Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Spring 2019

(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

Greetings Everyone,

I hope everyone had a good winter season, and hopefully the ice will be out soon on the Windigo. Although with the looks of the first hole at Spider Lake CC, it may be a few more weeks. The newsletter is full of good information and updates, which I'm sure you will enjoy. Hope to see some of you at the Spring Dinner!

Regards,
Patrick Steininger
C #708-899-3193
E-Mail Patrick.steininger@skodie.com





Spider Lake Golf Resort

OOLF RESORT

Photos from Spider Lake Golf Resort's post

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. The specifics about registering for the dinner and our speaker were mailed with the membership dues mailing and in a reminder email in early April. We would



like to know if you are coming by Saturday 4/20. Additional registration forms can be downloaded by clicking here: http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Spring-Dinner-Invitation-2019.pdf

Hold the date for the Annual Meeting and Picnic

Barb Pjevach

Our Annual Meeting and Picnic will again be late afternoon on the first Saturday in August this coming summer, Saturday August 3, 2019. Thanks to Dennis and DeAnn Persells who have volunteered to hold the picnic and meeting at their home. Please mark your calendars. We will send out more information this summer.

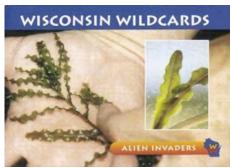
Lake Environment

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.

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.



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.

If you want to see details and pictures, here is the link to AIS page on our website: http://www.windigolake.org/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention/.

AIS Boat Landing Monitoring

As we updated last fall, we will be utilizing our grant from the DNR for boat landing monitoring. Dennis Dollhopf will be monitoring again generally on weekends and holidays from fishing opener to Labor Day. We get "credit" for reimbursement from our grant for dollars expended <u>and</u> volunteer hours spent at the boat landing monitoring. If anyone wants to help out filling in volunteering at the boat landing, you should attend training sessions run by the DNR. Please contact Colleen Graham to learn more about these sessions.

Loon Watch

As a reminder, our Lake 27, Windigo and Hub Lakes Loon Watch volunteer is Marilyn Konkler. Please contact her at **mkonkler55@gmail.com** with your loon sightings and observations throughout the summer. Thanks!



Community Updates

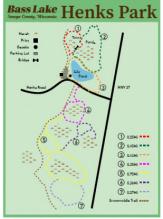
Barb Pjevach

New Town of Bass Lake Park - Henks Park

The town of Bass Lake has developed a park just west of Hwy 27 on Henks Road. It is planned to open Memorial Day weekend. There is a parking area and 3 miles of groomed walking trails. Here is the link to download a park map:

http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HenksParkMapFINAL.pdf and here is a link to the park rules:

http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HenksParkRulesFINAL.pdf



page 2

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference June 21, 2019

This popular regional event of lake science, policy and culture will be held in Hayward this year which makes it convenient for anyone in our area! It is sponsored annually by the five northwest counties. The all-day program will again be a great opportunity for lake enthusiasts and anyone interested in enjoying and protecting our lakes to take in a number of educational presentations, visit many informative exhibits and network with fellow conference attendees. Here is the link to the event registration and the page has contact information if you would like to learn more about it and attend. https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-northwest-wisconsin-lakes-conference-tickets-55990653552

Area Aquatic Invasive Species Example – Lost Land Lake

Colleen Graham

About five years ago, Hybrid Eurasian Water Milfoil (HEWM) was discovered in Lost Land Lake, a 1264 acre lake in Sawyer County. The initial response was to rally a crew to hand pull the weed under the guidance of the county invasives coordinator since it was in a relatively small area. It continued to spread in subsequent years,

and after applications of two different herbicides in 2016 and 2017 failed to stem the spread, the decision was made to purchase a mechanical pulling device (Eco-Harvester, pictured to the right) to try and control the invasive plant. Fundraising efforts successfully raised the \$77,000 needed to purchase the unit (along with a trailer and training for volunteer operators) which will be used this summer for the first time. Lake Chetek in Barron County has also been mechanically controlling invasive plants using an Eco-Harvester.



Although Lost Land Lake has employed a monitor at the public landing for several years through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program, there are several private landings on the lake that are not monitored. Based on where it was discovered, the suspicion is that the HEWM was introduced at one of these private landings. For those of us with access to a private landing on Windigo Lake, please take special care that any boats entering and exiting the water are cleaned of vegetation. This is true not only for power boats but also for kayaks and canoes that travel to other lakes that may have AIS infestations. Let's all do our part to keep Windigo free of invasives!

Windigo Water Testing Results - Volunteers Needed

Barb Pjevach

We still need volunteers for Windigo water testing! Please consider volunteering! As we mentioned previously, since 1995, various 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.

We thank Roxanne and Mike Lantz who have been our volunteers for the past decade. We thank them, but it is time to find new volunteers to do this task for the next few years. 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.

The testing is done a handful of times each 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 continue to gather this important data for our lake!

Fishing Committee Updates

Paul Martin

DNR Staffing Updates

I had the pleasure of meeting the Sawyer County DNR Officers Arron Koshatka and Tom Heisler at the

Wisconsin Wildlife Congress meeting last week. They are both outstanding officers who are down to earth, easy to talk with and extremely serious about enforcing the wildlife and fishing laws of our state. I look forward to working with them if the situation is needed.

The new officers encourage the public to contact them by phone at (715) 934-9015 or e-mail:

aaron.koshatka@wisconsin.gov. They also ask the public to use the DNR Violation Hotline to report any suspected

violations against the resources, wildlife or environment. Dispatchers will forward the information to Arron Koshatka or Tom Heisler.



Anyone with information regarding natural resources violations may confidentially report them by calling or texting 1-800-TIP-DNR or 1-800-347-9367. The hotline is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained staff relay report information to conservation wardens.

Recent Lake Activity

Ice fishing activity was fairly constant over the winter. I have heard of a few success stories when talking with local fisherman, but fishing was up and down. (no pun intended)!

There was also some discussion of another violator being ticketed by local officers for over the limit. This is the second arrest on Windigo in the last year and is very disturbing to me and other the residents on the lake. It is hard to understand why individuals keep catching and keeping fish when they know they are over the possession limit. We need to monitor our lake to protect it.

Fishing Committee

We are in need of committee members to start taking on some of the leg work involved with building this alliance and discussing the possibilities that will make a good fit for our lake.

There will be a spring Fishing Committee meeting at my house (8132 Ochu Road) on Saturday May 25that 8:30am. If you want to participate in any way on the fishing committee, please make an effort to attend and participate in helping our association.

Fishery Management Fund

The fishing committee has started to contact a few other Lake Associations in the area to discuss the feasibility of certain projects and programs that would enhance our fishery and wildlife.

We would like to thank all of the people that have continued to donate to the Fishery Management Fund. The expenditures have been minimal in the last few years, but when we get on board with a project we will put the funds to good use and may need more. Thanks to those of you who are able to continue to donate!

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

Membership renewals are coming in. A complete report on 2019 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. Donated labor must be related to boat landing monitoring and cannot include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.

We spent \$ 3,205.50 during the summer of 2018 on checking boats for invasive weeds at the boat landing. WLPOA provided sufficient volunteer hours to receive a reimbursement of \$ 3,000. This is the maximum amount available under the terms of our DNR Grant. WLPOA funded the remaining balance of \$ 205.50 so our 2018 grant account could be closed out with a zero balance as shown below.

For 2019 WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant and we have received the usual advance of \$ 750. This account balance is also shown in the table below.

As of March 31, 2019, WLPOA has the following account balances:

WLPOA Account Balances (03-31-2019)	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 1,619.88
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 3,869.28
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 10,572.16
DNR Grant for 2018 (closed out)	0
DNR Grant for 2019 (active)	\$ 750.00
Total on deposit	\$ 21,811.32

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thanks to everyone who has submitted membership dues this winter. We had 84 paid members in 2018, staying pretty consistent with previous years If you haven't yet paid dues, we welcome your dues any time. 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. If you misplaced your membership renewal form, you can download it by clicking on this link:

http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-WLPOA-dues-form.pdf

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.



Native Pink Lady Slipper Look for them in the wetlands this spring!

Friendly Lake Life Reminders

Barb Pjevach

YES, WE CAN HEAR YOU...

Have you ever noticed how sound carries over the water and through the trees? Have you ever been amazed at how you can hear people talk while on their boats on the water? We noticed just recently during winter how we actually hear the sound of the train on the tracks west of Hwy 27 and our lake home is way over by the boat landing, about 4.5 miles away!

If you are like us, we enjoy the sounds and nature at the lake and many of us love sleeping with the windows open and hearing the night sounds.



Please keep this in mind while you enjoy your lake homes this summer.... If you are fishing or boating close to someone's dock, or if you enjoy socializing outside well past midnight, please keep in mind that others CAN hear you. Thanks!

BOATING

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.

Also, as we emailed in September, there is a new Bass Lake ordinance that classifies the entirety of Portage Bay as a no-wake zone. The Town of Bass Lake will put signage on the information board at the Windigo landing. New buoys will also be added this coming summer. If you see boats violating the ordinance you can take a picture of the boat registration number and call the Town of Bass Lake with the information.

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.

Passings

We lost 2 long time Windigo Property Owners recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Diane Neimann died peacefully March 11 in Minneapolis, MN, surrounded by her family. She and her husband Paul became engaged on Windigo on July 4, 1966. Diane made many contributions to many people and organizations during her lifetime. To read more about Diane, click on the following link: https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Diane-Neimann/#!/Obituary

Bruce Bender passed away on March 6th at Waters Edge in Hayward. Bruce and Sandy lived in retirement on Windigo and Bruce was an avid sportsman and athlete and spent many years supporting youth sports. To read more about Bruce, click on the following link: https://www.bratley-nelsonchapels.com/notices/Bruce-Bender

Local government and upcoming meetings

Our lakes 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/

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 helping us welcome and reach out to our new neighbors!

Updated Windigo Lake Area Maps

Barb Pjevach

Last Spring and Summer we distributed a contoured lake for fishing and boating and it also notes lake courtesies for Windigo. We encourage all property owners to keep this map visible and show it to guests. If you would like to print off additional copies, CLICK HERE 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

Last fall we also published a lake map with property owners noted. Thanks to those who have provided updates. An image of the updated 1 page map is on the next page. You can download and print a 2 page pdf which is a little easier to read at the following URL: http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Windigo-map-and-names-2-pgs-4-2-2019.pdf

No Wake Zones
Higher Speed
Boating Areas

State Hwy. 7 7980N Hollvard Beneficial State Hwy. 7 7980N					
Marinkijis (sartitisetti javana) Tja ajadi tirini (Millini) galatnistika di					
And Selections of Association of Ass					
A SOUTH COMMISSION COM					
105 7 7 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7					
Timber Luis 105					
Manager and Manage					

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: <u>info@windigolake.org</u>

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

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

<u>Committees</u>		
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	Paul Martin	651-260-1733
		pmwood80@vahoo.com
Communications	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016 brpjevach@gmail.com