



June~ 2013

## *The Water's Edge*

What you need to know before stepping into the freshwater,  
or before using sinus rinsing devices

*This publication is dedicated to raising awareness about Naegleria  
Fowleri, a free-living amoeba found in all freshwater bodies of water  
including lakes, rivers, ponds, hot springs and tap water*

## Meet Jack & Hailee

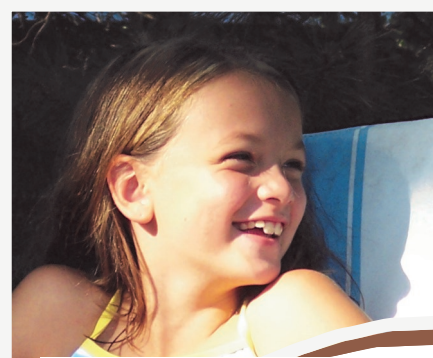
Jack was just 9 years old last summer. He loved playing hockey with the Forest Lake Hockey Association. He loved to build things and loved his sisters and his little brother. He also loved the water and swimming.

Last August, Jack went swimming with his family in Lily Lake in Stillwater, MN. Just days later on a trip to northern MN, Jack became ill with flu-like symptoms. Those symptoms quickly moved from mild to severe. Doctors were at a loss for what could be making him so severely ill. The answer came when they discovered Jack had suffered from and died from Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM) caused by exposure to Naegleria Fowleri. Jack died on August 6, 2012.

Hailee loved the color pink. She loved music, including writing her own music lyrics and notes. She loved animals and was a true friend to others. She wanted to be a movie star or a nurse when she grew up! Hailee also loved swimming and lived just a block away from a swimming beach at Fawn Lake in Stacy, MN. She begged her mom to go swimming with a friend on Monday the 18th of August, 2008. Hailee's mom thought it was too hot, but let Hailee go. Two days later, Hailee became ill. By Friday she was hospitalized and died from a brain infection on Saturday. Just 5 days after swimming. She was 11 years old. Hailee's death was a mystery for 2 years, until another child died in MN in 2010. This is when the health department told The LaMeyer's that PAM was the likely cause.



Jack Ariola Erenberg



Hailee Marie LaMeyer



## Upcoming Awareness Events

**Arts in the Park– Forest Lake MN– Visit our booth on Tuesday's during the summer months from 5-9pm.**

**Swimabovewater will be participating in the July 4th parade in Forest Lake, MN**

**Swimabovewater will be holding speaking events in the near future**



Lake Fest—  
Forest  
Lake, MN  
6-1-13

# What have we been up to?

*Photos of recent  
awareness activities*



Hillbilly Hoedown—Coon Lake— 6-1-13

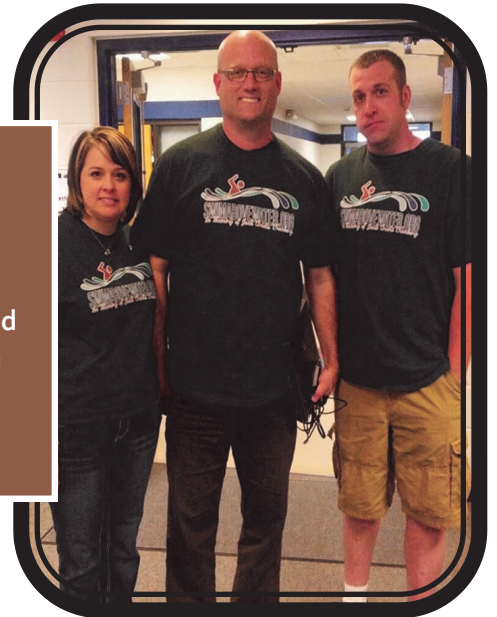


Speaking Event— 5-23-13— Forest View Elem

Heidi  
LaMeyer  
speaks  
about  
awareness  
5-23-13



Heidi  
LaMeyer,  
Scott  
Urness and  
Jim Ariola  
5-23-2013



## From the Center for Disease Control (CDC)- What is Naegleria Fowleri?

*Naegleria fowleri* (commonly referred to as the "brain-eating amoeba" or "brain-eating ameba"), is a free-living microscopic ameba\*, (single-celled living organism). It can cause a rare\*\* and devastating infection of the brain called primary amebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). The ameba is commonly found in warm freshwater (e.g. lakes, rivers, and hot springs) and soil. *Naegleria fowleri* usually infects people when contaminated water enters the body through the nose. Once the ameba enters the nose, it travels to the brain where it causes PAM, which is usually fatal. Infection typically occurs when people go swimming or diving in warm freshwater places, like lakes and rivers. In very rare instances, *Naegleria* infections may also occur when contaminated water from other sources (such as inadequately chlorinated swimming pool water or heated and contaminated tapwater) enters the nose.

[WWW.SWIMABOVEWATER.ORG](http://WWW.SWIMABOVEWATER.ORG)