

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Fall/Winter 2016

(For property owners and friends of Windigo Lake, Lake 27, and Hub Lake)



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Patrick Steininger

Hello I'm Patrick Steininger your new WLPOA President.

When my Dad asked (nudged) if I would sit on the Board of the WLPOA, I was more than glad to help out based on all the great memories and times the lake has given my family for many years.

Since I know am close to my mid 50's (ahem)...I have been coming up to Windigo Lake with my parents and now my family for that whole time. Even my wife Jennifer now has been coming to Windigo for over 30 years! My three children Kyle 28, Kelly 25, her husband Nathan, and Jeremy 22 also have enjoyed coming up to Hayward.

What is special about coming to Hayward for our family is there is no schedule...you can go at your own pace. We play a lot of cards; enjoy eating, spending time with other family, long walks with our dog Ty. Golfing, Fishing, Town, Birkie watching, Cranberry fest, Bayfield Trip, are just some of the things we have enjoyed recently.

It seems like every time we go out in the boat or on one of our walks there is some wildlife that appears and we totally enjoy those moments.

A big thank you to all members and in also a special thanks for the time and effort of the volunteers of the WLPOA!

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a healthy and joyous 2017.

Patrick Steininger

Patrick.steininger@skodie.com



Hold the date for the Spring Dinner: Saturday April 29, 2017

Barb Pjevach

We will again be holding our Spring Dinner at The Ranch on the weekend before the fishing opener so that we can more easily hold the dinner at a local restaurant. (Many restaurants are reluctant to reserve a room for our dinner on the weekend of opening fishing). Over the past few years, turn-out and reviews from attendees have been positive and having the separate room with a door enables everyone to hear our speaker. More specifics about our speaker and menu options and the RSVP form will be included with our March newsletter
Please mark your calendar and join us at the Ranch on the evening of April 29!



Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

WLPOA's income during 2016 is summarized below:

- We have received \$2,005 in dues from members and "Friends of Windigo"
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$630 and donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$225.
- Tickets to the Spring Dinner brought in \$1,068. Meal expenses and the speaker's honorarium were \$1,151 resulting in a loss of \$83.

WLPOA's annual operating expenses totaled \$ 1,647 for this year. This amount includes our membership mailings, printing and mailing of Newsletters, picnic expenses, our liability insurance, PO Box rental, annual corporate fees, and membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

DNR Grant to Monitor Windigo

Our Boat Landing Monitor is paid using a Wisconsin DNR Grant. These grants are 75% funded by the DNR with a 25% match provided by WLPOA. Our match can be satisfied with cash or by supplying "in-kind" volunteer labor.

We spent \$ 2,835 this year on monitoring of the boat landing. We had received an advance of \$ 750 so our DNR Grant account currently has a negative balance of \$ 2,085. Our request for reimbursement will be submitted to the DNR before year end and the final result after submitting our volunteer hours will be reported in the next Newsletter.

As of November 1, 2016, WLPOA has the following account balances:

Account Balances (11-01-2016)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 788
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 1,383
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 8,274
DNR Grant for 2016	(\$ 2,085)
Total on deposit	\$ 13,360

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

As we close out 2016, we have 81 members with representation from Windigo and Hub Lake and Lake 27.

Dues Reminders for next year will be sent out in February and information about dues will also be on our website. WLPOA serves property owners on Windigo Lake, Hub Lake, and Lake 27 by promoting communication and cooperation among lakeshore owners and by working with the DNR and local government to maintain lake quality and protect our lake from invasive aquatic weeds. WLPOA, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization so your membership donation is tax-deductible as provided by law. Thank you to everyone who supports our lake association. Your support is critical and it is very much appreciated.

As a reminder, if you know of new neighbors, please let us know at info@windigolake.org so that we can be sure to contact all property owners regarding membership.

Lake Environment Updates

Barb Pjevach & Colleen Graham

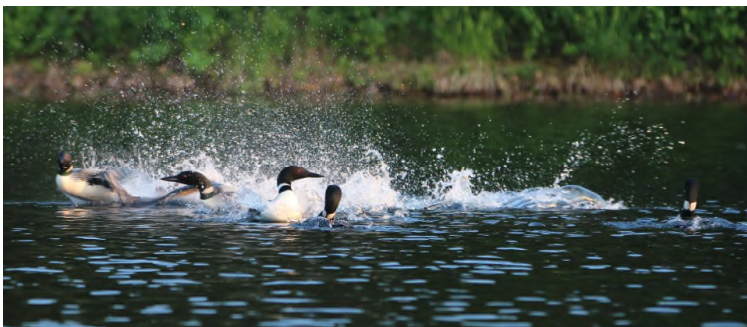
Thanks to everyone for your continued interest and vigilance in looking for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)! As a reminder, there are 2 major AIS that are prevalent in other area lakes and which we are working to keep out of Windigo: Curly Leaf Pond Weed and Eurasian Water-Milfoil.

If you want to see details and pictures for monitoring AIS, please visit the AIS page on our website: <http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/>.

Here are a few recent updates:

Pat Brown (Sawyer County AIS Coordinator) conducted a survey of the littoral zone (area where aquatic plants grow) on Windigo. He did not see any suspicious species. Windigo was an alternate on the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Committee's (GLIFWC) list this summer for a full point intercept survey, but that didn't happen. To refresh everyone's memory, there was a point intercept survey done by Dan Tyrolt in 2013 as part of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Pat will let us know if we get on GLIFWC's list for next year.

Utilizing our grant from the DNR for aquatic invasive species prevention, Dennis Dollhopf monitored the public boat landing generally on weekends and holidays from fishing opener to Labor Day. We also had some volunteer



monitors covering Dennis' absences and the bass club outing. No incidents or sightings of AIS were reported. We submitted an application for a CBCW grant for 2017 and have been approved again for this grant. Dennis has expressed an interest in returning as monitor next year. If anyone is willing to help out as a volunteer, please let us know because those volunteer hours can be used to help our reimbursement levels from the grant.

Barb Pjevach sent a photo of a suspicious plant seen in Lake 27 to Pat Brown for identification. It was large purple bladderwort which is a native plant of "special concern," i.e., somewhat rare. Pat attached additional info about the species including pictures of it in bloom. Colleen Graham noticed that the blooms later in the summer matched the photos. Based on research, although not an invasive species, this plant likes boggy lakes like Lake 27.

Thanks to Roxanne and Mike Lantz who have voluntarily done water data gathering for many years for Windigo. Our water clarity continues to be good but can vary some from year to year. The results based on their work are published by the DNR. You can see data back to 1995 at this link:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/Station.aspx?station=10471>.

A creel survey is being conducted on Windigo this year by the DNR. They were on the lake forty hours/week through the season and they also be out there during ice fishing. The final report will be available on the DNR website at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrsrvys.html>. See more under the Fish and Wildlife Committee report below.

With the increasing use of area lake homes for rentals, Sawyer County held a meeting regarding a proposed ordinance on short-term rentals in Sawyer County. Dale Olson from Zoning is looking at implementation and enforcement issues. There can also be no/low wake ordinances for individual lakes like Windigo established with the Township.

Year	Secchi Mean	Secchi Min	Secchi Max	Secchi Count
1995	11.13	10.25	12	2
1996	10.81	9.75	13	9
1997	12.83	10.5	14.25	3
1998	9.05	6.5	11.75	5
1999	9.67	9	10.25	3
2000	9.56	8.5	10.75	4
2001	8.9	7.5	10.25	5
2002	13	13	13	1
2003	12.25	12	12.5	2
2004	9.8	9	10	5
2005	4.25	4	4.5	2
2006	10	10	10	1
2008	13.5	13	14	3
2009	12	9	14	4
2010	9.33	8	10	3
2011	6.15	5.6	7	4
2012	5.78	3.6	8.5	4
2013	11.25	11	12	4
2014	8.4	7	9	4
2015	12.75	12	14	4
2016	7	6	9	3

As a reminder, it is common for people who rent or who are visiting to not be aware and as careful as property owners about the impact of high speed boating in shallower areas of lakes. Thus it is also critical for property owners to help renters understand how to be respectful and helpful to preservation of a lake’s shoreline and bed.

Windigo Secchi Disk depth visibility

On Windigo, we recommend low speeds in all of the bays until you get out into one of the two large areas of the lake. Even though there are some deeper areas in several of the bays, most of the bays are shallow and are particularly subject to erosion and potential upsetting of nesting birds. Erosion potential in particular is more critical in the past year as water levels have risen. Also, please keep in mind that there is plenty of room in the two large sections of Windigo to stay clear of shore when doing high-speed boating.

Thanks in advance to all property owners on our lakes to help your renters and guests understand our love of our lakes and the best ways to preserve them and the wildlife which live there.

Fishing and Wildlife Committee

Dan Pjevach

Fall was a busy time for the Fish and Wildlife Committee this year and for the 1st time ever, winter may be too.

The Creel Survey that the DNR started this spring will continue through the ice fishing season. The monitoring was suspended for November and December and will begin again as soon as there is good ice. Based on our camera, it looks like ice started on December 9th this year and will stay until spring due to all the cold weather we have had. This was 9 days earlier than last year.

On Monday night, October 3rd, the Spooner office of the DNR performed an electroshock fish survey. The DNR covered the entire shoreline including the shoreline around the four islands. This was quite the spectacle and caught the attention of many of our residents. The purpose of the survey was to monitor our walleye population. This was the second time our lake was surveyed in 2016. A spring survey was conducted on April 12-14 by the Spooner DNR as well. The preliminary results of these surveys show that Windigo is



hopefully supporting its own walleye population. If we continue down this path, we should see more adult walleye in the future.

In October, Paul Martin (pmwood80@yahoo.com) 651-260-1733 volunteered to become the committee chairperson. This was very welcome news as the committee will benefit from having a Windigo Lake resident (versus a non-resident) in charge for the last 8 years. Paul also is an avid fisherman and has logged numerous hours on the lake. He brings a new level of enthusiasm and energy to the committee which will benefit us for years to come.

The committee members are Paul Martin, Chairperson, Dick Steininger, Dave Ochu, Mike Lantz, Dan Pjevach, John Garrett, Wes Miller, Bill Tobin, Dave Lawson and Dennis Persells.



On November 2nd, Paul Martin, Dave Lawson and Dan Pjevach met with Max Wolter at the DNR offices in Hayward. It was a very productive meeting and Max was able to answer all of our questions and concerns. At the meeting we began the permitting process to finalize the tree drop we have been working on for over the last year. Although we did not have any interest from any individual property owners, we applied for a permit to drop trees on the 4 state owned islands. The permit was granted and the DNR will identify trees later this winter. The DNR will also cut the trees and drop them on the ice. Fishing committee members will hopefully be able to assist where needed as this project. This habitat creation will hopefully benefit us for years to come. See additional fish

habitat opportunity in separate article below.

With 2016 coming to a close, we are looking forward to a more active committee in 2017. The committee welcomes anyone who would like to be more active in protecting and keeping the Windigo Lake fishery healthy. Please contact Paul or Dan if you have any ideas or questions.

Opportunity for Fish Habitat. Interest in Contributing and/or Participating?

Paul Martin, Chair of Fishing and Wildlife Committee

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has given us an opportunity to help our fishery in Windigo Lake by providing a Fish Habitat Structure permit that includes brush bundle placement. The habitat that we are exploring is made from cinder block, oak brush and rope or heavy duty twine, that's it! It is simple and cost effective and home owners can participate by assembling their own brush bundles for placement in their favorite fishing areas, provided it meets the requirements of the Permit. The most important requirement is the placement in at a minimum water depth.

Here are the Guidelines provided by the WDNR

- Natural materials only
- Oak brush or oak tree tops only
- Brush bundles must be inspected by a member of the Windigo Lake Fish and Wildlife Committee (WLFWC)
- Placement of the bundles **MUST BE SUPERVISED** by a member of the WLFWC
- Placement must be at a water depth that will cover the brush bundles by a minimum of 5 feet of water or more.

Help with building and placement of the brush bundles could also be available through the WLFWC. These brush bundles will last for about 4 or 5 years and provide food and cover for the fish in our lake. Fishing pressure has increased significantly over the last few years, and any habitat improvement we can provide will help sustain our lakes' fishery.

If you are not interested in providing your own brush bundles, the WLFC would be grateful for any donations to purchase materials needed for this project. Please think of us when you get your 2017 dues notice by

designating an additional contribution to the Fish and Wildlife Management Fund. In addition, if you have any oak brush available on your property and would be willing to contribute it to our effort, please let the WLFWC know.

Please understand that this is not an open invitation to place things in the water; we are under the strict regulation and reporting requirements of the Permit that was issued to the WDNR and must abide by their guidelines and laws. I look forward to hearing from you if you are interested in participating in this project or if you have any other questions or concerns. Thank you from Paul Martin and the WLFWC.

What's in a name....such as "Windigo"?

Barb Pjevach



Windigo Sunrise courtesy of the Graves Family

Thanks to Cindy and Dave Lawson for letting us know about an interesting article about Windigo in the Northern Heritage October 4, 2016 Volume 2 supplement to the Sawyer County Record. The article was titled: "Windigo Lake named for a cannibal legend?" In our own historical records, it is noted that at some point our lake was also called Bass Lake and sometime in the late 1930's or 1940's it was changed to Windigo. If anyone knows more details, feel free to share it with us at info@windigolake.org.

According the article published in Northern Heritage, Windigo is sometimes spelled Wendigo and is a Native American word of Algonquian origin referring to a cannibal demon/spirit that appears in the dire winter months. Curious to read more? [CLICK HERE](#) or go to the following link to download a pdf of the article:

<http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Windigo-Article-in-Northern-Heritage-Vol-2-10-2016.pdf>.

Note that the article starts halfway down the first page and the continuation is on the bottom half of the second page. Enjoy!

Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting Recap

Barb Pjevach

We held our annual WLPOA meeting and picnic on Saturday August 1. Thanks to the Pydo Family for again hosting us at their property. Thanks to Sandy Bender and other volunteers for helping with all of the arrangements and food. Thanks to all members and guests who came and brought a dish to share!

Barb Pjevach read the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting and Gary Hartmann made the Treasurer's report. Dave Roeker, Membership Chair also attended and provided that WLPOA membership is up this year with 81 members.

The WLPOA officers were presented by Dan Pjevach and were approved by membership vote.

- President: Patrick Steininger
- Vice President: Dick Steininger
- Treasurer: Gary Hartmann
- Secretary & Communications: Barb Pjevach
- Committee Leaders are:
 - Membership Chairs: Dave and Donna Roeker
 - Safety/Environmental: Colleen Graham

- Fish and Wildlife: Dan Pjevach (Note, following the meeting Paul Martin volunteered to Chair the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Thanks Paul!)
- Social: Sandy Bender

Dick thanked people for helping with committees and welcomed committee reports:

Lake Environment: Colleen Graham reported that we applied for the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant and received it again. This is the 4th year of monitoring at the Windigo landing. The committee members are in contact with Pat Brown who took Kristi Maki's job to get a survey on the calendar. There was a big change with the shoreline regulations at the state level that weakened the protection of quality shoreline that was previously legislated at the county level. Wisconsin counties can no longer be more restrictive than the state level. There has been a rush for building permits that would not have been approved before.



Loon Report: Marilyn Konkler, who monitors loon activity reported. Marilyn is concerned about the Loons. There seem to be fewer and fewer loons each year. There was a nesting on Windigo and one on Portage bay, but no chicks from either this year. Dick noted that a speed boat plowed between two loons. Marilyn went to an annual spring loon monitoring workshop. Some lakes have many and others have fewer. **If anyone has information and sightings, please get it to Marilyn so she can add the sightings to her log...including floaters and pairs. Marilyn's email is mkonkler@centurytel.net.**

Fish and Wildlife: Dan reported that the committee had their annual meeting and decided that we do want to do a tree drop and some kind of stocking with our fish management fund. The DNR can cut down trees on the Islands....one tree every 50 feet and then cable to shore. We need buy the cable ends and cable them. Dan looked at the cost and it would be about \$600 (\$300 plus cost of cabling)...then we would have have \$700 left for stocking. Sharon Link noted that some of the trees have fallen in recent storms and noted that perhaps those could be cabled also, Dick noticed that trees can move when the ice moves.

We did get speared and reported it in the June newsletter. Max did a survey and will get a report. The DNR did a Boom shocking...and they shock the fish that come up and record them all. We will report when we hear from Max. The DNR have been doing a Creel survey and we will get those results also when the season is done. Dick noticed that they also harvest suckers from Portage Bay in spring. Nancy and Rick Christ noted that that in April the DNR put nets in for 2 weeks and they would use a big paddle and count the number of and types of fish there. Jim and Joann Evans have the DNR boat for the Creel survey at the dock.

Regarding healthy eating, the DNR has again reported mercury in large Northern and Walleye from Windigo. The committee members will plan to have lunch with Max Wolter again before the end of the year. Dick noted that we may be able to get Walleye stocking from the tribe but there are pros and cons. Paul Martin has noticed a lot more fishing pressure on the lake and big fishing boats. Sharon noted that she worked at the boat landing during a local Bass club tournament. A number of the guys had been there pre-fishing. The club fished Windigo for about a 4 week stretch.



A question was asked as to whether the Eagle nest on the island near the end of Tamarack Trail been abandoned. It was abandoned last year and they ended up not using it this year. The top of the tree snapped off and they have not nested there since.

Social: Dick thanked Sandy Bender for her efforts for this meeting and the Spring Dinner. He and the group also thanked Jennifer Steininger for helping with this year's meeting and picnic.

New Business:

- Paul Neimann noted that his family has been on Windigo since 1904. His grandfather moved to Hayward after graduating from medical school in 1899 and married his grandmother, a teacher in 1904 and they lived in the log cabin on the NW corner of Windigo. Paul also noted that David Brink, 97, another long time Windigo resident just published a poetry book.
- One property owner noted that rental/visiting boaters have been observed getting close to docks, PWC's boating very close to each other and water skiing right from the dock in very shallow waters and after sunset when it is dangerous. Some residents of the bays are noting that in addition to this activity disregarding safe boating regulations, it also increases to lakeshore erosion. It was asked whether we knew how many properties are being rented to others and nobody knew for sure, but we believe it is just a few properties on the lake. The question was asked as to whether the Sheriff has any jurisdiction and it is believed that not unless a Town Law has been broken. One resident offered to check with the township about possible next steps. All the small bays on Windigo should be treated as no-wake.
- We discussed holding the 2017 Annual Meeting and Picnic on the same weekend and day, So, the date will be Saturday August 5, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

New Neighbors?

We need your help! We try to keep abreast of property ownership changes, but the best way to keep aware of new neighbors on our lakes is for current members to tell us! If you have a new neighbor, can you please pass on the newsletter and website information or even just drop any one of the officers or note or email us at info@windigolake.org. Thanks for your help in helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

Passings

We lost another long-time Windigo friend this past year with the passing of Bob Evans on 12/1/2016. Bob was a long-time visitor and property owner on Windigo. Bob and Joan Steininger were married in 1953. Joan had been coming up to Windigo since 1938 with her family. Bob and Joan stayed at the Axel Erickson resort starting about 1957. In 1972 they co-owned with Karen and Dick Steininger what is now the Steininger home until 1978. In about 1982 they built there log cabin home on the north side of Windigo. Here is a link to the online death notice: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyherald/obituary.aspx?pid=182982040> .

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Website and Communications Reminders

Barb Pjevach

As a reminder, please check out www.windigolake.org periodically for updates. We have our old newsletters on the site as well as instructions, pictures and information about looking for invasive species, fish surveys, and other topics about our lakes area.

If you want to keep in touch, we would appreciate emails from as many lake owners as possible so if you have not already given us your email please consider supplying it, even if you also want a paper newsletter in March and November.

In addition, you can subscribe to any new posts that we make to our website...which we do about 4 times a year. On our home page, just scroll down and you will see the area to subscribe on the right hand side of the web page.

Subscribe to Blog via Email
Enter your email address to subscribe to the WindigoLake.com posts and news and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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