

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter – June 2013

(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

The last time I wrote this column, it was a dreary March day. Well, now it's a dreary June day. What gives?! At least I can report that ice is out – we were worried it might never happen this year! The forecast for the coming week shows highs in the 70's with lows in the 50's. I can handle that.

A new boat landing monitor was hired and will start the week of June 17th. His name is Luke Wilson, a Hayward native and college student whose future is in the ministry. This summer, Luke will be evangelizing on the danger of aquatic invasive species. Please stop by the landing and welcome Luke to Windigo. With Luke's help, we'll again be participating in the DNR-sponsored Landing Blitz July 4 – 7th. The Blitz is designed to provide an amplified presence at boat landings during the busiest stretch of the summer. Landing users will be given AIS brochures and "Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers" towels during the Blitz.



Moccasin Flower on Windigo Shore

Speaking of the landing, last time I checked there was a fancy new fence surrounding the parking lot (actually, it's rustic, but in a fancy sort of way). The promised picnic tables and BBQ grills have yet to materialize but I expect they'll arrive soon. I have been going out of my way to check out traffic at the landing as well as look for garbage and any evidence of misuse. So far, it has been pretty light traffic and pretty clean use. If you see anything inappropriate, please snap a photo and/or report back so we can keep the Town of Bass Lake informed of any problems.

I hope you can all make it to the annual business meeting and summer picnic. Till then, see you on the lake!

Regards,
Colleen, June 2013



Come to the Annual Picnic and Business Meeting, Saturday August 3, 2013!

Barb Pjevach

We will be holding our Annual Picnic and Business Meeting at Pydo's garage again this summer . The business meeting will be held at 4pm with the picnic to follow at approximately 5pm. Bratwurst, water and lemonade will be provided. Members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass along your choice of beverage. Join us to catch up with your neighbors and fellow supporters of Lakes Windigo, Hub, and Lake 27. Pydo's garage is on Thunderpoint Road just past the isthmus between Windigo and Lake 27. No need to RSVP, just come!

Nominations for WLPOA positions are OPEN! Please consider joining us.

Barb Pjevach

As many of you know, every year we take nominations and approve our WLPOA Board for the upcoming year. Please consider throwing in your name or asking if you are willing to help out on the Board or a committee. If each of us helps out, then we can rotate positions and make it enjoyable and not too much work for any of us. We only hold 2 or 3 Board meetings per year and handle the minimal WLPOA work via email. If you are interested in serving or have questions, please contact any WLPOA Board member. Our contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

Progress on Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Colleen Graham

Several WLPOA members recently held a brainstorming session to identify the priorities and goals for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) that is being written as part of our DNR grant. With the help of our consultant Dan Tyrolt, and Sawyer County Invasives Coordinator, Kristy Maki, the committee identified five primary goals, including:



1. Prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into Windigo Lake.
2. Preserve the lake's diverse native plant communities.
3. Educate lake residents & users on the threat of AIS.
4. Restore & preserve native shoreline vegetation.
5. Protect lake water quality.

Besides the goals and priorities, other components of the APMP include the aquatic plant survey ("point intercept survey") conducted by Dan last summer and historical data on water quality testing and septic surveys.

A first draft was reviewed by the committee and comments were provided to Dan. After a second draft and round of comments, the final draft will be posted on the windigolake.com website for WLPOA members to review on July 8. It will then be sent to the DNR for approval on July 15. The final plan will be presented to WLPOA membership at the annual business meeting on August 3.

If you are interested in reviewing the drafts or want to see the underlying survey data, please subscribe to windigolake.com so you'll know when something new has been posted on the site. This is an aggressive schedule, so it's important that you take advantage of any opportunity to review the plan and offer comments as quickly as possible. Your feedback is appreciated!

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

To date our 2013 income is as follows:

- We have received \$ 1,915 in dues from 73 members and 13 "Friends of Windigo" subscriptions.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 648 and donations to the Fish Crib Fund totaled \$ 125.
- Donations to the "Boat Landing Monitor" fund totaled \$ 125 and with the match to be provided by an anonymous member this fund will be \$ 250.
- Twenty-nine tickets at \$ 15 each were sold to the Spring Dinner for a total of \$ 435. Meal expenses, the speaker's honorarium, and the hall rental were \$ 379 resulting in a profit of \$ 56.

Our annual operating budget is about \$ 1,600. This covers our membership mailings, printing and mailing Newsletters, signs for our boat landing, purchase and maintenance of "no wake" buoys, our liability insurance, and memberships in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Sawyer County Lakes Forum. These two organizations are great resources; feel free to check out their web sites:

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/> and <http://www.sawyer-county-lakes-forum.org/>

As of June 2013, WLPOA has the following account balances:

Cash on Hand	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$4,204.11
Dedicated Fish Crib Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$541.45
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$6,300.36
Boat Landing Monitor Fund	\$ 125
DNR Grant Balance	0
Total on deposit	\$11,170.92

DNR Grant Budget

The tasks covered by our grant are 75 % funded by the DNR with a 25% match provided by WLPOA. Our match can be satisfied with cash or by supplying volunteer labor and/or other "in-kind" donations (such as boat use).

- There is \$ 773 remaining from CBCW that can be used to pay for monitoring the Windigo boat landing this summer.
- In 2013 the grant expects to pay Dan Tyrolt \$ 5,250 to complete an Aquatic Plant Management Plan for Windigo.

We would again like to use volunteer hours as our match. We can count time spent in the Aquatic Plant Management Committee meetings as well time spent monitoring Windigo for invasive species. So this summer we again need your help. Please monitor your shoreline for aquatic invasive species and report your hours (and if you used a boat) by email to info@windigolake.org

Hours Reporting for Shoreline Monitoring

This spring we again need your help. Please monitor your shoreline for aquatic invasive species **and report your hours** (and if you used a boat) by email to info@windigolake.org. Simply email your name, how many hours you spent, whether or not you used any boat and when you did the monitoring. That's it! Remember, your volunteer hours earn us money to be released from our DNR grant for lake surveys and invasive species prevention work.

Spring is the best time to check for Curly Leaf Pond Weed. If you would like to be part of the Aquatic Plant Management Committee, please contact Colleen Graham. See article above for more information regarding this committee. For more information about AIS Monitoring, see the page on our website for information and downloads: <http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/>.

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who supports our lake association. Reminders to pay WLPOA dues for this year were sent out in February. If you need a membership form please contact me by phone or email.

To date we have received renewals from 73 members and 13 people are signed up to receive our Newsletter as "Friends of Windigo". Your support is critical to our association and it is very much appreciated.

Our membership form also 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 25 members and 9 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 serves property owners on Windigo Lake, Hub Lake, and Lake 27 by protecting our lakes from invasive species, working with the DNR and local government to maintain lake quality and promoting communication and cooperation among lakeshore owners.

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

The WLPOA Spring Dinner

Barb Pjevach

We held our annual Spring Dinner on Saturday May 4, 2013 at the Veterans Center in Hayward. Yes it was the fishing opener, but there was little open water to be seen! 23 people attended the event with a few others who planned to come but could not make it at the last minute. Thanks again to Bob and Peg Christ for donating a hand-carved lamp for raffle and congrats to John Garrett, the lucky winner! Our guest speaker was Emily Stone from the Cable History Museum. She led an engaging discussion along with visual and audio effects about loons in our area including information about how to identify and interpret their different calls and behaviors.

Next year, we are planning a similar dinner next year, but are open to potentially moving the timing slightly if it works better for more people. If you have opinions regarding timing and location, please feel free to email us info@windigolake.org.



Also note that the Cable History Museum has various programs throughout the year including loon pontoon tours, nature walks and other educational programs on topics like fungi (mushrooms) and Lyme disease. More information about these programs and the museum can be found at <http://www.cablemuseum.org>.



Spring Dinner Loon Discussion Recap

Barb Pjevach

Here is some of the information that we learned about loons at the Spring Dinner. Emily Stone from the Cable History Museum showed pictures of various loons. The only Loons that we will see in the Midwest will be the Common Loon and the Red-Throated Loon. Other diving birds that we may see are Mergansers, Cormorants, and Grebes.

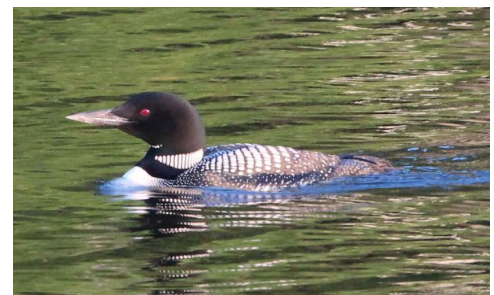
The Common Loons are a pretty healthy/prevalent species currently with more loons than there are territories for them in our area. Some loons thus do not establish territories but move from lake to lake while they are in our region.



Emily passed around parts of the loon that had been preserved with taxidermy and donated to the museum for educational purposes after a loon had died. The beak is quite long, pointy and strong and is good for spearing fish. Loon bones are thick and heavy. This is different than most birds because they can dive 200 feet. They have highest wing loading (wing span and weight combination) of any bird. This means that their wing span is not very wide for such a big heavy bird. Loons weigh 8-12 pounds. They need a quarter mile runway but average flight speed is about 65 mph. As compared to owls they have noisy flight.

Loon feet are about 4.5 inches at the widest point, similar to the size of wolf paw. However, the loon can fold up his or her feet very efficiently for swimming. They often do the "foot waggle". We don't know fully why they do this. It may be a comfort move, or maybe to stretch or warm up the foot. Regarding coloration, loons get a little browner in fall. The specimen that Emily shared with us had died in fall.

One of the most distinctive adaptations that the loons possess is their voice. Their wail is their long distance communication. They are keeping track of neighbors or also call back mate. They are very territorial. They do share parenting 50-50 between the male and the female and are quite social outside of their territory. Males and females only fight their own sex. The hoot is one of the sweetest calls....rarely heard by humans....sounds like an owl and is done between parents and young. The tremelo is their alarm call....if you hear this in a boat you should back off because the loons are scared. They also use their in-flight tremelo....loons without a territory fly and do the tremelo and if they don't hear anything than they know they can land in that area on the lake. The yodel is another loon call. The male has a unique yodel, the larger the loon he lower the voice. A



prospecting loon yodels and waits for the response and decides whether the territory is worth the fight.

The prospector almost never dies, but the resident loon will fight to the death, which happens 30% of the time. The female loon does not yodel. And if a new male wins fight then she just looks on and then goes with new male and any existing chicks will not survive.

Loons on busy lakes are learning that they should stick on nest and not flush. If they flush from a nearby boat, the nest is open to crawling predators like skunks.

Loons live 25-30 years and try to come back to same territory each year.

Our loons in northern Wisconsin migrate to northern Florida during winter.

We listened to loon yodels and looked at sonograms to identify differences and similarities in yodels

Other fun loon facts:

- Their average dive is 30 seconds but they can stay under water up to 3 minutes.
- A loon family eats 4 ton of fish in a season, eating a lot of small fish.
- The males arrive first. We know this because .there is a USGS website that tracks all of he tagged loons (tagged when they are chicks).
(http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/migratory_birds/loons/migrations.html).
- Loon populations are getting healthier, likely due to less acid rain and better attention to preserving habitat.
- Loons usually have 1 or 2 eggs. If there is a second nesting then most likely only 1. Chicks are completely dependent on parents for food and warmth for several months. Merganzers as a comparison feed themselves almost immediately and this is why they have much larger broods.
- What size is a loon territory? It depends on how many fish are in the lake and the shape of lake....if fish are prevalent than the territory size is dependent on whether they can see other loons. So a round lake will likely have fewer "territories" than a lake with fingered bays.
- A large group of loons seen out in the middle of a lake is called a "raft". On the Great Lakes there can be hundreds of loons in a raft. These groups are usually made up of travelling loons without a territory and also parents of loons with a territory who are not currently on nest duty.

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.

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Email Address

In addition, you can subscribe to any new posts that we make to our website....which we do about 6 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 page.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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