

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Summer 2017

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



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Patrick Steininger

Hello,

I hope everyone is getting ready for summer as we had some glimpses of good weather over Memorial Day weekend, along with a little hail to remind us of cold air.

With all the rain the lake is very high right now, and I'm sure Mosquito's will be in abundance. The Roeker's (East side of Windigo) have sighted some bears so be on the lookout with your bird feeders (if you have some).

Enjoy your summer on Windigo !

Patrick Steininger

Patrick.steininger@skodie.com



Please join us at the Annual Picnic and Business Meeting, Saturday August 5, 2017!

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. 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 for any part of this picnic/meeting to catch up with neighbors and friends of Lakes Windigo, Hub, and Lake 27.

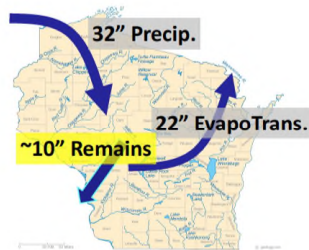
The event will again be held at Pydos' garage on Thunderpoint Rd. just past the isthmus between Windigo and Lake 27. RSVPs are appreciated but not required. Just contact Barb Pjevach at 952-829-9016 or email us at info@windigolake.org. But feel free to also just come if you forget to RSVP.

Spring Dinner Recap

Barb Pjevach

Thanks to everyone who attended our annual spring dinner at The Ranch on Saturday April 29, 2017. We had a total of 45 people in attendance. We once again had a separate room which facilitated a presentation and discussion with our speaker, Paul McGinley, Ph.D. who is a Professor at UW – Steven's Point and the UW-Extension Water Quality Specialist. Paul provided information about groundwater in general and in Wisconsin and our area.

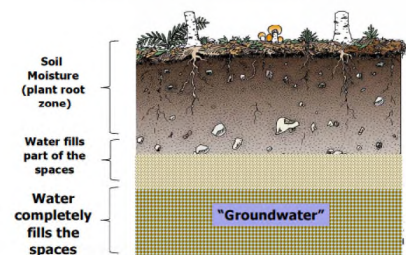
We had a great discussion and appreciated learning about how



groundwater accumulates and travels but also the great amount of groundwater (10 inches on average) is added in Wisconsin each year. He also explained that due to our relatively higher elevation in Wisconsin compared to neighboring states, our groundwater moves through lakes to streams and to other larger bodies of water downhill.

Slides from Professor McGinley's presentation are available on the web at https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/.../PaulMcGinley_WhereDidThatWaterComeFrom.pdf

Let's Introduce Groundwater



Loon Etiquette

Colleen Graham

Since ice went out on Windigo in early April, the loons have had a chance to pair up and start nesting on our lakes.

The following rules of loon etiquette were provided by the LoonWatch program at Northland College:

- Keep a distance of 200 ft. when observing loons, especially around nests.
- Slow down! Loon nests can be hard to see. Motor boat wakes and waves can wash out nests. Stay at least 100 ft from shore when throwing wakes or waves to avoid ruining a nest.
- Even when kayaking or canoeing, give nesting loons a wide berth (200 ft. rule). If a loon is startled off its nest, it will not return until it feels safe.
- Never fish near loons, and clean up monofilament line so loons and other wildlife do not become entangled.
- Use non-lead tackle to prevent poisoning loons and other waterfowl.

Let's all do our part to keep the loons safe on Windigo and Lake 27!

You can read more here: <https://www.northland.edu/sustain/soei/loonwatch/protect-loons/>



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 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, Dennis Dollhopf, again this summer for weekends and holidays, utilizing our grant from the DNR along with volunteer hours to cover the cost. He will be working most weekends during the higher traffic times through summer. 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. We can only claim volunteer hours associated boat landing monitoring. However, your looking when you are out and about on the lake is still helpful and encouraged! If you find a suspicious plant, bag it in a ziplock bag, note the location on the lake where it was found and drop it off at the Sawyer County Conservation Department or the DNR for confirmation of the species.

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



Fishing Committee Updates

Paul Martin/Dan Pjevach

The Fish and Wildlife committee and the Windigo Lake community would like to extend a special thank you to the members who have donated to our fund to help assist with the ever increasing pressure on our beautiful lake. These donations will go a long way in allowing us to continue our mission. We hope that our projects will show that we are good stewards of the funds and that you will continue to support us in future years.

The Wisconsin DNR has been extremely helpful and has implemented a number of projects that are geared for the improvement of our lake's fishery and wildlife. As stated, the fishing and boating pressure has increased significantly, putting a strain on the natural resources that we all cherish. Some of the projects that are covered under the DNR's Permit include the tree drop, which was implemented during the winter, and placing "brush bundles" in certain approved areas. These simple but cost effective measures can help the lake's ecosystem and promote positive growth.



The committee will be organizing a brush bundle building day sometime this summer. Thanks to your generosity, we can purchase the cinder blocks and twine needed to make these structure improvements. We need volunteers too! If you are willing to help or have oak/hardwood brush that we could use, please contact us.

As noted in other updates, the DNR undertook a creel study on Windigo for the 2016-17 fishing season. A creel survey is an assessment tool used to sample the fishing activities of anglers on a body of water and make projections or estimates of harvest and other fishery parameters. Creel survey clerks worked on randomly selected days and shifts, forty hours per week, during the open season for game fish from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March. Creel surveys were not conducted in November when fishing effort is low and ice conditions are often unsafe. The survey is run during daylight hours, and shift times changed from month to month as day length changed. The final analysis of the information is currently being done by the DNR staff and those results will be available at a later date.

It should be noted that the on many lakes in the Ceded Territory of northern Wisconsin, harvest of fish is divided between sport anglers and the six Chippewa tribes who harvest fish under rights granted by federal treaties. The tribes harvest fish mostly using a highly efficient method, spearing, during a relatively short time period in the spring. Every fish in the spear harvest is counted. During the spring spearing, the tribe took their allotted total of walleyes.

Water is high. Please remind friends and guests to help preserve shoreline!

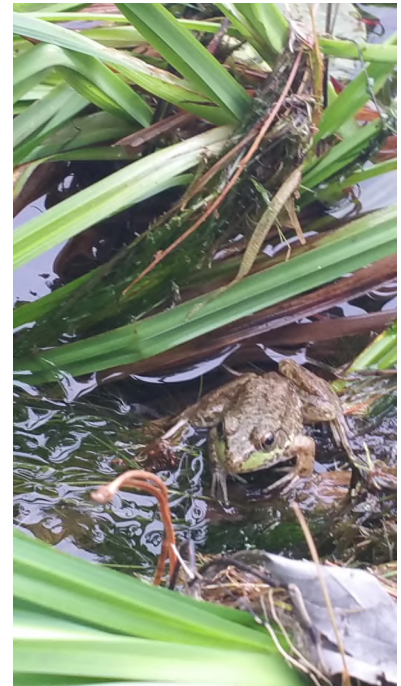
Barb Pjevach

While it is great to see the lakes healthy and with higher water levels again, it also can create some shoreline hazard with summer watersports. It is more important than ever to make sure that speeds of all boats and watercraft are slow near shore and in the bays of Windigo to help preserve the health of the shoreline and animals who nest there.

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 speeds 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.



Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

WLPOA's income through May 25, 2017 is summarized below:

- We have received \$1,950 in dues from members and "Friends of Windigo".
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 1,230.

- Donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$ 1,210.
- Reservations for WLPOA’s Spring Dinner brought in \$ 1,127
As usual, WLPOA paid for the speaker’s dinner (\$ 28). Our bill at the Ranch was \$ 1,155 so this event broke even.



*Bufflehead Duck on Windigo
Courtesy of Bob Lewis 2017*

It should be noted that we have received some very generous donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Management Fund this year. We are very grateful for your continued support.

As reported in our previous Newsletter our 2016 DNR Grant has been closed out with a zero balance. WLPOA was able to provide sufficient volunteer hours so all of last summer’s monitoring expenses were reimbursed.

WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2017. We have received an advance of \$ 750 and monitoring of our boat landing is underway. 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.

Expenses to date paid from the General Fund are \$ 584.34 to cover the Newsletters, Membership mailings, and membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes. The Fish & Wildlife Committee spent \$ 492.28 from the Fish Management Fund for cabling for the tree drops.

As of May 25, 2017, WLPOA has the following account balances:

Account Balances (5-25-2017)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 2,181.24
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 2,601.31
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 9,506.44
2017 DNR Grant Balance	\$ 750.00
Total on deposit (all accounts)	\$ 20,038.99

Safe fish eating guidelines for Windigo

Dan Pjevach

As you likely know, consumption of fish from Windigo has been subject to a mercury advisory. Fish are tested periodically by the DNR when they survey the lake to keep these recommendations updated. Below is the current advice for eating fish from Windigo Lake. The source document is at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/FCSExternalAdvOry/FishAdvisorySrch.aspx>

Women up to age 50 (child bearing age) and children (under age 15) may safely eat:

1 Meal Per Week - bluegill and sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch
and

1 Meal Per Month - bass, catfish, all other species and sizes

Do Not Eat - muskies, northern pike larger than 19", walleye larger than 15"

All men (15 and older) and older women (50 and older) may safely eat:

Unrestricted - bluegill and sunfish, bullheads, crappies, inland trout, yellow perch

1 Meal Per Week - bass, catfish, all other species and sizes
and

1 Meal Per Month - muskies, northern pike larger than 19", walleye larger than 15"

Here is a link about the symptoms and impact of mercury: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs361/en/>

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, please pass on the newsletter and website information to them. In addition, please contact any WLPOA officer or email us at info@windigolake.org. Thanks for your help in helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thank you to everyone who supported our lake association this year. We have 76 property owners paying dues representing our 3 lakes. We also have 15 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 website in the June 2017 updates post or at this link: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017-WLPOA-dues-letter-02-02-2017.pdf>.



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.

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 4 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

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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

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