

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter Summer 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

Hello All, I hope everyone is starting to enjoy their summer and I'm guessing we must have some warm dry weather coming our way in Wisconsin after the wet spring.

With the lake water at one of the all-time high levels, please remember to stay well clear of the shore with higher speed boats; this will help protect our beautiful shoreline. In addition it's helpful for higher speed water sports to use the middle of the 2 large sections of Windigo.

There are several loons on Windigo, please remember to stay at least 200 feet away from the loons in or out of any boat.

Just a reminder our annual meeting and picnic is August 3rd at the Persells. Thank you DeAnn and Dennis for hosting this year!

Have a great rest of the summer!



Patrick Steininger

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Please join us at the Annual Meeting: Saturday August 3, 2019

Barb Pjevach

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year the **first Saturday in August, August 3, 2019**. The business meeting will be held at 4pm. The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm. Bratwurst, beer (yes, beer!), water and lemonade will be provided along with potluck food brought by attendees. If you have easy-to-bring folding chairs, please bring them. 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: Dennis and DeAnn Persells' home at 15881W Tanager Trail. Any questions? Please feel free to contact any Board member or email us at info@windigolake.org. But also feel free to just come if you forget to RSVP.

Spring Dinner Recap

Barb Pjevach

Our Annual Spring Dinner was held on Saturday April 27th at The Ranch in Hayward. 36 of us enjoyed socializing with fellow property owners, had an enjoyable meal, and engaged in a very interesting talk with Shawn Sullivan, the Fisheries Habitat Supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources stationed in Wild Rose, Wisconsin. Shawn's crews work primarily in the Northeast Region of Wisconsin.

Shawn and his team primarily work on trout streams with some work on lakes. One of their main objectives is to improve trout streams for anglers by providing better access to streams and improving trout numbers through habitat management. They collaborate between many partners to complete projects; WDNR Fisheries biologist and technicians, DNR Science Services, NRCS and the United States Forest Service (USFS).. Shawn has an ecological and preservation crew and they also work with many volunteers. Other DNR fish biologists around the state like Max Wolter in our local area call on Shawn's team to do ecological and preservation work.

Shawn's opinion is that we have the best water in the world in the Great Lakes watershed. He also noted that if we build it, they will come...meaning that if we fix the fish habitat, the fish will thrive and reproduce. He noted that science works and we have increased the water quality of our trout streams through science.

He described how they conduct electro-fish surveys. They use a low volt of electricity and causes an electrical impulse to swim toward the probe where they can be counted. They do this to determine the amount and species of fish.

He also noted that an excellent indicator of water quality is the health of the brook trout population in rivers. He also told us about Kewaunee county in Wisconsin where the water quality has been severely degraded for the people living there due to agricultural practices over many years.

Shawn showed us before and after pictures where his team had restored the health of streams. The transformations that Shawn showed were amazing and it was heartening to see that river fisheries once dilapidated could be brought back to health!



Critter Reports and Loon reminders

Barb Pjevach

We have had some notable critter sightings on our lakes this summer so far:

- 1) Bears are around. We have sightings at various spots around our lakes
- 2) We have several baby loons reported in historical nesting areas on our lakes that have thus far survived. PLEASE watch out for them and keep a wide berth. They have been seen venturing out in the the larger parts of the lake with chick nearby. If the adult loon rises up and flaps its wings, it is in distress and please back off. Sadly based on data collected by Northland College, boats are the greatest cause of loon deaths, not eagles or other prey. Read the helpful loon etiquette rules below as a reprint from last year and obtained from Northland College.
- 3) A heron has been spotted on the south side of the lake in the wetlands.
- 4) We have plenty of ducks some geese and our neighborly deer who are also call our lakes home.
- 5) The buffleheads and merganzers were seen frequently on the lake this spring but have now moved to other locations for the rest of summer .
- 6) Eagles have been spotted soaring overhead and perched on the south island by the historical nest, but they are not nesting there.



LOON ETIQUETTE

The Fourth of July tends to be an especially busy time on our lakes, and hazardous for loons. Young chicks cannot yet dive deep and pop back up like corks. The chicks are difficult to see and unable to get out of harm's way so please be cautious when boating. Give the loon families space -- use the 200 ft rule and observe from a distance. This allows the adults to care for the chicks and for you to see natural behavior rather than forcing them into defensive mode.

- Keep a distance of 200 ft. when observing loons, even from a kayak or canoe.
- Slow down! Loons, especially chicks, can be very difficult to see.
- 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 our lakes!

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

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!

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/ais-prevention-new/>

Note that we have hired a boat landing monitor 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, let Colleen Graham know. Thanks to those who have volunteered thus far.

Note that our reimbursement for our grant for AIS prevention only allows us to claim volunteer hours associated boat landing monitoring. However, it is always helpful when you are out and about on the lake to look for AIS! 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

The annual Fishing Committee meeting was held this spring to discuss our lakes' ever increasing fishing and boating pressure. The issues are complex with no easy answers. The committee members were in agreement that being part of a Lake Association group or alliance will be beneficial to Windigo in many areas of concern. We are in the process of finding existing lake associations that have the same objectives as we do and hopefully work together to advance everyone's agenda.

The turnout for the meeting was lower than last year, but hopefully we can get more people interested in joining us with a new focus through a local alliance.

Please remember our Annual Picnic and stop by for a beer and brat! It is a great time to meet your neighbors.

Have fun and happy fishing. Remember to practice "CPR" (catch, photo, release)

Contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 651-260-1733

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

Barb Pjevach

With the water levels even higher this year on Windigo, reaching levels last seen in about about 15+ years ago, we are repeating some reminders to help us all keep our lake shore as healthy as possible. It is more important than ever to make sure that speeds of all boats and watercraft are slow near shore everywhere in the lake and particularly in the bays of Windigo to help preserve the health of the shoreline and animals who nest there.

Please make sure your guests know about our efforts to preserve the beauty of our lakes, protect our wildlife and keep our lakes AIS free. Please also inform them about our no-wake zones, our loons, and considerate boating practices.

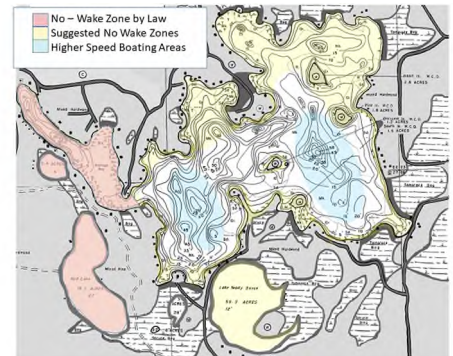


The DNR regulations for ANY Wisconsin lake are that boats need to have no wake 100 feet from shore and for personal watercraft (PWC), the no-wake law specifies that they need to be 200 feet from shore before a wake is allowed. PWC also need to slow to no-wake speeds when within 100 feet of another boat. If you want to read the regs for more details here is the link: <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/le/le0301.pdf>.

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.

Portage Bay is now a SLOW NO-WAKE zone in its entirety!

As we discussed last year, a new Bass Lake Township ordinance was passed late last summer that now specifies all boating in the ENTIRE PORTAGE BAY is to be no-wake. We have purchased 2 additional buoys that are at the mouth of the bay which have the ordinance number and indicated NO-WAKE-BAY. The 2 existing buoys are just spread apart in the bay to remind people. **Please make sure your guests know that now by law the entire bay is no-wake regardless of buoy placement.** If you see violators of this law and want to report them, please try to get the boat registration and description and call the Town of Bass Lake with the information.



Ice-Out Dates

Barb Pjevach

A few WLPOA members were asking about Ice-Out dates for Windigo. This year the ice came off of Windigo on April 23. The latest date that we are aware of going back many years was last year when the ice came off the lake on May 4. We will be posting the ice out dates on the website. We have from 1972 through 2006 courtesy of Walt Pydo's records for Lake 27 and Windigo. Then again, we have data starting in 2017 so if you have any ice-out information in between those dates, we would love to get it from you at info@windigolake.org.

WI DNR Spring Conservation Congress

In early April, the Association asked property owners and friends of the lake to vote their opinions regarding two questions on the WI DNR Conservation Congress online ballot. The two questions were considered DNR Advisory questions and a yes vote would support a change in the rules going forward. Based on the statewide voting, the rule changes were approved. Thanks to everyone who voted. The final results are in the chart below.

Question	Description	Online input of respondents that indicated they reside in the county			All online input of respondents that indicated they recreate in the county		
		Yes	No	Maj	Yes	No	Maj
SAWYER COUNTY							
10	Bass - Establish alternate size and bag limits for permitted, catch-and-release bass fishing tournaments	49	69	No	256	218	Yes
11	Bass - Establish a statewide continuous open season for bass fishing but allow harvest only during the current traditional season	47	61	No	263	191	Yes
		Online Results					
ENTIRE STATE		Yes	No				
10	Bass - Establish alternate size and bag limits for permitted, catch-and-release bass fishing tournaments	3231	2088				
11	Bass - Establish a statewide continuous open season for bass fishing but allow harvest only during the current traditional season	3550	1594				

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

WLPOA's income through June 15, 2019 is summarized below:

- We have received \$2,075 in dues from members and \$ 80 from "Friends of Windigo".
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 1,365.
- Donations to the Fish Management Fund totaled \$ 1,200.

Spring Dinner Summary --We had reservations for 40 people and collected \$ 1,155. There were 4 no-shows and 36 meals were served (including our speaker Shawn Sullivan). One "no-show" check was returned; the other

three members graciously donated their checks so WLPOA deposited \$ 1,130. We paid The Ranch \$ 1,080 leaving a balance of \$ 50 which covered the speaker’s honorarium. So this year our Spring Dinner broke exactly even.

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.

WLPOA has been awarded another DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant for 2019. We have received the usual 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. To date we have spent \$ 1,056 so at this point in the summer our 2019 DNR Grant account has a negative balance as shown below.

As of June 15, 2019 WLPOA has the following account balances:

WLPOA Account Balances	Amount
General Fund (Checking)	\$ 3,068
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$ 5,000
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 5,069
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct)	\$ 11,937
DNR Grant for 2018 (closed out)	0
DNR Grant for 2019 (active)	(\$ 306)
Total on deposit	\$ 24,768

Membership Report

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thank you to everyone who supported our lake association this year. We have 83 property owners paying dues representing our 3 lakes. We also have 17 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 this link: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-WLPOA-dues-letter-4-4-2019.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.

Shoreline Preservation and Native Plantings

Barb Pjevach

Several WLPOA members attended the 21st Annual NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference on Friday June 21 in Hayward. Thanks to all who attended! There were a variety of educational sessions on a variety of topics such as AIS, Loon Ecology and Loon Watch, Climate Change and AIS/Fish/Wildlife Impacts, Algal Blooms, Fisheries, Making Healthy Lakes, Rainfall Simulation/Healthy Plantings.

There were also a wide variety of organizations who had booths with information on related topics. One of the booths from the DNR had information about Native Plantings for different types of soil and conditions even with a pictorial planting guide. The guide has instructions for 7 different types of plantings:

- 1) Lakeshore Edge: Restore vegetation at the water's edge
- 2) Bird/Butterfly: Attracts birds and butterflies
- 3) Bare Soil: Stabilize areas of bare dirt
- 4) Low-growing: Maintain a clear view of the lake.
- 5) Deer Resistant: Deer and other critter browsing
- 6) Woodland: Re-vegetate a shady area

For most of these planting types, the guide offers both a moist soil planting list and a drier soil planting list.



If you would like a copy of the full planting guide you can download the brochure at this link:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/PublishingImages/resources/restoration-project/Healthy-Lakes-350ft2-Native-Planting-Technical-Guidance.pdf>

Volunteers Needed!

Barb Pjevach

We have had some interest in helping out with the WLPOA Board, but many of us, have been serving on the Board for many years and we have a couple of positions Gary Hartmann (Treasurer) and Colleen Graham (Lake Environment and Safety) for which the incumbents would love to have someone volunteer for a transition. It is fun to get involved on the Board, is it not extremely time-consuming and no experience is needed!

Here is a brief synopsis of responsibilities:

Treasurer

You do NOT need a finance or accounting background, and do not need to be resident.

Duties:

- Maintains a record of inflow and outflow of WLPOA funds using a simple Excel spreadsheet.
- Prepares a treasurer's report for the newsletter and WLPOA meetings a few times a year.
- The treasurer holds the checkbook and writes a few dozen checks during the year
- Manages a checking and savings accounts at Peoples Bank of Wisconsin in Hayward. Requires a signature card be on file at the bank but online banking can be used for convenience.
- Prepares a few annual filings and renewals for governmental requirements, associations, and grant reimbursements.
- In coordination with the Membership Chair, check the P.O. Box in Hayward for WLPOA mail.

Lake Environment and Safety Chair

- Provide leadership and information to the WLPOA Board/members toward preserving the lake health of Windigo, Hub and Lake 27.
- Lead the AIS prevention monitoring and activities. These include:
 - Supervise and if need be hire and a weekend Windigo Lake Boat Landing monitor including ensuring training and performance, monitoring/recording hours worked, arranging pay rate, and requesting paychecks from the WLPOA Treasurer.
 - Input or supervise input of boat landing monitor data into the WI DNR SWIMS database.
 - Gather volunteer hours spent in this role with AIS duties for use by the WLPOA Treasurer in AIS grant filings.
 - Write the annual Grant request for state funding of Boat Landing CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) program monitor.
- Work with state, county and township staff to request and if possible observe lake surveys of our lakes.
- Monitor lake-environment and safety concerns of WLPOA members.

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!

Passings

We apologize that we did not acknowledge the passing of Norman Risjord in January 2019, another long-time Windigo property owner. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Risjord family. Norman died January 31, 2019 in Madison Wisconsin. Here is the link to his obituary: <http://www.gundersonfh.com/obituaries/Norman-K-Risjord?obId=4079264#/obituaryInfo>

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: info@windigolake.org

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

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		soegie2@centurylink.net

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