

Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MSIP)

Jim Vondale

Mission

- ▶ Work together with other lake associations and provide leadership in Michigan to address swimmer's itch through effective, comprehensive, science-based control programs, development and testing of preventive measures such as lotions and clothing and general research.

Objectives

- ▶ 1) Educate members of our lake associations, state and local government leaders, government regulators, businesses and the public about the importance of our lake resources in Michigan and the serious adverse impacts of swimmer's itch.
- ▶ 2) Bring together and provide strong leadership for lake associations in Michigan, state and local government leaders, government regulators, businesses and the public to address the critical problem of swimmer's itch.
- ▶ 3) Advance the state-of-the-art of swimmer's itch science for control programs, prevention and research.
- ▶ 4) Act as a one stop resource and provide information to lake associations in Michigan for swimmer's itch control programs, prevention and research.
- ▶ 5) Raise and then allocate funds from public and private sources to support lake association swimmer's itch control programs, prevention development and testing and research.
- ▶ 6) Partner with Leelanau Center for Education, a strategically located 501(c)(3) private educational institution in Glen Arbor Michigan with lab, conferencing and lodging facilities to advance our objectives.
- ▶ 7) Retain Susan and Brian Price, formerly with the Leelanau Conservancy, as Project Managers to advance our objectives.

Who We Are

- ▶ 1) Currently 24 lake associations in Michigan working together on swimmer's itch control, prevention and research.
- ▶ 2) We have an eight member Steering Committee helping to lead our efforts:
 - ▶ Crystal
 - ▶ Douglas
 - ▶ Glen
 - ▶ Gogebic
 - ▶ Higgins
 - ▶ Leelanau
 - ▶ Long
 - ▶ Portage

June 22 MSIP Meeting

- ▶ 1) Brought together lake associations across Michigan at Roscommon High School to share information about swimmer's itch, and discuss control programs, prevention and research interests.
- ▶ 2) Hosted by Ed Nellist and Bob Schneider, board members of Higgins Lake Swimmer's Itch Organization (HLSIO).
- ▶ 3) Presentation by Drs. Harvey and Curt Blankespoor on the history of swimmer's itch, research and control programs.
- ▶ 4) Panel discussion by SICON (Drs. Harvey and Curt Blankespoor, Calvin College, Hope College, University of Michigan and Ron Reimink), Dr. Sam Loker (University of New Mexico), Dr. Tom Raffel (Oakland University, Michigan), Dr. Patrick Hanington (University of Alberta, Canada), Dr. Rex Lowe (Bowling Green University and University of Wisconsin), Anna Dick (RTI International.)
- ▶ 5) Demonstration by SICON at their headquarters and lab at Dragonfly House on Higgins Lake.