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The Official Newspaper of
 Otter Tail Lakes
 Property Owners
 Association



Volume 54 - No. 3

– February 2024 –



Lakeshore News

Donations Given To Local Fire & Rescue Departments



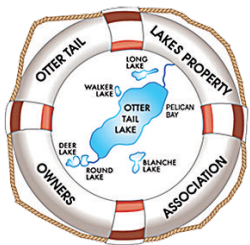
Otter Tail Property Owners Association donated \$1,000 to both the Battle Lake Fire Department and Battle Lake Rescue Squad. They also donated \$2,000 to the Ottertail Joint Fire and Rescue department. Left to right: OTOA Board Director Jerame Tysdal presents checks to Battle Lake Fire Chief Tom Minten and Rescue Squad Commander Nic Drusch (middle); and right is Ottertail Fire/Rescue Chief Joe Ahlfs. Submitted by Jerame Tysdal



Ice Boat Race on Lake Christina in early December 2023. Submitted by Tom Kuder

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Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 54 - No. 3 • February 2024 • 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 –**
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Mark Long (Deer Lake)mdlongmark@outlook.com - 701-640-1033
- Blanche Lake Directors –**
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Fred Rizkfrizk@aol.com - 701-635-6477
- Long Lake Directors –**
Paul Oxberrypoxberry@outlook.com - 612-703-3116
- Round Lake Directors –**
Steve MouritsenSteve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927

- Treasurer –**
Pat Hunke (Otter Tail Lake)phunke@hunkestransfer.com - 218-639-4910
- Secretary –**
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Jerame Tysdalotproperties@arvig.net



OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

Roger for your time, commitment and energy over the years. Best of luck to you and Karyl in retirement; enjoy your time on the lake, golf course and in Florida.

lakes as they did before manmade concrete dams. The DNR has said that the lake levels will not change with these new rock ramps in place.

Please leave the lake looking 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!

Our fall was amazing along with the start of this winter season. Thank you, Elmino, unfortunately for avid ice fisherman warmer temps have many lakes taking longer to freeze over causing dangerous open spots on many of our lakes. 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 watch ice conditions daily.

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.

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

Happy New Year everyone!

Greeting from your new OTLPOA President Eric Gerken. As we turn another year, I would like to thank our Past President Roger Anderson for his commitment, service and dedication to the OTLPOA board of directors.

Roger Anderson has volunteered several years of service to our organization, providing steady leadership and has prepared us for the future. Again, a Big Thank You,

The biggest fall highlight for the Otter Tail River was the completion of the rock ramps on the southwest outlet side of the lake at the Zorbaz bridge on the Otter Tail River (pictured). These rock ramps were built by the DNR at Rush, Big and Little Pine Lakes along the Otter Tail River. These have been built to allow the fish to migrate both up and down the river and



Mark Your Calendars!

OTLPOA 2024 Meetings

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

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

Calendar of Events 2024

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

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact blreview@arvig.net

Got a plan ice anglers? Don't leave the ice empty handed!



Ice fishing season is now underway on many Minnesota lakes, especially in the north. While you're out enjoying your time ice fishing with family and friends, remember to take care of the health of our lakes for yourself and other Minnesotans—and the critters who depend on clean water, like the bugs, plants and our great state bird, the loon.

We have some tips for how all ice anglers and winter recreators can comply with the new law to keep our lakes clean ...

- Plan to include in your gear sturdy, shatter- and rip-proof containers for trash and human waste.
- Contain your trash and human waste off the ice in a vehicle, trailer, bed of a truck or your shelter or wheelhouse.
- Tie it up. Secure trash and human waste containers to your shelter, sled, snowmobile, ATV or other vehicle so you don't get tied up with a \$100 littering fine.
- Pick it up. If you bring it on, bring it off. If your pets bring it on, bring it off.
- Pump it, please don't dump it. Human waste has been an increasing problem in recent years with some owners of wheelhouses dumping their septic tanks on the ice before heading for shore.
- Be safe. Remember, ice is never 100% safe! Check ice thickness regularly as you venture out.

Learn more at dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html.

Submitted by
Becky Kemling



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Winter ... Be Prepared For All Situations When Venturing Out

ICE IS NEVER 100% SAFE! Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

(Guidelines for New, Clear Ice Only)



How to Check Ice Thickness

Ice is never 100% safe. There are many factors besides thickness that affect ice strength. It's important you understand all the factors that could create hazardous ice and have the appropriate safety gear before you begin measuring ice thickness.

Once you have the proper safety gear, grab a tape measure and one of the other tools below to measure ice thickness. Wait for at least 4 inches of new, clear ice before you consider walking out.

➤ **Ice Chisel:** An ice chisel or spud bar is a heavy metal rod with a sharp, flat blade welded onto one end. Drive the chisel into the ice, using a stabbing motion, to create a hole. Next, measure ice thickness with a tape measure. Ice chisels are an especially important tool in the early and late-ice season when the ice is not as thick as mid-winter. If you are walking on 4 to 6 inches of ice, you likely will find areas of ice that are less than 4 inches on the same lake. With the chisel, you can stab the ice in front of you with each step you take to ensure the ice has not suddenly become thinner. Checking as you walk with an ice chisel is not a substitute for measuring ice frequently with a tape measure.



➤ **Ice Auger:** There are three different kinds of augers: hand, electric and gas. Anglers commonly use augers to drill holes for fishing, but they also can be used for measuring ice thickness. After drilling a hole with the auger, measure ice thickness with a tape measure. If you are using an auger to check ice thickness, make sure to start by checking thickness near shore and to frequently stop and check as you go.



➤ **Cordless Drill:** Using a cordless drill and a long, 5/8-inch wood auger bit, you can drill through 8 inches of ice in less than 30 seconds. Most cordless drills that are at least 7.2 volts will work, but the type of bit is critical. You need a wood auger bit since they have a spiral called a "flute" around the shaft that metal drilling bits don't. The flutes pull the ice chips out of the hole and help keep it from getting stuck, much in the way a full-sized ice auger works. After drilling a hole, measure ice thickness with a tape measure. Dry the bit and give it a quick spray of silicone lubricant after each use to prevent rust.



➤ **Tape Measure:** Use a tape measure to accurately measure ice thickness. Put the tape measure into the hole and hook the bottom edge of the ice before taking measurement. You can also use an ice angler's ice skimmer with inch markings on the handle in place of the tape measure.



Don't judge ice thickness by how easily a chisel or drill breaks the surface. It happens so quickly that it's easy to overestimate the thickness.

Ice Formations and Conditions

Before walking onto a frozen lake, it is important to know what to look out for. Many factors beyond ice thickness can help you decide if it is a good time and place to go on the ice. Factors that affect ice strength and could increase your risk include snow cover, air temperature, sun, time of year, water depth, wind, wildlife, plants and current. It's up to you to understand these variables and make responsible decisions when it comes to traveling on ice.

- Never assume ice is safe because someone else was out before you. They may not be aware of the many variables that affect ice strength. Conversely, they may know potential problem spots that you don't. It's always a good idea to talk to local experts before heading onto an unfamiliar water.
- No matter how well you know a waterbody, remember ice conditions change constantly. Always be prepared with the essential safety gear and check ice thickness as you go.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Self-Rescue

Created by the Minnesota DNR and KARE11

What should you do if you fall through the ice? First, try not to panic. This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

- Don't remove your winter clothing. Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.
- Turn toward the direction you came. That's probably the strongest ice.
- Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface. This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.
- Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice. If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.
- Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.
- Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and re-warm yourself immediately. In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!

What if your vehicle breaks through?

If your car or truck plunges through the ice, the best time to escape is before it sinks, not after. It will stay afloat a few seconds to several minutes depending on the airtightness of the vehicle.

- While the car is still afloat, the best escape hatches are the side windows since the doors may be held shut by the water pressure. If the windows are blocked, use an emergency safety tool, like a spring loaded emergency hammer or an object from inside the vehicle to break the glass.
- A vehicle with its engine in the front will sink at a steep angle and may land on its roof if the water is 15 feet or deeper. As the car starts its final plunge to the bottom, water rapidly displaces the remaining air. An air bubble can stay in a submerged vehicle, but it is unlikely that it would remain by the time the car hits the bottom.
- When the car is completely filled, the doors may be a little easier to open unless they are blocked by mud and silt. Remember too, chances are that the car will be upside-down at this point! Add darkness and near freezing water, and your chances of escape have greatly diminished. This underscores the necessity of getting out of the car before it starts to sink!

OTLPOA Board Meeting October 26, 2023 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - Meeting was called to order by President Gerken. Members present: Gerken, Kemling, Oxberry, Tysdal, Ness, Hunke, Kuder, Hanson. Absent: Wentz, Rizk, Long, Madson, Mouritsen, Swanson, Anderson.

Approval of Agenda - Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Minutes - Unanimously approved as distributed

Approval of Bills - Approved unanimously

President's Report - President Gerken introduced Nancy Johnson, Stacy Cannady, and Alex Kvidt from the Otter Tail Water Management District (OTWMD). Kevin Swann and Brad Carr from the Otter Tail River Management group (OTRM) and Mike Wendt from Walker Lake who will be replacing Gary Overturf on our board.

The group from OTWMD advised the board that changes regarding compliance inspections for existing sewer systems, OTWMD will no longer be able to do inspections in 2024. These changes include clarification of boundaries, presenting an annual report to Otter Tail County commissioners each February and changes regarding bids from contractors who are hired. Changes will be reflected on tax statements. They asked for our help in getting the word out about these upcoming changes. The board agreed to put this in the February Lake Shore News and will send an email it to our members.

Brad Carr and Kevin Swann from OTRM spoke about the river project and gave an update about timetable and cost of project. The DNR has agreed to some of the requests made by the group and they asked for a donation from the board.

President Gerken made a motion to add Mike Wendt to our board as a director for Walker Lake, the motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports –

Membership - Membership as of Oct. 26th is 1,025

Auditing/Finance - Nothing at this time

DNR/GOV'T - Nothing at this time

Water Testing - Nothing at this time

COLA - The Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) and East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District (EOT SWCD) sponsored a bus tour of successful native plant shoreline and rain garden projects. The event started at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at each stop

the property owners themselves described the unique challenges and opportunities they encountered installing and maintaining the native plants. They related the availability of EOT SWCD to work with lake property owners offering technical consultation, advice and financial assistance. Pete Guck of EOT SWCD -"We want to help lake property owners do things that are good for Otter Tail Lakes.

Communications/Lakeshore News - We received a contract from Battle Lake Review to publish our Lake Shore News and our directory. The contract was approved by the board.

Website - Kuder went over his proposal for our website updates, the board approved his proposal and will review progress at our April meeting.

Facebook - Nothing at this time

Worm - Nothing at this time

Foundation - Kemling discussed the Foundations by- Laws, The OTLPOA board is responsible for filling vacancies and voting people on to the Foundation board per their by-laws. There was discussion about having a joint meeting of the OTLPOA and Foundation boards to address this and other issues, President Gerken will reach out to President Ouren and the Foundation board. Our board will revisit this at April meeting.

Social - Discussion about making some changes to Water Testers and Foundation dinner, more discussion needed. Will be reviewed again at our April meeting.

Old Business -

A motion was made to double our donations this year and request that our Foundation match our donation of \$5,000 to the U of M Research center for AIS The motion was seconded and passed.

After our meeting the Foundation voted against the match of our donation with no reason given. A motion was made, seconded and approved to give the OTRM organization \$2,000.

New Business - The board adopted a policy that when a board members resigns or retires after 5 years of service on the board we will present them with a gift certificate.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay OTLPOA bills under \$500 over the winter.

Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Next meeting is April 25th 2024 at 6:30 p.m.



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Trail Segment Plan Wins Otter Tail County Board Approval

*Pelican Rapids Press- Area News Published October 19, 2023 - 6:49 p.m. CDT
Author: Tom Hintgen By Tom Hintgen, Otter Tail County Correspondent
Submitted by Becky Kemling*

What was once referred to as the Pelican Rapids to Perham Recreational Trail is now the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail.

October 10, the county board of commissioners accepted an agreement with Fargo-based Houston Engineering for design services pertaining to the Glacial Edge Trail-Maplewood State Park segment. This trail segment will run along the east side of Highway 3 within Maplewood State Park.

“We will start with a connection to the Heart of the Lakes Trail at Isle View Drive and run south for 2.3 miles to the intersection of Highways 3 and 24,” says County Parks and Trails Director Kevin Fellbaum.

Otter Tail County has received Governors Bonding dollars for this project that will be used to cover design and construction costs at a 1 for 1 match for up to \$939,000.

More construction will hopefully take place in Maplewood State Park in the spring or summer of 2024 following the completion of the final design of the trail corridor through the state park.

Also needed, says Fellbaum, are obtaining grant funding for construction and receiving final permitting agreements between Otter Tail County and the DNR. There are plans in place in the coming years for the addition of connecting spur trail segments from the main trail to the communities of Dent and Vergas.

Fellbaum said that four of the five major trail segments of the regional trail are built: the Pelican Rapids segment, Silent Lake segment, McDonald Lake segment, and Perham segment.

“Although it has been a long journey to get to where we are currently at, we have had a great working relationship with our partners and will continue to do so,” Fellbaum emphasized.

Much of the funding needed for construction of the 10-foot-wide trail came from the state of Minnesota through allocated grants from LCCMR (Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources) and GMRPTC (Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission).

Other grants come from ENRTF (Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund) and LPTF (Legacy Parks and Trails Fund).

Otter Tail County governmental employees, in previous months, were busy with easements, right-of-way talks, environmental meetings, and other hurdles that needed to be met before the Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail could become a reality.

Public input meetings were also held. The county board had support for the trail from county residents, the cities of Pelican Rapids and Perham, as well as organizations such as West Central Initiative and PartnerSHIP4Health.



Steve Mouritsen, Round Lake; Debra Ness, Otter Tail, Lake; Mark Long, Deer Lake; Paul Oxberry, Long Lake; Jerame Tysdal, Otter Tail Lake; and Ken Wentz, Blanche Lake. Not pictured: Paul Heine, Walker Lake. *Submitted by Ken Wentz*

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Nurturing Nature: Exploring the Otter Tail River Management Project

In November of 2021, the Otter Tail River Management (OTRM) association emerged as a beacon of hope for the ongoing and progressive deterioration of the Otter Tail River, extending from the Rush Lake dam to the south outlet that drains into Otter Tail Lake. The association, fueled by a commitment to environmental preservation, operates under a board comprising nine dedicated members, each serving two-year terms, with three seats up for election annually.

A River in Need: Background and Challenges –

Over the past three decades, the Otter Tail River has faced a myriad of challenges, including overgrowth of weeds, wild rice, and increased sedimentation. The low static water levels exacerbate the weed overgrowth, and creates potentially harmful water between the north and south outlets along Otter Tail Lake.

Recreational activities along the river, such as boating, fishing and swimming, have been significantly limited compared to past years. Access to the river and Otter Tail Lake becomes severely restricted by late July due to the low water levels for the approximately 200 residents along this stretch of the river. This also hinders the public's access to the river and connecting lakes.

A Community United: Ongoing Efforts and Collaborations –

Since 2021, OTRM's board members have been actively engaged in finding solutions. Numerous meetings with local and state officials, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), have taken place. The board sought insights from private individuals experienced in similar challenges, and State Senator Jordan Rasmusson has provided valuable guidance to steer the project toward success.

In 2023, a series of meetings with concerned residents were organized to form a consensus on determining the scope of the problems and potential solutions for the river issues. This collaborative effort reflects the community's commitment to addressing the challenges and fostering a sustainable environment for current and future generations.

Mission and Vision: Guiding Principles –

Our Mission: To restore, improve, and protect the Otter Tail to Rush segment of the Otter Tail River through engineering, local knowledge, regulations, and community involvement.

Our Vision: The Otter Tail to Rush segment will be restored and improved to a condition that is cherished and protected by all of the community by:

- Increasing the navigable depth of shallow areas.
- Implementing a mutually beneficial aquatic plant management program.
- Sustaining fish and wildlife production.
- Developing new public accesses and areas.
- Providing more recreational and educational opportunities.

Your Role in Conservation: Supporting OTRM –

As the OTRM project progresses, your support becomes crucial. Whether through financial contributions, annual memberships, or active participation in fundraisers, you play a vital role in preserving the Otter Tail River. Remember that OTRM operates as a component 501(c)(3) fund of the West Central Initiative, making your donations tax-deductible.

Visit ottertailrivermanagement.com to explore the timeline of the project, learn more about annual memberships, and stay informed about upcoming events. You can also make donations at wcif.org/fund/orm and connect with the OTRM community on their Facebook page.

Together, let's nurture nature and ensure the Otter Tail River remains a vibrant and thriving ecosystem for generations to come. Join the movement, contribute, and be a part of this remarkable conservation journey.

Submitted by Tom Wilson



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OTLPOA 2024 Membership Form

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

Name of Property Owner Living at _____

Lake Property Address: _____

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

Home/Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Summer Mailing Address (May 15-Aug. 30)

(Must be valid United States Postal deliverable address)

Home/Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Winter Mailing Address (Sept. 1-May 15)

Home/Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email (please print legibly) _____

Notification of date for Tent Caterpillar/Worm Spraying, updates of possible lake changing issues, etc. (If you don't personally have an email address, you can substitute one for a family member who will let you know of these notifications!)

Annual Dues (January-December)

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

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)

___ \$10.00 ___ \$20.00 ___ \$50.00 **Other**\$ _____

The OTLPOA Foundation was established to obtain financial resources to maintain water quality for recreation, fishing and enjoyment when government resources are not provided.

Total Enclosed\$ _____

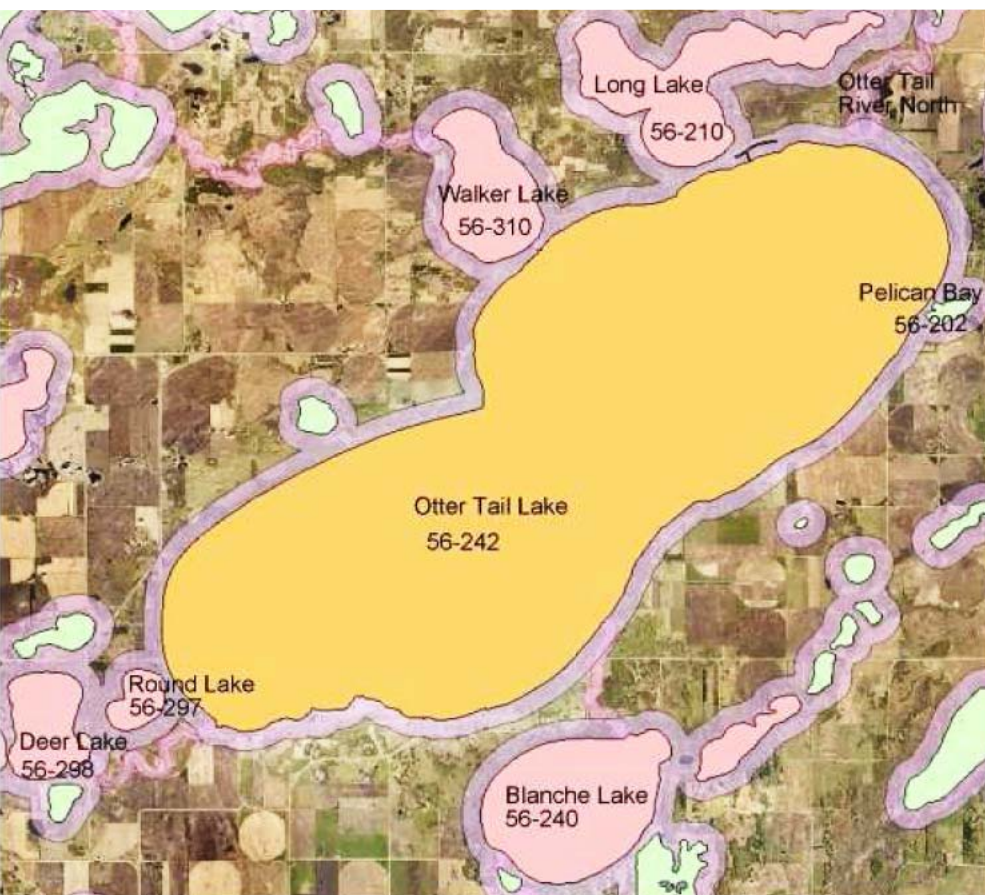
Make check payable to OTLPOA and mail to PO Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515
 – or – visit www.OTLPOA.com to pay by credit card (under membership section)

How can the Association better serve you? (On another sheet of paper)
 What lake related topic or issue is most important to you?
 How do you thin our Association can help?

Otter Tail Water Management District (OTWMD)

Contact Information: Office 218-548-7400 • Email: ottertailwatermanagement@outlook.com • Website: www.otwmd.org

OTWMD District Boundaries include all the properes listed on the 1981 Ulteig Engineers map and all properes within 1000 feet of any lakes or 300 feet of any rivers listed below:



1. Otter Tail Lake
2. Deer Lake
3. Round Lake
4. Blanche Lake
5. Walker Lake
6. South poron of Long Lake up to the Rush Lake Township Line
7. Pelican Bay
8. Ottertail River along Ottertail River Road
9. Ottertail River between O#er Tail Lake & Deer Lake
10. Blanche Creek Tributary between Blanche Lake and Otter Tail Lake

History of OTWMD –

1978: A group of concerned property owners started studying the steadily declining water quality of the lakes in the area. Unsure of which direcon to take, the O#er Tail County Land Management was asked to invesgate this issue. With the help of State and Federal Grants, inspecons of the old on-site septic systems were performed, and a feasibility study completed by the County and private contractors. The feasibility study determined that the old on-site systems were probably playing a large role in the degradaon of water quality. A:er the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was completed a new concern was raised. The fecal coliform counts were very high just off the shore where most human contact occurs. The determinaon was made that the coliform was coming from the old sepc systems. These systems were comprised of 55-gallon drums and block cesspools installed in the water table. The project focus became more health orientated.

1981: The O#er Tail County Commissioners formed the O#er Tail Water Management District under Minnesota Statute 116.4a forming sewer districts. There are eight OTWMD Board Members represenng the lakes in the District. These board members are appointed by the County Commissioners for a four-year term. The OTWMD Board is responsible for overseeing the District's operaons and determining the annual budget and User Fee charges.

1982: Factoring in the EIS and subsequent public meengs, an engineering firm was hired, and a plan implemented to determine what type of system or systems should be installed. All the exisng systems were inspected, inventoried and the findings documented.

1984: The administrator and staff were hired and the OTWMD started the upgrade and repair project. The project was initially funded by grants obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Approximately 850 of the 1,200 known systems were completely replaced. The replacement design consisted of on-site drainfield systems including a type of central sewer system called Cluster hookups. The cluster hook-ups pump to 13 separate drainfield. The balance of existing systems were inspected, tanks pumped and a new tank cover with a 24-inch maintenance cover was installed. As built drawings were completed of all the systems, old and new, along with a complete set of aerial overhead maps of the newly formed District with all of the system sites drawn in place. All new systems, or existing systems with changes, built after the project completion have As-built drawings prepared and filed in hard and software files stored in the OTWMD's office. The OTWMD has enacted stringent code requirements for current system installations. Presently there are over 1,800 systems within the District.

1985: At project completion, property owners not connected to a cluster system, had the option of two maintenance programs: Active Maintenance and Passive Maintenance. On the Active Maintenance program OTWMD is responsible for the routine maintenance from the tank to the drainfield, including pumping of the tank as needed, repairs and replacement of the drainfield and lift station(if applicable). The homeowner is responsible for the line from the house to the tank and any type of seasonal freeze-up. The property owner is also responsible for repair or replacement if negligence has been determined. Examples of negligence are excessive water use, modifying the system or damaging it in some manner, and obvious abuse. The property owner is responsible for changes to the system governed necessary with a dwelling remodel or expansion. On the Passive Maintenance program, the homeowner is responsible for all maintenance and upkeep costs of their system. A property under the Passive Maintenance program is still under the Districts jurisdiction. The District inspects the tanks for sludge and scum levels, pumping needs and the drainfield areas for potential failure. The District offers technical assistance when requested by the property owner. A property on Passive Maintenance has the option of enrolling in the Active Maintenance program. Once a property is on the Active Maintenance program the owner does not have the option to enroll in the Passive Maintenance program. All new systems installed since 2009 are required to be placed on the Active Maintenance program.

Active Maintenance Vs Passive Maintenance Plans –

Active Maintenance: On the **active program** the District is responsible for maintenance from the septic tank to and including the drainfield. This includes drain field repair, lift station repair, if you have one, and pumping the septic/pump tanks on a three-year cycle. The District has an employee on call seven days a week to respond to maintenance calls. The property owner is responsible for the septic line from the house to the tank and any winter freeze up problems. When a home is remodeled or expanded, the septic system may have to be expanded to accommodate it. The property owner is responsible for the initial expense of the additional system required. Please contact the District's office before you begin any structural changes. The District levies an annual administration fee to all properties within its jurisdiction to fund general overhead expenses. There is an additional equipment maintenance user fee levied for repairs and maintenance on the active maintenance program. The type of system installed on your property determines your user fee. The type of system installed on your property determines your user fee. The billing goes di-

(continued on page nine)

OTWMD ... (continued from page eight)

rectly onto the property tax statement for the property starting in 2020. These fees increase with time as related to increasing costs for the District to operate. The District receives no additional funds from the Federal, State or County government.

Passive Maintenance: On the **passive program** the property owner is responsible for the repair, maintenance, and upgrade of the septic system. Proper maintenance will prolong the life of your system. When a home is remodeled or expanded, the septic system may have to be expanded to accommodate it. Please contact the District's office before you begin any structural changes. Even though the District cannot repair your system, technical assistance is available. Please call the office with any questions you may have.

The District levies an annual administration fee to all properties within its jurisdiction to fund general overhead expenses. The type of system installed on your property determines your user fee. The billing goes directly onto the property tax statement for the property starting in 2020. These fees increase with time as related to increasing costs for the District to operate. The District receives no additional funds from the Federal, State or County government.

OTWMD Property Owners User Fees –

OTWMD User Fees are placed directly on the county property tax statements each year since 2020. They are listed under the special assessment box on the property tax statements.

User Fees can also be located on the www.otwmd.org website under the resources tab on the main page and selected parcel spreadsheet. On the excel spreadsheet you can search for your property address by the Parcel ID Number. This will have the breakdown for the User Fee on your property.

Any questions can be directed to the Otter Tail Water Management District Office by phone 218-548-7400 or email ottertailwatermanagment@outlook.com

Frequently Asked Questions –

What is the OTWMD?

The OTWMD is a government entity responsible for the septic systems within 1000 feet of Otter Tail, Blanche, Deer, Round, Walker, Pelican Bay and the south half of Long Lake. Also, within 300 feet of the rivers along part of the Ottertail River North along Ottertail River Road, the Ottertail River between Otter Tail and Deer Lakes and the Blanche Lake Tributary between Blanche Lake and Otter Tail Lake.

Who oversees the OTWMD?

The OTWMD is managed by an administrator to run the day-to-day operations. The administrator reports to a Board of Commissioners made up of members that live within the district boundaries. Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the Ottertail City Fire Hall. The public is welcome to attend these meetings.

How are the user fees paid for the OTWMD each year?

Starting in 2020 the user fees for the OTWMD will be on the property taxes for each property in the district. They will be paid along with the property taxes and the OTWMD will collect their fees from Otter Tail County.

Who do I call if I notice an alarm light on my septic system is on?

Call the OTWMD office phone number, 218-548-7400. There is someone working weekdays between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. On call weekends and holidays between 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. They will assist in any service calls.

Where does the OTWMD jurisdiction start on a septic system?

The OTWMD jurisdiction starts at the inlet of the tank. The homeowner is responsible for the sewer line from the tank to the house. This would include the homeowner being responsible for freeze-ups in the sewer line or clogs in the sewer line between the house and tank.

Can I change my property from active maintenance to passive maintenance, or vice versa?

Once a property is under active maintenance it will stay on active maintenance. This way the OTWMD knows what has happened with that system and any and all repairs/pumping are documented with the district office.

Passive maintenance properties trying to go onto active maintenance must update their septic system. All new systems installed automatically go onto the active maintenance program.

What is the difference between active maintenance and passive maintenance?

Active Maintenance are properties that the OTWMD is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep on the septic system. The OTWMD is responsible for the pumping, pump replacement and replacement of the system when it fails. This does not include adding on for bedroom additions or replacement of broken systems due to homeowner negligence.

Passive Maintenance are properties that are in the OTWMD district boundaries, but the homeowners are responsible for any pumping, repairs or replacement of system. The OTWMD keeps records for these properties and will help troubleshoot any issues, but all costs are the homeowner's responsibilities.

OTWMD Board Meetings –

- The second Wednesday every month at 4:00 P.M. Located at the Ottertail City Community Center.
- Meetings Agendas and Minutes are posted on the website under the Resources tab and selecting Meeting Minutes.

OTWMD Board Members and Administrator –

- Nancy Johnson Chairperson
- Cindy Dean Secretary
- Harold Wheeler Treasurer
- Rick Bleichner Board Member
- Jill Damrau Board Member
- Dave Erwin Board Member
- Stacy Cannady Board Member
- Alex Kvidt Administrator
- Loren Hawes On Call

New Property Owners Guides, District Ordinance and Septic System tips can all be found on the district website at www.otwmd.org. Submitted by Becky Kemling

OTLPOA Programs ...

- Educate residents and promote a healthy lake lifestyle.
- Manages several initiatives and programs to pursue our mission:
 - Lakeshore Directory helps residents stay connected
 - Advocacy ensures you're heard at state, regional and local organizations
 - Education informs residents on lake issues such as invasive species
 - Worm spraying helps control forest tent caterpillars along our lakeshores
 - Water testing provides vital clarity tracking data
 - Buoy placement warns boaters of rock hazards

The Foundation generates funding for special projects such as ... free swimming lessons for children and adults

Meet Our New OTLPOA Board, Foundation Members



Newly elected is Eric Gerken, President and Mark Long, Vice President.

Submitted by Ken Wentz



OTLPOA Foundation members: Howard Maki, Larry Krohn and Lana Ouren. Not pictured: Bernie Steeves, John Anderson, David, Spies and Steve Mouritsen, liaison member representing the board of OTLPOA. Submitted by Ken Wentz

Join OTLPOA To Show Your Support!

See page 7 for membership form



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 – Sunday School 9 a.m.
 Worship Service 10 a.m. or online
Wednesdays – Kids 4 Truth Youth with meal 5:20 p.m.
 Club 6-7:30 p.m.

~ Catholic ~

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

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

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


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

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

~ Lutheran ~


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

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


SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH 
 Tammy Jacobson, Pastor
www.SverdrupLutheran.org
 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 www.zionamor.org
 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake 218-495-2563
 Doug Stave, Interim Pastor
Sundays – Sunday School and Confirmation 8:45 a.m.
 Worship 10 a.m. (Communion 1st and 3rd)
 (Traditional 1st/4th; Contemporary 2nd/3rd; Informal 5th)
 Fellowship following.
Mondays – Quilting 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Tuesdays – Bible Study 10 a.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 Worship – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May 10 a.m. Coffee following worship.



Outdoor recreation is central to Minnesota’s identity, fundamental to our economy, and essential for our health and quality of life. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in renewing and evolving our outstanding, but aging, state outdoor recreation system. The transformative Get out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) investments, approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Walz, will help ensure Minnesotans of all abilities and interests enjoy a world-class recreation system, whatever outdoor experience they choose.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that outdoor recreation contributes more than \$9.9 billion annually to Minnesota’s economy and makes up 91,000 jobs (Outdoor Industry Association survey, 2022). The DNR provides enriching public outdoor recreation —such as hunting, fishing, wildlife- watching, camping, skiing, hiking, biking, off-highway vehicle riding—for Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds. These opportunities depend on Minnesota’s well-managed outdoor recreation system that includes state parks, recreation areas, trails, forests, wildlife and aquatic management areas, public water access sites and other facilities. However, many DNR-managed facilities are 60 to 90 years old. These facilities are showing their age, and in some cases are not designed for today’s outdoor users.

The \$149.9 million Get Out MORE investment centers on five key areas:

Enhancing Access and Welcoming New Users to Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation Facilities –

Improving accessibility at DNR-managed facilities and public lands for people with disabilities also enhances the experience of other users. Improved road access and signage and rehabilitated state trails further improve Minnesotans’ recreational experiences. A \$35.4 million investment will support wide-ranging accessibility enhancements at state parks, recreation areas and wildlife management areas; provide accessible outdoor recreation equipment for use on state lands; improve parking lots, road access, and signage; and rehabilitate segments of the most used state trails.



Revitalizing Camping and Related Infrastructure –

Much of Minnesota’s camping and related outdoor recreation infrastructure was developed in the 1930s and 1960s and is not designed to meet the needs of today’s visitors. Further, many of the wastewater and drinking water systems that support state campgrounds have reached the end of their useful life and need renewal and replacement. A \$5 million investment will fund a campground modernization pilot project and \$4.5 million will fund the highest priority wastewater system replacement.



Modernizing Boating Access –

DNR-operated public water accesses need significant investment to make them accessible to all users, meet the needs of modern watercraft, improve protection of public waters from stormwater runoff and invasive species, and enhance climate resilience. A \$35 million investment will allow DNR to renew and rehabilitate more than 100 public water accesses to serve anglers, boaters and paddlers across Minnesota.



Enhancing Fisheries and Fishing Infrastructure –

Minnesota’s renowned fishing opportunities are supported by fish hatcheries that are in critical need of renewal and modernization. A number of these hatcheries were constructed in the 1950s and are still operating with original equipment. The DNR also manages 360 shore fishing sites and fishing piers across the state. Many new anglers, families and children, and people with more limited economic resources rely on shore fishing facilities to access Minnesota’s public waters. A \$60 million investment will be used to modernize fish hatcheries, revitalize fishing piers, and add shore fishing opportunities where communities are currently underserved.



Restoring Streams and Modernizing Water - related Infrastructure to Support Outdoor Recreation –

More intense rains are combining with changes in land use to cause more flooding and road washouts, degrade streambanks, and overwhelm water control structures. This impacts our fish, waterfowl and recreation opportunities. A \$10 million investment will be used to replace culverts and bridges to improve stream ecology, remove or modify dams and restore habitat to enhance fish passage, and renovate other water control structures to address the impacts of climate change and support waterfowl production. Minnesota is known for its unique outdoor recreation opportunities, but not all Minnesotans can experience those opportunities today. By building a more modern and inclusive outdoor recreation system, Minnesota can better serve current outdoor enthusiasts, connect even more people to the outdoors, and help ensure future generations will also benefit from time spent in our unparalleled natural places.

Category	General Fund	Capital Budget	Total Amount (\$ in 000s)
Enhancing Access and Welcoming New Users to Public Lands and Outdoor Recreation Facilities	\$25,000	\$10,400	\$35,400
Modernizing Camping and Related Infrastructure	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$9,500
Modernizing Boating Access	\$35,000		\$35,000
Enhancing Fisheries and Fishing Infrastructure	\$35,000	\$25,000	\$60,000
Restoring Streams and Modernize Water-related Infrastructure	\$10,000		\$10,000
Total	\$110,000	\$39,900	\$149,900

Go to dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/legislativeinfo for updates on these once-in-a-generation investments to Minnesota’s outdoor recreation system as well as DNR’s work on the FY 2024/25 biennial budget. Submitted by Becky Kemling

- Land Transfers (July 29, 2023 to February 1, 2024) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Adj Sales Amount	Property Type
Amor Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	7/31/23	SUSAN D PAULSON	DEBORA THOMPSON	\$ 462,000	\$ 462,000	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	56031000 WALKER	8/9/23	DARRELL & JOYCE SANDERSON	JAMES & DENISE DEERING - DAVID & IRENE HOFF	\$ 579,000	\$ 579,000	Residential
Amor Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	10/2/23	JAMES C & KIMBERLY MAAS	BRANDON & BRIANA HANSON	\$ 232,900	\$ 226,800	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	10/11/23	THOMAS & RENEE BEWLEY TST	TIMOTHY & DENISE MOORE	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	56031000 WALKER	10/27/23	RICHARD GUFFEY ET AL	ZACHARY & SARINA TANNEHILL	\$ 219,500	\$ 219,500	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	56031000 WALKER	11/1/23	WLP DEVELOPMENT LLC	TRACY & TRAVIS FICK	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	56031000 WALKER	11/1/23	WLP DEVELOPMENT LLC	WENDY & KEITH HAUFF	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56024000 BLANCHE	8/10/23	G RICHARD & MERRI VINTON TST	AMY JO & RANDOLPH THIMM JR	\$ 717,000	\$ 714,500	Residential
Everts Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	8/28/23	EUGENE B III & KRISTI FLOERSCH	ZACHARY & LAUREN MAAS	\$ 119,000	\$ 119,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030200 SILVER	10/2/23	KEITH & MICHELLE PEARSON ET AL	MCCLAIN & ANDREA OKERSTROM	\$ 355,000	\$ 353,000	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030200 SILVER	11/9/23	GARY W & DARLENE LONGBALLA	JACOB & KIMBERLY ANDERSEN	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56023900 WEST BATTLE	7/26/23	JACQUE BAILLEY	CORY & AMANDA RENBARGER	\$ 800,000	\$ 760,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56023900 WEST BATTLE	8/8/23	DALE A & DANIELLE J KENDRICK	DANIEL & AMBER BAUER	\$ 350,000	\$ 349,500	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56013800 EAST BATTLE	8/25/23	CAROL M OSTERMAN	CLAY & AMY AMUNDSON	\$ 379,000	\$ 379,000	Residential
Girard Twp	56013800 EAST BATTLE	9/15/23	KIMBERLY J RASMUSSEN GST TST	ANN HOLTkamp, NICHOLAS & THOMAS PAULY	\$ 515,000	\$ 514,500	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56023900 WEST BATTLE	10/2/23	TAMARA RUDE & HELEN FAES	PETER & STEPHANIE CHRISTIANSON	\$ 625,000	\$ 625,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56023900 WEST BATTLE	10/2/23	STEPHEN VOLBY	KEITH & MICHELLE PEARSON	\$ 340,000	\$ 335,000	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56013800 EAST BATTLE	10/5/23	SCOTT L RASMUSSEN TST	MARK STRAND	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	Residential
Girard Twp	56024000 BLANCHE	10/11/23	TIMOTHY R & KATHRYN E SPORRE	CHARLES & PATRICIA TODD	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 1,189,000	Residential
Girard Twp	56013800 EAST BATTLE	10/13/23	METZGER FAMILY CABIN LLC	PATRICK BLUM	\$ 220,000	\$ 213,350	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56013800 EAST BATTLE	11/20/23	GREGORY & KARRY MEYER	RICK & TERI HODGETT	\$ 719,900	\$ 718,500	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	56023900 WEST BATTLE	1/29/24	SCOTT AHLERS ET AL	RYAN AMUNDSON	\$ 365,000	\$ 360,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	7/31/23	JOHN & DONNA BURNS	DEAN & JULIANNE GUTZMER	\$ 812,500	\$ 809,500	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	8/3/23	DANIEL P & KIM M LORENZ	DAVID & SANDRA LINK	\$ 960,000	\$ 925,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56020900 BUCHANAN	8/24/23	DAVID & CINDY KIRKHAM	RICKY KUSKE	\$ 500,000	\$ 481,750	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	9/1/23	WARREN RUSSELL & VONETTE BUSCH	BLUE SPRUCE PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 1,305,000	\$ 1,305,000	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	9/7/23	KENNETH R & MARY B MILLER	JEFF & JULIE MORGAN	\$ 1,150,000	\$ 1,132,200	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	9/15/23	P & D MILLER TST	DAKOTA 5 LLC	\$ 795,000	\$ 781,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56020900 BUCHANAN	9/18/23	DANIEL & ASHLEY ANONEN	CODY & KIRSTEN CRAWFORD	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	10/2/23	A RON & KATHRYN EVANGELISTA	PERRY & DENISE MILLER	\$ 1,298,000	\$ 1,221,300	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56020900 BUCHANAN	10/3/23	NEAL & JODEEN KUTTER TST	MARK JOHNSON & BONNIE EMERSON	\$ 575,000	\$ 575,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56021000 LONG	11/1/23	CANDICE STRANDBERG	TIM & JANEEN BRULE	\$ 365,000	\$ 364,500	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	11/6/23	BLUE SPRUCE PROPERTIES LLC	THE HUNKE FAMILY FAMILY REVOCABLE LIVING TST	\$ 1,353,000	\$ 1,353,000	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	11/6/23	THOMAS A POLITISKI	DONALD & KAITLIN TABERY	\$ 699,900	\$ 699,500	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	12/6/23	HUNKE FAMILY REV LVG TST	JKSEMMI LLC	\$ 743,000	\$ 743,000	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	56024200 OTTER TAIL	12/11/23	DONALD J & CARI L LEE	PAUL & DIANNE RADERMACHER	\$ 380,000	\$ 378,300	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	56024200 OTTER TAIL	8/1/23	JARED & ERIN CARR	DAN & CARRI DUITSMAN	\$ 601,000	\$ 601,000	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	56020900 BUCHANAN	1/24/24	PATRICIA C MALONE	BUCHANAN LAKE RETREAT LLC	\$ 300,000	\$ 300,000	Seasonal Rec

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.

Testing Your House For Radon

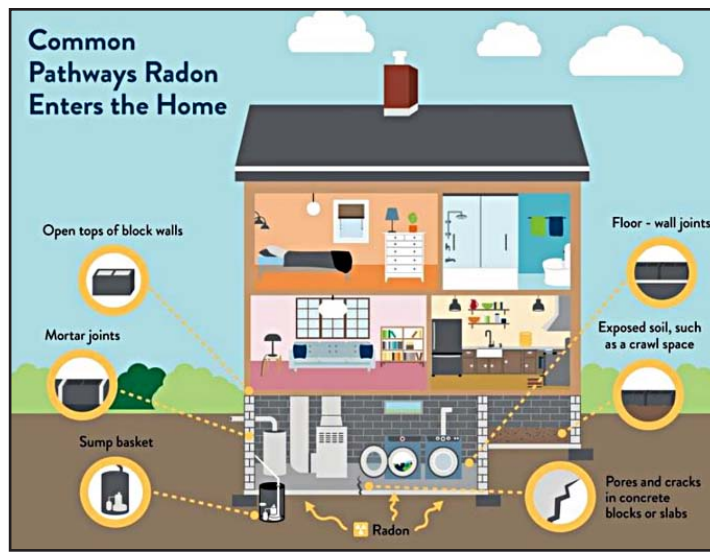
Radon is the leading environmental cause of cancer deaths in the United States and the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. More than 21,000 lung cancer deaths are attributed to radon each year in the U.S. About 2 in 5 homes in Minnesota have dangerous levels of radon. Otter Tail County Public Health recommends every home be tested.

Radon is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in Minnesota soils. It can enter all kinds of homes through cracks or openings in walls or foundations. The only way for residents to know if their home has radon is to test.

"I would encourage everyone to test their homes for radon," explained Andrea Demmer, Otter Tail County Environmental Health Sanitarian, "It is important to be aware of anything in your home's environment that could potentially lead to health concerns and to ensure that radon mitigation is in place if necessary."

Fortunately, the risk is largely preventable by testing homes and fixing radon problems. A radon test is the only way to find out how much radon is in your home and if you and your family are at risk. Performing a radon test on your own is easy, inexpensive, and takes only a few minutes of your time. The results of a properly performed radon test will help determine if you need to take further action to protect yourself from the health risks of radon.

Testing can be done year-round; however, the best time to test is during the winter when doors and windows are closed. Radon kits may be picked up at the Public Health office Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. in Fergus Falls and New York Mills. Homeowners



may also purchase test kits that are sent to their homes by ordering at mn.gov/radon. The completed test is mailed in the provided postage-paid envelope to Air Check, a radon testing company based in North Carolina. The results are sent to the homeowner via email free of charge.

Tests should be done in the lowest level of the home that is frequently occupied. If your home's level is at or above 4 pCi/L, you should consider verification testing and having a radon mitigation system installed. Anyone interested in mitigating his or her home for radon should consult the MN Department of Health's list of radon mitigation professionals.

For more information on radon, visit the Otter Tail County Public Health's radon page



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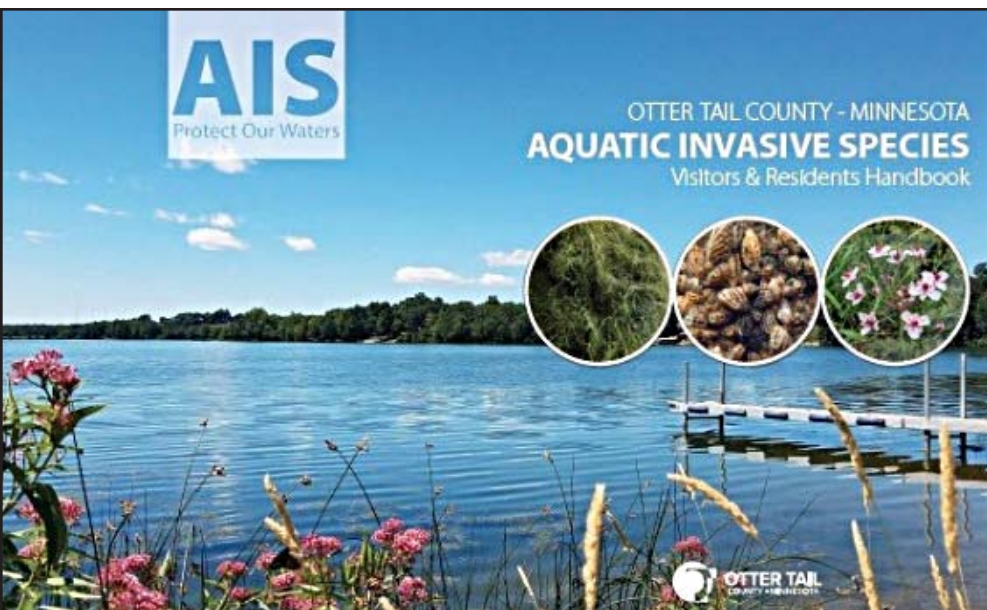
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Lakeareadocks.com




AIS Handbooks Second Printing Available


The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force has done a second printing in February 2024. The handbook will be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities can be reserved from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the handbooks, the AIS prevention information will also be published in area newspapers and included in social media posts.

Ticks Appear Early After Mild Winter

Prevent and Check For Them On Yourself And 4-Paw Furry Friends!

(Approximate tick sizes)


Blacklegged tick (deer tick) 

American dog tick (wood tick) 
Adult female, adult male, nymph, larva

Prevent tickborne diseases

- Check for ticks at least once a day.
- Use an EPA-registered repellent (e.g., DEET or permethrin).
- Call your doctor if you get a fever, rash, or other symptoms after being in or near wooded or brushy areas.

Tick removal dos and don'ts

✓ DO remove as quickly as possible.		✗ DO NOT burn with a match.
✓ DO use tweezers or fingers to grab the head as close to the skin as possible		✗ DO NOT cover with petroleum jelly.
✓ DO pull up gently and slowly.		✗ DO NOT pour kerosene on the tick.
✓ DO clean the bite area.		

DULUTH, MN. (Northern News Now) - Spring-like weather conditions throughout the winter months this year have resulted in many side effects in nature including an early resurgence of ticks in the Northland.

Dr. Scott Beeman, an associate veterinarian at the Duluth Veterinary Hospital, said anytime a pet goes outside it is at risk of getting a tick.

Completing daily tick checks will help minimize the harm they can do.

“There are certain areas that ticks love to be,” Beeman said. “They love to be under the ears. They love to be under collars, in the armpit areas, and the belly but they can be anywhere.”

According to Dr. Beeman, the best practice is to use tweezers and wear gloves when completing the checks.

If a tick does bite, there are two different diseases a common deer tick in this region may be carrying: Lyme Disease and Anaplasmosis.

Beeman said both have similar symptoms to look for.

“It can be limping that will shift from one leg to another or one joint to another,” Beeman said. “That’s typically accompanied by fever. We’ll see lethargy or very tired behavior. Then some diseases will have extra symptoms like bruising and bleeding on the skin or the gums.”

Usually, pet owners do not have to be on the lookout for the ticks or symptoms of tick-borne diseases from the end of November until the end of May.

“A lot of snow isn’t necessarily a bad winter for them, a lot of cold weather can be hard on them, but this year we haven’t really had either,” said Elizabeth Schiffman, an epidemiologist supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Health. “Nice sunny afternoons, it feels like Spring to them so they are out and thinking yeah, I can go see what might be available to feed on.”

Dr. Beeman said he believes this could be the case from now on.

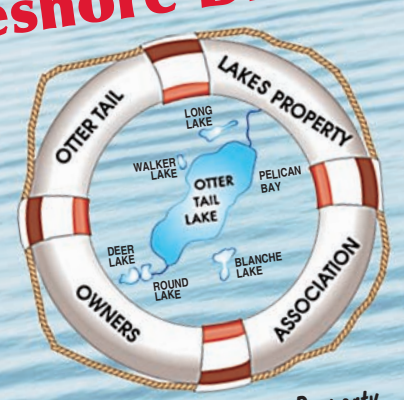
“I suspect even with a little bit of snow here and there, we’re going to see them carry straight into the spring this year,” Beeman said.

Even if it is not, Dr. Beeman recommends completing tick checks year around.

Also have your pets tested by your Veterinarian every year!

Coming June!

2022 Lakeshore Directory



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Contact Ed today at 651-270-3991 or publisher@battlelakereview.com

Unwanted Medications Disposal

Take it to the Box –

Tossing or flushing old medications can pollute water and harm fish or wildlife. Otter Tail County residents have a safe, anonymous and free disposal option that minimizes risks to health and safety – Take it to the Box! Old or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications can be safely disposed of at a Take it to the Box drop box location.



These secure drop boxes are located at various law enforcement centers throughout Otter Tail County. The boxes are located at the following locations during regular business hours: 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

Locations –

- Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office (Fergus Falls), 417 Court Street South
- Government Building (New York Mills), 118 N. Main Street
- Perham Police Department (Perham), 525 W. Main Street

- Parkers Prairie Police Department (Parkers Prairie), 102 N. Otter Avenue
- Ottertail Operations Center (Ottertail), 469 Main Street W.
- Pelican Rapids Police Department (Pelican Rapids), 315 N. Broadway
- Battle Lake Police Department (Battle Lake), 108 E. Main
- Henning Police Department (Henning), 607 2nd Street

Instructions –

The program is 100% anonymous, no questions asked. Please follow these basic instructions:

- Leave medication in the original container
- Black out or remove your personal information from the label
- Leave the name of the medication on the container
- Drop the medication into the disposal box opening
- Absolutely no syringes, needles, or sharps accepted
- No mercury devices, household chemicals, or biohazardous waste

Winter Ice Fishing Word Search

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

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 4, 2024
- ▶ North of line - March 18, 2024

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 when occupied.

Fishing Licenses –

Fishing licenses for the 2024-25 license year, from February 18 and Sunday, February 18 and

If you are buying a license for the upcoming 2024-25 license year, from February 18-29, 2024, you must specify that you wish to purchase a fishing license for the upcoming 2024-25 license year. Failure to do so will result in the purchase of a fishing license for the 2023-24 license year, which ends February 29, 2024.

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

• 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.

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