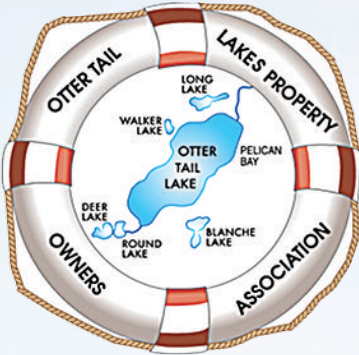


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The Official Newspaper of
Otter Tail Lakes
Property Owners
Association



Volume 55 - No. 2
– May 2025 –



Lakeshore News



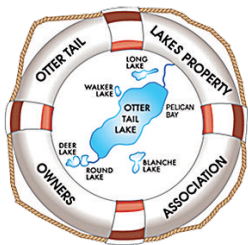
*For Your Safety, We
Strongly Recommend
Everyone On Board Wears
A Life Jacket At All Times!*

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**Good Luck To All Area
Fisherpeople!**



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 55 - No. 2 • May 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 –

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– OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

current tags on them as the DNR and water patrol will be on the lakes checking.

Saturday, May 10th Minnesota celebrated one of our state's greatest unofficial holidays, the Minnesota fishing opener. This Minnesota tradition for the Land of 10,000 Lakes dates to 1948 and is like no other, as fisher people chase delicious walleye, sauger and northern pike! Traditionally opening weekend brings half-a-million anglers to our beautiful lakes and rivers two weeks before Memorial Day Weekend to fish their favorite fishing spots.

Bait shops look forward to an exciting and busy opener every year. The lack of snow and warm weather conditions this past winter and average ice out, along with warmer than usual spring weather and water conditions should have expedited the walleye spawn and left them eager to bite!

Mother's Day this year landed on the same weekend as our Minnesota Fishing

Opener so I hope every Mother had a Happy Mother's Day on the water! Mother's Day doesn't always land on the Minnesota Fishing Opener but when it does, we need to make sure we wish them a very special thank you! So, I hope you took your mother fishing or at least brought some fish home!

Lakeshore Updates –

- **Lake Cleanup Day:** We are planning a lakes cleanup day. More information on this exciting day to come!
- **Area Concerns** that received 5 votes each out of 1000+ members.

- VRBOs = .5%
- Worm Spraying = .5%
- Swimmer Itch = .5%

Each year with our membership we ask our members for any items of concern or questions they may have. This year's 2025 top concern getters are listed above. We take your concerns seriously and are working to improve each of these areas so everyone can enjoy our lakes!

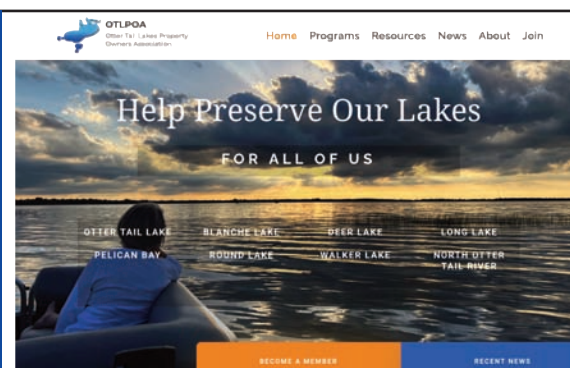
Have A Happy and Safe Memorial Day Weekend!

Welcome To Spring Everyone!

As the days get longer and the weather warms up, we're excited to share the latest news and events happening around our beautiful lakes.

- **Fishing Licenses:** Make sure your fishing license is up to date. You can renew it online or at the local bait shop.
- **Catch and Release:** Practice catch and release to help maintain our fish population.
- **Licenses items:** Make sure all your boats, pontoons, jet skis, etc. have

Check Out
Our
OTLPOA Website
At
OTLPOA.com



OTLPOA 2025 Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

May 22 • June 26 • July 24

August 28 • September 25 • 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)

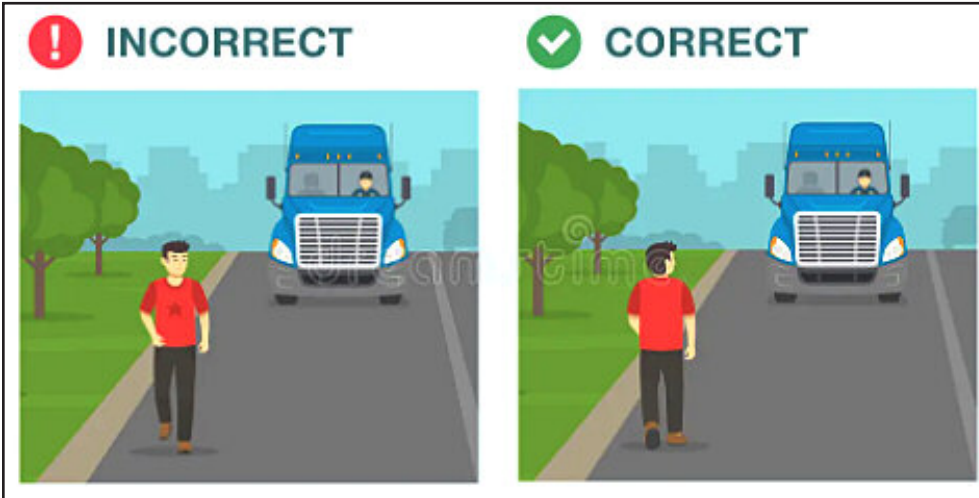
Calendar of Events 2025

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 29-30	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	Woodstock - Prospect House & Museum, Battle Lake

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact blreview@arvig.net

Correct Way To Walk And Ride Bike On Minnesota Roadways



Walking –

When walking on a road with no sidewalk, it's safest to walk on **the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.**

Here's a more detailed explanation:

- **Sidewalks:** Always use sidewalks if available.
- **No Sidewalks:** If there's no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- **Crosswalks:** Use the right half of crosswalks when possible, allowing oncoming pedestrians to pass on the left.
- **Always Look:** Before crossing the street, even at designated crosswalks, always look left, right, and left again.
- **Obey Signals:** Obey crossing signals

Biking –

Bicycles are defined as vehicles and generally have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicle drivers.

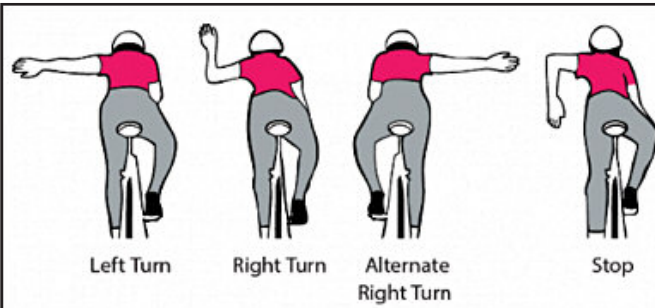


Where To Ride –

- Bicyclists are required to ride as close as practicable to the **right-hand curb or edge of the roadway**, when riding slower than the speed of traffic.
- Full lane use is allowed when traveling at the normal speed of traffic, preparing for a turn, overtaking and passing, avoiding hazards or unsafe conditions, traveling in a lane too narrow to share, and avoiding a mandatory turn lane.
- Bicyclists may, but are not required to, utilize any usable path for bicycles that has been provided adjacent to a roadway.
- Except within the business district, bicycles are permitted on sidewalks when bicyclists yield to the right-of-way of any pedestrian and give an audible signal when overtaking and passing any pedestrian. Check local ordinances for variations on this rule.

How To Ride –

- Bicyclists must not ride more than two abreast and shall not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic.
- Bicyclists are required to slow down and come to a complete stop at stop signs and traffic devices signaling red.
- Bicyclists must signal when turning or coming to a stop.



Minnesota Fishing Facts

The following information can be used for stories in preparation for the 2025 fishing opener, which is Saturday, May 10. Some information is from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and others. A report summarizing the survey results for Minnesota is available on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' license dollars at work webpage.

Anglers and waters

- 1.7 million anglers fished in Minnesota in 2022. Of these, 1.2 million were Minnesota residents while 508,000 were nonresidents, according to the USFWS survey.
- About 500,000 people are expected to fish on Saturday, May 10, Minnesota's opening day of the walleye, northern pike, bass and trout-in-lakes season in 2025.
- Minnesota has 11,842 lakes that are 10 or more acres in size, 4,500 of which are considered fishing lakes. There are more than 16,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams, including 3,800 miles of trout streams.
- Although not every kind of fish lives everywhere, 162 species of fish can be found in Minnesota waters.

Participation and the economy

- Minnesota anglers spent \$5.9 billion dollars on angling related expenses (for example, angling trips, equipment and licenses) in 2022, according to the USFWS survey.
- Average annual expenditures per angler in Minnesota in 2022 were \$3,600, according to the USFWS survey.
- Fishing supports 28,000 Minnesota jobs, according to the American Sportfishing Association.

Who goes fishing?

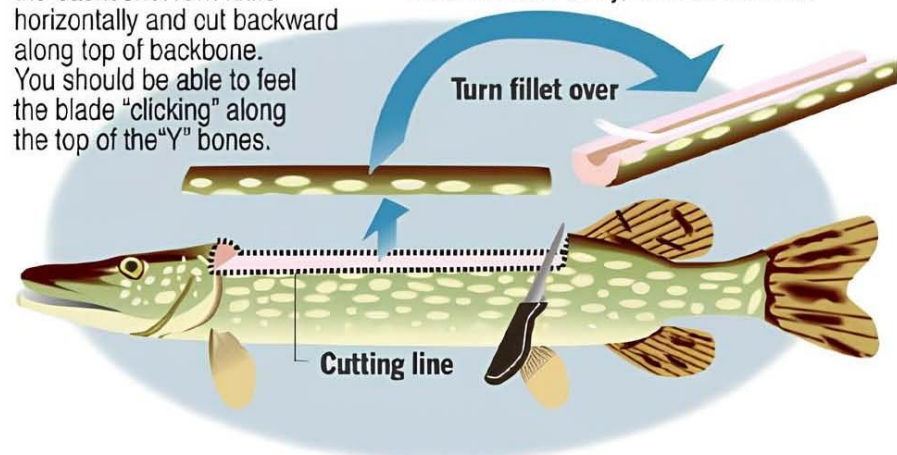
- According to the survey led by the USFWS, an estimated 26% of Minnesota residents aged 16 and older went fishing in 2022. A closer look at participation by race and ethnicity found that 21% of Black, 26% of Hispanic, and 27% of white Minnesotans aged 16 and older fished in 2022.
- An estimated 38% of male and 14% of female Minnesota residents fished in 2022.
- Among Minnesotans who did not possess a fishing license in 2022, 36% expressed an interest in fishing in Minnesota in the future.
- The most frequently reported barrier to fishing — for Minnesotans interested in fishing — is lacking friends and family to fish with.

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 outdoor-related activities. More information on fishing in Minnesota is available on the Minnesota DNR fishing webpage.

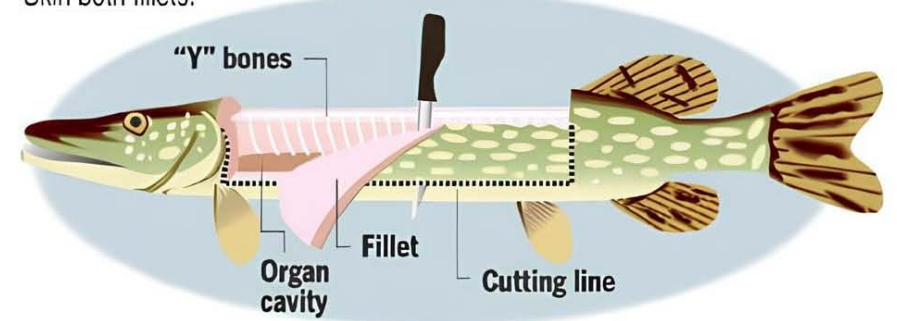
How to fillet a Northern Pike

Many anglers routinely throw northern pikes back, often because northern pikes have a well-deserved reputation as a bony fish. However, if you're willing to take the time to learn a different filleting technique, you can take a few pike home for a delicious, bone-free meal.

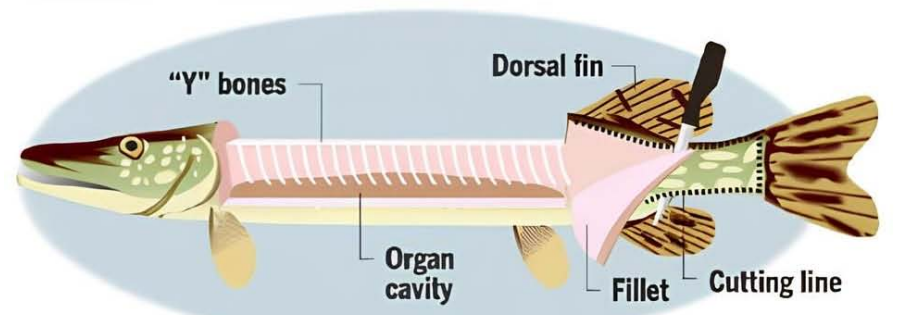
- 1** Make vertical cut behind the head and gill slit down to, but not through the backbone. Turn knife horizontally and cut backward along top of backbone. You should be able to feel the blade "clicking" along the top of the "Y" bones.
- 2** There's a row of small bones down the center of this fillet. Remove the bones with a lengthwise V-shaped cut along each side of the bones. Finally, remove the skin.



- 3** With the backbone exposed, a series of bones will be observed running parallel to it on either side. These are the "Y" bones. Work down and over the ribs and remove the flank fillet. Repeat for other side. Skin both fillets.



- 4** Finally, cut fillet free from each side of dorsal fin back to tail. There are no "Y" bones here. Skin both fillets.



Battle Lake Transfer Station Summer Hours Begin April 1st



Monday – Saturday: 9am – 3pm
36005 MN Hwy 210

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Protect Your Waters

By taking a few simple steps, you can help protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers from aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS cannot move across the land without help but when give a lift they can spread almost anywhere. Everyone who recreates in Minnesota's lakes and rivers has an important role in preventing the introduction and spread of AIS.

Take these actions by law:

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, mud and debris off your boat, trailer and other water-related equipment before leaving a water access or shoreland property. It's illegal to transport prohibited invasive plants or animals, whether dead or alive.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait container, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plug **before** leaving a water access. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait including minnows, leeches, worms and fish parts in the trash. It's illegal to release live bait into a water body, dump worms on the ground or move aquatic animals or water from one water body to another.

Check these places on your boat and trailer, and remove aquatic plants and animals:

(A) anchor and lines; (B) livewell; (C) transom well; (D) hull; (E) rollers; (F) axle and (G) lower unit/propeller.



Otter Tail County ·AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES· TASK FORCE

Lake Stewardship Symposium

Otter Tail County and the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force in partnership with the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) are pleased to invite all area lake property owners to attend the upcoming Lake Stewardship Symposium Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Thumper Pond Resort in Ottertail City.

Lakes are a cornerstone of the region, providing invaluable recreational opportunities, fostering family connections, enhancing property values, and driving tourism. Recognizing the importance of preserving this vital resource, the Lake Stewardship Symposium is designed to equip lake property owners with the knowledge and tools to actively participate in protecting and preserving these precious waters.

The one-day event will feature speakers and informative presentations covering a range of topics, including:

- Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention: Learn practical strategies to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species.
- Vacation Lake Home Rentals: Understand the impacts and best practices related to short-term rentals on lake properties.
- Shoreline Registration Opportunities: Discover ways to enhance and protect your shoreline through naturalization and restoration techniques.
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center Updates: Hear the latest research findings and initiatives to combat AIS in Minnesota.

Attendees will also be able to browse table displays hosted by state and regional organizations offering informational and educational materials.

The event is free; however, registration is greatly appreciated to help with planning. A complimentary lunch will be provided. To register to go www.otccola.org or scan the QR Code



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HWY 210 W
218-862-3625



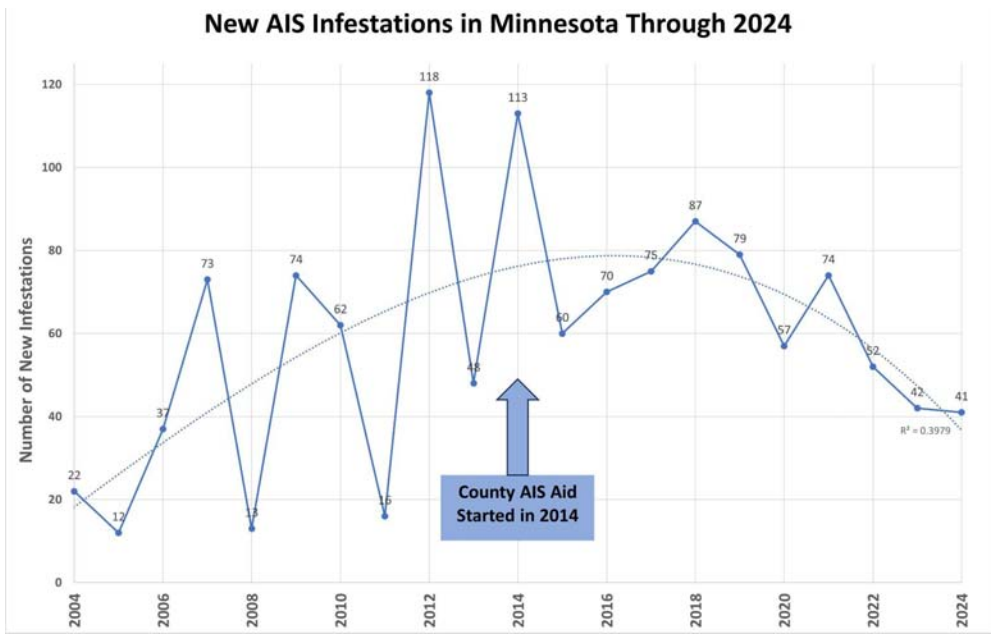
**RAISING
EXPECTATIONS
ONE LIFT
AT A TIME**

Legislative Update from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Aquatic Invasive Species, AIS are one of the primary threats to the lakes we love. Non-native aquatic plants and animals can impact fisheries, impede navigation, drive algae blooms, and reduce property values even as the expenses associated with them drive up local property taxes.

Our solution is always to lift up Lake Associations and support the work they do because lake associations play a critical role in managing our lakes in Minnesota. In 2014 MLR worked with the Legislature to develop County AIS Prevention Aid. We successfully lobbied this program in 2014. Since then this fund has contributed \$100 million to local AIS inspection, decontamination, signage, education and enforcement efforts.

The data from the MN DNR is clear, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers' County AIS Prevention Aid formula has bent the New AIS Invasion Curve.



Minnesota faces \$5 billion budget deficit in Fiscal Years 2028/2029

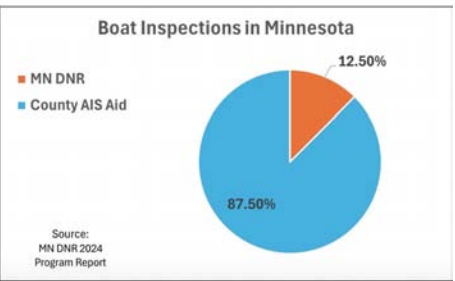
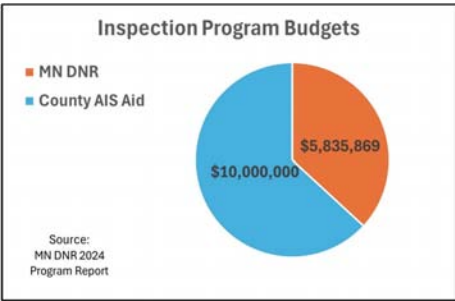
In an effort to balance the budget in the next biennium (FY 2028/2029) Gov. Walz has proposed cutting the County AIS Prevention Aid formula by half. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers has been organizing opposition to this budget recommendation. We ask you to join us in this work.

Local AIS Prevention Aid to Counties is a More Efficient Use of Public Funds than State Programs

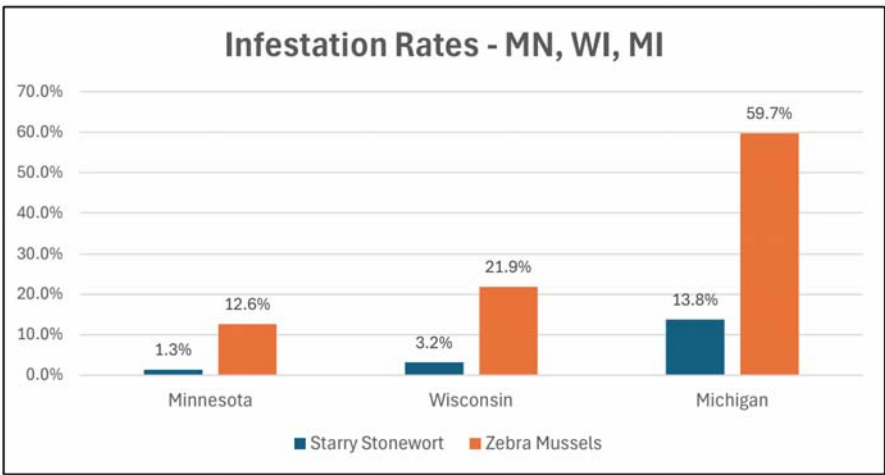
The data shows that local governments and their lake association partners can do on the ground AIS prevention far more economically than the MN DNR.

The cascading benefits of county AIS Prevention Aid are profound:

- AIS Prevention Aid funded grant programs award around \$1.8M annually to 200 local partner's projects leveraging over \$1.2M in additional funding.
- AIS Prevention Aid programs conducted AIS surveys on over 640 lakes and rivers in 2022 resulting in 45 new AIS infestations detected in 35 Counties and reported to MN DNR.
- AIS Prevention Aid supported an average of 883 jobs and leveraged 7305 hours contributed by 538 volunteers.
- Networks involved 285 lake associations, over 40 conservation groups, 250 businesses, 80 schools/youth organizations and 145 local governments
- Local planning and implementation efforts have been guided by 35 county AIS task forces and committees.



The County AIS Prevention Aid Program has made Minnesota's AIS Prevention program the most effective in the upper midwest.



Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is leading the charge to protect this vital funding.

Local and state leaders may not hear one voice, but they can't ignore a rising tide. There are two things you can do to help us push back on this misguided budget cut:

1. Sign up for our Citizens Action Network so that you can get legislative updates and action alerts that will allow you to contact your legislators with one click.
2. Become a Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates Member. MLR formed on Lake Vermilion in 1994, and has since become the most respected and effective lake and river group in the state. MLR is almost entirely dependent on voluntary membership contributions to protect your lake. **PLEASE JOIN MLR TODAY.**

Thank you for all you do on our lakes. In this role I am inspired seeing so many citizens taking an active role in protecting our lakes and rivers for future generations.

A healthy lake is an investment in community, heritage, and home. Take action to protect what matters most. See you out on the water next summer.

Written by Jeff Forester



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

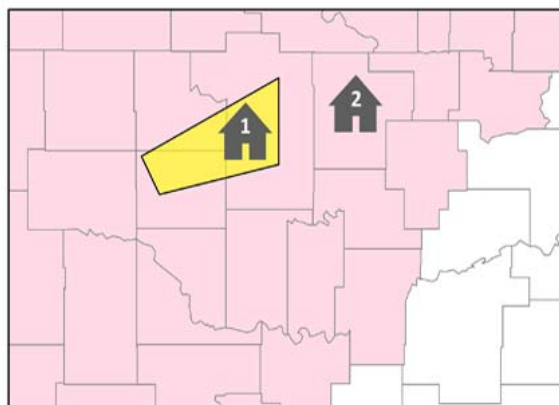
Be A Good Steward.
Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Know About Severe Weather And Lightning Strikes

Severe Thunderstorm Safety –

Severe thunderstorms are officially defined as storms that are capable of producing hail that is an inch or larger or wind gusts over 58 mph. Hail this size can damage property such as plants, roofs and vehicles. Wind this strong is able to break off large branches, knock over trees or cause structural damage to trees. Some severe thunderstorms can produce hail larger than softballs or winds over 100 mph, so please pay attention to the weather so you know when severe storms are possible. Thunderstorms also produce tornadoes and dangerous lightning; heavy rain can cause flash flooding. These hazards are covered in more detail under the tornado, lightning safety and flood safety websites.



Severe Weather Products



Watch vs Warning –

Do you know the difference between a National Weather Service Severe Thunderstorm Watch and a Severe Thunderstorm Warning? Check your knowledge below.

- **Severe Thunderstorm Watch:** Be Prepared! Severe thunderstorms are possible in and near the watch area. Stay informed and be ready to act if a severe thunderstorm warning is issued. The watch area is typically large, covering numerous counties or even states.
- **Severe Thunderstorm Warning:** Take Action! Severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property. Take shelter in a substantial building. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds. Warnings typically encompass a much smaller area (around the size of a city or small county) that may be impacted by a large hail or damaging wind identified by an NWS forecaster on radar or by a trained spotter/law enforcement who is watching the storm.

Prepare! Don't Let Severe Weather Take You by Surprise –

Find out what you can do before severe weather strikes. Preparation is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

- **Be Weather-Ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. Check the Weather-Ready Nation for tips.
- **Sign Up for Notifications:** Know how your community sends warning. Some communities have outdoor sirens. Others depend on media and smart phones to alert residents to severe storms.
- **Create a Communications Plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. Pick a safe room in your home such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Get more ideas for a plan at <https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>
- **Practice Your Plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a damaging wind or large hail is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when severe thunderstorm warnings are issued. Don't forget pets if time allows.
- **Prepare Your Home:** Keep trees and branches trimmed near your house. If you have time before severe weather hits, secure loose objects, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for severe thunderstorms. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt during severe weather.

What to Do During Severe Weather –

Find out what you can do when severe weather strikes. Acting quickly is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

- **Stay Weather Ready:** Continue to listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings.
- **At Your House:** Go to your secure location if you hear a severe thunderstorm warning. Damaging wind or large hail may be approaching. Take your pets with you if time allows.
- **At Your Workplace or School:** Stay away from windows if you are in a severe thunderstorm warning and damaging wind or large hail is approaching. Do not go to large open rooms such as cafeterias, gymnasiums or auditoriums.
- **Outside:** Go inside a sturdy building immediately if severe thunderstorms are approaching. Sheds and storage facilities are not safe. Taking shelter under a tree can be deadly. The tree may fall on you. Standing under a tree also put you at a greater risk of getting struck by lightning.
- **In a Vehicle:** Being in a vehicle during severe thunderstorms is safer than being outside; however, drive to closest secure shelter if there is sufficient time.

What to Do After Severe Weather –

What should you do when the lightning and thunder stops and it looks like the severe thunderstorm is over?

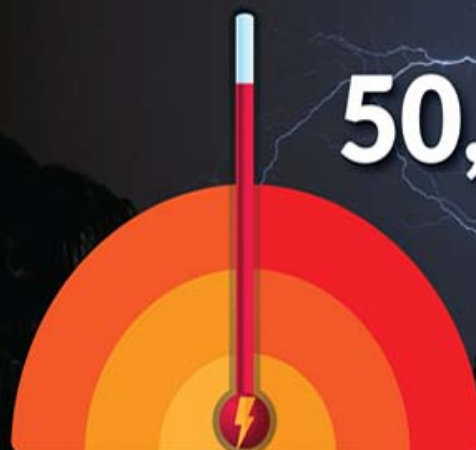
- **Stay Informed:** Continue listening to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay updated about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. More severe thunderstorms could be headed your way.
- **Contact Your Family and Loved Ones:** Let your family and close friends know that you're okay so they can help spread the word. Text messages or social media are more reliable forms of communication than phone calls.
- **Assess the Damage:** After you are sure the severe weather threat has ended, check your property for damages. When walking through storm damage, wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and sturdy shoes. Contact local authorities if you see power lines down. Stay out of damaged buildings. Be aware of insurance scammers if your property has been damaged.
- **Help Your Neighbor:** If you come across people that are injured and you are properly trained, if needed, provide first aid to victims until emergency response team members arrive.

Lightning Strikes –

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. Just remember, **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS**. Too many people wait far too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach. Unfortunately, these delayed actions lead to many of the lightning deaths and injuries in the United States. Below are tips on how to stay safe indoors and outdoors as well as brochures and other tools to teach lightning safety.

Lightning is **hotter** than the surface of the Sun and can reach temperatures around

50,000°F



When Thunder Roars Go Indoors
weather.gov/lightning



How To Use LakeFinder And Stocking Reports

LakeFinder is an online tool that finds and displays detailed information about most lakes in Minnesota. Information available includes fishing regulations; location; water access sites; lake maps; lake reports on stocking, ice in/out and water quality; fish consumption; and aquatic plant surveys. This tool is available for desktop and mobile devices.

LakeFinder contains data for more than 4,500 lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota, including lake surveys, lake depth maps, lake water quality data, lake water clarity data, lake notes, and fish consumption guidance.

Buy a license –

Available online, by phone and in person

On a mobile device?

Go to the LakeFinder mobile website

Stocking reports provide access to stocking activity by fish species and/or county. Reports are comprised of information for many lakes and are intended as a summary.

See MnDNR’s website -

www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html

Additional information

LakeFinder uses data provided by Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (PCA), University of Minnesota (UofMN) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Learn more about:

- Aquatic plant reports (DNR)
- Fish consumption advice opens in a new browser tab (MDH)
- Lake surveys (DNR)
- Lake and River Recreational Use Restrictions (PDF) (DNR)
- Lake water quality opens in a new browser tab and lake water clarity opens in a new browser tab (PCA)
- Satellite-based water clarity opens in a new browser tab (UofMN)
- Explore watershed health assessment framework: Lakes (DNR)

Limitations

Please note: not every lake in the state has been surveyed or depth sounded; you may not find the lake in which you are interested. Also, it takes several months before the most recent lake surveys are ready to post on the Web site. Those months are needed to analyze the surveys and update the lake database. We update the LakeFinder as soon as new maps and surveys are available. If you do find data inconsistencies, please email the Webmaster at webmaster.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab. If you have general questions about a lake, please email info.dnr@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab.

Commercial use of lake maps and data

The DNR retains the copyright on these lake maps. To re-produce, re-publish, or utilize any lake information commercially, you must review and agree to the DNR’s General Data and Software License Agreement. Your use of the data and/or software is acceptance on your part of the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Find a lake

Lake Name/ID:

AND/OR

County:

Any County

Get lake data

Find stocking reports

Report Year:

2024

AND

County:

Any County

AND/OR

Species:

All Species

Get stocking data



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

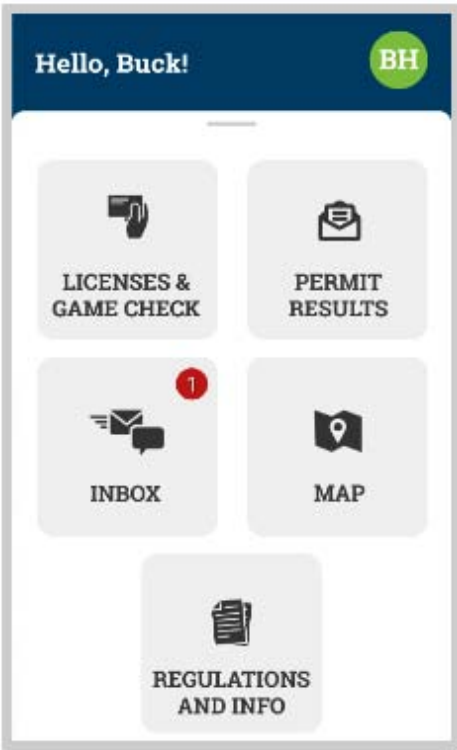
LOTTERY

- 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.

Swimmers Itch Very Big Concern With Association

There has been a very big concern about swimmers itch in Otter Tail Lake and surrounding lakes. Your Lake Association (OTLPOA) has a Swimmers Itch Committee.

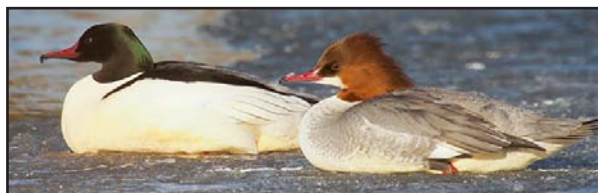
What is Swimmer's Itch? Swimmer's itch is a temporary skin rash that is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that are carried by waterfowl, semi-aquatic mammals, and snails. As a part of their life cycle, these parasites are released by infected snails into the water, where they may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

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

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

Common Mergansers Most Prolific Cause –

There has been significant research that indicates that the Common Merganser is the most common and prolific carrier of the parasitic flatworm that causes Swimmer's Itch. Michigan allows the relocation of these birds and other measures such as harassment to discourage their inhabitation if Swimmer's Itch is proven present. These measures require a permit and have special guidelines and rules around the processes. No harassment measures are allowed in Michigan during Waterfowl hunting seasons.



You can discourage mergansers from nesting on your lake property in Minnesota by implementing non-lethal harassment and potentially removing existing nests with a permit. You can also consider measures to make your property less attractive for mergansers to nest, such as reducing the availability of suitable nesting sites. Here's a more detailed breakdown:

1. Non-lethal Harassment:

- Scaring or Haze: You can scare or chase mergansers away from nesting areas by making noise, waving your arms, or using visual deterrents.
- Disturbing Nests: Knocking down unfinished nests or disturbing active nests (with proper permits) can discourage further nesting attempts.

Note: While non-lethal harassment is generally allowed on private property, it's important to avoid any actions that could harm the birds.

2. Making Your Property Less Attractive:

- Remove or Modify Nesting Sites: Remove or modify potential nesting sites like trees with cavities, old buildings, or chimneys.
- Maintain Nesting Boxes: If you have nesting boxes, ensure they are predator-proof and regularly maintained, according to a report by the Star Tribune.

3. Permits and Regulations:

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act: Common Mergansers are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), so you'll need permits to destroy nests or eggs without approval.
- MN DNR Permits: You may need a permit from the Minnesota DNR for certain activities, such as removing or destroying nests, particularly if it involves aquatic vegetation or altering the shoreline.

4. Important Considerations:

- Nesting Season: The nesting season for mergansers is roughly from May 1st to August 15th.
- Health and Safety: Removing or disturbing nests can be done for health and human safety concerns, but it's still best to obtain permits.

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

- It starts out as a worm (parasite) in the intestinal lining of aquatic birds and mammals (host).
- The worms lay eggs inside the the host animal.

- The eggs are eliminated by the host and drop to the bottom of the lake.
- Then the eggs hatch into miracidia that swim around in the water until they find a snail.
- Once they find a snail, they live inside them and develop into cercariae.
- The snails then release the cercariae back into the water where they look for another host - aquatic birds, mammals or humans.
- When the cercariae find a potential host, they burrow into the host's skin.
- If the host is suitable, the life cycle starts all over again.
- Humans are not a suitable host and the cercariae die after penetrating the skin.

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

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

The committee has been in contact with a company out of Michigan (Swimmers Itch Solutions, LLC) to see what if anything can be done to eradicate or diminish the effects of swimmers itch.

The answer is yes, there is a solution and maybe, that it can be implemented. Through their studies and application they have found the main culprit is Hooded Mergansers, mainly the young. The parasite easily bores into the young waterfowl and is dispersed through their droppings. Then to certain snails in the lake and then back to the waterfowl, boring into us and our grandchildren by mistake. "Swimmers Itch Solutions" solution is to remove the Merganser population by trapping and moving them far away to lakes that do not provide recreational opportunities as our lakes do.

There are two problems with this solution –

#2. It is quite expensive. The first year with an assessment study and the mitigation could be somewhere between \$50 and \$100 thousand dollars, then several follow up years to eradicate. And that last word in the previous sentence brings on problem ...

#1. To remove any wildlife causes harassment to that species. The MNDNR really frowns upon harassment of any protective species, it's not impossible to get a permit, they have in Michigan, but it would be a battle.

If any members have any ideas, experience, or connections that would help us in our quest to reduce swimmers itch, we are really motivated to do something.

Pat Hunke, Swimmers Itch Committee

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

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

More information – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html Swimmers Itch Solutions website - swimmersitchsolutions.com

Prevent Conflicts With Bears This Spring By Being BearWise

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is encouraging homeowners to remove birdfeeders now and check their property for food sources that could attract bears. Most of the female bears with cubs and yearlings are still near their denning areas, but some full-grown bears are starting to emerge from dens to find a quick, high-calorie snack.



"Bird feeders can become bear feeders," said Andrew Tri, DNR bear project leader. "Birdseed and suet are very attractive to bears looking for a quick, high-calorie meal. Prevention is key. Once a bear finds a food source, it will likely return."

As bears emerge from hibernation, their metabolism gradually ramps up as they transition from nibbling on plants to more substantial meals. Food and food odors attract bears, and they can pick up a scent from more than a mile away. Home and cabin owners can prevent bears from searching for food in their yard or buildings now by using this helpful BearWise checklist (files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/bear/bearwise/mn-bearwise-at-home-checklist.pdf) and following these BearWise basics (bearwise.org/six-bearwise-basics):

- Remove bird feeders when bears are active
- Secure food, garbage and recycling
- Never leave pet food outdoors
- Alert neighbors to bear activity
- Never feed or approach a bear
- Clean and store grills and smokers

More bear information

People should be cautious around bears and give them space. If bear problems persist after food sources have been removed, contact a Minnesota DNR area wildlife office for advice. To find a local wildlife manager, contact the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367, or visit wildlife area office contact information (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife) on the Minnesota DNR website. For more information on how to live responsibly in bear country visit the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/livingwith_wildlife/bears) or BearWise website (bearwise.org).

~ RECIPE CORNER ~

Minnesota-Style Battered Fish

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1-1/2 c. all-purpose flour, divided | 2/3 c. lemon juice, divided |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | 2 lbs. perch or walleye fillets, cut into serving-sized pieces |
| 3/4 tsp. salt | Oil for frying |
| 1/2 tsp. sugar | Lemon wedges, optional |
| 1 large egg, lightly beaten | |
| 2/3 c. water | |



Combine 1 c. flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. In another bowl, combine egg, water and 1/3 c. lemon juice; stir into dry ingredients until smooth.

Place remaining 1/3 c. lemon juice and remaining 1/2 c. flour in separate shallow bowls. Dip fillets in lemon juice, then flour, then coat with egg mixture.

In a large skillet, heat 1" oil over medium-high heat. Fry fillets until golden brown and fish flakes easily with a fork, 2-3 minutes on each side. Drain on paper towels. If desired, serve with lemon wedges.

Lime-Batter Fish: Substitute lime juice for the lemon juice.

How do you get batter to stick to fish? Battered fish is made through a dipping process called dredging, which alternates between wet and dry ingredients. In this recipe, the fish is

first dipped in lemon juice, then a flour mixture and finally coated in egg. These three steps provide layers for the batter to properly adhere to the fish, protect the fish from the hot oil and seal in moisture.

Why is my fried fish not crispy? It is important that you pre-heat your cooking oil to the proper temperature before adding your fish. If the oil is not hot enough, the battered fish will sit in the oil too long and absorb excess oil, causing your fish to become soggy. For best results, slowly heat your oil until a deep-fry or candy thermometer reads 350°-375°F degrees and fry as directed.

Which flour is best for batter? Because of its neutral flavor and ability to fry up golden brown, all-purpose flour can't be beat for battered, fried fish recipes.



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

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 Worship – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Camp Nidaros Church

In The Woods

Stan Satrer, Chaplain (Parking on Cty. Rd. 1)

39411 Camp Nidaros Trail, Richville

Sundays – Worship in July 10 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 Worship – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May

10 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday

Coffee following worship June-August.

Join Us In Worship!

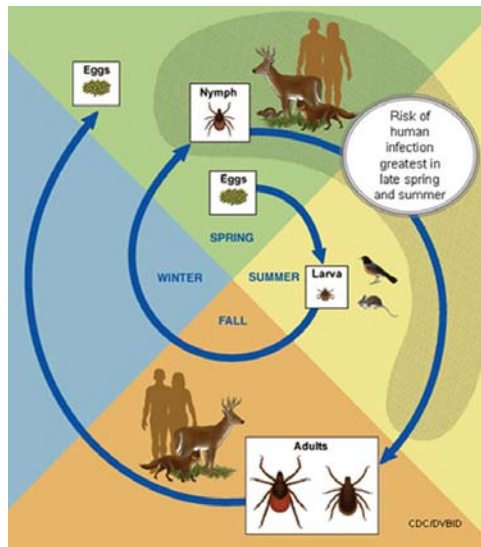
Know About Wood Ticks

In Minnesota, there are about a dozen different types of ticks. Not all of them spread disease. Three types that people may come across in Minnesota are the blacklegged tick (aka deer tick), the American dog tick (aka wood tick), and the lone star tick. The blacklegged tick causes by far the most tickborne disease in Minnesota. People in Minnesota are often bitten by American dog ticks but they rarely spread diseases. American dog ticks may spread Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia. Lone star ticks are rarely found in Minnesota, but can spread diseases such as ehrlichiosis and tularemia.

The blacklegged tick, shown in the lower right, is much smaller than the American dog tick, shown in the upper right. The lone star tick is shown in the upper left of this photo and is a little smaller than the American dog tick but larger than the blacklegged tick

Blacklegged Tick Life Cycle –

Blacklegged ticks live for about two to three years. Most of their life is spent out in the environment rather than on a host or in a host's nest. During their entire lifetime, they will only have up to three blood meals. The picture below shows that the life cycle begins when the female lays eggs. As the egg matures, it develops into a larva (right-middle), then a nymph (top-middle) and finally, an adult male or female (bottom-right).



In the spring of their first year, eggs hatch into larvae. Larvae prefer to feed on blood from small mammals, like mice and birds. Larvae have one feeding then molt into nymphs and rest until the next spring. During this first meal, the larva may pick up a disease agent (like the bacteria that causes Lyme disease) while feeding on a small mammal, such as a white-footed mouse.

Late in the spring of their second year, nymphs take their second feeding. Nymphs aren't as picky with their choice of host and will feed on blood from small or large mammals, such as white-tailed deer or humans. At this time, if the nymph is infected with a disease agent then it could spread the disease agent to a human or animal that it feeds on.

In the fall of their second year, nymphs that have had a blood meal will molt into an adult male or female tick. Adults prefer to feed on large mammals, such as white-tailed deer or humans. The females find a host to feed, mate with an adult male tick, lay hundreds to thousands of eggs, and then die. The males attach to a host to find a female mate and then die. Some adults who do not feed or mate in the fall will survive through the winter and then come out to feed and/or mate the following spring. If there is little to no snow cover and temperatures rise above freezing, it is possible to find an active adult tick searching for a host on a warm winter day.

In Minnesota, adult ticks will usually emerge right after the snow melts and reach peak spring-time activity during the month of May. The adult ticks will typically stay active throughout June. Adults will also become active again in the fall, usually by the end of September and through October, until temperatures drop below freezing or snow covers the ground. Blacklegged tick nymphs start to become active in mid-May and reach peak activity at the end of May through the month of June. Nymph activity tapers off slowly, and they are much less active by the end of July. Larvae are typically most active in June.

Feeding and blood meals –

- Blacklegged ticks feed on blood by inserting their mouth parts into the skin.
- They are slow feeders and will usually feed for 3-5 days.
- In order to spread disease to a human or animal, a tick needs to be infected with a disease agent and it needs to be attached to the host for a certain amount of time. If the blacklegged tick is infected, it must be attached for 24-48 hours before it transmits Lyme disease. Less common tickborne diseases, such as anaplasmosis, may take less time. On average, about 1 in 3 adult blacklegged ticks and 1 in 5 blacklegged tick nymphs is infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Blacklegged Tick Habitat - Where do we find blacklegged ticks?

- Blacklegged ticks live in wooded, brushy areas that provide food and cover for white-footed mice, deer and other mammals.
- This habitat also provides the humidity ticks need to survive.
- Exposure to ticks may be greatest in the woods (especially along trails) and the fringe area between the woods and border. Rarely, blacklegged ticks may be found in more

open areas (such as yards) that are near wooded habitat so it is important to be on the lookout for ticks when in or near wooded areas.

- Blacklegged ticks search for a host from the tips of low-lying vegetation and shrubs, not from trees.
- Generally, ticks attach to a person or animal near ground level.
- Blacklegged ticks crawl; they do not jump or fly. They grab onto people or animals that brush against vegetation, and then they crawl upwards to find a place to bite.
- White-tailed deer live throughout Minnesota, but blacklegged ticks are not found everywhere that deer live.

Use tick repellent –

- Choose an EPA-registered product so you know it is safe and effective against tick bites. EPA: Find the Repellent that is Right for You Interactive website with information on how to find an insect repellent that is right for you, United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- Products containing permethrin, which are used on clothing and gear, are especially recommended for people who spend a lot of time in wooded areas. Do not use permethrin on your skin.
- Standard DEET-based products are another option. Use a product containing no more than 30 percent DEET for adults. Concentrations up to 30 percent DEET are also safe for children (according to reports from the American Academy of Pediatrics). Do not use DEET for infants under two months of age. Products containing DEET or permethrin will also protect you from mosquito bites and mosquito-borne diseases.
- Follow the manufacturer's directions for all repellent applications.

Check frequently for ticks – at least once a day.

- Ticks must remain attached for one to two days before they can transmit the Lyme disease bacteria.
- Some research suggests that anaplasmosis may be transmitted more quickly.
- Bathe or shower after coming indoors to wash off and more easily find ticks that may be crawling on or attached to you.
- Search your entire body closely, especially hard-to-see areas (e.g. behind knees, groin area, and arm pits).
- Ticks may look like a speck of dirt or freckle on skin so use a parent or a mirror to help you.

If you find a tick on yourself, remove the tick as soon as possible.

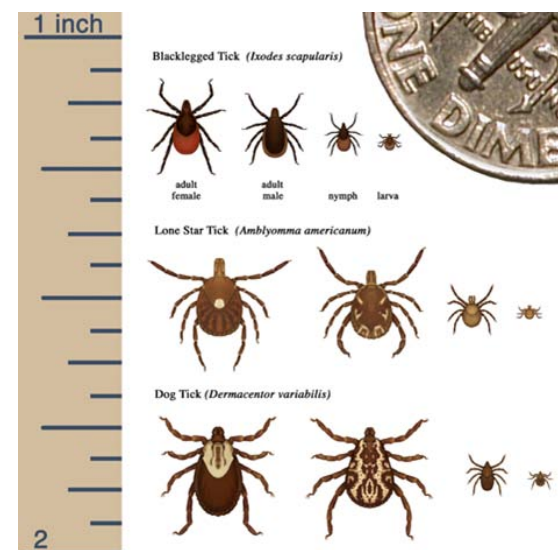
- Prompt tick removal is important in order to lower your risk of tickborne disease transmission.
- Use a pair of tweezers or your fingers to grasp the tick by the head, close to the skin.
- Pull the tick outward slowly, gently, and steadily
- Clean the area with soap and water.
- Avoid folk remedies like Vaseline®, nail polish remover or burning matches - they are not a safe or effective way to remove ticks.

Talk to your veterinarian about safe and effective tick repellents for your pet.

- Several different topical and oral products are available.
- Carefully read and follow the product label.
- A Lyme disease vaccine is available for dogs. However, the vaccine will not protect against other tickborne diseases and will not stop your dog from bringing ticks into the home.
- Check your pets for ticks daily and remove any attached ticks right away.
- Don't forget about ticks that may be on your clothing or gear.

Check gear and clothing before bringing indoors.

- Tumble dry clothing and gear in a dryer on high heat for at least 10 minutes to kill blacklegged ticks.
- Ticks may survive wash cycles, especially if hot water isn't used.
- If the clothes are damp or need to be washed first, additional dryer time may be needed: 90 minutes for low heat or 60 minutes for high heat.



Picture (right) shows each of the life stages of the blacklegged tick: adult female, adult male, nymph, and larva. It also shows the relative sizes and patterns of the blacklegged tick, lone star tick, and American dog tick.

- Land Tranfers (August 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Type
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	08-01-2024	NORMAN C JONES	TREY & JENNIFER VANORSDAL	\$ 92,300.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-09-2024	R CRAIG & SUSAN RUDE TST	CHRISTOPHER & DARCY SWANSON	\$ 784,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	08-09-2024	SUSAN D MISTEREK LIVING TST	JOSEPH & JERICA COLEMAN	\$ 295,000.00	Multi Manuf
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-14-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPEMENT LLC	JEFFREY & HOLLY SCHMITZ	\$ 74,750.00	SW Mobiles
Everts Twp	56030203 - SILVER 3RD-FF	08-19-2024	TRAVIS D CARLSON	MENGHUI YAN-ANDREWS & CHEN CHEN	\$ 141,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	08-22-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	BARBARA MINDER PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 171,500.00	Residential
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	RAND BERTOCH ET AL	DANIEL & JEANNINE CARLISLE	\$ 475,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	08-30-2024	NEIL W JENZEN	STACEY YAHNKE	\$ 510,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	09-03-2024	DOUGLAS R GEESLIN	JAMES & MARY COOK	\$ 87,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-06-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	JOYCE M OLSON	\$ 171,500.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-20-2024	ALLISON GODDARD	JASON & SAMANTHA BATZLAFF	\$ 389,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030201 -1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	09-26-2024	MURPHY FAMILY REV LIV TST ETAL	MARK & MARIANNE MURPHY - KEITH & KIMBERLY OLSON	\$ 125,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	09-27-2024	MALCOLM E BOLTON	JOSEPH SCHIRMERS	\$ 669,100.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-01-2024	DREWE L ROBINSON ET AL	S&M LARSON TST	\$ 851,000.00	Residential
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	10-04-2024	WLP DEVELOPMENT LLC	MIRZA & SALMA BASIC	\$ 92,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	BRADLEY & KRISTI FEHR LIV TST	PAUL & JULIE EIDENSCHINK	\$ 826,500.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-11-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	RICHARD & JOANELLE WINJUM	\$ 55,000.00	Residential
Ottertail City	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	10-11-2024	UMI AND PEEPS LLC	CODY & HEATHER MILLER	\$ 460,100.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-15-2024	FISKUM LIVING TST	JEREMY & KARENSA TISCHER	\$ 575,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	10-18-2024	POLMAN FAMILY TST	AAK REV TST	\$ 675,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560193 - ETHEL-FF	10-30-2024	MARK E THOMPSON	SHANE & LINDSAY LAFAVE	\$ 479,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	10-31-2024	POLLY A GRELL REV TST	MAXWELL HATLING	\$ 149,500.00	Multi Manuf
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL A WALL	ANTHONY & HOLLY FLACH	\$ 604,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-05-2024	WENDELL ALAN WALL	ROY'ZZZ REAL LLC	\$ 424,900.00	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	11-15-2024	CUHEL FAMILY TST	ROBERT & BONNIE VORNBROCK	\$ 594,000.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	11-15-2024	RICHARD COLE	STEVEN FROMMEL	\$ 479,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	11-18-2024	RICHARD & BARBARA MILLER TSTS	XUYEN & DAVID JOHNSON	\$ 1,030,400.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	12-02-2024	DONALD BISTODEAU	NATHANIEL & KIMBERLY BERTELSEN	\$ 725,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560240 - BLANCHE-FF	12-13-2024	JOHN J SCHAULS FAMILY TST	JOSHUA MILLER	\$ 308,750.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	12-20-2024	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	WEST BATTLE RENTALS LLC	\$ 323,000.00	Residential
Everts Twp	560298 - DEER-FF	01-08-2025	SARAH N WEISS ET AL	JENNIFER & MICHAEL FOLLMANN	\$ 130,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	01-17-2025	ANDREW J CIHLAR	SHANNON & DARREN BODE	\$ 340,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	03-14-2025	CHAD SPANSWICK	ALEX SALQUIST & BENJAMIN WOLDEN	\$ 766,000.00	Residential
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	03-20-2025	CARLISLE FAMILY TST	FARSHAD TONY SHOOSHANI TST	\$ 1,660,000.00	Residential
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	03-21-2025	PAUL J EIDENSCHINK	DOUGLAS & ROXANNE KENNEDY	\$ 1,050,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	04-11-2025	MICHAEL J CASEY	JAMES & SHERRY NELSON	\$ 399,000.00	Multi Manuf
Otter Tail Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	04-14-2025	MARY E YAGGIE	LOREN & PATRICIA ELLEFSON	\$ 950,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	04-21-2025	MAUREEN SORGATZ	MICHAEL & MEGAN BOERBOOM	\$ 599,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	56030201 -1stSILVER-EVERTS-FF	04-24-2025	DARRELL & HELEN TRUMBAUER TST	DAVID & HEIDI CHRISTENSEN	\$ 195,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	04-25-2025	PAUL S JENSEN	KARIS & CARA CRILLY	\$ 845,000.00	Seasonal Rec

Have A Wonderful and Safe Time At The Lake!

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.



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MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Lake Sampling and Sample Collection Equipment

The Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) has been sponsoring its lake monitoring program for twenty-five years. This program allows lake associations to assess the current condition of their lakes, evaluate changes over time and help guide lake protection efforts. The OTC COLA lakes are sampled once a month from May through September.

The samples that are collected are a snapshot of the conditions that exist at the time of collection. By collecting each sample at the same time and location in the same way, and analyzing the same parameters, a database develops over time. This methodology provides a clearer picture of the quality of lakes. It can be recognized if lake quality is maintained, improving, or declining.

The sampling process consists of two procedures; one is lowering a Secchi disk in the water and recording the measurement of when the disk disappears, the other is obtaining a sample of the water for laboratory analysis. The transparency data and water samples are then delivered to the laboratory where Secchi disk measurements are recorded and water samples are analyzed for phosphorus and chlorophyll-a.

There are two common methods of collecting water samples. One is called the grab method where bottles are dipped in the water. The other is use of an integrated depth sampling device.

One component of a good water quality monitoring program is the collection of representative water samples. The water in our lakes is not homogenous but varies with season, location and depth. The grab method collects samples from only the top six to eight inches of water. It is preferable to get a representative sample that is taken from a larger portion of the water column. Most samplers use an integrated depth sampling device.

The device is not a complicated, expensive piece of scientific equipment. It can be easily constructed with readily available materials from a local hardware store.

Assembling a device is relatively simple. First you need an inch and a quarter diameter PVC pipe that can extend two meters or approximately six and a half feet into the water. This way you are obtaining water that is more representative than just the top eight inches. Next you need connector fittings for each end of the pipe. A piece of water pipe foam insulation is taped on to the top end of the device to give a better grip especially when the pipe is wet. Lastly you need two rubber stoppers sized to fit on each end of the pipe.

Using the device is similar to how one might draw water from a glass of water using a straw. Once the device is lowered into the water to the desired depth the stopper is placed at the top. When the pipe is pulled out of the water a stopper is placed at the other end to capture two meters of water. Removing the bottom stopper over a sample bottle completes the procedure. A



Jeff Vansteenburgh
OTC COLA
Environmental Director

small chain or cord can be attached to the bottom stopper assuring that the stopper doesn't end up at the bottom of the lake. A variation is to replace the bottom stopper with a small valve installed near the bottom of the pipe so that the water sample can be drawn off more slowly.

Most sample collectors in our COLA use the integrated depth sampling device for collecting their water samples. However, there are some that are still collecting water samples using the grab method.

OTC COLA would like to know if there is interest among its Membership for an integrated depth sample device construction workshop to be held next spring in April. Depending on the interest of registrants, the workshop could include constructing the devices and training on collecting samples with the new tool. There would also be a discussion on sampling techniques as well as tips from folks who have been using the integrated depth sample devices in past seasons.

If you are interested in a sampler device construction workshop, please contact us via email at otccola2@gmail.com.



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Starwatch For May

In May Jupiter sinks into the sunset, ending a months-long guest starring role with the bright winter constellations. Those, too, are disappearing into the sun's afterglow.

But Mars lingers, drifting on a course toward Regulus, the brightest star in Leo, the lion. Mars got pretty dim, but you could've located it close below the moon at nightfall the 3rd. The moon revisits Mars on the 31st, when the planet is rather low in the west.

Brilliant Arcturus, the brightest star in the kite-shaped constellation Bootes, the herdsman—and also the brightest in the northern hemisphere of sky—shines in the southeast to south. In the northeast to east, Vega, which is almost as bright as Arcturus, gains prominence steadily throughout the month. Vega, in the small constellation Lyra, the lyre, is part of the large Summer Triangle of bright stars.

To find Arcturus, just follow the curve of the Big Dipper's handle. Then continue that curve to Spica, the sole bright star in Virgo, the maiden. Just west of Spica you'll see a somewhat dim, irregular, four-sided polygon of stars. This is the constellation Corvus, the crow.

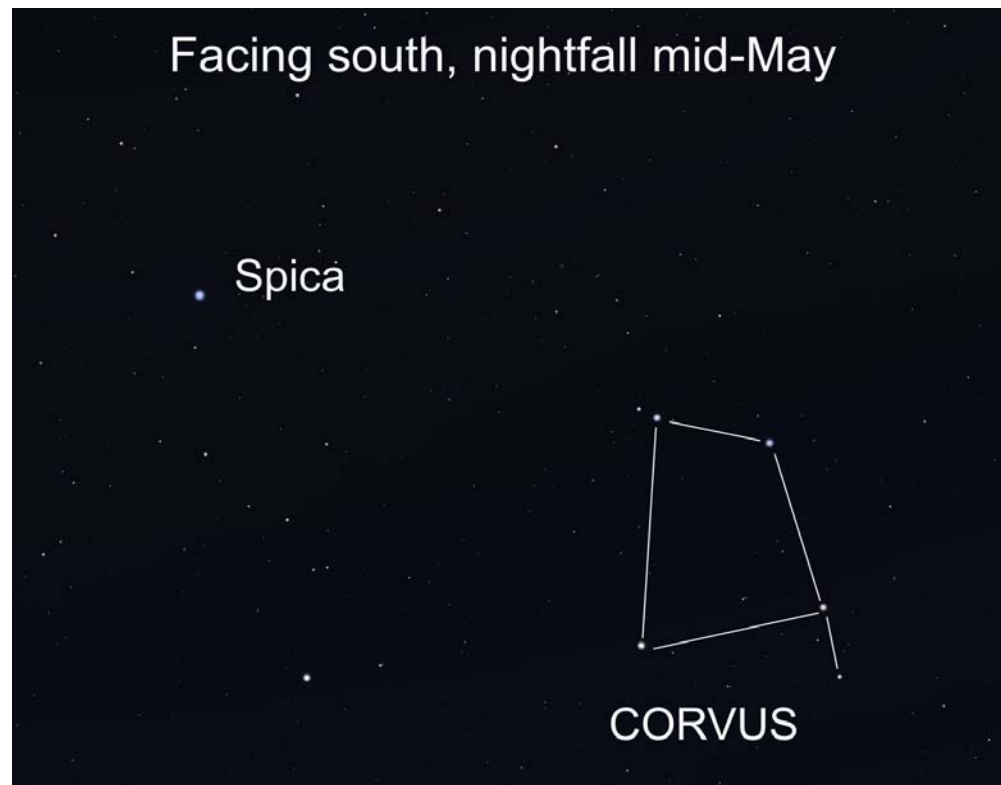
In the morning sky, Venus and Saturn will be visible very low in the east at the start of twilight, especially after mid-month. Unfortunately, the sun is rising right behind them, so the window for seeing them is short. You might have caught a dim Saturn to the lower left of a waning moon on the 22nd. The next two mornings, the thinning moon hovered near Venus, which is bright but barely above the eastern horizon.

May's full moon arrived near noon on the 12th. It wasn't be up then, but hope you to enjoyed it as it rose in evening twilight on the 11th, or about an hour later on the 12th.

Too learn more about the stars, see the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering website cse.umn.edu/mifa/starwatch

“Most of the stars we can see with the naked eye are actually bigger and brighter, with only a few very faint stars being similar in size and brightness to our Sun.”

Facing south, nightfall mid-May



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

Duluth, Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium: www.d.umn.edu/planet

Twin Cities, Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics:

www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight

Check out astronomy programs, free telescope events and planetarium shows at the

University of Minnesota's Bell Museum: www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/astronomy

Find U of M astronomers and links to the world of astronomy: www.astro.umn.edu

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OTC Encourages Homeowners To Maintain Septic Systems and Utilize Free Online Course

Homeowners with septic systems understand the significant investment they have made in their subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) or septic systems. Proper maintenance is essential to protect that investment and ensure and preserve underground water quality. To assist homeowners in understanding and maintaining their systems, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) and the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) have partnered to offer a free on-line course.



This homeowner-focused course is designed to:

- Explain how an onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS) processes wastewater.
- Describe the maintenance required for a typical OWTS.
- Suggest home adjustments to reduce the load on the system.
- Provide solutions or troubleshooting for basic system issues.
- Identify additional resources for homeowners seeking assistance.

The course also includes a comprehensive user guide for homeowners with subsurface sewage treatment systems or OWTS. To access the FREE online course and user guide, visit ottertailcounty.gov/septic-resources/

Otter Tail County's Land and Resource Management Department is mandated to protect public health, safety, and general welfare by ensuring the proper location, design, installation, use, and maintenance of subsurface sewage treatment systems. Homeowners in need of financial assistance for septic system upgrades or replacements may qualify for programs such as:

Low-Interest Septic Replacement Loans

SSTS Local Cost Share Fix-Up Fund Program Grants

These financial assistance programs help homeowners maintain compliance with local and state regulations while ensuring the longevity and effectiveness of their septic systems.

Visit ottertailcounty.gov/septic-resources/ for more information on septic system maintenance, financial assistance programs, and the free online course and user guide.

OTC Food Waste Drop-Off

Drop off collected food waste and compostable materials in the green carts at the drop-off sites. Absolutely NO plastic bags or packaging are allowed in the drop-off carts! Plastic will contaminate the compost at the compost facility. Food Waste Drop-Off sites are located at:

Otter Tail County Recycling Center – Fergus Falls

Perham Resource Recovery Facility –

201 6th Ave NE, Perham

Otter Tail County Garage – Off Hwy 83, Battle Lake

Parkers Prairie – City Hall Parking Lot



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- Paper towels, napkins and tissues
- Paper egg cartons
- Hair and fur
- Popsicle sticks, toothpicks, wood chopsticks
- Houseplant trimmings and cut flowers
- Certified compostable bags
- Certified compostable products with the BPI or Cedar Grove certified compostable logo on the product or packaging

We DO NOT Accept

- Grass, leaves or other yard waste
- Plastic bags, plastic utensils, metal/plastic condiment cups
- Plastic, metal, glass of any kind
- Dead animals, pet waste, litter or bedding
- Fast food wrappers and frozen food boxes
- Microwave popcorn bags
- Paper plates, bowls and cups without BPI or Cedar Grove certification
- Single-serve coffee pods (i.e. K-cups™)
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ottertailcountymn.us/organics-recycling

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Stop Starry Stonewort

Since its discovery in Lake Koronis in 2015, starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) has spread to 31 waterbodies in Minnesota. This aggressive macroalgae reproduces rapidly, posing a significant threat as it forms dense mats in shallow, nearshore waters, crowding out native plants like *Chara* and southern naiad—critical species for fish habitat and spawning

As these native plants disappear, game fish such as bass, walleye, and muskie struggle to find viable hunting grounds. The recreational impact is equally disruptive, as starry stonewort clogs boat motors, blankets swim beaches, and obstructs public water access. For lake associations, managing starry stonewort after it takes hold is difficult and expensive. Treatments like mechanical harvesting and copper-based algaecides can cost up to \$200,000 annually, with limited long-term results.

In 2021, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates launched the Stop Starry Program to prevent the spread of starry stonewort by addressing a critical gap in boat cleaning practices. While 90% of boaters know to “Clean, Drain, Dry,” only 60% comply due to a lack of access to adequate cleaning tools.

With support from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENTRF), a pilot that began with three CD3 waterless boat-cleaning stations in 2021 has grown to 30 stations across 21 waterbodies in 2024, logging over 15,000 uses

In addition to installing tool stations, MLR and its partners have focused on education and public awareness. The program reached hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans through public service announcements, media campaigns, and over 50 outreach events in 2024, including the Minnesota State Fair and the National Loon Center Festival.

On the treatment side, Stop Starry supports innovative control methods like biodegradable benthic barriers and diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH). The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is also testing drones to locate infestations and studying starry stonewort’s impact on wild rice beds.

Local and state government and academic partners agree Stop Starry complements their AIS management plans while highlighting the value of collaboration with lake associations and Tribal communities.

The success of the Stop Starry Program is its cross-county and community-informed approach. Multiple counties, lake associations, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and local and state government partners formed a cohesive network of stakeholders committed to AIS prevention. Monthly meetings and annual evaluations allow members to share data, discuss new treatment methods, and coordinate outreach efforts.

Over the past decade, Minnesota has made significant strides in addressing starry stonewort and other aquatic invasive species (AIS) through efforts like County AIS Prevention Aid and MAIRSC’s Starry Trek. While Michigan saw nearly all its inland lakes infested within ten years, Minnesota has kept the number to just 31 known cases. Still, for many residents, that’s 31 too many—especially as infestations creep closer to the state’s busiest boating regions.

The Stop Starry program stands out as a model of regional civic organizing, emphasizing prevention, early detection, and building awareness and local capacity to respond. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) is expanding pilot programs like Stop Starry to protect the health and accessibility of our waters. Supporting MLR through membership helps sustain these efforts for future generations.

Learn more about Stop Starry Stonewort, visit www.mnlakesandrivers.org/stopstarry or contact MLR Associate Director and AIS Lead Organizer, Sami Selter: sami@mnlakesandrivers.org 612-351-1916



Control strategies like Diver Assisted Suction Harvest, copper algaecide, contained hand-pulling, and biodegradable benthic barriers are all being tested to manage Starry Stonewort

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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!