

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Summer 2021

(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 others
- E** *Environment:* Enjoy wildlife from a distance
- S** *Safety:* Heed the DNR regulations
- P** *Peace:* Remember sound travels across 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 still high. Please keep all higher speed boating well clear of all shoreline.
- 2) Loons are back. EVERYONE, please stay clear of them and their nests to give young loons the best chance for survival.
- 3) Please educate all visitors about our lake courtesies.
- 4) Enjoy spring and summer on our beautiful lakes!

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DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Patrick Steininger

Hope everyone is starting to enjoy their summer on the lake! I was up in Hayward over Memorial Day and first week of June and was welcomed by 90-degree temps, almost summer like. Swimming on the first week of June usually is a no go, but not this year. Water was very refreshing in the warm temps.

Water levels on Windigo are down from last year, but still high enough where we must keep in mind our no wake rules. I appreciate everyone's help in the no wake rules when you're enjoying your boating.

Business meeting and picnic is on right now for the Aug 7th, and there is some more info in the newsletter.

Have a great summer with your friends and family!

Regards,

Patrick Steininger

C #708-899-3193

E-Mail Patrick.steininger@skodie.com



COME TO THE ANNUAL WLPOA MEETING AND PICNIC

Barb Pjevach

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year on Saturday **August 7, 2021**. 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. Thanks in advance for bringing any dish to share. 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 again at Dennis and DeAnn Persells' home at 15881W Tanager Trail. Note that similar to 2010, this will be an outdoor event with cover provided in Persells' garage as needed.

RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary To RSVP, please email us at info@windigolake.org.

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.

HIGH WATER UPDATE AND SLOW NO-WAKE REQUESTS

Barb Pjevach

This past winter in the North Woods did not provide much 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 have done:

- 1) We will posted 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 posted a map at the landing of Windigo with these no-wake areas and higher speed recommended areas noted.
- 3) In addition, we have some signs left to post on our docks or on our shoreline asking boaters to slow-down. We have some of these signs left from year and the Soegaards have agreed to be a distribution point for people who desire to post them. We will be distributing the remaining signs, on a first come, first served basis. If you would like one, please contact Steve Soegaard at soegie1@centurylink.net or at 612-360-7205.

If you have guests, please make sure they know this information.

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>.

2020 WINDIGO SHORELINE PRESERVATION ADVISORY

Windigo is a seepage lake which does not have an outlet. Water levels are at an all-time high and shoreline is suffering erosion.

**AS A TEMPORARY MEASURE PLEASE
BOAT AT SLOW/ NO-WAKE SPEEDS
WITHIN 300 FEET OF ALL SHORE LINE
AND IN ALL THE BAYS OF WINDIGO.**

Slow No-Wake speed "is the speed at which a boat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control".

Thanks for your help in preserving the beauty and quality of Windigo!

HIGH WATER ALERT

**SLOW NO WAKE
PLEASE!**

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

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.

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

The CBCW is back in operation this summer and we were approved for a grant to help pay for our boat landing monitoring. Dennis Dollhopf is once again monitoring the Windigo boat landing on most weekends this summer. If you happen to be at the landing, please take a moment to thank Dennis if you can.



If anyone wants to read about the CBCW program and status, here is a link to their website: [CBCW website](#).

MEMBERSHIP

Dave and Donna Roeker

Thanks to everyone who has submitted membership dues thus far this year. We have 79 paid members thus far in 2021, 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:

<https://www.windigolake.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/2021-WLPOA-dues-letter-2-8-21.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.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Kris Soegaard

WLPOA’s income through June 30, 2021 is summarized below:

- We have received a total of \$4,805.00 in member contributions, which break down as follows:
 - \$1,975 in dues from members.
 - Donations to the Fish Management Fund in the amount of \$1,268.
 - Donations to the Invasive Species Fund in the amount of \$1,403.
 - Undesignated donations of \$25.00.
 - Donations to Friends of Windigo of \$135.
- This is close to members’ contributions of \$4,780 received in 2020.



We are grateful to all of our members for their continued support of WLPOA. As in previous years, we received very generous donations to our Fish Management Fund and Invasive Species Fund. Thank you!

In 2020, WLPOA was awarded a DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant. This grant was not used during 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. However, the DNR allowed WLPOA to roll over the unused grant dollars from 2020 and use them in 2021. 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.

As of June 30, 2021, WLPOA had the following account balances. The balances reflect the transfer of 2021 member donations to the Fish Management Reserve and the Invasive Species Reserve from the General Fund (Checking).

WLPOA Account Balances	Amount
General Fund (Checking)*	\$1,185.10
- Non-Dedicated Reserve (sits in the Checking)*	\$5,000.00
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Account)	\$7,615.89
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Account)	\$14,827.09
DNR Grant for 2021 (active)*	\$750.00
Total on Deposit	\$29,378.08

*The Checking account balance as of June 30, 2021 was \$6,935.10 (consisting of the three items asterisked in the table above).

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 with a hatched young loon spotted with parents on the east side of the lake. Please be careful this weekend and keep a wide berth if you see the Loons! There was another Loon nest in the northwest section of the lake but eagles were spotted attacking the nest.
- 3) A green heron has been spotted again.
- 4) We saw Bufflehead this Spring and Merganzers have been spotted again this year.
- 5) We have plenty of Mallard and Wood Ducks.
- 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. If someone is interested in learning about this role for the future, please talk to Marilyn about what it entails and let us know. Thanks!



LAKE TIDES NEWSLETTER – RECENT WALLEYE AND NATIVE PLANTINGS ARTICLES

The Lake Tides Newsletter is a free newsletter published by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. The summer issue has excellent information about walleye and native plantings. 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.aspx>

Here is a link to download the Summer 2021 edition with information about Walleye and native plantings:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/newsletter/vol46-vol50/vol46-2spring2021web.pdf>



FISHING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Paul Martin

We don't have any specific updates but want to remind everyone of our fishing regulations and suggested fishing practices.

Practice CPR: Catch, Phot, Release, our lake depends on it!

Fish you wish to release, and fish not meeting the legal length limit, should be played as little as possible and handled carefully with wet hands. The fish should not be out of the water longer than necessary to remove hooks, take a photograph, or measure the fish. If live release is intended, a quick-strike rig should be employed, where the hook is set immediately when a fish strikes to prevent deeply hooked fish. Deep-hooked fish, if meeting the legal limit should be kept. If the fish does not meet the legal length limit, it must be let go after cutting the line or leader as close to the hook as possible. For more information on responsible release, visit dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/outreach/responsible_release.html



While we believe that Windigo continues to face fishing pressures, it would be helpful for property owners to post the current year regulations in a visible place in your lake home for any friends and guests. We have attached it to the email with this emailed version of the newsletter. In addition, it is pictured here:

WINDIGO LAKE
General Fishing Regulations

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Length Limit
Walleye	General gamefish*	3	No minimum length limit, but only 1 walleye over 14" may be kept
Northern Pike	General gamefish*	5	None
Largemouth Bass	General gamefish*		14" minimum
Smallmouth Bass	Catch and release only from first weekend in May to third weekend in June	5, both species combined	14" minimum
Fresh Crayfish, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass	Open Year Round	5/15	5 of any species with a total of 15

*General gamefish season runs from the first Saturday in May through the first Sunday in March

3-line motor trolling is allowed



If you think someone has violated the fishing regulations, please text or call the DNR Violation Hotline.

DNR Violation Hotline – Support ethical, responsible fishing

TEXT or CALL

1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367)

Toll Free – Statewide – 24 Hour – Confidential

(Please Note that this is not an information number)

ATV Route updates

Barb Pjevach

Thanks to everyone who contacted the Bass Lake Board in March and April regarding ATV routes. The Bass Lake Board approved of some route expansion but has continued to NOT include Highline Road between the Transfer station and Williams Road.

PASSINGS

We lost a long-time Windigo community members this past December, Tom Eastman. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Eastman family.

Here is the link to his obituary: <https://www.apfelfuneral.com/obituaries/Thomas-R-Eastman?obId=19455019>

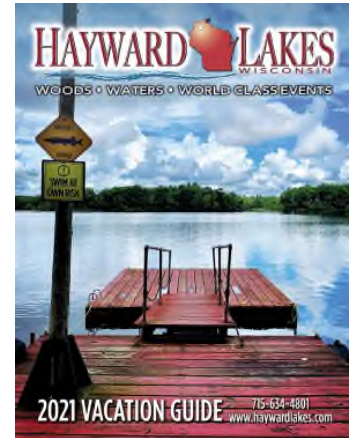
COMMUNITY UPDATES

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/?i=679753>



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.

Our current Town Supervisors are:

Justin Hall, Chairman

Phone: 715-634-4226

Dave Aubart, Supervisor

Phone: 715-634-5016

Don Adams, Supervisor

Phone: 715-699-0594

Marshal Savitski, Supervisor

Phone: 630-800-7787

Bob Hammond, Supervisor

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: The Vice President helps out on various projects as needed throughout the year. If someone is interested in potentially being President at some point in the future, this is a great role to try out.

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

We have historically 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 this summer. If you would like to access the version from last year, here is the link for a 1 page version: https://drive.google.com/file/d/19-MuabWxq1OnKDSStlG8Rp_dgupWRD-ik/view

For those of us preferring a slightly larger version on 2 pages, here is that link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Dz6rC7RdrXCcAGI6FUmCte8dtE6uqz57/view>

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