

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Spring 2020

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



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Windigo Lake Area Courtesies:

Dedicated to preserving, protecting and enjoying our beautiful lakes.

- R** *Respect*: Consideration for other people
- E** *Environment*: Enjoy wildlife from a distance
- S** *Safety*: Heed the DNR regulations
- P** *Peace*: Remember - noise travels over water
- E** *Enjoy*: Have fun
- C** *Catch and Release*: Preserve our fishery
- T** *Trash*: Take it home; keep it out of the lake

CURRENT REMINDERS:

- 1) Water is HIGH. Please keep all higher speed boating well clear of all shoreline.
- 2) Please be aware of COVID concerns in Sawyer County and practice social distancing.
- 3) Loons are back. EVERYONE, please stay clear of them and their nests to give young loons the best chance for survival.
- 4) Please educate all visitors about our lake courtesies.
- 5) Enjoy spring and summer on our beautiful lakes!

Spring 2020 Index of Articles:

- President's Note
- Annual Meeting and Picnic
- COVID-19 Recommendations
- High Water Recommendations
- Lake Environment Update
- Ice-Out Dates
- Treasurer's Report
- Membership Report
- Critter Reports
- Fishing Committee
- Lake Tides Newsletter - Erosion Article
- Community Updates
- Volunteers Needed
- Maps

DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Patrick Steininger

Hope all is well with everyone and finds you safe during these challenging times. As many of you know the lake is quite high again this year, as we seem to be in that pattern right now on Windigo. By some estimates the lake water could be as much as 6" higher than last year. To that point, while we update our required signage at the boat landing, we will be making new signs for making people aware of the high-water levels on the lake. Slow and no wake area signs will also be posted and made clear.

With all the events cancelled in Hayward this year, it will be different for sure in the area. If you're like me, you may have reconnected with some friends and family thru Zoom or from a distance and made the best of the situation. I've worn out two pairs of shoes walking and gotten a lot of honey do's done around the house, so some positives.

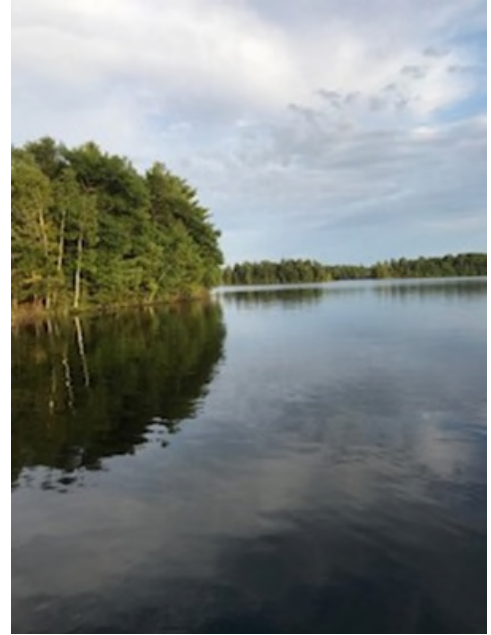
Make it a good spring and summer!

Regards,

Patrick Steininger

C #708-899-3193

E-Mail Patrick.steininger@skodie.com



HOLD THE DATE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC

Barb Pjevach

Our Annual Meeting and Picnic is being planned for late afternoon on the **SECOND** Saturday in August this coming summer, **Saturday August 8, 2020**. **Thanks to Dennis and DeAnn Persells** who have volunteered again to hold the picnic and meeting at their home. Please mark your calendars and we will send out more information this summer. If plans for this event change related to the COVID 19 pandemic, we will advise as the date gets closer.

COVID 19 UPDATES AND SAWYER COUNTY VISITOR GUIDELINES

Barb Pjevach

Since the update that was emailed out in last March about the COVID-19 pandemic, Sawyer County cases have remained at a low level, but testing is also minimal as compared to more highly populated areas, so the true incidence of COVID-19 is not really known. As we write this Sawyer County has 4 positive confirmed cases and 0 deaths. The population risk and health care system challenges remain however, because if the area population increases as it does every summer, there is substantial risk increase for everyone because the health care system does not have adequate resources to care for people if there is a surge in virus cases which require medical assistance.

While the County still encourages minimizing non-essential travel to seasonal homes and they still have

their March advisories on their website, they have issued a Spring Visitor Guidance to help people who do visit to enjoy their time but also help keep everyone in the county safe.

Some of these are specifically for resort operators but many are applicable for seasonal home owners and county permanent residents. Here are the key points from the advisory:

- 1) Lodging facilities should be register all guests and guests should be members of a single household.
- 2) For those planning to visit, if you or your family are ill, please reschedule your visit.
- 3) Lodging facilities should allow only registered guests, no visitors (the emphasis about registered guests is to enable contact tracing if necessary)
- 4) Follow the six (6) foot social distance guideline.
- 5) Avoid gatherings outside of your immediate family including outdoor activities (Including private family swim beaches, bonfires, etc.)
- 6) You are encouraged to order over the phone or online for any supplies or take-out food that you require.
- 7) Masks are advised for all people who enter a place of business where it may be difficult to constantly maintain a 6 foot distance from others. Many businesses require masks so bring one with you when visiting any business.
- 8) Swimming beaches will be closed for the best interest of public health, safety, & welfare of everyone.
- 9) Walking, biking, hiking, and ATV trails will be open if trail conditions allow social distancing requirements.
- 10) Outdoor activities are encouraged but individuals may not engage in team or contact sports such as basketball, ultimate Frisbee, soccer or football. Playgrounds are closed.
- 11) Boat landings will remain open but social distancing requirements must be maintained. Please be patient if it takes longer than normal at boat launches as a result of social distancing.

Here is a link to the actual document on the Sawyer County website. Please print it out and keep it handy this summer for any guests and visitors you may have at your home.

<https://haywardareachamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Sawyer-County-Visitor-Guidance-Spring-2020.jpg>

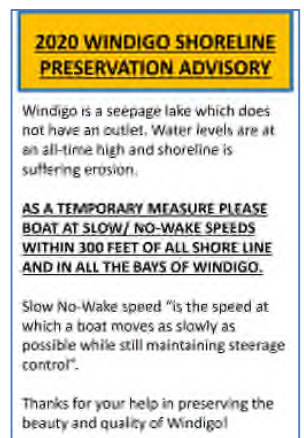
HIGH WATER UPDATE AND SLOW NO-WAKE REQUESTS

Barb Pjevach

This past winter in the North Woods did not provide any relief from high water levels in our area. As we all know, our lakes are seepage lakes without any outlet or means to manage water level. Thus, shoreline all around our lakes is suffering from erosion. Our lake association does not have any true authority to mandate boating speed levels and distance from shore but we can provide signage and make requests.

Here is what we are planning and requesting:

- 1) We will posting signage at the boat landing about a high water advisory, explaining that the high water levels are causing shoreline erosion. **We are asking that ALL BOATERS maintain slow-no wake speeds within 300 feet of all shoreline and in all the smaller bays around Windigo.** The center of the two large sections of the lake are designated for high speed boating.



- 2) We will also be posting a map at the landing of Windigo with these no-wake areas and higher speed recommended areas noted.
- 3) In addition, it was suggested by a couple of property owners that if we had simple signs to post on our docks or on our shoreline asking boaters to slow-down, that they would be willing to post signs. We are creating 40 of these signs and the Soegaards have agreed to be a distribution point for people who desire to post them. We will send an email out when the signs are available.

HIGH WATER ALERT

SLOW NO WAKE
PLEASE!

THANKS FOR HELPING
PRESERVE WINDIGO BY
KEEPING HIGHER SPEED
BOATING WELL CLEAR
OF THE SHORE

If you have guests, please make sure they know this information. We have attached pdfs of the signs to the email with this newsletter. Please print them off and keep them in a visible place at your property to help make guests and family members aware.

As a reminder there is a Bass Lake ordinance that classifies the entirety of Portage Bay as a no-wake zone.

DNR Regulations:

As a reminder, here is a summary of the DNR regulations for all Wisconsin lakes. 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. 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>.

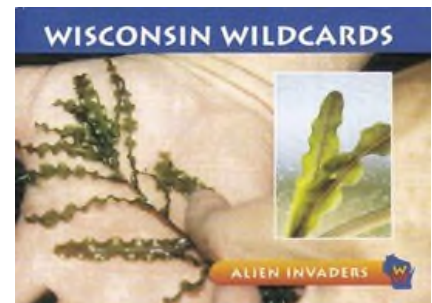
LAKE ENVIRONMENT

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. We are working with the DNR to conduct a survey of Windigo this summer to further assess our AIS situation and lake quality.

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!



Summer is the time to look for Eurasian Milfoil

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/>

Clean Boats Clean Water Boat Landing Monitoring

As in the past, we planned to use our CBCW grant from the DNR for boat landing monitoring this summer on weekends and holidays. However, the DNR suspended the program at the end of March due to safety and health restrictions related to COVID-19 implemented by the DNR. These restrictions continue to be in place. They hope to restart the program yet this summer if possible and will keep us updated. If anyone wants to read about the CBCW program and status, here is a link to their website: [CBCW website](http://www.windigolake.org/cbcw/).

ICE-OUT DATES

Barb Pjevach, Dan Pjevach



Various property owners have kept track of Ice-Out dates for Windigo over the years. We have some open spots in the data, but have records going back to 1972 except for 2009 through 2011. For Lake 27, we have data from 1927 through 2008. We are also trying to capture Ice-In dates and just have a few years of that data. If you have any of the missing data, please let us know at info@windigolake.org.

The latest date for the ice to come off of Windigo was 5/8/2013 (Remember the fishing opener year in which Windigo was still iced over?). The earliest Ice-Out dates were 3/24/2000 and 3/24/2012. This spring the ice came off of Windigo on 4/11/2020. For Lake 27 the earliest Ice-Out date was 3/8/2000 and the latest date captured was 4/29/96.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Kris Soegaard

DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grants

WLPOA uses this grant to fund the monitoring of our boat landing. The grant is 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” donations of volunteer labor. Donated labor must be related to boat landing monitoring and cannot include time donated toward AIS monitoring or other activities beneficial to Windigo.



2019 Grant: We spent \$3,300 in 2019 on monitoring of the boat landing. We received the usual advance of \$750. Our DNR reimbursement has been approved for \$2,250 as we reached the \$3,000 Grant limit. The remaining \$300 was covered from the WLPOA general fund so we could close out the 2019 Grant with a zero balance.

2020 Grant: We were awarded a 2020 grant from DNR and received the \$750 advance in January, 2020.

Account Balances

As of March 31, 2020, WLPOA has the following account balances:

WLPOA Account Balances (03-31-2020)	Amount as of 3-31-2020	Amount as of 11-25-19
General Fund (Checking)	\$4,908.36	\$1,260.42
Non-dedicated Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Account)	\$5,074.19	\$5071.75
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Account)	\$11,948.80	\$11943.06
DNR Grant for 2019 (closed out)	\$0.00	\$0.00
DNR Grant for 2020 (active)	\$750.00	\$0.00
Total on Deposit	\$27,681.35	\$23,275.23

Membership renewals have been coming in. Renewals received and deposited by March 31, 2020 are included in the General Fund (Checking) amount above. We continued to receive a few additional renewals in April and May to-date. The total of these renewals will be reflected in the Treasurer’s Financial Report as of June 30, 2020. In June, the designated member contributions to the Dedicated Fish Management Reserve and the Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve will be transferred from the checking account to the savings accounts for these reserves.

MEMBERSHIP

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thanks to everyone who has submitted membership dues thus far this year. We had 85 paid members in 2019, staying pretty consistent with previous years. If you have not yet paid dues, we welcome your payment 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 and 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/2020/05/2020-WLPOA-dues-letter-2-4-2020.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.

CRITTER REPORTS AND LOON REMINDERS

Barb Pjevach

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

- 1) Bears are around again/still. We have sightings at various spots around our lakes.
- 2) At least one pair of Loons is back on Windigo
- 3) A heron has been spotted.
- 4) Spring is time for some migratory birds and Bufflehead and Merganzers have been spotted again this year.
- 5) We have plenty of Mallard and Wood Ducks some
- 6) Some geese and our neighborly deer are also present.
- 7) Eagles have been spotted soaring overhead.



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!

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!



FISHING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Paul Martin

Another summer is looming, but this year it will be with new social restrictions because of the world-wide pandemic we are all facing. The Wisconsin DNR was scheduled to implement a Fyke Net study of Windigo this spring, but all of the studies and surveys have been cancelled for the time being. This netting survey was designed to determine the abundance, or lack of, adult fish population in our lake. This survey was badly needed to determine how the adult fish population is holding up to the fishing pressure.

Max Wolter, the local DNR Fish Biologist, sent a list of questions and answers that hopefully will answer many of the questions people will have and we have reproduced it here below. Enjoy a safe summer.



THE 2020 WISCONSIN FISHING OPENER **FAQ**

CAN I STILL FISH?

Yes! The fishing season opener proceeded as normal. We encourage anglers to use waterbodies close to home and in their community.

DO I NEED A LICENSE?

Wisconsin residents and nonresidents who are 16 years or older need a valid 2020-2021 fishing license to fish in any waters of the state. You can easily purchase a fishing license on the DNR Go Wild Web page.

WHERE CAN I FISH?

As of May 1, all State-owned launches and access points are open. Please check with individual parks regarding changes to shore fishing access and boat launches. Anglers are encouraged to use the DNR boat and shore fishing access tool to locate access points close to home and within their community. Anglers should contact their local municipalities for more information regarding localized closures and access changes to boat launches outside of state parks and properties.

WHAT CAN I FISH?

All regulations and season dates still apply. Check the 2020-2021 Guide to Wisconsin Hook & Line Fishing Regs for specific information about where you plan to fish.

WHAT KIND OF BAIT CAN I USE?

It depends on your fishing location and the species you are pursuing. Make sure to check the regulations for your location.

WHAT CAN I DO TO KEEP MYSELF/FAMILY SAFE?

- *Avoid crowded locations and set out with backup fishing locations in mind.*
- *Give other anglers space and maintain 6 feet between yourself and members outside of your household. Measure your fishing rod and use it as a gauge.*
- *Don't travel in the same boat or vehicle as another angler unless they reside in your household.*
- *Wash and sanitize your hands especially after touching public surfaces such as handrails on boat launches or piers.*
- *Don't share equipment with other anglers.*
- *If you are feeling sick, stay home.*

ARE YOU ENFORCING SOCIAL DISTANCING?

Parks staff and DNR wardens continue to monitor social distancing on state owned lands. We should all follow DHS & CDC guidelines and stay at least 6 feet apart from others outside of your household. This includes all travel from your vehicle to your fishing location and throughout the return trip. Safe distancing is your responsibility.

ARE THE BOAT LAUNCHES IN STATE PARKS NOW OPEN?

Yes, boat launches within open state parks are open. However, all state parks have updated hours of operation from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm and will be closed on Wednesdays. As such, anglers who want to fish

within a state park on Wednesday may still do so that day but will be required to walk in if they are accessing water via the state park. Hour of operation restrictions will still apply. All restrooms, water fountains, buildings, and facilities are also closed on all state parks. Northern forests, flowages, and the Lower Wisconsin Riverway system are exempt from these changes and remain open from 6:00 am to 11:00 pm, 7 days a week.

I DON'T SEE ANY TRASH BARRELS AT PARKS/LAUNCHES?

The DNR urges visitors to do their part when visiting a park or boat launch. Most Wisconsin state parks, forests, launch sites and other day-use areas do not have garbage or recycling bins. When you visit a park or launch, you will need to take your garbage, pet waste, and recyclables home with you. We all play a vital role in taking care of our natural resources.

CAN I FISH IN WISCONSIN IF I AM A NON-RESIDENT?

All anglers must hold a valid 2020-2021 fishing license. Non-residents can easily purchase a license at DNR Go Wild web page. Make sure to check with your state's emergency orders and travel restrictions. Under Gov. Evers' Safer at Home order we encourage the public to fish within your local community.

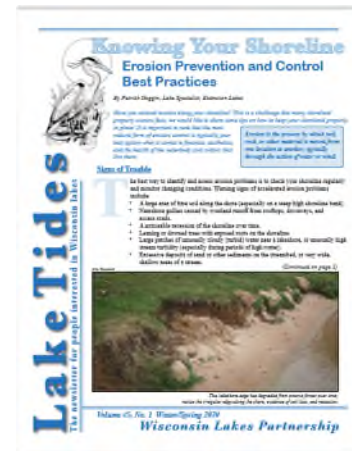
LAKE TIDES NEWSLETTER – RECENT EROSION ARTICLE

The Lake Tides Newsletter is a free newsletter published by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. The winter issue has excellent information about erosion, identification and management. This topic is very timely for all of us with current high water levels. You can also subscribe and they will mail a newsletter to you. Here is the link to their page:

https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/resources/newsletter/default_old.aspx

Here is a link to the winter 2020 edition with information about erosion:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/newsletter/vol41-vol45/vol45-1winter2020web.pdf>



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Barb Pjevach

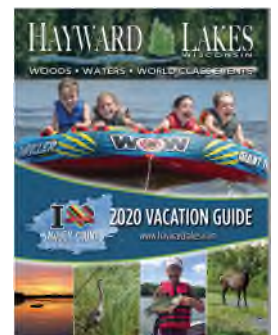
Sawyer County Visitors Guide

While many resources have become available online with the pandemic, we noticed that the Sawyer County Visitors Guide (usually found around Hayward at various retailers) has an online version. Click on this link and you can page through it:

<https://pubs.royle.com/publication/?m=&l=1&i=635249&p=0>

Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference June 19, 2020

This popular regional event of lake science, policy and culture will be held in Spooner AND online via Zoom this year. 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 a page about the event and registration will be available soon through this page:

<https://www.stcroixriverassociation.org/event/2020-nw-wi-lakes-conference/>

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, go online to <http://basslakewi.gov/>. Bass Lake Township meetings are the second Monday of every month and they are open to the public.

<u>Our current Town Supervisors are:</u>	
Justin Hall, Chairman	
Phone: 715-634-4226	
Dave Aubart, Supervisor	Marshal Savitski, Supervisor
Phone: 715-634-5016	Phone: 630-800-7787
Don Adams, Supervisor	Bob Hammond, Supervisor
Phone: 715-699-0594	Phone: 651-338-7532

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!

WE NEED WLPOA VOLUNTEERS – PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING BOARD

In addition to the openings below, many of our Board members have been on the Board for many years and we would really like some new people to join in on the fun and continue to help WLPOA help all of us. Please consider volunteering for the WLPOA Board or volunteer to help with any of the roles. We do a lot of communications by email and we can shift roles to accommodate your interests and talents. None of the roles are very time-consuming. In addition to existing Board members who have been in roles a long-time, we have the following specific openings.

Vice President: We thank Paul Martin for serving in various roles on the WLPOA Board for the several years, but he is not able to continue as Vice President. We would also welcome someone who would want to start as Vice President with the desire to move into the President role later.

Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) Volunteer: Assist the Lake Environment Board Member with managing the boat landing monitor, entering data into the DNR SWIMS database, assisting the Treasurer in administrating the annual CBCW grant.

Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair: Connects with the DNR on behalf of the lakes, hold at least one committee meeting per year, provide short update articles for the newsletter.

Welcome volunteers: Reach out to new property owners with information about our lakes.

Social Chair: Coordinate the Annual Meeting/Picnic and Spring Dinner.

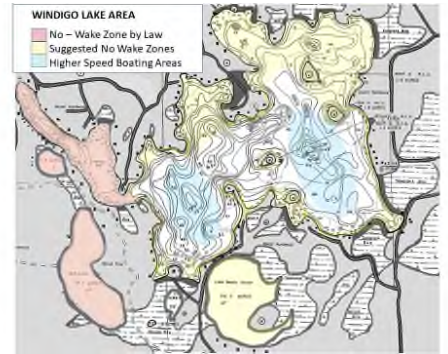
We try to make sure that we split up various WLPOA responsibilities and help one another to enable the time commitment with any of these positions to be minimal. Please consider joining us and helping with one of these roles! You can contact any Board member to ask questions about roles and express interest. Otherwise, you can always email us at info@windigolake.org and we can forward your request to the appropriate person.

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/2020/05/Updated-Windigo-Map-no-wake-indicated-8.5x11-5-2020.pdf>



We also previously published a lake map with property owners noted. We will be updating this map and listing for the Summer newsletter. If you would like to access the version from last year, you can download and print a 2 page pdf at the following web address: <http://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Windigo-map-and-names-2-pgs-4-2-2019.pdf>



Windigo Sunset 5/14/2020

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: info@windigolake.org

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

<u>Officers</u>		
President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193
		Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com
Vice-President	Open	
Treasurer	Kris Soegaard	612-616-0742
		soegie2@centurylink.net
Secretary	Kris Soegaard	612-616-0742
		soegie2@centurylink.net
Board Member At-Large	Steve Soegaard	612-360-7205
		soegie1@centurylink.net

<u>Committees</u>		
Social	Open	
Membership	Dave & Donna Roeker	715-634-6013
		roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008
		colleen.m.graham@gmail.com
Invasive Species Monitoring & Safety Volunteer	Open	
Fish & Wildlife	Open	
Communications	Barb Pjevach	952-829-9016
		brpjevach@gmail.com