



# District of Powers Lake NEWSLETTER

Published for all those who use and love Powers Lake

## JUNE

## 2018

### Swimmer's Itch

The DPL has received an invitation to join in a research project on the parasite we know as "the June Itch".

Dr. Patrick Harrington {University of Alberta} and Freshwater Solutions, LLC, are embarking on a large, cross continent research initiative focused on parasites that cause swimmer's itch. These larval flatworms exit their aquatic snail intermediate host each morning during the warmer summer months in search of a bird or mammal definitive host. Recreational bathers serve as accidental hosts when their bare skin is exposed to the free-living larvae, which penetrate the epidermis and die. Some people react to this foreign substance with symptoms of raised, reddened and itchy papules, often called "swimmer's itch".

Dr. Harrington, Canada's leader in swimmer's itch research, has been collaborating since 2015 with Tom Reimink, owner of Freshwater Solutions, a leader in innovative swimmer's itch research and control in Michigan. They are beginning collaboration in 2018 with researchers at the University of New Mexico {where the largest curated collection of swimmer's itch-causing parasites is located} on multiple lakes in Michigan and plan to expand their efforts across the US and Canada in 2019.

Their goal is to establish the largest database of reported swimmer's itch cases in North America. The DPL has been invited to join this initiative. New data collected will allow them to ID and zero in on areas of the continent that are particularly troubled by this common malady. These areas will become the focus of their research efforts in 2019 and beyond.

In order to help, we are posting the Reporting Instruction Card in this newsletter and on our website. Feel free to copy and distribute unlimited cards. A smart phone can con-

veniently read the code, which immediately opens up their reporting URL for ease of use. You can also use the website [www.swimmersitch.ca](http://www.swimmersitch.ca).

We encourage you to report any and all cases of swimmer's itch. If we participate, they can provide us with season-end statistics specific to our lake as well as more general, cross-continent data.

**SWIMMERSITCH.ca**  
Have you experienced swimmer's itch? Report it!

The School of Public Health at the University of Alberta and Freshwater Solutions are conducting research on swimmer's itch in North America and are interested in knowing when and where swimmer's itch is occurring

If you have recently experienced swimmer's itch, you can help us by filling in our online survey at [swimmersitch.ca](http://swimmersitch.ca)

You can also learn more about:

- the causes and symptoms of swimmer's itch
- what to do if you get a rash
- where it has been recently reported
- who we are and our research

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH | freshwater solutions | publichealth@ualberta.ca | [freshwatersol.com](http://freshwatersol.com)

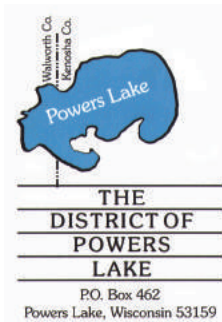
### Aquatic Plant Management:

Treatment application will be for 5 ¼ acres. Only small pockets remain so areas to focus on this year will be the larger of those pockets which are circled in red on the map which is posted on our website [www.districtofpowerslake.org](http://www.districtofpowerslake.org).

These areas would be along the Eastern shore, Jefferson Bay and the Knolls Launch.

### New Invasive Plant

The state is joining with local environmental groups to fight the spread of a harmful new plant that has been spotted around Geneva Lake and Lake Como. This is currently the only known occurrence in Walworth County and containment is of the utmost urgency. With its pretty yellow flowers and heart-shaped leaves, lesser celandine looks benign, but forms dense mats in the early spring, which eliminate native plant communities and can ruin lawns and gardens. They



**Elected Commissioners:**

Neal Kuhn, Chair  
Dan O'Connell, Secretary  
Brooke Jensen, Treas.  
Jim Michels  
Dave Anstett

**Appointed Commissioners:**

Judy Jooss, Kenosha Co.  
Mark Halvey, Randall Twp.

### New Invasive Plant (cont'd)

die back in late June and leave bare soil which can cause erosion and run-off. As this bare soil is eroded, the seeds and tuberous roots are easily dispersed across our landscape by water.

If you have seen this plant on your property, please call the Geneva Lake Conservancy at 262-275-5700 and notify the DPL also.



Lesser celandine {Ranunculus ficaria}

### Reminder

Please remember to use phosphorous free lawn fertilizer. Most soils in Wisconsin naturally provide all the phosphorus your established lawn needs. Much of the phosphorus (phosphate) you apply actually runs off the lawn before penetrating the soil. Runoff into our lake could contribute to algae bloom and undesirable aquatic plants.

Check the second number on the package formula. 15—0—10, for example, means zero phosphate. The first number is the nitrogen content, the middle number is the phosphorus content and the last number is the potassium content. **Make sure the middle number on the bag is 0 indicating it is phosphorus free.**

If you use a lawn service, ask your applicator service not to use phosphorus on your lawn. If they are unwilling to do this, contact another provider or consider applying the no-phosphorus fertilizer yourself.

### Website Signup

If you have not already done so, please visit our website and sign up for notifications of lake events such as E. coli advisory/closure at the Knolls Beach or Slow No Wake.

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



### QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Friday, June 15th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

The meetings are open to the public at the Randall Town Hall, 34530 Bassett Road, Bassett, WI.

### DISTRICT OF POWERS LAKE MISSION STATEMENT

Within the scope of the powers vested in it under Chapter 33 and in furtherance of the Public Trust Doctrine of Wisconsin, the mission of the District of Powers Lake is:

To support, protect, preserve and enhance the native ecosystem of the watershed, shoreline, and waters of Powers Lake as a natural resource for generations to come;

To be responsive to the interests and concerns of the district residents and the public; and

To proactively advocate when faced with potential damage to Powers Lake's environmental values, wildlife, natural beauty, peacefulness, safety and/or recreational value.