

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 2016

(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.

I have been thinking all week about what to write for my newsletter column. As I look out my window and see the buds starting to come out on our trees and the grass having a green tint, my thoughts are starting to turn to Windigo. I want to say thanks to all of the lake volunteers. As I mentioned in my past column, there are quite a few people who help keep Windigo the lake we love.

I'd also like to remind property owners to please pay your dues and be a member of our lake association. This small amount of money helps fund the important programs in which we are involved.

I did get a couple of calls and emails regarding my fall column. Yes, boating activity could be causing the lack of baby loons surviving. I also think if we do our boating in the area that we have designated, there shouldn't be a problem. I'm not anti-boating nor is the board: just boat responsible.

I hope to see you at the spring dinner which will be held at the Ranch once again.

Have a great Spring!

Regards,



Dick, March 2016

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Join us for the Spring Dinner at The Ranch: Saturday April 30, 2016

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.

Our speaker this year will be Dale Olson, Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation Administrator. In light of recent years' changes in Wisconsin state laws with respect

to shoreline regulations, we anticipate that Dale will provide some great information and perspective for dinner attendees.

Legislative Action on Shoreline Zoning

Colleen Graham

There was a flurry of activity at the state level in the last session after changes introduced in the budget last summer limited local control of shoreline zoning and regulation. The Lake Policy Report published by the Wisconsin Lakes organization summarizes the current state of major bills and amendments. (Here is a link to the report: <http://tinyurl.com/z6crelb> or you can [CLICK HERE](#).)

The impact of this legislation on shoreline property owners as well as changes to the permitting process will be the topic of discussion at the spring dinner on April 30. Our speaker, Dale Olson, is the Zoning & Conservation Administrator for Sawyer County.

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 2016, 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;
- Distributing educational materials.
- Qualifications of the ideal candidate include:
 - Knowledge of and/or interest in aquatic invasive species;
 - Confidence and maturity;
 - Reliable transportation
 - Willingness to work split shifts on weekends and holidays;
 - Ready access to the internet with an email account preferred but not required.

The position will commence at ice-out or fishing opener, whichever is later, and continue through Labor Day weekend. Pay is \$10/hour or commensurate with experience. 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.

info@windigolake.org.

Boat Landing Volunteers?

In addition, if anyone wants to be trained to volunteer as a Boat Landing monitor occasionally when our paid monitor is not available please let us know. Hours volunteered in monitoring our landing give us credit for money to be released from our DNR grant. Please let any Board member know or email us at

info@windigolake.org.

Yes, we are excited to be back on the water soon! Friendly Boating Reminders!

Barb Pjevach

Each spring, we like to remind us all about boating considerations and safety. Last year, there were a couple of particularly busy boating weekends when higher speed boats were near Loon “hangouts” on the west side Windigo and we also learned from some research up at Northland College that boats are the most prevalent cause

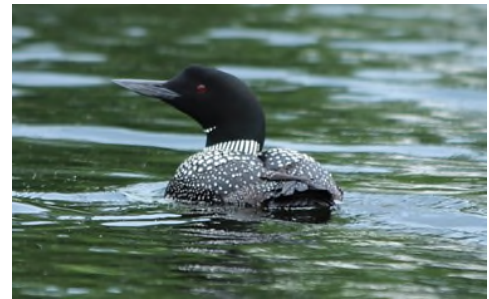
of loon deaths. We cannot conclude absolutely that increased speed boating near loons is the reason that we have not had a baby loon survive on Windigo for many years, but it is a possible reason. Also, as a reminder for the benefit of the loons, NON-motorized boats can also be a threat to loon health if the adult loons become stressed. So, please use those telephoto lenses and stay well clear of the loons if possible.

Also, 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!

If you have guests, they may not know about our efforts to preserve the beauty of our lakes and our wildlife, and so many lakes do not work as hard as we do to keep our lake AIS free, healthy and beautiful. So, please just make sure your guests who may be boating know about our no-wake zones, our loons, and considerate boating practices.

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.



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

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thank you to everyone who supported our lake association last year. We had 78 property owners pay dues representing Lake 27 and Windigo and Hub lakes.

Dues Reminders were sent out in February. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in your dues. If you haven't received your reminder please request one from us; or a form can be downloaded from our web site from our latest updates post at this link: <http://wp.me/p2m2mJ-62> .

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.



Note that for our June Newsletter and for occasional quick communication on behalf of our association, we ARE requesting emails from everyone. Email is our preferred method of newsletter delivery, but if you would also like a physical newsletter mailed, please indicate so to us and we are happy to also mail one to you.

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

Gary Hartmann

A report on 2016 Membership Dues paid, as well as the voluntary donations, will be included in the next Newsletter. Here is an update on our DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grants which fund monitoring of our boat landing. These 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 of labor. These donations must be related to boat landing monitoring and can’t include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.

During 2015 WLPOA spent \$ 3,090 on monitoring the boat landing. We had received an advance of \$ 750 and during last November we filed our paperwork for final reimbursement. A check for \$2206.50 was received bringing the total covered by the DNR to \$ 2956.50 This year our “in-kind” match fell a bit short so WLPOA will use a cash match of \$ 133.50 from our General Fund to bring this account to zero and close it out.



WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2016 and we have received an advance of \$ 750. This balance is shown in the table below.

As of March 25, 2016, WLPOA has the following account balances:

Account Balances (3-25-2016)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$5,133.25
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$1,027.73
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$7,576.43
DNR Grant for 2015	0
DNR Grant for 2016	\$ 750.00
Total on deposit	\$14,487.41

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

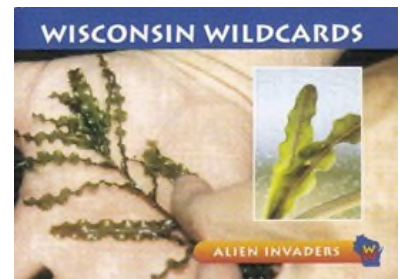
Barb Pjevach

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.

Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to be shoreline monitors, but also remember that anyone can search for AIS.

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!

As a reminder, the time to find Eurasian Milfoil, the other AIS in our area, starts in June.



Savings Our Lakes & Streams: A new book and some references

Barb Pjevach

Thanks to one of our property owners who forwarded on some information about an upcoming book written by an author in the Hayward/Cable area. James Brakken has written a new book: *Saving our Lakes & Streams: 101 Practical Things You Can Do Today*. You can find out more at <http://thetreasureofnamakagon.com>. Note that *The Treasure of Namakagon*, one of James' previous books, is available free in ebook form at (<https://www.smashwords.com/books/search?query=The+Treasure+of+Namakagon>).

In addition to writing and selling books, James Brakken has noted some great public resources for more information (from page <http://thetreasureofnamakagon.com/saving-lakes-and-streams.php> on his website). Here are some of them:

Wisconsin Lakes (WL)

- WL's Website: Provides many resources for lake groups and individuals, as well as information about WL's educational events, accomplishments, publications, and the benefits of becoming a member. www.wisconsinlakes.org
- E-Lake Letter: WL's e-mail news bulletin keeps lake enthusiasts informed of topics that affect all Wisconsin lakes. (Free service.) www.wisconsinlakes.org/index.php/elake-letter.
- Lake Connection: Wisconsin Lakes' quarterly periodical, available in both print and electronic form. Explores lake issues and offers compelling and inspiring stories of lake organizations and citizens doing good things for lakes. All lake association members are entitled to free electronic delivery. See <http://wisconsinlakes.org>.

UW Extension – Lakes Program

- UWEX - Lakes website provides resources on starting and effectively managing lake organizations. It includes the "Lake List," a searchable online directory of Wisconsin lake organizations and lake-related businesses servicing them. The website also offers a history of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership and The Water Way, a statewide strategic plan for our lakes. www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes (Free service.)
- Lake Tides: The UW-Extension Lakes Program newsletter. A superb quarterly newsletter addressing a wide variety of issues affecting Wisconsin's lakes and streams. (Free service.) Sign up to receive your copy or view archived editions at: www.uwsp.edu/dnr/uwexlakes/laketides or <http://bit.ly/1kKmkQP>

From the WI DNR Lakes Program:

- Wisconsin DNR Lakes Program website: Provides lakes and rivers grants guidelines, applications, example reports and plans; lake management tools; lake maps; citizen-based lake monitoring resources; boating, fishing, and hunting regulations; a statewide directory of DNR staff, and more. Find it at www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/fhp/lakes
- Into the Outdoors: A weekly television program for children of all ages. Science education that empowers individuals and classrooms to think critically about Planet Earth. Also available online at <http://intotheoutdoors.org>.
- Wisconsin Conservation Congress: Offers opportunities to post resolutions supporting good conservation regulations in Wisconsin at the annual Spring Hearings, held in April. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/> for more information.

New Neighbors?

We need your help! We try to keep abreast of property ownership changes, but the best way to keep aware of new neighbors on our lakes is for current members to tell us! If you have a new neighbor, can you please pass on the newsletter and website information or even just drop any one of the officers or note or email us at info@windigolake.org. Thanks for your help in helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

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.

We appreciate emails from as many lake friends and property owners as possible so if you have not already, please make sure to give us your email.

In addition, you can subscribe to any new posts that we make to our website....which we do a few 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.

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Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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