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The Official Newspaper of  
 Otter Tail Lakes  
 Property Owners  
 Association



Volume 54 - No. 7  
 - August 2024 -



# Lakeshore News

## At OTLPOA Annual Meeting

See page 12 for more photos - Annual Meeting Minutes will be published in 2025



Researcher Madeline Hayden from MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) giving the main presentation.

**2024 Lakeshore Directory** \$25

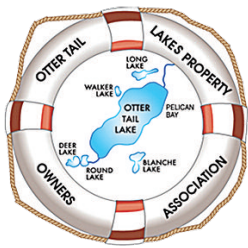
Preserve Your Lake Property  
**Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.**  
 ... representing ...  
 Blanche Lake, Deer Lake, Long Lake,  
 Otter Tail Lake, Otter Tail River North,  
 Pelican Bay, Round Lake and Walker Lake

**Available Soon To Members!**

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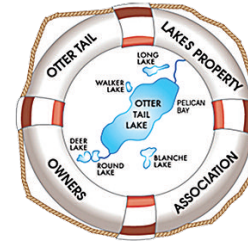
Photo submitted by Tom Kuder, OTL Director



# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 54 - No. 7 • August 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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## – OTLPOA President’s Eric Gerken’s Corner –

# Hello Everyone!

Here are a few links below for your interest that she had also shared:

- MN DNR Infested Waters List
- AIS Detectors Webinar: Understanding Starry Stonewort Invasions in a Changing Climate
- MAISRC Starry Stonewort
- AIS Explorer
- Webinar: Unlocking Insights: Updates to AIS Explorer’s Tools for AIS Management Strategies
- MAISRC Antifouling
- MAISRC RNAi-Zebra mussels

It’s time to be on the lookout for our OTLPOA Directories, as they will be mailed out in the next couple of weeks! If you do not receive one of them, there will be extras located at Lakeside Plumbing & Heating off of Hwy. 78. Lakeside’s number is 218-862-5440.

As always, do your part to keep our lakes clean by draining, cleaning and drying your boats. Spread the word about OTLPOA, become a member and get involved!

Enjoy the rest of your beautiful summer on our amazing lakes!

We have really had a beautiful summer with plenty of rain to keep our water levels up! Let’s keep Mother Nature in our thoughts in hopes that she continues to provide this great weather!

Our annual Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association meeting was Thursday, August 8th at Thumper Pond Resort. This change from the past, moving it to the evening, seemed to be positively accepted. The meeting was filled with pizza and refreshments along with our guest speaker, Maddie Hayden, Research Outreach Specialist from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

Maddie had a great slide presentation on zebra mussels along with Starry Stonewort invasive species and what is happening to our lakes and the environmental impacts.

## – Water Testing On Our Lakes –



Water testing (as of August 14, 2024) with the Clarity of our Lakes at ...

- Blanche 11 ft.
- Otter Tail 12 ft.
- Deer Lake 15 ft.
- Long Lake 4.5 ft.
- Round Lake - no information
- Walker Lake 12.5 ft.

Mark Your Calendars!

# OTLPOA 2024 Meetings

August 22

September 26 • October 24

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

## Calendar of Events 2024

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

Events are subject to change.

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

### Join Your Lake Association Today!

Membership form on page seven.

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## Remember To Clean, Drain, Dispose Every Time To Prevent AIS Spread

The upcoming Independence Day holiday brings busier lake accesses and people hurrying to family gatherings and celebrations. It is important for all lake and river users to take a few minutes to Clean, Drain, Dispose — every time — to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Conservation officers and DNR-trained watercraft inspectors are at many public accesses to help ensure boaters and anglers are making sure their boats and equipment are "clean in, clean out."

Some of the state's waterways – rivers, in particular – have extremely high water as a result of recent rainfall. Boaters, paddlers and others should stay off them until the water recedes.

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- **Clean** watercraft, trailers and gear to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Never release** bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- **Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days** before moving them from one water body to another.

These additional steps reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species:

- **Decontaminate** watercraft, trailers and gear – find free stations on the courtesy decontamination webpage of the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/decon](http://mndnr.gov/decon)).
- **Spray** watercraft, trailers and gear with high-pressure water or rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** watercraft, trailers and gear for at least five days before using in another water body.

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# In Minnesota where winter stops water recreation cold. Snow arrives in late October and hangs around till May or insanity sets in, whichever comes first.

## Boat Winterization Guide

No matter what type of boating enthusiast you are, you know how important it is to take care of your vessel. Some people think this starts and ends with the boating season, but there's much more to it than that. You may not spend time on the water during the winter months, but there is still some critical maintenance you'll need to take care of. If you have questions about winter boat storage, contact our dealership.

### Cleaning –

Regardless of how often you take your boat out, you probably know that they can easily accumulate a ton of gunk. This will eventually damage the paint and cause corrosion. Give your craft a thorough cleaning before you look for winter boat storage options. Start by washing the exterior from front to back. Be sure there's no grime or dirt stuck anywhere. Remember to pay attention to smaller areas that tend to get neglected, like between crevices and seats. As for the inside of the vessel, you should remove all gear and equipment before storing it. Once the cleaning is complete, allow it to dry off completely before waxing it.

### Oil Changes –

The next step in the boat winterization process is to change the oil. You can refer to your owner's manual for precise guidelines regarding your model. Generally speaking, the standard recommendation is to change the oil every 50 to 100 hours of operation. However, when the end goal is winter boat storage, you'll want to add fresh oil to prevent the internal parts from corroding. This also prevents condensation from forming. After you're done, you should also change the oil filter. Allow the engine to run for a few minutes so the oil can circulate and lubricate all of the internal parts.

### Coolant and Antifreeze –

If you're a seasoned boater, this step might seem obvious. It's worth mentioning that you'll need to flush the coolant and top it off with a fresh batch of antifreeze. Before doing so, check the manufacturer's dilution recommendations. When the temperatures start to drop during the winter season, the coolant helps prevent the internal parts and tanks from freezing and causing damage to your vessel.



### Winterize The Livewell –

Another important step in boat winterization involves the livewell. After all, it's just as vulnerable to freezing during the colder months as the coolant is. You may think that emptying the livewell is enough, but there's always a risk of residual moisture or water building up over time that could lead to bigger problems. As a precaution, you should pump some antifreeze through the livewells before you store your craft.

### Winter Boat Storage –

The final step is to find proper winter boat storage. Unless you have exclusive access to an indoor garage or a similarly large space for storing your vessel, you should make sure to invest in a breathable cover. This will protect your craft from dust and grime while also preventing moisture from accumulating during the off-season. If you plan to store it outdoors, you should apply the cover tightly so that snow, rain, and other elements cannot cause damage. If possible, you should try to check on your boat every so often while it's in storage.

## Getting Your Pontoon Ready For Storage

It's that time of year that pontoon boat lovers in certain parts of the country hate: the end of warm weather and time to prepare their boat for winter storage. Though it may not be a fun process, it's essential to properly prepare your boat for storage so that it will be ready to go in the spring. Here are the five steps you need to take to prepare your boat for seasonal dry storage.

### 1. Haul It –

Secure your boat onto a trailer and haul it to its winter home. If the boat has been in the water with a mooring cover in place, remove it before you drive off. Many people rent a storage space for their boat over the winter if they want to keep it indoors or don't have sufficient room at home. Though it's ideal to store your boat indoors, you can keep it outside as long as you cover it and take other precautions against damage as described below.

### 2. Fill the Fuel Tank –

When air inside your fuel tank gets cold, it will condense—i.e., turn to water. That's bad for two reasons. First, of course, you don't want water in your gasoline. Second, you don't want water on the inside surface of the tank, where it will cause rust to form. To force air out of the tank, fill it with fuel to within one inch of the tank filler hose. Add a fuel stabilizer.

### 3. Prep the Engine –

Used engine oil contains contaminants that you want to remove from the engine before they settle on critical metal surfaces such as bearings and cams. After filling the gas tank, drain the engine oil then remove spark plug wires and plugs. Spray a fogging oil through



the spark plug holes in the head, put in fresh oil, and install new spark plugs. Disconnect the battery cables.

### 4. Clean the Boat –

Clean your pontoon boat thoroughly of the season's grime, mold, algae, and salt. Remove all loose gear and supplies, especially food and drink; wipe down the upholstery; vacuum the carpet, and put rodent poison on the deck to deter critters and protect your upholstery.

### 5. Support and Cover –

Keep the pontoons off the ground to prevent corrosion. Place blocks under the welds of the pontoons, or store the boat on its trailer. If you're storing it outdoors, cover it with a tarp or shrink-wrap. Build a tarp frame from cheap lumber or PVC pipe so that the tarp will shed water, snow and ice. The use of a mooring cover is not recommended for winter storage, since it's not designed to support a snow load.

When you store your boat properly for the winter, you will keep it safe from damage and deterioration and be ready to go when next boating season arrives.

## Storing Kayak and/or Canoe –

The following tips will help you to store and protect your kayak or canoe so you can take it out as soon as the chilly weather warms.



### Where to store it –

- Try to store inside. This will allow you to control the environment in which you keep your kayak or canoe. Outdoors, it will be subject to the elements.
- If you have to store it outside, be sure to cover it with a tarp for UV protection. The sun can, in fact, be a great deal more harmful than the cold.
- If you store it outside, do not allow snow to pile on it or trees to fall on it. It seems a small thing, but if you live in a wooded or snowy area, strong winds or heavy snowfall can crush your kayak or canoe.
- Warm storage is better than cold storage.
- The plastic may become brittle in the cold. While it is not the end of the world to store your kayak or canoe outside, it is nevertheless something to consider.

### How to store it –

- Make sure all cracks are filled. Water freezing inside any cracks can do considerable damage.

- Keep it elevated to keep animals out. To an animal looking for shelter, a kayak or canoe will look wonderful. Sharp claws and acidic urine can do serious damage if they get the chance.
- Store it in the correct position. Plastic kayaks should be stored on their sides.
- Composite kayaks should be stored on their sides or upside down.
- Canoes should be stored upside down.
- Make sure you have the proper equipment to hang it. Whether it rests on its side or hangs from the ceiling, make sure your racks are secure and appropriate for your specific boat.
- If you are storing it outdoors and do not have a rack from which to hang your kayak or canoe, either use or build a pair of sawhorses. In place of the top support, use a webbing upon which to rest the kayak or canoe.
- Barring this, use two universal foam kayak blocks. Space them six to eight feet apart and lean the kayak on its side against the wall.

### How to protect it –

- If you have a kayak or canoe with a wood trim, loosen screws in gunwales. This can prevent unwanted cracks from occurring during the winter.
- Remove all hatch and neoprene covers, leaving hatches open to the air.
- Use a cockpit cover on a kayak. This is yet another way to keep animals safely out.
- If it has a float tank plug, remove it.
- Clean and do maintenance first!
- Small repairs can save you a mountain of trouble when the holidays are over.

From website: [www.rockypointkayak.com](http://www.rockypointkayak.com)

## Storing A Paddle Boat –

- Store your boat in a dry place out of the sun, such as a garage, marina, or dry storage facility. You can also store it outdoors in your backyard or at an outdoor storage facility.
- Keep your boat covered with a



snug-fitting, water-resistant cover when it's not in use. This will protect it from the elements, dust, debris, pests, and theft.

- Store your boat upside down off the ground to help drain any remaining water. If your boat is inflatable, you can partially inflate it to reduce pressure on the seams and make it less appealing to rodents.
- Store your paddles flat on a shelf or across two support bars, and deflate any air bags before storing. You can also prepare your boat for storage by changing the oil, draining the coolant, adding engine fogging oil, greasing the control mechanism, disconnecting the battery, and filling the tank with gas.

From website: [www.logkayackrack.com](http://www.logkayackrack.com)

## Storing Paddle Boards –

With the first snowflakes of the year hitting the ground, many people are wondering how to store their solid paddle board for the winter (to read how to store inflatable paddle boards, utility docks, or kayaks during the winter, click here). The options for storage during the off-season are pretty straightforward, but here are a few best practices:



### Rigid Fiberglass Boards:

- Choose a location that won't have the risk of water freezing on it. Unheated garages, boathouses or sheds work great, just be sure it's not getting buried under the snow.
- Choose a rack. A racking system, like the Paddle North Wall Mount (pictured below), makes storage much easier. Laying the board on its side in a wall mount, leaning the board on its side, or propping it vertically against a wall. Bonus: the wall mount also reduces the possibility of your board taking damage (falling and hitting sharp/hard objects).
- Fins In or Out? Leaving the fins in for the winter will not hurt the board. The reason most people take them out is to have a narrower profile against the wall, increasing space for other winter toys. If you take the fins out of the board, it is possible to get two boards into one Paddle North wall mount. For a refresher on installing and removing fins, check out our guide.

### Inflatable Paddle Board –

As temperatures drop and the first snowflakes of the year hit the ground, it's time to start thinking about how to store your inflatable paddle board, utility dock, or kayak to ensure it is safe and ready for when the weather warms up. Here are some tips and best practices:

- Clean and Dry: Make sure it's completely dry before storage. If you've recently used your inflatable product in salt water, we recommend rinsing it off with fresh water and then ensuring it is completely dry before storing. It's also a good idea to wipe off any obvious dirt or debris.
- Protect from the Elements: We recommend storing your inflatable in a place that is protected from elements, such as snow and rain. Ideally this would be a garage, shed, or inside of your home.
- Inflated vs. Deflated: If it's going to be stored in a space that is COLD (unheated garage, cabin, or shed), we don't recommend having it rolled or folded tightly. To avoid the potential forming of creases or fold marks, it is recommended that you leave it unrolled, very loosely rolled, or even partially inflated (4-6 psi). Otherwise, if it's going to be stored in a temperature-controlled environment (inside of your home, heated garage, etc.) then keeping it rolled up and in a storage bag is okay.

Properly storing your inflatable paddle board, utility dock, or kayak will ensure you're ready to get back out on the water as soon as the ice melts.

From website: <https://paddlenorth.com>

## How To Winterize A Cabin –

Is it time to winterize your cabin? “Winterizing” is a process by which property owners ready their cabin, cottage, or summer home for winter. In most cases, individuals winterize a cabin because it will not be in use for an extended period over the cold months/offseason.

It's important to know how to properly winterize a second home in order to protect your investment. Improperly closed cottages and cabins will be left vulnerable to the elements. As a result, they could become a haven for birds and small mammals or sustain serious damage from burst pipes.

### Step-by-Step Instructions for Winterizing Your Cabin

Winterizing your cabin or cottage is no small task, but the reward is sweet: peace of mind all winter long. Read on to learn how they recommend winterizing a standard cottage or cabin, both inside and out ...

#### Winterize The Exterior –

- 1. Mow and weed whack:** Mow and weed whack around the exterior of the cabin to remove tall weeds and plants that can be homes for small critters. Use a leaf blower or rake to corral leaves. Keep debris away from exterior air conditioner units, dryer vents, and windows to prevent future damage.
- 2. Winterize all gas-powered tools:** After you finish using your lawn mower, weed whacker, etc., carefully clean, drain, and store all gas-powered tools according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3. Clean the gutters:** A blocked gutter can, over time, cause major damage to the roof and leave the attic or ceiling of a cabin susceptible to water damage. Inspect your cottage or cabin's gutters and clean any blockages before closing your cottage for the year.
- 4. Inspect the exterior of the cabin for damage:** Inspect for damage to siding, trim, and windows. If damage is discovered, repair or replace accordingly to prevent water damage and animal and insect entry.
- 5. Clean and store lawn décor:** Empty flowerpots and birdbaths and carefully wipe down and pack all lawn décor in the garage or basement.
- 6. Store summer recreation equipment:** If you have a boat dock, boat, or summer recreation gear, store them safely for next summer, according to the manufacturer's instructions

#### Winterize The Interior –

- 1. Deep clean the interior of the cabin:** Wash windows, vacuum flooring, wash all laundry, clean out cabinets and the refrigerator, and scrub countertops prior to closing the cabin. A deep clean will reduce the likelihood of finding rodents and pests next spring and will help you to quickly open your cottage again in a few short months.
- 2. Turn all HVAC appliances off or to “vacation mode”:** Turn off or set all major HVAC appliances—heaters, furnaces, water heaters, etc.—to vacation mode. Vacation mode will keep your appliances active but at a lower-than-normal level, to



conserve energy. If your water heater does not have a “vacation mode,” dial the thermostat back to 55 degrees or turn off and drain the water heater entirely, to reduce energy consumption.

- 3. Turn off the water and drain excess water from pipes:** Turn off the water main. Flush toilets and turn on sinks to drain water from the pipes. Use an air compressor to push any remaining water out of pipes.
- 4. Protect textiles:** Protect your cottage's textiles by closing drapes, covering upholstered furniture, and placing mothballs or dryer sheets in linen closets.
- 5. Clean out the kitchen:** Remove all perishable items from the refrigerator and freezer and turn off the power and fully defrost. Place a broom handle in the door-frame to keep the refrigerator and freezer from closing over the winter, which creates bacteria growth and a horrendous odor in the appliance and throughout the cabin. Additionally, take a moment to clean out and wipe down all kitchen cabinets. Remove any food that will expire over the winter. Repackage any non-perishable food that you wish to keep in the cottage for the winter in airtight, pest-proof bags or boxes.
- 6. Close the damper:** If your cottage or cabin has a fireplace, close the damper to prevent animals like raccoons, mice, bats, and squirrels from taking up residence in your vacation home.
- 7. Unplug all electronics and appliances.**
- 8. Lock windows, doors, and storm doors.**
- 9. Shed a tear and bid your cabin farewell for winter!**

Fall is not only the perfect time to winterize your cabin, it's also a great time to have your HVAC and water heater systems inspected and tuned up. A tune-up is designed to keep your home's HVAC systems running smoothly, year-round.

If you're ready to have your HVAC or water heater systems inspected, repaired, maintained, or replaced, contact your local Aire Serv. Our technicians are here to make sure you breathe easy with heating and cooling services you can count on. Schedule an appointment online or call today.

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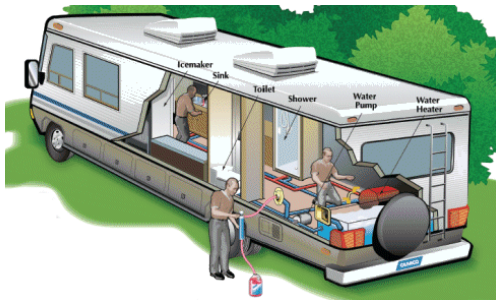
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## Camper and RV Winterization

It's time to store your RV for the winter. Follow this guide to properly winterize and prepare your RV for long or short term storage. Note: use RV/Marine antifreeze for the winterization of your RV. It is safe for fresh water plumbing. You can also contact our Service Department to have us winterize your camper.



Let's begin by talking about how your RV water system works. Your RV's water system draws water either from your fresh water tank and/or from the city water hookup. From the fresh water tank, a water pump is used to push water through the RV. (No pump is needed for water coming from the city hookup.) The water from the water tank and city water hookup will always be cold. To get hot water, the water must flow from your water pump into your water heater. The water is then heated and flows to your hot water fixtures such as sinks and shower. When winterizing your RV you will need to by-pass the water heater.

### Instructions –

Read your owner's manual for winterization methods specific to your RV.

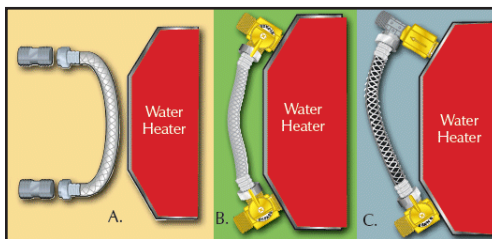
1. **Disconnect the outside water source.**
2. **Drain the water system.** There should be up to three low-point drains. One for the cold water lines, one for the hot water lines and one for the fresh water tank. Open the petcocks to drain as much water from your pipes as possible. Open the water taps at all the faucets, showers and flush the toilet to drain any remaining water from the system.
3. **Drain Water Heater.** On the outside of your water heater either remove the drain plug in the lower left had corner or open the drain valve in the same location. By leaving a faucet open on the hot water side, air will equalize pressure and easily drain the tank. You may want to use a bendable straw to put into the drain hole while water is coming out to create a siphon which will drain all the water to the bottom of the rounded tank.
4. **By-pass your water heater.** By-passing the water heater can save you money by not having to fill the water heater tank with anti-freeze, saving as much as 6 to 10 gallons of anti-freeze. Some RVs come with a by-pass system pre-installed but many do not.

Before you start:

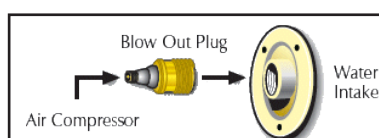
- Make sure to turn off all power to the water heater (the electric water heaters usually have their own power on-off switch).
- Make sure the water heater gas pilot is NOT lit.

There are three methods for by-passing the water heater:

- Seasonal By-Pass Kit.** This temporary by-pass allows you to hook up for winterizing and remove in the spring for reconnecting the system. If your water heater does not have a by-pass kit installed you will need to use a temporary kit that has two male-to-male connections and a short length of hose to bypass the water heater.
- Permanent By-Pass Kit.** This is a simple and permanent installation of an elbow by-pass kit that allows you to quickly disconnect the hater heater by turning two valves at both the cold water entry and the hot water exit of the water heater.
- Permanent Quick-Turn By-Pass Kit.** The easiest system to use is a permanent installation of a single valve and a back-flow preventer. The valve is located on the cold water entry and diverts water to a hose and past the water heater. A back-flow preventer is installed to prevent water from flowing into the water heater through the hot water exit.



5. **Blow out the lines.** After draining as much water as possible, it is recommended that a blow out plug be attached to the City Water Intake. Apply air pressure from an air com-

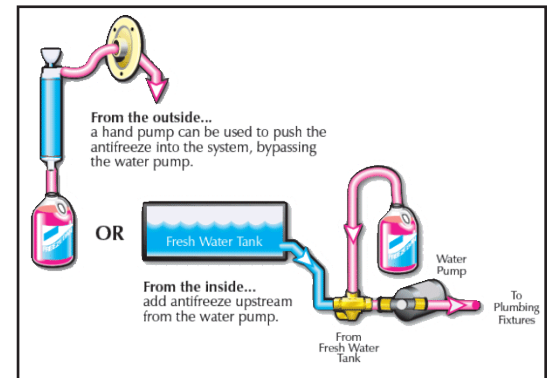


pressor (not to exceed 45 PSI) to drain the remaining water. Although blowing out the remaining water is not required, the remaining water will dilute your anti-freeze. Close all faucets and petcocks when complete.

6. **Add Anti-Freeze.** You can add anti-freeze either from the inside using a Water Pump Conversion Kit or from the outside using a hand pump. Be sure to check your progress by opening up one faucet at a time, starting from the highest and working to the lowest point in the fresh water system. Begin with the kitchen faucet. Open the HOT side of the kitchen faucet ONLY. Pump anti-freeze until flow from the faucet becomes very pink. This will indicate that all water has been flushed from your system. Close the faucet. Repeat on the COLD side. Continue to the next lower fixture. This is normally the bathroom sink, then the shower and finally the toilet. Don't forget your outside shower if so equipped. Also, open the two low point lines for the HOT and COLD water lines to make sure anti-freeze gets to the valves and that no water is trapped. Finally, close all faucets and the low point valves.

**\*\* Note: If you use the hand pump from the outside method, remember to manually add antifreeze to your water pump OR if you use the water pump conversion kit method, remember to manually add antifreeze to the water line and the city water intake check valve (this is done by turning off the pump, removing pressure from the system by opening a faucet; then from the outside remove the screen at the city water intake and push in slightly on the check valve to purge any water from the line until pink anti-freeze comes out). \*\***

7. **Pour at least 2 pints of anti-freeze into all sink and shower drains.** The ice maker, washing machine and external shower will also need to be winterized. Look for this information in your appliance manuals.
8. **Drain and dump your gray and black water tanks.** Remove battery, charge and store in a safe location.
9. **You are done winterizing.** There are two options at this point.



9. **You are done winterizing.** There are two options at this point.

**Option 1.** Leave the anti-freeze in the system until spring and then summerize. You should reinsert the water heater drain plug to keep dirt, debris and insects out of the water heater.

**Option 2.** Drain the anti-freeze out of the system by opening the low points in the lines and letting gravity drain the anti-freeze. When the anti-freeze is removed you can prepare your camper for summer use by closing the low points, putting the water heater drain plug back in and removing the water heater by-pass. There will either be nothing but air in your water system or some anti-freeze where it cannot drain from. Either way, your water system will be protected for the winter and your camper will be ready to go in the summer. All you will need to do in the spring is run water into the system and flush the remaining anti-freeze from your water lines.

**DO NOT ADD WATER UNTIL SPRING WHEN THERE IS NO CHANCE OF FREEZING.**

Also remember the following:

- Remove any food that can spoil or attract mice from your RV.
- Clean storage areas, oven, range, refrigerator and areas around dinette.
- Examine seals around exterior doors and windows. Caulk if necessary.
- Check the roof for small leaks or other damage. Make repairs if necessary.
- Check plumbing vents, roof vents and air conditioner shroud.
- Disconnect your 120 volt line cord and store away.
- Clean and store your sewer hose.
- Replace bumper caps.
- Park with emergency brake on and use wheel chocks.
- Stabilize your RV. Make sure it does not rock when you walk inside it.
- Keep RV out of direct sunlight if possible.
- Now is a good time to wash and wax.
- Clean the awning. Do not use a dish detergent. They contain de-greasers which can cause your awning to dry out and crack. Use an awning cleaner that will clean, moisturize and remove mildew.

# Wet, Warm Weather Increases Wild Mushroom Growth, Poisoning Risk!

With this summer's unusually wet and warm weather, the Minnesota Regional Poison Center has been receiving an increase in calls related to wild mushroom exposures.

How do you tell the difference between an edible mushroom and a poisonous one? In most cases, you can't! Many wild mushrooms may look like the edible or cultivated mushrooms available in the grocery store and may be difficult to correctly identify in the wild – even for experienced foragers. Mushroom features that help identify an edible mushroom in one region of the United States (or another country) are not reliable for identifying edible mushrooms in another area.

### Wild mushroom safety tips:

- Never pick and eat a wild mushroom unless it has been identified by a specially trained mushroom expert. The only safe mushrooms are ones that can be purchased in the grocery store.
- Supervise children while playing in the yard to minimize the chance of accidental ingestions.
- Teach children to ask before eating something they find outdoors.
- Cooking a poisonous mushroom does not make it safe to eat.

Symptoms from eating a poisonous mushroom may not appear for several hours to days. Potential symptoms of mushroom poisoning could include stomach cramps, vomiting, diarrhea and headache. Confusion and seizures can also occur. Some poisonous mushrooms in small amounts can even cause organ failure or death.

If you suspect someone has eaten a wild mushroom, call the Minnesota Regional Poison Center immediately at 1-800-222-1222. It is free, confidential and available 24/7 with poison specialists to help you. They work with mushroom identification experts called mycologists to determine if a mushroom is poisonous. Visit [www.mnpoison.org](http://www.mnpoison.org) for prevention tips, educational resources, and downloadable materials.

## 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.

## Non-edible mushrooms



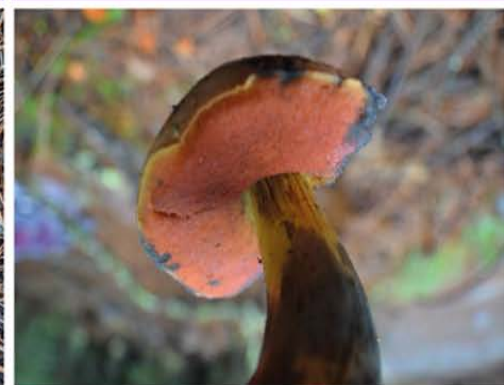
*Amanita muscaria*  
Ajonjolinado / Citlal-nanacatl



*Amanita muscaria*  
Ajonjolinado / Citlal-nanacatl



*Neoboletus erythropus*  
Hon-gorado / Xo-tomah-rabia



*Neoboletus erythropus*  
Hon-gorado / Xo-tomah-rabia



*Clavulina sp.*  
Escobeta de veneno/l-tlatla in xelhuaz



*Ramaria sp.*  
Escobeta de veneno/l-tlatla in xelhuaz



*Xerocomellus chrysenteron*  
Pancita venenosa / l-tlatla in popozoh



*Xerocomellus chrysenteron*  
Pancita venenosa / l-tlatla in popozoh



*Lactarius mexicanus*  
l-tlatla in cuah-te-cax



*Lactarius mexicanus*  
l-tlatla in cuah-te-cax



## Plan ahead for any emergency







Download the Smart911 App Today.






# - Land Transfers (July 1-31, 2024) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Adj Sales Amount	Property Type
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	7/9/24	KENNETH & R SHELSTAD TSTS	MICHAEL HILBORN	\$799,000	\$799,000	Residential
Amor Twp	560383 - DEAD-FF	7/2/24	LEO D LANGE	KYLE & RACHAEL AGRE	\$550,000	\$550,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	7/19/24	WEISS TST	COREY & DANIELLE KUTZER	\$561,750	\$553,250	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030201 - SILVER(EVERTS)-FF	7/15/24	KEITH W PEARSON	PATRICIA & DANIEL FUKUNAGA	\$660,000	\$636,500	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560193 - ETHEL-FF	7/24/24	JHHI REV TST	PAMELA BEHR	\$760,000	\$735,000	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	7/12/24	BALM TSTS	JESSE & KATIE SUMSTAD	\$756,000	\$756,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	7/12/24	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	DEAN & SANDY VAN BINSBERGEN	\$210,000	\$210,000	Residential

## Guide to Edible Mushrooms

By Mike Kempenich, The Gentleman Forager - forest-fork.com

When I teach young students about mushrooms, I start by asking how many of them “like” mushrooms. Typically, one or two hands will go up in a group of 30. After finishing the class, and sampling many species of mushrooms, I ask how many now like at least one of the mushrooms sampled. In every instance, about 90% of the students’ hands go up. What they find is, contrary to popular belief, all mushrooms do not have the rubbery texture of the white button mushroom, and that all mushrooms taste different. When you stop and think about it, carrots don’t taste like broccoli and broccoli doesn’t taste like a potato. It would make sense that different species of mushrooms would be just as diverse in flavor and texture.

### Culinary Mushroom Guide

#1 Most people are very surprised to find a **CHANTERELLE** has the aroma and flavor of apricot. Even more surprising is a mushroom commonly called a “candy cap,” which has the strong aroma and flavor of maple syrup.



#1

#2 The **MOREL MUSHROOM** is of course the most recognized wild mushroom in Minnesota, and it is our state mushroom! It has a deeply umami flavor, which could be compared to savory. The umami factor enhances the flavor of all meats to which it is added to, in addition to its own deliciousness as a solo treat.



#2

#3 **CHICKEN OF THE WOODS** does not, as the name might imply, taste like chicken. Rather, it derives the name for the consistency, which is strikingly similar to chicken breast, making it a favorite of vegetarians for this reason.



#3

#4 **SHIITAKE** has a dense, meaty consistency, lending itself well to a wide array of cooking methods and recipes.



#4

#5 **BLACK TRUMPETS**, one of my favorites, have a deeply sweet aroma and can add an unbelievably dynamic flavor profile to any pasta dish, yet are versatile enough to be used as a substitute in any recipe that calls for mushrooms.



#5

#6 **OYSTER MUSHROOMS** are popular the world over for their delicate, slightly seafood-like flavor. They can be used in anything from soups, eggs and meat to a Minnesota hotdish.



#6

#7 **LION’S MANE** has the flavor and texture of crab meat, believe it or not, and has also shown great promise in recent research in the fight against Alzheimer’s and degenerative brain disease.



#7

#8 **HEDGEHOG MUSHROOMS** have no gills but instead have unique looking spines. Their crunchy texture and nutty flavor will absolutely put a smile on your face.



#8

#9 **MAITAKE MUSHROOMS**, as well as chestnuts, have a definite crunch and a deeply savory flavor profile.



#9

### Why are mushrooms so good for us?

Mushrooms are one of the few foods that contain germanium, a trace mineral that helps your body use oxygen efficiently and prevents against the damaging effects of free radicals. Many mushrooms are also good sources of selenium, an antioxidant mineral, as well as copper, niacin, potassium and phosphorous. Additionally, mushrooms provide protein, vitamin C and iron. Because their cell walls are indigestible unless exposed to heat, you must cook mushrooms to get their nutritional benefits.

### Nature’s Adaptogen –

Mushrooms are a good source of both insoluble chitin and soluble beta glucans, each a form of fiber that has a role to play in human health. Insoluble fiber is crucial to proper digestion, while soluble fiber can slow the rise in your body’s blood sugar after a meal and can also help moderate your blood pressure and cholesterol.

### High In Antioxidants –

Antioxidants help protect the body from damaging free radicals that can cause conditions like heart disease and cancer. They also protect you against damage from aging and boost your immune system. Mushrooms are rich in the antioxidant called selenium. In fact, they are the best source of the mineral in the produce aisle.

Mushrooms especially recognized for their medicinal properties include Chaga, Reishi and Cordyceps. They are most often used to brew a tea but can also be found in a variety of supplements in the wellness department at the co-op. They are mild in flavor and high in nutritional and medicinal benefits.

### About Forest to Fork –

Forest to Fork is a wild food grocer specializing, in exotic mushrooms (some grown at the store!) and foraged foods. They also carry a selection of preserved epicurean delights of many kinds, foraging supplies, books, tools and custom-made Gentleman Forager knives. Forest to Fork is located at Keg and Case Market, 928 West 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55102.

### WHO’S THE GENTLEMAN FORAGER?

The Gentleman Forager is Mike Kempenich, owner of Forest to Fork. He has more than 40 years of foraging experience, in addition to cloning and cultivating wild mushrooms, teaching at the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin Extension’s Wild Mushroom Certification classes and providing content and photography for the Minnesota Harvester Handbook.



# Learn About Sandhill Cranes

## Grus canadensis

The sandhill crane, or "sandhill," is among Minnesota's largest bird species, standing about five feet tall and having a wingspread of nearly seven feet. Sandhills are birds of wet meadows and open landscapes. They migrate south for the winter.

**Identification:** General description: The sandhill crane is distinctive in all respects. Its flight is graceful, it stands erect when feeding in a field or marsh, and it's echoing call is unforgettable.

**Length:** About four feet, and even longer in flight with both its neck and long legs extended.

**Weight:** Adults weigh five to eight pounds.

**Color:** Mainly gray, except for a white face and distinctive red crown. The young are brown.



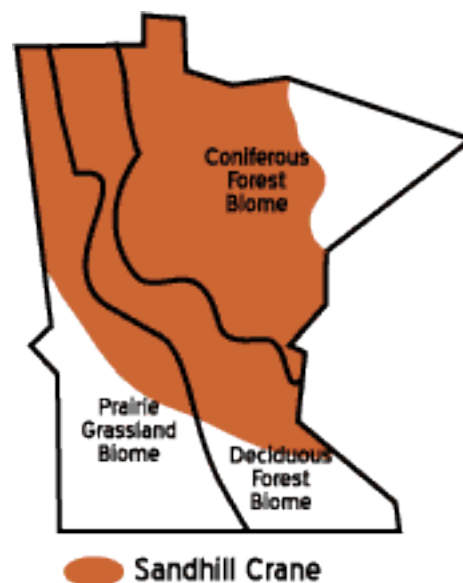
**Reproduction:** Adults have a distinctive bowing courtship ritual. Females lay two eggs in a nest built of grasses and other vegetation on the ground or in shallow water. Both sexes care for and defend the young.

**Food:** Sandhills eat a variety of animals including frogs, small mammals, insects, and snakes, and also, small grains such as oats and wheat. Sometimes sandhills destroy small grain swaths while feeding, much to the farmer's dislike.

**Predators:** Because the sandhill is so large and formidable, few predators even try to catch one. Tough predators like great-horned owls may try for a young sandhill.

**Habitat and Range:** Sandhill cranes are "circumpolar" in distribution, meaning that they live in the far northern parts of more than one continent, such as North America and northern Europe. In central and northern Minnesota, sandhills spend spring through autumn in large open meadows and farm fields.

**Population and Management:** Sandhill cranes are a protected species in Minnesota, but it is legal to hunt them in part of northern Minnesota during the sandhill crane hunting season each year.



**Fun Facts:** Sandhill cranes are closely related to the federally endangered whooping crane. Sandhills have been used in migration experiments guiding young whooping cranes to wintering areas in the southern U. S. Perhaps our local sandhill cranes will someday be credited with saving an endangered species!



# 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.  
 Pottluck 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 George Michael 218-864-5619

**St. James Catholic (Maine)** -   
 32009 Cty. Hwy. 74, Underwood  
**Mass** – Sundays 8:30 a.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.  
**Confessions** – Sundays 8 a.m. and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m.  
**Bible Study** – Fridays 9 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** – Wednesdays 8 a.m.  
**Sewing Group** – Tuesdays 9 a.m.

**St. Edwards Catholic Church**   
 201 Douglas Ave., Henning  
**Mass** – Sundays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.  
**Confessions** – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.  
**Holy Hour** – Thursdays 9 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 second 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 and 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.

# Starwatch For August/September

In August we're treated to two astronomical shows, one annual and one rare.

The annual show is the Perseid meteor shower, which peaked in the moonless mornings of the 11-13. The best time was near dawn, when the radiant—the spot in the constellation Perseus from which the meteors emanate—will be highest. With dark skies, you may see more than 50 meteors an hour. And while the meteors originate in Perseus, many will only flash into view after traveling a good distance from it.

The rare show is a close, mid-month encounter between Mars and Jupiter, which have been approaching each other amid bright constellations usually seen on winter evenings. This, too, is best viewed in the predawn hour, when the bulk of the winter stars will have joined the planets.

If you're unfamiliar with morning sky, August 3 or 4 was when the two planets and the bright star Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus, the bull, form an almost equilateral triangle. Mars was highest, Jupiter at the lower left and Aldebaran at the lower right. The close encounter came on the 14, when Jupiter glides less than a moon width below the red planet. This all unfolds beneath the iconic Pleiades star cluster and just left of the V-shaped Hyades star cluster, which forms the face of Taurus.

During the last 10 days of August, look near the southern horizon at nightfall, when the star pattern aptly named the Teapot of Sagittarius is highest. Its spout will be poised to pour tea on the tail of Scorpius. To the west glimmers Antares, the scorpion's red heart.

On the 19th, a large, bright "supermoon" rises in twilight and leads Saturn across the night sky. It is also a blue moon according to the original definition: the third of four full moons coming in one season.

During September, Mars and Jupiter continue to go their separate ways, widening the gap between them from 9 to 23 degrees.

Both planets are surrounded by bright stars usually seen on winter evenings. Enjoy the beauty just before dawn as these stars and their two planetary guests practically fill the eastern sky. The brightest object is Jupiter, while Mars is the ruddy object to its lower left. On the 27th, Mars forms an isosceles triangle with the Gemini twins Castor and Pollux.

On Tuesday the 17th, Earth's shadow takes a little off the top of the moon during a slight partial lunar eclipse. The eclipse runs from 9:13 to 10:16 p.m. and peaks at 9:44. At that point, about eight percent of the lunar disk's upper region will be darkened by Earth's umbra, or dense inner shadow. The rest of the moon will be in Earth's outer shadow, the penumbra, in which Earth blocks only some sunlight.

September's full moon arrives right in the middle of the eclipse, at 9:34 p.m. As the nearest full moon to the fall equinox, it is the harvest moon. It is also a very close, large, and bright super moon.

The eclipsed moon's nearest bright neighbor will be Saturn. The ringed planet has its own show the night of the 7th, when Earth laps it in the orbital race and it will be up all night.

At nightfall all month long, watch brilliant Arcturus as it seems to drag its kite-shaped constellation, Bootes, the herdsman, down toward the western horizon. Also, turn your binoculars to the south and explore the star fields within the large Summer Triangle of bright stars.

The equinox arrives at 7:44 a.m. on the 22nd. At that moment neither the Northern nor the Southern Hemisphere will tilt toward the sun and Earth will be lighted from pole to pole.



The University of Minnesota offers public viewings of the night sky at its Duluth and Twin Cities campuses. For more information, see:

- Duluth, Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium: [www.d.umn.edu/planet](http://www.d.umn.edu/planet)
  - Twin Cities, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics: [www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight](http://www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight)
- Check out astronomy programs, free telescope events and planetarium shows at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum: [www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/astronomy](http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/astronomy)
- Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy at: <http://www.astro.umn.edu>



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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?

# OTLPOA Annual Meeting 2024 • Thursday, August 8 • Thumper Pond Resort



OTLPOA Foundation Board President Larry Krohn giving the foundation report.



President Eric Gerken presiding over the annual meeting.

Photos submitted by Ken Wentz



## New Wild Rice Recipe Brochure

The brochure contains interesting but little-known wild rice facts, nutritional information comparing wild rice with white and brown rice and “frequently asked questions” about wild rice, including general cooking and storage tips.

If you wish to get this brochure and unable to visit the State Fair booth, simply send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Wild Rice – MN’s State Grain, 4630 Churchill Street, #1, St. Paul, MN 55126.



Treasurer Pat Hunke giving the treasurer’s report and audit.



## Well Water Test Kits, What To Test For

Land and Resource Management has water test kits available for the public. The water test kits test private drinking wells for coliform bacteria, arsenic, nitrate nitrogen, and lead. The test results and a report are returned to the resident via RMB Environmental Laboratories of Detroit Lakes.



### Where do I pick up a kit?

Kits may be picked up in Fergus Falls at the Land & Resource Department and West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District Office, in Pelican Rapids at City Hall and in Perham at Ace Hardware.

### Where do I return the kit?

Please return the kit in Fergus Falls to the West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District Office, in Pelican Rapids at City Hall and in Perham at Ace Hardware. Completed kits will be picked up by a courier and sent to the lab. Please confirm courier service with RMB Environmental Laboratories. Please note: the coliform bacteria test is time sensitive and must be collected on the same day that it is delivered to the lab.

### Is there a fee?

Yes, there is a fee for the testing service and the fees are paid directly to the lab. Please contact RMB Environmental Laboratories for current pricing. Checks may be made out to RMB Labs

- RMB Environmental Laboratories website

### How do I use the kit?

Complete instructions will accompany the kits. Please follow the collection instructions provided with the kits. To collect your sample Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends you test water from a faucet that you use for cooking and drinking and that if you treat your water, test the water after it goes through treatment.

### How do I receive the results?

The test results and a report are returned to the resident via RMB Environmental Laboratories of Detroit Lakes.

### What do I do if my results show I have levels in my drinking water?

The results and report will be sent directly to the resident who assumes responsibility for any recommended mitigation. The County is a test kit pick up location only. Please visit the MDH website for information on what your results mean and the next steps to protect your household's health.

### Well Testing, Results and Options

As a private well owner, you are responsible for regularly testing the water you use for cooking and drinking to make sure it is safe. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that you test water from a faucet that you use for cooking and drinking and that you test for the contaminants in the table below. If you treat your water, test the water after it goes through treatment. Testing for all of the contaminants below is especially important if babies or young children drink the water.

### What To Test For

*Contaminant - How Often a Well Should be Tested: Health Impacts Drinking Water can be Harmful if*

*What to do if There is an Unsafe Level of a Contaminant*

**Coliform Bacteria** - Every year: Coliform bacteria can indicate that other infectious bacteria, viruses, or parasites may be in your water. These may cause diarrhea, vomiting, cramps, nausea, headaches, fever, and fatigue.

Any coliform bacteria are detected: 1) Get your water from a safe alternative source (like bottled water) until you address the problem. If nitrate is not detected in your water, you can also boil your water before using it for drinking or cooking. 2) Disinfect your well and water system with a chlorine solution (see Well Disinfection instructions or hire a licensed well contractor to disinfect your well). 3) Test your water again after disinfecting the well and water system.

**Nitrate** - Test for nitrate every year: Consuming too much nitrate can affect how blood carries oxygen and can cause blue baby syndrome. Bottle-fed babies under six months old are at the highest risk of being affected by nitrate. Blue baby syndrome can result in serious illness or death.

The level is above 10 mg/L\*. 1) Get your water from a safe alternative source (like bottled water) until you address the problem. Do NOT boil the water—boiling will increase the nitrate concentration. 2) Do not give the water to infants under six months old. 3) Have a licensed well contractor inspect and repair your well. 4) Remove potential sources of nitrate near your well. 5) Consider home water treatment if steps 3 and 4 do not resolve the problem and no infants drink the water. 6) Test your water again after taking action.

**Arsenic** - At least once: Consuming water with even low levels of arsenic over a long time is associated with diabetes and increased risk of cancers of the bladder, lungs, liver, and other organs. Ingesting arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease; reduced intelligence in children; and skin problems such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns. Health impacts of arsenic may take many years to develop.

Any level of arsenic may be harmful. 1MDH highly recommends taking protective action if the level of arsenic in your drinking water is above 10 µg/L\*\*. 1) Consider home water treatment or using a different drinking water source. Before pursuing home water treatment, it may be good to confirm the arsenic level. 2) Test your water again after taking action.

**Lead** - At least once: Lead can damage the brain, kidneys, and nervous system. Lead can also slow development or cause learning, behavior, and hearing problems. While lead can affect everyone, babies, children under six years old, and pregnant women are at the highest health risks from lead.

Any level of lead is harmful. 1) Let the water run 30-60 seconds before using it for cooking or drinking. 2) Use cold water for drinking and cooking. 3) Hire a plumber to find the source of lead in your plumbing system and consider replacing that part of the system. 4) Consider getting a pitcher filter or home water treatment if your water still has high levels of lead after you let the water run. 5) Test your water again after taking action.

**Manganese** - At least once before a baby drinks the water: Manganese can cause problems with memory, attention, and motor skills. It can also cause learning and behavior problems in infants and children.

For babies under one year old: The level of manganese is above 100 µg/L\*\*. For everyone else: The level of manganese is above 300 µg/L\*\*. 1) Use an alternative water source when using water to make formula or juice for a baby. 2) Consider getting a pitcher filter or home water treatment. 3) Test your water again after taking action.

\*mg/L=milligrams per liter and is the same as parts per million (ppm)

\*\*µg/L=micrograms per liter and is the same as parts per billion (ppb)

Both natural sources and human activities can contaminate well water and cause short-term or long-term health effects. Testing your well water is the only way to detect most of the common contaminants in Minnesota groundwater; you cannot taste, see, or smell most contaminants.

You may also want to test for other contaminants if you have other water quality concerns or live in an area of known groundwater contamination. Learn more about private well water quality topics at Water Quality/Well Testing.

Questions: Well Management Section: 800-383-9808 or health.wells@state.mn.us.



Photo by Greg Gerhart

## 10 Illuminating Facts About The Northern Lights

According to Roman mythology, Aurora was the goddess of the dawn. The word “borealis,” however, is Greek for “wind.” The combined phrase “aurora borealis” therefore means “dawn wind,” known in English as the Northern Lights. This phenomenon has fascinated people for thousands of years, a fascination that clearly continues today: The northern lights are one of the major attractions of the Arctic, and indeed there are a number of Northern Lights cruises in the Arctic specifically devoted to viewing this magical lightshow.

### 1. The Ancients Thought the Northern Lights Were Fire –

For thousands of years, no one knew exactly what the Northern Lights were or where they came from. Aristotle made the first scientific account of the lights in the 4th century BCE, likening them to flames of burning gas. In the thirteenth century CE, the first detailed attempt at explaining the lights was made in Konungs skuggsjá, or The King’s Mirror, a Norwegian educational text. The theory was that the lights were reflections from Earth’s oceans. Another theory was that they were reflected sunlight coming from below the horizon, lighting up the sky. Even fires in Greenland were speculated as being the cause of these mysterious lights.

### 2. An Aurora in Europe Sparked Aurora Borealis Insights –

In 1708, Swedish scientist Sun Arnelius suggested that solar rays were being reflected off ice particles into the atmosphere. Eight years later, a strong aurora in Europe led to more scientific research being conducted on what cause the lights. Sir Edmund Halley published the first detailed description of the Northern Lights, suggesting that, “Auroral rays are due to particles, which are affected by the magnetic field, the rays parallel to Earth’s magnetic field.”

### 3. The Northern Lights Continuously Encircle the North Pole –

In the 1800s, Christopher Hansteen set up observation stations and arranged with sea captains to record the Earth’s magnetic field. Hansteen became the first person to note that the aurora occurs as a continuous ring around the geomagnetic pole. Taking this finding forward, Danish astrophysicist Sophus Tromholt organized a network of northern lights observation sites from which he discovered that the lights formed a ring around the North Pole.

### 4. Earth’s Magnetic Field Guides the Northern Lights –

At the start of the 20th century, the Norwegian physicist Kristian Birkeland conducted an experiment in which he placed a spherical magnet inside a vacuum chamber, then shot an electron beam at it. Birkeland found that the beam was guided by the magnetic field, hitting the sphere near the poles. He then reasoned that the sun must be firing beams toward Earth, and it was Earth’s magnetic field that guided them near the poles.

### 5. Trapped High-Energy Solar Particles Make Up the Aurora Borealis –

In the 1930s, Sydney Chapman and Vincent Ferraro hypothesized that clouds of electrically charged particles fired from the sun fly across space and envelop the Earth. Further research showed that as the particles reach Earth, they go around the atmosphere. The majority of them fly past the Earth, while a few swirl back toward it and enter the atmosphere. With the dawn of the Space Age, satellite data showed that the space around Earth is filled with high-energy particles that are trapped by the Earth’s magnetic field. Data revealed that there was also solar wind. These findings enabled scientists to create a map of the magnetosphere.

(continued on page 15)

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**6. Northern Lights Solar Particles Move Millions of Miles Per Hour –**

Today we know the Northern Lights are created by solar flares that shoot through space out of the sun. Specifically the lights originate from collisions between gas molecules on the surface of the sun, releasing large quantities of matter and electromagnetic radiation. The speed at which the solar flares normally travel is around seven million miles per hour (11,265,408 kph). At this speed, the solar flares take anywhere from one to five days to reach Earth, depending on the speed of the solar wind. In comparison, sunlight takes eight minutes to reach Earth. As the solar flares reach the Earth's atmosphere, the majority of the particles continue past Earth into space. However, a few solar flares enter the atmosphere from east to west, above the magnetic poles.

**7. The Northern Lights Are Diffuse (Soft) or Discreet (Sharp) –**

Most auroras occur in a band called the auroral zone, which is at a 3- to 6-degree latitude from the geographical poles. The Northern Lights can be either diffuse or discrete: Diffuse auroras form a featureless glow that may not be visible to the naked eye, while discrete auroras have sharp features and can vary significantly in brightness.

**8. Auroral Breakups Bring the Northern Lights to Life –**

The most spectacular part of watching the Northern Lights, and a common passenger wish on both Greenland cruises and Svalbard cruises around Spitsbergen, is seeing the auroral breakup. This event involves a brightening of forms and a rapid change in the aurora. The lights go from plain to rayed before swirling and dancing in the sky. In fact, multiple breakups can happen on a single night of moderate to high activity, while a low-activity night will have one or two breakups.

Scientists advise viewers to stay put if they see multiple bands appearing in an area, as that means a breakup is likely to occur. If these bands are seen early in the evening, the breakup will most likely be spectacular, with many more to come. After a big breakup occurs, there may not be any activity for half an hour to an hour, and breakups themselves can last around that long.

**9. Aurora Borealis Colors Come from Gas and Electrons –**

The colors of the Northern Lights are dependent on gas and electrons in the atmosphere. High-energy electrons cause oxygen to emit green light, while low-energy electrons cause a red light. Nitrogen typically gives off a violet or pink color, while vertical blues are caused by electrons colliding with ionised nitrogen.

Another factor that determines the color formation is altitude. At high altitudes (over 105 miles, 170 km) reds are generated, at middle altitudes (60 – 105 miles, 95 – 170 km) green is generated, and at lower altitudes (50 – 60 miles, 80 – 95 km) pink and violet are generated. When there are large solar storms, red can occur at the lower altitudes.

The color variations are due to oxygen taking around a second to emit energy as green light, and up to two minutes to emit red light. Higher altitudes contain a greater percentage of atomic nitrogen, giving atoms plenty of time to emit red, while the pinkish colors are a result of red from oxygen and blue from nitrogen combining.

**10. Practice Makes Perfect Northern Lights Pics –**

When taking that perfect photo of the Northern Lights, first check the weather and visit a website for aurora forecasts. A clear sky free of light pollution is as important as having the moon out of range, though some photographers prefer the moon for natural foreground lighting. Another factor is proximity to water, as an aurora over sea or lake can provide an amazing reflection.

For this type of photograph, a wide-angle zoom lens is advised. With exposure times ranging usually from 20 – 30 seconds, it is recommended that your camera be secured to a tripod. Also, try not to breathe out in awe while looking through the viewfinder, as this can cause the lens to fog and leave condensation that might later freeze. This might take some practice, but the results will be worth it.

*From Oceanwide Expeditions blog website: <https://oceanwide-expeditions.com>*

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## Winterizing Your Yard and Garden

If you've spent time caring for your yard and garden this summer, nobody would blame you for thinking autumn is the time to relax. But some simple fall maintenance will protect your lawn and plantings while promoting healthier plants next year.

### Flower Gardens –

- Bales of straw for winter mulch can be picked up at garden retailers
- Winterizing your flower beds is a matter of cleaning them up and tucking them in. When plants die, their foliage may contain latent disease, fungi, or bugs. After the first big freeze kills off their foliage, trim back your perennials. If you planted any annuals, pull them up entirely.
- If the weather is dry, water your flower beds before the ground freezes. Then, after a hard



ground frost in November, cover your perennials with four or more inches of straw or leaves.

- Some roses and flower bulbs are not hardy and require special treatment over the cold winters; look into the Minnesota tip and bulb storage techniques. But hardy shrub roses will get by fine if you pile mulch or soil over their bases and then cover with straw or leaves.

### Trees and Shrubs –

As winter wears on, rabbits and other animals may chew through tree bark, often killing the tree in the process. To protect your trees, wrap the trunks with flexible tree wrap, working the material beneath the soil line and wrapping upwards well above the expected snow line. Flexible tubing is another good option – many nurseries even sell saplings with tubing already in place. These protective coats also prevent trees from becoming confused during warm winter days and waking up too early. Defend your shrubs with chicken wire fences or chemical animal repellants (not poison).



### Vegetable Beds –

If you grow vegetables, remove and compost any spent plants (leaving any perennials such as asparagus). Over the winter, you can plan next year's garden menu. Crop rotation is not just for farmers – even in a small vegetable bed, rotate your plantings annually to avoid plant diseases that may develop in the soil.

### Lawn –

Most pre-winter turf maintenance is just an extension of your regular routine. Keep mowing your grass until it stops growing. In Minnesota, your lawn may keep growing well into October. Remove fallen leaves so the grass can keep gathering energy as long as possible. If you have a mulching blade on your lawnmower, you can make light leaf cover into lawn fertilizer by running over the leaves, but thick mulch layers will not benefit your lawn. The last time you mow, take the grass a little shorter than usual to avoid fungal infections setting in over winter.

Surprisingly, it's a good idea to fertilize your lawn in the fall. Fertilizing late in the season (late October/early November) gives the lawn a chance to absorb nutrients before going to sleep for the winter. Follow fertilizer instructions carefully, paying particular attention to application rates.

If this all sounds like too much work, don't worry. Preparing doesn't take all that long, and it's a good way to enjoy a nice fall day or two... And it really pays off in the spring with an easy start to the growing season.

*From Stacey Supina volunteers as a Ramsey County Master Gardener and has worked on landscapes for several years.*

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