

EYE OF THE POTATO

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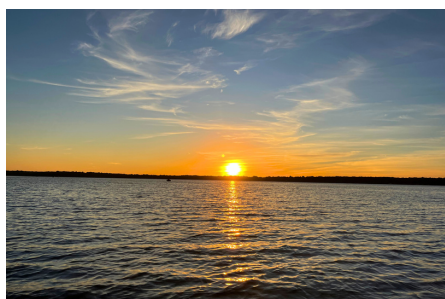
REPORT FROM THE WHITE POTATO LAKE DISTRICT (WPLD) CHAIR

Was the first sign of spring's arrival at WPL the lake's early ice-out date, or perhaps the late March ice storm? For me, it was scheduling our strategic Stakeholder Survey Review Team to meet with Todd Hanke of Onterra. Together we are preparing for a public forum where the results of the stakeholder survey can be delivered to the District during the planning phase of our Aquatic Plant Management project. Our volunteers will begin canvassing shorelines and dock areas in May, looking for invasive species growth to help direct harvesting efforts in early summer. We plan to continue contracting with Onterra's water surveying crew to monitor Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and other invasive plants that our volunteers may not, or cannot, detect in deeper waters. We plan to budget yearly for harvesting and monitoring as it is apparent that invasive plants will always be present in our waters. We remain diligent in the prevention of a worsening invasive species outbreak, which surrounding lakes in Oconto and Marinette counties have experienced.

WPLD committee representatives and volunteers attended the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention this past March 26th-27th as well as the annual Oconto County Lakes & Waterways Association (OCLAWA) spring meeting at Riverview Community Center on April 26th. Informative lake water news and ideas were shared with lake associations and districts so that we may all benefit from others' experiences.

Lastly, I'd like to remind everyone to keep their email addresses updated with our board of commissioners, especially if you have never provided us with your email. By utilizing email for correspondence we can inexpensively keep everyone informed of the Board's actions in a timely manner.

Your WPL District Chair working for a healthy lake,
Bob Wittmann



SEE YOUR PHOTOS HERE!

Do you have photos of and around White Potato Lake that you'd like to share? We'd love to see them!

As the WPLD works to keep its website and newsletters current, we're asking for photos - representing all seasons - of lake life on WPL.

Please send any photos you'd like considered for inclusion to:
WhitePotatoLakePhotos@gmail.com.

NEWSLETTER SPOTLIGHT: WHITE POTATO LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

The White Potato Lake Sportsmen's Club is a 501(c)3 organization that was established in 1989 with focuses on hunting, fishing, conservation, environmental, and beautification activities.

Funds for the club are raised through membership dues, special events, raffles and donations that include the annual Fishing Derby which is held the third Saturday in January every year. There is a Club Banquet in March and a Member Appreciation Picnic in August.

The club meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, where all members are allowed to participate in club decisions. Club Dues are very low at \$10 for single or \$20 for family per year.

The Club's major activities include supporting the fishery of the lake through fish planting programs. To date the club has planted over 254,000 fish in WPL.

Continued on back page...

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT SWIMMER'S ITCH

Swimmer's itch is widespread in Wisconsin and has also been reported in many other states within the U.S., Europe and elsewhere in the world. There seem to be no special characteristics of the lakes having the problem; some of the finest recreational waters experience swimmer's itch annually, whereas other lakes may have an occasional outbreak or none at all.

Swimmer's itch organisms are most commonly noticed in early summer, when the water is its warmest. The season is relatively short, usually four to six weeks, depending on the weather. It's best to regard swimmer's itch in the same manner as mosquitos, wood ticks and deer flies; there really is nothing that can be done to eliminate them, and our best action is to learn how to reduce exposure. Often these creatures we consider pests are signs of a healthy and diverse outdoors environment. Overall, they shouldn't discourage us from enjoying the many outdoor swimming activities we have at our beautiful lake!

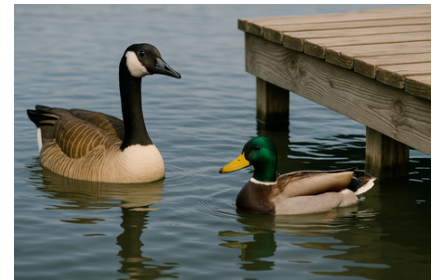
What is Swimmer's Itch and where does it come from?

The organism that causes swimmer's itch has a complicated life history:

- It starts out as a worm (parasite) in the intestinal lining of aquatic birds and mammals (host).
- The worms lay eggs inside the host animal.
- The eggs are eliminated by the host and drop to the bottom of the lake.
- Then the eggs hatch into miracidia that swim around in the water until they find a snail.
- Once they find a snail, they live inside them and develop into cercariae.
- The snails then release the cercariae back into the water where they look for another host - aquatic birds, mammals or humans.
- 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.
- The good news is the organism that causes swimmer's itch cannot complete its life history in the human body. Humans are not a suitable host as your body's immune system detects it as a foreign protein, then attacks and kills it shortly after it penetrates your skin. The itching and welts are not caused by the organism living under your skin, but by an allergic reaction. Not everyone is sensitive to swimmer's itch. Some people show no symptoms of swimmer's itch even though others swimming at the same time and place break out severely. Much like poison ivy, however, your sensitivity to swimmer's itch will increase with each exposure. Swimmer's itch is not spread from person to person.

Reducing the odds of getting swimmer's itch:

- Keep waterfowl away from your dock and shoreline. If you are feeding waterfowl (ducks and geese) from your dock, STOP! Feeding encourages them to stay in the area and increases the risk of the water becoming infected with the parasite. If geese like to rest on your dock, do what you can to discourage them. You can try putting an owl wind sock or statue on your dock and move it around occasionally.
- Stay out of the water by the shore. The swimmer's itch organism may originate somewhere else in the lake and is being brought to your shoreline by wave action or currents. You may want to try swimming from a raft or boat farther out from shore where you are less likely to come into contact with the cercaria. Of course, this strategy may not be practical if you don't swim or have young children who want to play in the water near shore.
- Apply a water repellent substance such as petroleum jelly, waterproof sunscreen or other skin oils to reduce the ability of the Cercariae from penetrating the skin.
- Dry off with a towel as soon as you get out of the water or shower. When you get out of the lake, don't let the water evaporate off of your skin. The organism in the droplets of water on your skin will look for somewhere to go as the droplet of water evaporates.



Additional resources about swimmer's itch can be found online at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services www.dhs.wisconsin.gov, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources www.dnr.wisconsin.gov, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov.

MOTORBOAT WAKE ENHANCEMENT ORDINANCE CREATED BY TOWN OF BRAZEAU

The White Potato Lake District recently became aware of a new lake ordinance created and passed by the Town of Brazeau. The WPLD was not involved in the creation of the ordinance or its approval, but we wish to keep our District members informed of lake news. Questions about the ordinance can be directed to the Town of Brazeau at www.townofbrazeau.com.

TOWN OF BRAZEAU Oconto County, State of Wisconsin Ordinance #14.0100 Motorboat Wake Enhancement Ordinance

An ordinance to regulate Wake Enhancement upon all waters within the Town of Brazeau, Oconto County, Wisconsin and prescribing penalties for violations thereof. The town board of the Town of Brazeau, Oconto County, Wisconsin does ordain as follows:

Section 1 - APPLICABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all waters within the Town of Brazeau, Oconto County.
- B. This chapter shall be enforced by the officers of the Town of Brazeau or by individuals appointed by the officers and/or Oconto County Sheriff department as requested along with any and all other state and county officers authorized by law to enforce the same.

Section 2 - INTENT The intent of this ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interests, and the capability of the water resources.

Section 3 - STATE BOATING AND SAFETY LAWS ADOPTED State boating laws as found in SS. 30.50 to 30.71, WI Stats., are adopted by reference.

Section 4 - DEFINITIONS "Motorboat" — means any boat equipped with propulsion machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion. "Motorized Watercraft" — includes Motorboats and PWC's. "Public Access" — is any access to the waters by means of public property. "PWC" — means a motorboat that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or a caged propeller as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person standing on, kneeling on or sitting astride the watercraft. "Slow-no-wake" — means that speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control. "Transition Speed" — means the speed at which the boat is operating at greater than slow-no-wake speed, but not fast enough so that the boat is planing.

Section 5 - RESTRICTIONS

- A. No person may use or employ water sacks, ballast tanks, submersible wings or any other device which causes a boat to operate in a bow-high manner, or which increases or enhances a boat's wake.
- B. No person may operate any motorized watercraft in an artificially bow-enhance the boat's wake. Such prohibited operation shall apply to wake mechanical hydrofoils, uneven loading or operation at transition speed (the speed at which the boat is operating at greater than slow-no-wake speed, but not fast enough so that the boat is planing).

Section 6 - POSTING REQUIREMENTS The Town of Brazeau shall place and maintain a synopsis of this ordinance at public access points pursuant to the requirements of NR 5.15 Wis. Admin. Code.

Section 7 - PENALTIES A. Wisconsin state boating penalties as found in Section 30.80, Wis. Stats., and deposits as established in the Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule established by the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, are hereby adopted by reference, with all references to fines amended to forfeitures and all references to imprisonment deleted.

B. Any person violating a provision of this Ordinance for which no statutory equivalent exists in Ch. 30, Wis. Stats., shall forfeit the following: 1. Anyone found guilty of violating Section 5 of this Ordinance shall pay a forfeiture established by the Town Board (refer to the Town of Brazeau Bond Schedule), together with the costs of prosecution.

Section 8 - SEVERABILITY The provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable, and it is expressly declared that the Town Board would have passed the other provisions of this Ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

EFFECTIVE February 19, 2025

LAKE HISTORY | WHAT'S IN A NAME: WHY ARE WE WHITE POTATO LAKE?

Authored by Dennis Schaefer

There are tens of thousands of lakes around the world, most of which have pretty standard lake-type names. There are a lot of Pine lakes, Long lakes, Green lakes, Sand lakes, but in all the world there is only one lake named White Potato Lake. Whenever I mention the name of our lake to most people, their response is "What?"

So how did White Potato Lake get its unusual name? There are a number of stories that offer an explanation. One suggests that the shape of the lake, coupled with the large number of birch trees in the area, coined the name. Another suggests that the origins are rooted in an old Indian name.

So, what's the truth behind the legend?

The answer can be found within our lake, or more precisely, underneath the water!

The Sagittaria plant, a member of the Water Plantain, is the real reason for White Potato Lake's name. It's potato-like base grows in the lake bottom, varying from 1-2 inches in diameter. This plant has a number of other names including: the Arrowhead plant, Duck Potato, Arrowleaf, Wapattoo, Katniss, Swamp Potato, and Tule Potato.

The plant is found throughout much of North America and served as an important food source for Native Americans. Lewis and Clark chronicled the plant on their travels as a popular Indian food source. Sagittarias grow up to three feet in height and in clusters that are topped with beautiful three-petaled white flowers. There are 30 species found in fresh waters, and all are edible. The starchy tubers mature in mid-summer and into autumn. The Native American Indians would wade near the shoreline and dislodge the potatoes from the lake bottom mud using long sticks or their toes. The "potatoes" float and would pop to the surface. Today, you can see them floating in the lake after a late summer storm. They are crunchy like water chestnuts, but are quite a bit sweeter when cooked. Like conventional potatoes, they can be baked, boiled, creamed, French fried, or scalloped. Eaten raw, they have a milky juice.



Photo of Sagittaria latifolia, also known as broadleaf arrowhead, duck-potato, Indian potato, or wapato. Photo source: Wikipedia

Excerpt from the WPL Advancement Association: "Spud News", May 2002

Continued from cover....

WHITE POTATO LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

In addition, the Sportsmen's Club supports conservation efforts, sportsmanship ethics, and special programs for the youth, handicapped, and elderly of the club. It also supports education with the granting of scholarships (2-\$1000) per year for those college students who will be or are majoring in the Conservation and Natural Resources fields, along with financial support of our local fire department (\$500), rescue squad (\$500) and other charitable causes.

Other programs for club members:

- Sunshine Club for members or family members that have passed
- Big Buck Contest (\$50)
- Kids Under 15 Fishing Contests (starts opening day of fishing in May until Labor Day) Prizes for Bass, Bluegill, Muskie, Northern Pike, Perch, Rock Bass, Sunfish and Walleye. Each species is awarded 1st place of \$25 and 2nd place of \$15. All other entries get a gift certificate to Meatski's.

For more information on the Club, visit their website to see all events, pictures, and other information about the White Potato Lake Sportsman's club. If you are interested in joining the 413 current members, you can join by visiting our website or contacting any board member. www.whitepotatolakesc.org

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NEXT ANNUAL MEETING:

JULY 19, 2025

9:00 AM