

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Autumn 2012

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



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Colleen Graham

Windigo neighbors,

I'm honored and excited to be writing my first column as President of WLPOA. First of all, I'd like to thank Dick Steininger, Gary Hartmann, and Barb Pjevach for their continued service on the WLPOA board. I am fortunate to have such an experienced and committed group with which to work. The focus of the board for the past several years has been to educate ourselves and our property owners on the threat of aquatic invasive species. That will continue to be the focus during my tenure.

One of my winter projects will be to review the many boxes of WLPOA-related "stuff" we've accumulated over the years and scan anything that should be archived electronically. I took a quick look to get a sense for what's in there, and was surprised to see that the second newsletter the WLPOA ever published had an article warning about AIS, specifically, Eurasian milfoil. I suspect we'll still be talking about it in another twenty years. You'll find a summary of activity related to the AIS control grant inside the newsletter.

Highline Road was recently blacktopped, along with the new parking lot at the Windigo boat landing. So far, the town has installed a vault toilet and a small gazebo; picnic tables and BBQ grills are also planned. The town also put new "mini parks" on Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone this fall, so it must be trying to promote lake access for its residents. Many of us are not thrilled to have this new attraction in our midst, but I guess that's the give and take of politics.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Paul Neimann, who recently stepped down as chair of the Lake Environment & Safety Committee. His family has been on Windigo for six generations and he takes this legacy very seriously. Whether you are on the lake every day or just a few weekends each summer, you owe a debt of gratitude to Paul. He has been incredibly generous with his time, acting as an advisor to the board and advocate for the lake. He often said that he had only one client, and the client was Windigo Lake. Paul, on behalf of Windigo and its residents, thanks for all your hard work over the years.

Feel free to contact me or my fellow board members if you have concerns or questions.

Regards,

Colleen, November 2012



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Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who supported our lake association this year by renewing their membership. If you need a membership form, it can be downloaded from our web site or else contact me by phone or email. Your support is critical to our association and it is very much appreciated.

To date we have received renewals from 79 members and 16 people are signed up to receive our Newsletter as "Friends of Windigo". Our membership form provides options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Crib Fund. Donations to the Invasive Species Fund were received from 32 members and 15 members contributed to the Fish Crib Fund. Dollar totals for these contributions are shown in the accompanying Treasurer's Report. Thank you for your generous support of these activities.

WLPOA, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization so your membership donation is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

Our 2012 income is as follows:

We received \$ 2,055 in dues from 79 members and 16 "Friends of Windigo" subscriptions. Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 710 and donations to the Fish Crib Fund totaled \$ 290. Thirty tickets at \$ 17 each were sold to the Spring Dinner for a total of \$ 510. Meal expenses including hall rental were \$ 635.

As presented at our August 4th business meeting, WLPOA's annual operating budget is about \$ 1,600. This covers our membership mailing, the printing and mailing of Newsletters, purchase and maintenance of "no wake" buoys and signs, our liability insurance, and memberships in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Sawyer County Lakes Forum.

WLPOA account balances are:

Checking Account: \$ 1921. This account is used for our operating budget.

Invasive Species Account: \$ 6476. This fund was set up to deal with the invasive species threat; our plan is to build this fund up to \$ 10,000.

Fish Crib Fund Account: \$ 541. These funds will be used to repair or replace fish cribs that WLPOA placed in Windigo some years ago.

DNR Grant: WLPOA received an advance of \$ 3605 from the DNR and has paid out \$ 3226.67 for monitoring the boat landing resulting in a balance of \$ 378.33. We will be processing an invoice for the Point-intercept survey that was completed in August and will then file for reimbursement from the DNR. This account balance will be zero next year after all invoices and reimbursements associated with the project have been processed.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grant Update

Colleen Graham

There has been lots of activity since WLPOA qualified for a DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant last year. Here is a summary of what has been done so far by our consultant and Windigo volunteers:

- Conducted two sessions to train volunteers to identify and monitor for AIS
- Created a system for logging volunteer hours to comply with terms of grant
- Staffed boat landing with a monitor on weekends and holidays
- Conducted two AIS surveys, including a detailed point intercept study



Looking ahead, the following actions are expected:

- Submit a written analysis/summary report of survey results to the DNR and WLPOA board
- Commence Aquatic Plant Management Committee (APMC) meetings
- Draft Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) for review by committee, DNR, and property owners
- Finalize APMP

We had a few volunteers for the APMC at the summer picnic, but more are needed. The committee will work with our consultant and other professionals to customize an APMP to meet the needs of Windigo and her residents. The committee generally meets at least three times to draft the plan, and it should be possible for some of the work to be done via email. Please contact Colleen Graham or email us at info@windigolake.org if you'd like a voice in these strategic discussions or if you have questions.

Historical Perspective: Resorts on Windigo

Bruce Konkler

Windigo was home to a number of "mom and pop" resorts in the early years. I discovered the following list while volunteering at the Sawyer County Historical Society in Hayward. Unfortunately the years they were in operation were not given.

- Erickson's Lodge owned by Axel Erickson
- Graham's Resort owned by Mrs. John Graham
- Pine Hill Resort/Cabins owned by Louis Jorgal and A.A. Sabieski
- Shore Acres Resort (owner not listed)
- Simonson's Portage Trail Resort owned by Simonsons
- Thoms Sandy Beach Resort Inc. owned by Larry and Edith Thoms
- Thunder Point Lodge owned by Bob and Hilda Ghent (later became the Thunderpoint Bay Resort owned by Walt and Hilda Pydo).

If anyone else has interesting historical or other information about the Windigo Lakes Area to share with others via our newsletter or our website, please contact Barb at info@windigolake.org.

Fishing and Wildlife Report

Dick Steininger

Our committee had one meeting over the summer. It was reported that the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe speared about 170 walleyes in Windigo this spring. The spearing process set up with the tribes is a formal process that can involve all lakes in the ceded territory. Windigo is not a primary source of speared Walleyes in this territory and is therefore not the subject of extensive fish surveys that are used to establish the maximum safe walleye spearing harvest. Over the past 15 years of reporting, Windigo has been speared in 7 out of the last 9 years. This is in spite of the Mercury consumption warnings that still apply to Walleye harvested out of our lake. We are hoping that the DNR fish survey reports discussed below can be used to help lower the maximum allowed spearing harvest in future years.



The committee next discussed installing more fish cribs in the lake. Since the lake is part of the ceded territory, the LCO had a program that would help defer some of our cost. Members have also been contributing extra money with their annual dues to establish a fish crib fund. We had a long discussion about the pros and cons of more cribs. The pros would be better fishing. The cons are that cribs attract more fishermen and therefore could encourage more outside boats being launched on the lake. The Association has devoted considerable resources to the invasive species issue this year and is still developing plans and methods to continue protecting our lake. The committee felt that the invasive species project should take precedence this year and our crib fund was not large enough to support a meaningful number of cribs. It should be noted that the DNR has found that the best fish habit in a lake is Corse Woody Debris (trees of 10" diameter or greater). The best thing we could do is drop more trees in the water but since this is a landowner decision there is not much the committee could do at this time. If this idea would be of interest to you, please contact a committee member. A vote of committee members resulted in a 4 to 1 decision to not add more cribs at this time.



Some of our committee members had lunch with three members of the DNR team that are responsible for our lake. Max Wolter, a Fisheries Biologist, shared the results of their Fyke Netting (the preferred method for sampling Walleyes, Northerns, Crappie and Perch) performed in April and a boom shocker survey (preferred for Bluegills, small and large mouth bass) performed in June.. The general findings are that the Walleye and Crappie populations were down. The Bass populations were up. The reports also showed that we had a larger than expected amount of small, underdeveloped Northerns. The DNR felt that this population of Northerns could be responsible for some of the decrease in the Crappie and Walleye populations. One of the ideas presented by the DNR would be the introduction of Muskies into the population that would theoretically hold the Northern population in check. I told him we would consider his proposal. We emailed the fishing committee members who were not there and discussed it among ourselves. We are concerned about the long term effect on our fish population as well as the additional fishing pressure that a new species like the Musky could generate. The consensus among the committee was we didn't think a Musky population would be well suited for Windigo. I did tell Max that I would write about it in the newsletter and look for feedback via our home page. Our committee members are all open for homeowner comments.

Our committee members are Dan Pjevach, Mike Lantz, John Garret, David Ochu and I.

Annual Meeting Recap

Barb Pjevach

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Windigo Lake Area Picnic and Business Meeting that was held on Saturday August 4. 29 property owners and friends attended. Sandy Bender supplied brats and we had a tasty variety of other dishes and desserts supplied by those attending.

The nominations for Board members were
Colleen Graham, President
Dick Steiniger, Vice President
Gary Hartmann, Treasurer and Membership
Barb Pjevach Secretary

These nominations were approved. If anyone is interested in serving on the Board in future years, please let Colleen know. Some of these roles are not extremely time consuming and new members are always welcome. If you are interested in helping out, but don't want to be on the board, everyone is welcome and can help us with committee work including AIS work.



The rest of the business meeting covered the following topics:

- 1) Fish Cribs
- 2) Aquatic Invasive Species and Grant Update
- 3) Spear Fishing
- 4) Membership & Treasurer reports
- 5) Other miscellaneous discussion

Have you checked out www.windigolake.com?

Barb Pjevach

We have a new website! If you have not had a chance, please check out www.windigolake.org. It will have updates for area residents as appropriate and will also keep archived copies of WLPOA newsletters. Check it out and if you have any suggestions for improving its usefulness for all of us, email Barb Pjevach at brpjevalch@earthlink.net.



Save the Date for the Annual Spring Dinner May 4, 2013

Barb Pjevach

The Annual Windigo Lake Area Spring Dinner will be held Saturday Evening May 4th. Sandy Bender is working on arrangements for the evening including good food and an intriguing speaker. Thanks Sandy for all that you do to plan and arrange our events! Please mark your calendars and hold the date to join your friends and neighbors of the Windigo, Lake 27 and Hub Lake.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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Email: info@windigolake.org

Website: www.windigolake.org or www.windigolake.com

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