



***Swimmer's Itch can adversely affect our ability to enjoy Bay Lake.***

***And applying skin creams, toweling off and/or treating shorelines don't always work.***

***So, at the urging of BayLaker Rick Giertsen, BLIA looked for a strategy to **eliminate** the **cause**...***

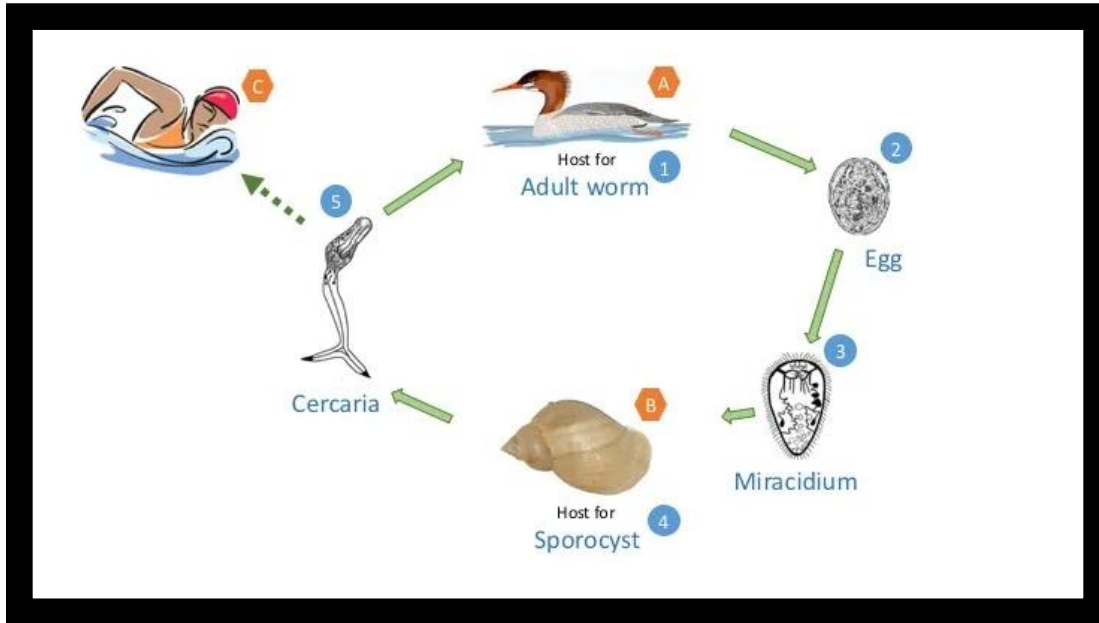
## **BLIA Swimmer's Itch Committee**

- **Mission:**
  - ***Research the causes of Swimmer's Itch and identify a method to reduce the number of cases on Bay Lake***
- **Members:**
  - ***David Devins, Rick Giertsen, Phil Malkerson, Phil Rollins***

***...and found one!***



***We've all heard that Swimmer's Itch comes from a parasite that is somehow related to ducks and snails.***

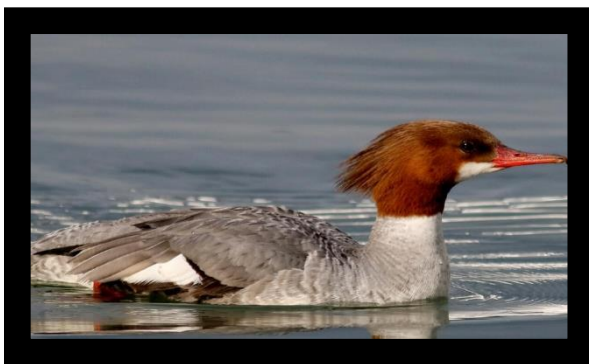


***But we now know that:***

***-it's not all species of ducks and***

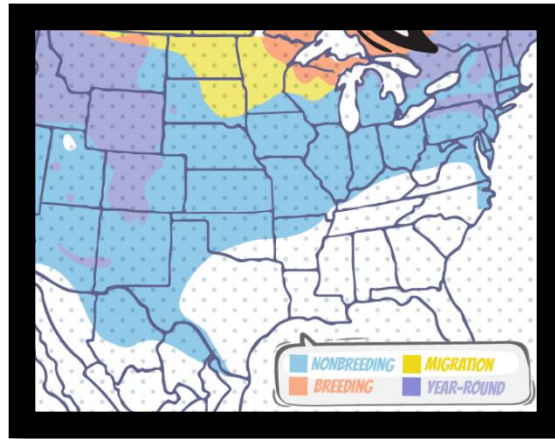
***-it's not all types of snails.***

***It's the Common Merganser and Stagnicola Snails.***



***We have both but:***

***1. Bay Lake is south of the normal breeding region for Common Mergansers so the number breeding here is limited....and it's the breeding period when they are here long enough for parasite creation.***



***2. Common Mergansers are “cavity nesting” birds so reducing the number of dead trees and Wood Duck houses (that aren't being used by Wood Ducks) will reduce their prime nesting habitat.***



***And here's the key:***

***3. It may be possible to relocate breeding Common Mergansers!***

***BLIA is working with Swimmer's Itch experts and the DNR in regard to reducing the number of Common Mergansers breeding on Bay Lake.***

***This is an achievable challenge.***

***What BayLakers can do:***

- 1. Eliminate breeding habitat on your shoreline.***
- 2. Report SI cases (a reporting link is being created).***
- 3. Watch future Blasts for more information.***

***Working together we can make a difference!***

