

PR SRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
ANNANDALE, MN
56302

*The Official Newspaper of
Otter Tail Lakes
Property Owners
Association*

Volume 56 - No. 5
– August 2026 –



Lakeshore News

Photo by Julie Swanson



What A 'Flipping' Good Summer Time!

Photo by Tom Hogness

• What's Inside •

Mission Statement, Board of Directors, President's Corner	2
Calendar of Events, OTLPOA Meeting Dates; Tips Trailering Boat, Pontoon, Watercraft	3
Did You Know The Story About Fishing Bobbers?	4
Common Basic Fishing Rigging, Fishing Bobbers	5
OTLPOA Lakes Clean-Up Day Photos	6
Heightened Fish Mortality During Prolonged Heat	7
Boat Winterization Guide, Storing Pontoon, Paddle Boat, Kayak, Canoe, Paddle Boards	8-9
Local Library Hours, Transfer Stations/Landfills, Recipe Corner, Church Directory	10
Winterizing Your Yard/Garden, Burning Permit	11
Land Transfers, Join Your Neighbors And Preserve Our Lakes	12
Fun Time At The Lake	13
LAke Levels Impacted By Drought	14
Starwatch Plus More!	15
Minnesota DNR Web Cams	16



Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 56 - No. 5 • August 2026 • Battle Lake, MN



**Otter Tail Lakes
Property Owners
Association (OTLPOA)
Mission Statement**

The object and purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake and such other land areas further removed therefrom as its members shall from time to time determine, and to assist the property owners within said area in the preservation of their civic areas and those of Otter Tail Lake itself, including the planting and promulgation of fish therein and the protection and preservation of wildlife on the land areas adjacent to Otter Tail Lake as may be determined by the members, to promote and develop the horticultural development of the areas described, to promote the cultural and social lives of the inhabitants of said area and to provide a vehicle by which legal or political problems common to the areas and the inhabitants thereof, including tax problems, may be resolved in any manner provided by law for the common welfare of the members of this corporation; and to that and this corporation may acquire by purchase or other means such real or personal property as may be necessary in carrying out its stated objectives and to mortgage or sell or exchange the same and to do any and all other acts permitted by the laws of the State of Minnesota in furtherance of its stated purposes.

– OTLPOA Board of Directors –

President –

Eric Gerken (Otter Tail Lake)egerken31@gmail.com - 320-491-1277

Vice President –

Mark Long (Deer Lake)mdlongmark@outlook.com - 701-640-1033

Treasurer –

Pat Hunke (Otter Tail Lake)phunke@hunkestransfer.com - 218-639-4910

Secretary –

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

Blanche Lake Directors –

Ken Wentzkmwjmw@gmail.com - 760-885-9668

Jeff Skogenjeffskogen@gmail.com - 303-898-2501

Long Lake Director –

Paul Oxberrypoxberry@outlook.com - 612-703-3116

Round Lake Director –

Steve MouritsenSteve.mouritsen@wellsfargo.com - 612-237-6927

Walker Lake Director –

Mike WendtMWendt3853@outlook.com

Otter Tail Lake Directors –

Dan Carlisledcarlisle@toddwadana.coop - 218-639-3972

Devon GemelliDevoch98@yahoo.com - 701-318-3600

Debbie Nessdeb@yourresort.com - 218-495-2468

Julie Swansonjulieswansonproperties@gmail.com - 218-282-0044

Jerame Tysdalotproperties@arvig.net

Steve YoungSlyoung5@arvig.net - 218-371-9289

Water Clarity Reports –

Blanche Lake14 ft. Round Lake14 ft.

Deer Lake12.5 ft. Walker Lake15 ft.

Otter Tail Lake

both sites11 ft.

– OTLPOA President’s Eric Gerken’s Corner –



Greetings Everyone!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July filled w



OTLPOA 2026 Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

August 27

September 24 • October 22

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 Date & Location To Be Announced (more detail to come)

Calendar of Events 2026

August 15	Vining Watermelon Day
August 15-16	Perham Pioneer Days
August 18	Music In The Park - Ottertail
August 29	Clitherall Summer Festival
September 4-5	Underwood's Harvest Festival
September 5	Battle Lake Area Community Fund's Gathering of Planes
September 11-13	Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's Reunion - Dalton
September	Woodstack - Prospect House & Museum, Battle Lake
December 5	Otterdazzle

Check website for more details –

Battle Lake	www.lakesconnect.org/calendar
Otter Tail County	ottertailcounty.gov/otc-events
Ottertail	visitottertailmn.com
Perham	perham.com

Check also their Facebook Pages for more details –

Battle Lake Happenings	Battle Lake Businesses & Happenings
Discover Perham	Otter Tail Lakes Country
Otter Tail County	Perham BUZZ
Visit Ottertail City	Plus Many Local Businesses!

While at the lake, check out some of these area events and support our advertisers!

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

Tips For Trailering Boat, Pontoon, Watercraft

Boat –

Getting a boat onto a trailer smoothly requires setting the correct trailer depth, approaching at a slow and steady speed, and securing the bow safely. Key steps include positioning the trailer so fenders are just above water, bumping the engine in and out of gear to control speed, and using the winch for the final few feet. For a clear visual guide on how to approach the trailer at a slow speed and line it up right:

Trailer Depth –

- **Check the fenders:** Keep the trailer fenders just slightly sticking out of the water.
- **Submerge the bunks partially:** Submerging the bunk boards halfway helps them wet and slippery so the boat slides on easily, but leaves enough out of the water to guide and stop the hull.
- **Avoid going too deep:** A trailer that is too deep allows the boat to float around and miss the center alignment completely.

Approach and Alignment –

- **Center your steering:** Make sure your motor or steering wheel is centered before you move forward.
- **Bump in and out of gear:** Move forward slowly by shifting in and out of gear instead of staying continuously throttled. Never go faster than you are willing to hit the trailer.
- **Make small corrections:** Line your bow up straight with the front roller and make tiny steering adjustments only when you are actively in gear.

Securing the Boat –

- **Power up gently:** Give just enough throttle to push the boat fully onto the bunks up to the bow roller.
- **Use the winch:** Shut off and trim up the motor, then use the manual winch strap for the final foot or two of pulling.
- **Attach safety chains:** Fasten the front bow safety chain and winch strap securely before pulling the vehicle up the ramp.

Pontoon –

Pulling a pontoon trailer safely requires managing a wide, wind-resistant load. Key steps include balancing tongue weight to 10–15% of total weight, securing the bimini top and motor, using bunk guides for alignment, avoiding power-loading on ramps, and fastening heavy-duty transom and bow ratchet straps before highway transit.

Loading and Ramp Safety –

- **Inspect the ramp:** Check for slick algae, drop-offs, or shallow water before backing in.
- **Submerge partially:** Keep the top portion of the trailer bunks sticking out of the water so the driver can sight alignment.
- **Never power-load:** Drive the boat gently until it touches the bunks, then use the hand winch to pull it the rest of the way forward to prevent ramp erosion and damage.
- **Watch the wind:** Pontoons act like giant sails; compensate for crosswinds during approach or wait out high-wind storms.

Watercraft –

To pull a watercraft trailer safely, check your hitch, coupler lock, and crossed safety chains before leaving. Distribute the weight evenly, take wide turns, and use your side mirrors to back up smoothly. Secure your watercraft with tight straps and remove covers or loose gear.

Pre-Trip Checklist –

- Match the coupler size to your vehicle ball and lock it.
- Cross safety chains under the tongue.
- Plug in and test all brake and turn signals.
- Fasten bow and transom tie-down straps.
- Remove all covers, keys, and loose gear from the watercraft.

Driving and Maneuvering –

- Take wider turns so your trailer clears curbs and obstacles.
- Leave extra stopping distance between you and other cars.
- Watch your side mirrors frequently to track the trailer path.
- Put your hand at the bottom of the steering wheel when backing up; the trailer moves the same way your hand goes.

SAFE BOATING TIPS



HIGH WINDS/WAVES
Know Your Action
Reduce speed
Head to shore



COLD WATER
Know Your Action
Remain calm and control your breathing
Minimize time in the water
Get dry and warm ASAP



LIGHTNING
Know Your Action
Remain weather-ready
If you hear thunder, it's time to stay in the cabin or head to shore

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO
Check the forecast at weather.gov
Always wear a life jacket!



Remember To Take Your Trash When You Leave To Help Keep Our Lakes Cleans!

Did You Know The Story About Fishing Bobbers?

A fishing float or bobber is a lightweight buoy used in angling, usually attached to a fishing line. Angling with a float is sometimes called float fishing.



A float can serve several purposes:

- firstly, it serves as a visual bite indicator that helps the angler assess underwater status of the baited hook and decide whether to start retrieving the line;
- secondly, it can suspend the hook and bait at a predetermined depth, which helps the angler target fish in specific depths;
- thirdly, as a terminal tackle, it adds mass and allows the hook and bait to be cast further against air resistance;
- and lastly, due to its buoyancy, it can carry the baited hook to otherwise inaccessible areas of water by drifting along the prevailing current.

Design and Functions –

A typical float consists of a body with lower specific gravity than water, which provides the buoyancy to remain afloat at the water surface; a brightly colored rod at the top, which makes it easier to be seen from afar; and an attachment at the bottom that suspends the hook. A small counterweight is sometimes placed at the bottom to help the float to stay upright against wind and waves.

The float is used to enable the angler to cast out a bait away from the shore or boat while maintaining a reference point to where the bait is unlike bottom or leger fishing. The angler will select an appropriate float after taking into account the strength of the current (if any), the wind speed, the size of the bait, the depth the angler wishes to present that bait at and the distance the bait is to be cast. The line between the float and hook will usually have small weights attached, ensuring that the float sits vertically in the water with only a brightly coloured tip remaining visible. The rest of the float is typically finished in a dull neutral colour to render it as inconspicuous as possible to the fish. Each float style is designed to be used in certain types of conditions such as slow or fast rivers, windy or still water or small confined waters like canals.

History –

It is impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy who first used a float for sensing a fish had taken the bait, but it can be said with some certainty that people used pieces of twig, bird feather quills or rolled leaves as bite indicators, many years before documented evidence. The first known mention of using a float appears in the book "Treatyse of fysshynge wyth an Angle" written by Juliana Berners in 1496:

*All maner lynes that be not for the grounde must haue flotes,
and the rennyng ground lyne must haue a flote,
the lyeng ground lyne must haue a flote.*

The method described, involved boring a hole through a cork so the line could be passed through and trapped



with a quill. Later books such as "the Arte of Angling", a 1577 text edited by Gerald Eades Bentley in 1956, and the classic work "The Compleat Angler" first published in 1653, written by Isaak Walton, gave greater detail on fishing and using floats.

Prior to about 1800, anglers made their own floats, a practice that many still continue today.[3] As angling became more popular, companies started to make floats in different styles to supply the growing demand. By 1921, companies such as Wadhams had at least 250 mainly celluloid floats in their catalog.

Since those early days, the fishing float has become the subject of much practical and theoretical change. English anglers such as Peter Drennan (Drennan International) and Kenneth Middleton (Middy Tackle) and American fishermen like Chicago's ex World Champion Mick Thill (Thill Floats) have built up large companies designing and marketing fishing floats. The English companies have been supported by major league anglers such as Ivan Marks, Benny Ashurst and Billy Lane.

Types –

Floats come in different sizes and shapes, and can be made from various materials, such as foam, balsa wood, cork, plastic, Indian sarkanda reed or even bird/porcupine quills.

Avon Float is a straight float with a body at the top. It was designed to cope with the fast flow conditions of the English River Avon. Many early floats were Avon style having a cork body pushed onto a crow quill. It is attached to the line top and bottom.

Bubble Floats are small hollow balls which are used to control the fishing line. They may have the facility to be partially filled with water to control how much float is above the water. They are used in situations where a normal float cannot be cast, such as working close to the edge of reeds or heavy surface plant growth. The bubble float can be allowed to drift into the area without tangling.

Dink Float is most commonly made of a cylinder of dark foam with a smaller cylinder of cork on the top painted for indicator. The line is run through the top, wrapped around the cylinder and through the bottom. The primary advantage is that the float does not need a stopper on the main line. The wrap of line between the top and bottom of the float will hold it in place.

Popper Float, commonly called a 'popping cork', is designed to mimic a large fish feeding at the surface with rod action. There are different styles of popper floats. Some use a metal wire with beads at each end to make a clicking noise when pulled through the water, while more modern floats use a concave top, which makes a deep chugging sound when pulled through the water, imitating the sound of large predator fish feeding at the surface. Some popping corks also have pellets inside, designed to mimic bait fish jumping at the surface when rattled.

Quill is one of the earliest floats. It was originally a bird feather quill, but with the opening up of new worlds, porcupine quills from Africa became a standard for the float. It is fished in the same way as a stick float.

Self-cocking Floats can be of many styles, but they are all weighted so that in the water they automatically stand upright without the use of shot or weights on the fishing line.

Stick Float is a straight float with a taper. It is always attached to the line both top and bottom. They are made from two different materials, a light, buoyant top section of balsa wood and a heavy stem of hard grade cane, non-buoyant hardwood, or plastic. Unlike the Avon float, the stick has no body; it is just a tapered rod.

Waggler Float is the term given to any float which is attached only at the bottom to the line. They come in two different types, straight or bodied. These two types can come both with and without inserts (antennas). They are made from a variety of materials including quills (such as peacock), balsa wood, cane, plastic and reed.

With direction control change direction by planing or moving to one side when given a tug.

Service serving you best!
FOOD MARKET

OPEN 7 Days A Week!

**Cut to Order Meats Certified Angus Beef
Seafood and Freshwater Fish
Fresh Baked Bread and Cookies
Fruit and Gift Baskets
Party Trays Meat & Cheese, Fruit & Veggie**

www.servicefood.com

FULL SERVICE GROCERY STORE • LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

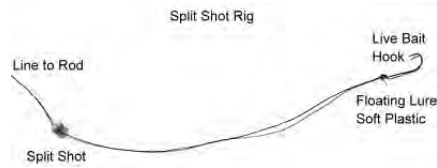
Fergus Falls • 218-998-9000

Common Basic Fishing Rigging

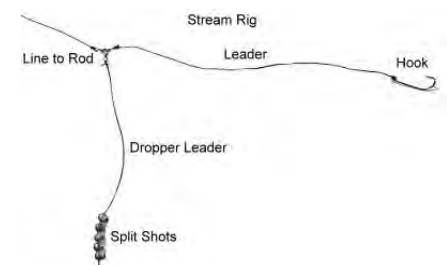
Ideally one would want to use the simplest and lightest set up for the type of fishing they tend to do, the lighter the rigging the better chance you have of attracting a fish rather than spooking it with needlessly heavy tackle. Here are some common rigging examples that can be modified to fit your specific fishing conditions.



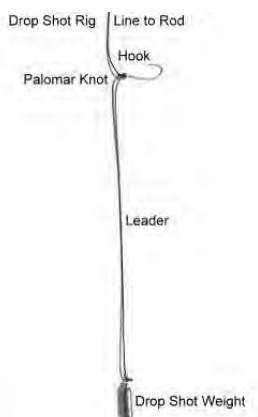
Texas Rig is adaptable to all types of soft plastics from worms to lizards and grubs that can be fished in extremely dense vegetation and brush.



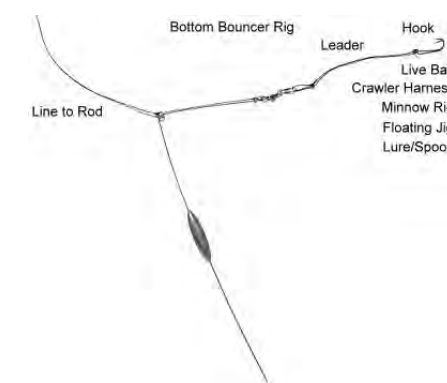
Split Shot Rig is about as basic as you can get on a rig. The nice thing is, you don't have to retie any knots to change the sinker position on the line; just pinch it on and off.



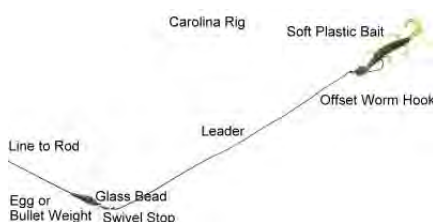
Stream Rig also known as a drift rig are used commonly by steelhead, salmon and walleye anglers in certain situations, such as in small streams with light current or when drift fishing in relatively shallow water.



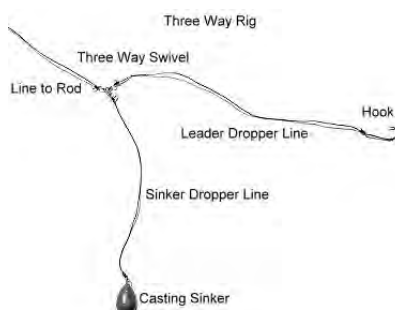
Drop Shot Rig is a finesse technique that has been made popular by the bass fishing community, walleye and panfish anglers as well are now using the drop shot with many successes.



Bottom Bouncer (walker) is an effective rigging tool while trolling or drifting presenting the lure/bait rig above snag laced bottom of small rocks, logs, over mud/sand flats, or open basins. A weighted wire feeler arm minimizes hang-ups while riding upright across underwater structure deflecting snags.



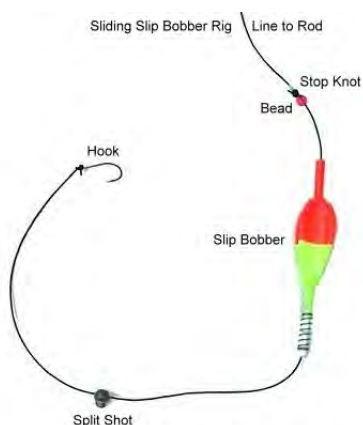
Carolina Rig is a popular and effective way to rig for bass. Just about any soft plastic can be used when Carolina rigging.



Sliding Sinker Bottom Rig is the most popular and versatile rig for live bait fishing. Dependent on what part of the country your from and the species of fish you're targeting it has many names the most common is the trade name Lindy Rig.



Three Way Rig receives its name from the main swivel used on the rig. It is also recognized as the wolf river rig.



Sliding Slip Bobber Rig can be fished at any depth, it is designed to move (slide) up and down the line and will not interfere with casting or landing a fish.



Swivels

Swivels are a simple but yet important part on your fishing gear when it comes to rigging. The swivel keeps your line from twisting, acts as a weight stop on your line along with spreading bottom rigs (3-way swivel) for proper presentations. Swivels are also used as a component on a leader to attach your line. Pictured above left to right are Barrel, Three Way; below Ball Bearing and Snap Swivel.

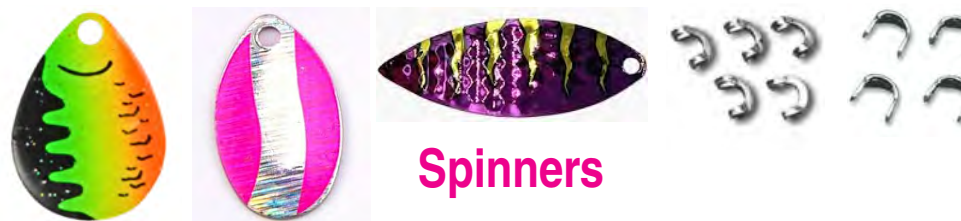


Common Fishing Bobbers (Floats)



1. Round Attached; 2. Lighted Slip; 3. Weighted Spring Attached; 4. Glow Slip; 5. Slip; 6. Antenna Slip; 7. Shy/Light Bite Slip; 8. Waggler Slip; 9. Large Bait Slip

Fishing with a bobbers is one the most common and simple set-ups. The bobber or float presents the bait at a pre set depth and acts as a strike indicator when a fish bites. There are a variety colors, shapes and size bobbers available today, lighted or glow for night time fishing, slip bobbers that the fishing line passes through for deep water fishing and the fixed bobber that uses a spring lock or snap for shallow water fishing.



Spinners

The main fish attracting component of a spinner is the blade. The type of blade and shape will determine the depth and sound (the thump) of a spinner upon retrieve. All blades have a different amount of resistance as it travels through the water. A broad blade such as the Colorado will rotate at a greater outward angle from the wire shaft producing a lift and thump compared to a narrow willow blade which will run tighter to the shaft and spin faster producing less sound. Pictured above left to right: Colorado Blade, Indiana Blade, Willow Leaf Blade, Stirrup Clevis and Folding Clevis.



Fishing Success!

Photos by
OTLPOA Director Mark Long



OTLPOA Lakes Clean-Up Day



Photo by Eric Gerken



Photo by Dan Carlisle



Photos by Julie Swanson except noted



MnDNR Reports Heightened Fish Mortality During Prolonged Heat

With hot summer weather creating stressful conditions for fish in lakes, rivers and streams across the state, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is sharing what people can do if they see a fish mortality event — and how they can help prevent them.

“We have been seeing chronically stressful conditions this summer for fish and are receiving continued reports of fish mortality events,” DNR Fish Health Supervisor Isaiah Tolo said. “People should be aware that they might see dead fish. We also want them to know what to do to report these events and what actions they can take to protect our fisheries.”

Current conditions and mortality events

Reports from the public, public utilities and fisheries staff have recorded surface water temperatures of 86 degrees Fahrenheit and higher in several Minnesota lakes and the Mississippi River. Cold water fish like lake cisco and other salmonids become stressed when water temperatures exceed 75 degrees and cool water species like northern pike can handle temperatures up to 84 degrees.

Fish mortality reports for 2026 as of July 24 include 212 reports spanning 102 waterbodies across the state, as far north as Lake of the Woods on the state’s northern border and as far south as Albert Lea on the southern border.

Among those reports, the Fish Health Laboratory received 65 reports for 29 waterbodies in a four-day period from July 16-20. Notably, fish are particularly susceptible to mortality in lake systems impaired by excessive nutrients, caused by urban and agricultural runoff. That’s because the conditions in these lake systems already pose a challenge for fish by accelerating decomposition and algae growth, and then are affected by low dissolved oxygen availability and warmer water temperatures.

The recent string of reports is the second of two “pulses” of elevated fish mortality events this summer. The first happened throughout June following rapid high temperatures after a colder winter and primarily affected lakes in the Twin Cities metro area. The current pulse is happening due to consistent high temperatures with little precipitation and is affecting a wider distribution of lakes across the state with varying levels of water quality.

A notable number of recent mortality events are affecting species that are sensitive to high temperatures. These include northern pike and muskellunge, cisco, and larger fish of all types because they have a smaller gill surface to body mass ratio compared with smaller fish. For example, several events report hundreds of dead northern pike with few other species affected. Dead and dying cisco have been reported on Lake Koronis in Stearns County. Large dead lake sturgeon have been washing ashore on Otter Tail Lake in Otter Tail County. The wide distribution of these events in the state indicates that fish populations across the state are experiencing similar conditions.

Water temperatures during Minnesota summers are increasing, and this summer is no exception. On average, according to climatology data, Minnesota lakes are about 3 to 4 degrees warmer and have lost an average of 10-14 days of ice cover in the last 50 years. The continued warming trends accelerate decomposition and algae growth. Research also indicates that summer fish kills are likely to increase with climate forecasts.

How to help

Minnesotans have a role to play in preserving and protecting the state’s fisheries. Anyone can report fish mortality events they observe on the Minnesota DNR website



(mndnr.gov/fishkills). This webpage also includes details about what can cause these events.

“Reports from members of the public are an important way we receive information about fish mortality,” said Tolo. “Those reports reach an interagency team of fish and water quality professionals.”

Homeowners and land managers

Those who own and manage waterfront property have an important role to play in protecting and restoring natural shorelines, which are important parts of good habitat for fish in their lakes. Promoting lake and stream-side tree cover and aquatic plants in lakes helps establish thermal refuges for fish. Information on natural shorelines and restoration is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/lakescaping/index.html). Riparian and non-riparian landowners alike can help reduce nutrient runoff into lakes and rivers, an important step in improving the overall resiliency of aquatic ecosystems. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has useful tips on preventing runoff, and restoration (pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/minimizing-fish-kills-in-minnesota).

Fishing in hot weather

Anglers should be aware that fish are stressed due to warm water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen availability and are at a higher risk of experiencing angling mortality, which means fish are less likely to survive after being caught, handled and released.

Anglers should be cautious during heat waves, especially if they are targeting species sensitive to thermal stress such as pike, muskellunge and walleye. Avoid overhandling fish during these conditions.

More information about fish mortality events in general, as well as links to other resources and agencies involved in responding to these events, is on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/fishkills).



Lic. BC520694

218-640-3713
Battle Lake, MN
www.daveerwinconstruction.com

Dave Erwin Construction is a trusted and licensed contractor serving the Battle Lake, MN and surrounding area. We offer upscale construction services and unbeatable customer satisfaction.

Distinctive Homes. Distinctive Values

Boat Winterization Guide

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

Cleaning –

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

Oil Changes –

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

Coolant and Antifreeze –

If you're a seasoned boater, this step might seem obvious. It's worth mentioning that you'll need to flush the coolant and top it off with a fresh batch of antifreeze. Before doing so,

check the manufacturer's dilution recommendations. When the temperatures start to drop during the winter season, the coolant helps prevent the internal parts and tanks from freezing and causing damage to your vessel.



Winterize The Livewell –

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

Winter Boat Storage –

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

Getting Your Pontoon Ready For Storage

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

1. Haul It –

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

2. Fill the Fuel Tank –

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

3. Prep the Engine –

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

4. Clean the Boat –

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

5. Support and Cover –

Keep the pontoons off the ground to prevent corrosion. Place blocks under the welds of the pontoons, or store the boat on its trailer. If you're storing it outdoors, cover it with a tarp or shrink-wrap. Build a tarp frame from cheap lumber or PVC pipe so that the tarp will shed



water, snow and ice. The use of a mooring cover is not recommended for winter storage, since it's not designed to support a snow load.

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

Storing A Paddle Boat –

- Store your boat in a dry place out of the sun, such as a garage, marina, or dry storage facility. You can also store it outdoors in your backyard or at an outdoor storage facility.
- Keep your boat covered with a snug-fitting, water-resistant cover when it's not in use. This will protect it from the elements, dust, debris, pests, and theft.
- Store your boat upside down off the ground to help drain any remaining water. If your boat is inflatable, you can partially inflate it to reduce pressure on the seams and make it less appealing to rodents.
- Store your paddles flat on a shelf or across two support bars, and deflate any air bags before storing. You can also prepare your boat for storage by changing the oil, draining the coolant, adding engine fogging oil, greasing the control mechanism, disconnecting the battery, and filling the tank with gas.



From website: www.logkayackrack.com

Storing Kayak and/or Canoe –

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



Where to store it –

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

How to store it –

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

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

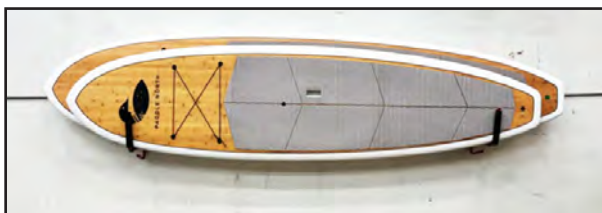
How to protect it –

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

From website: www.rockypointkayak.com

Storing Paddle Boards –

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



Rigid Fiberglass Boards:

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



Inflatable Paddle Board –

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

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

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

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



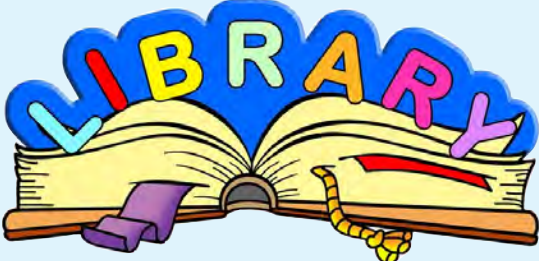
STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.
StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

Follow us on Facebook

Providing a superior level of informed, professional and consistent real estate service to buyers and sellers in the lakes area!

John Good Broker 218-731-000 john@lakesfamilyres.com	Mark Stortroen Assoc. Broker GRI 218-731-6315 mark@ottertailres.com	Deb Banta Realtor 218-821-5678 bantadeb43@gmail.com	Zach Good Realtor 218-731-2761 zach@lakesfamilyres.com	Luke Mostue Realtor 218-671-8457 luke@lakesfamilyres.com	Shana Zimmerman Realtor 218-770-6936 shana@lakesfamilyres.com	Phyllis Tysver Realtor 218-308-3775 phyllis@lakesfamilyres.com
Todd Eklund Realtor 320-808-1005 todd@lakesfamilyres.com	Scott Schauff Realtor 218-731-2813 sschauff@ptel.com	Samuel Herzog Realtor 218-205-3573 samuelherzog@gmail.com	Chad Landmann Realtor 218-731-28200 chad@lakesfamilyres.com	Jay Harvey Realtor 216-394-4089 jerrilharvey1122@gmail.com	Thinking about Selling? Call one of us for a FREE MARKET ANALYSIS to determine your property's value! www.lakesfamilyres.com 1811 E. Fir Ave. • Fergus Falls • 218-739-4460	



Local Hours

Fergus Falls 206 E. Hampden Ave. - 218-739-9387
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

New York Mills 30 North Main St. - 218-385-2436
Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Perham 225 2nd Ave. NE. - 218-739-9387
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Viking Library System 1915 West Fir - Fergus Falls - 218-385-2436
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Bookmobile Schedule: viking.lib.mn.us

Transfer Stations and Landfills

Battle Lake 36005 State Hwy. 210 - 218-864-8666
Summer (April 1-September 30) Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Winter (October 1-March 31): Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Garbage, compost, demolition (3-yard limit), white goods, scrap iron, tires, brush, electronics, batteries, recycling

Henning 51122 Rocky Ridge Road - 218-583-2129
Summer: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-12 noon
Winter (December-March): Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Garbage, compost, demolition, white goods, scrap iron, tires, brush, electronics, batteries, oil, oil filters, antifreeze

Otter Tail County NE Landfill Transfer 50365 Landfill Road - 218-385-3660
2 miles west of New York Mills on Hwy. 10
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-12 noon
Garbage, compost, demolition, white goods, scrap iron, tires, brush, electronics, batteries

~ RECIPE CORNER ~



Down Home BBQ Popcorn Recipe

if you're looking for a lighter snack with an equally mouth-watering appeal and one that you still get to cook over an open fire or you're in the mood for the flavors of a barbeque, try this Down Home BBQ mix to sprinkle over popcorn. Finger licking good!

Yield: 8 cups

Ingredients
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons Cajun seasoning mix
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1/8 teaspoon chili powder

8 cups air-popped popcorn
1/4 cup clarified butter (helps prevent sogginess; may use regular melted butter)
1 teaspoon liquid smoke

Directions
1. Combine brown sugar, Cajun seasoning mix, garlic powder, onion powder and chili powder in a small bowl.
2. Melt 1/4 cup butter. Cool slightly, then pour off the clear melted butter layer into a small bowl. Discard the opaque milky solids that remain behind.
3. Stir the liquid smoke into the butter.
4. Place popcorn in a large bowl, and drizzle it with butter mixture. Toss to coat the popcorn well. Sprinkle with cheese.
5. Sprinkle sugar-seasoning mixture over popcorn and toss to distribute evenly.
6. Serve immediately or store in an airtight container.
Note: Liquid smoke can be found with the barbecue sauces/condiments section of large grocery stores.



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.

~ 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 4 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.; Potluck 5 p.m.
Confessions – Saturdays 3:30 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 a.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.
Confessions – Sundays 7:30 a.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Fridays 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/Adoration – 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.
Wednesdays – Faith Formation 5:30 p.m.
– Parish Notes –
Battle Lake Good Samaritan Center – Rosary Mondays 3:15 p.m.

~ Lutheran ~

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 
Battle Lake Campus - 98 Hidden Meadows Dr., Battle Lake
Pastor Nick Laven Visit bethellutheran.church
Sunday Worship – 8:30 a.m. and 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 – Worship 9 a.m. (Traditional with Communion 1st and 4th; Contemporary with Prairie Team 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship 10 a.m.
Tuesdays – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon
Wednesdays – Bridge 1 p.m.; Praise Team 4 p.m. (2nd and 3rd)
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 
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.

For updated information on church schedules, check their websites.

Join Them For Worship At Any Of These Churches!

The Voice of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association



Winterizing Your Yard and Garden

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

Flower Gardens –

- Bales of straw for winter mulch can be picked up at garden retailers
- Winterizing your flower beds is a matter of cleaning them up and tucking them in. When plants die, their foliage may contain latent disease, fungi, or bugs. After the first big freeze kills off their foliage, trim back your perennials. If you planted any annuals, pull them up entirely.
- If the weather is dry, water your flower beds before the ground freezes. Then, after a hard ground frost in November, cover your perennials with four or more inches of straw or leaves.
- Some roses and flower bulbs are not hardy and require special treatment over the cold winters; look into the Minnesota tip and bulb storage techniques. But hardy shrub roses will get by fine if you pile mulch or soil over their bases and then cover with straw or leaves.



Trees and Shrubs –

As winter wears on, rabbits and other animals may chew through tree bark, often killing the tree in the process. To protect your trees, wrap the trunks with flexible tree wrap,

working the material beneath the soil line and wrapping upwards well above the expected snow line. Flexible tubing is another good option – many nurseries even sell saplings with tubing already in place. These protective coats also prevent trees from becoming confused during warm winter days and waking up too early. Defend your shrubs with chicken wire fences or chemical animal repellants (not poison).

Vegetable Beds –

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



Lawn –

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

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

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

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

Open Burning Of Leaves and Yard Waste, Permit Info

Otter Tail County requires a valid burn permit, checking current fire restrictions and following local landfill bans. You must obtain a permit, check daily fire conditions, and use free drop-off sites instead of landfills.

Permits and Restrictions –

- **Get a Permit:** You need a burning permit from the Minnesota DNR, a local fire department or a fire warden. Permits are not needed if there is 3" of continuous snow cover.
- **Check Conditions:** Always check daily fire danger ratings and burning restrictions before lighting any fire. Restrictions change often based on wind, dryness and red flag warnings.
- **Recreational Fires:** Small campfires (under 3 feet wide and 3 feet high) do not require a burning permit.

Free Yard Waste –

- **Disposal Landfill Ban:** Leaves and yard waste are banned from Minnesota landfills and cannot be put in regular garbage bins.
- **Drop-off Locations:** You can bring leaves and grass clippings for free to the Battle Lake, Henning, North East and Pelican Rapids Transfer Stations, as well as the Fergus Falls yard waste site.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is pleased to offer annual burning permits online for a \$5 fee. Online permits are valid for the calendar year and must be activated each day burning occurs. Permits to burn more than three piles, piles larger than 20'x20' in size or an area more than one acre, will need a variance permit from a local DNR Forestry office.

Note: You may not conduct your burn until you have activated your permit. You may activate online during your application process, or by calling 1-866-533-BURN (2876). Activation will only be possible if burning conditions are favorable to allow open burning; you will receive an activation code that you must write on your permit in the space provided.

- You must be the landowner or have written permission of the landowner to burn at the burn site location.
- Information about the type of burn (piled material, grass field, garden plot, etc.)
- Location of the burn, either an address (E-911 compatible) or the legal description (available on your property tax statement)
- Credit/Debit card (Mastercard or Visa)
- Printer - to print your completed permit (you must have printed and signed permit with you while conducting your burning operation)
- You will need a valid email address for an account. An email account is required by the banking system to process your credit card payment. In addition, the email account will allow you to reprint a permit at a later date if it is misplaced or destroyed and will save entry time in the future as much of the information you need to enter will be saved in the system.

Website: apps.dnr.state.mn.us/burning-permits/authentication/login

- Land Tranfers (July 11, 2026 to August 10, 2026) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Type
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	6/12/2026	CALVIN & NANCY DOCKTER REV FAM	TROY GILLESPIE	\$ 528,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	6/26/2026	STEPHAN MELSTED & C ANDERSON	JUSTIN & DANA SYNDER	\$ 510,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Everts Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	6/29/2026	RICHARD & KRISTEN ET AL	RYAN & WENDY HANSON	\$ 899,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560138 - E BATTLE-FF	6/10/2026	CAROL A KRAMER TST	CHRIS DEBLUYDT	\$ 905,000.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	6/15/2026	GREG A ANDERSON	JOANNE MURPHY	\$ 443,000.00	Multi Manuf
Otter Tail Twp	560209 - BUCHANAN-FF	6/30/2026	MATTHEW SMITH	RHONDA & RORY KOEHLER	\$ 877,500.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	6/12/2026	JAMES T MOHAGEN	BRANDON & DARCY POOLE	\$ 378,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	6/12/2026	MATTHEW REID	JENNIFER & VICTOR POPPLER	\$ 75,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Ottertail City	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	6/18/2026	LOREN ELLEFSON	RITCHIE & JOY LARSON	\$ 1,207,500.00	Seasonal Rec

Look Twice, Save A Life - Drivers And Riders Need To Share Lakes Country Roads

Summer is riding season in lakes country, and the roads are full of boat trailers, campers, farm equipment and motorcycles. That is why the Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition and the Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office are joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a simple message: A motorcyclist’s safety is everyone’s safety.

Speed and alcohol are the two biggest dangers for riders. National data shows 37% of motorcycle riders in deadly crashes were speeding, and 40% of riders who died in single-vehicle crashes had been drinking. Rural roads add risks of their own, including loose gravel, deer, and slow-moving farm equipment.

“If you ride, ride sober, watch your speed and wear the right gear every single time,” said Emily Frustol of the Otter Tail County Safe Communities Coalition.

- Riders can follow these simple steps to stay safe:
- Ride sober and obey the speed limit.
- Follow all traffic laws and avoid distractions.
- Ride defensively, especially on gravel and at dusk when deer are moving.
- Wear protective clothing and a DOT-approved helmet, eye protection, gloves and over-the-ankle boots.

Drivers play a big role, too. Give motorcycles a full lane, check blind spots and leave extra following distance, especially when towing a boat or camper.

New and returning riders are encouraged to take a hands-on rider training course. Training builds skill and confidence; it may lower insurance costs and help riders earn a motorcycle license. Minnesota riders can find a course through the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center at dps.mn.gov. Learn how to pick a DOT-approved helmet at NHTSA.gov/Motorcycles.

Share the road. Look twice. Save lives.

Join Your Neighbors and Preserve Our Lakes



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

OTLPOA is made up of lakeshore owners, community partners and civic leaders who understand the importance of stewardship and who want to protect and preserve our lakes’ beauty and legacy. As a member, you’ll help promote the community welfare and civic development of all areas of Otter Tail County bordering on or approximate to the shoreline of Otter Tail Lake.

Your annual membership includes:

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

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

AMAZING SPOT ON OTTER TAIL LAKE

TBD West Point Trail
Richville, MN 56576
\$585,000
156’ of Frontage!
One of Otter Tail Lake’s last lots!
Includes Backlot!
Dead-End Road

REAL NORTH

Call Kyle at 218-770-0503 for more information

REAL NORTH

by real

The Real North Team is your trusted partner for all things real estate across Otter Tail Lake, and the surrounding areas.

Kyle Haberman

218-770-0503
kyle@realnorthteam.com

Beth Madson

320-808-6492
beth@realnorthteam.com

Unwanted Live Bait (Minnows, Leeches or Worms) Never Release In Any Waterbody, Put In Trash!

Fun Time At The Lake ...



On Otter Tail Lake
July 17

Right: Raegan
(age 11) skiing

Left: Karsyn, Violet,
Raegan, Lucy and
Vivan

Photos by
Lori Loff



"Better to Wave at the Lake"



Celebrating the 4th of July Weekend
on Otter Tail Lake and
Otter Tail River

Photos by
Julie Swanson



"At the Lake, Every Hour is Happy Hour"



"Sun is Shining, Water is Calling"



Right: The Ken Wentz
Family: Melody, Eva,
Shepherd, Josephine,
and their dad, Kenny with
granddad, Ken driving the
boat on Blanche Lake
July 31
Photo by Bonny

Left: Dar Medcalf took
photo of his grandson,
Krew playing
in the sand June



"All You need is Love and the Lake"

Lake Days Are The Best Days! Good Times and Tan Lines!

Lake Levels Impacted By Drought

With lower-than-normal rainfall and higher-than-normal temperatures in the last few weeks, persistent drought and lower lake levels have become common across a large portion of the state.

Much of north-central Minnesota is experiencing storage drought. In years of significant drought, long-term water storage is depleted in lakes, soil and groundwater to a degree that typically takes years to reverse.

“A few heavy rain events aren’t enough to pull an area out of storage drought,” Minnesota Department of Natural Resources State Climatologist Luigi Romolo said. “Over the past four years, north-central Minnesota has received 12 to 16 inches below normal precipitation. So, it would take months of precipitation far above normal amounts to bring lake levels and soil moisture back to typical levels.”

Although it can be frustrating to those who recreate or live on lakes, varying water levels are not only natural and normal, they’re essential to many important plant and animal species. Low water consolidates lake bottom sediment and can stimulate aquatic plant growth, both of which are helpful to the aquatic ecosystem. For example, some aquatic plants that can’t germinate underwater provide habitat for fish and insects and help reduce shoreline erosion. More information is available in a DNR video about lake ecosystems (youtu.be/MMnf_yVHOWc).

“Patience is important when these cycles affect human enjoyment of a lake,” DNR Conservation Assistance and Regulation Section Manager Randall Doneen said. “While many are eager to see lakes at levels more conducive to boating and other uses, people should refrain from activities such as manipulating lake level outlets or undertaking enhanced shoreline alterations during temporary low-level conditions.”

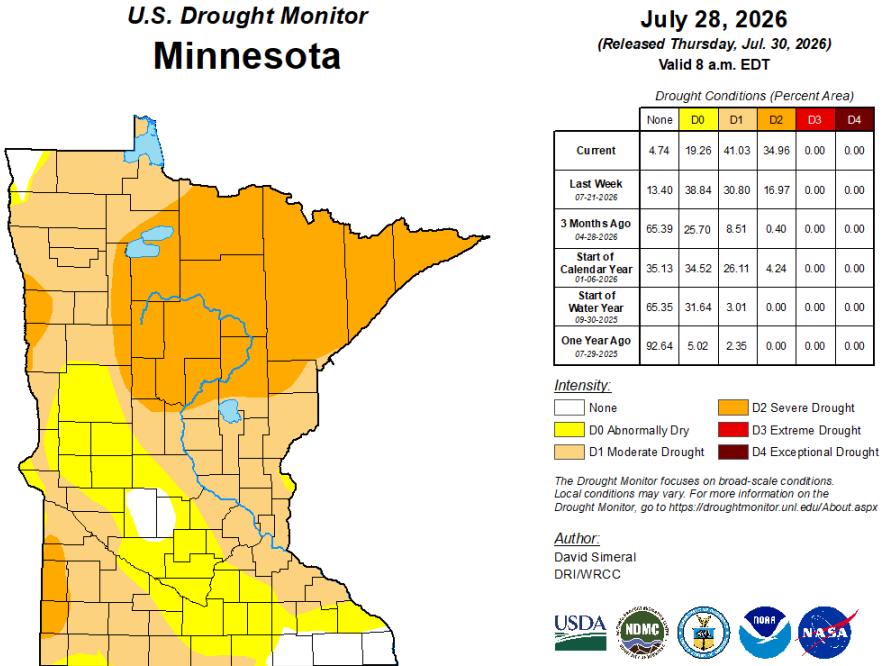
To support a healthy lake, check with the local area hydrologist (mndnr.gov/waters/area-hydrologist-contact-information.html) prior to undertaking any construction activities within or near low water. The DNR regulates activities that occur below the ordinary high water level (mndnr.gov/waters/surfacewater_section/hydrographics/ohw.html). In areas currently experiencing low water, the ordinary high water level could be considerably farther up the banks than the current water level.

Lake levels and soil moisture are influenced by not only precipitation but also snowpack, groundwater levels, watershed conditions and evaporation. Storage drought is often compounded by increased water use, including irrigation for crops, lawns and athletic fields.

“Times of drought remind us of the importance of water conservation. Water use increases as conditions become drier, and that can impact water supplies,” Doneen said. “We encourage all water users to be mindful of how much water they’re using, not just during drought but on an ongoing basis.”

Minnesotans are encouraged to learn how much water they are using (mndnr.gov/waters/water-ermgmt_section/appropriations/water-conservation-residents.html) compared to the average American home and identify ways to reduce water use now and in the future. Reducing use today saves water for the future.

A map of Minnesota watersheds, a link to the U.S. Drought Monitor Map and more information about drought in Minnesota is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/climate/drought/index.html). The website includes a link where anyone can sign up to receive drought-related information and notifications.



Carr's TREE SERVICE

Serving customers across Greater Minnesota with crews based out of the Ottertail, Alexandria, Rochester, Mankato, St. Cloud and Anoka areas. We provide a wide variety of tree services.



Residential
Our Certified Arborists provide tree removal services in any location.



Government/Municipal
We offer services for DNR, DOT, City, County, Township and State properties.



Utility
We have all the right equipment to fulfill all utility line clearance jobs.



218-367-3355 • 888-470-3355
www.carrtreeservice.com



TRAQ Certified

STARWATCH + MORE!

*The Sun is about 400 times larger than the Moon ...
so why can the Moon completely cover it?*

The answer is one of the most remarkable coincidences in our Solar System. The Sun is roughly 400 times wider than the Moon—but it also happens to be about 400 times farther away from Earth. Because those two ratios are so similar, both objects appear almost the same size in our sky. That extraordinary alignment allows the Moon to cover the Sun almost perfectly during a total solar eclipse, revealing the Sun's faint outer atmosphere, called the Corona. It is not a law of nature, and it is not something every planet experiences. It is a remarkable consequence of the current sizes and distances in the Earth–Moon–Sun system. One day, this coincidence will slowly disappear as the Moon continues moving away from Earth. Is this the greatest coincidence in our Solar System?

THE 400× COINCIDENCE

WHY THE MOON CAN HIDE THE SUN

SUN
≈400× LARGER

MOON
1×

SUN
≈400× FARTHER

SAME APPARENT SIZE FROM EARTH

THIS IS WHY TOTALITY IS POSSIBLE

☀️ 400× Bigger ↔️ 400× Farther 🌑 Almost Perfect Match

Most stars appear smaller than 0.01 arcsecond, while Jupiter can span more than 30 arcseconds in our sky. That tiny difference helps explain why stars twinkle but planets usually do not. Earth's atmosphere is constantly moving. Layers of air with different temperatures and densities bend incoming light by slightly different amounts. Because a distant star acts like a nearly perfect point of light, those rapid changes shift its brightness, color, and apparent position from moment to moment. The result is scintillation: the familiar flicker we call twinkling.

A planet is much closer and appears as a tiny disk rather than a single point. Light arrives from many parts of that disk at once, so atmospheric distortions tend to average each other out. That usually makes Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars look steadier than the stars around them. There is one important exception. When a planet is very low above the horizon, its light passes through much more atmosphere. It can then shimmer, flash colors, or seem to wobble especially in turbulent air. The same effect is strongest for stars near the horizon.

Try this tonight: find a bright object, watch it for 10 seconds, and compare it with nearby stars. A steady light may be a planet; a rapidly flickering one is more likely a star. Can you tell the difference without using an app?

Check out Moonlit Earth's Facebook page for more!

WHY STARS TWINKLE BUT PLANETS USUALLY DON'T

DISTANT STAR

Nearly a point source

Different temperatures
Different densities
Moving turbulence

Brightness and position fluctuate

RESULT: VISIBLE TWINKLING

PLANET

Appears as a tiny disk

Many light rays arrive together

Distortions average out

RESULT: STEADIER LIGHT

POINT SOURCE = STRONGER SCINTILLATION

VISIBLE DISK = SMOOTHER LIGHT

Typical star: less than 0.01 arcsecond

Jupiter: often more than 30 arcseconds

THE HORIZON EXCEPTION

STAR (low)

PLANET (low)

Low objects shine through more atmosphere.

Even planets may shimmer or flash colors near the horizon.

TRY IT TONIGHT

Watch a bright object for 10 seconds.

Rapid flicker: probably a star.

Steadier light: possibly a planet.

THE ATMOSPHERE MAKES STARS SEEM ALIVE

• **Service Ads** •

Dave ERWIN CONSTRUCTION, INC.

218-640-3713
Battle Lake, MN
www.daveerwinconstruction.com

Dave Erwin Construction is a trusted and licensed contractor serving the Battle Lake, MN and surrounding area. We offer upscale construction services and unbeatable customer satisfaction.

Distinctive Homes. Distinctive Values

BUDKE SERVICES

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR

- ✓ Shrub Replacement
- ✓ Shrub Pruning
- ✓ Flowerbed Design
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Grass Seeding
- ✓ Lawn Mowing
- ✓ Paver Patio Repair
- ✓ Skid Steer
- ✓ Retaining Walls

218-770-7065

50 YEARS 1975-2025

BOLL REALTY

217 MN HIGHWAY 78 N, OTTERTAIL, MN

7 DAYS TO OPEN

"LAKE HOMES, CABINS, LAND, HUNTING & COMMERCIAL... WE DO IT ALL"

218-367-2716

BOLL@ARVIG.NET
WWW.BOLLREALTY.COM

FREE! HOW MUCH IS MY HOME Worth?

SCAN ME

Ask the Experts at Esser!

ESSER AIRESERV

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
a neighborly company

Plumbing & Heating

218.346.3530 | 218.346.2138
EsserPlumbingandHeating.com

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

Everts Lumber company

Quality Forest Products

Hardware - Tools
Electrical - Plumbing
Windows & Doors
Millwork - Roofing
Dock Systems
Benjamin Moore Paint

218-864-5983
www.evertslumber.com

205 Lake Ave S - Battle Lake
M-F 7:30am-5:00pm and Sat. 7:30am-noon

f

Minnesota DNR Web Cams

The DNR provides a live video stream from these seasonal web cams.

Big Bog State Recreation Area WebCam

Enjoy a live view of Upper Red Lake from the top of the 100-foot high fire tower located in the South Unit of Big Bog State Recreation Area.



EagleCam - Nest and Habitat Cameras

The new camera is at a nest of a breeding pair of Bald eagles. The other camera is located in eagle habitat where the former EagleCam nest had been watched for 10 years.



FalconCam

Watch peregrine falcons nesting in downtown St. Paul. The Nongame Wildlife Program provides this unique opportunity to watch peregrines raise their young.



State Fair FishCam

Get an underwater view of our fish pond during the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair. The pond at the DNR building is stocked with fish that are native to Minnesota.



Headwaters WebCam

See the mighty Mississippi River headwaters at Itasca State Park. In summer, you can see visitors wading across the shallow 18-inch deep water.



Snapping Turtle

Photo by Lori Loff



Window on Wildlife WebCam

A seasonal web cam that provides a window to view Minnesota wildlife species in their native habitat.



To view the webcams, go to their website:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/index.html

**Thanks For Being
An OTLPOA Member!**



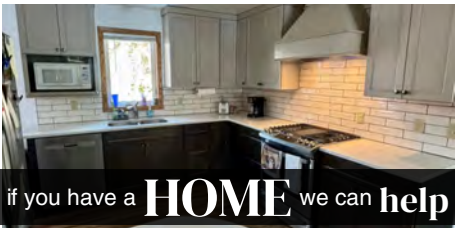
1005 N Tower Rd, Fergus Falls, MN 56537
218-998-5070 | www.fergushh.com

• IMPORTANT NOTES •

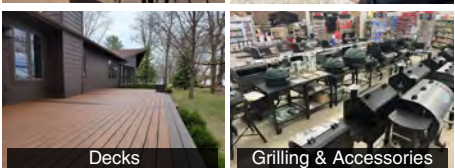
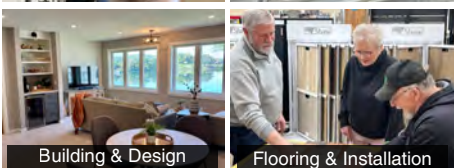
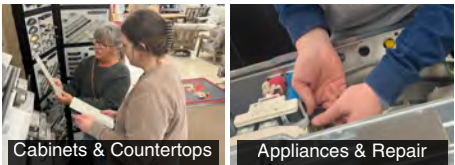
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect your social security number when you apply for a non-commercial hunting or fishing license.

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.



if you have a **HOME** we can help



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!