

Windigo Lake Area E-Newsletter Summer 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.

We are finally here. It has been a long winter, but my wife Karen and I arrived for our summer on Windigo a few weeks ago in June.

The other night I was out on my kayak enjoying Windigo and the surrounding shore line. I was thinking how much I take for granted. I was kayaking, others were fishing and yet others were just boating. Great isn't it!

I thought about all the volunteers that make much of this possible. The DNR checks the fish population. We have a fishing committee that plans our future fishery on Windigo. We have someone check the water quality and send the report back to the state. We have neighbors check the shore line for invasive species. Someone checks our loon population. Someone puts in the no wake buoys and takes them out. Someone writes our newsletter.

Our board organizes many of these things. We have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and committee chairs. Our committees are fishing, environmental, membership and social.

The next time you are out on the lake enjoying your time, please remember those who help make it possible. Thanks to all who volunteers that make our stay at Windigo so enjoyable.

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

Regards,
Dick, June 2015



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

Please Come to all or part of the Annual Picnic and Business Meeting, Saturday August 1, 2015!

Barb Pjevach

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year the first Saturday in August. After surveying our community last year, there did not seem to be any better overwhelming options so we decided to keep this meeting and picnic as in the past.

The business meeting will be held at 4pm. Dick promises that it will be short. ☺ The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm with bratwurst, water and lemonade provided. If you can, please bring any dish to share and anything else you would like to drink. Join us to catch up with neighbors and friends of Lakes Windigo, Hub, and Lake 27.

If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please let Dick Steininger know. Nominations are open for the 2015/2016 year which will start in August. Some of our current positions are combined roles so if you are interested, we would love your help.....let's talk!

The event will again be held at Pydos' garage on Thunderpoint Rd. just past the isthmus between Windigo and Lake 27. RSVPs are appreciated. Just contact Sandy Bender or email us at info@windigolake.org but feel free to also just come if you forget to RSVP.

Spring Dinner Recap

Barb Pjevach



Thanks to everyone who joined us for the Spring Dinner on Saturday April 25, 2015. We had a great turnout, nice socializing, tasty dinner, and a nice reflection on some of the Hayward area history from our speaker, Jim Ferguson, President of the Sawyer County Historical Society. In addition to some neat historical stories, he also informed us about the Historical Society and gave information about visiting it.

We received great reviews about the event and The Ranch as a venue so we hope to keep the timing and venue the same for next year. By holding it the weekend prior to the Fishing Opener, we are able to get a restaurant to host us.

AIS Update: Summer is the time to look for Eurasian Milfoil

Colleen Graham

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.

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.



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 and **anyone** can submit Shoreline monitoring hours. 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 for your continued vigilance in keeping our lakes AIS-free!

Fishing and Wildlife Committee Updates

Dan Pjevach

The Fish and Wildlife Committee met on Memorial Day weekend. They discussed the future implementation of a “fishsticks” program with DNR support. This is a program in which trees are dropped into the lake to provide natural structure to provide more habitat for fry.



Based on recent studies, the DNR recommends fishsticks over dropping manmade fish cribs if additional structure is desired in a lake. Stay tuned as the committee talks with the DNR and develops plans.

In addition, the Proposed Panfish and Bass bag limits were approved at the Conservation Congress meetings in April. Starting April 1, 2016, 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.

Any questions or comments? Please contact me (Dan) at dmpjevach@earthlink.net.

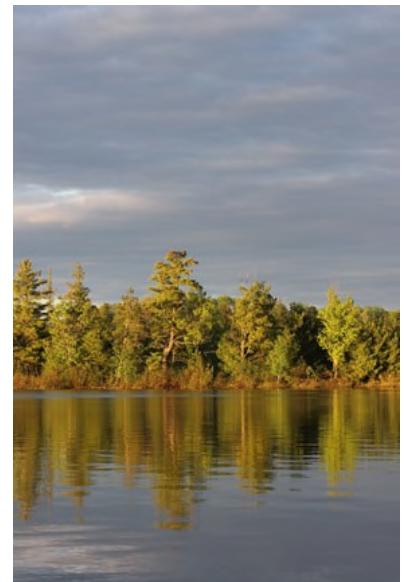
Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference Recap

Cindy Lawson

Cindy attended the Annual Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference for us and here are her notes. Thanks Cindy!

John Gozdziński, the DNR's secretary director for NW Wisconsin, gave the opening remarks, and once again, the Wisconsin DNR is cutting employees throughout the state in the next year.

I attended the presentation on Healthy Lake Grants which was presented by Pamela Toshner, a lake Biologist with the WDNR for five northwestern counties, Sawyer was not one of the counties. Her discussion was about the amount of grants that are available to build Fish Sticks, 350' shoreline Native Plantings; diversions, rock infiltration, runoff self-evaluations. Eligible Healthy Lake Grant sponsors include qualified lake associations, lake districts, towns, etc. Individual property owners are not eligible grant sponsors, but any eligible grant sponsors, i.e. qualified lake associations, could apply on their behalf. Multiple lakefront property owners can apply through the eligible grant



sponsors. The common grant amount is about \$1000.00 for shoreline native plantings, rock infiltration, etc. The maximum state grant award is capped at \$25,000.00 and requires a 75/25 STATE/SPONSOR match. The site for the Healthy Lake Grants is www.healthylakeswi.com.

The second session was presented by Gretchen Hansen, Ph.D., who has been studying walleyes. The presentation was about the decline of Walleyes and the myths associated to the declination. The adult walleye is declining at the rate of 2% per year, while the juvenile walleye is declining at the rate of 6.6% per year. She stated the decline is not related to the large-mouth bass population or Native American spearing. Their studies on spearing commenced when the Native Americans were once again allowed to spear in certain lakes. According to the studies, the larger lakes which were speared, had more reproduction of walleyes. Also, one of the studies on large-mouth bass, out of 945 large-mouth bass, only one had a walleye in their stomach. The bass were eating sunfish and perch. On the other side of the spectrum, the walleye were eating the bass, sunfish and perch. They have found on lakes with warmer temperatures, the walleye are not reproducing as much as they do in colder water lakes, although there is still a decline in the colder lakes. Also, there are more recruitment in 400+ acre lakes with colder waters. Dr. Hansen stated they still do not have a definite answer on what is causing the declination of the walleye. Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario, are all having the same problem with declining walleye population as Wisconsin.

Lastly, was the presentation by Kristin Kovach about the translocation of the Loon chicks. The relocations are being done where the population of the loons are declining. I also obtained more information about Loons from one of the booths with their respective representatives.

Loon baby this summer and helpful hints for all of us as lake neighbors

Barb Pjevach

As we all know, we all enjoy the beauty of our lakes in different ways. For those of us who like to do high speed boating, we appreciate the few number of boats on our lake and the smooth waters for water skiers. Those who like to fish appreciate being able to fish peacefully and catch a variety of fish. We have increasing numbers of kayakers, paddle-boarders and sailors. It seems that we all appreciate our natural shoreline, wildlife, clean water and beauty of our lakes and that so far, they are free of invasive species. This summer, so far, we are lucky to have a surviving baby loon (so far!). The loon family appears to be hanging out in the southeastern part of the lake. A couple of pictures are attached here courtesy of Gary Hartmann.

But as we all enjoy different aspects and utilization of our lakes, we are all neighbors and use the lakes as a community. So, as a friendly reminder, please be kind to your neighbors and the health of our lakes by being respectful of all owners with respect to a few things.

Please remember the recommended boating and no-wake rules.

Note that Portage Bay should be no-wake zone due to the narrow width and shallow areas in the Bay. Please observe the no-wake zones. Theoretically because Portage Bay is under 46 acres, if it were a standalone lake, it would be entirely no-wake.

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.



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> .

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. All of us should stay at least 200 yards away from loons and use a telephoto lens if you want to take pictures.

Remember that sounds travel READILY across the water. While some of us like to occasionally enjoy noisier activities such as fireworks or shooting of guns, please be aware that these activities also hamper peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others. Certainly with the 4th of July weekend, most of us expect a little celebratory fireworks, but at other times, please consider keeping the noisier activities limited to a relatively short period of time to aid in the enjoyment of the peaceful beauty of our lakes by everyone.

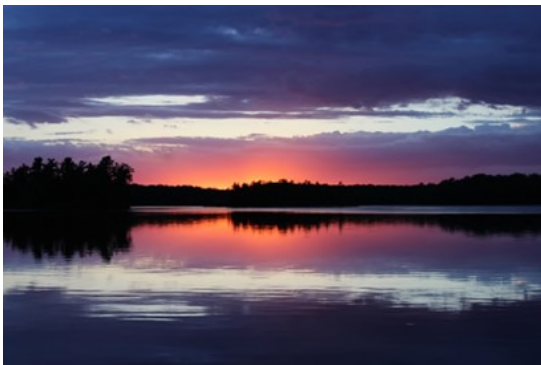
The Town of Bass Lake actually had a noise ordinance which designates “Loud Noise Areas” as areas where “any unreasonably loud, discordant and unnecessary sound conditions, including sounds from motor vehicles, equipment, machinery, guns, fireworks...”

If you have guests or rent out your property to others who may not be familiar with regulations or suggested guidelines for lake use, please make sure that your guests are aware and feel free to leave this newsletter out for their reading pleasure. ☺

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

Reminders to pay 2015 dues were mailed in February. If you haven't received your reminder please request one from me; or a form can be downloaded from our web site.



To date, WLPOA has received renewals from 75 property owners and we have 11 ‘Friends of Windigo’. Your support is critical and it is very much appreciated.

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 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.

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

Here are our balances in our various WLPOA accounts as of June 2015:

Cash on Hand (6/18/15)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$5,851.92
Fishery Management Reserve	\$1,027.35
Dedicated IAS Reserve	\$7,573.58
DNR Grant	-\$1,705.00
Total on deposit	\$12,747.85

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 and/or boat use).

We will need volunteer labor as a match for our 2015 Grant. Shoreline monitoring for invasive weeds began after ice-out and continues until fall. Please continue to report your time and whether or not a boat was used; just send the information in an email to info@windigolake.org. Thanks!

If anyone has any questions in the meantime, please let me know or simply email us at info@windigolake.org.

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)

Officers		
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

Committees		
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 _____	

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P.O. Box 13071
Hayward, WI 54843