

Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MSIP) Meeting Agenda

June 22, 2016 at Roscommon High School Auditorium

10600 Oakwood Drive, Roscommon, Michigan 48653

Meeting Sponsors:

Crystal Lake Joel Buzzell/Ted Fisher
Glen Lake Rob Karner
Higgins Lake Ken Dennings/Jim Vondale
Lake Leelanau Nick Fleezanis/Wayne Swallow
Lime Lake Dean Manikas

Meeting Hosts

Bob Schneider/Chair Roscommon
County Commission and Ed Nellist
Lyon Township Supervisor

MSIP Lake Association Member Meeting:

9:30 AM	Welcome/Introductions/Agenda Review	Joel/Ted
9:40	Discussion of Crystal, Higgins, Leelanau, Lime SICON Programs	4 Lakes
10:15	Discussion of (15) lake Oakland University Program	Jim Vondale
10:30	Sharing of Lake Association Information on SI/Q & A	Rob Karner
11:30	Working Lunch (a limited number of light lunches can be purchased by out of town lake association guests for \$5 per guest-email jvondale57@gmail.com to reserve)	
11:30	Public Affairs Associates (PAA) Report on State SI Funding	John Lindley
12:00	Organizational Issues (Introduce Leelanau Center for Education)	Jim Vondale
12:15	Break	

MSIP Open Meeting with Expert Panel:

12:30 PM	Welcome/Introductions	Bob Schneider/Ed Nellist
12:40	Swimmer's Itch, an 88 Year History	Drs. Harvey and Curt Blankespoor
1:10	Panel of Experts/Q&A (See bios next page)	Moderator Dr. Curt Blankespoor
	Ron Reimink/Drs. Harvey and Curt Blankespoor	SICON
	Dr. Patrick Hanington	University of Alberta, Canada
	Dr. Eric (Sam) Loker	University of New Mexico
	Dr. Tom Raffel	Oakland University, Michigan
	Dr. Rex Lowe	Bowling Green State University
	Anna Dick	RTI International
4:15	Move to Dragonfly House (SICON headquarters and lab) for SI Demonstration	
5:30	Join colleagues and experts in a private room at Fred's Restaurant for dinner	

PANEL OF EXPERTS

SICON (Ron Reimink and Drs. Harvey and Curt Blankespoor):

With over 80 years of combined SI control and research experience, SICON's principals are leading experts on Swimmer's Itch (SI). SICON is conducting programs during the spring and summer of 2016 on Crystal Lake, Higgins Lake, Lake Leelanau, and Lime Lake. The science-based Comprehensive SI Control Program at Higgins Lake is beginning its second year. Dr. Harvey Blankespoor has been studying SI and participating in SI control programs for more than 50 years at Hope College. Ron Reimink is a retired biology teacher at Hudsonville High School and has worked with Dr. Harvey Blankespoor on SI since 1977 on a variety of lakes in northern Michigan. Ron has worked for SICON full time on SI since January, 2016. Dr. Curt Blankespoor is a full professor of biology at Calvin College and has been teaching an animal parasitology course at the University of Michigan Biological Station since 2008. www.swimmersitchcontrol.org

Anna Dick:

Anna is a Senior Project Management Specialist for International Development Group, RTI International. Anna is part of a team investigating topical treatments for Schistosomiasis. They believe these topical treatments also could be effective for SI. The team is in the final stages of a publication that lays out the challenges and opportunities of developing an anti-penetrant for Schistosomiasis and is looking for opportunities to conduct field trials with existing compounds. RTI, International works extensively on Schistosomiasis through its ENVISION program on neglected tropical diseases, the largest US government funded program on this issue worldwide. www.ntdenvision.org/

Dr. Patrick Hanington:

Dr. Hanington is an Assistant Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Canada. He is the leading SI expert in Canada focusing on gaining a better understanding of the immunological and environmental dynamics involved in transmission of trematode parasites to humans by their intermediate snail hosts. He and his team's work in Schistosomiasis, a disease transmitted by parasites that infects more than 200 million people worldwide, focuses on developing strategies to limit or prevent the transmission from the snail intermediate hosts to humans. www.info@swimmersitch.ca

Dr. Eric (Sam) Loker:

Dr. Loker is Distinguished Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Dr. Loker is a leading expert on Schistosomiasis and is internationally recognized for his work in parasitology. His research interests include Biology of the Snails that Transmit Human Schistosomiasis, Including Ways to Control Schistosomiasis in Snails. To quote one of Dr. Loker's colleagues, "When it comes to parasitology, there are few scientists with Sam's breadth of knowledge. He is an ecologist, an immunologist and a molecular biologist." www.esloker@unm.edu

Dr. Rex Lowe:

Dr. Lowe is currently Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University but he has recently moved to the University of Wisconsin where he continues to conduct research through the

University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology. Dr. Lowe has also taught at the University of Michigan Biological Station for the past 40 years. Dr. Lowe has been retained by the HLPOA to conduct research this summer on the relationship between nutrients and algae in Higgins Lake. His expertise in the field of algal ecology, especially benthic algae, is well known. www.lowe@bgsu.edu

Dr. Tom Raffel:

Dr. Raffel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Oakland University. His background is in the ecology of parasitism and disease, with particular experience in statistical modeling and the effects of pollution and temperature on wetland ecosystems and trematode parasites. This year, Dr. Raffel's lab is expanding their surveys of avian schistosomes to include at least 15 lakes and 35 sites across northern Michigan with support of local lake associations. His team is also conducting lab experiments to develop new ways to test protective skin creams and new modeling approaches to predict daily variation in schistosome exposure. www.raffel@oakland.edu