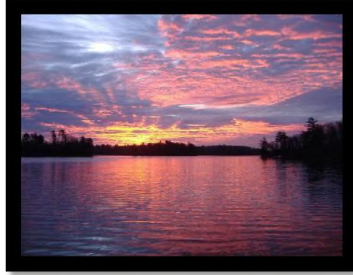


# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Fall/Winter 2017

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

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*Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline*

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## **Desk of the President**

*Patrick Steininger*

It's nice to be up in Hayward when the sun is shining, and this summer and fall it was behind the clouds most of the time when I was in the area (Like the photo below when I was Big Fish Golf GC)...I did hit a straight flush at the casino during my weather delay so that was a blessing.

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer on Windigo, despite the inconsistent weather.

There is lots of info in this newsletter, from ATV Trail updates to announcing the Spring Dinner date. Big thank you to the board for their volunteer work this year and everyone that pitched in to make the annual meeting a success!

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Patrick Steininger

[Patrick.steininger@skodie.com](mailto:Patrick.steininger@skodie.com)



## **Hold the date for the Spring Dinner: Saturday April 28, 2018**

*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, prices, 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 28!



## **Treasurer's Report**

*Gary Hartmann*

WLPOA's income during 2017 is summarized below:

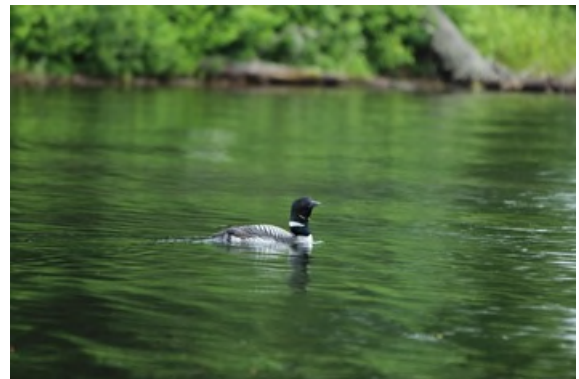
- We have received \$2,005 in dues from members and "Friends of Windigo"
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 1,243 and donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$ 1,247. We received some very generous donations to these funds this year and we are very grateful for this support.
- Tickets to the Spring Dinner brought in \$ 1,127 and WLPOA added \$ 28 to cover our speaker's dinner. This total of \$ 1,155 matched our bill at the Ranch so this event broke even.

WLPOA's annual operating expenses are currently at \$ 1,311 for 2017. This amount includes our membership mailings, printing and mailing of Newsletters, picnic expenses, our liability insurance, PO Box rental, annual corporate fees, web site expenses, and membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

### **DNR Grant to Monitor Windigo Boat Landing**

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 \$ 3,124 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 \$ 2,374. Our request for reimbursement has been submitted to the DNR. We were a bit short in providing volunteer hours this year. I'm projecting we will be reimbursed 95% of the amount spent on monitoring the boat landing. The final result will be reported in the next Newsletter.



As of November 15, 2017, WLPOA has the following account balances:

<b>Account Balances (11-15-2017)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 1,639.70
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 2,627.28
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 9,510.00
DNR Grant \$\$ for 2017 (pending reimbursement)	(\$ 2,374.00)
Total on deposit	\$ 16,402.98

## **Membership Report**

*Dave and Donna Roeker*

As we close out 2017, 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](mailto: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/>.

## **Water Clarity Updates**

In early August, the water in Windigo became unusually green and water clarity was low. We have seen green water occasionally on Windigo before, but it is certainly not usual. Pat Brown (Sawyer County AIS Coordinator) toured our lake to take a look at the unusually green water at that time. He told us that there were several reasons particular to this year that were contributors to the green water relating to warm weather and increased nutrients in the lake. These are noted in the notes from the Annual Meeting article in this newsletter. He also noted that when the temperatures start dropping it would improve and it certainly did.

The water clarity improved rapidly in August once the temperatures cooled. Based on the water testing conducted by Roxanne Lantz, our secchi depth on June 21 was 14 feet at its clearest and was at its worst on 7/26 at 2.25 feet. By 8/21, seechi depth was back to 8 feet. As a reminder, the depth in feet is the depth at which the secchi disk is no longer visible from the surface. So, a bigger number indicates clearer water. Historical average seechi depths during July and August are shown here to the right.

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
2017	4.35	2.25	8	5

Based on our research, the condition of green water appears that it was a type of algae. Luckily this is not the same type as the blue-green algae most commonly seen causing scum and seen in ponds and waters with high agricultural run-off and which can have severe health issues. No safety or health issues were noted by any residents who still chose to swim in the lake during those weeks when water clarity was low. Let's hope we won't see again for many years!

**Thanks again to Roxanne and Mike Lantz who have voluntarily done water data gathering for many years for Windigo. The results based on their other volunteers' 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>.**

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Landing Monitoring**

Utilizing our grant from the DNR for aquatic invasive species prevention, the Association again contracted with Dennis Dollhopf who monitored the public boat landing generally on weekends and holidays from fishing opener to Labor Day. No incidents or sightings of AIS were reported. We submitted an application for a CBCW grant for 2018 and have been approved again for this grant. If anyone is willing to help out as a volunteer landing monitor, even for just a few hours total, please let us know because those volunteer hours can be used to help our reimbursement levels from the grant.

**As a reminder, it is common for people who are temporary visitors of the lakes (the public, guests of property owners or renters) to not be aware of the impact and damage that high speed boating causes in shallower areas of the lakes. Thus it is critical for property owners to help these guests understand how to be respectful and helpful to preservation of a lake's shoreline and bed.**



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**

*Paul Martin*

Another summer went by in a flash and I hope everyone enjoyed their time on our wonderful lake.

Windigo used to be a bit of “sleeper” for fishing, but not anymore. Fishing pressure was at an all-time high and our fish population suffered.( observations from many Windigo fisherman) The big concern is how can the reproduction of our fisheries keep up with this pressure? It can't, unfortunately.

I can only urge all the people that enjoy our lake to practice CPR, which stands for **“Catch, Photo, Release”**. With some practical thinking and restraint, we can hopefully maintain our fish population, but if we stay at the level of this year's pressure, the fishery will be at risk. Let's work together!

Please contact me if you have any questions or observations.



## **Loons on our Lakes – Fall Update**

*Marilyn Konkler & Barb Pjevach*

Windigo Lake enjoyed 3 loon chicks this summer. There was one nest in Portage Bay that produced 2 chicks. This family was seen all over the lake and it was wonderful to see them grow and survive. One of the chicks, as a young adult, hung around Windigo until late October. Windigo also had a nesting near the landing, this nest produced 1 chick which we believe also survived.



Thank you for all who sent in loon chick reports! It was very helpful.

### **As a reminder, this spring when we have chicks, it is critical to watch them from a distance!**

This applies whether you are boating, kayaking or canoeing. If loon parents get spooked at all, they can abandon their nests. We have had this happen in past years when kayakers have been too curious and paddled too close to a nest. Please remember that non-motorized approaches to the nest can be even more hazardous for egg hatching and baby loon survival than motor boats which usually do not come close to a nest.

**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 [mkonkler55@gmail.com](mailto:mkonkler55@gmail.com).**

## **Bass Lake Township ATV/UTV Routes update**

*Barb Pjevach*

Here is an update regarding ATV/UTV Routes/Trails in our Windigo Lakes area. As we noted in an email that we sent out in early October, The Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance is lobbying Sawyer County and Bass Lake Township to expand ATV/UTV trails to help economic development in Sawyer County. A representative of their organization formally presented at the September Bass Lake Board meeting because the Alliance wants certain roads in Sawyer County to become official ATV/UTV trails which will allow ATVs and UTVs to share the roads with other motor vehicles. The Alliance needed this use approved by our Town Board for Bass Lake Township roads.

Primary concerns by many of our property owners and others in the area are that our roads were not designed for joint use by ATVs/UTVs and other motor vehicles. Other roads that have joint use historically usually have low traffic or have separate trails next to the road. The proposal also did not include any insurance, special licensing or age requirements. So, the primary concern was risk of accidents and injury related to potential accidents between these off-road vehicles and other motor vehicles.

This proposal was being voted on by our Bass Lake Board at the Board Meeting on Monday October 9th. Thanks to all of our property owners who contacted Town Board! It made a difference. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the proposal had been modified as follows:

- 1) They had removed from the proposal the section of Highline Road between Williams Road and County Road K. This part of the road was critical from our perspective because Highline is very windy and hilly.
- 2) The Bass Lake Board also added in that they would be looking for insurance to be covered by ATV/UTV drivers
- 3) Also the program on our Bass Lake Roads would be for a one year trial basis and would be evaluated next fall.

At the time of this newsletter, the signage has not yet been implemented but there is a lot of area discussion about the ATV route expansion.

We also had many Windigo residents attending the October 9 Bass Lake Board meeting. Thanks to all who attended.

This situation reminded us that local government is important and if residents can attend monthly board meetings, they can keep our association apprised of potential rulings that can affect us. Thanks to Donna and Dave Roeker who attended the September Bass Lake Board meeting and alerted us about the potential ATV routes. Going forward, thanks to a small group of permanent residents who have volunteered to try to coordinate and get to the monthly Bass Lake Board meetings.

Here are links to relevant sites with information about this topic:

- An article about hazards: <https://www.fairwarning.org/2017/08/despite-hazards-towns-keep-opening-roads-off-road-vehicles/>
- Bass Lake Township: <http://basslakewi.gov/>
- The Sawyer County ATV Alliance: <http://sawycountyalliance.com/>
- Wisconsin All-Terrain Vehicle & Utility-Terrain Vehicle Laws: [dnr.wi.gov/topic/atv/documents/le0500.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/atv/documents/le0500.pdf)

## **Annual Picnic and Membership Meeting Recap**

*Barb Pjevach*

We held our annual WLPOA meeting and picnic on Saturday August 5. Thanks to the Barb Pydo for again hosting us at the Pydo garage. Thanks to Sandy Bender, Jennifer Steiniger 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. Donna Roeker, Membership Chair also attended and provided that WLPOA membership at that time was 79 members.

The WLPOA officers from last year are continuing for another year so there was no need for nominating this year. We would appreciate any volunteers who want to serve in future years!

- 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: Paul Martin
  - Social: Sandy Bender



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

**Lake Environment:** Marilyn Konkler reported for Colleen Graham Pat Brown from Sawyer County toured our lake to take a look at the unusually green water at this time. There are several reasons that could contribute to the unusual greening this year. 1) We have had a lot of rain...it runs off and there are a lot of nutrients in the rain. 2) We had a draught from a couple of years ago. There are still dying and decaying plants. 3) We have had lots of wind. 4) The water temperature has been unusually warm this year. 5) Some of our lake is boggy and it has more vegetation with nutrients. When the temperatures start dropping it will improve. Barb mentioned that Maine has

a similar problem historically with otherwise clean lakes. There are water quality reports and articles online about this and our historical cyclical water quality is also online.

**Loon Report:** Marilyn Konkler gave her annual loon report. She showed where we had 2 loons born on Portage Bay on the lake map at the meeting. We appear to have a mating pair of loons sticking around. The loon babies seemed very small but were thriving and out with parents. Humans have been bothering the loons. She noted that others have seen a single baby with a mom in the northeast corner of the lake. There was a nest on Lake 27 early in the season, but it was flooded out.

Marilyn and others commented on other wildlife sightings. The eagle nest is reactivated on the island near the end of Tamarack Trail. Donna Roeker added that there were 6 bears reported by lake residents early on...a mom and 2 different years of cubs. Paul Neimann said that they needed to keep pulling in the hummingbird feeders due to the bears.

**Fish and Wildlife:** Paul Martin reported that we had the tree drop with the DNR and the cabling and cables are tight. 31 trees were dropped on the 3 islands. They stayed away from island with the eagle nest. The committee will try to put together the brush bundles this fall to that in place. The committee has a spot on Bluebird to assemble the bundles. Paul also noted that Windigo has a lot of fishing pressure this year, more than in past years. The local Bass Club had 2 events this year. Paul commented that he will put together something to present to them. One night 5 boats were out on the lake late at night. Bass fisherman fish right along shore, right by docks.. Donna Roeker mentioned that they launch at the landing and then just fly....going way too fast and risk eroding the shoreline. Paul mentioned that you can see the erosion on Thunderpoint road properties. Paul also reported that he is not catching as many fish as he used to.



**Social:** Patrick reported on behalf of Jennifer and Sandy. We had a well attended Spring Dinner with about 47 people attending. If anyone wants to help with either of our 2 social events, we would appreciate any volunteers who want to help in any way.

#### **New Business:**

We discussed comments from a Portage/Simonson's Bay resident "After observing boat traffic, adherence to the No Wake zone was very good while I was there. However, we think that some people think that the No Wake only applies in the channel area where the two markers are placed. Could two more markers be placed further into the Bay "

We discussed that we could consider putting a No-Wake sign by the entrance to the bay if we could get approval of one of the property owners there.

We also discuss potentially drafting an article to new people and put it on our webpage that we are a quiet lake, where we also enjoy higher speed water sports, but do not have a lot of waterskiing and jet skis and work to preserve our natural shoreline by staying clear of the shore with higher speed watercraft. We also discussed that it would be helpful to remind people to tell relatives and also to avoid pesticides and fertilizers. Our lake is more pristine than most in terms of our shoreline and wildlife.

Paul Neimann also requested an invasive species update. We discussed that we still do not have any AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). We still have Purple Bladderwort prevalently in Lake 27, but it is not an AIS.

Thanks to all who attended! The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.

## Passings

David Brink, a long term Windigo property owner as well as an attorney, historian and poet passed away on July 20, 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. Here is an article from the Star Tribune about him:

<http://www.startribune.com/obituary-david-brink-minneapolis-attorney-and-former-national-aba-president/439106143/>

## 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](mailto:info@windigolake.org). Thanks for your help in helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

## Website and Communications Reminders

*Barb Pjevach*

As a reminder, please check out [www.windigolake.org](http://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.

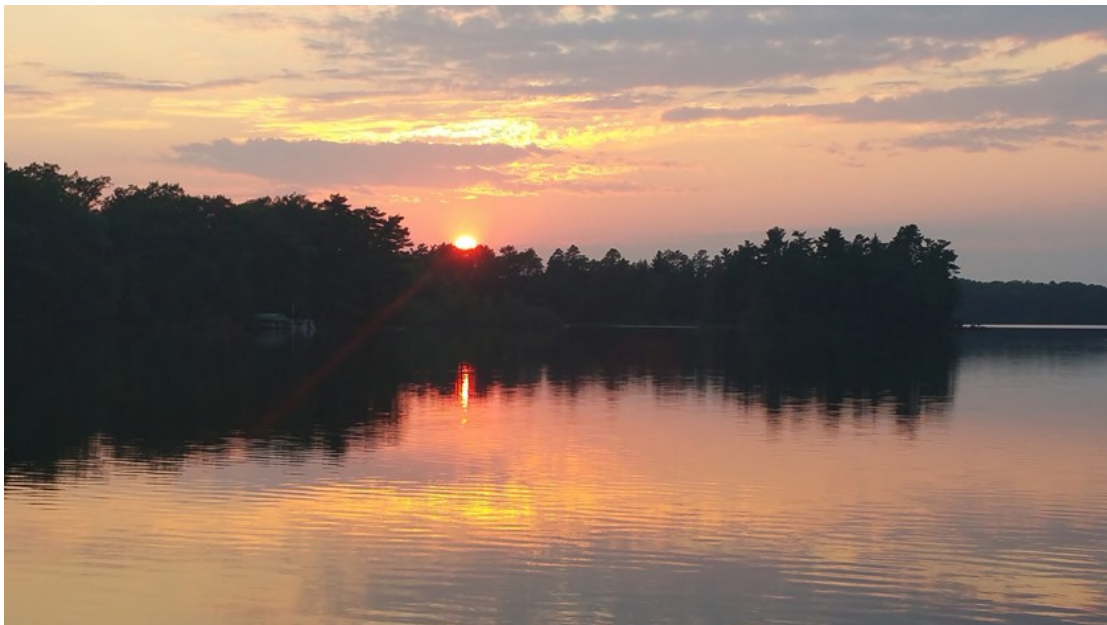
If you want to keep in touch, we would appreciate emails from as many lake owners as possible so if you have not already given us your email please consider supplying it, even if you also want a paper newsletter in March and November.

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.

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*HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!*





**Windigo Lake Property Owners Association**

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org)

Website: [www.windigolake.org](http://www.windigolake.org) (or [www.windigolake.com](http://www.windigolake.com) )

<b>Officers</b>		
President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
		<a href="mailto:Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com">Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com</a>
Vice-President	Dick Steininger	847-364-0073
		<a href="mailto:egvdicksteininger@gmail.com">egvdicksteininger@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Gary Hartmann	715-634-1709; 763-574-1709
		<a href="mailto:gary.hartmann@comcast.net">gary.hartmann@comcast.net</a>
Secretary/Communication	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016
		<a href="mailto:brpjevach@gmail.com">brpjevach@gmail.com</a>

<b>Committees</b>		
Social	Sandy Bender	715-634-1590; 715-558-5859
		<a href="mailto:sandyb7973@gmail.com">sandyb7973@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Dave & Donna Roeker	715-634-6013
		<a href="mailto:roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net">roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net</a>
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		<a href="mailto:colleen.m.graham@gmail.com">colleen.m.graham@gmail.com</a>
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Paul Martin	651-260-1733
		<a href="mailto:pmwood80@yahoo.com">pmwood80@yahoo.com</a>

Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association  
P.O. Box 13071  
Hayward, WI 54843