



Hello Swimmers Itch supporters,

Welcome to Summer 2024 at Higgins Lake! Now is the time that duck broods may appear. Please look for and report Common Merganser broods if you see them. Our relocation program is operating again this summer after a two-year absence due to the DNR concern over Avian Flu. We have already removed one brood this season (Thursday, 6/20), but we suspect there may yet be others. It is important to remember that not all ducks are merganser ducks. Most of what appears on our lake are Mallard ducks which we do not remove as they are not likely to be a source of Swimmer's Itch. If you have the opportunity to take pictures of the ducks you report, please do. The experts at Swimmers Itch Solutions will be able to determine which ducks you are reporting by viewing the pictures. There is a method to send pictures as you report sightings. The HLSIO website (HLSIO.org) has a page that is set up to accept reports of Common Merganser brood sightings. There are pictures of Common Merganser ducks on the website or you can find many more by looking up pictures on the internet. The reporting of Common Merganser duck broods is critical to the success of our program to keep SI cases to a minimum at Higgins Lake. We cannot remove the ducks if they are not reported. HLSIO supporters have done a great job locating these ducks in the past. Keep it up, team !

Want to Help us study Swimmers Itch?

Just fill out a short survey after you've been in the water. This is the third year for the Higgins Lake Water Exposure study! While results have been critical in helping us track the prevalence of Swimmer's Itch, we would like to have more participation. Ideally, we will have representation from around the lake, different times of the day, different uses of the water, as well as different times of year. *Your help can make a difference!* The process is simple...just send an email to higginsswimmersitch@gmail.com letting us know of your interest and we'll send you links to the survey sign-up (2 minutes) and the reporting form. It really can make a difference in helping us control Swimmers Itch.

Your HLSIO Board

Melanie Brown, Bill Carey, Phil Czech, Duncan Lawrence, Dale McDonald, John Ogren, Mike Purkey and Greg Semack