



North & South Twin Lakes

Riparian Association

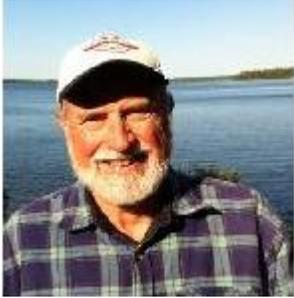
P.O. Box 163, Phelps WI 54554



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

While the temperatures may be falling, the scenery will only be getting better. On that note, many of our members agree. A number of the respondents to our Swimmer's Itch Survey said they most appreciated our lake community and the scenery. While I often have to spend a few hours a day on my computer I find that is easily mitigated every time I turn my head and look south out of my den window, down the length of the lake from Flag Pole Point. I'm never disappointed but always refreshed by what I see.

At our Annual Picnic/Meeting in July we elected four new directors:

Ron Ottoson (a director a few years ago), Dick Donarski, Margot Peterson, and John Hyde. These directors have really stepped forward! Dick, Margot, and John actively participated in the hand distribution of our Swimmer's Itch Survey. Ron is chair of our social committee (FUN), John is chair of membership, and Margot will be working with Ginny Parker on the Newsletter.

More good news, membership numbers are up! At last count we were at 223 members. This represents a considerable growth over 2011, and this mostly occurred before the swimmer's itch issue. In addition, over 50% of our members have contributed to our AMEN Fund which is dedicated to NSTLRA lake quality efforts.

Unfortunately, our web site has not been kept current because our support person has been sidelined because of health issues. We hope to find additional support so we can keep you current by going to nstlra.org.

Get your calendars out to start planning for 2013: **Saturday, July 6 - Annual Picnic/Meeting and July 13 - Annual Poker Run.** We are exploring more events for next summer, so keep tuned.

Have a safe, healthy and happy fall and winter.
Roger H. Ganser

HOW WE FUNDED OUR LAKE TREATMENT PROGRAM

Your lake association has been very successful in securing grants from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the treatment of Eurasian Milfoil in North and South Twin Lakes. The grant program was very competitive, but we got our first grant in 2008. This grant had two parts to our four grant (reimbursed at 75%):

Part 1 for treatment, was for \$74,996.25. We used all that money in the first two years. Direct costs to NSTLRA for 2008 were \$11,071.97 and for 2009 were \$16,528.05. The DNR funded the balance of 75% (and our part was 25%). Part 2 of the grant was for monitoring and volunteer efforts, with costs of \$54,435.00 and \$30,648.00 respectively. Due to volunteer efforts with Clean Boats/Clean Waters we were able to get enough credit such that the Lake Association cost for the \$54,435.00 was zero!!

We had a two year grant (2010-2011) for \$68,730.00 that was reimbursed at 50%. Our share of treatment costs for 2010 were \$34,507.60; for 2011 were \$12,050.80. We were able to carry forward the balance of the grant, \$15,510.13, to help cover our 2012 treatment expenses.

As you can tell from reading these impressive results our volunteers on the board have done a terrific job. Cap Pedersen has overseen the actual treatment program and contracts with our consultant Onterra and the individual application contractors for the past three years. Prior to that both Ginny Parker and Tom Hickson provided this support. However, from the very beginning the NSTLRA Treasurer, Mike Schindler, has had responsibility for the cash/grant management of the lake treatment program. As you can read, Mike succeeded in not only securing our full reimbursement amounts but in also being able to carry forward the grant balance. We all owe Mike a big "THANK YOU".

The DNR grant cycle starts all over again. For NSTLRA that means once we get the results from our 2012 treatment program we (our consultants) can draft our grant application for 2013. The state money is tighter and the competition is greater.

The NSTLRA share of the treatment program costs has been paid from our AMEN Fund. Thus far in 2012, over 50% of our members have donated to the AMEN Fund. Thank you for making that investment in your lakes.

Preliminary Summary of Data from North and South Twin Lake Swimmer's Itch Survey (August 2012)

Of the approximately 350 surveys distributed, 127 were completed and returned. This is a 35% return rate. At recent meeting, Kevin Gauthier (DNR Vilas County lakes biologist) noted this was a sub optimal percentage. With surveys he conducts, they aim for at least a 60% return rate.

95% of respondents were concerned or very concerned with the issue (62% very concerned).

76% reported the presence of swimmer's itch prior to 2012.

There appears to be a trend of increased incidence since 2000. Several lifelong lake users report that this was never an issue 20+ years ago.

This current summer (through the beginning of August), 63% of respondents had swimmer's itch (412 reported exposures).

Many people who have experienced swimmer's itch in past years did not get swimmers itch this summer because they intentionally avoided water exposure due to this issue. Several people commented that they take small children to neighboring lakes to swim.

Numerous (12) reported occurrences at North/South Twin Pass; of note because this is a location many people had anecdotally said does not harbor swimmer's itch

Two reported occurrences in the middle of the lake. This is interesting because many published studies note that deep water is an unlikely place to get swimmer's itch.

Distribution of occurrences is essentially equal along the entire North Twin shoreline. It appears to affect the northern shoreline of South Twin Lake, but spares the southern shoreline.

The majority of cases occurred over a 6 week period from the last week of June through the first week of August, with the most number of cases occurring during the week of July 4th.

Updates

Labor day weekend water samples were taken on North and South Twin lakes and sent to the CDC for analysis by a method called PCR (polymerase chain reaction). The water needs to be filtered through a pump and each sample takes 1-2 hours to obtain. The locations sampled were:

west shore of North Twin, 2 ft deep

flagpole point on North Twin , 2 ft deep

middle of North Twin, 20 ft deep

northwest corner of South Twin, 2 ft deep

One of the four samples, the west shore of North Twin, was positive. As the method stands now, it identifies most of the parasites that cause cercarial dermatitis including *Allobilharzia visceralis*, *California cercariae*, *Gigantobilharzia huronensis*, *Dendritobilharzia pulverulenta*, *Schistosomatium douthitti*, *Trichobilharzia physellae*, *Trichobilharzia brantae*, *Trichobilharzia querquedulae* and *Trichobilharzia stagnicolae*.

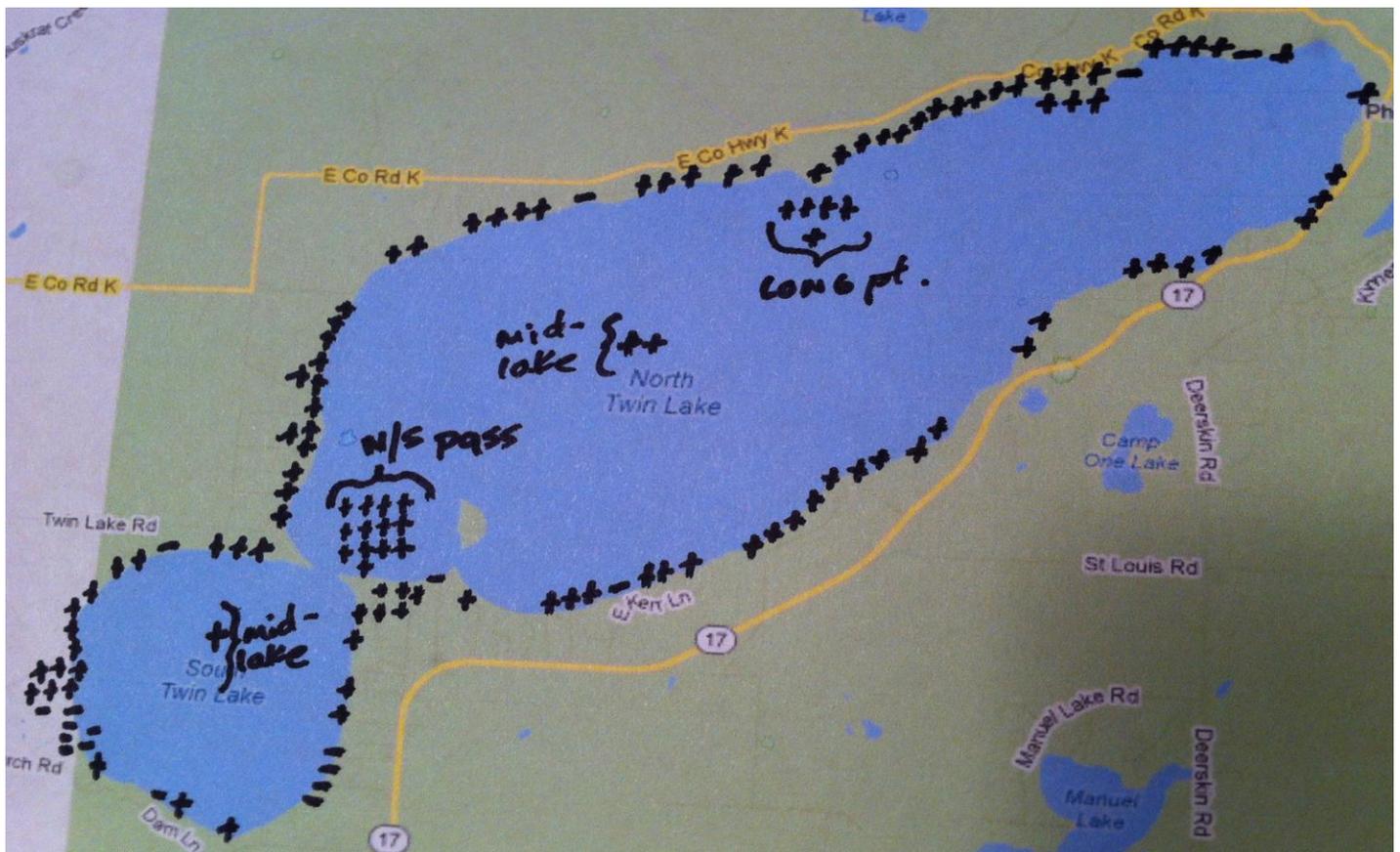
The CDC is currently working to modify the method so as to allow for real time quantitation of the number of organisms. This would be helpful in trying to pinpoint if there are certain parts of the lake that have a higher concentration of parasites and thus identify an area that a localized effort could be undertaken.

Future study should include:

- Redesign survey with help from Kevin Gauthier and a state sociologist to improve relevant data collected and help eliminate question bias
- Distribute in spring/early summer to capture more data
- CDC PCR sampling to map parasite distribution and concentration
- Repeat sampling at set locations several times throughout the summer
- Due to length of time needed to collect samples and mild technical difficulty, we should consider employing someone to do this
- Snail sampling to map snail distribution by species
- Develop a standard method of snail collection and ID
- look at possibility of Chinese Mystery Snail (an invasive species) as a parasite host
- Due to length of time needed to collect samples and mild technical difficulty, we should consider employing someone to do this

Submitted by Greg and Sarah Sewall 10/22/2012

North and South Twin Lakes Incidence of Swimmer's Itch with Known or Assumed Water Exposure Data compiled from surveys distributed 8/2012



“x” = positive occurrence of swimmer's itch “-” = negative occurrence

Two addresses with positive occurrences could not be located (and thus have not been placed on the map above) 3884 Big Landing Trail and 2587 Pleasant Bay Lane



Adopt-a-hwy



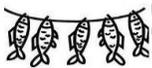
Over the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends, Pam Schmidt gathered up nieces, and other family members and cleaned our roadways from 2900 Hwy K down to the Lakota landing. Their outings produced 6 bags of trash! Thank you Pam, Gary, Kailey, Anna and Jeff Schmidt for your “unscheduled” pick up.

I would love to report on other people around the lake performing community service. A few years ago, a group of young people was walking around South Twin in the lake collecting beer cans, paper and other non-native items. Myra, daughter of Linda and John Mallett, seemed to be the leader along with others who were on that project. I was told that they have done this activity other years, too.

Priscilla has reported that she is happy with the looks of our roadways overall and thanks all those who carry along plastic bags to collect trash other people carelessly throw out of their cars. All help is gratefully appreciated and makes our roadways compliment the beauty of the forested roads.

-Ginny Parker

Fall Fish Report



2012 was definitely an interesting year for fishing on the Twins. Ice was off the lake right around March 21st which was earlier than anyone ever seems to remember. The crazy thing was that I went out and measured the ice on March 17th and there was still 16 inches. And then, even though April was really cold, the warmth seemed to just carry through the summer. Water temps soared into the 80's, raised algae levels with the extended growth season, and even caused a relatively small fish kill of both ciscoes and suckers. One day this summer I had to clean like 30 ciscoes and 6 jumbo suckers off of the beach. So how was fishing?

As usual there were highs and lows. **Perch** fishing, which has been consistently good the last couple of years definitely maintained that consistency.

There were some periods of outstanding fishing with many jumbo perch being caught. **Walleye** fishing was also good, but there were some times that were pretty tough to get into the bigger ones. The good thing was that the fishing was consistent, and when you could get into the bigger ones there were some nice fish being caught. **Musky** fishing was very up and down. The spring started pretty good, but as those water temps rose the fish became less active. For most of the summer, the only decent musky fishing was well after dark. This is a good thing as those bigger muskies do not handle being caught in this warm water very well. They become difficult to catch and release quick enough for their own well-being. I do have to mention that as the water temps started to cool down the fish went on a frenzy and those big fish really put on the feed bag. I could not believe how many mid to upper 40 inch fish were being caught during this time.

Looking ahead we still have some very good open water fishing if the weather allows it or if you are willing, but as usual at this time of year I just want to get my piers out because that means hard water fishing is right around the corner.

So remember . . . have fun, be safe, tight lines!
- Marti Primch – North Twin Lodge



Discover Wisconsin was filming at the Third Annual **Scarecrow Fest** and Try-athelon on September 15 in downtown Phelps. It was a huge success and was one of those drop-dead beautiful fall days. Phelps was full of people and all of its natural assets were used. The Try-athelon offered an event for everyone, starting at the Sunrise Lodge on LacVieuxDesert, biking into town, kayaking from the Great Escape at the Phelps boat landing to the boat landing at the lakefront and ending with a 5K-loop walk/run. The lake was well used by kayaks, sea planes and “pumpkin chuckin”. It turned out to be a very popular and fun event.



I just wanted to write a quick note on safety. It may be just a reminder, but it is important all the same. Last year, well past early ice there was a lot of un-safe ice out there. You could have 8-10 inches in one spot and 2-4 inches in another. I heard of more break throughs last winter than I have in the last 5 years before that. So remember in early ice to fish with a buddy, let someone know where you are, always use a spud to test new ice every few feet, and don't be afraid to wear a life preserver. If you go out for really early ice, you can even consider anchoring yourself to shore with a long rope. Lastly always remember that whenever you travel to a new area of ice that you cannot be too cautious. So let's get those shacks and augers ready because hard water is right around the corner. So remember . . . fishing is fun, but it is not worth your life.

-Marti Primch – North Twin Lodge

NSTLRA Poker Run



Sunday, July 8, 2012 turned out to be a successful fun filled day, the weather couldn't of been better. The turn out was great, 84 participants for a total of **\$420.00** half of the proceeds going to the Amen Fund. Winner was the lucky Pam Metcalf.

Thank You to Twin Haven for letting us use their front lawn to congregate for the results and visiting along with selling sweatshirts and tee-shirts by Laura Babe.

A decision was made at that time to have next years Poker Run on a Saturday where more people could take part in the event. Lets go for 100 participants next year and making this event even bigger.

Next years date will be **Saturday July 13, 2013**, more updates to follow so stay tuned into our Website as well as next springs newsletter. But hold that date open and lets get as many participants as we can to make this another successful turnout and fundraiser.

Thank You to those who participated players or dock tenders, we needed all of you. Till next year, see you then!! And if you missed this year's event try next year to get into the fun.

-Jim & Jackie Fruth



Enjoying the channel



On September 28th, 8 loons were spotted in two groups of 4 each in the middle of North Twin between Huettenbar, channel and Island.

They may have been gathering to chat about when to leave for warmer weather. Several loons were spotted October 6th on a pontoon ride around the lakes.

Other Notes



Ginny is double-checking errors found in directory. An addendum will be mailed to members that will include new members since the 2012 publication. Please forward corrections to Ginny <ginny.parker.parker@gmail.com>

Discover Wisconsin has been in the Town of Phelps filming all year. In fact, they were on our lakes in August at the channel where many people have been gathering to play and picnic, especially in the last several years. The point is privately owned, and these property owners are very gracious in allowing people to drop anchor and recreate. Our hope is that visitors are respectful of this asset and remember to carry out all that they carry in. The water belongs to the people but the land does not belong to the people. Also filmed was the Third Annual Scarecrow Fest

Discover Wisconsin plans to present their documentary on Phelps in early May 2013 on Public TV.

NSTLRA Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President: Roger Ganser	roger@ventureinvestors.com	715-545-3650	608-345-2703
Vice President: Dick Martin	ramartin2012@yahoo.com	715-545-3327	715-545-3502
Executive Secretary: Ginny Parker	ginnyparker.parker@gmail.com	715-545-2496	715-617-2496
Treasurer: Mike Schindler	maschind@gmail.com	715-545-3922	941-732-6885
Secretary: Denise Pedersen	deniseped@aol.com	715-545-3911	847-404-2751

DIRECTORS:

Cap Pedersen	pedersencap@yahoo.com	715-545-3911	847-946-2979
Marti Primich	mjprimich@gmail.com	715-545-3474	
Bob Bailey	RNB3247@frontier.com	715-479-8971	
Joe Wallace	jsw0731@frontier.com	715-479-8083	
Don Zirbel		715-479-2800	
Ron Ottoson	ottokc@comcast.net	715-479-9245	708-871-0882
John Hyde	jhyde65@gmail.com	715-479-4664	414-530-4041
Margot Peterson	margot.peterson@sbcglobal.net	715-545-2826	847-256-3063
Dick Donarski	ddonarski1@yahoo.com	715-479-2383	920-676-2396

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Newsletter Editors:

Ginny Parker	ginnyparker.parker@gmail.com	715-545-2496	
Margot Peterson	margot.peterson@sbcglobal.net	715-545-2826	

Adopt-A-Highway: Ben & Priscilla

Vandenhuevel	priscillavh_1@hotmail.com	715-545-2283	
Fishing: Marti Primich	mjprimach@gmail.com	715-545-3474	
Lake District: Dick Martin	randsmartin4058@yahoo.com	715-545-3327	
Lake Plan: Cap Pedersen	pedersencap@yahoo.com	715-545-3911	

Loon Coordinator: Elisabeth

Sutton	esutton@wi.rr.com	715-545-3683	
Membership: John Hyde	jhyde65@gmail.com	715-479-4664	
Water Quality: Jim & Jackie Fruth	inj755@msn.com	715-479-6869	
Merchandise: Laura Babe	lebabe@wi.rr.com	262-786-1076	
Technical Advisor: Bob Bailey	RNB3247@frontier.com	715-479-8971	

Available Positions: Clean Boats/Water, Recreation & Water Safety and Social

NSTLA
PO Box 163
Phelps, WI 54554