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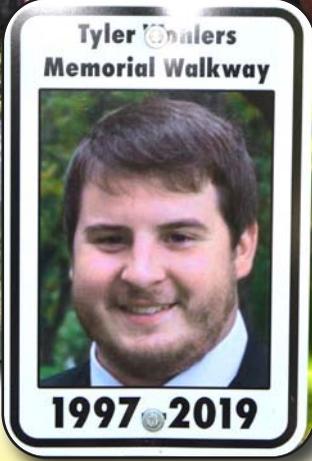
The Official Newspaper of
 Otter Tail Lakes
 Property Owners
 Association



Volume 55 - No. 4
 - July 2025 -



Lakeshore News



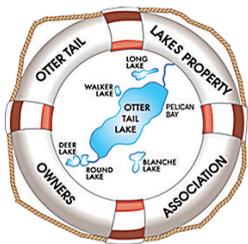
Tyler Wohlers Trail Dedication along Hwy. 78 was Saturday, June 21. See page four for more.
 Submitted photo by Chad Koenen, Citizen's Advocate



Vernon "Tiger" Menagh, an Otter Tail Lake resident was presented with a Quilt of Valor July 4th. Tiger served in the Marines from 1981-1993. The award was made by the Red River Valley Quilters.
 Submitted by Claire Althoff

• What's Inside •

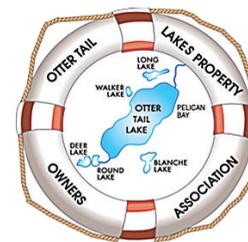
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Lakeshore News

The Official Newspaper of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association

Volume 55 - No. 4 • July 2025 • Battle Lake, MN



Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association (OTLPOA) Mission Statement

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

– OTLPOA Board of Directors –

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Jerame Tysdalotproperties@arvig.net



– OTLPOA President's Eric Gerken's Corner –

Don't miss out on our annual ...
OTLPOA Annual Meeting at Thumper Pond Thursday, August 7 at 6 p.m.!

This year our special guests will be Minnesota State Senator Jordan Rasmuson who serves the 9th District and a representative from our local sheriff's water patrol to talk about issues going on with Minnesota waters and new watercraft operator's permits.

Have a safe day on the water!

Clarity Lake Water Readings	
Blanche	25'
Deer	16'
Long	6'
Otter Tail	14' and 15' (2 readings at different locations)
Round	11'
Walker	16.5'

Summer Is Here and I Hope Everyone Had A Fantastic 4th Holiday!

I am excited to announce that we are going to be having our ...

1st Annual Lake Clean-Up Day Saturday, August 2

This event will be to promote cleaning up and removing debris from our waters. Everyone is encouraged to participate, and registration is required for this special event. Please look for more information in this issue of Lakeshore News, online and in email! This event will have cash and gift card prizes! You won't want to miss out on this great event so make sure you register online at www.otlpoa.com.

Hope everyone had a great 4th holiday as the weather has been challenging for our summer weekends so far and it's hard to believe we are over halfway through summer! I had family from Florida and Nevada over the holidays in to enjoy our beautiful waters! I am thankful for our waters and never want to take them for granted.

Check Out Our OTLPOA Website At OTLPOA.com



OTLPOA 2025 Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

July 24 • August 28 • September 25
October 23

Ottertail City Community Center 6 p.m.

If any member wants to address the board with any questions or issues, please notify secretary or any board member to be added to the agenda.

Annual Meeting August 7 at Thumper Pond
(more detail to come)

Calendar of Events 2025

- July 11 Relay for Life of East Otter Tail County in Perham
- July 12-13 Phelps Mill Arts Festival
- TBA Downtown Fergus Falls Shop Move'n Groove
- TBA Ottertail Business & Community Association Annual Auction
- July 16-19 West Otter Tail County Fair - Fergus Falls
- July 24-27 East Otter Tail County Fair - Perham
- July 26-27 Battle Lake's Wenonga Days
- July 31-August 3 Parkers Prairie Fall Festival & Bull Ride
Vergas' Loony Days
- August 1-2 Perham Crazy Days
- August 2 East Otter Tail County Breakfast On The Farm
- August 16-17 Perham Pioneer Days
- August 7-9 WE Fest - Detroit Lakes
- August 8-9 Silver Sage Pro Rodeo - Clitherall
- August 9 Art & Craft Affair - Battle Lake
- August Rod & Gun Club Demo Derby - Ottertail
- August Ottertail City's Otter Fest
- August 18 Vining Watermelon Day
- August 29-20 Underwood's Harvest Festival
- August 30 Battle Lake Area Community Fund's
Gathering of Planes
- September 5-7 Lake Region Pioneer Threshermen's
Reunion - Dalton
- September 13 Woodstack - Prospect House & Museum,
Battle Lake

Events are subject to change.

To submit an event, contact blreview@arvig.net



(COLA) Meetings 2025

Speakers for summer meetings normally the 3rd Thursdays of May, June, July and August at the Ottertail City Community Center have been announced.

Featured presenters at June, July, August Ottertail Community Center meetings:

July 17 - Ezri Farnum, Ezri will give an update on Koronis Lake Association's 10-year fight against starry stonewort. She will report on initial and current funding opportunities, stakeholder/shoreowner investment and current research conclusions.

August 21 - Darren Newville, East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District, District Manager. Darren will present an update on the One Watershed, One Plan program. The East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was named SWCD of the Year for 2024.

OTC COLA summer meetings are an excellent opportunity access materials and information to bring back to Lake Associations and to network with other lake property owners.

Lake Sampling Dates

The lake sampling dates for the 2025 Season are:

- July 21
- August 18
- September 22

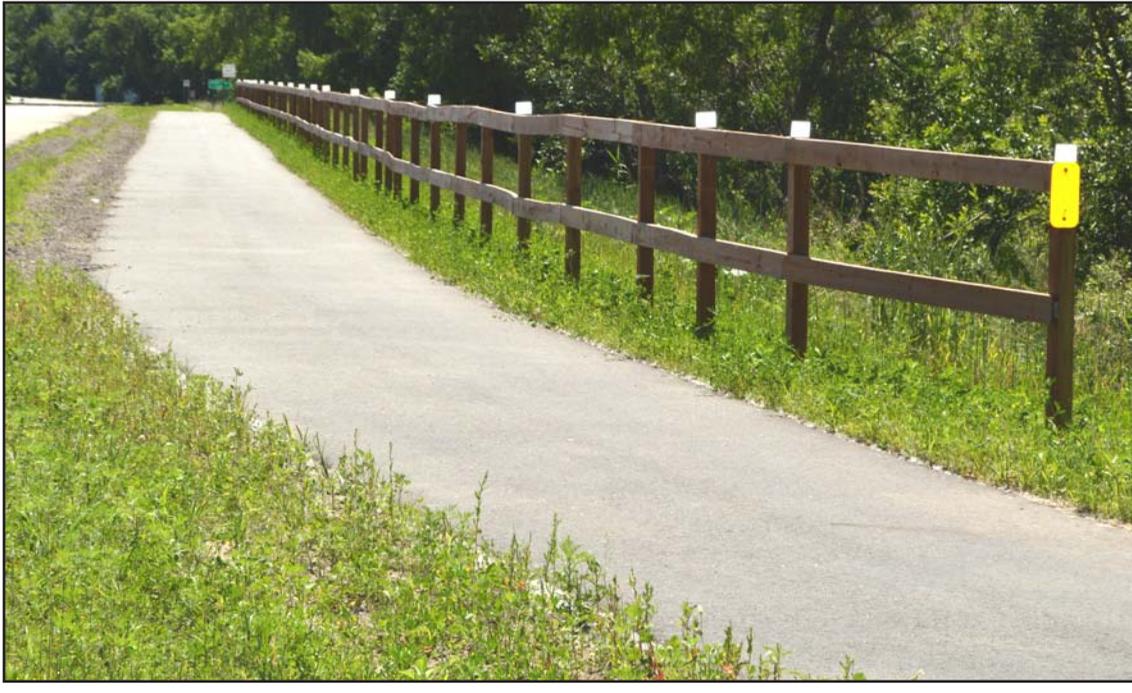
A reminder: If you have been using the courier drop off site on Lake Marion that location is no longer in use. The new location is 43620 Round Lake Rd., Ottertail MN. There is a small garage on the opposite side of the address where the samples coolers will be collected.

If you have used the Battle Lake site or taken the samples directly to the lab in Detroit Lakes, that has not changed.



hoping you are enjoying it!

Tyler Wohlers Trail Dedication Ceremony



by Chad Koenen, Citizen's Advocate - Henning Newspaper

Family, friends and community members came out in full force Saturday morning, June 28 to make the official dedication of the Tyler Wohlers Trail. The trail was created in memory of Tyler Wohlers, who was killed during the 4th of July Weekend in 2019 by a motorist along Hwy. 78 just south of Ottertail City. The walking trail connects the Pelican Bay fishing pier and Otter Tail Lake boat landing south of town to the City of Ottertail. The fundraising effort was spearheaded by Bernie Steves. Family and friends raised \$178,000 for the path and the state chipped in \$55,000.

Several people including Minnesota State Senator Jordan Rasmusson (middle right), Bernie Steves (left), Ottertail Mayor Ron Grobeck (middle left), Ottertail City Councilman Michael Windey (right) and a family friend spoke about Wohlers' life during the dedication. All of the speakers thanked the people who made the project possible, as well as the importance of family and friends to Wohlers, who was just 21 when he was killed.



Following the dedication, a group of family and friends took the first walk on the trail to the Otter Supper Club.



Above and below left photos by Chad Koenen, Citizen's Advocate

DEFENSIVE BOATING

- 1. VISIBILITY**
Never assume that power boat operators can see you. Avoid high traffic areas whenever possible, and proceed with caution when you must cross a channel or busy waterway.
- 2. BRIGHT COLORS**
Choose a brightly colored life jacket and clothing that will make it easier for others to see you on the water.
- 3. ENVIRONMENT**
Be aware of environmental factors like choppy or tall waves, fog or glare that make small water craft more difficult to spot.
- 4. KNOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD**
 - When meeting another water craft head on make a right turn (starboard) so that you pass the other water craft on the left (port-side).
 - When being overtaken from behind, hold your course straight so as to not surprise the passing water craft.
 - When navigating in restricted water areas (docks, bridges, etc.), give way to less maneuverable water craft, usually larger boats.



More storm clean up photos on north shore of Deer Lake after June 25-26 windstorm. Submitted by OTLPOA member Mark Long

Lake Area
Docks & Lifts



Celebrating
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BATTLE LAKE - 106 ST. HWY. 210 W
FERGUS FALLS - 23156 CO. HWY. 1
PELICAN RAPIDS - 1200 N. BROADWAY (HWY 59)

OPEN HOUSE ON
JULY 25-26

4th of July Celebrations On The Water



Blanche Lake sign. Submitted by OTLPOA member Mary Jo Wentz

Thirty-six boats and hundreds of spectators took part in the July 4th Boat Parade on Blanche Lake in spite of the oppressive heat and strong winds. Submitted photos by Fred Rizk



Remember To Wear Your Life Jacket While Out Boating!

4th of July Celebrations On The Water



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MnDNR Is Asking For Public Input On Reducing Statewide Walleye Limit From 6 To 4



Changes in lake habitat, ecology and conditions coupled with technological advances in fishing gear and methods are prompting the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to seek public input on a possible reduction in the statewide walleye possession limit from six to four fish.

If enacted via a rulemaking process, the change would not become effective until May 2027.

"We consider this a proactive step to maintain quality walleye fishing," said Brad Parsons, DNR fisheries section manager. "This regulation has been in place since 1956, and conditions in Minnesota's lakes have, and continue to, change. Our consideration of a walleye limit reduction is a wise management response to what's happening."

People can view additional details and share their thoughts on the regulation being considered through Friday, Aug. 15, by visiting the DNR's walleye web page (mndnr.gov/walleye) and completing the online questionnaire.

The DNR's most-recent statewide angler survey results reported that 48% of respondents favored the change and 23% were opposed. Remaining respondents had no opinion.

Results of more than 4,000 on-the-water interviews with anglers about their catches conducted from 2021-2023 showed 67% supported the change, 18% opposed and 15% were neutral.

Factors the DNR considered in its decision to suggest the reduction:

- Anglers have become much more effective at catching fish due to technological advances in everything from fishing line to mobile ice fishing houses, and particularly because of GPS devices and incredibly sensitive fish finding electronics.
- Ice fishing has exploded in popularity, as evidenced by more than 3 million hours of fishing effort in the winter of 2019 on Mille Lacs Lake and Lake of the Woods.
- Social media postings alert anglers to where the fish are biting and anglers can move there quickly, potentially depleting local walleye populations.
- Peer-reviewed scientific studies continue to show that system changes related to climate and invasive species may be detrimental to walleye populations and more conducive to other species in northern temperate lakes like those in Minnesota.
- All but two (Cass and Winnibogoshish lakes) of the state's 10 largest inland lakes, which produce about 40 percent of Minnesota's annual walleye harvest, already have a lower limit. Resorts on Kabetogema, Lake of the Woods, Leech, Pepin, Rainy and Vermilion have not reported a decline in business due to a lower walleye limit.
- All surrounding states and provinces — and Minnesota's border waters with them — have walleye daily limits less than six.

"Simplifying our regulations also is a factor," Parsons said. "This change would cause less confusion by providing regulation consistency across most of our lakes."

More information about the proposed regulation change is available on the DNR's walleye web page (mndnr.gov/walleye).

Thanks for keeping our lakes clean and safe!

Proud To Be Printer Of This Newsletter!



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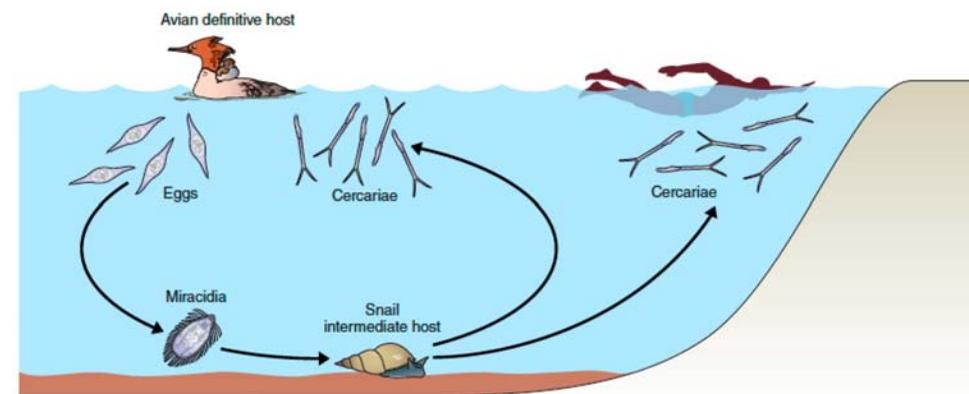
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Swimmer's Itch 101: What Every Lake Lover Needs To Know

By Ava Schimnowski, Aquatic Plant Management Specialist Individual Placement /AmeriCorps member at Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife

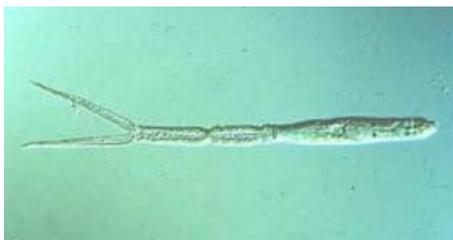
As the weather warms up and people begin to spend time in Minnesota's lakes, it's important to highlight a common ailment that plagues swimmers: Swimmer's itch. This temporary skin rash is caused by an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites carried by snails, semi-aquatic mammals, and birds.



Life Cycle –

Swimmer's itch has a complicated life cycle. Here's a breakdown:

1. It starts as a worm (parasite) in the intestinal lining of aquatic birds and mammals (hosts).
2. The worms lay eggs inside the host animal.
3. The eggs are eliminated by the host and drop to the bottom of the lake.
4. Those eggs hatch into miracidia (larval stage of trematode worms) that swim around in the water until they find a snail.



When is swimmer's itch season in MN?

Swimmer's itch is common around Minnesota's lakes in midsummer. Red, itchy welts appear on your skin within several hours of leaving the water. It may last a few days to several weeks, depending on your sensitivity.

When is swimmer's itch the worst?

Swimmer's itch is typically at its worst about 48-72 hours after the initial exposure to the parasite. The itching can last for a week or more, with the most intense itching occurring in the first few days, according to MyHealth Alberta. Repeat exposure to the parasite can lead to faster and more severe reactions, with symptoms developing within hours instead of days.

Breakdown –

Initial Exposure:

After the first exposure, it can take 1-2 weeks for the itching and rash to appear.

Repeat Exposure:

With subsequent exposures, the onset of symptoms is much faster, potentially within hours.

Peak Intensity:

The itching usually reaches its peak after 48-72 hours.

Duration:

The itching can last for several days, with most cases resolving within a week.

Severity:

The severity of symptoms varies depending on individual sensitivity and the number of parasites that burrow into the skin.

5. Once the miracidia find a snail, they live inside and develop into cercariae [pictured right] (free-swimming larval stage).
6. Next, the snails release the cercariae back into the water where they look for another host. These can include aquatic birds, mammals, or... humans.
7. When the cercariae find a potential host, they burrow into the host's skin. If the host is suitable, the life cycle starts all over again.
8. Luckily for us, humans are not a suitable host and the cercariae die after penetrating the skin. Our body's immune system detects the organism as a foreign protein, attacking and killing it shortly after it penetrates the skin. The itching and welts are not caused by the burrowing of the organism, but by an allergic reaction.

Protecting yourself from swimmer's itch –

Now that we understand the mechanism of the ailment, here are some effective protection tips:

1. **Apply a water repellent substance** like petroleum jelly or waterproof sunscreen to reduce the ability of the cercariae from penetrating the skin.
2. **Dry off** with a towel as soon as you exit the water. Don't let the water evaporate off your skin, the organism in the water droplets will stay on you.
3. **Keep waterfowl away** from your dock and shoreline. Don't feed ducks and geese from your dock, as this attracts them and increases the risk of swimmer's itch.
4. **Avoid areas** where swimmer's itch is a known problem.
5. **Copper sulfate** may be used to kill the snails which are an intermediate host of the parasite. A permit from the DNR is required to use copper sulfate. It is important to note that the copper sulfate will only kill the snails present at the time of application, any snails which enter the area afterwards will not be affected.

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy Minnesota's beautiful lakes armed with this knowledge. Stay safe and happy swimming!

Resources:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
Centers for Disease Control
Minnesota Department of Health

Secondary Infections:

Scratching can lead to secondary bacterial infections, which may prolong the overall healing time.

What is the difference between chiggers and swimmer's itch?

Chigger bites are usually located at points where clothing contacts the skin such as wrists, waist, ankles, etc. For swimmer's itch, itching is limited to points of cercarial entry and will not spread or develop into water blisters.

What's the best way to get rid of swimmer's itch?

Apply a corticosteroid cream or an anti-itch lotion, such as those that contain calamine. Take an oral nonprescription antihistamine (Benadryl) or one with loratadine (Alavert, Claritin, others). The latter type causes less sleepiness than does Benadryl. Avoiding scratching the rash.

Do mergansers cause swimmer's itch?

Common Merganser ducks are the species that most commonly carries the Swimmer's Itch flatworm in their digestive tract. Most all of the young Merganser chicks carry the flatworm while only half of the adult birds do. Merganser ducks can travel 1-2 miles along a shoreline each day.



Minnesota's Super Food: Blueberries

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says Minnesota has two native blueberries: Low Bush (*Vaccinium angustifolium*) and Velvetleaf (*V. myrtilloides*).



Blueberry shrubs are 1-2.5' tall and often grow in colonies. They prefer rocky or sandy area with acidic soil - habitat that also favors pines. They will grow in the shade but they produce far more fruit in sunny areas.

Bell-shaped white or pinkish flowers bloom in late May or early June. Berries begin as white, pale blue or green and mature to round, dark blueberries in July and August.

Ripe berries detach easily from the bush.

Slow Growers –

According to the University of Minnesota Extension, blueberry plants grow slowly and they may not seem to get much bigger from year to year. It takes a blueberry bush about 10 years to reach mature size but this also means they will live a long, long time.

Go Blue –

According to Mayo Clinic, scientists have shown that blueberries are loaded with compounds (phytonutrients) that may help prevent chronic diseases, such as a heart disease, diabetes and some cancers.

Blueberries may also improve short-term memory and promote healthy aging. Blueberries are a low-calorie source of fiber and vitamin C - 3/4 cup of fresh blueberries has 2.7 grams of fiber and 10.8 milligrams of vitamin C.

The State Muffin –

As part of a social studies exercise, a class of third graders in Carlton, MN proposed that the blueberry muffin become the State Muffin. Their bill was signed into law in 1988.

~ RECIPE CORNER ~

State - Muffin Blueberry Recipe

by Shari Baker, Gunflint Pines Resort

2 c. Flour	1/2 c. Sugar
1 T. Baking powder	1/2 t. Salt
1 T. Orange zest (grated peel)	1-1/4 c. Buttermilk
1 c. Blueberries (fresh, dried or frozen— Do not thaw or rehydrate)	1 Egg
1 c. White Chocolate Chips *optional, but great!	1/2 t. Vanilla

Sugar in the Raw (large-grain brown sugar)



Preheat oven to 425F.
Mix buttermilk, egg and vanilla; set aside.
Mix dry ingredients, orange zest, blueberries and white chocolate chips.
Make well in center, pour in liquid mixture

and stir lightly just until mixed.
Spoon into lined or greased muffin tins.
Top with sugar in the raw and bake for 20-22 minutes.
Make's a "Baker's" dozen.

Blueberry Pie

4 cups fresh blueberries
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest
1-1/4 to 1-1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup quick-cooking tapioca
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
Pastry for a double-crust pie (9")
1 tablespoon butter, softened
1 large egg
1 tablespoon 2% milk
Coarse sugar, optional
Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine blueberries, lemon juice and lemon zest. In another bowl, combine sugar, tapioca, cornstarch and cinnamon. Add to berries; toss gently to coat.

On a lightly floured surface, roll half the pie dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; transfer to a 9-in. pie plate. Trim crust to 1/2 in. beyond rim of plate. Add blueberry mixture. Dot with butter.

Roll remaining dough to a 1/8-in.-thick circle; cut into 1-in.-wide strips. Arrange over filling in a lattice pattern. Trim and seal strips to edge of bottom crust; flute edge. Whisk egg and milk; brush over crust. If desired, sprinkle with coarse sugar.

Bake 30 minutes. Cover edge loosely with foil. Bake until crust is golden brown and berries have burst, about 30-35 minutes more. Cool on a wire rack.



We're looking for your favorite recipe to share

Submit to Battle Lake Review at blreview@arvig.net

Lakes Area Church Directory

~ Baptist ~

Basswood Baptist Church BGC
38188 340th St., Richville 218-495-3771
Bert Holmquist, Pastor 218-4953800

Sundays – Sunday School 9:30 a.m., refreshments following
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.
Potluck Dinner (2nd Sunday)

Wednesdays – Bible Study, Youth Group and Kids Club 7 p.m.
Thursdays (third) – Ladies' Bible Study
Saturdays (first) – Men's Prayer Breakfast 7 a.m.

First Baptist Church

An American Baptist Church
"Little Brown Church on the Hill"
121 Lake Ave. N., Battle Lake 218-864-5319
www.firstbaptistbattlelake.org
Sundays – Worship services 9:30 a.m.

~ C & M Alliance ~

Battle Lake Alliance Church
401 W. Gilbertson St. 218-864-5539
www.battlelake.org

Sundays – Worship Service 10 a.m. or online
Wednesdays – Kids 4 Truth Youth with meal 5:20 p.m.
Club 6-7:30 p.m.

~ Catholic ~

St. James, St. Edwards and Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Churches Father George Michael 218-864-5619

St. James Catholic (Maine) - 32009 Cty. Hwy. 74, Underwood
Mass – Saturdays 5 p.m. and Wednesdays 9 a.m.
Confessions – Saturdays 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Wednesdays 8 a.m.
Bible Study – Fridays 9 a.m.
Sewing Group – Tuesdays 9 a.m.

St. Edwards Catholic Church 201 Douglas Ave., Henning
Mass – Sundays 8:30 a.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.
Confessions – Sundays 8 a.m. and Fridays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Friday 9 a.m.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic - 407 N. Lake Ave., Battle Lake
Mass – Sundays 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays 8:30 a.m.
Confessions – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays 8 a.m.
Holy Hour – Thursdays 9 a.m.
Men of Mary - Saturdays 8 a.m.
Sunday School – Sundays 9:15 a.m.
Mission Sewing – Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.
Edge/Life Teen – Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
– Parish Notes –
Battle Lake Good Samaritan Center – Rosary Mondays 3:15 p.m. and Mass Tuesdays 3:15 p.m.

~ Lutheran ~

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Battle Lake Campus - 21744 State Hwy. 78, Battle Lake
Pastor Nick Laven Visit bethellutheran.church
Sunday Worship – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m.

Camp Nidaros Church In The Woods
Stan Satre, Chaplain 218-205-1447
39411 Camp Nidaros Trail, Richville
Sundays – Worship in July 10 a.m. (Parking on Cty. Rd. 1)

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lynn Melchior, Pastor
505 W. Holdt St., Battle Lake - 218-864-5686
Thursdays – TOPS 8 a.m.
Sundays – Worship 10 a.m. (and online)
Communion 1st and 4th
Coffee Fellowship 11 a.m.
Mondays – Quilters 9 a.m.

SVERDRUP LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tammy Jacobson, Pastor
www.SverdrupLutheran.org
209 Southern Ave. E., Underwood 218-8826-6919
Sundays – Worship 9 a.m.

TINGVOLD LUTHERAN CHURCH
Tammy Jacobson, Pastor 218-826-6487
2801 Cty. Rd. 35, Underwood
Sundays – Worship: Sept.-May 11 a.m., June-Aug. 10:30 a.m.

~ Lutheran ~

ZION LUTHERAN-AMOR
office@zionamor.org 36051 Co. Hwy. 74, Battle Lake
Chris Mathiason, Pastor
www.zionamor.org 218-495-2563

Sundays – Confirmation 9 a.m. - 10th Graders; Worship 10 a.m. (Traditional with Communion 1st and 4th; Contemporary with Prairie Team 2nd and 3rd); Fellowship 11 a.m.
Mondays – Quilting 9 a.m.
Tuesdays – Bible Study 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga 12 noon
Wednesdays – Praise Team 4 p.m.
Thursdays – Chair Yoga 1 p.m.

~ Methodist ~

Ottertail United Methodist Church
104 Shores Drive, Ottertail 218-367-2270
Ricardo Alcoser, Pastor
Sunday – Worship 8:45 a.m. Coffee Fellowship following.

Richville United Methodist Church
130 SW 1st Ave., Richville Rod Turnquist, Pastor
Sundays – Worship 10:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship following (2nd and 4th Sundays).
Wednesdays – School 6 p.m.

~ Presbyterian ~

Maine Presbyterian Church
Bob Kersten, Pastor
30761 Co. Hwy. 45 Underwood - 218-495-2539
www.mainepresbyterianchurch.org
Sunday Worship – June-August 9:30 a.m. September-May 10 a.m. Communion 1st Sunday
Coffee following worship June-August.

Join Us In Worship!

MN State Grain - Wild Rice



Wild Rice (*Zizania palustris*)

The seeds have been harvested for centuries by Native Americans.

Wild rice was adopted as Minnesota's State Grain in 1977 and there couldn't have been a better choice. The seeds of wild rice, called grains, are a favorite food of humans and have been harvested for centuries by Native Americans, who continue to have a strong spiritual and cultural connection to the plant. Wild rice is also an important food for many migrating waterfowl.

Terminology. The common name "wild rice" might be misleading. It is a native grass that is only distantly related to the domesticated white or brown rice that is commonly bought in grocery stores. Yet it might surprise people to know that our native wild rice has recently been domesticated and is grown as a commercial crop. Still, the wild-harvested Minnesota grains are considered the best, and they command the highest price.

Appearance. Wild rice is the tallest native grass in Minnesota and can reach more than 13 feet in height. In the right habitat, it may form dense stands many acres in size. The leaves can be as long as 3 feet and nearly as wide as a person's hand. It produces a large seed head at the top of the plant, which at maturity may be a foot across and hold more than 200 seeds.

Range and Distribution. Indigenous wild rice occurs from New England westward to the north-central states. It is most abundant in the Great Lakes region, particularly Minnesota and Wisconsin. It occurs across almost all of Minnesota, although the largest stands are in the north-central region.

Habitat. Wild rice is an emergent aquatic species, meaning it is rooted in sediments beneath the surface of the water, but the stems and leaves extend above the water. The most productive habitats are shallow lakes, ponds, and slow-moving streams, usually where the bottom is composed of loose, mucky sediments. It can grow from water as deep as 4 feet, but it also grows in shallower water nearer to shore.

Natural History. Wild rice is an annual plant, meaning it grows from seed each year. The seeds fall from the plant when ripe and immediately sink to the bottom of the lake, where they pass the winter. Most seeds germinate the following spring when water temperatures reach about 42 degrees, usually in mid-May. A few seeds may remain dormant for another year or two. After germination, the leaves appear first. They will initially be underwater or floating on the surface. The stems usually appear above the water by early July. They then grow very quickly, reaching their full height in August. The seeds ripen in late August and early September. They drop from the plant soon after ripening, beginning the process again. Once the seeds have been shed, the rest of the plant dies and falls into the water, where it sinks to the bottom and decays.

Welby Smith, MN Conservation Volunteer Magazine

Harvesting –

Native Harvest wild rice is hand-harvested from natural lakes and riverine systems in northern Minnesota by tribal members of the White Earth Nation, using traditional methods passed down through generations, a stark contrast to the typically cultivated and mechanically harvested "wild" rice found in most stores. This hand-harvesting process involves gently tapping ripe wild rice grains from the stalks into a canoe using wooden "knockers" or "flails," followed by parching, threshing, and winnowing to prepare the grain for consumption and storage.



The Traditional Harvesting Process:

1. Canoe Navigation: Harvesters use canoes to navigate through dense wild rice beds in shallow lakes and rivers, often propelling themselves with long poles.

2. Harvesting with Knockers: One person in the canoe gently bends the wild rice stalks over the hull while another uses "knockers" (sticks) to lightly tap the seed heads, causing the ripe grains to fall into the canoe.

3. Respectful Practices: Harvesters aim to avoid damaging the stalks, allowing for subsequent ripening and future harvests.

4. Processing (Post-Harvest): Once harvested, the "green" rice undergoes several steps:

- **Parching:** The rice is wood-parched over a fire to remove husks.
- **Threshing (Jigging):** The parched rice is then threshed, traditionally by being danced or stepped on, which loosens and removes the outer covering.
- **Winnowing:** Finally, the rice is tossed in the air using birch bark trays (nooskaachinaaganan) so that the wind separates the lighter hulls from the heavier edible grain.

Significance of Traditional Harvesting:

Cultural Importance: Hand-harvesting wild rice is a sacred and deeply ingrained tradition for the Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) people, connecting them to their history, prophecies, and cultural identity.

Sustainability: The traditional methods are inherently sustainable, ensuring the continuation of wild rice stands for future generations.

Economic Impact: Supporting the hand-harvested wild rice industry helps strengthen the traditional economy of the tribes.

Environmental Protection: Harvesting wild rice is tied to the stewardship of lakes and water resources, emphasizing the importance of keeping these areas clean and pollution-free.

Minnesota Creamy Chicken Wild Rice Soup

It's pretty hard to go wrong soup with a hearty grain, like wild rice, and a creamy broth. This soup is comforting, satisfying and filling. This soup really keeps you satiated for a long time. It is one of the best soups out there.



Tick ID Card

(Approximate tick sizes)

Blacklegged tick (deer tick)



American dog tick (wood tick)



Adult female, adult male, nymph, larva

Unwanted Medications

Tossing or flushing old medications can pollute water and harm fish or wildlife. Otter Tail County residents have a safe, anonymous and free disposal option that minimizes risks to health and safety – Take it to the



Box! Old or unused prescription and over-the-counter medications can be safely disposed of at a Take it to the Box drop box location.

These secure drop boxes are located at various law enforcement centers throughout the county. The boxes are accessible during regular business hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, unless posted otherwise.

Locations –

- Otter Tail County Sheriff’s Office (Fergus Falls): 417 Court Street South
- Government Building (New York Mills): 118 N. Main Avenue
- Perham Police Department (Perham): 525 W. Main Street
- Parkers Prairie Police Department (Parkers Prairie): 102 N. Otter Avenue
- Ottertail Operations Center (Ottertail): 469 Main Street W.
- Pelican Rapids Police Department (Pelican Rapids): 315 N. Broadway
- Battle Lake Police Department (Battle Lake): 108 E. Main



- Henning Police Department (Henning): 607 2nd Street

Instructions –

The program is 100% anonymous, no questions asked. Please follow these basic instructions:

- Leave medication in the original container
- Black out or remove your personal information from the label
- Leave the name of the medication on the container
- Drop the medication into the disposal box opening
- Absolutely no syringes, needles, or sharps accepted
- No mercury devices, household chemicals, or biohazardous waste

- Land Transfers (June 1, 2025 to July 4, 2025) -

Name	Description	Sale Date	Seller	Buyer	Sale Amount	Type
Amor Twp	560242 - OTTERTAIL-FF	06-14-2025	RICHARD L ISAKSON ET AL	KYLE & AIMEE DEVRIES	\$ 865,000.00	Residential
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	06-20-2025	MARCUS A WING	STACY & CHAD ERICKSON	\$ 600,000.00	Residential
Amor Twp	560310 - WALKER-FF	06-27-2025	KEITH R NARR	JENNIFER & ERIC SKEIE	\$ 405,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	06-06-2025	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	CJ PROPERTIES LLC	\$ 50,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	06-10-2025	MARVIN RAPP	TIMOTHY & MARY JO MATZ	\$ 575,000.00	Seasonal Rec
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	06-13-2025	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	LARRY & BECKY HOFFSTROM	\$ 65,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	06-16-2025	HOWARD HANSEN	MATTHEW & CARRIE BRIMHALL	\$ 463,000.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560239 - W BATTLE-FF	06-26-2025	SUNSET DEVELOPMENT LLC	DAVID & CALLIE FILBERT	\$ 52,500.00	Residential
Girard Twp	560240 - BLANCHE-FF	06-06-2025	ROBERT & PHYLLIS NARVESON LLC	BLANCH CREEK ROAD LLC	\$ 2,330,000.00	Residential
Otter Tail Twp	560210 - LONG(O T & RUSH)-FF	06-16-2025	MOORETON DOGHOUSE LLC	TERRY ARNHALT	\$ 200,000.00	Residential
Ottertail City	560200 - DONALD (OT CITY)-FF	06-30-2025	MARK KLAERS	KEVIN & LYDIA BURKE	\$ 520,000.00	Residential

SAY SOMETHING?

(Who to tell)
 Once you **see something**, how do you **say something**? Below are helpful hints on how to report it – it could save your life.

Describing “Something Suspicious”

Tell the authorities who, when and where you saw something, and specifically what you saw. Be sure to note the number of the bus or train, or name of the transit station. Explain why you thought there was cause for suspicion.

Tell...

- POLICE OR SECURITY OFFICER
- EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
- TRANSIT DRIVERS
- CALL 9-1-1 IF NO ONE IS AVAILABLE.

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www.pca.state.mn.us/leadout

Sunburn Dangers

Sunburn is skin damage caused by overexposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun or artificial sources like tanning beds. It results in red, painful, and sometimes blistered skin, and can also lead to peeling as the skin heals. While sunburns are often temporary, repeated exposure to UV radiation can increase the risk of skin cancer and premature aging.

Symptoms:

- Redness and pain: The skin may feel hot and tender to the touch.
- Blisters: In more severe cases, blisters may form, indicating deeper skin damage.
- Peeling: As the skin heals, it may start to peel or flake.
- Other symptoms: Some people may experience fever, chills, or headache, especially with severe sunburns.

Causes:

- Excessive UV radiation exposure: UVB rays are primarily responsible for sunburn, while UVA rays also contribute to skin damage.
- Sunlight and tanning beds: Both natural sunlight and artificial tanning devices can cause sunburn.
- Skin sensitivity: Individuals with fair skin, lighter hair and eyes, or a history of sunburn are more susceptible.

Treatment:

- Cooling the skin:
- Taking cool baths or showers, using cool compresses, and applying aloe vera or moisturizing lotions can help soothe the affected area.

Pain relief:

- Over-the-counter pain relievers like ibuprofen or acetaminophen can help reduce pain and inflammation.

Hydration:

- Drinking plenty of water is important to prevent dehydration, especially if there is blistering or other severe symptoms.

Avoiding further sun exposure:

- Staying out of the sun until the sunburn heals is crucial to prevent further damage.

Protecting the skin:

- Loose, protective clothing and sunscreen can help shield the skin from the sun while it heals.

Prevention –

Sunscreen:

- Using a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher is recommended, and reapplying it every two hours or after swimming or sweating.

Sun-protective clothing:

- Wearing hats, sunglasses, and clothing that covers exposed skin can help reduce sun exposure.

Limiting sun exposure:

- Avoiding prolonged sun exposure during peak hours (usually between 10 am and 4 pm) is advisable.

Seeking shade:

- Taking breaks in the shade or using an umbrella can help minimize sun exposure.

This is for informational purposes only. For medical advice or diagnosis, consult a professional.

SUNBURN
Sunburn damages your skin cells which is the leading cause of melanoma. The more often you burn, the greater your risk!

FIRST DEGREE BURN (UV)
SECOND DEGREE BURN (UV)
THIRD DEGREE BURN (UV)

EPIDERMIS
DERMIS
HYPODERMIS
MUSCLE

Melanin
Melanocyte (where melanoma develops)

Melanocytes produce melanin to protect the skin from the sun's harmful UV radiation. If UV rays exceed what can be blocked by your level of melanin, sunburn results!

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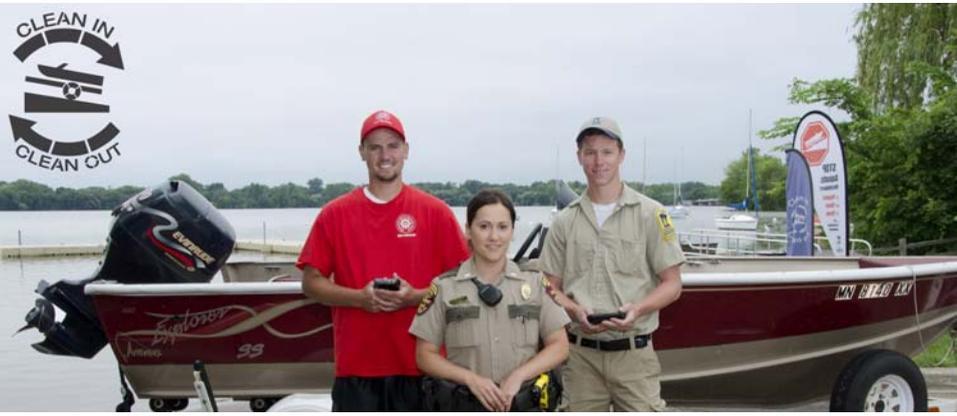
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Aquatic Invasive Species

Pledge To Protect Minnesota Waters –

Must be 18 or older to participate
Form at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/data/ais-pledge>



I will always take these required steps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS):

- **Clean** my boat and gear to remove plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water and leave plugs out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Never release** bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- **Dry** docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

I will take these additional steps to reduce the risk of spreading AIS whenever possible:

- **Decontaminate** my equipment – find free stations at mndnr.gov/decon.
- **Spray** my equipment with high-pressure water or rinse it with water

- **Dry** my boat and gear for five days before using in another water body.

Clean In Clean Out –

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws

Remember!

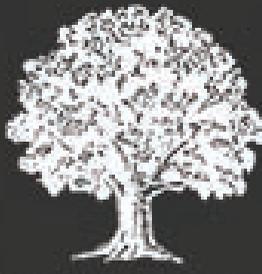
1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.



KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

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ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS –

Spray, rinse, dry — 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 waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water
- **Rinse** with very hot water*
- **Dry** for at least 5 days



Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds.

Report new infestations –

If you suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, take a photo and note the location, or save a specimen and report it to a local DNR invasive species contact.



There is also a risk of spreading AIS by other water recreation. In addition to the required and recommended actions listed above, take extra precautions when engaging in these activities.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are nonnative animals and plants that do not naturally occur in our waters and may cause ecological or economic harm. See images below of some AIS that have been found in Minnesota.

You can help prevent the introduction and spread of AIS by following both the required and recommended actions listed on page 9 before moving your boat, bait or other equipment from one waterbody to another.

Report new infestations: If you suspect a new infestation of an AIS, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and call 888-MINNDNR.

Invasive carp captures must be immediately reported to the DNR, call 651-587-2781 or email invasivecarp.dnr@state.mn.us. Please take a photo, keep carcass cool but do not freeze, and make arrangements with the DNR to transport the carp to the nearest area fisheries office. You may keep invasive carp for personal use with a special permit, which is available on the DNR website at mndnr.gov/invasive-carp.

Red swamp crayfish
2 to 5" long. Raised bright red spots on claws.



Faucet snail
Up to 1/2" long, light brown to black, 4-5 whorls.



Starry stonewort
Grass-like algae with a small, star-shaped structure called a "bulbil" less than 1/4-inch in diameter.



New Zealand mudsnail
Up to 1/8" long, light to dark brown, cone-shaped shell, 5-6 whorls.



Zebra and quagga mussel
The only freshwater mollusks that attach to objects with byssal threads (up to 1 1/2"); larvae float in water and are too small to see.



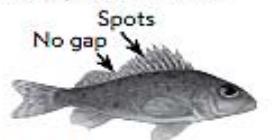
Spiny waterflea
Long tail, white with black spots, looks like gelatinous globs on fishing line, small (up to 3/8").



Round goby
Single scallop-shaped pelvic fin, fish is usually 3-6" long.



Ruffe
Spots between rays of dorsal fin, no gap between fins.



Eurasian watermilfoil
12 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf.



Bighead and silver carp
Eye located at lower part of head below the mouth; Silver can jump more than 10 feet high.



Ruffe illustration ©C. Iverson, MN DNR

Carp illustrations ©C. Iverson, MN DNR

Let's Keep Our Lakes Clean All Year! Join OTLPOA!

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Deer Lake Fishing Fun

Submitted by Mark Long, OTLPOA



• IMPORTANT NOTES •

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will collect your social security number when you apply for a non-commercial hunting or fishing license. License prices listed do not include any additional fees or the \$1 agent fee. Commercial licenses applications require a Federal Employer Identification number, Minnesota Tax Identification number or Social Security Number. Commercial licenses are issued at the DNR license center.

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Submit your photos to blreview@arvig.net

note in subject line
OTLPOA Lakeshore News
Photos and include a brief description, when and by who!

August Newsletter Deadline is August 1st