

# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 2018

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

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*Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline*

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## **Desk of the President**

*Patrick Steininger*

Greetings,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well, and I'm sure all the families and friends are looking forward to another great year on Windigo Lake !

Jennifer and I did not make it up to Hayward this winter, but it looked like the Birkie was successful and with some snow over the course of the season everyone seemed to enjoy their outdoor winter activities.

Speaking of the Birkie, I hope everyone can join us for the spring dinner at The Ranch where we will see a nice presentation about the American Birkebeiner.

Have a great spring and summer!

Regards,

Patrick

[Patrick.steining@skodie.com](mailto:Patrick.steining@skodie.com)

March 2018



## **Join us for the Spring Dinner at The Ranch: Saturday April 28, 2018**

*Barb Pjevach*



We will again be holding our Spring Dinner at The Ranch on the weekend before the fishing opener so that we can hold the dinner at a local restaurant. (Restaurants are reluctant to host a group event on opening fishing weekend). Turn-out and reviews from attendees have been positive and having the separate room with a door enables everyone to hear our speaker.

The dinner will include a social hour, a speaker and a tasty dinner. It is always a nice time to connect with neighbors and friends of our lakes. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:30 pm. Our program speaker will be our own John Garrett, American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Past Board President.

At the end of this newsletter you will find the invitation and dinner selection/RSVP form. Please consider joining us and let us know ASAP and before April 21. This invitation was also included in the February Dues mailing so if you have already sent your registration in, thanks!

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## **Mark Your Calendar for the Annual Picnic and Business Meeting. New Location!**

*Barb Pjevach*

**The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year the first Saturday in August, August 4, 2018.** The business meeting will be held at 4pm. The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm with bratwurst, water and lemonade provided along with potluck food brought by attendees. Please mark your calendar and join us for any part of this picnic/meeting to catch up with neighbors and friends.

The event will be held at a new location this year: Steiningers' homes at 15390 & 15410 Tamarack Trail. More details will follow in the June newsletter. Any questions? Please feel free to contact any Board member or email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org).

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## **Fish and Wildlife Committee**

*Paul Martin*

Another summer is approaching (I think!) and the fishing opener could be an icy one.

The main focus this year is to raise awareness of catch and release. The fishing pressure has been increasing every year, with last year hitting an all-time high. The only way we can ALL help is to release fish back into the lake. This way everyone can catch fish! Please practice CPR (catch, photo, release)

The scheduled project (brush bundles) that we are working on will be completed, but first we will be initially implementing test areas to determine viability before going ahead with full-scale production.

The DNR tree drops on the islands have raised some concern about concentrating fish and over-fishing, which will hurt the lake's fishery in the long term. This same concern is the reason for compiling good data and research as we approach new projects.

Another item on the agenda is the possibility of stocking, which can be very expensive. As of now, the DNR is not in favor of it, but if the walleye population continues to be pressured, they might reconsider their position.

We would love to have a healthy increase in the Fishing Committee membership to help bring new ideas and information that will benefit us all.

I can't emphasize enough that we all need to participate in our lake's well-being. Please contact me with any questions or comments.



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## **Clean Boats, Clean Waters Update: Landing Monitor and Volunteers**

*Colleen Graham*

A CBCW (Clean Boats, Clean Waters) grant was secured again from the DNR to pay for most of the expense of staffing a monitor at the Windigo Lake boat landing on Highline Road for 2018. Dennis Dollhopf will be returning for the fourth summer and will primarily be working weekends and holidays from Fishing Opener through Labor Day. The grant calls for WLPOA to cover 25% of the cost using volunteer hours, so if you are interested in working a shift, please contact Colleen Graham or anyone on the WLPOA board or email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) to discuss training and scheduling.

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## **Please consider volunteering on our Board or on a committee**

*Barb Pjevach*

As you know, our lake association is operated entirely by volunteers. Several of the Board members have been on the Board in their positions for several years and we welcome new people to join in and volunteer to help us and replace us. ☺ Most positions do not take a lot of time and if someone has interest, but you want to ease into a role, we welcome people to take part of roles or assist with committee work. Please consider volunteering so we can keep our association healthy and fueled with new people and new ideas.



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## **AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Updates**

*Colleen Graham/Barb Pjevach*

### **Update on Zebra Mussels Reported in NW Wisconsin**

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Big McKenzie Lake, which is in both Burnett and Washburn counties, in November, 2016. In August, 2017, the DNR conducted an intensive survey of the Lake. The total number of adult zebra mussels found in Big McKenzie is now approaching a thousand and is considered an “established population.” Surveys of nearby lakes did not turn up any new infestations.

Zebra mussels spread rapidly, disrupting the fragile ecology of a lake. They smother and kill native mussels. They strain out and consume tiny, edible material, robbing native fish of nutrition. Their excretions foster the growth of toxic mats of algae. The mussels use their sticky, elastic tentacles to attach to gravel, rocks, underwater plants, docks, swimming rafts and boat hulls. If stepped on, their bladed edges can slice open a foot. At this time, there is no known effective zebra mussel control method. Watercraft inspection remains the primary tool to prevent infestation.

People who find zebra mussels or other invasive species should:

- Note the exact location where the organism was found;
- Take a digital photo in the setting where the species was found, then collect up to five specimens of various sizes and put in a jar with water; put the jar on ice and refrigerate it; and
- Deliver the specimens to Pat Brown, our local AIS expert, at his office at the Sawyer County Courthouse. You can also contact Colleen Graham to do the reporting.



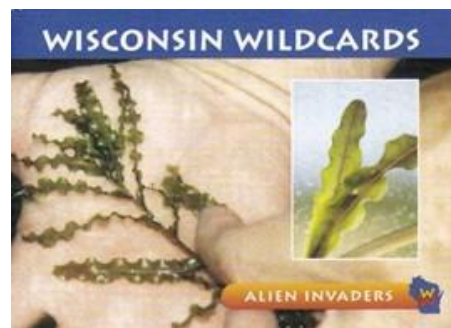
### **Look for Curly Leaf Pondweed from Ice-Out through June**

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 everyone who is monitoring and looking 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. The information and pictures for this invasive are also on our website and will be included in our Summer newsletter.



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### **Handy lake map and courtesies for health and safety of people, lake and wildlife**

*Barb Pjevach*

Thanks to Paul Martin, we have very nice hand-outs with a detailed lake map and key lake courtesies that we all can keep in a visible place and on our boats as a reminder for family and guests. We will be providing copies at the Spring Dinner.

Please note the lake depths and bay width cause no/low-wake conditions in all of the bays on Windigo.

[CLICK HERE](http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Windigo-Lake-Area-map-and-courtesies-4-6-2018.pdf) to download the map and lake courtesies. If you are reading this in hard copy, the link to download them is: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Windigo-Lake-Area-map-and-courtesies-4-6-2018.pdf>

#### **Here is a listing of the courtesies:**

**NOISE** – Sound travels far over water. Recommended jet-ski and water sports: 10am to 6pm.

**SPEED** – Our small lake has many bays, island and inlets.

Please slow down for safety and shore erosion. Respect the no-wake zones.

**SPACE** – Give our wildlife a wide distance of respect. Trying to get close for that picture can cause nest abandonment. Fisherman and non-motorized watercraft need a wide berth and low wakes.

**CLEAN** – Litter is detrimental to the lake, which affects us all. Please keep it clean!

In addition, we will have handouts at the Spring Dinner at the end of this month.

#### **BOATING LAWS**

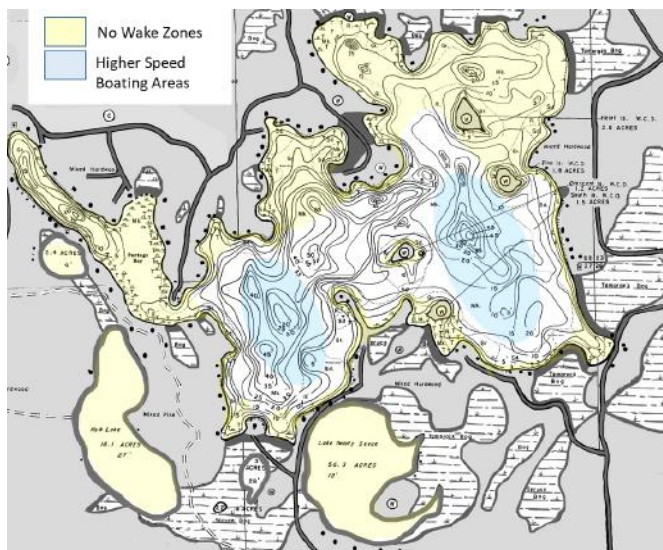
Stay at least 100' from swimmers or swimming areas, rafters, other boats and docks.

Personal watercraft are best operated in the middle of the lake for noise and erosion control.

#### **FISHING**

Please consider the lake home-owners' privacy by giving docks a 100' "respect zone."

Inspect your boat and trailer for invasive species. Any aquatic plants or remnants must be removed before you launch your boat. We need to keep Windigo area lakes free of invasive plants. Windigo Lake has limited resources for our fishery. PLEASE practice "CPR" (Catch, Photo and Release) with ALL species of fish.



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## **Springtime Friendly Boating Reminders!**

*Barb Pjevach*

Each spring, we like to remind everyone about boating considerations and safety. With water levels returning to higher levels in the past couple of years, there is more shoreline erosion happening and we continue to hope that we can have nesting loons and surviving chicks.

Also, as a particular reminder for the benefit of the loons, NON-motorized boats getting too close to nesting areas are a serious threat to loon health because adult loons become stressed and will readily abandon a nest when strangers approach. So, please stay well clear of the loons and use a zoom lens on your camera from a distance if you want to get a picture!

Please be kind to your neighbors and the health of our lakes by boating at no-wake speeds in Portage Bay and other bays of Windigo and observing DNR regulations in general. **If you have guests, please just make sure they 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 they are 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. The DNR site has a downloadable handbook at this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/LE/LE0301.pdf> Pages 14 and 24-25 have details about the safe boating regulations.

In addition here is another link to a document referred to by the WI DNR about different studies and impacts of boating on lakes: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/publications/documents/lakes.pdf>



### **What is a Wake Boat?**

We don't see many on our lakes, but wake boats are growing in popularity even though they can be detrimental to smaller lakes like ours with some shallower waters. Increasing studies around the country are being done about this particular type of boat. While historically, ski boats, which glide over the water with minimal wake have been popular for lake boaters, lately boats have been designed to kick up a large wake at slower speeds for surfers or wake-boarders. These boats are often weighted more heavily toward the back of the boat purposely to increase the waves left behind. The problem is that as wave height increases, so do adverse effects that go along with waves. The larger the wave, the deeper it churns sediment in shallower areas. Large waves also increase erosion on shoreline and islands.

Here is a link to a helpful article from Michigan, but has applicability to any inland lake. <https://www.mymlsa.org/the-killer-bees-appear-to-be-winning-an-update-on-wake-boats/>

There are many considerations in buying boats and other lake enjoyment "toys", but we thought that this information could be helpful. In general, on Windigo, if high-speed boating occurs in the middle of the 2 large sections of the lake well away from shore, the depth of our lake and the distance from shore is helpful to preserve the shoreline and everyone's enjoyment.

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## **Membership Report**

*Dave and Donna Roeker*

We currently have 82 members with representation from Windigo Lake, Hub Lake and Lake 27. 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://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2018-WLPOA-dues-letter-2-9-18.pdf>.

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 occasional quick communication, 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.

As a reminder, if you know of new neighbors, please let us know at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) so that we can be sure to contact all property owners regarding membership.



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## **Treasurer's Report**

*Gary Hartmann*

Membership renewals are coming in. A complete report on 2018 Membership Dues paid, as well as the voluntary donations, will be provided in our next Newsletter. Thanks to everyone who supports our lake association.

Here is an update on our DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grants which fund the 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 cannot include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.

We spent \$ 3,124 during the summer of 2017 on checking boats for invasive weeds at the boat landing. Last December the DNR reimbursed us for \$ 2,955 based on the volunteer hours provided. WLPOA covered the balance of \$ 169 so our 2017 grant account could be closed out with a zero balance as shown below.

For 2018 WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant and we have received an advance of \$ 750. This account balance is also shown in the table below.

As of March 22, 2018, WLPOA has the following account balances:

<b>WLPOA Account Balances (03-22-2018)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 1,398
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 2,678
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 9,512
DNR Grant for 2017 (closed out)	0
DNR Grant for 2018 (active)	\$ 750
Total on deposit	\$ 19,338

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## **Remember to get your free annual burning permit from the DNR**

*Barb Pjevach*

As a reminder, **burning permits are required by law** in our area by the Wisconsin DNR to conduct legal and responsible burning in the outdoors. Annual burning permits are free and easy to obtain. They encourage the public to burn safely and are proven to be effective in protecting lives, property and natural resources from the damages of wildfires.



Here is the website link to get your annual permit and for more information:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestFire/permits.html>.

On the day you wish to burn after 11 a.m., check the daily burning restrictions on the DNR website or call the hotline 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) and select the county where you plan to burn (Sawyer County is 58). Fire conditions change quickly, so it's important to check each day you burn to find out if burning is allowed, burning hours and any size limitations.

Also, note that if you are burning leaves, it is important to burn safely well away from the water's edge. Burning leaves too close to water can cause damage to aquatic systems. Burning leaves produces ash, phosphorus and carbon residues. As these residues are washed into the lake, it can cause temporary anoxic conditions harmful to fish and aquatic insects.

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## **Website and Communications Reminders**

*Barb Pjevach*

As a reminder, please check out [www.windigolake.org](http://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.

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## **Passings**

We lost another long-time Windigo friend this past year with the passing of Peg Christ on March 16, 2018. Peg and her husband Bob were long-time property owners on Windigo and in the last few years moved in town in Hayward. You may recall both of them from many Windigo events and their generous donations of Bob's beautiful hand-carved lamps at our Spring Dinners.

Here is a link to the online death notice:

[http://www.bratley-nelsonchapels.com/memsol.cgi?user\\_id=2083760](http://www.bratley-nelsonchapels.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=2083760).

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Peg's family.

**Windigo Lake Property Owners Association**

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org)

Website: [www.windigolake.org](http://www.windigolake.org) (or [www.windigolake.com](http://www.windigolake.com))

<b><i>Officers</i></b>		
President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
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Vice-President	Dick Steininger	708-899-3193
		<a href="mailto:egvdicksteininger@gmail.com">egvdicksteininger@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Gary Hartmann	715-634-1709; 763-574-1709
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Secretary/Communication	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016
		<a href="mailto:brpjevach@gmail.com">brpjevach@gmail.com</a>

<b><i>Committees</i></b>		
Social	Sandy Bender	715-634-1590; 715-558-5859
		<a href="mailto:sandyb7973@gmail.com">sandyb7973@gmail.com</a>
Membership	Dave & Donna Roeker	715-634-6013
		<a href="mailto:roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net">roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net</a>
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		<a href="mailto:colleen.m.graham@gmail.com">colleen.m.graham@gmail.com</a>
Fish & Wildlife Habitat	Paul Martin	651-260-1733
		<a href="mailto:pmwood80@yahoo.com">pmwood80@yahoo.com</a>

**You are cordially invited to:**  
**The 2018 Windigo Lake Property Owners' Association Spring Dinner**

**Date** Saturday, April 28, 2018

**Time** Social hour at 5:30pm  
Dinner at 6:30pm

**Program Speaker:** John Garrett,  
American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation Past Board Chair

**Location** The Ranch Supper Club  
10590 North Ranch Road, Hayward  
(East of Hayward on Hwy 77)

**Menu** Relish tray  
Choice of entrée (price includes tax & gratuity)  
**Half Rack BBQ Ribs \$23.00**  
**Blackened Pork Chop With Cranberry Mango Chutney \$23.00**  
**Prime Rib \$30.00**  
**Deep Fried Shrimp \$26.00**  
**Honey Ginger Salmon \$30.00**  
Tossed salad  
Baked potato  
Bread  
Coffee  
Dessert (provided by the WLPOA board)

Please email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) and **return the RSVP form below** with menu selection (specify ribs, pork, sirloin, shrimp or salmon), guest names, and check payable to "WLPOA" covering food total to Sandy Bender **by Saturday, April 21, 2018.**

<b>Sandy Bender</b>	
<b>7973N Thunder Point Road</b>	<b>Amount enclosed: \$_____</b>
<b>Hayward, WI 54843</b>	
<b>715-634-1590</b>	
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____
Guest Name _____	Entrée Choice _____

