

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Summer 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.

As President of our association I get a few emails and phone calls asking me questions.

Here's one complaint I'd like to address: boats speeding in Portage Bay. This year after much discussion we are only installing 2 buoys in Portage bay. It would seem that there might be some confusion where the no wake zone begins and ends due to the three buoys we had last year. This year we are placing 2 buoys in the bay hopefully to lessen the confusion.

Here are our thoughts as to why Portage Bay should be a no-wake area. The boat regulations state a lake less than 50 acres is a no wake lake. Portage Bay even though it is part of Windigo is less than 50 acres. Also in some areas in the narrow part of the bay are less than 300 feet. According to the boat regulations, boats creating a wake should be no closer than 150' feet from the shore line on any lake. The wider area which has a lot of beautiful lilies is very shallow and high speed boating rips up the lilies as well as tearing up the bottom of the lake. From the phone calls I have received it would seem that most of the offenders are lake residents and should know that the bay is a no-wake zone. Those of you who rent your homes please remind the renters that Portage Bay is a no-wake area.

I hope this clarification helps. Thanks for all that you do to keep our lakes healthy and I wish all of you a wonderful summer of enjoying our lakes! As always, I am available to talk with anyone and welcome your thoughts.

Have a great summer!

Dick

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 6, 2016!

Barb Pjevach

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year the first Saturday in August.

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.

The event will again be held at Pydos' garage on Thunderpoint Rd. just past the isthmus between Windigo and Lake 27. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Just contact Barb Pjevach at 952-829-9016 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 attended our annual spring dinner at The Ranch on April 30, 2016. We once again had a separate room which facilitated our speaker, Dale Olson who provided information about Windigo and also shoreline regulations with new state legislation this past year. There have been changes within our county and our state.

Dale commented that Windigo is a wonderful clean and natural lake that he likes to visit. We were surprised to hear that we actually have 171 parcels of land on Windigo. This surprised many of our property owners, but we have to remember that many property owners have multiple parcels. Windigo has 522 acres, a max depth of 51 feet and a mean depth of 14 feet. The mean depth is twice as much as the average Wisconsin lake.

Windigo also does not yet have invasive species. Dale noted Windigo is helped in this regard because we do not get that much traffic, (even with our relatively newer boat ramp and parking) and the tannic acid stained waters make it hard for new AIS to take hold. He also noted that we are a mesotrophic lake, the 2nd clearest type of lake.

To better understand the make-up of lakes and their history, the DNR takes a core of sediment through the deep hole in the lake through the ice during winter. They pull it out and dissect it. We have very good lake water chemistry and Dale believes it is largely due to the care property owners have taken over the years. Our secchi depth is around 10 feet.

Regarding shoreline regulations, Wisconsin Act 55 was not a shoreline act, but a broad budget act that could include many things. This Act established that no Wisconsin county can enact zoning laws more restrictive than the state level regulations. Historically, local governments and counties previously could make the zoning appropriate depending on the types of lakes and development that existed in a county. All counties are the same now. Sawyer County can no longer regulate restoration of vegetative buffer, outdoor lighting nor non-conforming structure regulations. Lake Classification is now gone (Wilderness Lake, for example).

Dale also noted that prior to Act 55, his office tried to work with land owners to help owners enjoy their property, but also do things to help the quality of the land and the waters. Dale noted that enabling native plants to grow beyond the use corridor is an excellent way to help erosion control. Dale also noted that expansion of the use corridor to 35 feet per 100 feet may not seem like a big number, but the law enables compounding of the corridors so if a property has 300 feet, the use corridor can be 105 feet. The boat house rules also were lessened, but Sawyer County could enact that buildings needed to be one story. The Act also disabled counties from enacting comprehensive plans for development and zoning.

Dale also noted that Windigo is one of the few lakes in Sawyer County that is home to the mudskipper, an unusual fish that comes up on rocks in the night. If we ever want to look for them, use a red light and look on the rocks.

State leaders have indicated that they intend to put more local control back, however, this is not yet in motion. If people want to contact legislators, that is a way that anyone can help, regardless of whether you are a state resident. Historically, we have been leaders in Sawyer County in terms of helping people enjoy their property and helping the property enjoy the people living there. We would like to see that put back in place.

If people would like to contact our area State Legislators to encourage their action, here is their contact information:

Our area's state Senator is Jerry Petrowski (R - Marathon)
Senate District 29
(608) 266-2502
Email: Sen.Petrowski@legis.wisconsin.gov

Our area's state Assembly member is James Edmond.
(608) 266-7506
(888) 534-0087
Email: Rep.Edming@legis.wisconsin.gov

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

Colleen Graham

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/>.

Note that we have hired a boat landing monitor again this summer for weekends, utilizing our grant from the DNR along with volunteer hours to cover the cost. Our boat landing monitor this year is Dennis Dollhopf. He will be working most weekends during the higher traffic times at the landing through summer. And on weekends when Dennis is not available, volunteers are helping monitor. If you are interested in volunteering at all, let Colleen Graham know.

Note that our reimbursement for our grant for AIS prevention no longer allows us to claim the hours that individuals spend looking for AIS, but your looking when you are out and about on the lake is still helpful and encouraged! We can claim volunteer hours associated with other volunteering with respect to lake monitoring, boat landing monitoring etc.

We can always use a few extra hands to help our AIS related activities on the lake and with the DNR. So, please let us know if you have even a few hours to spare to join the fun!

Thanks for your continued vigilance in keeping our lakes AIS-free!



Fishing Committee Updates

Dan Pjevach

The Fishing Committee met on Memorial Day weekend and discussed a variety of topics. Here are updates:

- 1) **Panfish Regulations:** The new panfish regulations are in place for Windigo and are posted at the boat launch. As a reminder, the limit is 15 panfish per person per day with no more than 5 of any one species.
- 2) **Fish Surveys:** The DNR did a boom shock survey of Windigo on 4/13/2016. The next boom shock survey will likely be in a few years. They noted some improvement with respect to size and number for the walleye population as compared to previous years' results. They also noted a good amount of walleye fry. The question has been discussed as to whether Windigo should be stocked with walleye fry. The DNR is not inclined to stock walleye fry due to the mercury content in Windigo, but we could work with the LCO tribe or potentially fund stocking by the association or property owners at some point. The DNR assessment is that with the good number of fry they observed this year is that stocking is not necessary at the current time.
- 3) **Creel Survey:** The DNR is performing a creel study on Windigo this year to understand our fish population. They are surveying people who are fishing all summer and through mid-October. They have a boat on the lake for this summer to use and also may be at the boat landing in addition to Dennis, our boat landing monitor. Their primary purpose for his study is to best understand the fish population, not enforcement.
- 4) **Trolling Regulations:** There has been discussion about changes to the trolling rules, but for this year, it looks like the regulations will be unchanged from those put in place last year. Here is a link to the DNR site for the regs: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/questions/troll.html> . Windigo is one of a number of lakes in Sawyer County that has a limit of three hooks, three baits/lures per person.
- 5) **Spring Spearing results:** As a reminder, the LCO tribe has rights to spear Windigo and other area lakes once a year. There are limits set per lake. This year tribal harvesters were allowed a total 114 fish from Windigo and they harvested 91 fish.
- 6) **Fish Sticks:** As we have previously discussed, the DNR experts believe that fish cribs are not the best way to assist fish population growth. They recommend dropping trees into lakes to create habitat, called "Fish Sticks". The committee is working on moving forward to get DNR assistance to drop trees into the lake to create natural fishing habitat on public lands on the islands. This activity would be done in winter when the trees can be accessed with equipment from the lake surface. It will be key to drop many trees during this effort so that there are not just a few fishing "hot spots" created to attract more anglers to a few spots. The committee will also assess some costs associated with this project because once dropped, the trees need to be secured to the location. They will be doing more investigation and estimation for this project.



Various Area Updates

Barb Pjevach

Loon Report!

This spring we have two pairs of nesting loons on our lakes, each with 2 eggs in the nest. A variety of different circumstances can lead to parent loons abandoning a nest and it looks like only one of the nests yielded chicks. More updates about this will be available by the time of the Annual Picnic. Just one more reason to stop by on Saturday 8/6. ☺



It is always exciting to see nature on our lakes, but in our excitement, sometimes we can easily do things to endanger our native wildlife. So, here are a few reminders:

- Please view parent and baby loons from afar. If you see a parent rise up and flap its wings, that is a sign it is stressed and a stressed parent will sometimes abandon a nest and a baby. You WILL see this if you get too close. We all would like to see things up close, but please use a camera from a distance. This applies to motorized and non-motorized boats please!
- If there are one or several loons out in the middle of the lake, these are usually just visiting loons and they may pop up in the water close to your boat and do not seem to be as sensitive to human presence.
- While we believe that the baby loon on Lake 27 survived last year, the baby loon on Windigo did not. Remember that high speed boat activity is the greatest threat to loon survival. So, if our Windigo baby or babies do survive, it just increases the need to stay at no-wake speeds in Portage Bay and other designated no-wake areas and keep a close look-out while out on Windigo.
- There is an effort to also increase awareness that lead used in fishing bait and lines can endanger loons and other native birds who live on or near water. For more information about this and other information about protecting loons, Northland College has lots of information. You can read more here: <https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/loonwatch/protect-loons/>

Please inform your friends and guests!

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> .

Volunteers are welcome and needed for WLPOA committees and Board positions

If anyone is interested in serving on the Board, please let Dick Steininger or any Board member know. Nominations are open for the 2016/2017 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!



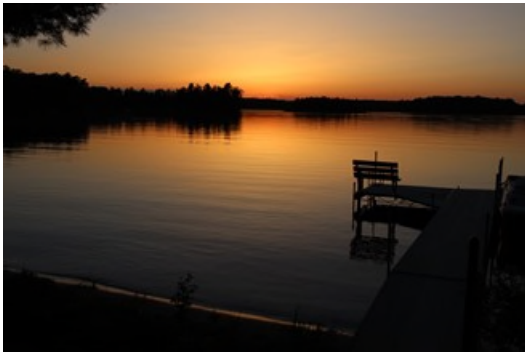
Pink Lady Slipper in Windigo wetland

In addition, we would like to have a few people to assist Colleen Graham with the Environmental and Safety Committee. This is the group that helps coordinate our DNR grant, AIS surveys of the lakes with the DNR and coordinating our Boat Landing monitor. It is actually fun and a great way to learn without a big time commitment.

None of our positions require lots of hours, but many hands make light work, so please consider helping! Please contact any Board member or email us at info@windigolake.org if you want to even just find out more.

Lake Classification updates

A few property owners have asked about Windigo's "Wilderness" Lake classification that was put in place with the lake classification regulations a few years ago. As Dale Olson noted at our spring dinner, the entire Lake Classification regulations have been nullified with Wisconsin Act 55. Until regulation of shoreland is returned to local counties, this will remain unchanged. Note that lakes in Sawyer County that already had natural shorelines and relatively lower numbers of properties on the shoreline were those classified as "Wilderness". The distinction created rules about lot size, setback, etc. to encourage the maintenance of the lake's natural shoreline. The "Wilderness" classification did not create any restrictions about lake use.



As noted in the Spring Dinner Recap, the best way to help if you would like to see local control reinstated is to contact your state legislator. The state legislators for our area were noted in that article. Also as reported in the Sawyer County Register mid-June, the Sawyer County Lakes Forum has joined the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative to seek repeal of the section of Act 55 that replaced the local regulations in 43 Wisconsin counties regarding shoreland protection. For more information about the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative go to: <https://wisconsinshoreland.org/> . 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.

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thank you to everyone who supported our lake association this year. We have 80 property owners paying dues representing Lake 27 (4) and Windigo (74) and Hub (2) lakes. We also have 13 Friends of Windigo who also get our email updates.

Thanks to everyone who has joined this year! If you are still interested in joining, a form can be downloaded from our web site at this link: <http://wp.me/p2m2mJ-62> .



Note that 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.

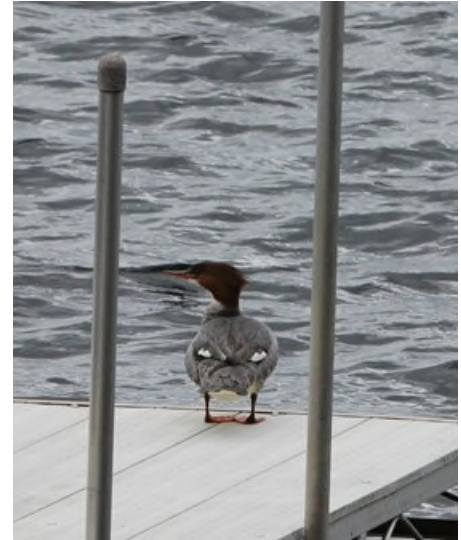
Treasurer’s Report

Gary Hartmann

WLPOA’s income through June 15, 2016 is summarized below:

- We have received \$2,065 in dues from members and “Friends of Windigo”.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$695.
- Donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$355.
- Reservation for WLPOA’s Spring Dinner brought in \$ 850. Meal expenses at the Ranch plus the speaker’s honorarium were \$944 resulting in a loss of \$94.

Our 2015 DNR Grant has been closed out as reported in our previous Newsletter. WLPOA provided a cash match of \$133.50 since our “in-kind” match fell a bit short last year.



WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2016. We have received an advance of \$750 and monitoring of our boat landing is underway. To date we have paid out \$724.50. We can be reimbursed by the Wisconsin DNR up to a maximum of \$3,000 by providing \$1,000 worth of “in-kind” labor. This labor must be related to boat landing monitoring and cannot include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.

As of June 15, 2016, WLPOA has the following account balances:

Account Balances (6-15-2016)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$6,869.72
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$1,382.86
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$8,272.37
2016 DNR Grant Balance	\$ 25.50
Total on deposit (all accounts)	\$16,550.45

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 contact any officer or email us at info@windigolake.org. Thanks for your help in helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

Passings

We lost another long-time Windigo resident, Gary Wage. Gary was formerly of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin and died in his fishing boat doing what he loved on Friday, June 24, 2016. Gary was born on July 24, 1941, in Wauwatosa to Ralph and Adeline (Haseleu) Wage. Gary is survived by his partner of 31 years, Kay Norquist; three sons, Michael, Brian and Andrew (Kari) Wage; a brother, Ron (Sandy) Wage; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and other relatives and close friends. He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service was held at Windigo Park on June 28, 2016 at 1pm. It was a beautiful day, location and service with friends, family and the Windigo wildlife that Gary loved.



Purple Finch on Windigo

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary's family.

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.

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.steininge@sbcglobal.net
Vice-President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
		Patrick.Steininge@skodie.com
Treasurer	Gary Hartmann	715-634-1709; 763-574-1709
		gary.hartmann@comcast.net
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	Dave & Donna Roeker	715-634-6013
		roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		colleen.m.graham@gmail.com
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Dan Pjevach	952-829-9016
		dmpjevach@gmail.com