

# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Winter 2018-19

(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 Everyone,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their fall, and is ready for the winter season.

I appreciate everyone's support on the wake related ordinances that were approved by the Township in recent months. Windigo Lake is not really set up for large boats as we all know, but when people come in exploring or renting they don't seem to have that communicated to them, or they come in 1 or 2 times then they are gone to the next lake.

If you know of any new neighbors let us know so we can add them to the newsletter list.

Another great summer wrapped up in Hayward, looking forward to 2019!

Happy New Year to all!



Regards,

Patrick Steininger

C #708-899-3193

E-Mail [Patrick.steininger@skodie.com](mailto:Patrick.steininger@skodie.com)

## **Please join us for the Spring Dinner: Saturday April 27, 2019**

*Barb Pjevach*

We will again be holding our Spring Dinner at The Ranch on the weekend before the fishing opener so that we can more easily hold the dinner at a local restaurant. (Many restaurants are reluctant to reserve a room for our dinner on the weekend of opening fishing). Over the past few years, turn-out and reviews from attendees have been positive and having the separate room with a door enables everyone to hear our speaker. More specifics about our speaker and menu options, prices, and the RSVP form will be included with our Annual Membership letter in February and the March newsletter.

Please mark your calendar and join us at the Ranch on the evening of April 27!



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## **Annual Meeting and Picnic Report**

*Barb Pjevach*

Thanks to the Steininger family for hosting our Annual Meeting and Picnic on Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice turnout with over 40 property owners and friends in attendance. We also thank everyone who took time to attend, engage in the meeting and socialize with neighbors.

The full minutes for this meeting are available for download at this link: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Windigo-Lake-Property-Owners-Association-Annual-Meeting-8-4-2018-published.pdf> . If you only receive a print version of this newsletter, you can request a copy to be emailed to you by contacting us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org).

We discussed the following topics at the meeting:

**Secretary's report** – Prior year minutes were read. Beginning next year, we will be publishing minutes ahead of the meeting.

**Treasurer's report** – Latest information is in this newsletter

**Nominations for Board members** - We thank and welcome Kris Soegaard to serve our Board as Secretary. All other board members have agreed to continue to serve for another year.

### **Committee reports:**

- Membership - Dave and Donna send out letters to all property owners on our lakes with or without a dwelling – 113 this past year. We had 81 members as of the meeting.
- Loon Watch – 2 Loons born and observed this summer. Reminders to keep distance. Attendees shared personal stories about the loons.
- Lake Environment – Boat landing monitoring continues to be supported by DNR grant and our lakes continue to be free of AIS
- Fish and Wildlife – Thanks for fishing committee participation. Discussion about increased fishing pressure and privacy intrusions due to increase Bass Club fishing on Windigo.
- Social – Good turnout at the Spring dinner. The Ranch location with their separate room for speaker continues to be a good venue.

### **New Business:**

- Proposed Slow-No Wake zone for Portage Bay- Ordinance proposed to be discussed by Bass Lake Town Board.
- Need volunteers for water testing
- Fireworks and Gunfire noise - concerns
- Increasing ATV/UTV use on roads but Highline still not an ATV/UTV route.



*Loon on Windigo (taken with telephoto lens)*

## **Lake Environment and SWIMS data**

*Barb Pjevach and Colleen Graham*

Thanks to everyone for your continued interest and vigilance in looking for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)! As a reminder, there are 2 major AIS that are prevalent in other area lakes and which we are working to keep out of Windigo: Curly Leaf Pond Weed and Eurasian Water-Milfoil.

If you want to see details and pictures for monitoring AIS, please visit the AIS page on our website: <http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/>.

### **AIS Boat Landing Monitoring**

Utilizing our grant from the DNR for AIS prevention, the Association again contracted with Dennis Dollhopf who monitored the public boat landing generally on weekends and holidays from fishing opener to Labor Day. No incidents or sightings of AIS were reported. We submitted an application for a CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) grant for 2019 and have been approved again for this grant. Anyone can help out as a volunteer landing monitor, even if it is for just a few hours. Your hours can be used to help maximize our use of grant funds and help in spreading the word about AIS.



### **SWIMS Information**

As part of our acceptance of the DNR CBCW grant, we collect data and educate boaters at our boat landing. The database is called SWIMS (Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System).

Here is summary information about traffic at the Windigo Boat landing during monitoring hours this past year:

- Boats entering: 175
- Boats leaving: 108
- Boaters who had previous contact with a CBCW rep: 203
- Boaters talking with a CBCW rep for the first time: 56
- Boats used past 5 days on another body of water: 65
- Boats not used past 5 days on another body of water: 191
- Total people contacted (all boaters): 532

The information that is discussed with boaters is:

- The need to inspect boats and trailers and remove any attached plants/animals.
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment.
- Drain water from livewells and containers holding the catch.
- If the boater uses live bait (minnows/leeches/worms) and that bait comes in contact with the lake/river water, it can only be used on that same waterbody or discarded in trash.

**We believe that this monitoring is helping protect our lakes to stay AIS free as long as possible because our monitoring provides education to hundreds of people who are also boating on lakes which currently have AIS and could be transferred. Prevention is the least expensive way to keep our lakes AIS free. Of the 65 boats this summer which had been on another waterbody in the last 5 days, 60 of the 65 had been on lakes with some type of AIS (Curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian Milfoil, non-native snails, other non-native plants).**

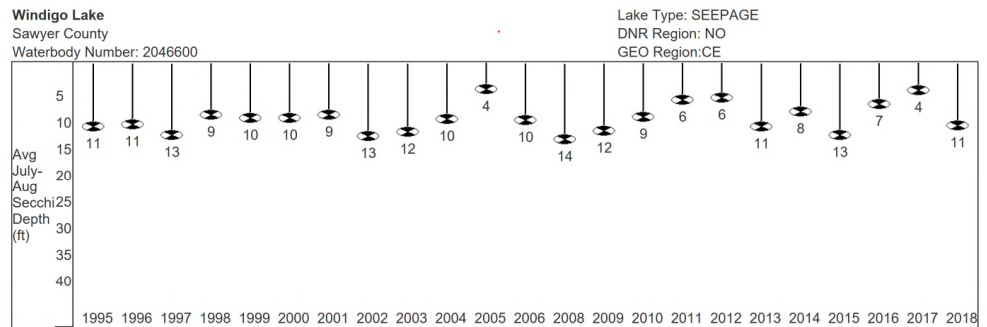
## Windigo Water Testing Results - Volunteers Needed

*Barb Pjevach*

As we mentioned previously, since 1995, Windigo volunteers have conducted water testing for the Wisconsin DNR. There are specific tests and materials that are supplied by the DNR. Windigo testing results are located at <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/CLMN/Station.aspx?station=10471>.

Note that the cloudy green water that occurred in late July/August in 2017 did not repeat in 2018.

We thank Roxanne and Mike Lantz who have been our volunteers for about the past decade and we are now looking for some new volunteers to do this work for upcoming summers. Roxanne will help train her replacement and would even be very happy to coordinate and conduct the sampling together this summer with a new volunteer. We can also easily get training from the local DNR in addition to help our volunteers get comfortable with the testing.



Past secchi averages in feet (July and August only).

The testing is done a handful of times a summer. You do need a boat large enough to anchor and take water samples from the deep hole in Windigo. It takes about 30-40 minutes to do the testing and then another 30 minutes to take the samples to the post office in town. **Please consider volunteering for this important task to gather data for our lake!**

## Critter Reports and Loon Reminders

*Various contributors*

Here are latest critter updates from this past summer:

- We had a couple of baby loons on our lakes this past summer. One born on Lake 27 succumbed to a natural predator and the other survived into the fall and we assume migrated. Young loons migrate later in the year than their parents. It is encouraging when we have baby loons survive because it is common for loon to return to their nesting location.



*Mother and Baby Loon on Windigo. Picture taken with telephoto lens*

- We have a group of otters who have been reported in several parts of the lake ranging from the large bay on the east side of the lake to the shoreline near the entrance to Portage Bay. They are very playful. Shown here some otters who noticed a northern caught by a resident and decided that they wanted it for themselves.
  - Snapping and Painted turtles were observed.
  - We had various bear sightings this year on various sides of Windigo.
- Red Herons were seen frequently on Windigo.
- Cormorants (we think Double Crested Cormorants) visited.

- Various types of ducks, geese and deer were also abundant on and around the lakes.
- The old eagle nest on South Island was not actively used for nesting eagles but adult and juvenile eagles were seen and heard visiting our lakes.

### **LOON WATCH**

As a reminder, our Lake 27, Windigo and Hub Lakes Loon Watch volunteer is Marilyn Konkler. Please contact her at [mkonkler@centurytel.net](mailto:mkonkler@centurytel.net) with your loon sightings and observations throughout the summer. Thanks!

*Visiting Cormorant*



*Red Heron*



*Visiting Young Eagle*



*Painted Turtle*

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### **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](mailto:info@windigolake.org). Thanks for helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

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## **Fishing Committee Updates**

*Paul Martin*

I was invited by Max Wolter of the DNR to participate in the fall electroshock fish survey they conducted on Windigo on October 10th. It was a miserable cold evening with intermittent rain and heavy mist throughout the three hours on the water.

We worked the first 2 to 3 feet of the shoreline around the entire main portion of the lake, skipping Portage bay and all but one of the islands. The primary purpose of the survey was to determine the size and quantity of the walleyes hatched this year, but we also netted both types of bass (Smallmouth and Largemouth). We did not net Northern Pike. Even though the goal of the survey is to look for health of the younger fish population in the shallows, it also gathers some information about mature fish that are observed and measured. (Note that periodically the DNR conducts a “fyke net” survey in spring time to specifically gather data about mature fish).



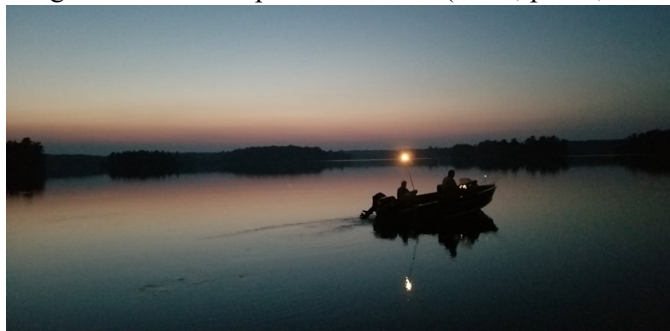
The results were encouraging for this year’s walleye reproduction (young walleye), but it did not give much information about the status of the adult walleye population which we believe saw heavy pressure this year. Although the data for the Largemouth bass indicated they were above average in size, we did not get any solid data regarding the overall bass population that saw four separate bass club events on Windigo this last summer.

From conversations with resident fishermen, the overall unofficial survey is that their success rates this summer were down from the previous year, making it the third year of decline.

I have included a picture of the measuring board on the boat that was used during the survey.

The Fish and Wildlife committee and the Windigo Lake community would again 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.

We continue to welcome people who will want to participate and help us be proactive in dealing with the challenges we face. Happy fishing! Remember to practice “CPR” (catch, photo, release).



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## **DNR Enforcement on Windigo**

*Dan Pjevach*

As reported in the Sawyer County Record in September, DNR Conservation Warden Tom Heisler cited an angler for possessing 107 panfish, which he caught in nine days of fishing in Windigo Lake. The legal possession limit is 50, which is double the daily bag limit. Remember that you can confidentially report suspected wildlife, recreational, and environmental violations to the DNR at 1-800-TIP-WDNR or 1-800-847-9367.

**Treasurer’s Report**

*Gary Hartmann*

WLPOA’s income during 2018 is summarized below:

- Members and “Friends of Windigo” paid \$2,165 in dues.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 1,047 and donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$ 1,217. We received some very generous donations to these funds this year and we are very grateful for this support.
- Tickets to the Spring Dinner brought in \$ 1,048 and our expenses were \$ 1,003 so this event generated a small profit of \$ 45.

WLPOA’s annual operating expenses were \$ 1,789.73 for 2018. This amount includes our membership mailings, printing and mailing of Newsletters, picnic expenses, our liability insurance, PO Box rental, annual corporate fees, web site expenses, and membership in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes.

**DNR Grant to Monitor Windigo Boat Landing**

Our Boat Landing Monitor is paid using a Wisconsin DNR Grant. These grants are 75% funded by the DNR with a 25% match provided by WLPOA. There is a \$ 3,000 cap on the amount that the DNR will spend each year.

Our match can be satisfied with cash or by supplying “in-kind” volunteer labor.

We spent \$ 3,205.50 this year on monitoring of the boat landing.

We had received an advance of \$ 750 so our DNR Grant account currently has a negative balance of \$ 2,455.50. Our request for reimbursement has been submitted to the DNR. I’m projecting we will be reimbursed \$ 2,250 as we will hit the \$ 3,000 DNR limit this year. The final result will be reported in our next Newsletter.

As of November 10, 2018, WLPOA has the following account balances:

<b>Account Balances (11-10-2018)</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 2,122.54
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 3,867.35
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 10,566.89
DNR Grant for 2018	(\$ 2,455.50)
<b>Total on deposit</b>	<b>\$ 19,101.28</b>



## **Local Ordinance updates**

Thanks to everyone who communicated with our local government and personally engaged with Sawyer County and Bass Lake Township with your opinions about ordinances this past year.

As a reminder, Wake Boating is a sport on the rise across the country, typically done on very large bodies of water, with specially weighted boats, and creating very large wakes for certain water sports such as surfing. In recent years, there has been increased use of smaller inland lakes with this type of boating and it endangers the health of the lakes, the shoreline and wildlife. The DNR and people close to the issue in our area were recommending to our county that Wake Boating be done more than 700 feet from shore and docks.

The proposal went through several review stages with Sawyer County committees for a potential county-wide implementation, but that initiative did not pass. At this point, it is up to local governments (towns and townships) to decide if they want to pursue implementing local laws.

The Bass Lake Town Board of Supervisors discussed a proposed Wake Boating ordinance at their meeting on Monday October 8<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, the Board discussed the proposal and that they had received many letters/emails in support and one against the proposal. However, they did not make a decision that night and decided to hold a public hearing at 6 pm prior to the next monthly meeting and decide on the ordinance then.

As planned, the proposed Bass Lake ordinance was discussed at the public hearing on 11/12 and at the Town Meeting. At the Board meeting that followed, the Wake Boating ordinance passed requiring the 700 foot distance from shore. Next steps are review and recommendations from the DNR for implementation.

Also, as we emailed in September, the proposed Bass Lake ordinance about Portage Bay becoming a no-wake zone was approved at the August Town Board meeting and finalized at the September meeting. At the meeting the Township Board discussed that they appreciated all who took time to contact them and express opinions.

Thanks again to all property owners and friends of our lakes for making your voices heard during local government considerations. Thanks in particular to resident property owners who attend and keep aware of local government meetings and topics under consideration! As a reminder, Town of Bass Lake Board meetings are on the second Monday of every month at 6:30pm. Minutes and agendas are public and published on their website: <https://basslakewi.gov/>.

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## **Membership Report**

*Dave and Donna Roeker*

It's that time of year where we reflect on the past year. It's been a busy year for everyone with weather that was unpredictable, to say the least.

We had 84 paid members in 2018, staying pretty consistent with previous years. If you paid dues in the past, we appreciate your support. If you haven't previously paid dues, when you receive the membership renewal letter in February, PLEASE consider doing so. The \$25.00 is a small price to pay to help preserve our gem of a lake. We are very lucky to have this lake. Our job as stewards is to maintain the beauty and preserve the wildlife and its habitat.

Our lake association has worked very hard this year to keep everyone informed. We have stayed involved with the town board on issues that affect our lake. We'd like to thank everyone that has attended the town meetings, sent letters or made phone calls to the board regarding important decisions. If you are interested in the town government, you can always go online to <http://basslakewi.gov/>

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.



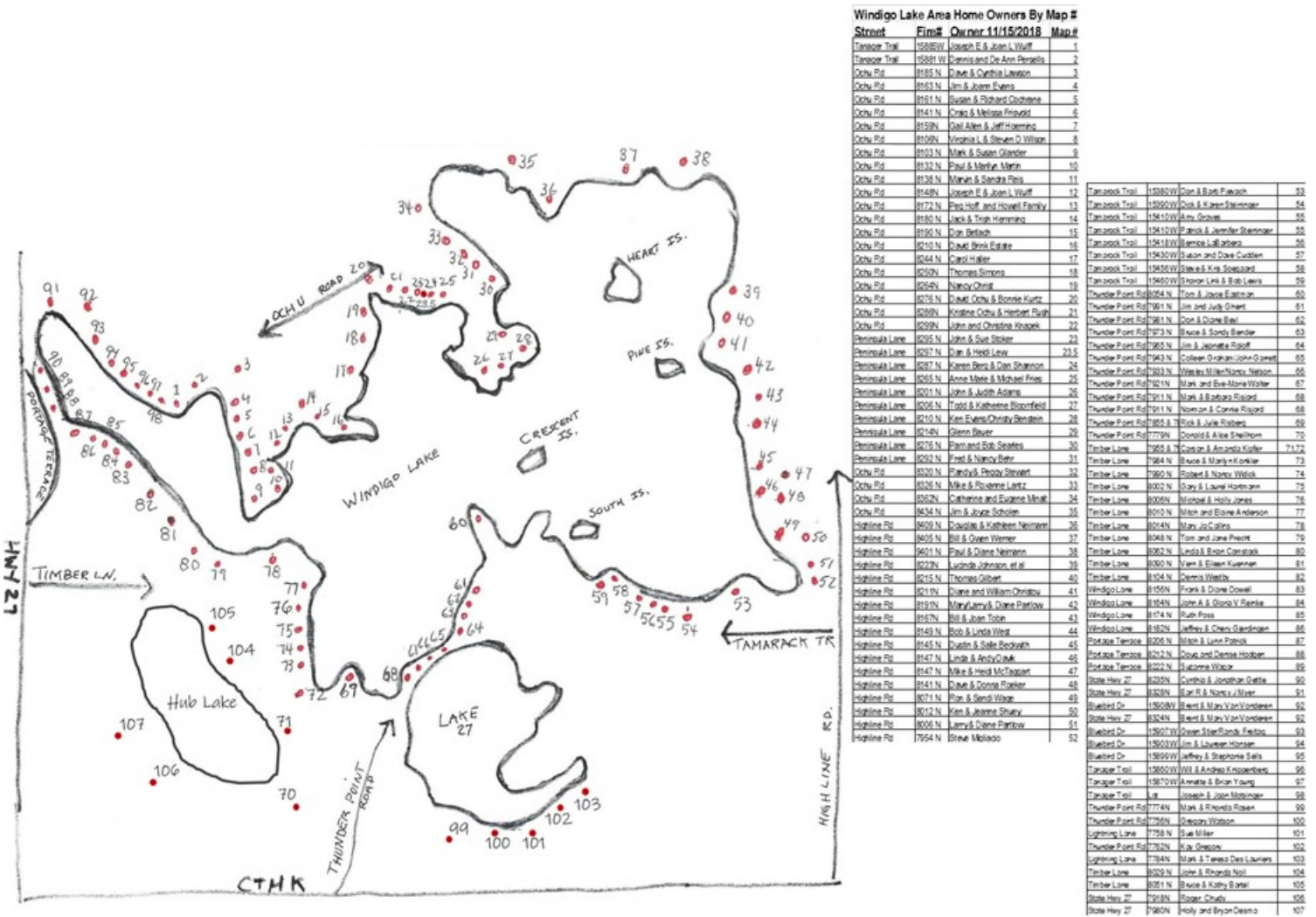
## Updated Property Ownership Map

Barb Pjevach

At our annual meeting and picnic, we historically have brought a large map of our lakes with property owner names. In the past we also had a copy of this listing that we provided to property owners but it has not been updated for many years.

Each year many are interested in visually seeing where we all reside on the lakes so we have discussed updating the distributed copy.

Thanks to Dick and Patrick Steininger, they initiated an update to this map and listing that we can now maintain electronically for easier updating. Here is an image of that map below. You can download and print a 2 page pdf so that you can actually read the names either from the email sent to you if you are an email recipient or at the following URL: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Windigo-map-and-names-2-pgs-11-15-2018.pdf> If you only receive a print version of this newsletter and the download does not work for you, please email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) and we will email you a copy.



**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><u>Officers</u></b>		
<b>President</b>	<b>Patrick Steininger</b>	<b>708-899-3193</b>
		<a href="mailto:Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com">Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com</a>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Dick Steininger</b>	<b>708-899-3194</b>
		<a href="mailto:egvdickjsteininger@gmail.com">egvdickjsteininger@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gary Hartmann</b>	<b>715-634-1709; 763-574-1709</b>
		<a href="mailto:gary.hartmann@comcast.net">gary.hartmann@comcast.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Kris Soegaard</b>	<b>612-616-0742</b>
		<a href="mailto:soegie2@centurylink.net">soegie2@centurylink.net</a>

<b><u>Committees</u></b>		
<b>Social</b>	<b>Sandy Bender</b>	<b>715-634-1590; 715-558-5859</b>
		<a href="mailto:sandyb7973@gmail.com">sandyb7973@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Donna Roeker</b>	<b>715-634-6013</b>
		<a href="mailto:roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net">roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net</a>
<b>Lake Environment &amp; Safety</b>	<b>Colleen Graham</b>	<b>715-558-3008</b>
		<a href="mailto:colleen.m.graham@gmail.com">colleen.m.graham@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat</b>	<b>Paul Martin</b>	<b>651-260-1733</b>
		<a href="mailto:pmwood80@yahoo.com">pmwood80@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>Barb Pjevach</b>	<b>952-829-9016</b>
		<a href="mailto:brpjevach@gmail.com">brpjevach@gmail.com</a>