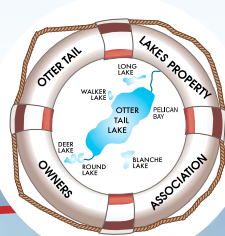


# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

July 2023  
Vol. 53, No. 3



## BLANCHE LAKE BOAT PARADE

It was overcast, but the lake was calm, and while the boat participation was down because of the weather, many were good sports and had a great time.

Photos Submitted By: Ken Wentz



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# Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

**Volume 53, No. 4 | July 2023 | Battle Lake, MN 56515**

## OTTER TAIL LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (OTLPOA) MISSION STATEMENT

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

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## president's corner

Roger Anderson | Ottertail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) President



### Hello OTLPOA members!

July is here. Hoping that all of you enjoyed your friends and family over the Fourth of July as we celebrated America's birthday! Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association had a very busy and productive month of June.

I was pleased to attend the Otter-tail County COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) meeting in June. It was a very informative meeting with many lake associations represented. One common theme was the dreaded swimmers itch that many lakes are facing. It seems that many of our area lakes are experiencing this dilemma. Please visit <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/swimming/swimmersitch.html> for more information.

We also attended the "Tail of the Otter" meeting at Thumper Pond in June. Facilitated by the MN DNR, this meeting included discussion of the history of the Ottertail River. There was also discussion of the challenges of weeds and low and stagnant water. Future meetings are planned to discuss these challenges. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27 at 6:30 at Thumper Pond. If you are

interested in attending future meetings, please contact Thumper Pond for the meeting schedule.

The OTLPOA Annual Meeting was a great success with over 100 people in attendance. Steve Nelson, president of the Glendalough State Park advisory board, presented a great overview of what's happening at Glendalough and the plans for upcoming projects. Glendalough State Park is an awesome place to bring family and friends and offers cart-in tent camping and yurts, hiking, biking, wildlife observation, heritage fishing, canoeing and a beautiful sandy swimming beach. Jay Anderson and Sara Govig also presented information about the International Dark-Sky Association. Dark Sky works to protect the night skies for present and future generations. Check out their website at [darksky.org](https://darksky.org).

Over the past several months OTLPOA has accepted several board member resignations and is excited to announce three new directors. We welcome Beth Madsen, Julie Swanson and Duane Hanson who will all bring their individual strengths and new ideas to our board. We are looking to fill the position of director from Walker Lake. If you are interested in becoming a Walker Lake Director, please contact me at 651-301-3616 or contact any of our board members.

July is the busiest month on our area lakes with a lot of pontoon, boat, and jet ski traffic. Remember to be safe as you enjoy summer recreation on the lake. And, as always, be good stewards of one of Minnesota's best assets – the lakes!



# MARK YOUR OTLPOA MEETING

2023  
Board  
Meeting  
Dates

July 27<sup>th</sup> | Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> | Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> | Oct 26<sup>th</sup>

OTTERTAIL CITY COMMUNITY CENTER Meeting at 6:30pm

## 2023 Calendar of Events

July 7	Lund Mania Fishing Tournament 8am-5pm
July 7-8	Pelican Fest
July 7-9	Henning Festival
July 8-9	Phelps Mill Arts Festival
July 14	Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County (Perham)
July 13	Shop Move'n Groove (Downtown Fergus Falls)
July 15	Ottertail Annual Auction
July 15	Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
July 19-22	West Ottertail County Fair (Fergus Falls)
July 20-23	East Ottertail County Fair (Perham)
July 21-23	Wenonga days
July 27	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug. 3-5	WE Fest (Detroit Lakes)
Aug. 4-6	Parkers Prairie Falls Festival and Bull Ride
Aug. 5-6	Perham Crazy Days
Aug. 11-13	Vergas Loony Days
Aug. 11	Rod and Gun Club Demo Derby (Ottertail City)
Aug. 12	Otter Fest (Ottertail City)
Aug. 24	OTLPOA Board Meeting
Aug. 25-26	Barnsville Potato Days
Sept. 28	OTLPOA Board Meeting

**EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

To submit an event, please contact us at: [results@themidweek.com](mailto:results@themidweek.com)



**Water testing in June**

Photos Submitted By: Debbie Ness

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[www.otlpoa.com](http://www.otlpoa.com)



Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc.

Serving Otter Tail Lake, Long Lake, Walker Lake, Blanche Lake, Deer Lake, Round Lake, Pelican Bay and northern Otter Tail River

*Now accepting online payments for:*

- Annual Membership • Worm Spraying
- Foundation Donations



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Be A Good Steward.  
Clean. Drain. Dry.

[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

HELP US GROW OUR WALLEYE  
POPULATION BY ONLY KEEPING  
14"-19" WALLEYES.

PLEASE RELEASE SMALLER/LARGER FISH.

ALSO, LIMIT YOUR BAG TO  
4 FISH RATHER THAN 6 FISH



Thank You  
OTTER TAIL LAKES  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Water Testing Clarity Readings

Dear Lake 12.5 feet

Round Lake 11 feet

Blanche Lake 15 feet

Long Lake 3-1/2 feet

Ottertail 22 and 18 feet

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[www.evertslumber.com](https://www.evertslumber.com)  
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M-F 7:30am - 5pm & Sat. 7:30am - 12pm

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your fun in Lakes Country!

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Towable's • Inflatables  
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10am to 10pm**



27896 MN-78,  
Battle Lake, MN 56515  
Former location of Elmer's Texas BBQ

**218-862-7900**

Find us at: [bigfishkayaks.com](http://bigfishkayaks.com)  
<https://bigfishkayaks.com/home>

"Selling Lake Property in Otter Tail County Since 1995!"



**Sue Mohagen  
Broker**

**Mohagen Real Estate**

[www.mohagenrealestate.com](http://www.mohagenrealestate.com)



Office: 218-998-4400  
Cell: 218-731-7376





# OTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING



**From left to right front, Julie Swanson, Deb Ness, Becky Kemling. Middle row left, Roger Anderson, Jerame Tidsdale, Tom Kuder, Eric Gerken, Fred Rezik. Back row left Pat Hunke, Mark Long, Steve Mouritsen, Ken Wentz. Not pictured Beth Madsen and Duane Hanson**



**Steve Nelson, Chairman of Glendalough State Park Board, was the main speaker. Very informative on the Rearing Pond and new improvements at the park...**

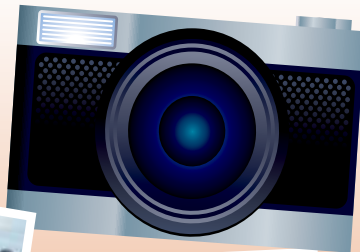


**Pat, hunke is giving a check for \$500 as a donation to Glendalough state park. Steve Nelson the chair person is receiving the check**



*Photos Submitted By: Ken Wentz*



**BALMORAL****GOLF COURSE***Voted the  
Areas Favorite  
Golf Course**Located SE side of Otter Tail Lake***218-367-2055 or 218-864-5414****18 Hole Championship Golf Course****Search & Select Your Tee Time at****[www.golfbalmoral.com](http://www.golfbalmoral.com)****Share Your  
Memories!****Submit your photos to Lakeshore News!**Email [OFFICE@THEMIDWEEK.COM](mailto:OFFICE@THEMIDWEEK.COM)

with a brief description.

**306 N. Tower Rd.,  
Fergus Falls****Mon.-Fri. 8am-7pm  
Sat. 8am-5pm****218-998-3373**[www.premiermeatsandseafood.com](http://www.premiermeatsandseafood.com)**Get Ready For  
Summer Grilling!****Burgers • Brats • Fresh Seafood  
Meat & Cheese Trays • Ham  
Deli Salads • Fresh Buns****(218) 446-0794 • Food Truck****Check out our schedule on our website. <https://www.bossybabesbbq.com>****Cooking the Areas Most Authentic Wood Fired BBQ.****"Serving Sweet Racks & Smokin' Butts"****WHAT DOES A  
MEMBERSHIP  
INCLUDE?**

Five issues of Lakeshore News

Lakeshore directory that is  
published every two yearsContinental breakfast at the  
Annual MeetingsRepresentation at Minnesota  
Lakes & Rivers -&- 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.****2023 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 \$35.00	
• Foundation \$10.00	
• Worm Payment \$30.00	
<i>Includes \$10 donation to OTLPOA Foundation</i>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

**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](http://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?



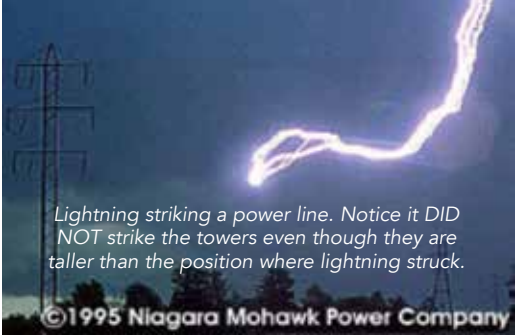
# LIGHTNING SAFETY

Source: <https://www.noaa.gov>

Lightning is one of the MOST UNDERRATED weather hazards. It makes every single thunderstorm a potential killer, whether the storm produces one single bolt or one thousand bolts.

Each year in the United States, lightning kills 20-30 people on average and injures 100s more. Tornadoes, hail, and wind gusts get the most attention, but only lightning can strike outside the storm itself. It is the first thunderstorm hazard to arrive and the last to leave.

Because lightning is one of the most capricious and unpredictable characteristics of a thunderstorm, no one can guarantee an individual or group absolute protection from it. However, knowing and following proven lightning safety guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of injury or death. Remember, YOU are ultimately responsible for your personal safety and should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning.



## Where to Go

The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure with plumbing and electrical wiring. These include shopping centers, schools, office buildings, and private residences.

If lightning strikes the building, the plumbing and wiring will conduct the electricity more efficiently than a human body. If no buildings are available, then an enclosed metal vehicle such as an automobile, van, or school bus makes a decent alternative.

## Where NOT to Go

Not all types of buildings or vehicles are safe during thunderstorms. Buildings which are NOT SAFE (even if they are “grounded”) have exposed openings. These include beach shacks, metal sheds, picnic shelters/pavilions, carports, and baseball dugouts. Porches are dangerous as well.

Convertible vehicles offer no safety from lightning, even if the top is “up”. Other vehicles which are NOT SAFE during lightning storms are those which have open cabs, such as golf carts, tractors, and construction equipment.

## Where to Go

Once inside a sturdy building, stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing fixtures. As an added safety measure, stay in an interior room.

If you are inside a vehicle, roll the windows up and avoid contact with any conducting paths leading to the outside of the vehicle (e.g. radios, CB’s, ignition, etc.).

## Where NOT to Go

Lightning can travel great distances through power lines, especially in rural areas. Do not use electrical appliances, ESPECIALLY corded telephones, unless it is an emergency (cell phones are safe to use, as are laptops that are not plugged in).

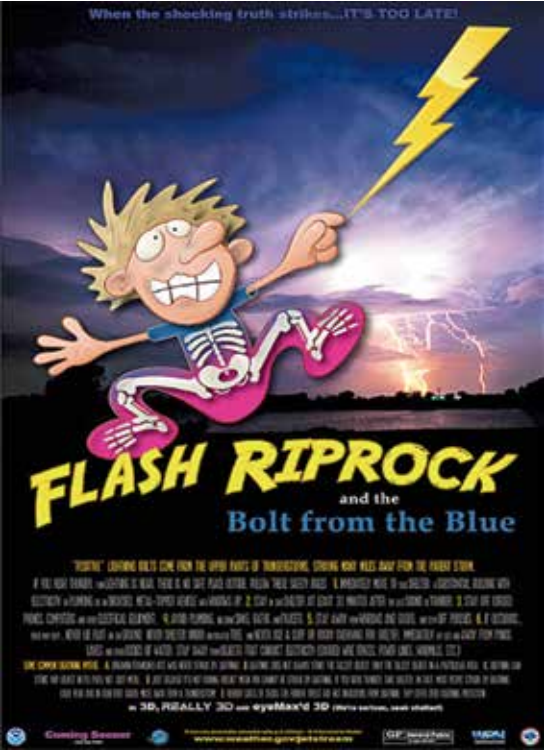
Additionally, do not take a shower or bath as both water and metal are good conductors of electricity.



## Fast Facts

If you see lightning, count the number of seconds until you hear thunder. Divide the number of seconds by five to get the distance in miles (divide by 3 for kilometers) to the lightning strike or bolt.

For example, if you see lightning and it takes 15 seconds before you hear the thunder, then the lightning is 3 miles (5 km) away from you (15 divided by 5).



The “credits” section of the poster reads..

“Positive” lightning bolts come from the upper parts of thunderstorms, striking up to several miles away. If you hear thunder, then lightning is near. There is NO SAFE PLACE OUTSIDE. Follow these safety rules:

1. Immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.
2. Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder.
3. Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment.
4. Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.
5. Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
6. If outdoors...these may help...never lie flat on the ground, never shelter under an isolated tree, and never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter. Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water. Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

### Some common lightning myths.

1. Benjamin Franklin’s kite was NEVER struck by lightning!
2. Lightning does not always strike the tallest object, only the tallest object in a particular area.
3. Lightning can strike ANY object in its path, not just metal.
4. Just because it’s not raining doesn’t mean you cannot be struck by lightning...if you hear thunder, take shelter. In fact, most people struck by lightning each year are in rain free areas miles away from a thunderstorm.
5. Rubber soles of shoes (or rubber tires) are not insulators from lightning. They offer zero lightning protection.

## Lightning Safety Plan

A lightning safety plan should be an integral part of the planning process for any outdoor event. Do not wait for storm clouds to develop before considering what to do should lightning threaten! An effective plan begins LONG before any lightning threat is realized. You can’t control the weather, so you have to work around it!

Detailed weather forecasts are accurate only out to seven days at best, but outdoor events are often planned many months in advance. Because of this limitation, every outdoor event coordinator should consider the possibility of lightning, especially if the event is scheduled during the late spring to early autumn months.

The key to an effective lightning safety action plan lies in your answers to the following questions:

1. Where is the safest lightning shelter?
2. How far am I (or the group I am responsible for) from that location?
3. How long will it take me (or my group) to get there?

Knowing the answers to these questions BEFORE thunderstorms threaten will greatly reduce your chances of being struck by lightning!

## When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

Studies have shown that most people struck by lightning are struck not at the height of a thunderstorm but before and after the storm has peaked. Most people are unaware of how far lightning can strike from its parent thunderstorm. *Lightning can strike more than 10 miles away from the location of rainfall.*

Therefore, if you can hear thunder, that IS YOUR WARNING that you are within striking distance. Seek safe shelter immediately. Remember these lightning safety rules: **When thunder roars, go indoors and stay there until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.** For those who are hearing impaired, remember **See a Flash, Dash Inside.** DO NOT wait for the rain to start before seeking shelter, and do not leave the shelter just because the rain has ended.

With common sense, you can greatly increase your safety and the safety of those around you. At the first clap of thunder, go to a large building or fully enclosed vehicle and wait 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder before you go back outside.

## Safety Guidelines For YOU!

To minimize your personal risk of being struck by lightning when outside, Plan Ahead! Make sure you get the latest weather forecast at [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) before going out, and always know where safe shelter is if thunderstorms threaten.

Your behavior when thunderstorms are in the area determines your personal risk of being struck by lightning. The best way for you to protect yourself from lightning is to avoid the threat. You simply don’t want to be caught outside in a storm.

Utilize tools like smartphones with weather apps and NWS local radar to track the weather around you, especially if you will be away from sturdy shelter (such as while boating, camping, etc.). Portable NOAA Weather Radios and AM/FM Radio can also be utilized. If the forecast changes on [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) or you notice storms beginning to develop around you, move towards shelter immediately; do not wait for the rain to begin or for the first instance of thunder. If the sky looks threatening or if you hear thunder, get inside a safe place immediately.

## For Small Groups

Plan Ahead! Make sure you and someone else in the group gets the weather forecast before going out, and make your lightning safety action plan known to all members in the group.

Designate one of the members to monitor the weather via their smartphone using [weather.gov](http://weather.gov), NWS Doppler radar, and other mobile weather apps so you will always have the latest forecast. Portable NOAA Weather Radios and AM/FM Radio can also be utilized. If thunderstorms are expected and you go ahead with your planned outdoor activity, have a lightning safety plan in place. Upon arriving on-site, determine how far away your shelter is in case lightning threatens. Remember to account for the time it will take to get to your safe location.

If you hear thunder, even a distant rumble, immediately move all to a safe place. Do not wait. You are in danger of being struck by lightning. Do not resume outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the last thunderclap.

## For Large Groups

fast moving lightning storms  
Plan Ahead! Make sure the event organizers responsible for safety get a good weather forecast before the event begins, and make your lightning safety action plan known and used by all event organizers. Safety organizers should monitor the weather via their smartphones utilizing local NWS radar, [weather.gov](http://weather.gov) forecasts, and other mobile weather apps. Portable NOAA Weather Radios and AM/FM Radio can also be utilized.



Since it may take considerable time to evacuate people to a safe location, personal observation of the lightning threat may not be adequate, especially for fast moving lightning storms. Hand held or portable lightning detectors should be made available so that lightning can be observed at significant distances from the event site. Event organizers should know how long it will take to get people to safe shelter.

With large groups of people, safe locations must be identified beforehand, along with a means to route people to these locations. Event organizers might consider placing lightning safety tips on programs, score cards, etc. Lightning safety placards set up in strategic locations can be an effective means of raising awareness and communicating the lightning threat to the attending audience.

Learn more at the National Weather Service Lightning Safety website.

# Swimming Lessons Taught by YMCA Instructors

Swimming lessons will meet five times for 45 minutes each time. (Preschool lessons are 30 minutes each.) Instructors will not have much time between lessons, so swimmers are asked to be ready to begin their lesson immediately at their start time. Parents are encouraged to stay and watch lessons. If parents leave the swimming area during lessons, they are asked to be back promptly at the end of the lesson. Instructors will not be able to supervise swimmers in the water who are not in a lesson. Swimming lessons meet regardless of weather. If it is unsafe to swim due to weather, safety skills will be taught in the shelter located near each beach.

**Cost:** \$60 Levels 1-6 (5 lessons of 45 minutes). **Cost:** \$50 Preschool (5 lessons of 30 minutes).

**Locations:** Ottertail Lake at Amor Park Beach and West Battle Lake across from Lions Park in Battle Lake Advance registrations only. No registrations at the beach. \*Spots held only upon payment\*

**Preschool**

(approximate ages 2 1/2 to 5 years): Learn water adjustment skills, front and back float. Learn to move in the water on front and back. Learn to be comfortable in the water. Lessons meet Monday through Friday, five lessons of 30 minutes each. Limited enrollment; register early.

**Level 1:**

Introduction to Water Skills (approximate ages 5-7): This level is ideal for the child who has not had previous swim instruction or is unable or uncomfortable with putting their entire face in the water. The purpose of this level is for students to become more comfortable in the water. Students will become proficient in skills such as entering and exiting the water safely, submerging entire face, using a life jacket, and beginning front and back float.

**Level 2:**

Fundamental Aquatic Skills (approximate ages 7 & 8): This level is ideal for the child who is able to put their face in the water but is unable to independently float on their front and back. The purpose of this level is for students to begin to develop fundamental water skills. In this level, students will learn to swim unaided 15 feet on either their front or back as well as entering the water by jumping or stepping from the side, treading water, roll over from back to front and front to back.

**Level 3:**

Stroke Development (approximate ages 8 & 9): In this level, students will continue to build on the fundamentals learned in the previous levels. The skills mastered in this level include rotary breathing, front and back crawl, butterfly kick and body motion, standing or kneeling dive, survival float, tread water for 30 seconds, as well as emergency situation Check Call Care.

**Level 4:**

Stroke Improvement (approximate ages 9 & 10): In this level, students develop confidence in the skills learned in previous levels as well as improve other aquatic skills. The skills mastered in this level include swimming 25 yards of front and back crawl as well as 15 yards of butterfly, breaststroke, and elementary backstroke. In addition to these skills, water safety will also be implemented through the learning of a throwing assist, safe diving rules, and how to care for a choking victim.

**Level 5:**

Stroke Refinement (approximate ages 9-12): In this level, students will further coordinate and refine skills they have learned in past levels. Students will master the following skills: front and back crawl, side stroke, breaststroke, front flip turn, and elementary backstroke.

**Level 6:**

Swimming and Skill Proficiency (approximate ages 11-13): In this level, students will focus on endurance and stroke technique. The purpose of this level is for students to refine strokes and be able to swim with ease, efficiency, power and effectiveness over great distances. Some skills for lifeguarding and fitness will be taught.

Red Cross Swimming Lessons

Fergus Falls Area Family YMCA Staff

Please check one in the column below and please circle the level.

July 10-14: Ottertail Lake, Amor Park

\_\_\_3:15-4:00pm Level 1 2 3

\_\_\_4:05-4:50pm Level 1 4/5

\_\_\_4:05-4:35pm Level Preschool

July 17-21: Ottertail Lake, Amor Park

\_\_\_3:15-4:00pm Level 2 3

\_\_\_3:15-3:45pm Level Preschool

\_\_\_4:05-4:50pm Level 1 4 5/6

July 24-28 West Battle Lake

\_\_\_3:15-4:00pm Level 1 2 3

\_\_\_4:05-4:50pm Level 2 3

\_\_\_4:05-4:35pm Level Preschool

July 31-Aug 4 West Battle Lake

\_\_\_1:00-1:45pm Level 1 2 3

\_\_\_1:50-2:35pm Level 2 4 5/6

\_\_\_2:50-3:35pm Level 1 2

\_\_\_2:50-3:20pm Level Preschool

\_\_\_3:40-4:25pm Level 1 2 3

Questions regarding location, registration, and/or if you need to know which level your child needs this year, please call Tanya at 218-862-4603. Questions about specific swimming skills please contact Emily at 218-739-4489 ext. 204.

Registration Fee: \$60.00  
(Preschool lessons are \$50.00)

**NO REGISTRATIONS AT THE BEACH.**  
**PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE.**  
**SPOTS HELD ONLY UPON PAYMENT.**

\*Ottertail Lake lessons are at Amor Park  
\*West Battle Lake lessons are across from Lions Park in Battle Lake



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

work \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

work \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach payment. Checks can be made payable to Battle Lake Community Education and mailed to Battle Lake Community Education, 402 W. Summit, Battle Lake, MN 56515.**

YMCA staff and Battle Lake Public School will take every step possible to provide adequate supervision. However, as with any physical activity, there is a certain amount of risk of injury. The participating individual, parent, or guardian agrees not to hold the YMCA, Battle Lake School, employees, contractors, and volunteers responsible for claims resulting from training, attendance in, or participation in swimming lessons.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For Office Use Only

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Online \_\_\_\_\_ Spreadsheet \_\_\_\_\_



# Service Directory

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MN Lic. #BC637708

## Maplewood State Park



### PARK HIGHLIGHTS

- Camping
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Trails

### HORSE CAMPING:

Campsites in the equestrian campgrounds can be reserved by phone or online. Some sites are able to accommodate additional campers (up to three). Please contact the park for approval. To reserve by phone, call 866-85PARKS.

### FIREWOOD RESTRICTIONS INFORMATION:

Minnesota has enacted legislation that restricts firewood being brought to or used on DNR lands. Complete information and lists of vendors and locations where approved firewood is available are posted on the DNR Web site.

### BIRDERS:

Bird Checklist available on our website for Maplewood State Park.



- The maple forest turns brilliant shades of orange, gold, and red in the fall.
- Eight major lakes and many ponds offer water lovers places to swim, fish, boat, and simply relax.
- Lake Lida has a sandy beach and large picnic areas for visitors.
- Drive along the scenic route to observe the wildlife: the park is host to 150 bird species and 50 species of mammals.
- The extensive trail system attracts hikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.
- The only entrance to the park is located off highway 108 east of Pelican Rapids.

### Lodging

- Camper Cabins, 5 cabins. Three year-round cabins with electricity; one of these is wheelchair accessible. Also one seasonal cabin with electricity and one seasonal cabin without electricity. The accessible cabin sleeps 5; the other four cabins sleep 6. Pets not allowed. More information on camper cabins.

### Recreation Facilities

- Picnic Area with picnic shelter
- Picnic Shelter Open Shelter Available for rent.
- Golf Course 3 within 10 miles

### Camping

- Drive-in Sites, 71 sites
- Electric Sites, 32 sites
- RV Length Limit 50' Length is measured from front of tow vehicle to rear of vehicle being towed.
- Backpack Sites, 3 sites
- Horse Camp, 24 sites, 200 Maximum Capacity. For reservations, contact the state park reservation service by phone or online. Some sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Group Camp, 1 Site - Accommodates up to 30 people. Site located in a remote, semi-wooded area between Bass and Beers Lakes. Vault toilets available. Water is approximately ½ mile away. Drive-in site that will accommodate tents, small trailers, or campers.

**When staff are present, the Ranger Station will be open intermittently open for window service. No official office hours currently available. Use the self-registration kiosk at the park office. Leave a message if you get our voicemail, and we'll call you back.**

39721 Park Entrance Rd., Pelican Rapids, MN 56572  
E-mail: maplewood.statepark@state.mn.us  
218-863-8383 • www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\_parks/maplewood  
The park entrance is located 7 mi. east of Pelican Rapids on State Hwy 108.

**CALL Before You Dig**

**800-252-1166**  
**www.gopherstateonecall.org**







# Minnesota Personal Watercraft Laws



a summary of Minnesota’s personal watercraft laws as of January 1, 2014

## EQUIPMENT

There are some other pieces of gear that can make your outing more comfortable such as:

- **Eye protection.** Sunglasses with a safety strap or goggles can help protect your eyes from wind, spray and insects.
- **Footwear.** Soft soled shoes or water socks will help protect your feet from sharp rocks, ease boarding and help you lean to steer.
- **Wetsuit.** A wetsuit is much more effective than thin bathing suit material at protecting you from cold water, as well as what safety experts call “severe lower body orifice trauma” that results from a seat-first water landing at 40 mph.
- **High impact life jackets** are used for high speed activities. These USCG approved life jackets are designed to stay intact and attached to your body in high impacts.

## USE SOUND JUDGMENT

**Keep the neighborhood peace and quiet in mind.** Try not to ride for long periods in a small area. Instead, do your riding out in the lake and away from shore and other boaters.

**Talk to your neighbors.** See if your riding bothers them. Sometimes, just taking them out for a short ride will help them understand the fun of personal watercraft riding.

**Don’t modify your machine or do anything to make it louder.** It’s illegal and discourteous to others around the lake.

**Steer clear of illegal drugs and alcohol.** Intoxicated operation of a watercraft is not only illegal, it’s also highly dangerous.

## DON’T MEET BY ACCIDENT

Many boaters in Minnesota enjoy the exciting sport of riding personal watercraft (PWC). These speedy little craft make up over four percent of registered boats in the state.

Although the number of personal watercraft accidents has declined, inexperienced riders still seem to account for many mishaps. They may not be aware of the unique handling characteristics of PWC or the special laws that apply to these craft.

Collisions are the most common kind of personal watercraft accident. PWCs collide with docks, swimming rafts and other watercraft. How do you avoid a collision on your personal watercraft?

**Keep your throttle depressed while turning.** Many PWC operators heading towards a hazard panic and release the throttle, or pull the cutoff lanyard, causing the engine to stop. **HUGE MISTAKE!** When the engine stops, the water jet that propels and steers the craft stops and the craft continues in the same direction it was moving at the time the power was cut, regardless of any attempts to steer by the operator. Some recent-model PWCs are equipped with a device that assists steering in an off-throttle situation. However, even if your craft has this feature, keep the throttle depressed when you turn... even in an emergency.

**Don’t ride too close to other boats - especially other personal watercraft.**

**Make gradual turns.** Turning too sharply can cause you to spin out and stop, giving any boat following you ample time to run you down!

**Look before turning.** If someone is in the process of passing you, you could turn right into them.



## LAWS

Every personal watercraft operator has the legal responsibility to know the law, so please take a few minutes to review the following regulations.

### WHAT IS A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT?

A personal watercraft (sometimes called PWC or by brand names such as Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Sea Doo, etc.) is defined by law as motorboat powered by an inboard motor power ing a jet pump or by an outboard or propeller driven motor and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the craft, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside a motorboat.

Personal watercraft are considered motorboats under the law so they must follow all the regulations that govern other motorboats.

### In addition, personal watercraft. . .

- Are required to have a rules decal (provided at no charge by the DNR) in full view of the operator.
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket.
- Are required to carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of: shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft or non-motorized watercraft.

- While towing a person on water skis or other device, must have an additional person on board to act as observer. Wide-angle rearview mirrors may be substituted for an observer but they must be factory-installed or specified by the PWC manufacturer.

- Cutoff lanyards must be properly used and attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator.

- May only operate between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset (see sunset schedule).

### You may not . . .

- Chase or harass wildlife.
- Operate while facing backward.
- Operate in a way that endangers life, limb or property.
- Operate a personal watercraft if the spring-loaded throttle mechanism has been removed or tampered with so it interferes with the return-to-idle system.
- Weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other boat.
- Travel through emergent or floating vegetation at greater than a slow-no wake speed.

### AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Contact the MN DNR at the address at the end of this pamphlet for home-study materials for a youth watercraft operator’s permit.

It is unlawful for a PWC owner to permit its operation in violation of the age restrictions. (See chart on next column.)

<b>Less than 13 years old</b>	May not operate, even with an adult on board.
<b>13 years old</b>	<b>Must either have:</b> someone at least 21 on board, <b>or</b> a watercraft operator’s permit and be in continuous visual observation by someone at least 21.
<b>14-17 years old</b>	<b>Must either have:</b> a watercraft operator’s permit, <b>or</b> someone at least 21 on board.

## SALES & RENTAL

Personal watercraft dealers are required to distribute a summary of the laws governing PWC operation. Upon request by a purchaser, they must also provide instruction regarding the laws and safe operation of the craft.

People who provide PWCs for rent must also provide a summary of the personal watercraft laws and instruction for the safe operation of the craft.

PWC dealers and rental operations are required to keep a signature record of people who buy or rent PWCs, acknowledging they have been provided a copy of the PWC laws and rules. People under the age of 18 who rent PWCs must show their watercraft operator’s permit before renting a PWC and the rental agency must record this information on the signature record. Rental operators must also supply a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket to everyone who rents a PWC as well as all other required safety equipment (fire extinguisher, etc.) at no additional charge.

### Sunset Schedule Longitude of Minneapolis

(Add 1 minute for each 12 miles west of Minneapolis and subtract 1 minute for each 12 miles east.)

MONTH	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.
DAY	Set PM	Set PM	Set PM	Set PM	Set PM
1	8:19	8:53	9:03	8:39	7:50
2	8:20	8:53	9:03	8:38	7:48
3	8:21	8:54	9:03	8:37	7:46
4	8:22	8:55	9:02	8:36	7:45
5	8:24	8:56	9:02	8:34	7:43
6	8:25	8:56	9:02	8:33	7:41
7	8:26	8:57	9:01	8:31	7:39
8	8:27	8:58	9:01	8:30	7:37
9	8:28	8:58	9:00	8:28	7:35
10	8:30	8:59	9:00	8:27	7:33
11	8:31	9:00	8:59	8:25	7:31
12	8:32	9:00	8:59	8:24	7:30
13	8:33	9:01	8:58	8:22	7:28
14	8:34	9:01	8:57	8:21	7:26
15	8:35	9:01	8:57	8:19	7:24
16	8:37	9:02	8:56	8:18	7:22
17	8:38	9:02	8:55	8:16	7:20
18	8:39	9:02	8:54	8:14	7:18
19	8:40	9:03	8:54	8:13	7:16
20	8:41	9:03	8:53	8:11	7:14
21	8:42	9:03	8:52	8:09	7:12
22	8:43	9:03	8:51	8:08	7:10
23	8:44	9:04	8:50	8:06	7:09
24	8:45	9:04	8:49	8:04	7:07
25	8:46	9:04	8:48	8:03	7:05
26	8:47	9:04	8:47	8:01	7:03
27	8:48	9:04	8:45	7:59	7:01
28	8:49	9:04	8:44	7:57	6:59
29	8:50	9:04	8:43	7:55	6:57
30	8:51	9:03	8:42	7:54	6:55
31	8:52		8:41	7:52	

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory, Astronomical Applications Department

To determine the exact sunrise and sunset time for your location log on to [usno.navy.mil](http://usno.navy.mil) and click on Astronomy.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Boat and Water Safety Section  
500 Lafayette Rd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155-4039

(651) 259-5400 toll free 1-888-646-6367  
TTY (651) 296-5484 TTY toll free 1-800-657-3929  
[boatandwater.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:boatandwater.dnr@state.mn.us)  
[mndnr.gov/boatingsafety](http://mndnr.gov/boatingsafety)  
facebook.com/MnDNRBoatandWaterSafety

front cover illustration by Peter Lane

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, public assistance status, age, sexual orientation, disability or activity on behalf of a local human rights commission. Discrimination inquiries should be sent to the Affirmative Action Officer at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155-4049 or the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 2nd St. S.W., Washington, DC 20593-0001.

“MN PWC Laws” © 2014 State of Minnesota



# Identifying, Treating and Preventing Swimmer's Itch

Source: <https://www.poison.org/>



## The Bottom Line

Swimmer's itch occurs when your body has an allergic reaction to parasite larvae found in swimming water. While the rash maybe uncomfortable and is often very itchy, it usually resolves with simple home treatment.



## What is swimmers' itch?

Swimmer's itch is a water-borne parasitic disease, and the normal life cycle of the disease-causing parasite involves different animals. Several species of birds (e.g., geese, ducks, gulls) and mammals (e.g., beavers, raccoons) that live near water can be infected with parasites. The adult parasites produce eggs, which are passed in the feces of these animals. If the parasite eggs are released into or near water, they can hatch into larvae (immature forms), which can then infect fresh-water snails. The snails release a different larval form of the parasite called cercariae. The cercariae can be encountered by swimmers, particularly in shallow and marshy areas, although they are too small to see. The cercariae can painlessly burrow into human skin, but they are not able to survive there. They die, and their remains in human skin can cause the characteristic itchy rash (cercarial dermatitis).

## What are the symptoms of swimmers' itch?

Within a few minutes to a couple of days after swimming in contaminated water, a rash can develop. The rash can appear similar to pimples, chickenpox, or blisters and is often red, itchy, or burning in nature. The rash typically involves areas of the body that were exposed to contaminated water, with areas of skin covered by bathing suits usually being spared. This helps to differentiate swimmer's itch from saltwater seabathers' eruption, which primarily affects the skin under swimsuits. While the swimmers' itch rash is uncomfortable, it is generally self-limited and not dangerous. Because it is an allergic reaction and not a true infection, swimmer's itch is not contagious. Severe symptoms, including fevers, diarrhea, and nausea, occur rarely.

## How do you treat swimmers' itch?

Most cases of swimmer's itch can be easily treated at home. If you suspect swimmer's itch, you should take a shower if you have not already done so after getting out of the water. Drying your skin with a towel instead of air drying might help remove some of the cercariae from the skin. Cool compresses and soaking in Epsom salts or oatmeal baths can soothe the rash. Baking soda baths and pastes can be helpful as well. Topical steroids, such as hydrocortisone cream, and antihistamines, such as diphenhydramine (Benadryl®), can be used to treat itching. More severe cases can require treatment with prescription medications. Avoid excessive scratching of the itchy areas because this can lead to a skin infection. Most cases of swimmer's itch will resolve within 1 to 2 weeks with simple home treatment. If symptoms do not resolve or if the rash appears to be getting infected, seek medical attention.

For questions about swimmer's itch, get guidance from Poison Control. Help from Poison Control is available at [www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org) and by phone at 1-800-222-1222. Both options are free, confidential, and available 24 hours a day.

Maryann Amirshahi, PharmD, MD, MPH, PhD  
Medical Toxicologist



Photos Submitted By: Becky Kemling



## SEASONAL UPDATE

**Water:** Water is off in the campground for the season until May 12, 2023. Water is available year-round at the park office.

**Drinking Water:** Water is off in the campground for the season until May 12, 2023. Water is available year-round at the park office.

**Bathroom Facilities:** Trail center restrooms are open year-round! Modern restroom facilities in the campground are closed for season until May 12, 2023. Vault toilets in the park are open year-round. Facilities are wheelchair accessible.

**Showers:** Showers are closed for season until May 12, 2023. Showers are wheelchair accessible.

**DUMP STATION: NONE**

**CAMPGROUNDS:** Cart-in campground is open year-round. Camper Cabins and Yurts are open year-round, but just weekends between Nov. 1 and March 31. The group camp is closed until May 5, 2023. Canoe sites are closed for season until April 28, 2023.

**ELECTRIC SITES:** One RV electric site is available after October 3 by calling the park. All camper cabins have electricity.

## SPECIAL NOTES FOR RV CAMPERS:

There is no RV camping in park in summer. Private RV campground is nearby.

**Trail Notes:** The park has 11 miles of hiking trail, 5.5 miles of surfaced bike trail and 2.2 miles of mountain bike trails. In winter, park maintains 7 miles of groomed, easy to intermediate, level cross-country ski trails and 1-2 miles of snowshoe trails.

**Season Rentals:** Bicycle, rowboat, canoe, kayak, paddleboat, and stand up paddleboard rental is closed for season. Winter rentals (cross-country skis and snowshoes) are available when conditions allow.

**Naturalist Programs and Park Tours:** Check the park Events Calendar on the park web page for more information on programs.

**Buildings and Attractions:** Historic Lodge and Dining Hall are available to rent year round and can be reserved by calling the park. Discounted winter rates apply from November 1 to April 30. Molly Stark Picnic Shelter is closed for season.

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](http://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 1pm - 4pm**

**218-864-0110 • fax: 218-864-0587**

**email: [glendalough.statepark@state.mn.us](mailto:glendalough.statepark@state.mn.us)**

**25287 Whitetail Lane, Battle Lake, MN 56515**

**[www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/glendalough](http://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.*



# Recreating Safely Outdoors In Bear Country

Source: [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith\\_wildlife/bears/camping.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/livingwith_wildlife/bears/camping.html)



## Minnesota’s black bears

Seeing bears can be very enjoyable, and when you are in black bear country, there’s a good chance you’ll see bears even if you never go into the woods. Most people associate black bears with Minnesota’s forested north woods, but they can live anywhere in the state. Minnesota’s black bears are seldom aggressive and rarely injure people - they are naturally cautious animals that usually try to avoid human contact. The presence of a bear in the area is not a threat to your safety, but having a bear in camp can lead to problems. Do your part to keep your campsite clean! Bold campground bears are created by people’s bad habits.

The Minnesota DNR has partnered with BearWise® opens in a new browser tab to help educate people about bears, how to avoid unwanted encounters and what to do if you encounter a bear in the wild. The BearWise program was developed by black bear biologists to share ways to prevent conflicts, provide resources to resolve problems and encourage community initiatives to keep bears wild.



### BearWise tips:

#### Stay alert and stay together.



- You are more likely to encounter bears when moving quietly and traveling early and late in the day, when bears are most active. If you travel quickly or quietly, you can easily surprise bears. Pay attention to your surroundings and stay together. Walk, hike, jog or cycle with others when possible.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Stay alert. Music and phones are distracting, so leave earbuds at home.

- Make noise periodically so bears can avoid you - try clapping, or a quick shout.

#### Leave no trash or food scraps.



- Double-bag your food when hiking, and pack out all food and trash.
- Don’t burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill. Leaving wrappers or scraps - even “harmless” items like apple cores - teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.
- If you have caught fish, be sure to clean them away from your campsite. If a fish cleaning house is available, use it. Piles of fish guts and bait may attract bears.

- Bears may show curiosity to citronella-scented repellents, but insect repellents with DEET or picaridin do not attract bears. Go ahead and protect yourself from the bugs.

#### ALWAYS keep dogs leashed.



- Dogs and bears don’t mix. Letting dogs chase, lunge or bark at bears is asking for trouble - don’t force a bear to defend itself. Your domestic dog is no match for a bear.
- Keep your dogs leashed at all times or leave them at home.** (This will help keep your dog safe, but also helps you avoid a citation - remember that state park rules require all dogs to be leashed at all times!)

#### Camp safely.



- Bears have an exceptional sense of smell. Keep a clean campsite, and cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent or camping hammock. Store in approved bear-resistant containers, or out of sight in a locked vehicle, or suspended at least ten feet above the ground and ten feet from any part of the tree. Local regulations vary. Some bears will break into vehicles to get into coolers,

so if you are using your car for storage, be sure your items are not visible and the windows are completely closed and the vehicle is locked.

- Many state parks and recreation areas provide a bear-proof trash container somewhere in the campground. Make it a habit to dispose your trash there after each meal, and clean your dishes right away.
- If you are camping in a state forest campground or in the backcountry, set up your camp away from dense cover and natural food sources.

#### Know what to do if you see a black bear.



- If you see a bear before it notices you, don’t approach or corner it. Give the bear an escape route. Stand still, enjoy, then quietly move away. If you see a bear standing up, know that it is most likely trying to get a better look or smell, it is not preparing to attack.
- If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run. Running may trigger a chase response, and bears can run and climb faster than people.
- If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell “Hey Bear” until it leaves. Try to scare it away by making lots of noise, yelling or banging pots and pans together from a safe distance. Always stay with your group. If the bear keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively.

#### Carry bear spray and know how to use it.



- Bear spray is proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you.
- Bear spray doesn’t work like bug repellent, so never spray your tent, campsite or belongings.
- Learn more about bear spray at BearWise.org

#### Don’t feed the bears.



- Feeding bears or using food to encourage bears to approach you is dangerous. Don’t leave food, trash or pet food outdoors when no one is around. A few seconds is all it takes for a hungry bear to swipe it.
- Don’t throw scraps or leftovers out the car window or into the woods behind your campsite or cabin.

- If the trash container or dumpster is full, don’t pile trash outside - take it with you when you leave.

#### Bear viewing guidelines.



- If you want to see bears, early morning and early evening are good times for viewing and photography.
- Never approach bears or entice them to approach you!
- Enjoy bears from a safe distance away. Stay at least 50 yards or ten car lengths away.

- If you observing bears from inside a vehicle, stay in it. Even bears that seem comfortable around people are still wild animals.
- Don’t block the road to view bears. If permitted, pull over and take photos form the safety of your vehicle.

#### Driving in bear country.



- Stay alert! Stick to the speed limit and scan the roadsides. If a bear crosses the road, watch for cubs before you drive on. Be aware that wildlife collisions are not always covered by insurance, so for your sake and the bear’s, drive with caution.
- Be especially alert at dawn and dusk when bears are most active. Black bears are fast, and can be hard to see.

- If you hit a bear, don’t try to help it. Call 911 or report to authorities as soon as you can.

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 are unable to return a found item to the rightful owner, email photo or description to

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# Measuring Lake Levels

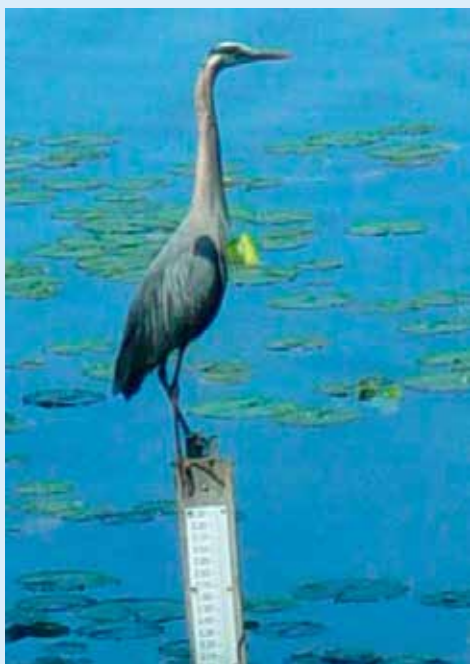


## When, Where, and How to Measure

If a lake is selected to be in the Lake Level Minnesota Monitoring Program, DNR Waters installs a gage in the lake. A permanent gage is installed on a structure such as a bridge pier or dam abutment, or a temporary gage is fastened to a steel fence post and driven into the lake bed at a location convenient for the volunteer observers. Temporary gages are checked or reset each spring. The elevation of each gage is determined annually so that water levels can be compared from year to year. Currently, DNR Waters maintains about 1,050 gages in Minnesota lakes.

A lake gage should be read once per week at approximately the same time and should be read within 12 hours to 24 hours of a substantive rainfall event. Gage readings taken after a rainfall event help show the interaction between the lake and its watershed.

DNR Waters provides training materials for gage-reading volunteers. The volunteers submit the lake gage reading and the date to DNR Waters by email, postcard, Internet, or fax. The volunteers submit their readings at periodic intervals, from every week to every 6 weeks.



## Why Monitor Lake Levels?

Fluctuations of lake levels are important to document, whether they result from floods, droughts, or just a normal water year. Lake levels are recorded regularly thanks to the efforts of volunteer observers. These volunteers join with DNR Waters' staff to create permanent and credible public lake level records.

Lakeshore properties are often adversely affected by lake level fluctuations such as flooding damage, drought-related access problems, and aesthetics. Knowing and understanding the history of lake levels can help shoreland owners and others who use the lake to accept and cope with the natural fluctuations of a lake.

The levels of all lakes fluctuate, primarily in response to changes in precipitation (rain and snow). Although lake level fluctuations in Minnesota are typically 1 foot to 2 feet per year, historical fluctuations exceeding 10 vertical feet have been recorded. Fluctuations can also result from human activities such as the construction or operation of a dam or from acts of nature such as beaver activity.



The elevation of each temporary lake gage is surveyed during spring.

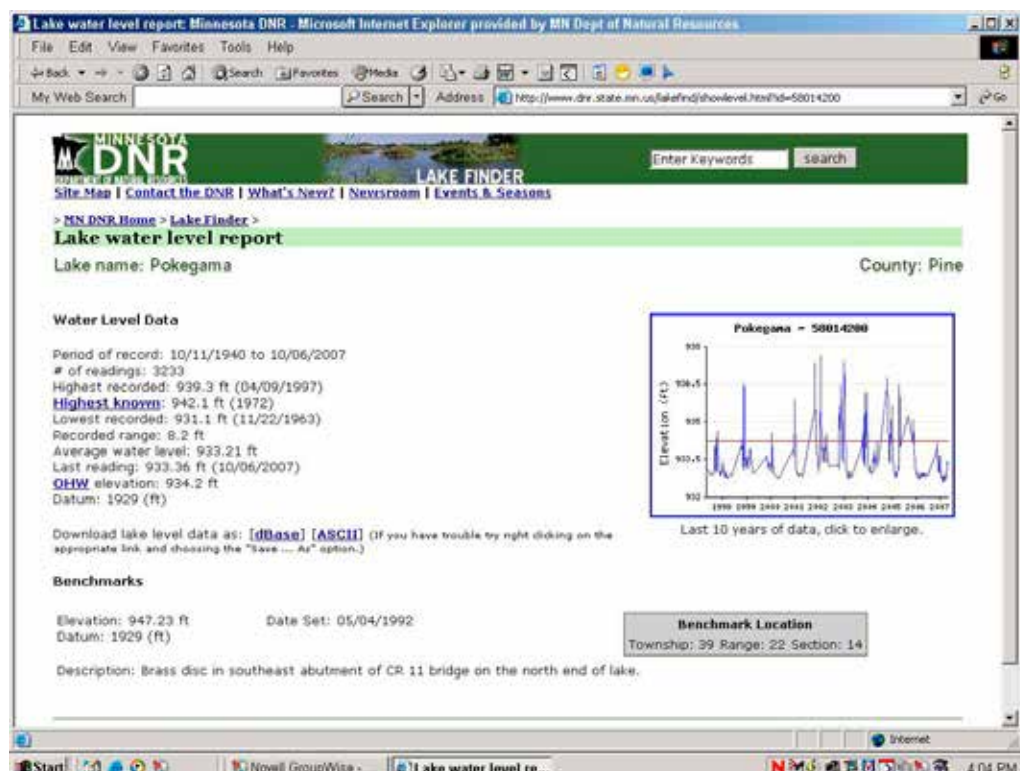
## Storage of Lake Data

Water level readings of monitored lakes are stored in the Lakes Database maintained by DNR Waters, from which they can be retrieved easily by staff. Volunteer observers receive a graph of the annual water levels of the lake. The public can access the data at the DNR website under Lake Finder: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>. A Lake Finder user can view and retrieve all reported lake levels by downloading lake level data in the center of the Lake Water Level Report screen. This site is updated frequently and includes a graph of the past 10 years of the recorded water levels.



DNR staff member installs a gage in a Polk County lake.

Historical lake level data are useful in developing computer simulations of lake fluctuations. The data are used to estimate flood levels, which are used by local officials to locate buildings or sewage treatment sites and to establish low-floor elevations for construction. The data also are used to administer DNR Waters' public waters permit program and to help determine the ordinary high water levels. Watershed managers and planners use historical lake level data to prepare local water management plans and to model water quality characteristics on lakes. Lakeshore owners use the data to better understand the impacts of lake levels at their properties.



Lake level graphs are available at the Lake Finder page on the DNR website.

## DNR Contact Information



DNR Waters website lists Area Hydrologists:  
[www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters)

DNR Waters in St. Paul:  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032  
(651) 259-5700

## DNR Information Center

Twin Cities: (651) 296-6157 • Minnesota toll free: 1-888-646-6367  
Telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD): (651) 296-5484 • TDD toll free: 1-800-657-3929

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# Bass Fishing In Central Minnesota

Source: <https://www.exploreminnesota.com/article/great-places-bass-fishing-minnesota>

Minnesota's central region offers some of the most diverse waters in the state, with a wide variety of lakes and rivers on which to cast your line.

- Otter Tail Lake, at 13,729 acres, is part of the Otter Tail River chain. Almost 60 percent of the lake is less than 15 feet deep, with populations of both large and smallmouth bass.
- West Battle Lake south of Otter Tail Lake holds the state smallmouth record of 8 pounds.

## Bass Fishing Basics

Fishing is often hot when the season opens in May, and usually remains good well into the fall. (Season dates vary across the state so check the DNR website(opens in new window) for specific dates.) Spring and fall tend to be especially productive for bass fishing because there are large numbers of fish in shallow waters. There are fewer bass in the shallows during the summer months when most fish congregate in schools in deeper water to escape the heat.

Bass fishing can be as simple or as complicated as anglers want to make it. Some prefer to fish from boats and cast nothing but artificial lures such as crankbaits, jigs and spinnerbaits. Others hook a lively leech below a bobber and head for the nearest shoreline.

Given the wide variety of bass waters in the state, preferred tackle and tactics often vary based on the region being fished. In the fertile waters of southern Minnesota, where weed growth is often heavy, opt for buzzbaits, spinnerbaits and worm rigs with heavy line and stiff rods. But in the clear water of many northern lakes, light lines and more subtle presentations often work better. For smallmouth in streams, light bait casting or spinning tackle with small plugs and jigs work well. Medium-weight fly tackle with popping bugs and streamers is also effective.

While bass in Minnesota don't grow as large as they do in some southern states (where the growing season is longer), it's not uncommon for anglers to catch multiple bass per day, some of which may weigh 3 to 5 pounds—or more



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## ISSUES BRIEF

www.iucn.org

## MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

- Over 400 million tons of plastic are produced every year for use in a wide variety of applications.
- At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year, and plastic makes up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments.
- Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris, which causes severe injuries and death.
- Plastic pollution threatens food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.
- There is an urgent need to explore new and existing legally binding agreements to address marine plastic pollution.

### What is the issue?

Plastic is a synthetic organic polymer made from petroleum with properties ideally suited for a wide variety of applications including: packaging, building and construction, household and sports equipment, vehicles, electronics and agriculture. Over 400 million tons of plastic are produced every year, half of which is used to create single-use items such as shopping bags, cups and straws. If discarded improperly, plastic waste can harm the environment and biodiversity.

At least 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year. Plastic debris is currently the most abundant type of litter in the ocean, making up 80% of all marine debris found from surface waters to deep-sea sediments. Plastic is found on the shorelines of every continent, with more plastic waste found near popular tourist destinations and densely populated areas.

The main sources of plastic debris found in the ocean are land-based, coming from urban and stormwater runoff, sewer overflows, littering, inadequate waste disposal and management, industrial activities, tyre abrasion, construction and illegal dumping. Ocean-based plastic pollution originates primarily from the fishing industry, nautical activities and aquaculture.

Under the influence of solar UV radiation, wind, currents and other natural factors, plastic breaks down into small particles called microplastics (particles smaller than 5 mm) or nanoplastics (particles smaller than 100 nm). The small size makes them easy for marine life to ingest accidentally.

Many countries lack the infrastructure to prevent plastic pollution such as: sanitary landfills; incineration facilities; recycling capacity and circular economy infrastructure; proper management and disposal of waste systems. This leads to 'plastic leakage' into rivers and the ocean. The legal and illegal global trade of plastic waste may also damage ecosystems, where waste management systems are not sufficient to contain plastic waste.

SHORELINE PLASTICS	SEA SURFACE PLASTICS	PLASTICS IN MARINE ORGANISMS
SEAFLOOR / SEDIMENT PLASTICS	WATER COLUMN PLASTICS	
		Adapted from The Mediterranean: More Plasticum

Plastic pollution is found in all areas of the ocean and in marine organisms. © IUCN

### Why is it important?

Plastic pollution is a widespread problem affecting the marine environment. It threatens ocean health, the health of marine species, food safety and quality, human health, coastal tourism, and contributes to climate change.

#### Impacts on marine ecosystems

The most visible impacts of plastic debris are the ingestion, suffocation and entanglement of hundreds of marine species. Marine wildlife such as seabirds, whales, fish and turtles mistake plastic waste for prey; most then die of starvation as their stomachs become filled with plastic. They also suffer from lacerations, infections, reduced ability to swim, and internal injuries. Floating plastics also help transport invasive marine species, thereby threatening marine biodiversity and the food web.

#### Impacts on food and human health

Microplastics have been found in tap water, beer, salt and are present in all samples collected in the world's oceans, including the Arctic. Several chemicals used in the production of plastic materials are known to be carcinogenic and to interfere with the body's endocrine system, causing developmental, reproductive, neurological, and immune disorders in both humans and wildlife. Recently, microplastics were found in human placentas but more research is needed to determine if this is a widespread problem.

Toxic contaminants also accumulate on the surface of plastic as a result of prolonged exposure to seawater. When marine organisms ingest plastic debris, these contaminants enter their digestive systems, and over time accumulate in the food web. The transfer of contaminants between marine species and humans through consumption of seafood has been identified as a health hazard, and research is ongoing.

#### Impacts on tourism

Plastic waste damages the aesthetic value of tourist destinations, leading to decreased income from tourism. It also generates major economic costs related to the cleaning and maintenance of the sites. The build-up of plastic litter on beaches can have a negative impact on a country's economy, wildlife, and the physical and psychological wellbeing of people.

#### Impacts on climate change

Plastic production contributes to climate change. If plastic waste is incinerated, it releases carbon dioxide and methane (from landfills) into the atmosphere, thereby increasing emissions.



© Zero Waste International Alliance

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for action to 'Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources' (Goal 14) and 'By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution' (Target 14.1).

### What can be done?

Efforts should be made to adhere to and strengthen existing international legislative frameworks that address marine plastic pollution. The most important are the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping Wastes and Other Matter (the London Convention), the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention (the London Protocol) and the 1978 Protocol to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Regional and national governments should also explore national legislative frameworks on Extended Producer Responsibility. These are emerging as innovative, low-cost solutions, as are policies to promote circular economies.

Governments, research institutions and industries need to work collaboratively to redesign products, and rethink their use and disposal to reduce microplastic waste from pellets, synthetic textiles and tyres. Consumers and society must shift to more sustainable consumption patterns. This will require solutions which go beyond waste management and consider the whole lifecycle of plastic products; from design to infrastructure, and household use.

More funding for research and innovation should be made available to provide policymakers, manufacturers and consumers with the evidence needed to implement technological, behavioural and policy solutions to address marine plastic pollution.

Methodologies to identify, measure and address marine plastic pollution sources and plastic leakage are available, including from IUCN.

### Where can I get more information?

IUCN publications on marine plastic pollution: [www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme/reports](http://www.iucn.org/theme/marine-and-polar/our-work/close-plastic-tap-programme/reports)

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