



## Summer Village of Grandview

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### Midges – a part of life at the lake!

One of the many events occurring each year at the lake is the hatch of midges (Chironomids). This year, they were particularly abundant, becoming a source of annoyance for those trying to jog or keep their cabins clean. Midges usually lay their eggs on vegetation or on water, where they are rarely noticed, but this year, the egg laying coincided with rainy conditions on June 7, so the midges deposited their egg masses on windows and other surfaces not normally used as egg sites. These masses, containing hundreds of eggs, are encased in slime with a consistency similar to egg whites--certainly not a pleasant sight to behold!

The midges play a very important part in the ecosystem at the lake. They are a critical source of food for bats and birds at a time of the year when the young are being fed. They also provide food for fish and aquatic insects.

The good news is that they do not bite, and they last for only a brief period each year, just long enough to reproduce and then die. And by providing food for the bats and birds such as swallows and purple martins, they sustain these predator populations, which help to keep the mosquitos under control for the remainder of the summer. All in all, it's a beneficial trade-off for us.

Enjoy your summer at the lake!





Midges laying eggs



Midge egg masses showing hundreds of eggs