

# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 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*

Hope everyone had a good winter as the Midwest had a very mild season, so much so the Birkie cross country ski event was cancelled this year in Hayward. But, I'm sure next year will be better than ever with plenty of skiers and snow.

I still saw a lot of ATV's out on the lake despite no snow to speak of for snowmobilers, mostly ice fishing.

Looking for a fun new restaurant check out Props Landing on Round Lake in the old Famous Dave's spot. Good food and fun atmosphere.

I know the Steiningers are looking forward to another great year on Windigo Lake, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Dinner in April.

Patrick

Patrick.steininger@skodie.com

March 2017



## **Join us for the Spring Dinner at The Ranch: 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.

The dinner will include a social hour, a speaker and a tasty dinner. It is always a very nice time to connect with neighbors and friends of our lakes. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 pm. Our program speaker will be Paul McGinley, Water Quality Specialist and Professor at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

At the end of this newsletter you will find the invitation and dinner selection/RSVP form. Please consider joining us and let Sandy Bender ASAP and before April 21. This invitation was also included in the February Dues mailing so if you have already sent your registration in, thanks!

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## **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

*Paul Martin*

Just a brief update on the cabling of the tree drops earlier this year. The warm weather has pushed the time table forward and with big efforts from our members Dave Lawson, Denis Persells, Wes Miller, new member Steve Soegaard and myself the cabling process was completed in early March.

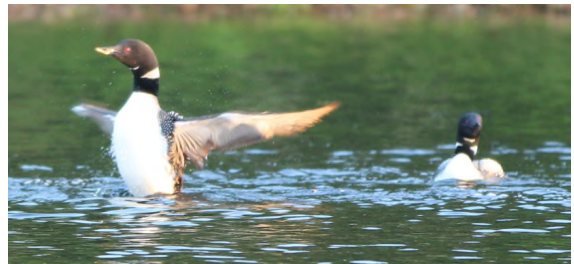
We have consulted with the DNR Fish Biologist to determine potential areas for placing our brush bundles. Water depth is the main concern to ensure that any structures (bundles, etc.) are in enough water to have at least 5 or 6 feet over the top.

We are ready to go but materials are needed to move forward with the plan. **If you have any cinder blocks laying around and would like to donate them for brush bundles, please contact me and I will pick them up.**

Keep in mind that this project is designed to improve our lake for everyone, and we all benefit from it, not just the fisherman. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

We are also looking for new members to expand our small group of volunteers and remember that you don't have to be a fisherman to join and participate!

Thank you on behalf of the WLFC (Windigo Lakes Fish and Wildlife Committee)



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## **Clean Boats, Clean Waters Update: Landing Monitor and Volunteers**

*Colleen Graham*

A CBCW (Clean Boats, Clean Waters) grant was secured again from the DNR to pay for most of the expense of staffing a monitor at the Windigo Lake boat landing on Highline Road for 2017. Dennis Dollhopf will be returning for the third summer and will primarily be working weekends and holidays from Fishing Opener through Labor Day. The grant calls for WLPOA to cover 25% of the cost using volunteer hours, so if you are interested in working a shift, please contact Colleen Graham or anyone on the WLPOA board or email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) to discuss training and scheduling.

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## **AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Updates**

*Colleen Graham/Barb Pjevach*

### **Zebra Mussels Reported in NW Wisconsin**

Late in 2016, zebra mussels were reported for the first time in the 12-county area making up NW Wisconsin. A property owner on Big McKenzie Lake in Washburn and Burnett Counties discovered the mussels attached to his pier while removing it from the lake for the season. His finding was confirmed by the DNR. The mussels resemble small clams with a yellowish or brownish D-shaped shell and alternating dark- and light-colored stripes. Most are under an inch in size and they frequently grow in clusters attached to pier posts, boat lifts, rocks and other hard surfaces. The DNR has committed a \$20,000 early detection and response grant to the McKenzie Lakes Association to help respond to this AIS threat.

People who find zebra mussels or other invasive species should:

- Note the exact location where the organism was found;
- Take a digital photo in the setting where the species was found, then collect up to five specimens of various sizes and put in a jar with water; put the jar on ice and refrigerate it; and
- Deliver the specimens to Pat Brown, our local AIS expert, at his office at the Sawyer County Courthouse. You can also contact Colleen Graham to do the reporting.

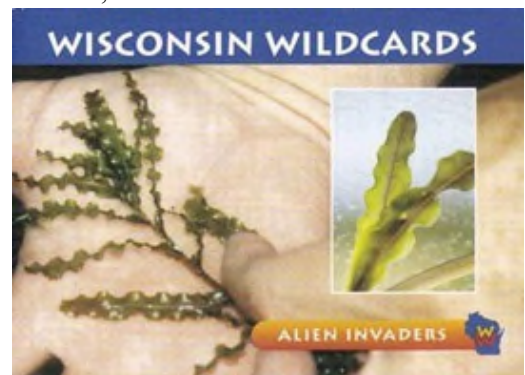


### **Look for Curly Leaf Pondweed from Ice-Out through June**

As soon as ice is off our lakes, it's time to look for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP), an underwater plant that usually grows in lake water 3 to 10 feet deep. CLP grows well in cold temperatures, even under the ice. Since it's already growing at ice-out, it can shade out smaller native plants and form dense mats that make it tough to boat or swim. When curly-leaf pondweed dies back in mid-summer, it releases nutrients that can fuel algae blooms and cause other problems. It is easily spread by boats and trailers.

Thanks to everyone who is monitoring and looking for AIS.

More detailed pictures and instructions for how to look for Curly Leaf Pondweed and other Aquatic Invasive Species are on the [AIS page on our website](#). Thanks for your continued vigilance in keeping our lakes AIS-free!



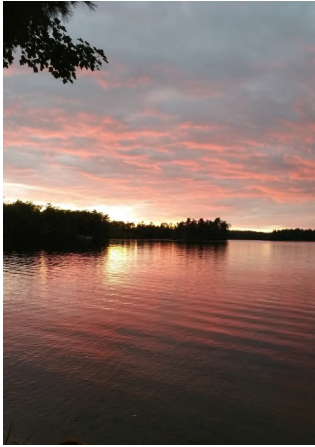
As a reminder, the time to find Eurasian Milfoil, the other AIS in our area, starts in June. The information and pictures for this invasive are also on our website and will be included in our Summer newsletter.

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## **Remember to get your free annual burning permit from the DNR**

*Barb Pjevach*

As a reminder, **burning permits are required by law** in our area by the Wisconsin DNR to conduct legal and responsible burning in the outdoors. Annual burning permits are free and easy to obtain. They encourage the public to burn safely and are proven to be effective in protecting lives, property and natural resources from the damages of wildfires.



Here is the website link to get your annual permit and for more information:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/permits.html>

On the day you wish to burn after 11 a.m., check the daily burning restrictions on the DNR website or call the hotline 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) and select the county where you plan to burn (Sawyer County is 58). Fire conditions change quickly, so it's important to check each day you burn to find out if burning is allowed, burning hours and any size limitations.

Also, note that if you are burning leaves, it is important to burn safely well away from the water's edge. Burning leaves too close to water can cause damage to aquatic systems. Burning leaves produces ash, phosphorus and carbon residues. As these residues are washed into the lake, it can cause temporary anoxic conditions harmful to fish and aquatic insects.

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## **Springtime Friendly Boating Reminders!**

*Barb Pjevach*

Each spring, we like to remind everyone about boating considerations and safety. With water levels returning to higher levels in the past year or so, there is more shoreline erosion happening and we continue to hope that we can have nesting loons and surviving chicks. It continues to be concerning to many property owners that young loons seem unable to survive on Windigo.

Also, as a particular reminder for the benefit of the loons, NON-motorized boats getting too close to nesting areas are a serious threat to loon health because adult loons become stressed and will readily abandon a nest when strangers approach. So, please stay well clear of the loons. It is suspected that close approaching kayakers may have had a detrimental impact on nesting loons in one of the bays last year.

Please be kind to your neighbors and the health of our lakes by boating at no-wake speeds in Portage Bay and other bays of Windigo and observing DNR regulations in general. If you have guests, please just make sure they know about our no-wake zones, our loons, and considerate boating practices.

The DNR regulations for ANY Wisconsin lake are that boats need to have no wake 100 feet from shore and for personal watercraft (PWC), the no-wake law specifies that they need to be 200 feet from shore before a wake is allowed. PWC also need to slow to no-wake speeds when they are within 100 feet of another boat.

These regulations are set to enable everyone's enjoyment of the lakes and also help us preserve the natural shoreline that all of us appreciate as compared to many other lakes in the Hayward area. We are lucky that Windigo is large enough that there is plenty of room out in the middle of the two large bays of the lake for higher speed boating activities. The DNR site has a downloadable handbook at this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> Pages 14 and 24-25 have details about the safe boating regulations.



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## **Membership Report**

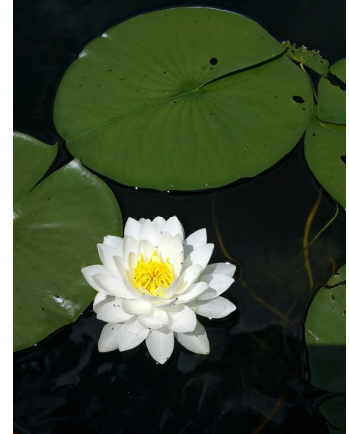
*Dave and Donna Roeker*

We currently have 81 members with representation from Windigo Lake, Hub Lake and Lake 27. Dues reminders were sent out in February. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in your dues. If you haven't received your reminder please request one from us; or a form can be downloaded from our web site from our latest updates post at this link: <http://www.windigolake.org/2017-wlpoa-dues-letter-02-02-2017/>.

Our membership form includes options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fishery Management Fund. Members are also asked to select their preferred method of Newsletter delivery – either email (November, March and June newsletters) or postal delivery (November and March Newsletters) or both.

Note that for our June Newsletter and occasional quick communication, we ARE requesting emails from everyone. Email is our preferred method of newsletter delivery, but if you would also like a physical newsletter mailed, please indicate so to us and we are happy to also mail one to you.

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.



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.

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## **Treasurer's Report**

*Gary Hartmann*

Thanks to everyone who supports our lake association. Membership renewals are coming in. A complete report on 2017 Membership Dues paid, as well as the voluntary donations, will be provided in our next Newsletter.

Here is an update on our DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grants which fund the monitoring of our boat landing. These grants are 75% funded by the Wisconsin DNR with a 25% match provided by WLPOA. Our match can be satisfied with cash or by supplying "in-kind" donations of labor. These donations must be related to boat landing monitoring and can't include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.

We spent \$ 2,835 during the summer of 2016 on monitoring of the boat landing. We received a reimbursement check for the full amount last December since we had provided sufficient volunteer hours. Thus our 2016 grant account has been closed out with a zero balance as shown below.

WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2017 and we have received an advance of \$ 750. This account balance is also shown in the table below.

As of March 10, 2017, WLPOA has the following account balances:

<b>Account Balances (04-01-2017)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 703
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 1,883
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 8,274
DNR Grant for 2016	0
DNR Grant for 2017	\$ 750
Total on deposit	\$ 16,610

**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><i>Officers</i></b>		
President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
		<a href="mailto:Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com">Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com</a>
Vice-President	Dick Steininger	708-899-3193
		<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><i>Committees</i></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>

**You are cordially invited to:**  
**The 2017 Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association Spring Dinner**

**Date** Saturday, April 29, 2017

**Time** Social hour at 5:30pm  
Dinner at 6:30pm

**Program Speaker: Paul McGinley,**  
**Water Quality Specialist and Professor at University of Wisconsin-**  
**Stevens Point**

**Location** The Ranch Supper Club  
10590 North Ranch Road, Hayward  
(East of Hayward on Hwy 77)

**Menu** Relish tray  
Choice of entrée (price includes tax & gratuity)  
**Half Rack BBQ Ribs \$23.00**  
**Cranberry Pecan Crusted Pork Chop \$23.00**  
**Walnut and Blue Cheese Sirloin \$28.00**  
**Deep Fried Shrimp \$25.00**  
**Honey Ginger Salmon \$28.00**  
 Tossed salad  
 Baked potato  
 Bread  
 Coffee  
 Dessert (provided by the WLPOA board)

Please email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) and **return the RSVP form below** with menu selection (specify ribs, pork, sirloin, shrimp or salmon), guest names, and check payable to "WLPOA" covering food total to Sandy Bender **by Friday, April 21, 2017.**

<b>Sandy Bender</b>	
<b>7973N Thunder Point Road</b>	<b>Amount enclosed: \$ _____</b>
<b>Hayward, WI 54843</b>	
<b>715-634-1590</b>	
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____