



Preserve Your Lake Property

Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper Of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

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P.O. Box 21, Battle Lake, MN 56515

July 2021

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OTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING



The **Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Annual Meeting** was held on Saturday, June 26 at Thumper Pond in Ottertail. A continental breakfast was served and approximately 100 people attended. Lynn Melchoir delivered the invocation and Meg Duhr from the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center was the guest speaker.



Mark your Calendar

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Ottertail Community Center
103 Lake Ave. S

7pm

July 22 | Aug. 26 | Sept. 23 | Oct. 28

www.otlpoa.com

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR DIRECTORS...

President's Corner



Roger Anderson, OTLPOA President

Happy 4th of July, everyone! What a wonderful weekend on the lakes. The warm weather and mild winds provided opportunities for an array of lake activities. If anyone has fun pictures of the 4th to share, please forward them to the The Midweek at amber@themidweek.com.

With the warmer weather and little rain, water levels are extremely low for this time of year. For everyone's safety, if you are moving boat or jet ski lifts out further into the water, a small flashing light is recommended.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, we have formed a task force to address concerns about fishing regulations. I have received many good comments about this topic which will be addressed at our next task force meeting.

Our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 26 was well attended with close to 100 people. Our speaker, Meg Duhr from MAISRC, outlined the initiatives they are working on to support our efforts to combat the spread of invasive species. Thank you, Meg, for a highly informative program.

Don't forget about our association sponsored swimming lessons starting July 19. Great opportunity to get the kids into water sports.

As always, be good stewards of your lake.

Happy summer!

NAME Paul Oxberry

Work History

I was fortunate to spend 46 years in the Printing industry. From working on a printing press to being a color cameraman and scanner operator. Also being in management and the last 25 years in Sales!

What lake are you on and how long have you been there?

My wife Laura and I are on Long Lake north of Ottertail lake. Bought our lake home in 2004 and retired and moved permanently in 2014 from Brooklyn Park Minnesota

Were there any concerns or issues that you felt needed to be addressed going on the board?

Clean water!

If you were asked to show a tourist what life is like in our lakes area, what would you do and what would you show them?

Great people, clean air, great fishing and peacefulness! Fantastic golf courses!

NAME Mark Long

Work History

I have worked all 25 years that I have lived up here for Cargill based in Wahpeton, ND.

What lake are you on and how long have you been there?

Deer Lake, and have been living in Wahpeton and spending lots of each summer on Deer Lake since 1996. My wife and I have owned a place on Deer Lake since 2007. Before that, my parents had a place on Deer Lake since 1981. So I have spent at least parts of summers on Deer Lake since 1981.

Were there any concerns or issues that you felt needed to be addressed going on the board?

No specific issues. Generally I think it is important to represent Deer Lake, and to keep fresh perspective and voice. Of course I am concerned about invasive species and have always been concerned about preserving high water quality and conservation/protection of fish populations.

If you were asked to show a tourist what life is like in our lakes area, what would you do and what would you show them?

I would show them the diversity of entertainment and recreation opportunity that this area holds. If your thing is boating, fishing, tubing or just relaxing, there is something for everyone - young and old. Phelps Mill for a beautiful and historic visit. Many restaurants and businesses cater to numerous tastes throughout lakes country.

OTLPOA OFFICERS

President: Roger Anderson

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www.otlpoa.com



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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.

What does a membership include?

- ★ Six issues of Lakeshore News
- ★ Lakeshore directory that is published every two years
- ★ Continental breakfast at the Annual Meetings
- ★ Representation at Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and Coalition of Lake Associations (which includes water testing of our lakes)
- ★ Establishment of AIS monitoring system (ILIDS)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Inc.

2021 Membership (Check one)

Property Owner Member: _____ **Associate Member:** _____
(Owners Lake Property) (Does not own lake property or shares ownership)

Name of Property Owner living at lake property address: _____

Address of Property House/Street # _____
(this is the blue house number/street for your lake home) City/State Zip _____

Summer "mailing" address (5/15 – 8/30): House/Street # _____
(must be valid US Postal deliverable address) City/State Zip _____

Winter mailing address (9/1-5/15): House/Street # _____
 City/State Zip _____

Email: (please print legibly) _____
 Notification of date for tent caterpillar/worm spraying, updates of possible lake changing issues, etc. (If you don't personally have an email address, you can substitute one for a family member who will let you know of these notifications).

Annual Dues (Jan.-Dec.)

- Membership \$25.00
 - Foundation \$10.00
 - Worm Payment \$30.00
- Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation** \$ **65.00**

Additional support for the Foundation (tax deductible)

\$10.00 _____ \$20.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ Other _____ \$ _____

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

(Total enclosed) \$ _____

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

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

OTLPOA DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT STAN FETTERS

33 years on the board. Why? When I joined the OTLPOA board, I knew nothing concerning this group of lakes. My wife and I had found a nice lot on Deer Lake in 1987 and purchased our lake home where we have lived ever since. In 1998, Morrie Heyen, board member on Ottertail Lake, approached me about joining the board as someone was needed to represent Deer Lake and I accepted.

I was born and raised in Eastern South Dakota, where the lakes turn green from algae bloom, and they still do. Keeping the lakes of this area clean and clear is a number one focus and always has been for the association and me. Other problems over the years has been, stock walleyes or not, waters too high or too low, weeds, worm spraying, too many fishing tournaments, noise, should camp grounds be allowed, and now we have AIS. The OTLPOA has taken all these problems seriously and have tried to be fair to all involved.

The association has always been asked to help out with monies for different problems. This is why the OTLPOA foundation was formed, to have a back up for some of those problems instead of a LID used for taxing lake property owners. The OTLPOA is an association that is very well respected in the county and the state. There have been many Lakeshore association members who have given their time to make these lakes better for all. Thirty plus years has gone by too quickly, I have enjoyed being on this board as there is always something new coming up. Again we have had members come forward about the walleye fishing on Ottertail Lake. This association will work with these members and come to an agreement on what can be done.

I have always been proud of how 15 members of a 1,000+ membership association can get the job done that they do. So if your ever asked to step forward and be a board member, say yes and I'm sure, just like I have, you'll find it very rewarding.

The camaraderie that exists among these 15 members, male or female, that probably didn't know one another to begin with, the respect that is shown. Yes, there are disagreements but good discussion and decisions are usually found. It will be missed.

Thank you all for the opportunity to represent Deer Lake on this board, and to the board, keep up the great work you are doing.

The new representative for Deer Lake is Mark Long. He has probably lived on Deer Lake longer than I have as his father Ray had his cabin on Deer for many years.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve these lakes as an OTLPOA board member.

Stan Feters

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4th of July Fun! Boat Parade on
Blanche Lake
Photo submitted by Mary Jo Wentz



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MAINTAINING YOUR AIR CONDITIONING UNIT

Keeping your air conditioning running efficiently isn't just a matter of comfort. It can prove to be a matter of health and safety.

Air conditioning also helps control humidity. Humidity control helps prevent mold and mildew growth. Limiting mold and mildew growth protects your respiratory health.

So, here are five AC maintenance tips that will help keep your unit running smoothly.

1. CHANGE YOUR AIR FILTERS

Your HVAC system comes equipped with air filters to capture dust, pet hair, and other contaminants. These filters prevent those contaminants from interfering with your system's operation.

Over time, those filters get dirty or clog up. A dirty air filter can often cause icing on your air conditioning unit, which pushes the unit harder than necessary. Changing out your filters once a month can help prevent this problem.

2. CLEAR AWAY PLANTS AND BUSHES

Your air conditioning unit needs freely flowing air to function correctly. As bushes, flower beds, grass, or weeds grow around the unit, they obstruct the airflow. Again, this pushes the unit harder than necessary.

Clear away any plant life you find growing near the unit. It ensures the unit gets enough air. That ensures a more efficient unit for your home.

3. CHECK THE DRAIN LINE

Your air conditioning unit needs to drain excess moisture from the condenser. This drain line can clog from algae growth.

You do some preventative maintenance by flushing the line from time to time with a small amount of bleach. One cup will usually do the trick.

If algae or mold has mostly plugged the line, a basic wet/dry vacuum cleaner can typically suck away the obstruction.

4. GET A PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

Many people leave their air conditioning turned on all day, cooling an empty house or apartment. Others simply forget about adjusting the thermostat on their way out the door. This shortens the working life of the air conditioning unit and costs you money.

A programmable thermostat removes the human element. You simply program the thermostat for the temperatures you want at different times of the day. You save money and extend the efficient working life of the unit.

5. SCHEDULE PROFESSIONAL MAINTENANCE

A lot of things you can't necessarily see may go wrong with an air conditioning unit. A professional technician can check these things, including:

- Electrical components
- Mechanical components
- Coolant levels
- Duct integrity

Calling a pro in once or twice a year ensures that your air conditioner stays efficient for as long as possible.

PARTING THOUGHTS ON AC MAINTENANCE TIPS

AC maintenance plays a crucial role in improving your air conditioning unit's performance. Good DIY maintenance helps ensure proper airflow and drainage. A programmable thermostat makes sure you don't run the unit more than necessary.

Professional maintenance lets you know that the electrical and mechanical components still work correctly.

Source: www.designair.co/blog/5-ac-maintenance-tips-to-increase-the-performance-of-your-unit/

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Otter Tail Lake's Property Owner's Assoc. Inc. Board Meeting Minutes

MAY 27TH 2021 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order by President Anderson Members present: Kemling, Hunke, Feters, Cave, Bope, Simdorn, Wentz, Mouritsen, Overturf, Anderson, and Gerken. Absent: Gedde, Ness

Approval of Agenda - Motion approved unanimously as distributed

Approval of Minutes - Motion approved unanimously as distributed

Approval of Bills - Motion approved unanimously as distributed,

Presidents Report - Introduction of Brad Carr and Ross Hagemeister to discuss the fishing decline on Ottertail Lake. They discussed options to encourage lower limits, slot limits and other ways to improve walleye fishing. They are interested in stocking Ottertail, discussed ways to pay for stocking through donations. Our board will form a task force to explore this further and will invite Jim Wolters from the DNR to a future meeting. Anderson, Overturf, Kemling, Simdorn and others expressed interest in task force. Once task force is formed they will discuss strategy and ways to address this issue. A motion was made to form a task force, motion was approved by the board.

President Anderson discussed rental properties becoming an issue with some property owners, county officials are looking at this issue.

Committee Reports

Membership - Currently 971 members, last year we had 913 members at this time. Second notice will be going out.

Auditing/Finance -

DNR/GOV'T -

Water Testing/COLA - Blanch Lk.-18Ft. Walker Lk.-8Ft., Ottertail Lk. 16 Ft., Round Lk.-13 Ft.

Communications -

Website - Anderson brought up that we should look at our website and our social media presence. Discussed costs and different ways to reach people, will continue to look at this.

Lakeshore News -

Worm - Simdorn advised we will be spraying for worms on Friday May 28th. A mass email will be sent out to members.

Foundation - Mouritsen gave update on foundation, Ottertail County will be getting \$467,000 from state for AIS. Steve Brimhall was nominated and motion was made to add him to foundation board. Board approved this motion. There is a need for another board member. Swimming lessons this year, July 19-23rd and July 26th to 30th. They are adding a Tiny Library by the Corner Store.

Rearing Pond - Rob discussed the Grand Opening on May 29th 2PM for the Rearing Pond. OTLPOA participation will be included in the ceremony, as well as the many people who helped with the project.

Motion to approve \$50.00 recording fee expense to be paid out of Rearing pond funds held by WCI.

This motion was approved by OTLPOA board.

Social - Discussed Annual meeting at the Pavilion, Thumper Pond bid was brought to board. Board voted to go with Thumper Pond bid.

Old Business - Rob passed out information on Curly pond weed in Ottertail Canal. Rob advised that the spraying will take place on June 7th. The board will ask the DNR why this channel is open going into Ottertail Lake and if it is possible to close.

New Business -

Adjournment - Meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM. Next meeting June 24th 2021

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LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS

OUTDOOR TIPS

The best defense is to avoid lightning. Here are some outdoor safety tips that can help you avoid being struck:

- Be aware
- Check the weather forecast before participating in outdoor activities. If the forecast calls for thunderstorms, postpone your trip or activity, or make sure adequate safe shelter is readily available.
- Go indoors - Remember the phrase, "When thunder roars, go indoors." Find a safe, enclosed shelter when you hear thunder. Safe shelters include homes, offices, shopping centers, and hard-top vehicles with the windows rolled up.
- Seek shelter immediately even if caught out in the open. If you are caught in an open area, act quickly to find adequate shelter. The most important action is to remove yourself from danger. Crouching or getting low to the ground can reduce your chances of being struck, but does not remove you from danger.

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter nearby, the following actions may reduce your risk:

- Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges, or peaks.
- Never lie flat on the ground. Crouch down in a ball-like position with your head tucked and hands over your ears so that you are down low with minimal contact with the ground.
- Never shelter under an isolated tree.
- Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter.
- Immediately get out of and away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.).
- Separate - If you are in a group during a thunderstorm, separate from each other. This will reduce the number of injuries if lightning strikes the ground.

Don't

- Don't stay in open vehicles,

structures, and spaces

- During a thunderstorm, avoid open vehicles such as convertibles, motorcycles, and golf carts. Be sure to avoid open structures such as porches, gazebos, baseball dugouts, and sports arenas. And stay away from open spaces such as golf courses, parks, playgrounds, ponds, lakes, swimming pools, and beaches.
- Don't stay near tall structures
- Do NOT lie on concrete floors during a thunderstorm. Also, avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

INDOOR SAFETY TIPS

Even though your home is a safe shelter during a lightning storm, you may still be at risk. About one-third of lightning-strike injuries occur indoors. Here are some tips to keep safe and reduce your risk of being struck by lightning while indoors.

- Avoid water - Do NOT bathe, shower, wash dishes, or have any other contact with water during a thunderstorm because lightning can

travel through a building's plumbing.

- Avoid electronic equipment
- Do NOT use your computers, laptops, game systems, washers, dryers, stoves, or anything connected to an electrical outlet. Lightning can travel through electrical systems, radio and television reception systems, and any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring. Equip your home with whole-house surge protectors to protect your appliances.
- Avoid corded phones
- Corded phones are NOT safe to use during a thunderstorm. Do NOT use them. However, it is safe to use cordless or cellular phones during a storm.
- Avoid windows, doors, porches, and concrete
- Do NOT lie on concrete floors during a thunderstorm. Also, avoid leaning on concrete walls. Lightning can travel through any metal wires or bars in concrete walls or flooring.

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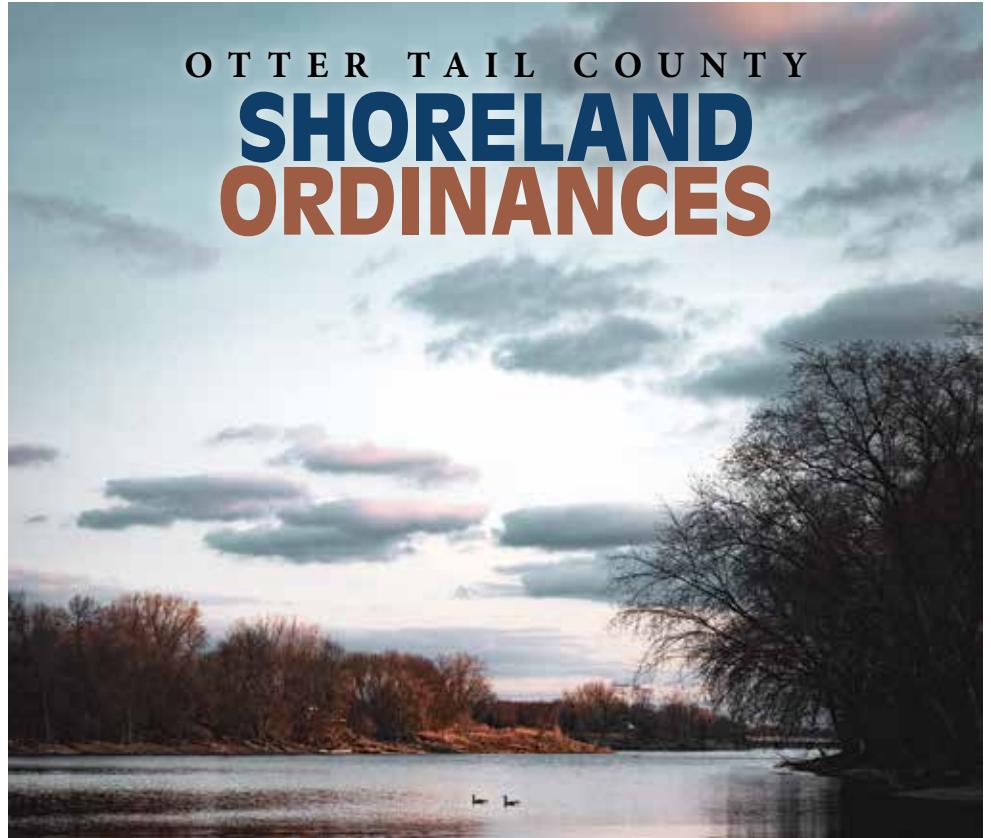


Photo credit: unsplash.com/@tonylonder

Recently, Otter Tail county updated its shoreline ordinances. Changes were made to be more in line with Mn DNR shoreland regulations, MN rules, Chapter 6120. Christopher W. LeClair, Director of Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management, states, “Our goal with this ordinance revision was to change our standards to be more consistent with state rules, and to have a more reasonable approach to shoreland regulation in Otter Tail County.”

These changes went into effect July 1, 2021. Below is a list of the more significant changes to the ordinances. To view the entire document, go to otlpoa.com.

- Reformatted the layout of the ordinance to follow the DNR’s Model Shoreland Ordinance for easier readability for the public, with consolidated lists of what activity requires a permit and what activities are exempt from permits.
- Added language about vacation home rentals. Vacation home rentals will be a permitted use, so long as 1) there are 2 or less dwelling units on the property; 2) the occupancy is limited to the stricter of either the state lodging code or the state septic code; 3) parking is fully contained on the property; 4) the VHR is eligible to be licensed by Public Health, and thus gets a license from Public Health. As long as all of those criteria are met, the VHR will remain a permitted use. If any of those standards cannot be met, a Conditional Use Permit is required.
- Lifted the prohibition on guest cottages on lake lots and adopted the guest cottage standards from MN Rules 6120.
- Changed the determination of the shore impact zone for general development lakes to 50% of the required building setback to be consistent with state rules.
- Commercial Planned Unit Developments (resorts and campgrounds) allowed to add 6 units without amending the conditional use permit to be consistent with state rules.
- Lifted the max impervious surface allowed in the shore impact zone from 260 sq.ft to be more proportional. The maximum allowable impervious coverage in the shore impact zone is now 15% of the total shore impact zone area.
- The setback to property line for a water oriented accessory structure (WOAS) was 40 feet on a general development lake, 65 feet for a recreational development lake, and 90 feet for a natural environment lake. The DNR rules requires a property line setback of 10 feet for a WOAS. The new ordinance adopts the state standard and will require a setback of 10 feet to a property line for a WOAS.
- Bluff determination to toe of bluff vs. the ordinary high water level to be consistent with state rules.
- Minimum earth moving requiring a permit will be changed from 20 cubic yards to 50 cubic yards to be consistent with state rules.
- Dwelling Unit setback for a planned unit development will be changed from 50 feet to 10 feet to be consistent with state rules.
- Duplex, Triplex, Quad will be changed from a permitted use to a conditional use to be consistent with state rules.
- Platting in the shoreland district will be changed from lots under 5 acres requiring platting to 6120 standard of 5 or more lots or lots 2.5 acres or less to be consistent with state rules.



Addi Olson enjoying the Lake
Photo submitted by Rob Bope

DNR, Great Lakes States Join Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Event

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will join hundreds of organizations to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during the third annual Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz, June 26 to July 4.

Throughout the nine-day event, thousands of volunteers will join watercraft inspectors at boat launches in the Great Lakes states to educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of AIS, ways to identify them and how to report an AIS discovery. Aquatic invasive species are one of the most significant threats to the ecological and economic health of the Great Lakes and other waters in Great Lakes states.

"Volunteers and watercraft inspectors will be reminding boaters that clean, drain, dispose is not only the best way to prevent spreading AIS, it's also the law in Minnesota," said Adam Doll, DNR watercraft inspection program coordinator.

Whether or not any invasive species has been confirmed in a lake, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:

- **Clean** watercraft and trailers of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species,
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport, and
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another water body:

- Spray with high-pressure water.
- Rinse with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- Dry for at least five days.



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After a year off, Sugar Maple Drive had their 4th of July parade. Despite the heat we had a good turn out at the parade and ice cream social which followed. Those in attendance included Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam!

Photos submitted by Bev Wilson



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4th of July Fun!
Photos submitted by Rob Bope



21



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Operation Dry Water

Increased efforts to keep Minnesota's waterways safe from boaters under the influence of drugs and alcohol are on tap, with hundreds of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officers and other public safety personnel planning extra patrols in July.

The extra attention is part of Operation Dry Water, a nationwide campaign to highlight the dangers of boating under the influence of drugs and alcohol and call attention to the heavy penalties associated with boating while intoxicated (BWI).

While forecasted warm weather will make the water an appealing place to be on the weekends, officials warn boaters to choose something other than alcohol when they get thirsty. Across the nation, including in Minnesota, BWI is the leading contributing factor in boating accidents and fatalities. In 2020, nine of the 16 boating fatalities – more than 56 percent – in Minnesota involved alcohol, an increase from the six-year average of 44 percent.

Operation Dry Water focuses on when waterways are particularly busy and BWI-related injuries and deaths tend to spike.

"We have absolutely no tolerance for boaters who choose to operate while under the influence. They endanger their own lives, but also the lives of every other boater on the water," said Lt. Adam Block, DNR Enforcement boating law administrator. "The penalties associated with boating under the influence have never been higher, but they pale in comparison to losing your life or ending someone else's life because of a choice you made."

Minnesota's BWI laws are among the strongest in the country, and a relatively new law means people convicted of drinking and driving – whether they're driving a boat, motor vehicle or recreational vehicle – lose their privilege to operate any of them.

The majority of fatal boating accidents turn deadly because people don't have on a life jacket. Intoxication often is what causes them to end up in the water in the first place. The legal blood alcohol limit for boaters is .08, but public safety officials encourage boaters to leave alcohol on shore and boat sober on "dry water."

"Planning ahead can alleviate all of the issues associated with boating under the influence," Block said. "If you're going to partake while you're on the water, make sure you've lined up a sober ride – both on the boat and on the way home."

Hot Weather Likely Contributing To Fish Die-Offs

Recent hot weather may be contributing to fish die-offs in lakes across the state, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"Spring and summer fish die-offs happen occasionally, but we are getting widespread reports of dead fish following the recent prolonged stretch of hot weather," said Tom Burri, DNR limnology consultant.

The DNR asks the public to report fish die-offs. People should call the state duty officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798 if they encounter a large group of dead fish in a lake or a stream (the state duty officer is available 24 hours per day, seven days a week). Calling in a report provides a single point of contact for the incident. An early report also allows timely water sampling or other response actions, if needed. It's especially helpful to know what fish types and sizes people see in a fish die-off.

In mid-spring and summer, fish die-offs are often the result of warming water and opportunistic infections that spread in fish populations that are already stressed after the spawning season. Species commonly observed in these die-offs include sunfish, crappies and bullheads, and, occasionally, largemouth bass and northern pike.

"People tend to be concerned when they find dead fish, and they can help by reporting what they see right away," Burri said. "These reports help us determine whether an investigation is needed."

If there is an immediate threat to life or property, call 911 first.

When die-offs of wild fish are the result of disease issues, the affected fish tend to be of a single species and size range. By contrast, when die-offs include multiple species and size ranges, human activity is more likely to be the cause.

Human causes of fish kills can include water discharged at high temperatures, toxic chemicals discharged or spilled, pesticides and fertilizers, manure runoff, and low oxygen levels in a lake resulting from storm water that runs off urban or rural landscapes. Often, there are multiple causes contributing to fish deaths.



SWIMMER'S ITCH

Swimmer's itch, also called cercarial dermatitis, appears as a skin rash caused by an allergic reaction to certain microscopic parasites that infect some birds and mammals. These parasites are released from infected snails into fresh and salt water (such as lakes, ponds, and oceans). While the parasite's preferred host is the specific bird or mammal, if the parasite comes into contact with a swimmer, it burrows into the skin causing an allergic reaction and rash. Swimmer's itch is found throughout the world and is more frequent during summer months. It is most common in lakes and ponds.

HOW DOES WATER BECOME INFESTED WITH THE PARASITE?

The adult parasite lives in the blood of infected animals such as ducks, geese, gulls, swans, and certain mammals such as muskrats and beavers. The parasites produce eggs that are passed in the feces of infected birds or mammals.

If the eggs land in or are washed into the water, the eggs hatch, releasing small, free-swimming microscopic larvae. These larvae swim in the water in search of a certain species of aquatic snail.

If the larvae find one of these snails, they infect the snail, multiply and undergo further development. Infected snails release a different type of microscopic larvae (or cercariae, hence the name cercarial dermatitis) into the water. This larval form then swims about searching for a suitable host (bird, muskrat) to continue the lifecycle. Although humans are not suitable hosts, the microscopic larvae burrow into the swimmer's skin, and may cause an allergic reaction and rash. Because these larvae cannot develop inside a human, they soon die.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

- Symptoms of swimmer's itch may include:
- Tingling, burning, or itching of the skin
- Small reddish pimples
- Small blisters

Within minutes to days after swimming in contaminated water, you may experience tingling, burning, or itching of the skin. Small reddish pimples appear within 12 hours. Pimples may develop into small blisters. Scratching the areas may result in secondary bacterial infections. Itching may last up to a week or more, but will gradually go away.

Because swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to infection, the more often you swim or wade in contaminated water, the more likely you are to develop more serious symptoms, however only exposed skin is susceptible. The greater the number of exposures to contaminated water, the more intense and immediate symptoms of swimmer's itch will be.

DO I NEED TO SEE MY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER FOR TREATMENT?

Most cases of swimmer's itch do not require medical attention. If you have a rash, you may try the following for relief:

- Use corticosteroid cream
- Apply cool compresses to the affected areas
- Bathe in Epsom salts or baking soda oak in colloidal oatmeal baths
- Apply baking soda paste to the rash (made by stirring water into baking soda until it reaches a paste-like consistency)
- Use an anti-itch lotion

Though difficult, try not to scratch. Scratching may cause the rash to become infected. If itching is severe, your health care provider may suggest prescription-strength lotions or creams to lessen your symptoms. If rash lasts more than three days, you should contact a medical professional.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SWIMMER'S ITCH?

To reduce the risk of contracting swimmer's itch:

- Choose swimming spots carefully.
- Avoid the shoreline if possible.
- Rinse off after swimming.
- Apply sunscreen prior to swimming.

ONCE AN OUTBREAK OF SWIMMER'S ITCH HAS OCCURRED IN WATER, WILL THE WATER ALWAYS BE UNSAFE?

No. Many factors must be present for swimmer's itch to become a problem in water. Since these factors change (sometimes within a swim season), swimmer's itch will not always be a problem. However, there is no way to know how long water may be unsafe. Larvae generally survive for 24 hours once they are released from the snail. However, an infected snail will continue to produce cercariae throughout the remainder of its life. For future snails to become infected, migratory birds or mammals in the area must also be infected so the lifecycle can continue.

[cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html](https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html)

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TOP 5 BOATING

SAFETY TIPS

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

And make sure children wear theirs.

STAY SOBER

Booze and boating don't mix. Alcohol is the #1 factor in boating fatalities.

TELL A FRIEND

Tell someone where you're going and when you will be back. If you're not back, they should call 911. Bring a phone or VHF radio.

BE WEATHER AWARE

Don't let a storm sneak up on you — delay your trip or head to shore. Go slow in rough water to avoid capsizing.

BOAT SMART

Take a boating safety course. Know your boat; stay alert while scanning for dangers; stay seated and low in the boat to prevent falls overboard.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

ON BOATS

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) DETECTOR

Sophia's Law requires that all recreational motorboats, including sailboats with motors, with enclosed compartments be equipped with a functioning marine CO detection system and/or display three CO poisoning warning stickers as of May 1, 2018.

LIFE JACKETS

- State law requires children under 10 years old to wear a properly fitted life jacket while a boat is underway. Underway means not securely fastened to a permanent mooring or tied to a dock.
- A readily accessible and wearable life jacket is required for each person on board a boat, this includes canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, paddleboats and waterfowl boats.
- One Type IV throwable is required on boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks) and must be immediately available.
- Personal watercraft operators and passengers must each wear a life jacket.

BAPTIST

Basswood Baptist Church B.G.C. 
38188 340th St., Richville, MN 56576
Bert Holmquist, Pastor—218-495-3800
Church—218-495-3771

Sunday School 9:30 am, refreshments following
Worship Service 10:45 am
Bible Study, Youth Group & Kids Club - Wednesday 7:00 pm
Ladies' Bible Study - 3rd Thursday
Men's Prayer Breakfast - 1st Saturday 7:00 am
Potluck Dinner - 2nd Sunday

First Baptist (ABC) - Battle Lake
"The Little Brown Church on the Hill"
Lynn Hansen, Pastor—651-485-7378
www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Fellowship & refreshments 10:30 am

BATTLE LAKE ALLIANCE

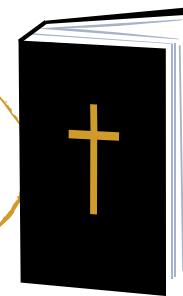
401 W. Gilbertson St., Battle Lake 
Derek Mansker, Pastor • Church—218-864-5539
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Fellowship & refreshments after service
Find us on the web at battlelake.org

CATHOLIC

Father Leroy Schik, Pastor
Mass Times—218-864-5619
www.ollsj.org
St. James Catholic - Maine Township 
Saturday Mass 5:00 pm, October 1 - May 1
Saint Edwards - Henning 
Sunday Mass 8:30 am - October 1 - May 1
Our Lady of the Lake - Battle Lake 
Sunday Mass 10:30 am



Lakes Area
Church Directory
2021



Join us in worship!

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LUTHERAN

Bethel Lutheran Church
Battle Lake Campus:
Meets at Lakes Area Community Center
112 West Main St., Battle Lake
218-862-4903
Sunday School 9:15 am
(no Sunday School during summer months)
Worship: 9:00am & 10:30 am
Website: bethellutheran.church

First Lutheran - ELCA 
505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake
Bradley Skogen, Pastor
blfirstlutheran.org
Church—218-864-5686
Coffee Fellowship: 9:00 am
Worship: 10:00 am
Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays

Sverdrup Lutheran Church 
PO Box 70
209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood
Tammy Jacobson, Pastor
Church—218-826-6919
Worship 9:00 am

Tingvold Lutheran Church
6 miles north of Underwood, Co. 1 & Co. 35
Martha Halls, Pastor
Church—218-826-6487
September 1-May 31: Service 11:00 am
Fellowship 10:00 am
June 1-August 31: Service 10:30 am
Fellowship 9:30am

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor - ELCA
36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Amor
Hwy. 1 and 74, 10 miles north of Battle Lake
James Gronbeck, Pastor • Church - 218-495-2563
Email: zionamoroffice@prtcl.com
Website: www.zionamor.org
Facebook - Zion Amor
YouTube - Zion Lutheran Amor
Sunday Worship Services 8:15 am and 10:00 am
Traditional Service 1st and 4th Sundays
Contemporary Service 2nd and 3rd Sundays (Praise Team)
Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays
Bible Study - Tuesday 10:00 am
Covid-19 social distancing protocol in place.
Services live streamed on Facebook and uploaded to YouTube.

METHODIST

Ottertail United Methodist Church 
104 Shores Drive, Ottertail
Rod Turnquist, Pastor
Church—218-367-2270
Worship 8:45 am
Coffee Fellowship following Worship

Richville United Methodist Church
130 SW 1st Ave., Richville
Rod Turnquist, Pastor
Church—218-346-5656
Worship 10:30 am
Coffee Fellowship following Worship 2nd & 4th Sunday

PRESBYTERIAN

Maine Presbyterian 
30761 Co. Hwy. 45, Maine Township
2 miles north of Phelps Mill
Tom Junkert, Pastor
Website: mainepresbyterianchurch.org
Church—218-495-2539
Summer - Worship 9:30 am (Thru August)
Coffee Following Worship Service
Winter - Worship 10:00 am

2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jul 15-31	Shop Move 'n Groove (Throughout Fergus Falls)
Jul 16 & 18	Art of the Lakes Studio Tour (various locations)
Jul 17	Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
Jul 18	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - Tonic Sol Fa (Fergus Falls)
Jul 18-20	US Blind Golf Association-Midwest Regional Tournament (Fergus Falls)
Jul 21-24	Otter Tail County Fair (Fergus Falls)
Jul 22	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Jul 22-25	East Otter Tail County Fair (Perham)
Jul 24	Plein Air in Oils with Scott Lloyd Anderson at Art of the Lakes (Battle Lake)
Jul 24	Art in the Park (Pelican Rapids)
Jul 24-25	Wenonga Days (Battle Lake)
Jul 24	Wenonga Days 5K/10K Run & Walk (Battle Lake)
Jul 27	Music In The Park - Whiskey Business (Tentative) (Ottertail City)
Jul 30	Tuffy Nelson Golf Tournament (Perham)
Jul 31	YMCA Hoot Lake Triathlon (Fergus Falls)
Aug 1	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - I Am...He Said (Fergus Falls)
Aug 5-7	WE Fest (Detroit Lakes)
Aug 6-8	Parkers Prairie Fall Festival and Bull Ride
Aug 6-8	Flekkefest (Elbow Lake)
Aug 6-7	Perham Crazy Days
Aug 7	Rail Trails 100 Bike Tour (Fergus Falls)
Aug 7	Expressive Watercolor with Dan Mondloch at Art of the Lakes (Battle Lake)
Aug 12-15	Vergas Looney Days
Aug 13	Demo Derby (Ottertail City)
Aug 14	Art & Craft Affair (Battle Lake)
Aug 14	Otter Fest (Ottertail City)
Aug 14	Music In The Park - Slew Foot Family Band (Ottertail City)
Aug 20	16th Annual Chamber Golf Scramble "Safari Par-Tee"
Aug 20-21	Fergus Falls Saddle Club Rodeo
Aug 21-22	Perham Pioneer Days
Aug 21-22	Black Powder Rendezvous (Perham)
Aug 22	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - Purple Hulls (Fergus Falls)
Aug 24	Music In The Park - TBA (Ottertail City)
Aug 26	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug 27-28	Barnsville Potato Days Festival
Aug 29	Outdoor Summer Concert at the RTC - Harmonious Wail (Fergus Falls)

ONGOING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Jun - Aug	International Turtle Races (Perham) *Every Wednesday through August
Jun 26-Aug 7	Kimble Bromley at Kaddatz Galleries (Fergus Falls)
Jun 26-Aug 7	Kaddatz Art Reach Student Work, Studio K (Fergus Falls)
Aug 11-Sep 30	Jon Kamrath at Kaddatz Galleries (Fergus Falls)
Aug 11-Sep 30	Diane Scully at Kaddatz Galleries, Studio K (Fergus Falls)



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TWP_NAME	Lake Name	Property Type	Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price
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OTTER TAIL TOWNSHIP	LONG(O T & RUSH)	SEASONAL RES REC	KETTER,MICHELE	CARDA,KYLE & SHANNON & CLINT & TAMMY	\$100,700
OTTERTAIL CITY	BUCHANAN	SEASONAL RES REC	WELLS THOMAS,SUE	SOUPIR,SHELLY	\$288,000
EVERTS	ROUND (EVERTS)	RESIDENTIAL	ESTATE OF JAMES W. EASTMAN	NIELSEN,ROY III	\$510,000
OTTER TAIL	OTTERTAIL	SEASONAL RES REC	MCCULLOUGH,CINDY	WEINGARTEN,BENJAMIN J.	\$980,999
OTTER TAIL	OTTERTAIL	RESIDENTIAL	WEINGARTEN,BENJAMIN	OLSON,MARK LYLE & JULIE K	\$740,150
OTTERTAIL CITY	OTTERTAIL	SEASONAL RES REC	SHERRY,DAVID DELANO & ETHEL VIVIAN	KOSAK,RANDY J & CONNIE	\$269,800

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WHAT IS STARRY STONEWORT?

WHAT IT IS

The scientific name for starry stonewort is *Nitellopsis obtusa*. It is a type of freshwater green algae known as a charophyte, a group that also includes muskgrasses and stoneworts (*Chara* and *Nitella* species) that are native to Minnesota. Starry stonewort is native to parts of Europe and Asia. It is relatively uncommon in much of its native range and is considered endangered in Japan and of conservation concern in Britain.

LIFE CYCLE

Starry stonewort is dioecious, meaning that individuals are either male or female — unlike many plants and algae that have both male and female reproductive parts. Interestingly, the best evidence to date indicates that the populations in the U.S. are all male, though there may be undiscovered females. This means that spread of starry stonewort is probably through human movement of fragments from lake to lake. In particular, starry stonewort produces small, star-shaped structures called “bulbils” that allow it to reproduce vegetatively (clonally).

WHAT IT AFFECTS

Where starry stonewort grows densely and forms surface mats, it can interfere with boating and other recreational activities. Dense growth may also displace native plants and could potentially have impacts on fish and other animals. Starry stonewort’s ecological impacts are not well understood, and there has been little published research to date.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Starry stonewort can look quite similar to some native charophytes, but may appear larger and more robust. It is a green macroalga with whorls of long, narrow branchlets in groups of 4 to 6 coming off of main shoots. Orange reproductive structures (male antheridia) occur at branchlet nodes. Small, white, star-shaped bulbils are a distinguishing feature that gives it the name starry stonewort.

WHERE IT'S FOUND

Starry stonewort was first found in North America in 1978 in the St. Lawrence River and has spread inland since. It is now found in much of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula and many locations in New York State. It has also been found in Indiana and was discovered in southeastern Wisconsin in 2014. It was first recorded in Minnesota in 2015 (Lake Koronis, Stearns Co.).

HOW IT SPREADS

Starry stonewort appears to be spreading vegetatively in the U.S. (by bulbils and fragments). Accidental movement by people is the most likely means of dispersal. Many of the known infestations occur in high-use waterbodies and near boat accesses.



Oskar Larsen Caught A Crappie



Riggins McGinnis with his Northern

THREATS FACING MINNESOTA LAKES

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/threats-facing-minnesota-lakes>

Many lakes in Minnesota have elevated levels of phosphorus caused by contaminated runoff, erosion, and sediment. Some lakes are also polluted with chloride, which comes from road salt and water softeners.

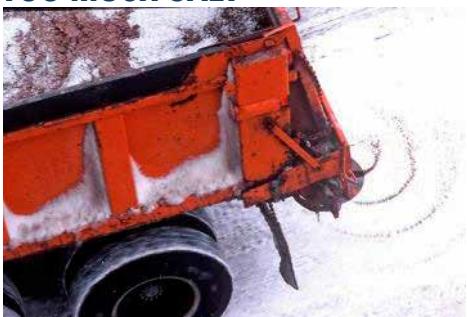
CONTAMINATED RUNOFF, EROSION, AND SEDIMENT

Runoff from agricultural land and lakeshore development raises the amount of phosphorus in Minnesota lakes, which in turn causes algae to grow. Algae-covered lakes are less attractive for fishing and swimming — highly valued pastimes in Minnesota and uses that are protected under the federal Clean Water Act. In addition, phosphorus can fuel toxic blue-green algal blooms, which are harmful to people and pets.



In 2013, intense algal blooms on southern Minnesota's Lake Crystal resulted in Minneopa Creek's waterfall at Minneopa State Park flowing green.

TOO MUCH SALT



The salt applied to roads, parking lots, and sidewalks during our icy winters contains chloride, a water pollutant. When snow and ice melts, the salt goes with it, washing into our lakes. It takes only one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water. Lakes that receive municipal wastewater can also have elevated chloride

levels from water softener salt. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride, and at high concentrations, chloride can harm fish and plant life. The issue is particularly acute in the metro areas, where there is more pavement and therefore more winter salting.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species, such as zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, and Asian carp, are not native to Minnesota and can cause economic or environmental damage or harm human health. Invasive species have taken hold in many Minnesota lakes. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working to curb the spread of these plants and animals. Learn more on the DNR website.



Thanks!

Thank you for sharing your photos with Lakeshore News! Please continue to submit your photos for the August Issue!

Email us at CONNOR@THEMIDWEEK.COM with a brief description.

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HOW TO START A FLOWER GARDEN

by Farmers' Almanac Staff

Flowers add color, beauty, and cheer to yards and landscapes everywhere. Here are some good tips on how to get started.

HOW TO START

Take time to plan. Sketch out your garden. Include the size, shape, and location. Look at the spot. Is the area sunny, shady, or a little bit of both? Watch it during the day to see how much or when the sun hits this spot. Impatiens, coleus, dusty miller, pansies, and begonias are a few annuals that do well in shade. Petunias, zinnias, and marigold, are a few varieties that grow best in full sun.

CHOOSE THE RIGHT FLOWERS

Before you decide which flowers you might like, do your homework. Look in seed catalogs, garden books, and the Internet for information on the growing conditions needed for various varieties. Flower shows, greenhouses, and garden centers also offer good advice.

CONSIDER COLORS

Do you want the flowers to accent your house colors, or attract hummingbirds and butterflies, or are you interested in a theme such as red, white, and blue?

KNOW YOUR GROWING SEASON

Keep in mind the length of your growing season and the last frost dates. Learn as much as you can before you plant the seeds or transplants.

DESIGNING THE BED

Once you learn which types of flowers will grow in your location and decide which ones you'd like to plant, you can start designing the bed. Start small rather than large at first especially if you're a beginner. You'll need to outline the shape of your flower garden. A good way to do this is to use a garden hose. Then edge the area with a spade so you can see the borders. Till the inside area until the soil is all mixed up and there are no weeds or large rocks. Mix the soil with organic material such as compost or manure. You may want to test the pH of your soil. This will reveal its acidity and alkalinity. Most annuals do well in a level of 6.5. You can buy a tester and do this yourself, or you can take a sample to an extension service in your community.

GENERAL RULES FOR PLANTING

- Keep tall plants in the back, medium in the middle, and short in the front. Plant as directed on labels, taking note of spacing.
- Don't plant annuals too close together or they may become crowded and not grow.
- Keep it simple.
- Water, weed, and feed your garden throughout the season.
- Pinch off the deadheads (flowers that are past their beauty). This will encourage more blooming.
- Use your imagination! Have fun!



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CICADAS

Quick Facts

- Adult cicadas produce a power line like sound and their presence can be identified by that sound.
- They are found in urban and rural areas wherever hardwood trees are present.
- Cicadas are active July through September.
- They are harmless to people, plants and property.
- No control is necessary.

Cicadas have sometimes been described as beetles with wings sticking out. The nymphs have been described as 'beetles that turn into flies.'

Cicadas are closely related to leafhoppers, planthoppers and spittlebugs

There are two basic types of cicadas:

- Dogday cicadas (Tibicen spp.) are also called annual cicadas. They are seen every year in Minnesota.
- Periodical cicadas do not occur in Minnesota. They spend 13 or 17 years as a nymph in the ground and then emerge together in large numbers.

How To Identify Cicadas

Adults

- Cicadas are 1 - 1 1/2 inches long.
- They are stout with a green or brown body and black markings on the body.
- They have four, clear, fly-like wings and the first pair is much longer than their abdomen.
- The wings which are folded over their back look like a tent.
- They have very short antennae.



Cicada Nymph

Nymphs

- Nymphs are immature cicadas.
- They are dark brown and look similar to the adults.
- Some people think they look like beetles because they are stout and do not have wings.



Dogday Cicada

Behavior And Habits Of Cicadas

Adults

- Cicadas are present from July to September.
- You may not see them, but you will hear the distinct humming sound they make.
- They produce a high-pitched sound during the day that resembles a power line hum.
- Only the males produce this sound in order to attract females.
- They hum by vibrating a membrane in an internal air chamber.

Nymphs

- It is more common to see immature nymphs than adult cicadas.
- The nymphs spend four to eight years underground, feeding on plant and tree roots, especially perennials.
- Once they come out from the ground, they climb up objects such as trees, posts, fences and the sides of buildings to molt into adults.
- When cicada nymphs molt into adults, they leave behind 'cast skins'. The cast skins may look like an insect, but it is hollow inside.



Dogday Cicada Adult



Cicada Skin

Damage Caused By Cicadas

- Despite their size, cicadas are not harmful or dangerous to people, pets or property.
- While they do feed on trees, they do not cause any noticeable injury.
- But, cicadas could injure trees when they use their sharp ovipositor to lay eggs in twigs.
- If you see cicadas, just ignore them and they will go away on their own.

Source: <https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-insects/cicadas>



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GLENDALOUGH STATE PARK

SEASONAL UPDATE

Water is available year-round at the park office and at yurts.

BATHROOM FACILITIES:

Trail center restrooms are open year-round! Vault toilets in the park are open year-round. Facilities are wheelchair accessible.

ELECTRIC SITES:

One RV electric site is available Oct. 1 to May 1 by calling the park. All camper cabins have electricity.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Summer

- Picnic Area, Molly Stark Lake - Includes picnic tables and shelter.
- Picnic Shelter, Open Shelter
Located near Molly Stark Lake Available for rent by calling the park. Shelter has electricity and accommodates 100 people. Handicapped accessible.
- Canoe Access
Carry-in access only.
- Golf Course Within 10 miles

2 Wildlife Observation Areas

1 observation area located on Battle Creek, the other is on Lake Emma. Binoculars and field guides available from the park office for free use.

PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Cart-in Tent Camping
- Hiking
- Wildlife Observation
- Heritage Fishing/Large Panfish
- Canoeing on Chain of Lakes
- Sandy Swimming Beach
- Equipment Rentals Available

Nestled in the transition zone between prairie and hardwood forest, Glendalough offers a true respite from civilization. Crystal clear Annie Battle Lake is a 335-acre, non-motorized "Heritage Fishery" that provides a tranquil fishing experience second to none. Special regulations sustain a steady supply of large sunfish, crappie, and the occasional walleye for the frying pan, and large bass for the camera. Near the pristine shores of this lake are a cart-in campground and canoe-in campsites, all free from the traffic and noise of traditional drive-in camping.

Annie can also be the starting point for an exploration of the park by canoe or kayak on the connecting creeks. The restored historic Glendalough Lodge on the north side of the lake details the park's history as a private retreat and game farm for the Minneapolis Tribune.

Numerous hiking trails, including two interpretive trails, meander along five lakes, through rich woods and blooming prairies. Wildlife abounds year-round, and there are many observation decks along the trails. Trails are groomed in winter for skiing and snowshoeing. Picnicking and swimming is available on two sandy lakes.

Migrating monarchs should be highly visible along the Prairie Hill Trail from mid-August through Labor Day. Vehicle permits are required and can be purchased at the park. For more information, call the park at 218-864-0110.

VIRTUAL TOUR Take a panoramic virtual tour of Glendalough State Park. Peek inside the Glendalough Lodge, marvel at a vibrant prairie sunset, check out the unique canoe-in group campsite, and more. It's a great tool to help you plan your next trip to the park! Take the high speed panoramic tour or the low speed/accessible tour. www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/glendalough click on the Panoramic Tour or the Snapshot Tour under Park Notes.

**Hours: Best time to contact the park is:
Daily from 9am - 4pm**

218-864-0110 • fax: 218-864-0587

email: glendalough.statepark@state.mn.us

25287 Whitetail Lane, Battle Lake, MN 56515

www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/glendalough

From the town of Battle Lake, go 1.5 miles north on State Hwy. #78 and 1.8 miles east on Otter Tail Co. Hwy #16 to the park entrance.



Dead River from the Bridge at Ottetail Lake
Photo submitted by Lisa Kemper

LOST & FOUND

Have you lost something? Have you found something in your yard or on your shoreline that wasn't yours? If you have been unable to locate your lost items, or unable to return a found item to the rightful owner, email photo or description to secretary@otlpoa.com

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As of May 2005, Minnesota law requires a life jacket to be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft in Minnesota when the craft is under way (not tied up at a dock or permanent mooring).

WHAT IS A LIFE JACKET AND WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO WEAR ONE?

A life jacket is a U.S. Coast Guard approved device that helps the wearer float if they enter the water.

A child should wear a life jacket anytime they are near water such as in a boat or float tube as well as on docks and river banks and at the beach when allowed by the life guard.

Contrary to many TV shows and the movies, drowning is usually silent. A victim (of any age) in the process of drowning can NOT cry out for help. They just bob up and down in the water, their head tipped back, mouth wide open gasping for air, and they are silent. It takes as little as 30 - 45 seconds for a child non-swimmer and it usually happens when an adult is nearby but doesn't recognize the telltale signs of a child in distress in the water.

FIND A SAFE FIT FOR YOUR CHILD



How do I make sure I'm using the right life jacket?

If you own a boat or plan on renting a boat or boating with a friend, you need to buy your child their own life jacket. Life jackets come in various types and sizes and there may not be a life jacket of the proper size and type to rent or borrow.

When buying a child's life jacket, please check for:

- U.S. Coast Guard approved label.
- A snug fit. Check weight and chest size on the label and try the life jacket on your child right at the store. Pick up your child by the shoulders of the life jacket; and tell them to raise their arms and relax. The child's chin and ears won't slip through a properly fitting jacket. Do NOT buy a jacket that is too large, hoping the child will grow into it. Children come in many

sizes and shapes. If a life jacket style does not work well, try another one.

- Head support for younger children. A well designed life jacket will support the child's head when the child is in the water. The head support also serves to roll the child face up.
- A strap between the legs for younger children. This helps prevent the jacket from coming off over the child's head.
- Selecting a fit for children between 30 and 50 pounds. While some children weighing between 30 and 50 pounds may like the freedom of movement that a Type III life jacket provides, only children that can swim and are comfortable in the water should use a Type III. Most children in this weight range should wear a Type I or Type II life jacket.
- Comfort and appearance. This is especially important for teens, who are less likely to wear a life jacket.

Remember: life jackets only work when they are worn, and they do not take the place of adult supervision!

PROPER USE OF A LIFE JACKET

Here are some pointers for keeping your child safe:

- Every spring, check the life jacket for fit as well as wear and tear. Throw it away if you find air leakage, mildew, rot or rust. Cut up discarded life jackets so someone else doesn't try to use them.
- If a child panics in the water and thrashes about, they may turn onto his face, even though a life jacket with a collar is designed to keep them on their back with face out of the water. Have your child practice wearing a life jacket in the water - this will help prevent panic and rolling over.
- Never cut or alter a life jacket in any way. It will no longer be Coast Guard approved since it may lose its effectiveness.
- Wear your own life jacket to set an example for your child, and to enable you to help your child if an emergency occurs.
- Never use toys like plastic rings, arm floaties or water wings in place of a life jacket.
- Don't try wrapping a life jacket around a car seat for your baby. Much of the time, a car seat expelled from a boat in a crash or capsizing accident will flip upside down, holding your baby's face under water.
- Some infants are too small for any life jacket, even though the label may say 0-30 lbs. In general, babies

under 6 months or 16 pounds are too small for a life jacket to be effective due to the extreme size of their head in relationship to their body mass. If your infant is newborn, please consider waiting until the baby is a little older before taking them boating.

ADULT LIFE JACKETS

More information about life jackets can be found in the Minnesota DNR Boating Guide

EXEMPTIONS FROM WEARING

The following are exemptions to the law:

- When in an enclosed cabin or below the top deck on a watercraft.
- When on an anchored boat that is a platform for swimming or diving.
- When aboard a charter (passenger) craft with a licensed captain.
- Interaction with existing federal regulations
- Interaction with existing federal regulation requiring children less than 13 to wear life jackets:

"Federal regulation automatically adopts state law as the standard under Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 33 175.25"



4th of July Fun!

Photo submitted by Lana Ouren



Pictures of Anglers on a Beautiful Evening.

Photo submitted by Ken Wentz

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Beautiful Sunset Over Otter Tail Lake
Photo submitted by Deb

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