

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 2014

(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

As I write this, winter still has a firm grip on the northland. It's March 16 and -5 with lots of snow on the ground. Hard to believe our spring dinner is just six weeks away. After much discussion, we're returning to an area supper club rather than renting a hall, and scheduling the dinner for the week *before* fishing opener. In years past, this format worked well and we're optimistic that our members will agree. Please join us for a night out with good food and interesting information. If you can't make it, it would also be great if you let us know why, especially if the reason is related to the venue, date, cost, etc.

We'll be hiring at least one and possibly two, boat landing monitors this spring. Funding has been secured so we want to have someone in place in time for fishing opener, assuming ice is out. The plan is to post an advertisement, but if you know of anyone suitable and interested in the position, please let me know. The ideal candidate will have an interest in the preservation of our lake, be out-going, and comfortable asking some questions. There is minimal, but important, administrative work that comes with the job.

This will be my last President's Letter for our printed newsletters as my term ends in August. I haven't heard if anyone is interested in standing for the board, but if you are, contact a board member with any questions. Service on the board is an honor and privilege that I hope others have an opportunity to experience.

Regards,
Colleen, March 2014



Join us for the Spring Dinner: New Venue, New Weekend, Saturday April 26th

Barb Pjevach

We hope that many of you join us for our Spring Dinner. We are changing our venue and timing this year. By moving to the weekend before the fishing opener, we will be able to hold our event at a restaurant. We hope that more of our property owners and friends will join us for a casual and fun social gathering to connect with your fellow Windigo, Hub and Lake 27 friends.



We have a great guest speaker this year: Dave Neuswanger, the Hayward Field Unit Supervisor at the Bureau of Fisheries Management for the Department of Natural Resources. It will be great to hear information from him about fish in our area and he will be an excellent person to ask questions about the fish population in Windigo. Dave has been on the DNR staff assigned to conduct the fish surveys on Windigo which should help provide more information specific to our lakes.

The invitation is at the end of this newsletter. Please complete the information section and send a check for the amount of your chosen entrée to Sandy Bender by April 18th. Please email us as well at info@windigolake.org to

let us know that you are coming or, if not, the reason(s) why. We really want to try to structure this event to reach the most members possible. Thanks again to Sandy Bender and Donna Roeker for their help in planning this annual gathering!!!!

Nominations for WLPOA positions are OPEN! Please consider joining us

Barb Pjevach

As many of you know, every year we solicit nominations for Board positions from our members and then vote on these nominations at the Annual Meeting in August. Please consider throwing in your name or asking us any questions you may have if you are potentially 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. Also, we have added a listing of the Board positions and the responsibilities for each on our website. Check out the page at: www.windigolake.org/about-windigo-lake/wlpoa-volunteer-and-board-opportunities/

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 2014 dues were mailed on February 7th. If you haven’t received your reminder please request one from me; or a form can be downloaded from our web site.

Our membership form includes options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Crib Fund. Members are also asked to select their preferred method of Newsletter delivery – either email or postal delivery. If you don’t select an option I will continue with your choice from last year. Contact me if you wish to change your delivery option.

As of March 1st I have already received 43 renewals and I expect the total to build up to 75 or so paid members as in previous years. Last year a total of 77 property owners paid dues; this is outstanding participation!

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.

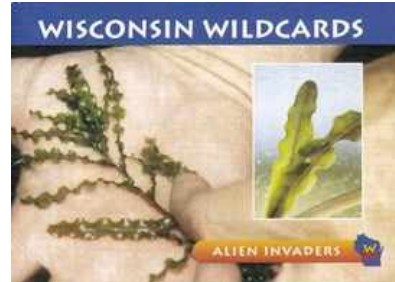
Remember Spring is the time to look for Curly Leaf Pond Weed

Barb Pjevach

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.

One challenge is that if Curly Leaf Pond Weed is present in a lake, it is viewable in Spring and then dies back by the end of June. Thus lake monitoring must be done during this time.

Curly-Leaf Pond Weed is an underwater plant that usually grows in lake water 3 to 10 feet deep. Its wavy leaves with fine-toothed edges make it appear “crispy”. It was accidentally introduced when common carp were stocked in North America. This invader grows well in cold temperatures, even under ice. It begins early in the spring, and shades out native plants, forming dense mats that make it tough to boat or swim. When curly-leaf pond weed dies back in mid-summer it releases nutrients, which can cause algae blooms and other problems. It is easily spread by boats and trailers.



Eurasian watermilfoil is visible throughout summer. Plants usually extend 3 to 10 feet, but can reach as much as 33 feet in length. The stems are reddish-brown to whitish-pink. It forms dense mats on the surface of water bodies, and new plants that may emerge from each node on a stem root on contact with mud. It regenerates mostly from rhizomes, fragmented stems, and axillary buds that develop throughout the year. Eurasian watermilfoil can be found in nearly 400 WI lakes

More detailed pictures and instructions for how to look for AIS are on the AIS page on our website:
<http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/>.

Remember that we can apply the volunteer hours that any of us spend looking for AIS to grant money available to us from the Wisconsin DNR. Reporting is easy! Just email your name, the amount of time you spent looking, when you did your monitoring, and whether or not you used a boa to info@windigolake.org.

Neighborhood watch: No-Wake Zones and Break-ins

Barb Pjevach

No-Wake Zones.

Please be kind to our lake and observe no-wake zones on Windigo. We received a number of reports last summer of high speed boating close to shore and in no-wake zones on our lake so we realized that everyone may not realize what the zones are and why they exist.

No-Wake zones are created for 3 primary reasons:

- 1) Some of the zones are quite shallow and could be a hazard physically to boats.
- 2) These shallow areas also are churned up easily, damaging the lake bottom structure.
- 3) The DNR prohibits high-speed boating (including personal watercraft such as a Jet Ski) within 100 feet of shoreline as part of shoreline preservation for ALL Wisconsin lakes. This was a new law put in place in 2010.

Note that virtually all of Portage Bay is a no-wake zone due to the combination of shallow waters and the narrow distance between shores.

Please also remember that boats should stay 200 feet away from loons and loon nesting places.

Break-Ins:

This winter, several homes on Windigo were broken into. As a reminder, please keep an eye out for any suspicious activity and report it to the Town of Bass Lake.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

We received our reimbursement check from the Wisconsin DNR as anticipated in my previous report. Thus our DNR Grant for 2012-13 now has a balance of zero and has been closed out. Last fall we received an advance of \$750 from our Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant for 2014.



To date we have received \$1,075 from dues, \$35 from Friends of Windigo, plus donations of \$360 to the Invasive Species Fund and \$105 to the Fish Crib Fund. More details will be provided in the next Newsletter. WLPOA currently has the following account balances:

Account Balances - March 1, 2014	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$4,833
Dedicated Fish Crib Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$647
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$6,665
DNR Grant 2012-13 (closed)	0
DNR Grant 2014	\$750
Total on deposit	\$12,895

Our annual budget is very similar from year to year. Projected expenditures are approximately \$1,650 as listed in the following categories:

- Membership and Newsletters printing and mailing: \$ 550
- Rental of PO Box: \$ 42
- Liability policy: \$ 550
- Annual corporate fee to State of WI: \$ 10
- Wisconsin Lakes Membership: \$ 150
- Sawyer County Lakes Membership: \$ 50
- Misc. picnic expenses: \$ 50
- Maintenance/replacement for signs, buoys, etc.: \$ 250

DNR Grants

Our 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 (volunteer labor or boat use).

We will need volunteer labor as a match for our 2014 Grant. Shoreline monitoring for invasive weeds can begin after ice-out and continue into the fall. Please continue to report your time and whether or not a boat was used; just send an email to info@Windigolake.com **Thanks !**

Historical Perspective

Colleen Graham

Most of you probably know that our lake name was changed from Bass Lake to Windigo at some point in the last century. You probably also have heard the origin of the name “Windigo” and that it generally refers to a cannibal-type monster in Ojibwa culture.



I recently read the book “The Round House” by Louise Erdrich, which takes place on an Ojibwa reservation in North Dakota. The Windigo legend (or “Wiindigoo” in the book) was a central theme in the story. On the other end of the cultural spectrum, I heard that the recent movie “The Lone Ranger” starring Johnny Depp, which takes place in Texas among the Comanche people, also incorporates Windigo (or “Wendigo” in the film) into the plot. This is a bit odd, since Windigo isn’t part of Comanche culture; however, it was interesting to stumble across the name in two unrelated contexts, virtually on the same day.

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.

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 web page.

Subscribe to Blog via Email
Enter your email address to subscribe to the WindigoLake.com posts and news and receive notifications of new posts by email.

Email Address

Helpful Wisconsin DNR Links

Dan Pjevach

Max Wolter, Biologist for the local office of the Department of Natural Resources provided us some links that residents may find helpful. There is a lot of information available on the DNR website. Here is the list:

LAKE LIFE

Interested in applying for a **grant** to do a project on your lake? There are a variety of different grants available to lake groups ranging from planning and education to invasive species prevention. Follow this link to learn more about grants:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/grants/>

Interested in **water quality data** on your lake? Citizen lake monitors have been volunteering for years on many lakes to collect data related to water clarity, nutrients, and temperature. If your lake does not have a citizen lake monitor it is a great program to get involved with. (*Thank you Mike and Roxanne for the last 5 years*) Reports and more information can be found here:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>

Interested in learning more about **aquatic plants** and what can be done when they become problematic? Start here:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/plants/>

Interested in applying for a **permit to do fish cribs, fish sticks, shoreline erosion control, bridge/culvert work, buoys,** etc.?

General information can be found here:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/>

Fish habitat information here:

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/habitat/fish_wildlife.html

Would you like to be able to **make your own maps, view Ariel photographs, measure distances, and find public lands** all in one place? This is the DNR surface water mapping application and it is available for public use. It is a powerful tool with many useful functions. It takes some getting used to, but there is a lot you can do once you find your way around. I use this all the time professionally and personally.

<http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/sl/?Viewer=SWDV>

RECREATION

Interested in finding **lake maps** for most lakes in Wisconsin? Here's where to find them:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/Documents/LakeMaps.aspx>

Interested in finding lakes with **beaches**? Here's the searchable list (note there will be some "unofficial" beaches that do not appear on this list):

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/Results.aspx?page=swimming>

Want to check the **fishing season dates** for the upcoming year and see when the free fishing weekend will be? Here's everything you need to know:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/seasons/index.html>

Want to see **reports from fish surveys** in our area? Here is the list (The 2012 and 2013 reports have been written and should be posted soon)

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html#sawyer>

Would you like to see the **fish stocking records** for a lake? Check here and search by county and lake (note: I occasionally notice missing records in this database and it does not appear to be updated through 2013):

http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=wdnr_stocking:1:0::NO:1:P1_COUNTY_NAME:SAWYER

Passings

We had another passing of a long-time Windigo resident this winter. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cott-Meissel family.

Marius “René” Cott-Meissel

Marius “René” Cott-Meissel, longtime resident of Windigo Lake, Hayward, passed away on Feb. 2, 2014, in Arden Hills, Minn. Born in Detroit on May 16, 1931, he grew up in Chicago and spent summers on Windigo Lake after his parents purchased the property in the 1951. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving from 1950-1952 as a radio operator on transport planes in the Pacific, Japan and Korea during the Korean War. He achieved the rank of sergeant. He moved to Hayward in 1959, and was a salesman for more than 40 years at Link Bros. in Minong.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Barbara Cott-Meissel, and his first wife, Elda Mae. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Willa Mae; daughter, Cathy; son, Ray, son-in-law, Ron; and granddaughter, Hannah.

Memorials may be given to the Northwoods Humane Society in Hayward.

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
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Vice-President	Dick Steininger	847-364-0073
		r.steinger@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
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Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Dick Steininger	
		r.steinger@sbcglobal.net
	Dan Pjevach	952-829-9016
		dmpjevach@earthlink.net

**You are cordially invited to the 2014
Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association
Spring Dinner**

Date Saturday, April 26, 2014

Time Social hour at 5:30pm in the bar (cash bar)
Dinner at 6:30pm in the private dining area

Program featuring: Dave Neuswanger, Hayward Field Unit Supervisor,
Bureau of Fisheries Management, WI Department of Natural Resources

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

Menu Relish tray (during social hour)
Choice of entrée (price includes tax & gratuity)
Half Rack BBQ Ribs \$21.00
Cranberry Pecan Crusted Pork Chop \$21.00
New York Strip \$28.00
Walleye Scampi \$28.00
Tossed salad
Roasted red potatoes (rice for the scampi)
Bread
Coffee
Dessert (provided by the WLPOA board)

Please email us at info@windigolake.org and return the RSVP form below with menu selection (ribs, pork, NY, or walleye), guest names, and check payable to "WLPOA" covering food total to Sandy Bender **by Friday, April 18:**

Sandy Bender 7973N Thunder Point Road Hayward, WI 54843	Amount enclosed: \$ _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____

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