the lake.
- Restrooms with chemical toilet and handwashing stations.
- Swimming access with dock and stairs.
- Playground
- Large grassy area for recreation
- Horseshoe pit (call to reserve horseshoes)
- Geo-caches within the park
- Seperate access for fishing (Winter Use Only)
- Parking lot with side street parking as well



To reserved the park, contact Amor Township Clerk.

To Reserve The Shelter At The Park

Please contact Brenda Hildebrand at 218-830-8603. There is a \$40 fee to reserve the shelter.

A check can be sent to

**Amor Township, 30411 Amor Park Rd
Battle Lake, Mn 56515.**

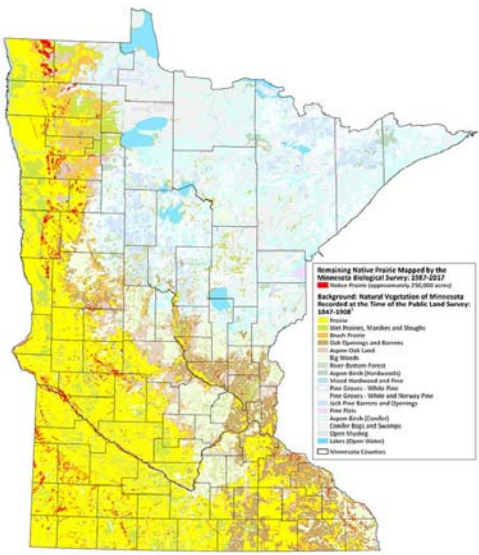
This money will be used for park improvements.

811
Know What's Below
Know The Color Codes

White Proposed Excavation	Yellow Natural Gas	Pink Survey Markings	Red Electric	Orange Cable, Internet, Phone	Blue Water	Green Sewer	Purple Reclaimed Water
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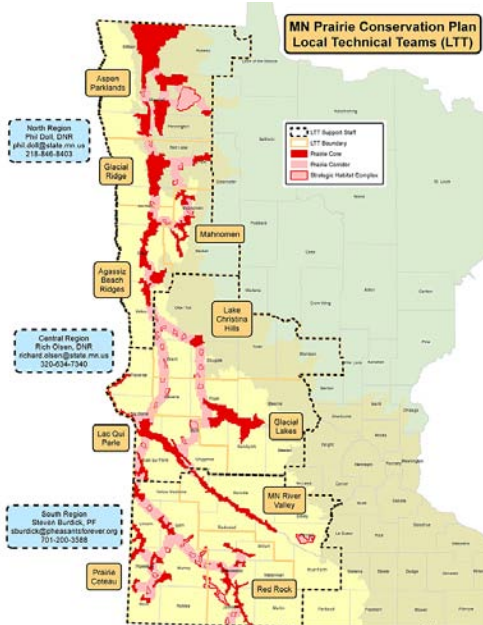
MN Prairie Conservation Plan

Minnesota lies at the intersection of North America's prairie, eastern broadleaf forest, and boreal forest/peatlands. At the time of the Public Land Survey (1847-1908), Minnesota had 18 million acres of prairie. Today only a little over 1 percent of native prairie remains.



Protecting grassland and wetland habitat is one of the most critical environmental challenges facing Minnesota. The work will be costly, complicated and challenging to implement at every level. In response, a blueprint has been developed for moving forward – the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan.

The Prairie Conservation Plan focuses efforts on grassland and wetland, and demonstrates unprecedented cooperation between federal agencies, state agencies and the state's most active conservation organizations. The plan identifies core conservation areas and creates a vision of a connected landscape from Canada to Iowa.



Prairie Conservation Plan—why is this needed?

- Conservation of the grassland/wetland landscape is needed due to accelerating demands for clean water, energy and arable land. Habitat fragmentation, loss of plant and animal species, degradation of soil and water resources, and invasive species are a few of the immediate threats to this system.
- Funding for natural resource conservation is strongly supported in Minnesota. One example is the passage of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008.
- A unified 25-year plan by multiple partners provides a more efficient future direction while also building on past conservation actions of a wide array of organizations and agencies.



Submitted by Board Member Tom Kuder

The Strategies –

Protection: Maintain habitat through conservation easements on private land or acquisition of public land.

Restoration: Grassland and wetland reconstruction to contribute to functional systems and viable species populations.

Enhancement: Activities that improve habitats and functionality of a grassland or wetland (prescribed burning, conservation grazing/haying, control of invasive species).

The Work

- Coordinate conservation and management strategies to increase efficiency through this prairie partnership.
- Utilize local grassland implementation teams to gather input and impact local grasslands and prairies.
- Monitor progress toward grassland and wetland goals.

Organizations and agencies who were responsible for developing this plan: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Prairie Chicken Society, Pheasants Forever, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

To learn more about the plan and the partnership, please contact:

Greg Hoch opens in a new browser tab
 DNR Wildlife Prairie Team Leader
 651-259-5230
 greg.hoch@state.mn.us

More information MNDNR's prairie management efforts

Minnesota Native Prairie Bank
 Prairie Protection
 Minnesota's remaining native prairie map (PDF)

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Fireworks ... What's Legal, What's Not

The sale, possession and use of certain non-explosive and non-aerial consumer fireworks is permitted in Minnesota.

- Wire or wood sparklers of not more than 100 grams of mixture per item

EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT ARE NOW LEGAL TO SELL, POSSESS AND USE BY THE PUBLIC ON OR AFTER APRIL 30, 2002 AS PERMITTED BY MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20 (C):



Other sparkling items which are nonexplosive and nonaerial and contain 75 grams or less of chemical mixture per tube or a total of 500 grams or less for multiple tubes and include:

- Cylindrical fountain Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks or smoke and sometimes a whistling effect is produced.
- Cone Fountain The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 500 grams
- Illuminating Torch
- Wheel - Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect
- Ground Spinner - Small device venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. The rapidly spinning device produces a shower of sparks and color.
- Flitter Sparkler - Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function.

- Flash/Strobe - Emit a bright light Novelty items such as snakes and glow worms, smoke devices or trick noisemakers which include paper streamers, party poppers, string poppers, snappers, and drop pops, each consisting of not more than 2500 grains of explosive mixture.

EXAMPLES OF FIREWORKS THAT CONTINUE TO BE ILLEGAL TO SELL POSSESS AND USE, EXCEPT AS PERMITTED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTE 624.20

- Any fireworks that are explosive
- Any fireworks that are aerial
- Firecrackers (any size)
- Ladyfingers
- Sky rockets
- Bottle rockets
- Missile type rockets
- Helicopters, aerial spinners, planes, UFOs
- Roman Candles
- Mines or shells (heavy cardboard or paper tube(s) attached to a base – upon ignition stars, balls or reports are propelled into the air)
- Chasers
- Parachutes
- 1.3G Display (special or class B) Fireworks
- Aerial shells
- Theatrical pyrotechnics (see Minn. Stat. 624.20 to 624.25)



Basically, any fireworks listed above are still not legal for public sale, possession or use, except with a permit and by a certified operator according to Minnesota Statute 624.20. (i.e. these fireworks are still not legal unless a permit has been issued by the local jurisdiction and they are used by a state certified operator)

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• 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

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