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Chatty Loon

Upper South Long Lake Improvement Assn. Newsletter P.O. Box 201, Brainerd, MN 56401

April, 2022 Edited by Dan Martonik

President's Message



Hello to all of you Upper South Long Lakers then. I hope everyone had a safe and fairly warm winter. For those of us that struggled through winter here at the lake, it was darn cold! My toes are still trying to thaw out.

Our challenges with **AIS** remain at the top of our focus areas for 2022.

- Zebra Mussel watch. At this time there is no cure for this invasive, but research is ongoing. In the meantime, It's up to each of us to monitor our boats, docks and boat lifts and dispose of any zebra mussels that are present.
- Eurasian Mil Foil testing and treatment
- Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment.

Other areas of focus:

- Continuation of the Boat Inspection Program in partnership with Crow Wing County and the DNR. Inspectors are always needed.
- Ensuring the Eagle property storage lot project is properly vetted and complies with state and county regulations.
- Watershed partnerships
- Water testing of inlets
- Water quality testing
- Ongoing educational programs
- Social activities
- Cabin Rental Regulation

continued -

Remember to check out our Website (http://usllia.org) which is updated quarterly. We would love to have more pictures and family stories posted on the site.

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on our boards and committees so please consider volunteering your talents and energy, (you don't have to be a board member to volunteer your time and talents).

Thanks for your ongoing lake stewardship and support.

Dan Martonik, President

From The Chatty Loon Editor

I hope that having *The Chatty Loon* on our web site and not mailing it to everyone will not be an inconvenience to most. We will be able to save nearly \$900.00 each issue by posting it on our website. We will continue to mail out the renewal slips and return envelopes.

Dan Martonik, Chatty Loon Editor

All events below begin at 10:AM

Dates to remember for 2022:

Saturday, May 21, 2022 USLLIA Spring membership meeting at Paradise Bar & Grill Party Shed

Saturday, July 23, 2022 LID annual meeting **plus picnic** social at Paradise Bar & Grill Party Shed

Saturday, August 27, 2022 USLLIA late summer membership meeting at Paradise Bar & Grill Party Shed



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Zach McKay

218.838.2947 zachwitharrowmanagement@gmail.com PO Box 308 Nisswa, MN 56468

From the LID President

Winter of 2021 produced much snow for the Upper South Long Lake area. Hopefully that will allow for more adequate water levels this summer. We saw nearly 20 inches of snow in two days in late December and another ten to twelve inch storm in late February with numerous smaller amounts in addition. Hopefully the heavy snow cover will also have a limiting effect on the growth of the curlyleaf pondweed (CLP). Expectations are that we will find it necessary to treat both CLP and Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) again this season. As explained in the fall Chatty Loon, the LID funds are being depleted by these treatments at a faster rate than the income from the LID tax of \$75 per taxable parcel. The LID board is asking that you consider making a donation to assist with this effort. There are approximately 70 households who receive this newsletter who are not taxable members of the Upper South Long Lake Improvement District (LID) and their financial support would be especially appreciated. Send donations to: USLL LID, P.O. Box 201, Brainerd, MN 56401; specify in the check memo the area you wish to designate funds to such as "AIS Control".

In order for the LID tax amount to be increased, the 2022-2023 proposed budget will be included in a mailing that LID members will receive in June. The amount of the proposed increase will be determined by your elected LID Board of Directors in May. LID members attending the July 23^{rd} annual meeting will vote to accept or reject that proposal. Donations received prior to that board meeting will help determine the amount of the increase necessary to support our efforts to control aquatic invasives.

Another attempt to reduce spending is to amend the by-laws to eliminate the "Call for Nominations" mailing (cost savings approximately \$300). The LID has in the past years received only one nomination for a board director by way of this letter. Alternatively, the board proposes using the Chatty Loon, the USLLIA mass email, and word of mouth to solicit nominations. This amendment will also be presented to membership in the 2022 nomination letter and be voted on at the

STEVE FLEISCHHACKER

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SOUTH LONG LAKE EXCAVATING

Landscaping , Basements , Stump Removal , Black Dirt Class #5 , Fill Dirt , Snow Plowing and Removal Septic System Installation



annual meeting.

You should also be aware by now (as per November Chatty Loon) that zebra mussels (ZM) were located in the northern area of the lake. At this time there is no viable treatment. Please re-examine your docks, lifts, etc. prior to them being placed in the lake. If you find adult ZM the MN statutes require you to scape them off before placing that item in the lake even though they would be dead by now. Also, please report to Jeff Gans or Chuck Yancey (see directory) so that we can assess any other areas of the lake that are currently infested. In addition, report any newly discovered ZM as the season progresses.

Your LID Board of Directors are always open to your input.

Other directors are: Steve Bardolph, Vice President; Gary Hopping, Treasurer; Ray Sickler, Secretary; Al Steiff; Chris Psotka; Mark Pfeifer; and Mike Simons. Happy Spring, Ruth Naber, LID President

Treasurer/Membership



Happy Spring everyone!

It must be spring because I saw my first Robin in the yard yesterday.

We start off the year with \$12,677.00 in cash. Our costs have gone up this year, just like yours. Insurance is up

and we now pay for the porta potty at the landing. We will be moving the Chatty Loon to the web page to save the cost of printing.

Our 150 owners who are members have been pretty steady. If you have new neighbors stop over and welcome them to our lake.

Three days after we closed on the Lake property I attended my first Owners meeting. I was looking to meet some of the others. I left that meeting being on the Board of Directors. I had found a group of owners that could answer many Who, What and When questions. I would encourage everyone to attend the meetings.

By not being at the Lake full time has put tons of extra work on Dan M. With that I will be handing over The Membership Chair to Blaine H., and John P. has asked to be on the ballot for the Assoc. Treasurer.

I have enjoyed working with the Team.

Have a wonderful year at the Lake!

Secchi readings, 2021



These readings are for the 2021 summer season.

Secchi readings at primary site 101:

May 10.0' August 5.0' June 12.0' Sept 6.0'

July 8.0'

Previous results can be viewed in detail by going online to www.rmbel.info

Daniel J. Martonik, Water Committee Chair

Lake Association Board of Directors

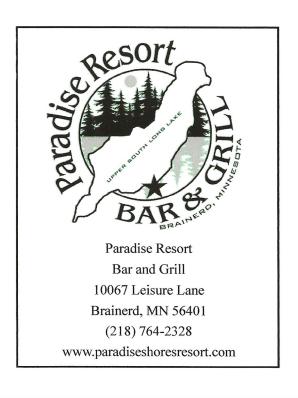
Dan Martonik, President Vice President, Open John Pietruszewski, Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Gans
Chuck Yancey
Blaine Hakomaki
John Bettencourt
Gerald Spande

Ron Trosvig, Past Pres. Terry Lahti Randy Peterson Mike Simons Jerry Buettner

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for all of the things they do to make our lake the best it can be.

Dan Martonik, President



Volunteers Needed

By Ruth Naber

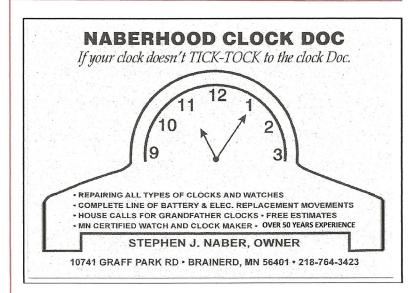
Willing to Volunteer for Mechanical Control of EWM?

At this time we are just collecting a list of volunteers in the event that we are advised that there are many areas of scattered plants of EWM that cannot be treated chemically. These plants do not grow deep so snorkeling has been successful for other groups. You can view a video of mechanical harvesting by White Sand Lake Association at: https://www.whitesandlakemn.org/ais Scroll down to the video dated July 12, 2020.

In addition to divers/snorkelers, support personnel would be required:

- A boat or pontoon to accompany EACH snorkeler to accept the plants and haul them to shore
- A designated shoreland location such as an wooded or open field (away from the lake, but preferably near the lake) where plants could be dumped
- A trailer or two to accept plants and move them to dump area
- · Volunteers to empty trailer at dump area
- A lakeside property with a dock, preferably near an infested area, where DNR personnel can "teach" the snorkelers how to identify and properly retrieve the plants (with adequate parking for volunteers)

If you feel that you can contribute to this effort, email President Ruth Naber at rnabsnab@aol.com and you will be added to the file of volunteers. After watching the video, if you feel that you could be responsible for organizing this effort, Ruth would really appreciate you contacting her.



Don't let leaves litter lakes

An excerpt from the MPCA rules

Wherever leaves fall, they decompose and restock the soil with nutrients and organic matter.

Most of us want to keep our yards here at the lake free of leaves. And as we rake the leaves, especially down by the lake, some of us may take the easy way out and rake them into the lake.

Never do this! Dispose of them properly! If they go directly into lakes and rivers then the nutrients will feed unwanted algae growth next summer.

In addition to a major "ick" factor, this algae is a problem because when it dies and decomposes at the bottom of the lake, it uses up oxygen that fish and native plants need.

In the Mississippi River-Twin Cities Watershed, the MPCA monitored and assessed 180 lakes, and 80 of them didn't meet water quality standards because of excess nutrients. And leaves are a major source of the problem. Depending on the lake, leaves might account for 60% of the excess nutrients in these lakes.

Don't "leaf" it up to someone else to solve this problem!

Here's what to do with your autumn leaves so that they nourish the soil and not unwanted algae.

Never trash or burn your leaves

Don't add leaves to the regular trash (it's illegal!) and don't burn them. Burning leaves releases large amounts of air pollution. These pollutants can cause breathing problems for sensitive groups and lead to long-term health effects for all of us.

Put leaves in your backyard compost pile

One of the best ways to use leaves is to compost them in your backyard. Learn how to compost in your backyard.

Tip: If your bin isn't big enough to accommodate all your leaves, put early and late season leaves in the bin, then on your main raking weekend bring the rest to a compost or yard waste drop-off site. If you have room, also bag up and store some dry leaves to use as a carbon source ("browns") in your compost pile during the coming year.

continued -

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Use leaves to mulch your garden and lawn

Whole or shredded leaves can be used as mulch. Mulch benefits the soil and reduces weeds. On the lawn, use a mower to break apart the leaves so that they fall between the blades of grass (consider using an electric mower, since gas lawn mowers, especially older models, produce large amounts of air pollution). Don't let the leaf layer get too thick! In garden beds, leaves provide a protective layer of insulation for perennial gardens and shrubbery, either bagged or loose. Read these additional tips for mulching from Minnesota Extension

Drop leaves off at a compost site

Another option is to drop off your leaves and sticks at a compost site near you. Depending on where you live, these may be called "yard waste" or "brush" drop sites. Contact your city or county for drop-off site locations, items accepted and any fees involved.

Consider curbside pick-up if you want a convenient option

Your garbage hauler may separately collect yard waste — sometimes for an additional fee — and then bring it to a commercial compost site. Contact your garbage hauler to learn about your pick-up options.

Play in your leaf pile

Before bagging or moving the leaves, jump in them! Inhale deeply. There are tons of benefits to playing outside including boosting vitality; improving vision; reducing risks of heart disease, obesity, bone problems, depression, and stress; reducing the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and more.





Big Boats, Big Wakes. Study Results.

By John Pietruszewski

Recreational Boat Wake Energy and Power of Wakes

In 2020 Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, MLR, worked with partners to fund research into the wake energy and power of wakes. Understanding wakes is key to developing Best Practices so boater can manage their wakes without creating conflicts with other users or degrading lakes ecology. Sales of large, powerful watercraft like wake surfing boats and small paddle craft like kayaks and paddle boards exploded over 30% in 2020 and 2021.

A study was funded by crowd sourcing to study wake energy at the fluid dynamics lab at the University of Minnesota's St Anthony Falls Laboratory within the Science and Engineering Depart. This study was released on 1 February 2022, titled: "A Field Study of Maximum Wave Height, Total Wave Energy, and Maximum Wave Power Produced by Four Recreational Boats on a Freshwater Lake"

The growth of the sport of wake surfing, there has been a growing concern over the impact of boat-generated waves and propeller wash on the natural resources. The research reported was motivated by a need to better understand the characteristics of wakes and waves produced by recreational boats in use in Minnesota.

The actual water portion of testing was conducted in September and October of 2020 on Lake Independence, Maple Plain, MN. Sensors were placed to measure wave height along with submerged acoustic doppler current profilers. Four boats were evaluated. Two were typical recreational, non-wakesurf boats, two were wakesurf boats.

Boat data:

Mfr	Model	Year	Drive	HP	Beam/Length	Weight
Larson	LXi210	2004	Sterndrive (I/O)	260	8.3/21	2925
Malibu	Response LX	2004	Direct Drive (I)	310	7.5/20	2450
Malibu	Wakesetter VLX	2019	V-Drive (I)	450	8.2/21	4200
Malibu	Wakesetter MXZ	2019	V-Drive (i)	450	8.5/24.5	5500

Note: The VLX could add water ballast weight of 3690 lbs; MXZ ballast capacity of 4885 lbs

The boats made runs at 225 ft, 325 ft, 425 ft, and 625 ft from the shore and at speeds typical of different water sports. Water depth varied from 0 ft at shoreline to 33 ft at 625 ft line. The boats speed and course were conducted via GPS devices. Each boat ran the course at two different speeds, condition 1 at 10-11 mph, wakesurf speed, and condition 2 at 20 mph, typical of tubing, waterskiing and wakeboarding. The Wakesetter boats also made their run with full ballast as condition 1a and without ballast, condition 1b. Each condition and distance run were repeated four times.

The two Wakesetter boats produced the largest waves under all the conditions studied. The heavier MZX produced the highest waves with greatest total wave energy and maximum power. The smallest maximum wave heights, lowest total wave packet energies occurred when the boats for planing on water surface. This was true for all four boats. The Wakesetter boats had the largest change in wave height between conditions 1a and condition 2. Longer operational distances are required for larger and more energetic wakes to reach the same heights, energies, and powers of smaller wakes.

Highlights of the study's conclusion: inform operational distance for wakesurf boats based on reference conditions of non-wakesurf boats. When comparing non-wakesurf boat at condition 2, planing, to the

measured wake wave characteristics of the wakesurf boat to levels equivalent to the non-wakesurf boat at 200 ft. When to boats were compared under the condition of largest possible wake, operational distances greater than 425 ft were needed to decrease wave height, energy, and power of the wakesurf boats to levels similar to the non-wakesurf boats at an operational distance of 200 ft.

Results for required operational distance illustrating how data from this study may be used

Reference condition	Operation distance required by wakesurf boat to attenuate to reference condition levels		
Example 1	Maximum Wave Height: >500 ft		
non-wakesurf boat planning at an operational	Total Wave Energy: >575 ft		
distance of 200 ft (condition 2 – planing)	Maximum Wave Power: >600 ft		
Example 2	Maximum Wave Height: >425 ft		
non-wakesurf boat transition to planing at an	Total Wave Energy: >425 ft		
operational distance of 200 ft (condition 1a -	Maximum Wave Power: >425 ft		
largest wave)			

The MNDNR recommends an operational distance of greater than 200 ft between recreational boat and shore/other structures.

This study contains a lot more data and it acknowledges that additional studies need to be conducted. I encourage reading the full study at www.conservancy.umn.edu; SAFL Boat Generated Wake Wave Report. Also recommend reading the report UMN researchers study waves created by recreational boat, 1 Feb 2022, on the same site.

Aquatic Weed Treatment Notice

NOTICE

Upper South Long Lake Improvement District

P.O. Box 201 Brainerd, MN 56401

The Upper South Long Lake Improvement District (USLLID hereafter) has contracted to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil, Aquatic Invasive Species in Upper South Long Lake in 2022.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the USLLID a waiver of the requirement that the improvement district obtains the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the USLLID will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the USLLID is using to notify property owners. Other forms include but are not limited to notification on the USLLID member email list and Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association website.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2022:

- 1. The proposed date for treatment: May 1, 2022 through October 1, 2022
- 2. The target species for the treatment: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil
- 3. The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides, such as but not limited to, Endothall, Diquat dibromide, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
- 4. How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property: If you desire that the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed or Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the USLLID immediately at the following address and email address below:

P.O. Box 201 Brainerd, MN 56401

quetico04@gmail.com

Township News

Dan Martonik, Twp Supervisor

Leisure Lane Upgrade (USLL)

The remaining 1.8 miles of Leisure Lane to be chip-sealed, will take place in the spring of 2022. No specific dates were given.

The New Town Hall Has Been Built and the paved parking is the only thing left!

The new town hall is nearing completion. The paved parking is the only thing left and that will take place this spring.

We hold our monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:pm and all Maple Grove Township residents are encouraged to attend.

For those of you that may not know, the new Maple Grove Township Hall is located near the intersection of CR 24 & CR 8, about 1.25 miles south of the Green Lantern. It is adjacent to the Maple Grove Cemetery.

The address for location only:

Maple Grove Township Hall 19025 County Road 24 Brainerd, MN 56401

The mailing address is:

Maple Grove Township Hall C/O Norene Warta, Township Clerk 18451 County Road 24 Brainerd, MN 56401

We expect to rent space for gatherings such as after funerals and lake association meetings, etc.

Details of how to rent will be forthcoming.

INDEPENDENT COUNSELING SERVICE

Ron Brusven, MN.L.A.D.C. #300413 10298 County Road 23, Brainerd, MN 56401 Office: 218-828-7736

Services provided:

DWI Chemical Use Assessments

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Drug/DWI Program, 12-hrs
DWI/Repeat Offenders Program 16-hrs
Relapse Prevention Program, 24-62-hrs





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Lake Learning

Spring turnover in our lakes

We are now near to the summer season on our lakes again. This marks the fourth installment of my lake stratification (layers) and mixing articles. Once the ice melts off the lake, the lake goes through another period of mixing like it did back in the fall.

First, I'll recap the underlying cause of the lake mixing phenomenon. The layering of lakes has to do with the relationship between water density and temperature. Water is most dense at 39 Fahrenheit (4 degrees Celsius), and as water warms or cools from that mark it gets less dense. This has implications for a lake's structure because the denser water is heavier and will be at the bottom of a lake while the less dense water is lighter and will generally be at the top of the lake.

In the winter, most of the water under the ice is 39 Fahrenheit; however, there is a thin layer of water under the ice that is colder than 39 and therefore less dense. This thin layer of water floats on top of the lake under the ice throughout the winter.

In the spring in Minnesota the ice melts off the lake, and the top layer of water on the lake gets warmed by the sun to 39 F, which matches the temperature of the rest of the lake water. Then the spring wind picks up and the lake mixes again. This is called spring turnover. Oxygen and nutrients get distributed throughout the water column as the water mixes.

As nutrients are available at the surface of the water again and the sun gets stronger, the first algae are able to grow. In May the water may look somewhat brownish, which is due to the type of algae that grows at that time of year. The earliest algae are called diatoms, and they have more of a brownish color than a green color.

In the winter, the fish go where there is oxygen in the lake. That usually means the deeper spots. As the lake turns over and plants start growing in the shallow areas

again, they add oxygen to the water through photosynthesis and provide cover for fish from predators. The fish then begin returning to shallow water.

The timing and duration of spring turnover depends on the size and depth of the lake. As the weather becomes warmer in late May, the surface water warms again and begins to float on top of the cold deeper water. Once the lake begins to form into layers, summer stratification (layering) has begun.

You can track spring turnover in an individual lake with a Secchi disk. A Secchi disk measures water clarity. During spring turnover, the clarity of a lake usually decreases because mixing brings up nutrient rich water from the bottom of the lake and causes the lake to look cloudy. Also, the algae start growing due to the available nutrients, which decreases water clarity. Then, when turnover is complete, the clarity increases. If you take Secchi disk readings and surface water temperature readings every few days in May and early June, you can track spring turnover.

Most lakes in northern Minnesota are considered dimictic. meaning they mix twice a year - spring and fall. Shallow lakes, less than 15-20 feet, behave differently and can mix more often throughout the summer.

You can read my past articles on lake mixing at: http://www.rmbel.info

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

In case of an emergency, there are two AED's nearby (Automated External Defibrillator) Located at the Paradise Resort Bar & Grill, 218-764-2328, and at the home of Paige Beckel-Kramer, 17387 Paradise Shores Road, 218-330-8799.





Recreation Update By Terry Lahti

Walleye Stocking 2021

The fish management plan for Upper South Long Lake is to have walleyes stocked every odd year. The report from the DNR was that they stocked 278 pounds of walleye fingerlings averaging 21 fish per pound this fall. We now have almost 6000 more fish in the lake.

AIS Inspections 2022

AIS Inspections will continue at our public access again this year. The inspections will occur between 9:00 AM — 6:00 PM Friday through Sunday, starting May 14, 2022. The inspections are intended to prevent any more invasive species entering our lake and to prevent boaters spreading invasive species to other lakes.

So ve got here some Ole an Lena yokes den

So, one night Ole was sitting reading the paper when he looked out the window and saw that his barn was on fire. So Ole quick jumped up and called the fire department and said, "Hurry, come quick, my barn's burnin' down!" The fire chief replied, "Ole, slow down. Now how do we get there?"

And Ole said, "Well don't you have that little red truck anymore?"

Sven and Ole from Minnesota went fishing in Canada and returned with only one fish. "The vay I figger it, dat fish cost us \$400" said Sven. "Vell," said Ole, "At dat price it's a good ting ve didn't catch any more.

Ve got more yokes over dare den



Sven, Ole, and Lena got invitations to go to this party. The invitation said that they must dress up as an emotion. So Sven goes to his house, and Ole and Lena go to theirs. Lena goes upstairs to change, she comes downstairs all dressed in red. Ole asks Lena. "Vut are vew supposed ta be?" Lena says, "I'm red vith furry." So Ole goes upstairs to change, he comes downstairs all dressed in green. Lena asks Ole, "Vut are yew supposed to be?" Ole says, "I'm green vith envy." Ole and Lena get a knock on their front door, so Ole answers it. There is Sven standing buttnaked with a tire around his waist! Ole says, "Vut in va vorld are vu supposed ta be?" Sven says, "I'm in da spare!"

Sven was going for his morning walk one day when he walked past Ole's house and saw a sign that said "Boat For Sale." This confused Sven because he knew that Ole didn't own a boat, so he finally decided to go in and ask Ole about it. "Hey Ole," said Sven, "I noticed da sign in your yard dat says 'Boat For Sale,' but ya don't even have a boat. All ya have is your old John Deere tractor and combine." Ole replied, "Yup, and they're boat for sale."

One day Ole comes home from work and announces; "Leena! Pack your bags I've won the lottery!" Leena replies with excitement and says, "O Ole Where are we going?" Ole replies, "I don't think you heard me right, I said pack YOUR bags I'VE won the lottery."

Lena competed with a French woman and an English woman in the Breast Stroke division of an English Channel swim competition. The French woman came in first, the English woman second. Lena reached the shore completely exhausted. She remarked, "I don't vant to complain, but I tink dose utter two girls used der arms."

Lake Learning

Swimmer's Itch

It finally felt like summer this week! It's that time of year again when swimmer's itch can be a problem. Today I will talk about what swimmers itch is, and how to avoid it.

Swimmer's itch is when you leave the lake after swimming and about an hour later some itchy red spots appear on your body. It can itch for a week or so and feel uncomfortable. Once you have had swimmer's itch, your skin may be more sensitive to it next time.



Swimmer's itch is caused by a tiny parasite that enters your skin from the water. That sounds repulsive, but the parasite doesn't do any harm to humans besides causing itchy red bumps. Most of the parasite species that cause swimmer's itch use aquatic snails as intermediate hosts for the larval parasite stages and bird hosts for the adult parasite. So how do humans fit into this picture? When the larval parasite leaves the snail, it then needs to enter a bird to survive. We get caught in the middle when the parasite enters our skin instead of the birds. Some common bird hosts include common mergansers, mallards, swans, and red-winged blackbirds.

Swimmer's itch is usually most prevalent in shallow downwind areas of lakes. In Detroit Lakes, it seems to be a problem in mid-June through mid-July. The presence of swimmer's itch doesn't really have anything do to with water quality or pollution on a lake. You just need the right kind of snails and the right kind of birds.

So how can you prevent getting swimmers itch? First, avoid feeding water birds by your lake home. Feeding ducks, geese and swans can propagate swimmer's itch in the area where birds are being fed. It also makes the birds dependent on humans for survival and makes them a nuisance.

Second, avoid swimming or standing for long periods in shallow water, and when you leave the water rinse off, towel off, and remove your wet swimsuit. Children are commonly affected by swimmer's itch because they play in shallow water and tend to be in the water more than adults. If you swim off a boat or raft in a deeper area of the lake, you will probably have less of a chance of getting swimmer's itch.

If you think you have swimmer's itch, you can go to the pharmacy and ask the pharmacist for a recommendation. Usually a topical cream can reduce swelling and itching.

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

Please note: You need a DNR permit to apply copper sulfate for swimmers itch. The permit is mandatory and provides steps to follow for the safety of property owners.