

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter – Spring 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

Windigo Neighbors,

As I write this column, the wind is howling and the temperature is a cold and dreary 28 degrees (as opposed to the warm and sunny 28 degrees of a few days ago). It doesn't look as if Hayward will get hit with the snowstorm affecting parts further south, but it has snowed a couple of inches today. Old Man Winter hasn't loosened its grip quite yet.

The 40th American Birkebeiner ski festival wrapped up last week and it was a big success. More than 10,000 skiers participated in the various events. Even more impressive were the 2,000 volunteers who made the event possible, including several from Windigo. I guess the event is so important to this community (evidenced by the crowded restaurants, hotels, and stores through the week) that people don't mind giving of their time to make it happen.

Now that we're in "shoulder season" – the weeks between the Birkie and fishing opener – we need to get the momentum going around our DNR grant activities. The top priority is to convene the Plant Management Committee to draft a management plan. A few people volunteered to participate in the committee but we need a few more. See the note in this newsletter for more information on committee responsibilities. I would be delighted to see some new faces step up to the plate for this work. Your input is critical to the success of this plan – and you might learn a few things in the process!

Finally, I'd like to recognize Marilyn & Bruce Konkler for taking over as Rangers in the LoonWatch program. Loon Rangers provide data on loon activity and habitat to the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College. Thanks also to Ted Schwenker who previously held this role for many years. Speaking of loons, the guest speaker at our spring dinner is a naturalist at the Cable Natural History Museum and loons will be her topic. She is an engaging young woman with a passion for the woods and water. It should be a pleasant evening with good food, good company, and good information!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our spring gathering!

Regards,

Colleen, March 2013



Come to the Spring Dinner May 4, 2013!

Barb Pjevach

The Annual Windigo Lake Area Spring Dinner will be held Saturday Evening May 4th. Please mark your calendars and join your friends and neighbors of the Windigo, Lake 27 and Hub Lake.

We will again be holding it at the Hayward Veteran's Center this year, but we are using a new caterer based on feedback from last year. ☺ Our guest speaker will be Emily Stone from the Cable Natural History Museum giving a presentation about loons. Please rsvp to Sandy Bender with the form at the end of this newsletter.

Help us Take Advantage of a Matching Pledge to Monitor Windigo's Boat Landing!

Colleen Graham

Last summer, WLPOA received a one-time grant from the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program to pay for training and staffing a boat monitor at the Windigo landing. The monitor educated boaters and inspected over 200 boats & trailers for aquatic invasive species. Windigo now has a new and "improved" parking area at the landing and can reasonably expect more traffic this summer, so the potential for boats carrying AIS has increased. While some lake associations are staffing boat landings with volunteer labor, we don't think that is realistic give the small number of residents on Windigo.

The WLPOA board has received a \$500 matching pledge from a Windigo resident to start a fund to staff our boat landing. The pledge will match any donations made to this cause up to a maximum of \$500. While we most likely won't be able to staff the landing as many hours as last summer, the money raised would be used to staff at highest traffic times, e.g., fishing opener, holiday weekends, etc.

If you'd like to pledge, please send a check made out to "WLPOA" to Gary Hartmann with a notation that the money is to be used for a landing monitor. If you haven't already submitted your annual membership dues, you can include the check in that mailing. Thanks for your support!

The Aquatic Plant Management Committee Needs Your Input!

Colleen Graham

Last year, significant progress was made in completing activities scheduled under the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant that was awarded late in 2011. The next phase of the grant calls for drafting a plant management plan. That plan, along with the point intercept survey (completed last summer), water quality measurements (on-going), and general data about the lake (location, depth, etc.) will be part of a comprehensive document that will be subject to public comment, and reviewed and filed with the DNR.

No special knowledge is required for participation, just a desire to protect the lake for future generations. The committee will be guided by Dan Tyrolt, Environmental Engineer, LCO (and a consultant to WLPOA), as well as Kristy Maki, Sawyer County Invasives Coordinator, and possibly one or more representatives from the DNR. The focus of the meetings will be to develop goals and a strategy for plant management on Windigo. The meetings will be held in May with the plan to be finalized by the end of June.

A few more volunteers are needed to participate in the committee. If you would like to take advantage of this great opportunity to determine the future of aquatic plant management in Windigo, please contact Colleen Graham or any of the board members soon so meetings can be scheduled.



Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

Annual Budget

There was no change to WLPOA's income for 2012 as reported in our last Newsletter. Excluding the DNR Grant expenditures, which are discussed below, our other expenses for 2012 were \$ 1,982. The major expenditures were:

- Printing and postage for reminder mailings and newsletters: \$ 533.
- Memberships and Insurance: \$ 663.
- Spring Dinner and picnic expenses: \$ 683 (\$ 510 was covered by dinner ticket sales).

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

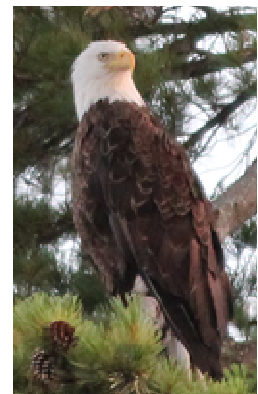
<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund (Checking)	\$1,874.94
Dedicated Fish Crib Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$541.19
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$6,297.45
DNR Grant Balance	0
Total on deposit	\$8,714.58

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).

During 2012 our grant paid out a total of \$ 8,196.67. Nile Merton received \$ 3,226.67 for monitoring at the Windigo boat landing and Dan Tyrolt received \$ 4,970 for the Visual Survey and the Point Intercept Study. We were reimbursed by the DNR for the total spent in 2012 since we provided sufficient volunteer hours. Thanks to everyone for your help!

In 2013 the grant expects to pay Dan Tyrolt \$ 5,250 for developing 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. All volunteer hours must be accrued by June 30, 2013 when our grant ends.



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 supported our lake association last year. Your support is critical and it is very much appreciated. Reminders to pay 2013 dues were sent out in mid-February. The membership form also provides options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Crib Fund. Payment was requested by April 1st if possible. If you need a membership form, they are available on our new web site or you can request one from me by email or phone.

Last year a total of 79 property owners paid dues; this is outstanding participation. I will report on our 2013 renewals in the next Newsletter.

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.

Fishing and Wildlife Report

Dan Pjevach

As we discussed in our last Newsletter, the Local DNR brought up the question of whether they should introduce Muskies into Windigo to improve the health of the fish population. There was some more discussion this winter regarding this topic but no action or decision has been made by the DNR. We did not receive many opinions about this topic from our friends and property owners, so we highly encourage you to make your opinions known by contacting any board member or emailing us at info@windigolake.org.

If you don't have your Autumn newsletter handy, you can find the information again in the archived copy of that newsletter on our website at: <http://www.windigolake.org/newsletters/> or our website post specific to this topic at: <http://www.windigolake.org/muskies/>.

The DNR has also been conducting statewide meetings regarding the panfishing experience in Wisconsin. The DNR has long had management plans in place for game fish species such as walleye, bass, musky and northern pike, and biologists and some anglers believe such attention is necessary for panfish. Over the last couple of years, The committee has also been discussing the need for a more proactive management of the lake's Crappie population. It is the feeling of the committee that the current statewide Total Daily Bag Limit of 25 panfish in total has decreased the size and the number of Crappies in the lake. Although we have not determined the exact optimal species size and bag limit, we do believe that the DNR is taking a step in the right direction. We are asking our members to voice their views by completing a panfishing survey. The survey can be found online at:

<http://5.selectsurvey.net/DNR/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=784jn64>.

Historical Perspective: Ice Harvesting on Windigo

Colleen Graham

Former Windigo resident Bonnie Salo compiled the "Lake Windigo History Project" in 1996. It consists of anecdotes from several long-time property owners, including Simonsons, Brinks, and Steiningers. If anyone has additional remembrances to share, please contact one of the board members or submit comments on the website. The following passage was paraphrased from Bonnie's document.

From the 1920's through the 1940's, the Simonson brothers would harvest ice for the few residents of Windigo Lake. The ice was cut with a hand-saw and hauled out using a team of horses. Ice houses stored the harvest. Customers included the Brinks, Gilberts, and Howes (who resided in the current Cott-Meissel home).



Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: info@windigolake.org

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

Officers		
President	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		colleen.m.graham@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dick Steininger	847-364-0073
		r.steininge@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Gary Hartmann	715-634-1709; 763-574-1709
		gary.hartmann@comcast.net
Secretary/Communication	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016
		brpjevach@earthlink.net

Committees		
Social	Sandy Bender	715-634-1590; 715-558-5859
		sbbender@centurytel.net
Membership	Gary Hartmann	715-634-1709; 763-574-1709
		gary.hartmann@comcast.net
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		colleen.m.graham@gmail.com
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Dick Steininger	
		r.steininge@sbcglobal.net
	Dan Pjevach	952-829-9016
		dmpjevach@earthlink.net

**WINDIGO LAKE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL SPRING DINNER**

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2013
HAYWARD VETERANS CENTER, 10534 MAIN ST.
SOCIAL HOUR @ 5:30 – 6:30 / DINNER TO FOLLOW**

The guest speaker will be Emily Stone, a Naturalist from the Cable Natural History Museum. She will give a presentation on loons.

Also, if any crafters or artists would like to display their wares, please call Sandy Bender (715-634-1590).

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

MENU

Veggie platter with spinach dip
Cheese & crackers
7-layer salad
Teriyaki boneless chicken wingdings
Pulled pork & buns
Potato Salad
Baked beans
Dessert & coffee

COST OF EACH DINNER - \$15.00

To reserve your spot, please send a check payable to "WLPOA" along with the names of your attendees no later than April 19 to:

Sandy Bender 7973N Thunder Point Rd Hayward, WI 54843

An early response would be most appreciated!

_____ # persons @ \$15/per dinner

Thank you very much! We look forward to seeing you on May 4!

