

# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter –Spring 2023

(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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## **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

## **Spring 2023 Index:**

- President's Commentary
- Spring Dinner
- Annual Meeting recap
- Membership
- Treasurer Report
- Lake Environment
- Fish and Wildlife Committee
- Volunteers Needed
- Contour Windigo Map
- Upcoming Conferences

## **CURRENT REMINDERS:**

- 1) Membership renewal letters were mailed out February.
- 2) Our Spring Dinner is set for 4/29/23 at Trailways.
- 3) Hold the date for our Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic on Sat 8/12/2023 at the Persells Family home on Windigo.

## **PRESIDENT COMMENTARY**

*Patrick Steininger*



### WLPOA Presidents Note

Well, as usual winter is hanging on in Hayward, and with the spring dinner coming up at the end of April we wonder if the snow will still be around. I'm betting yes, based on the amount in our driveway area and on the roof of our house. We have Dr. Kim Ammann from the Winged Raptor Freedom Hospital as a speaker this year for the Spring Dinner on April 29th at Trailways. There is still time to register.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable winter, and it should be a great 2023 on Windigo Lake!

As always if you or someone you know on the lake has some time to volunteer for the WLPOA, and would like some more information, please reach out to myself or anyone on the Board.

Patrick Steininger WLPOA President  
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## **Please join us for the Spring Dinner: Saturday April 29, 2023**

*Barb Pjevach*



We are holding our Spring Dinner 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).

Trailways is hosting us with their whole restaurant. Our speaker will be Dr. Kim Ammann, Founder and President of the Winged Freedom Raptor Center in Spooner.

Please join us! If you have misplaced your reservation form, see the attached form to the emailed version of this newsletter or email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) to get a form. Please return your reservation form and check by April 15, 2023.

## **WLPOA Annual Meeting August 13, 2022**

*Barb Pjevach*

We have attached the minutes of our annual meeting held Saturday August 13, 2022 at the home of Dennis and DeAnn Persells. 39 people attended the meeting and a few more came to attend just the picnic. We enjoyed listening to local musicians Bob and Howard and some lawn games. The Annual meeting and picnic this coming summer will again be at the Persells home on Saturday August 12, 2023.

We had lots of good discussion and dialogue during the meeting and after at the picnic. Thanks to all who came!

Topics

Report

- Nominating
- Treasurer Report
- Secretary Report
- Committee Reports
  - Membership
  - Lake Environment – Loon Update
  - Fish and Wildlife
  - Social
- Old Business
  - Oak Wilt Update
  - Decontamination Stations
- New Business
  - New Book Group at the library
  - Williams Road
  - Bass Lake Fire Department transition and staffing shortage



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## **MEMBERSHIP**

*Anne Marie and Mike Fries*

Thanks to everyone who chose to be a member of WLPOA this past year. We had 85 paid members in 2022.

The annual dues letter was sent out in February via mail. If you did not receive one please contact Anne Marie Fries at [amf291@gmail.com](mailto:amf291@gmail.com). We have also attached one to the email if you receive an emailed version of this newsletter.

The membership fee of \$25.00 is a small price to pay to help preserve our lakes and support our property owners. We are very lucky to have a community that cares about continuing the health and beauty of Windigo and surrounding lakes.

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 species. WLPOA, Inc. is a nonprofit organization so your membership donation may be tax-deductible as provided by law.

**TREASURER REPORT**

*Kris Soegaard*

**Member Dues Drive**

WLPOA’s annual income from Member Dues through December 30, 2022 is summarized below:

- We received a total of \$4,085 in member contributions, which consisted of the following:
- \$2,000 in dues from members.
- Donations to the Fish Management Fund in the amount of \$875.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund in the amount of \$935.
- Undesignated donations of \$25.00.
- Donations to Friends of Windigo of \$125.
- Contributions for 2022 were less than those received in 2021 (\$4,830).



We are grateful to all of our members for their continued support of WLPOA. Thank you!

**Expenses**

WLPOA had expenses of \$3,931.82 for calendar year 2022.

**DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant**

We applied for a 2022 Clean Boats Clean Water Grant from the DNR and the grant request was approved. We received an advance payment in the amount of \$750 in early 2022.

However, our historical landing monitor was not available to work for us this past summer. In addition, Colleen Graham, who has managed this program for many years, resigned from her position on the board at the end of last year. We were unable to recruit a landing monitor and to date, we do not yet have a new property owner volunteer to fill this position. Therefore, we were unable to perform the tasks required of the grant. The \$750 advance will be returned to the DNR.



**Account Balances**

As of December 30, 2022, WLPOA had the following account balances. The balances reflect the transfer of 2022 member donations to the Fish Management Reserve and the Invasive Species Reserve from the General Fund (Checking).

<b>WLPOA Account Balances – 12/30/2022</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$7,030.22
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Account)	\$8,491.98
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Account)	\$15,764.62
DNR Grant for 2022 (active)	\$750.00
<b>Total on Deposit</b>	<b>\$32,036.82</b>

## **LAKE ENVIRONMENT**

### **Clean boats, Clean Waters Grant**

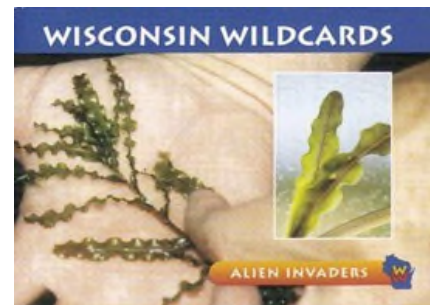
As Kris noted in our Treasurer report, WLPOA had previously been approved for a Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant for many years which we used to help to pay for most of our boat landing monitor costs. The landing was staffed on most weekends and holidays from fishing opener through Labor Day. We have had to suspend our boat landing monitoring and participation in this program because we need a volunteer to help with the grant application, hiring of the monitor and reporting of the data gathered. If you have an interest in helping with this role, please contact any board member or send an email to [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org).

### **Decontamination Stations**

Sawyer County recently passed an ordinance regarding decontamination stations at boat landings. The ordinance doesn't require the stations to be installed; however, if a decontamination station is available and stocked, it must be used to clean the vessel before entering and exiting the waterbody. Failure to use the station could result in a warning followed by fines for repeated offenses. Washburn, Bayfield, and Ashland counties already passed similar ordinances. Dan Lew has been working with the DNR and the Town of Bass Lake. He also has researched the existing station at Whitefish Lake for planning and specifying the installation of a decontamination station at the Windigo boat landing. The WLPOA Board will be reviewing and working with Dan this Spring to plan next steps. Thanks Dan for all of your work on this project!

### **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watch**

Thanks to everyone for your continued interest and vigilance in looking for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)! As a reminder, there are 2 major plant 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.

### **Invasive Species in Sawyer County**

There are increasing types of aquatic invasive species in Sawyer County lakes. The county keeps a list of what AIS have been found in each of the lakes. The listing is at this web address:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISByWaterbody.aspx?location=58> .

**Chinese Mystery Snails Found in Windigo**

Dan Lew brought some largish snails that he found to the Annual Picnic last August and sent pictures to the DNR for evaluation as requested after we contacted Max Wolter. One of the pictures is to the right. Scott Van Egeren, who is a water resources expert at the DNR confirmed that the snails did look like Chinese Mystery Snails. This will be the first invasive species that has been found in Windigo. There is no known effective way to get rid of them once found in a lake.



Scott also gave us a link to a great information document to help in identifying snails:

<http://northamericanlandsnails.org/wifreshwatersnailskey/wifwsnailkey.html>

Here is some specific information about Chinese Mystery Snails from UW:

<https://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/our-work/focus-areas/ais/invasive-species/invasive-species-fact-sheets/mollusks/chinese-mystery-snail/>

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**

*Paul Martin*

Greetings!

There were several homeowners who contacted me after seeing a DNR shock boat this fall. I contacted Max Wolter (DNR Fish Biologist) to confirm if there was an actual survey taken. He confirmed that it did happen and we discussed the results. Many factors are involved with the processing of the data from the study, but it did show a decline in Walleye



reproduction from the previous years. Without any more studies that would target the adult fish population (Fyke netting in the spring) it is hard to determine the health of the fish population in Windigo. The fishing pressure is heavy, and coupled with the recent data from the shock survey suggests a decline in adult Walleye and Largemouth Bass. More surveys are needed to determine more accurate population estimates.

This latest survey supports the theory of the slow decline in our fish population, making catch and release a very important tool in keeping our fishery healthy.

**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](mailto:mkonkler55@gmail.com) with your loon sightings and observations this coming spring and summer. Marilyn is also looking for someone to take over her Loon Watch Volunteer role. It can be very fun and you can contact her to learn more about it. To find out more information about the Northland College Loon Watch Program follow this link:

<https://www.northland.edu/centers/soei/loonwatch/loons-get-involved/>

### **REQUEST FROM DONNA ROEKER**

I was planning to talk to everyone at the picnic, however, covid had its way and I was unable to attend. As the past membership contact, I wanted to express my thanks for the lake association. We really have a great group of people who have volunteered their time and knowledge to make this association what it is, however, VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!! I'm sure people feel they are only here part-time and therefore unable to help. That is not the case!! It doesn't take a lot of time and it's a great way to get to know people on the lake. We have a very desirable lake and our association remains very active in trying to preserve it. YOU can make a difference by volunteering and getting involved.

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### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

In addition to the openings below, many of our Board members have served 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 part of any of the roles. The Board does 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 would also welcome someone who would want to start as Vice President with the desire to move into the President role later.

**Lake Environment and Safety Chair:** Focus on conservations efforts relating to water quality, shoreline preservation maintaining high quality aquatic environment for fish and wildlife. Work with state, county and township to achieve these goals. Supervise and manage boat landing monitoring.

**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.

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

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

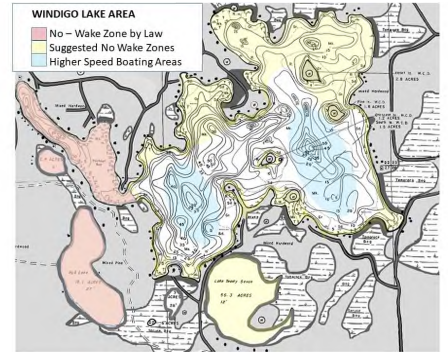
**Loon Watch Volunteer:** Monitor and gather loon sightings from people on the lakes. It is helpful to get connected with the Northland College Loon Watch program.

We try to make sure that we split up various WLPOA responsibilities and help one another to ensure 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](mailto:info@windigolake.org) and we can forward your request to the appropriate person.

**WINDIGO LAKE CONTOUR MAP**

*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 on the link below to download the map and lake courtesies.



The link to download is:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1\\_RXKRjwDk91Nc1tzKEu-vC1RWhKOw8vx/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_RXKRjwDk91Nc1tzKEu-vC1RWhKOw8vx/view?usp=sharing)

We will be updating the map which shows property owners by location this summer and will distribute it with the summer newsletter.

**UPCOMING AREA CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

*Barb Pjevach*

Spring is a always a great time for events and educational conferences in the North Woods. Here are some that may interest some of you:

**Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention, April 19-21, 2023, Stevens Point.**

- **LEARN** from respected experts, grassroots organizers, and passionate water advocates.
- **ENGAGE** in the workshops and interactive discussion sessions.
- **ENHANCE** your network of water-focused professionals.

Find out more at: <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>

**Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Spooner Wisconsin**

Tentatively planned for Friday June 22ates are being finalized for this conference. Information will be posted at: <https://wclra.org/events/>





**Windigo Lake Property Owners Association**

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		<a href="mailto:amf291@gmail.com">amf291@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Invasive Species Monitoring &amp; Safety Volunteer</b>	<b>Open</b>	
<b>Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>	<b>Paul Martin</b>	<b>651-260-1733</b>
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