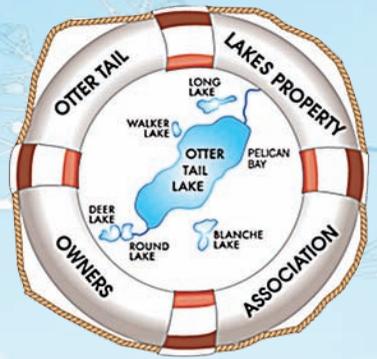


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The Official Newspaper of
Otter Tail Lakes
Property Owners
Association



Volume 55 - No. 1

– February 2025 –



Lakeshore News

Putting It Away For Winter, Meet Our Water Testers



Bringing in the water testing site on Blanche Lake.

Submitted by Ken Wentz

Blanche Lake: Ken Wentz

Deer Lake: Mark Long

Long Lake: Paul Oxberry

*Otter Tail Lake: Jerame Tysdal and
Debra Ness*

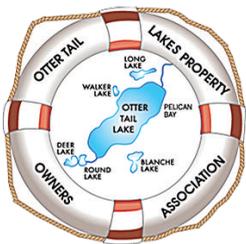
Round Lake: Steve Mouritsen

Walker Lake: Paul Heine

See pages 6-7 for Water Quality Reports 2024

• What's Inside •

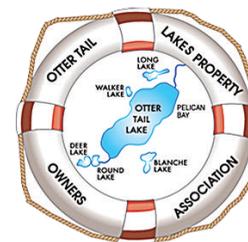
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Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 55 - No. 1 • February 2025 • Battle Lake, MN



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 –

- President –**
Eric Gerken (Otter Tail Lake)egerken31@gmail.com - 320-491-1277
- Vice President –**
Mark Long (Deer Lake)mdlongmark@outlook.com - 701-640-1033
- Treasurer –**
Pat Hunke (Otter Tail Lake).....phunke@hunkestransfer.com - 218-639-4910
- Secretary –**
Becky Kemling (Otter Tail River N)beckykemling@msn.com - 218-371-9095
- Website Manager –**
Tom Kudertom.kuder@gmail.com - 612-747-5021
- Blanche Lake Directors –**
Ken Wentzkmwjmw@gmail.com - 760-885-9668
Jeff Skogenjeffskogen@gmail.com - 303-898-2501

- Long Lake Director –**
Paul Oxberrypoxberry@outlook.com - 612-703-3116
- Round Lake Director –**
Steve MouritsenSteve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927
- Walker Lake Director –**
Mike Wendt.....MWendt3853@outlook.com
- Otter Tail Lake Directors –**
Dan Carlisle.....dcarlisle@toddwadena.coop - 218-639-3972
Duane Hanson.....duanehanson55@gmail.com - 701-367-4249
Debbie Nessdeb@yourresort.com - 218-495-2468
Julie Swanson.....julieswansonproperties@gmail.com - 218-282-0044
Jerame Tysdalotproperties@arvig.net



Happy New Year everyone!

Greeting from your OTLPOA President Eric Gerken. As we turn another year, I would like to thank our directors for their commitment, service and dedication to the OTLPOA Board. I also want to thank all the property owners who willingly help support our mission in making this a safer more enjoyable lake season!

– OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

Our fall was amazing along with the start of this winter season. Thank you Mother Nature for cold weather that has helped firm up our lakes for those ice fisherman, ice boaters and snowmobilers. Ice is never 100% safe so always test the ice before proceeding out and check with the resorts and fishing guides because they are typically watching ice conditions daily.

Each year we try to tackle items of concern for our property owners, families and guests. One such topic on most of your minds is swimmers itch and if there is anything that can be done to help rid these pesty parasites! These parasites come from duck droppings that end up in the water where the life cycle chain gets interrupted by humans swimming close to shore and mistake the humans as snails. The board is

looking into some potential options that may be available but have to be approved by the Minnesota DNR. See chart on page 3.

Ice fishing is one of our greatest activities on the lake in the wintertime, so please keep it clean by picking up all trash, wood blocks and debris before you leave. Please leave the lake look-

ing better than when you arrived. Everyone must do their part in keeping our lakes and rivers clean so that future generations will have clean water to enjoy!

Enjoy the rest of the winter months on the lakes; be safe and become a member of the greatest lake association in Minnesota!

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

OTLPOA 2025 Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

April 24 • May 22 • June 26 • July 24

August 28 • September 26 • October 23

Ottertail City Community Center 6 p.m.

If any member wants to address the board with any questions or issues, please notify secretary or any board member to be added to the agenda.

Annual Meeting August 7 at Thumper Pond

(more detail to come)

Calendar of Events 2025

- March 8 Lakes Area Home & Cabin Show - Perham
- April 11-13 Gathering Decoy Show - Perham
- April 26 Walk For Glendalough State Park
- May 10 Minnesota Fishing Opener (Walleye, Sauger and Northern)
- May 25 Lake Region Healthcare Run - Fergus Falls
- June 7 Minnesota Muskellunge Opener
- June 13-14 Fergus Falls Summerfest
- June 14 Maplewood State Park Running Wild Trail Run
Minnesota State Park Free Day
- June 18-22 Perham's 20th Turtle Fest
- June 21 TriCity Junk Jaunt - Battle Lake, Henning, Ottertail Rummage Sales
- July 11 Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County in Perham
- July 12-13 Phelps Mill Arts Festival
- TBA Downtown Fergus Falls Shop Move'n Groove
- TBA Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
- July 16-19 West Otter Tail County Fair - Fergus Falls
- July 24-27 East Otter Tail County Fair - Perham
- July 26-27 Battle Lake's Wenonga Days
- July 31-August 3 Parkers Prairie Fall Festival & Bull Ride
Vergas' Loony Days
- August 1-2 Perham Crazy Days
- August 2 East Otter Tail County Breakfast On The Farm
- August 16-17 Perham Pioneer Days
- August 7-9 WE Fest - Detroit Lakes
- August 8-9 Silver Sage Pro Rodeo - Clitherall
- August 9 Art & Craft Affair - Battle Lake
- August Rod & Gun Club Demo Derby - Ottertail
- August Ottertail City's Otter Fest
- August 18 Vining Watermelon Day
- August 29-20 Underwood's Harvest Festival
- August 30 Battle Lake Area Community Fund's Gathering of Planes
- September 5-7 Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Reunion - Dalton
- September 13 Woodstack - Prospect House & Museum, Battle Lake

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact blreview@arvig.net

New Bill Passed ... Keep It Clean 2.0

Keep It Clean MN 2.0 is working hard to get an updated new bill passed in the Minnesota Legislature in 2025. The original bill made it illegal to place garbage and human/other waste on or under the ice on Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

Garbage, rubbish, cigarette filters, debris from fireworks, offal, the body of a dead animal, litter, sewage and any other waste needs to be stored inside your shelter, motor vehicle or any other conveyance or inside a container that is secured to your shelter, motor vehicle or conveyance.



Watch for updates in OTC COLA monthly E-Newsletter for instructions on how to contact Minnesota legislators in support of Keep It Clean MN 2.0.

Ron Schara Keep It Clean MN Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwa4mSuK5m8

Keep It Clean Newsletter:

drive.google.com/file/d/1cHChbtbOQgz0CxlAxrITRNDt_hp9pLRH/view

Website: [Keepitcleanmn.org](https://keepitcleanmn.org)

The Keep It Clean campaign addresses the growing problem of garbage and waste left on the ice by anglers, campers and recreationists through education, legislation and enforcement. The Keep It Clean bill was signed into law in May 2023, making it illegal to place garbage and waste on or under the ice on Minnesota's lakes and rivers.

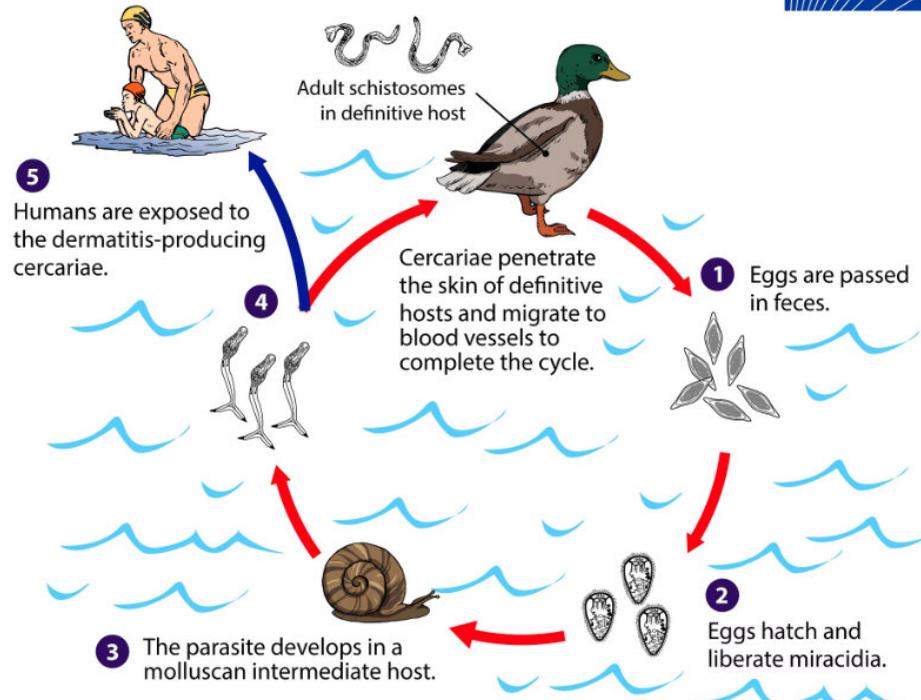
New Legislation: Sec. 66 STORING GARBAGE AND WASTE ON ICE.

www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/60/laws.4.65.0#laws.4.65.0

Continued from President's Corner page 2 –



Cercarial Dermatitis



Urgent! Your Assistance Is Vitally Important!!

Gov. Walz's Proposes To Cut AIS Prevention Funding In Half

Dateline 4:26 p.m. January 16, 2025

I am writing to you today with an urgent request. A few hours ago Governor Walz released his proposed budget recommendations. In it he proposes cutting the County AIS Prevention Aid formula by 50%.

Please write Governor Walz a letter today and urge him to protect the County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid.

If you are part of a Coalition of Lake Associations, COLA, or on a Chain of Lakes, please forward this email to other lake associations in your area and urge them to write a letter.

The most powerful way to contact the Governor's office is to take out a pen and paper, or typewriter, write him a letter urging him to reconsider this budget recommendation, sign it, put it in an envelope and mail it to him.

Handwritten letters are the gold standard in political discourse. As a lake association leader, you have an authentic stake in this AIS funding. It pays for inspections, decontamination, education, outreach and support of local volunteers.

You can address your letter to: Office of Governor Tim Walz, 130 State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155

Some things you might want to include:

- State in your letter that you are opposed to cutting the County AIS Prevention Aid Formula,
- Let him know how this funding supports your efforts to protect the public waters,
- Remind him that prevention is far more efficient and cost effective than treatment after the fact,
- Tell him what the lake means to you and why you are so engaged in protecting it.

We have just learned of this budget cut. MLR staff and lobbyist are already working to lay out a strategy, develop communications and promotional materials. You will be hearing more from us in the days and weeks to come. We are starting with you and other lake association leaders first, and will broaden and widen our advocacy efforts in the weeks to come.

Thank you for all you do. Please do take a moment to write a letter - if the Governor's office receives a few hundred letters from civic organizations representing literally hundreds of thousands of concerned and engaged citizens, this will have an impact.

Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director

Be Prepared For Winter Outings

Dressing for Minnesota Winters

The difference between loving and hating a Minnesota winter can come down to wearing the right clothes. When you are warm and prepared to be outside in cold weather, you can experience the joy of a snowy winter.

Chilly 40° to 31° F (4° to -1° C)
 Hat, 2 top layers, 1 bottom layer, 1 sock layer, Insulated boots, Mittens

Cold 30° to 20° F (-1° to -7° C)
 Hat, Scarf, 2-3 top layers, 2 bottom layers, 1 warm sock layer, Insulated boots, Warm mittens

Very Cold 19° to 0° F (-7° to -18° C)
 Hat, Scarf, 3-4 top layers, 2-3 bottom layers, 1-2 sock layers, Insulated boots, Warm mittens

Windy? Add layers as needed and protect exposed skin. Check the wind chill.
Rain or snow? Stay warm and dry by wearing waterproof clothing or replacing wet layers.
Children? Add at least one layer to the recommendations above and take frequent warm-up breaks.
Extreme cold? Add layers. Keep time outdoors brief. The DNR cancels interpretive programs at -15° F (-26° C).
Timing? Add layers for more hours outside and take warm-up breaks indoors as needed.
Physical activity? Remove layers when you sweat to stay dry.

ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE! Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

(Guidelines for New, Clear Ice Only)

<4" Keep off
4" On foot
5-7" Snowmobile
7-8" Side-by-side ATV
9-12" Car
13-17" Truck
20+" Heavy duty truck with wheelchair shelter

KEEP OFF

mn DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Frozen Soap Bubbles
Photo by OTL Director Duane Hanson

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 Fruit and Gift Baskets
 Party Trays Meat & Cheese, Fruit & Veggie

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Otter Tail County AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TASK FORCE

Save The Date!

A Lake Stewardship Seminar is being planned for May 31, 2025 at the Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail City. Lake property owners in Otter Tail and other regional counties will be invited to attend at no cost. Topics to be addressed by field specialists and scientists will include shoreland restoration, aquatic invasive species, septic systems and activities of state agencies, universities and regional coalitions of lake associations.

Watch for more news about the event in newsletters, publications, social media and other sources. Invitations for registrations will appear in the monthly OTC COLA E-Newsletter, websites and other media outlets.

For more information contact: Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist at smcgrew@co.ottertail.mn.us.

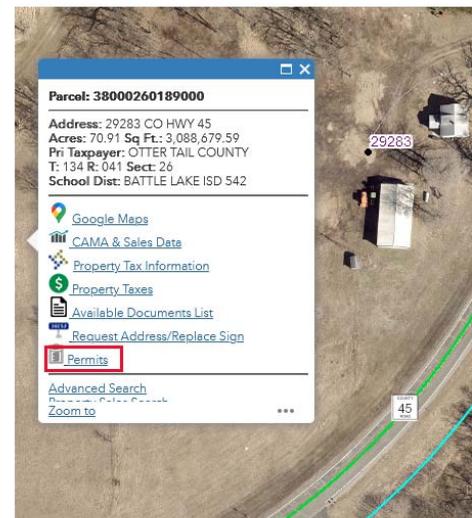


Photo by OTL Director Duane Hanson

Otter Tail County Releases Permit View Feature On GIS Map

Otter Tail County has enhanced its Geographic Information System (GIS) map, introducing a permit view feature to make accessing and reviewing permits faster and more convenient. Past permits issued in the 1970s and all current permits are now accessible directly on the map. The links will take users to the actual permit.

The updated function allows for easy access to view the permits. Users can quickly locate permits associated with any parcel in Otter Tail County, including shoreland permits, variance permits, septic permits, and more. The permit view function ensures professionals and residents can easily search by address, parcel number, or permit type, making the process efficient.



GIS map users can now access permits issued since the early 1970's using the "Permits" feature.

"With this new feature, we're providing easy access to information," said Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County's Land and Resource Director. "Whether you're a resident, contractor, or realtor, this tool saves time and streamlines services."

To explore the new permit view feature, visit the Otter Tail County GIS map. Navigate to the parcel of interest, and click the "Permits" option. If any permits are associated with the parcel, they will appear for viewing. For additional information or support, please contact the Otter Tail County GIS Department at 218-998-8310. To explore the new permit view feature, visit the Otter Tail County GIS map. Navigate to the parcel of interest, and click the "Permits" option. If any permits are associated with the parcel, they will appear for viewing. For additional information or support, please contact the Otter Tail County GIS Department at 218-998-8310.

Lake Area
Docks & Lifts

WWW.LAKEAREADOCKS.COM

FERGUS FALLS, MN

23156 COUNTY HWY 1
218-998-5400

PELICAN RAPIDS, MN

1200 NORTH
BROADWAY HWY 59
218-863-1833

BATTLE LAKE, MN

106 MEMORY LANE
HWY 210 W
218-862-3625

SHOREMASTER



RAISING
EXPECTATIONS
ONE LIFT
AT A TIME

OTLPOA Water Quality Analysis Reports 2024 - 10 Year Trend



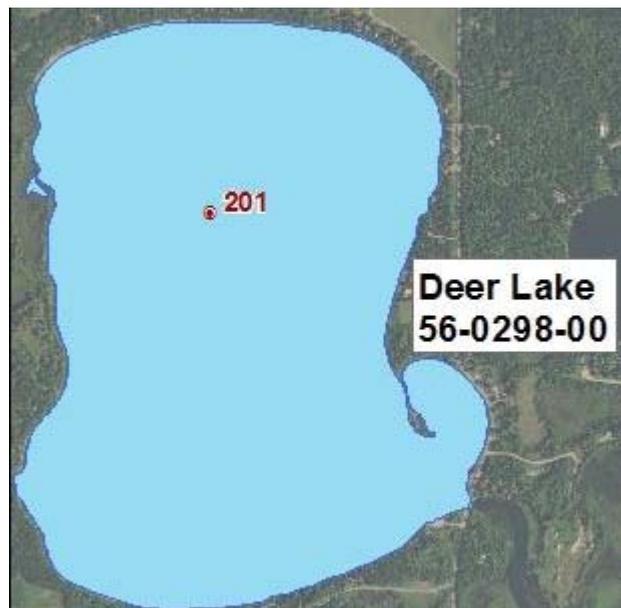
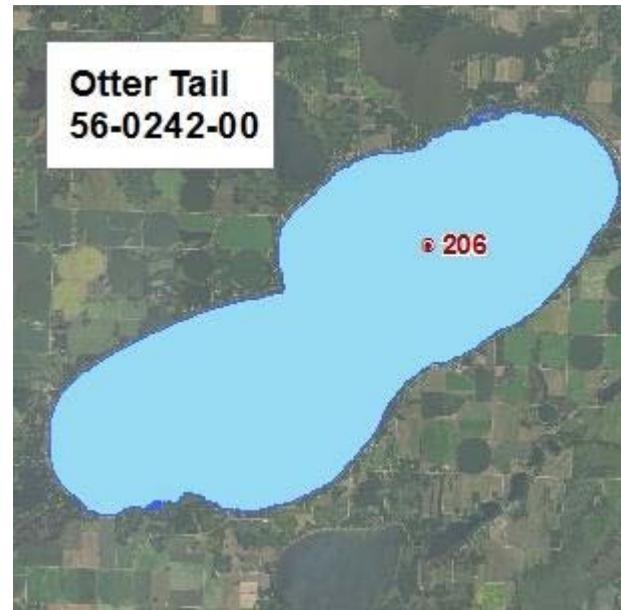
Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
Blanche 56-0240-00 202	2015	14.3	5.3	9.2	45.0
	2016	17.3	5.2	9.3	45.5
	2017	14.3	3.7	10.8	42.8
	2018	12.2	2.8	11.8	42.0
	2019	12.2	5.7	13.0	42.4
	2020	13.0	6.1	11.0	43.5
	2021	10.0	3.5	14.8	38.3
	2022	9.2	2.4	17.5	36.0
	2023	12.8	4.1	12.7	41.4
	2024	12.9	5.0	13.1	41.3
Blanche 56-0240-00 202 Total		12.7	4.3	12.4	41.7

Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave	
Long 56-0210 0 202	2017	156.0	57.4	1.0	74.8	
	2018	103.2	49.0	0.8	70.6	
	2019	80.0	47.5	1.1	70.2	
	2020	65.4	29.6	1.6	66.6	
	2021	55.0	33.2	2.0	63.6	
	2022	27.4	15.0	2.9	56.2	
	2023	28.1	10.7	4.0	52.8	
	2024	35.0	11.3	4.9	53.2	
	Long 56-0210 0 202 Total		72.6	33.6	2.1	64.1

Zebra Mussels Infested –

- Blanche Lake: 2018
- Deer Lake: 2017
- Long Lake: n/a
- Otter Tail Lake: 2016
- Round Lake: 2018
- Walker Lake: 2018

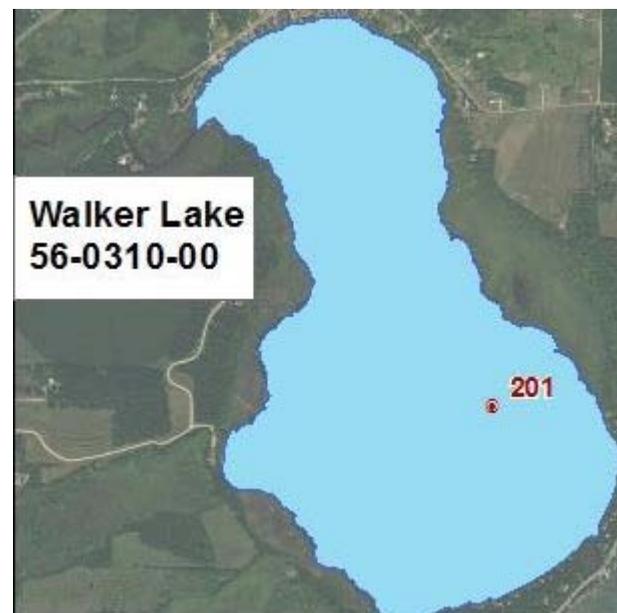
Check Out OTC COLA Website for more updated information and meetings!



Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
Otter Tail 56-0242-00 206	2015	12.0	4.0		
	2016	17.5	8.7	8.8	47.5
	2017	17.6	5.7	12.1	44.0
	2018	14.2	3.5	18.4	39.7
	2019	16.2	2.9	19.8	39.0
	2020	15.4	4.8	18.5	40.0
	2021	13.0	4.0	8.0	44.0
	2022	20.5	5.5	11.9	43.3
	2023	17.6	4.2	13.3	42.3
	2024	19.8	4.9	13.0	43.6
Otter Tail 56-0242-00 206 Total		16.9	4.7	15.0	41.9

Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
Otter Tail 56-0242-00 208	2015	23.4	5.6	11.8	45.2
	2016	17.0	7.3	11.1	45.6
	2017	12.5	4.5	13.0	41.5
	2018	12.3	0.9	18.3	35.3
	2019	13.5	3.1	20.0	39.0
	2020	15.0	5.0	19.2	40.8
	2021	40.0	3.3	11.5	43.7
	2022	19.1	4.6	11.3	44.0
	2023	11.3	4.5	14.5	40.0
	2024	15.8	4.7	13.2	42.8
Otter Tail 56-0242-00 208 Total		18.2	4.7	14.1	42.3

Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
Deer 56-0298 0 201	2015	22.8	6.0	10.8	46.4
	2016	21.5	5.1	10.5	45.8
	2017	17.5	5.3	10.3	45.0
	2018	14.3	2.6	15.1	39.5
	2019	21.0	3.0	16.1	42.0
	2020	52.5	2.8	13.4	45.3
	2021	23.0	2.3	12.8	42.7
	2022	26.1	4.2	13.1	43.0
	2023	19.5	5.7	11.7	44.7
	2024	17.5	4.4	14.4	42.4
Deer 56-0298 0 201 Total		23.6	4.2	12.8	43.7



Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave	
Blanche 56-0240-00 202	2015	14.3	5.3	9.2	45.0	
	2016	17.3	5.2	9.3	45.5	
	2017	14.3	3.7	10.8	42.8	
	2018	12.2	2.8	11.8	42.0	
	2019	12.2	5.7	13.0	42.4	
	2020	13.0	6.1	11.0	43.5	
	2021	10.0	3.5	14.8	38.3	
	2022	9.2	2.4	17.5	36.0	
	2023	12.8	4.1	12.7	41.4	
	2024	12.9	5.0	13.1	41.3	
	Blanche 56-0240-00 202 Total		12.7	4.3	12.4	41.7

Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave	
Walker 56-0310-00 201	2015	34.3	12.8	7.5	51.8	
	2016	42.8	15.9	7.1	54.6	
	2017	43.2	13.0	6.6	54.4	
	2018	39.4	16.1	6.3	54.6	
	2019	30.4	10.9	6.9	52.0	
	2020	26.2	9.6	7.8	50.0	
	2021	17.3	3.3	9.2	43.7	
	2022	30.5	9.9	7.0	51.2	
	2023	26.4	10.3	8.3	49.8	
	2024	32.0	10.7	12.4	47.0	
	Walker 56-0310-00 201 Total		33.1	11.7	7.7	51.3

Ecoregion Comparison –

Another approach to evaluating health of lakes is test data compared to Ecoregions. An Ecoregion is a geographical area where the land use (agriculture, forest, prairie, etc.), underlying geology, potential native plant community, and soils are relatively similar. The lakes in Otter Tail County are in the Northern Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion (NCHF).

What Is A Healthy Lake? A healthy lake is most often described as one whose physical, biological and chemical properties are in equilibrium. This balance provides stability that allows native aquatic organisms to flourish. Because each lake is different, it is difficult to compare lakes to each other. It is best to compare your own lake to itself over time. It is widely accepted that the amount of phosphorus in a lake often determines the ultimate disposition of health for a lake. Phosphorus in a lake is the primary nutrient feeding the growth of algae and aquatic plant life. Control of infusion to Blanche Lake of phosphorus from animal waste, human waste and fertilizers is the most probable objective to pursue to nurture lake health.

Concerned About Phosphorus? What to do ...

- Investigate and control property owner septic system efficiency
- Identify and pursue adverse land run off from lake property owners, farms and feed lots
- Educate lake property owners on detrimental use of phosphate lawn fertilizers

Lake Organizations and Resources

• OTC COLA Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations has over 50 Member Lake Associations representing close to 60 lakes (70% of the lake acreage in the County). The Water Quality Analysis Program has been in existence over 20 years providing running 10-year trend analysis reports. OTC COLA partners with Lake Associations sponsoring water quality testing programs, communications, education and legislative forums. OTC COLA maintains strategic alliances with lake and river organizations, government lobbyists and State and County government officials.

- COLA sponsored water quality testing
- Monthly NEWSLETTERS SUBSCRIBE
- OTC COLA WEBSITE
- Attend summer monthly meetings
- Participate in COLA events
- Network with fellow COLA members

• OTC COLA BROCHURE:

<https://lakeadmin.org/> Everything Lake Organization Administration

- AIS
- WATER QUALITY
- ADMINISTRATION
- REGULATION
- GENERAL INTEREST
- SUBSCRIBE to the lakeadmin.org Bulletin

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency MPCA

• The MPCA provides technical and financial assistance and enforces environmental regulations in the State of Minnesota.

East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District EOT SWCD

- Shore & Water
- Financial Assistance

West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District WOT SWCD

Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management
 • The Department of Land and Resource Management is designed to enforce county and state ordinances/rules. 218-998-8095, Land@ottertailcounty.gov

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: MN DNR

Minnesota Lake Organizations and Agencies

• Lake property owners and lake organizations are finding that coping with adverse trends requires awareness and engagement. Minnesota organizations and Agencies work with counties, lake property owners, cities, townships and other entities for the preservation and protection of Minnesota lakes.



Minnesota DNR Shares Reminders About Snowmobile Riding Season



As snowmobile riders prepare for the upcoming riding season, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds riders of important dates, safety tips and registration requirements. While the snowmobile riding season can start as early as December 1, as yet this year there are no locations in the state with suitable conditions for trail grooming. Several conditions must be met before trails are open, groomed and ready for travel:

- The ground must be frozen. Where trails cross wetlands, 15 inches of ice are needed to support the weight of trail groomers.
- Adequate snow cover of about 12 inches must be on the ground to allow for trail packing and grooming.
- Trails must be cleared of fallen trees, signs put in place and gates opened.

While snowmobilers await the arrival of more snow and groomed trails, now is a good time to make sure registrations are current and snowmobiles are in good operating order, review safety training, and check local trail maps for route changes or new trails.

Registrations for new snowmobiles must be purchased in person at a deputy registrar of motor vehicles or at the DNR License Bureau in St. Paul. Renewals of registrations and state trail passes for snowmobiles not registered in the State of Minnesota can be handled in person at these same locations or on the DNR's licenses and vehicle registrations website (mndnr.gov/licenses).

The DNR shares information about snow depth and state-managed trail conditions on its DNR snow depth and groomed trail conditions webpage (mndnr.gov/snow_depth). Local trail conditions are often posted online by tourism associations, chambers of commerce and volunteer snowmobile clubs. To find the nearest club, visit the Minnesota United Snowmobiler's Association website (mnsnowmobiler.org).

Important snowmobile riding safety tips include:

- Be weather aware and don't ride in adverse weather conditions.
- Check the trail conditions and weather forecast for the destination before leaving home.
- Measure ice depth before riding on lakes and rivers. The DNR recommends a minimum of 5 to 7 inches of new, clear ice for snowmobiles.
- Always stay on designated snowmobile trails. Venturing off trails can result in accidents, loss of trails from landowners, and trespass violations.
- Don't drink alcohol and ride. Alcohol is a factor in more than 60% of fatal accidents in Minnesota.
- Always wear a quality DOT-approved helmet and facemask.

An interactive snowmobile trail map can be found on the DNR's snowmobiling website (mndnr.gov/snowmobiling). Paper trail maps can be requested from the DNR

Information Center. Email info.dnr@state.mn.us or call 888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.



New Licensing System In 2025

The DNR plans to launch a new electronic license system, which will include a mobile phone app in spring 2025.

The ELS is the primary system that issues angling and hunting licenses and permits to residents of Minnesota and other states. It also registers and titles outdoor recreation equipment, including watercraft and off-highway vehicles.

The new, modern system will make it easier for customers to buy licenses, register their harvests and sign up for safety training. It also will improve the business process for agents, registrars and DNR staff.

Licenses and permits are expected to be available for purchase in the new system starting Tuesday, March 4, 2025. The last day for license and permit sales in the current system will be in late February. No licenses or permits will be sold online, by phone or by license agents during the transition to the new system.

Recreational vehicles: For uninterrupted use or access, all necessary licenses or registrations should be renewed in early February.

Fishing, hunting and trapping: Licenses for the 2025-2026 season will not be available for purchase prior to March 4, 2025. Residents and nonresidents will be exempt from the requirements to possess a license to take game or fish from late February 2025 to March 3, 2025. All regulations for seasons and bag limits remain in effect during this time period. You must purchase your 2025 license March 4, 2025 to continue to take game or fish.

MOBILE APP

- Paperless license purchase and harvest registration
- Offline harvest registration (Cell service or internet not needed)
- Option to register harvest at agent locations will still be available

WAYS TO PURCHASE

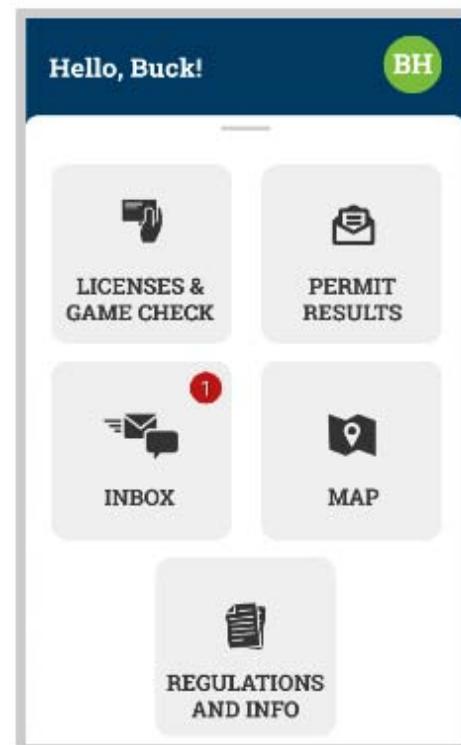
- Option to purchase licenses digitally or in-person at license agents
- Download your license as a PDF, access it in the app or print it

LOTTERY

- Apply for hunt, track preferences, and view results
- Track lottery history

Coming later in 2025: SAFETY CLASSES

- New system to search, enroll, and pay for education and safety training classes
- Buy licenses in the same system after you pass safety certifications



This mockup is intended for concept purposes only. It may not reflect the final content.

Otter Tail County Urges Residents To Test For Radon

Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, is the leading environmental cause of cancer deaths in the United States and the primary cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Each year, more than 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. are attributed to radon exposure. Alarmingly, about 2 in 5 homes in Minnesota have elevated radon levels. Otter Tail County Public Health urges residents to test their homes for radon to ensure their families' safety.

Testing: Easy, Affordable and Essential

Testing for radon is simple, inexpensive, and can be done in just a few minutes. Winter is the ideal time for testing, as doors and windows are typically closed, creating the most accurate conditions.

Radon test kits are available at the Otter Tail County Public Health Offices in Fergus Falls and New York Mills during regular business hours Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

How To Keep Birds Fed And Happy This Winter

As Minnesotans, we know how tough winter can be, and backyard birds face the same challenges. When the snow piles up and temperatures plummet, natural food sources become scarce. This is when bird feeders become a lifeline, providing essential nutrition to help birds survive until spring.

Why bird feeding matters in January

Minnesota winters are especially tough for birds. Insects, berries, and seeds—key food sources in warmer months—are gone. By putting out food, we give birds the calories and energy they need to stay warm and healthy. Many species, like chickadees, woodpeckers, and nuthatches, stay in the state through winter, and your backyard feeders provide a reliable source of food.

Best foods for winter bird feeding

To keep birds healthy, offer foods high in fat and calories. Here are some great options for winter bird feeding:

- **Black oil sunflower seeds:** These are a favorite among nearly every bird species. They're rich in fat, easy to crack, and a top food choice in winter.
- **Suet:** Packed with energy, suet is perfect for woodpeckers and nuthatches. Some suet cakes come with added ingredients like berries or seeds to attract different species.
- **Nyjer (Thistle) seed:** Ideal for finches, nyjer is high in fat and a perfect choice for smaller winter visitors.
- **Peanuts:** Jays and woodpeckers love peanuts. They're high in fat, making them great for winter.
- **Mealworms:** Mealworms are great for insect-eating birds, and they can be offered dried or live.

Feeders to attract winter birds

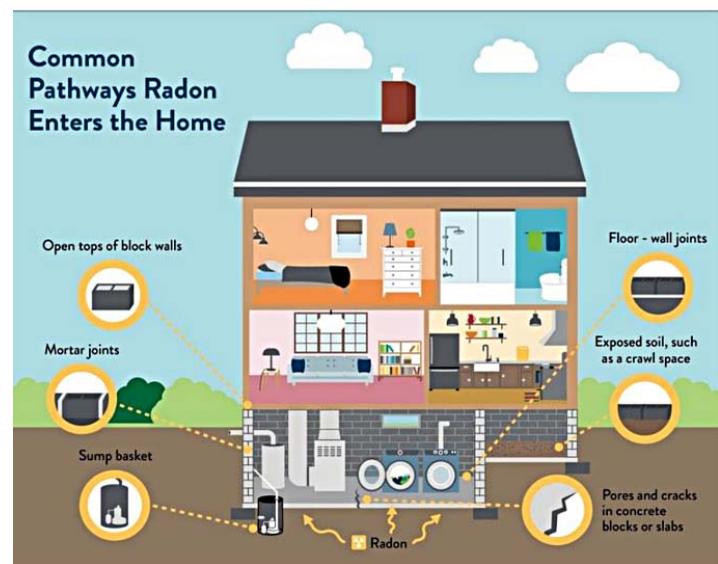
Birds need more than just good food, they also need feeders placed in sheltered spots that protect their food from the elements and are accessible to a variety of bird species. Choosing the right type of feeder and positioning it properly ensures that birds can feed safely and comfortably, helping to support their health and survival during harsh winter months.

Here's what works well in winter:

- **Tube feeders:** Great for smaller birds like chickadees and finches. They also keep seeds dry.

and the City Offices in Battle Lake, Parkers Prairie and Pelican Rapids. Residents are encouraged to call ahead for availability.

Homeowners can order test kits directly from the Minnesota Department of Health at mn.gov/radon. These kits come with easy-to-follow instructions. Once the test is completed mailed to Air Check, a certified radon testing company, in a postage-paid envelope. Results are sent to the homeowner via email at no additional cost.



- **Platform feeders:** These are perfect for larger birds like doves and jays. Be sure to keep them clean to avoid attracting unwanted guests like squirrels.
- **Suet feeders:** Ideal for woodpeckers and other insect-eating birds, suet feeders offer the high-fat nutrition they need in winter.



Cardinals -
Photo by OTL Director Duane Hanson

Tips for a successful feeding station

Helping birds is great, but there are some things to keep in mind: Keep feeders clean: Clean feeders regularly to prevent mold and bacteria, which can harm birds. Use soap and water, then rinse thoroughly.

Squirrel-proof: If squirrels are stealing food, consider squirrel-proof feeders, or place them in hard-to-reach spots.

Space feeders: If you have several feeders, space them out to reduce competition and stress among birds.



Winter birdwatching

Winter birdwatching is a fun way to connect with nature. Whether you're an experienced birder or a beginner, the cold months offer the chance to spot resilient birds that stick around. By keeping feeders stocked and offering the right food, you'll be helping birds survive while enjoying the beauty of nature from your window.

As temperatures drop, your backyard feeders can make all the difference. Keep your birds well-fed, and you'll enjoy a variety of species visiting your yard all winter long.

Author: Robin Trott, Extension Educator, Douglas County

Meet DNR Area Hydrologist Ryan Bjerke

My name is Ryan Bjerke, and I've been the DNR Area Hydrologist based out of the Fergus Falls office since late 2023, coming into the position after the retirement of my predecessor, Julie Aadland. The past year has been spent familiarizing myself with an expansive new work area — Otter Tail, Traverse and Wilkin Counties — and the key issues and stakeholders involved in administering work in public waters across a very diverse landscape. Through this learning process, I've come to appreciate the exceptional value that the majority of people in this part of the world place on protecting and sustaining our high quality water resources.



Prior to moving to the Fergus Falls work area, I was the DNR Area Hydrologist for nearly 10 years in the Ortonville work area, covering Big Stone and Lac qui Parle Counties and parts of Chippewa, Lincoln, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties. Before coming to the DNR, I spent 4 years working as a surface water hydrologist for the Wyoming State Engineer's Office in Riverton, Wyoming and 1 year as a staff hydrologist with the U.S. Forest Service in the Black Hills National Forest based out of Spearfish, South Dakota. My education includes bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental and hydrological sciences from South Dakota State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, respectively.

Please feel free to contact me for discussion about public waters and permitting for work therein, shoreland and floodplain issues, water resource restoration projects, and general water-related topics. If an in-person meeting or site visit is preferred, please be in touch in advance to allow for schedule coordination, particularly during the field season. Thanks for your dedication and passion in conserving our shared, irreplaceable water resources.

My contact information is as follows:

Ryan Bjerke, Area Hydrologist | Ecological & Water Resources
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 1509 1st Ave. N., Fergus Falls, MN 56537
 Cell: 218-770-1480 Email: ryan.bjerke@state.mn.us

~ RECIPE CORNER ~

Easy Fish Casserole

- 1 lb. your favorite boneless fish cut into bite-size pieces
- 1 lb. large shrimp (16-22 count), peeled and deveined
- 1 Tbl. kosher salt
- 3 Tbls. butter, divided

- 2/3 c. mayonnaise
- 2 tsp. Old Bay Seasoning
- 4 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
- 4 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup panko bread crumbs



Preheat your oven to 375°. Grease 2-qt. casserole dish with 1 Tbl. butter. In large pot boil water and add 1 Tbl. salt. Add spinach and cook 1 min. Remove the spinach and transfer to paper towel-lined plate.

Add fish to boiling water and cook for 1 min. Remove and transfer to large mixing bowl.

Add shrimp to boiling water and cook for 1 min. Immediately transfer it to the same large mixing bowl.

Let fish and shrimp cool for 5 mins. Drain any water that collects at bottom of bowl or use a paper towel to soak up excess liquid.

Add mayonnaise and Old Bay Seasoning to the fish and shrimp. Stir to coat evenly.

Stir in shredded cheddar and mozzarella cheeses along with spinach. Stir again to combine.

Transfer mixture to the prepared casserole dish, spreading it evenly.

Melt remaining 2 Tbls. butter in microwave for 10-15 seconds. In a small bowl, stir together melted butter and panko bread crumbs until the crumbs are evenly moistened.

Sprinkle crumbs over fish mixture. Bake uncovered for 15 mins. or until center reaches 145°.

Broil casserole for about 2 mins. to brown bread crumbs. Then let it cool slightly for 5 mins. before serving.

Recipe by Jeff Benda
wildgameandfish.com



We're looking for your favorite recipe to share

Submit to Battle Lake Review at blreview@arvig.net

Lakes Area Church Directory

~ Baptist ~

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

Sundays – Sunday School 9:30 a.m., refreshments following
 Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
 Potluck Dinner (2nd Sunday)

Wednesdays – Bible Study, Youth Group and Kids Club 7 p.m.

Thursdays (third) – Ladies' Bible Study

Saturdays (first) – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.

First Baptist Church

An American Baptist Church
 "Little Brown Church on the Hill"

121 Lake Ave. N., Battle Lake 218-864-5319
www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org

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 – Saturdays 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.
Confessions – Saturdays 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Wednesdays 8 a.m.
Bible Study – Fridays 9 a.m.
Sewing Group – Tuesdays 9 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 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.
Confessions – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Thursdays 9 a.m.
Men of Mary - Saturdays 8 a.m.
Sunday School – Sundays 9:15 a.m.
Mission Sewing – Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.
Edge/Life Teen – Wednesdays 5:30 p.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

Sunday Worships – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 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. (and online)
 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.

~ Lutheran ~

ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR

office@zionamor.org 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake
 Chris Mathiason, Pastor
www.zionamor.org 218-495-2563

Sundays – Confirmation 9 a.m. - 10th Graders; Worship 10 a.m. (Traditional with Communion 1st and 4th; Contemporary with Prairie Team 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship 11 a.m.

Mondays – Quilting 9 a.m.

Tuesdays – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon

Wednesdays – Praise Team 4 p.m.

Thursdays – Chair Yoga 1 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. Communion 1st Sunday

Coffee following worship June-August.

Walleyes In Lakes With Zebra Mussels Have Higher Mercury Levels

by MPR News - Kirsti Marohn, November 20, 2024

A new study has found another negative effect of invasive zebra mussels in lakes: higher levels of mercury in fish.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota, the U.S. Geological Survey and other agencies studied 21 Minnesota lakes and compared mercury concentrations in the tissue of two species, walleye and yellow perch.

The results were unexpected: They found adult walleye in lakes infested with zebra mussels had 72 percent higher mercury concentrations than in lakes without the invaders. In yellow perch — a common prey for walleye — the mercury concentrations were 157 percent higher.

Smaller and average-sized walleye and perch from lakes with zebra mussels also were much more likely to exceed 0.22 parts per million of mercury, a threshold that triggers more restrictive advisories on how much fish humans can safely eat.

Gretchen Hansen, an associate ecology professor at the U of M and one of the lead authors, said there were other surprising results.

“We saw this effect in multiple species and across multiple life stages,” she said. “It wasn’t just the adult walleye. We saw similar responses of yellow perch, and also young-of-year, or juvenile or baby fish.”

Those juvenile fish are not as likely to be eaten by humans. But Hansen said the findings point to larger trends of what’s happening with mercury in infested lakes, and the pathways by which fish are affected.

“It’s like the whole system is being changed in a way that leads to higher mercury in the prey of walleye and in the walleye themselves,” she said.

Mercury is released into the air, often by coal-fired power plants and other industries. It mainly enters lakes through atmospheric deposition, carried by rain or snow.

When mercury enters a lake, it’s in pure elemental form. Bacteria in the water convert it to a more toxic form called methyl mercury, which can be absorbed by fish or humans.

How much mercury gets into fish depends on several factors, Hansen said, including the lake’s food web and where fish are eating.

When zebra mussels infest a lake, they can form dense mats on the bottom. That creates sediment without oxygen, an ideal environment for the bacteria needed to convert mercury, Hansen said.

At the same time, filter-feeding zebra mussels are sucking nutrients out of the water and depositing them on the bottom as waste, she said. As a result, walleye and perch may shift their feeding habits nearer to shore, where more mercury is available.

“I think of it as sort of like a one-two punch,” Hansen said. “Neither one of these processes would affect mercury in fish necessarily by themselves.”

Hansen said researchers focused on 21 medium-sized lakes considered good for walleye, but not among Minnesota’s 10 largest. Most are clustered in the middle of the state. Twelve have zebra mussels and nine do not. Otherwise, they share similar characteristics.

Popular fishing lakes are more likely to be infested with zebra mussels, because they tend to have more boaters, Hansen said.

“It just points to the magnitude of potential effects on species like

walleye (that) are going to be felt in those places, because that’s where zebra mussels are showing up,” Hansen said. She said the team is interested in further study to learn whether the same effect is happening in other lakes.

The study was published in the journal Science of the Total Environment.

Hansen said the findings don’t mean it’s unsafe to eat fish. She said people might want to be more cautious eating fish from lakes with higher densities of zebra mussels, possibly by eating smaller fish or those lower on the food chain.

The Minnesota Department of Health issues fish consumption advisories for many Minnesota lakes based on mercury levels. The guidelines are lower for children under age 15 and people who are now or may become pregnant or breastfeed.



Eat Fish Often?

A Minnesota Guide to Eating Fish



Safe Eating Guidelines

Most fish are healthy to eat. Fish are a great way to get protein and good fats, but any fish (store-bought or locally-caught) could have contaminants such as mercury that can harm human health – especially children and fetuses.

Statewide Safe-Eating Guidelines

 = Pregnant women, Women who could become pregnant, and Children under age 15

 = Men, Boys age 15 and over, and Women not planning to become pregnant

Species	4 servings per week*	1 serving per week	1 serving per month	Do not eat
Bass				
Bullhead				
Catfish				
Cisco (Lake Herring)				
Crappie				
Inland Stream Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow)				
Lake Trout				
Lake Whitefish				
Muskellunge				
Northern Pike				
Sunfish				
Walleye				
Yellow Perch				
Other Species Not Listed				

* previously unrestricted

What to do?

- Eat fish - Benefits outweigh risks if you follow the Safe-Eating Guidelines.
- Spread out fish meals over time - contaminants take time to leave your body.
- Check Waterbody Specific Safe-Eating Guidelines.



Fish from some waters have higher levels of contaminants. Eat these fish less often than the Statewide Safe-Eating Guidelines.

Join Your Neighbors and Preserve Our Lakes

Become an OTLPOA Member today! Your membership makes a difference. Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association is primarily member supported, so we rely on your contributions to protect our lakes and advocate on behalf of property owners.

OTLPOA is made up of lakeshore owners, community partners and civic leaders who understand the importance of stewardship and who want to protect and preserve our lakes' beauty and legacy. As a member, you'll help 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.

Your annual membership includes:

- **Access to information and resources to help you care for our lakes**
- **Representation at state, regional and local organizations**
- **Five issues of Lakeshore News each year**
- **Lakeshore directory, published every two years**
- **An open Annual Meeting**

To join, visit otlpoa.com/24-join and complete the online membership form. Or, watch your mail for a registration letter from us this month.

Thank you!



- Land Transfers (August 1, 2024 to December 20, 2024) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Property Type
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	08-01-2024	NORMAN C JONES	Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	08-01-2024	NORMAN C JONES	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-09-2024	R CRAIG & SUSAN RUDE TST	Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-09-2024	R CRAIG & SUSAN RUDE TST	Residential
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	08-09-2024	SUSAN D MISTEREK LIVING TST	Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	08-09-2024	SUSAN D MISTEREK LIVING TST	Multi Manuf
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-14-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-14-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	SW Mobiles
Everts Twp	56030203 - SILVER 3RD-FF	08-19-2024	TRAVIS D CARLSON	Everts Twp	56030203 - SILVER 3RD-FF	08-19-2024	TRAVIS D CARLSON	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-22-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-22-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Residential
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	RAND BERTOCH ET AL	Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	RAND BERTOCH ET AL	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	NEIL W JENZEN	Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	NEIL W JENZEN	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	09-03-2024	DOUGLAS R GEESLIN	Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	09-03-2024	DOUGLAS R GEESLIN	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-06-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-06-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Residential
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-20-2024	ALLISON GODDARD	Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-20-2024	ALLISON GODDARD	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030201 - 1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	09-26-2024	MURPHY FAMILY REV LIV TST ETAL	Everts Twp	56030201 - 1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	09-26-2024	MURPHY FAMILY REV LIV TST ETAL	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-27-2024	MALCOLM E BOLTON	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-27-2024	MALCOLM E BOLTON	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-01-2024	DREWE L ROBINSON ET AL	Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-01-2024	DREWE L ROBINSON ET AL	Residential
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	10-04-2024	WLP DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	10-04-2024	WLP DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	BRADLEY & KRISTI FEHR LIV TST	Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	BRADLEY & KRISTI FEHR LIV TST	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Residential
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	10-11-2024	UMI AND PEEPS LLC	Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	10-11-2024	UMI AND PEEPS LLC	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-15-2024	FISKUM LIVING TST	Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-15-2024	FISKUM LIVING TST	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-18-2024	POLMAN FAMILY TST	Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-18-2024	POLMAN FAMILY TST	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560193 - ETHEL-FF	10-30-2024	MARK E THOMPSON	Girard Twp	560193 - ETHEL-FF	10-30-2024	MARK E THOMPSON	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-31-2024	POLLY A GRELL REV TST	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-31-2024	POLLY A GRELL REV TST	Multi Manuf
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL A WALL	Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL A WALL	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL ALAN WALL	Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL ALAN WALL	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	11-15-2024	CUHEL FAMILY TST	Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	11-15-2024	CUHEL FAMILY TST	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-15-2024	RICHARD COLE	Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-15-2024	RICHARD COLE	Residential
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	11-18-2024	RICHARD & BARBARA MILLER TSTS	Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	11-18-2024	RICHARD & BARBARA MILLER TSTS	Residential
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	12-02-2024	DONALD BISTOUDAU	Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	12-02-2024	DONALD BISTOUDAU	Residential
Girard Twp	560240 - BLANCHE-FF	12-13-2024	JOHN J SCHAULS FAMILY TST	Girard Twp	560240 - BLANCHE-FF	12-13-2024	JOHN J SCHAULS FAMILY TST	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	12-20-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	12-20-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	Residential

Report Anything Not In The Right Place To Authorities!

SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

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

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



If You Observe Suspicious Objects:

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

SAY SOMETHING?

(Who to tell)

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

Describing "Something Suspicious"

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

Tell...

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

OTLPOA Board Meeting August 22, 2024 Minutes

Call To Order/Roll Call – Meeting was called to order by President Gerken. Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Tysdal, Kuder, Swanson, Wendt, Wentz, Hunke, Carlisle
Absent: Long, Mourtisen, Hanson, Skogen, Ness

Approval of Agenda – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Bills – Approved unanimously

President's Report – President Gerken discussed our annual meeting change from Sat. AM to evening meeting. Majority of board liked the change, discussed ways to improve turnout, get younger people involved. Board is asked to think of ways to improve turnout and will continue discussion at our September meeting.

Committee Reports –

Membership – Membership as of August 22nd- 1001 members. Skogen will update board on details about setting up payment process through 1st National Bank of Ottertail at our September meeting.

Auditing/Finance – Hunke suggested setting up a committee for swimming lessons if we are going to pay for them going forward. Gerken will check with foundation to get details on how many took part in swimming lessons this year. Hunke is working with an accounting firm in Fergus Falls for our annual audits, will update when he has more information.

DNR/GOV'T – Nothing at this time

Water Testing – Long 6 ft. Deer 13 ft. Blanche 8 ft. Ottertail 10 ft./11 ft. Walker 11 ft., Round 9 ft.

COLA – Nick Kludt, Red River Fisheries Specialist for the Minnesota DNR, was the featured speaker at OTC COLA's Annual Meeting at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN August 15, 2024. His work area covers the Red River of the North and its Minnesota tributaries, where he works on a wide array of river and fish management issues. Nick's presentation focused on local fish management within the larger context of Northwest Minnesota. River systems are managed at a landscape-level, and the interconnection of lake and river habitats is critical for long-term system function. The presentation included regional history, fish reproduction & migrations, habitat management, and how current actions create positive outcomes for rivers and local lakes, now and in the future.

Communications/Lakeshore News – Wentz discussed delay of August LSN, will check with Battle Lake Review on status.

Website – Kuder added links from our annual meeting to the website and will track visits to our website.

Facebook – Nothing at this time

Worm – Discussed possibility of not having to collect for spraying next year, will continue to discuss possibilities of how we will handle this next year.

Foundation – Kemling discussed cost sharing with foundation for membership as we collect funds for them. Board voted to approve deducting expenses from foundation donations collected from membership mailings. Gerken will advise foundation of this change and get minutes from August meeting.

Social – September meeting will be at Beach Bums 6 p.m. spouses are invited to attend.

Old Business – Gerken discussed insurance for the board, board discussed the pros and cons of why we need insurance. Gerken will have more information of costs at our September meeting.

Hunke suggested a committee to explore solutions for swimmers itch: Carlisle, Hunke and Kuder will serve on this committee. Kemling will contact Jim Wolters for info from DNR.

New Business – Tysdal will check with Ottertail City to see if we can have a key instead of having to call and pick one up for our meetings.

Election of Officers delayed until September meeting

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting is September 26nd 6:00 p.m. (see page 14)



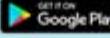
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 Todd Eklund Realtor 320-808-1005 todd@lakesfamilyres.com	 Scott Schauff Realtor 218-731-2813 sschauff@prtel.com	 Samuel Herzog Realtor 218-205-3573 samuelphertzog@gmail.com	 Chad Landmann Realtor 218-731-28200 chad@lakesfamilyres.com	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: large;">SAME GREAT PEOPLE, SAME GREAT SERVICE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: large;">ONE GREAT TEAM!</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: red; font-size: large;">www.lakesfamilyres.com</p>	

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OTLPOA Board Meeting September 26, 2024 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting was called to order by Vice President Long.
Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Kuder, Wendt, Wentz, Hunke, Carlisle
Absent: Mourtisen, Skogen, Ness, Gerken, Swanson, and Tysdal

Approval of Agenda – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Bills – Approved unanimously

President’s Report – Nothing at this time

Committee Reports –

Membership – Membership as of September 26th- 1006 members. Kuder discussed on line membership process, a motion was made to allow Tom Kuder and Becky Kemling limited access to OTLPOA bank account at 1st National Bank Ottertail for membership purposes only, not for any transactions for OTLPOA business. Motion was approved and passed unanimously by OTLPOA Board.

Auditing/Finance – Hunke is working with an accounting firm in Fergus Falls for our annual audits/taxes, he will update when he has more information.

DNR/GOV’T – Nothing at this time

Water Testing – Long 6 ft. Deer 12.5 ft. Blanche 11 ft.

COLA – Nothing at this time, meetings are done for the year.

Communications/Lakeshore News – Wentz discussed delay of Aug. LSN, the mailing was the issue for delay again.

Website – Kuder will continue to track visits to our website and update website when needed

Facebook – Nothing at this time

Worm – Nothing at this time

Foundation – Nothing at this time.

Social – October Meeting will be held at Community Center not Beach Bums, meetings going forward will be at Ottertail Community Center.

Swimmer’s Itch Committee – Hunke suggested inviting Dr. Curtis L. Blankespoor, Ecologist/Parasitologist Ph.D., to do a zoom meeting with our board to explain his work on swimmers itch. He is currently a Professor of Biology at Jackson College. His business is Swimmers Itch Solutions LLC. There are a few lakes in Minnesota that have been in contact with his company for information on swimmers itch. Part of his method includes capturing Merganser’s and releasing them on bigger lakes to try to break the cycle of swimmers itch. Hunke will contact him to see if it’s possible to coordinate for October meeting.

Old Business –

Directory issues – Long will draft a letter to send out to members to explain issues with the directory. After approval letter will be sent out to members via email.

Gerken will have more information on insurance costs for the board at October meeting. Ideas for increasing turnout for annual meeting will be brought up at October meeting

New Business – Election of officers-the following were elected to serve for 2025

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| President-Eric Gerken | Vice President-Mark Long |
| Secretary-Becky Kemling | Treasurer-Pat Hunke |

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next meeting is October 24th 6:00 p.m.



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OTLPOA Board Meeting October 24, 2024 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL – Meeting was called to order by President Gerken. Members present: Kemling, Oxberry, Wentz, Hunke, Carlisle, Tysdal, Long, Hanson, Swanson, and Ness
Absent: Mourtisen, Skogen, Wendt, Kuder

Approval of Agenda – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Bills – Approved unanimously

President’s Report – Board will have a zoom meeting at 6:55 p.m. tonight with Swimmer’s Itch Solutions from Michigan. They will present information and proposal to conduct a study and his method of capturing of Merganser’s from Otter Tail Lake.

Committee Reports –

Membership – Membership as of October 24th- 1003 members. Wentz discussed membership form to be mailed out, what it should have on it. Board decided form will have a \$75.00 membership line and will add a separate line if someone wants to donate to the Foundation.

Auditing/Finance – Hunke reported firm in Fergus Falls will be doing our taxes and also audits for our association.

DNR/GOV’T – Nothing at this time

Water Testing – Testing is done for the year

COLA – Nothing at this time, meetings are done for the year.

Communications/Lakeshore News – Nothing at this time. Next issue of Lakeshore News will go out in February.

Website – Kuder will continue to work on Jot membership form on our website and with 1st National Bank of Ottertail to process our payments.

Facebook – Nothing at this time

Worm – Association has not received bill from sprayer for spray, Gerken will contact him.

Foundation – Gerken will reach out to Larry Krohn regarding suggestions for new foundation board members. Their By-Laws require a 5 member board.

Social – Kemling will check with Thumper Pond on available August 2025 dates for our annual meeting. Details to be discussed at our April meeting.

Swimmer’s Itch Committee – After tonight’s Zoom presentation, the board approved a motion to get on the list for Swimmer’s Itch Solutions for a study/assessment for next July/August and to spend up to \$10,000.00 contingent upon Minnesota DNR approval of permit needed for Swimmers’ Itch Solutions to move forward. The foundation will be asked to pay up to ½ of costs.

Old Business – Gerken gave information on liability/EPL insurance costs for the board, \$977.00 per year for \$1 million coverage or \$863.00 for a shared limit option. Motion made and seconded to go with the \$977.00 per year option, board approved unanimously.

Ideas for increasing turnout for annual meeting will be considered over the winter and will be addressed at our April meeting.

Board approved donations to Battle Lake Fire and Ottertail Fire and Rescue squads.

New Business – Board voted to pay any bills over \$500.00 and the Lakeshore news and mailing costs over the winter.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is April 24th 6:00 p.m.



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Ice House Removal Dates, Fishing Licenses Expire

Shelter removal deadlines –

Dark houses, fish houses and portables must be off the ice no later than 11:59 p.m. (end of the day) for each of the dates given in the categories below. County sheriffs may prohibit or restrict the use of motorized vehicles on ice. Conservation officials also may confiscate, remove or destroy any ice structure and its contents if not removed by the deadline.

Inland waters –

- ▶ South of line - March 3, 2025
- ▶ North of line - March 17, 2025

Border waters –

- ▶ Minnesota-Iowa - February 20
- ▶ Minnesota-Wisconsin - March 1
- ▶ Minnesota-North and South Dakota - March 5
- ▶ Minnesota-Canada - March 31



Dates of removal are determined by an east-west line formed by U.S. Hwy. 10, east along Hwy. 34 to Minnesota Hwy. 200, east along Hwy. 200 to U.S. Hwy. 2, and east along Hwy. 2 to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. After removal dates, shelters may be used for storage or as a public access point only when occupied.

Fishing Licenses –

Fishing licenses are effective from May 2024-25 to the last day of February of the following year. Lower-cost licenses are available for shorter time periods.

The purchase price of every fishing license goes into the Game and Fish Fund, a dedicated account that can only be used for fish, wildlife, law enforcement and certain other related activities.

Popular licenses –

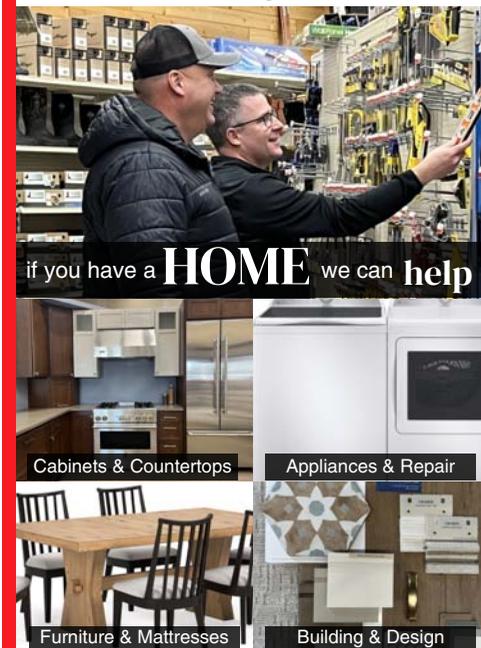
- ▶ Individual angling: Use code 111 to buy a fishing license for one person.
- ▶ Combination angling: Use code 112 to buy a license that allows a married couple to fish individually or together.
- ▶ Individual sports: Use code 216 to buy a license for one person to hunt small game and fish.
- ▶ Combination sports: Use code 217 to buy a license that allows one spouse to hunt small game and fish. The other spouse can only fish.
- ▶ Non-resident individual angling: Use code 121 to buy a license that allows a non-resident to fish anytime during the license year in Minnesota.
- ▶ All resident licenses
- ▶ All non-resident licenses

For more information and details go to Minnesota DNR website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html

Thanks For Being An OTLPOA Member!

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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!