

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 2015

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



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Dick Steininger

Hi Friends and Neighbors.

As I'm writing this column for our newsletter its 8 degrees above and a 25 below wind chill factor. It's hard to believe that in about 70 days we will be having our spring dinner. I thought about writing something about invasive species or speeding in the no-wake bay Portage bay but decided to share a story about quiet times on Windigo.

Several years ago I bought two kayaks for the family. I love spending my time out on the lake in my kayak especially after dinner. It is usually quiet especially during the week when many of our weekend residents go home. I have gone through a raft (group) of 13 loons. I was almost close enough to touch them. I once saw a very large snapping turtle who was about 15 feet away that watched me rather than duck his head and go down to the depths. Several years ago my wife and I were being followed by two otters. We stopped and watched them as they watched us. All of these thing occurred when it was quiet.

One of my most memorable times was last year. My 14 year old granddaughter Emma and I decided to kayak the length of the lake. Our home is near the boat landing and we kayaked to Lake 27 and back. We saw a lot of interesting things along the way but it was special spending a couple of hour alone with my granddaughter. She was just going into high school and was going to try out for the swimming team. She shared some of her thoughts and a few concerns with me. That two hours that we spent kayaking together was special for me and I hope Emma.

Windigo offers a rare opportunity to spend some quiet time in a very busy world. Have some quiet time this summer and enjoy our beautiful lake and the beauty that surrounds us. Enjoy your summer.

Any questions? Any concerns? Contact me or any board member by phone or e-mail. Thanks.

Regards,
Dick, February 2015

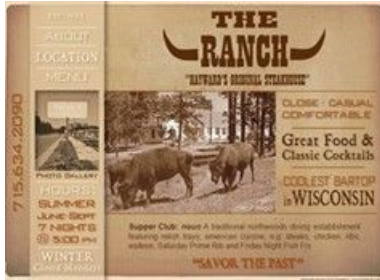


Email: r.steinger@sbcglobal.net, Home Phone: 847.364.0073, Cell Phone: 708.899.3194

Join us for the Spring Dinner at The Ranch: Saturday April 25, 2015

Barb Pjevach

At the end of this newsletter you will find the invitation and dinner selection/RSVP form. Please consider joining us and let Sandy Bender know in upcoming weeks.



The dinner will include a social hour, a speaker and tasty dinner. It is always a very nice time to connect with neighbors and friends of our lakes.

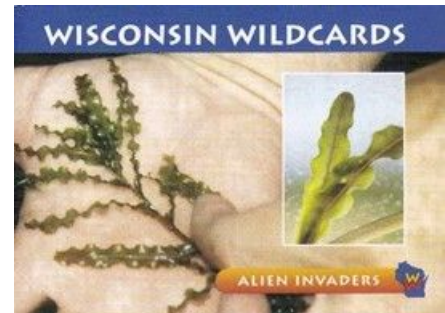
Last year we moved the spring dinner to the weekend before the fishing opener so that we could more easily hold the dinner at a local restaurant. (Many restaurants are reluctant to reserve a room for our dinner on the weekend of opening fishing). We received great reviews about the event and The Ranch as a venue so we decided to keep the timing and venue the same.

AIS Update: Look for Curly Leaf Pondweed from Ice-Out through June

Colleen Graham

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.

Remember that the DNR credits us for the volunteer hours we spend looking for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). 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 boat to info@windigolake.org. Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to be shoreline monitors, but also remember that anyone can search for AIS and report hours and the DNR will give us credit.



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!

Fishing and Wildlife Committee Updates

Dan Pjevach

Proposed Panfish and Bass bag limits and upcoming Conservation Congress meetings:

The committee has been working with the DNR to address some of the issues identified by the fish surveys done in 2012. There is one proposed change to the fishing regulations that will directly apply to Windigo Lake. This change is being voted on at the DNR Spring Hearing and Wisconsin Conservation Congress County Meeting for Sawyer County that will take place on Monday, April 13, 2015, 7:00 p.m. at the Hayward Middle School, Commons/Auditorium, 10408 N Greenwood Lane, Hayward, WI 54843. This meeting is open to the public.

Sawyer County residents should try to attend this meeting and support a YES vote for Question 14. Question 14 will implement the Panfish Regulation Package that includes changing the panfish daily bag limit on Windigo from 25 to 15 with no more than 5 of any one species. This will allow our panfish stock to recover and hopefully grow back to the levels of the past. Please note that there is a typographical error on Question 47 of the Spring Questionnaire which proposes removing the 14" minimum size limit for smallmouth bass on Windigo (and other

lakes in Sawyer County). Although the 14" minimum for largemouth bass was removed for this year's fishing season, this proposed rule change to the smallmouth bass regulations **will not** apply to Windigo. This will be explained at the public hearing. If the proposed panfishing regulations are approved, the change will be implemented in the 2016-17 regulations. If you have any questions, please contact me.

If you want to read about these topics directly on the DNR Conservation Congress Website here is the link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/About/WCC/springhearing.html>.

The Fish and Wildlife Committee will be working on scheduling its next meeting on the Saturday or Sunday of Memorial Day weekend (May 23rd or 24th). If you would like to join the group, please let me know.

Hayward Fish Expo: A fun free event for the whole family:

The **Hayward Fish Expo** which will be **Saturday March 28th this year from 9-3 at the Hayward Wesleyan Church**. This is a family and youth oriented event. If you've been to this event in the past you know it's a lot of fun and a great way to get excited for the upcoming fishing season. There is a raffle for great prizes, games for the kids, vendors and exhibitors, and free stuff! This year the local DNR staff are trying to make it even more informational by hosting a series of presentations that they think anglers and lakeshore owners will love!

So far, planned presentations are:

Max Wolter (DNR): How to do Fish sticks on your lake, fish stocking update, Our top 10 local family fishing spots

Scott Braden (WDNR): All the secrets of fishing the Big Lake This is a must-see if you have ever been curious about fishing Superior)

Jeff Butler (Nat. Park Service): Adventure fishing in the Everglades

Kirk Olson (WDNR): Research on the White River Fishery

The Youth Conservation Alliance will be there as well and will have some great programs for kids which may include live animals...

This is all completely FREE and there is a free lunch provided by Sons and Daughters of Zebedee (SADOZ)!

Clean Boats, Clean Waters Update: Now Hiring Boat Landing Monitors!

Colleen Graham

In accordance with the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant awarded to WLPOA for 2015, we are seeking one or more people to work at the Windigo boat landing on weekends and holidays checking boats and trailers for invasive species.

Responsibilities include:

- Tracking (primarily) day-use traffic at the landing;
- Asking a defined set of questions provided by the DNR and recording the answers;
- Visually inspecting boats and trailers for vegetation;
- Entering data in an online database;
- Distributing educational materials.

Qualifications of the ideal candidate include:

- Knowledge of and/or interest in aquatic invasive species;
- Confidence and maturity;
- Reliable transportation
- Ready access to the internet with an email account;
- Willingness to work split shifts on weekends and holidays.

The position will commence at ice-out or fishing opener, whichever is later, and continue through Labor Day weekend. Pay is \$10/hour. If you know anyone who is interested in this job for all or part of this coming summer, please contact any Board member or email us at info@windigolake.org.

Yes, we will be boating soon! Friendly reminders for our lake health...

Barb Pjevach

As a friendly reminder, please be kind to your neighbors and the health of our lakes by boating at no-wake speeds in Portage Bay and observing DNR regulations when boating throughout Windigo!

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 when 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.



Also, please keep in mind that the regulations help preserve wildlife and particularly our loons who seem to hang-out near the shoreline and calmer waters.

Theoretically because Portage Bay is under 46 acres, if it were a standalone lake, it would be entirely no-wake. It is only about 300 feet in the long narrow section and is very shallow in the wider section so slower speeds are wise for the entirety of the bay.

Here is a link to the DNR site: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/weekly/article/?id=1417> .

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who supported our lake association last year. We had 82 property owners pay dues. Your support is critical and it is very much appreciated. Reminders to pay 2015 dues were mailed on February 24th. 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 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. 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.

Even if you do not want an emailed newsletter, we would appreciate getting an email address from you for other important infrequent email updates.

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.

Treasurer's Report

Maryalice McHugh

As the new Treasurer I am slowly learning the ropes. As most of you know, 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). I am pleased to report that WLPOA had sufficient volunteer hours in 2014 to get the full re-imbusement from the DNR. Thank you for all you do.

We will need volunteer labor as a match for our 2015 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.org. Thanks!

Our account balances have not changed much since reported last October. We will report updated numbers in our June electronic newsletter after we collect dues and receive DNR funds. If anyone has any questions in the meantime, please let me know.

As you know our annual membership drive for dues is underway. If you did not receive from Gary Hartmann in recent weeks about paying dues, please let us know at info@windigolake.org or contact Gary.



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 Posts via Email

Enter your email address to subscribe to Posts to this website and receive notifications of new posts by email. Any questions? Email us at info@windigolake.org

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: info@windigolake.org

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

<i>Officers</i>		
President	Dick Steininger	847-364-0073
		r.steininger@sbcglobal.net
Vice-President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
		Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com
Treasurer	Maryalice McHugh	715-634-3062
		maryalice3150@yahoo.com
Secretary/Communication	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016
		brpjevach@gmail.com

<i>Committees</i>		
Social	Sandy Bender	715-634-1590; 715-558-5859
		sandyb7973@gmail.com
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	Dan Pjevach	952-829-9016
		dmpjevach@earthlink.net

You are cordially invited to the 2015 Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association Spring Dinner

Date Saturday, April 25, 2015

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

**Program Speaker: Jim Ferguson,
President, Sawyer County Historical Society**

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 \$20.00
Cranberry Pecan Crusted Pork Chop \$21.00
New York Strip \$27.00
Deep Fried Walleye \$28.00
Walleye Scampi \$28.00
Tossed salad
Potato
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 17:**

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 _____	

Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association
P.O. Box 13071
Hayward, WI 54843