

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Summer 2022

(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 lower, but please continue to keep all higher speed boating well clear of all shoreline.
- 2) Loons are back. EVERYONE, please stay clear of them.
- 3) Please educate all visitors about our lake courtesies and fishing regulations.
- 4) Enjoy summer on our beautiful lakes!

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DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

Patrick Steininger

Hope everyone is having a great summer on the lake ! The Steininger family enjoyed late June and Early July with a great vacation, the weather was outstanding.

Just an FYI , with gas prices rising, there have been some reports of siphoning of boat gas tanks on the lake, so be aware of your area and surroundings if you are away from your lake house for any extended time.

I'm looking forward to the annual meeting this year at the Percells, thank you very much Dennis and DeAnn for hosting again this year !

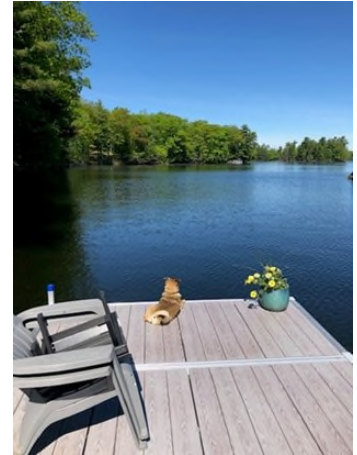
Have a great rest of the summer !

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 13, 2022**. The business meeting will be held at 4pm. The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm. Bratwurst, hot dogs, 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.

We also welcome family and friends and children to the picnic. We will have some yard games and encourage you to bring a favorite.

NEW: We will have at least 2 hours of live music starting at 5pm with “Bob and Howard”, who play guitars and sing a nice variety of popular music. You may have seen them at various local venues this summer such as Trails End Resort and Red Schoolhouse Wines.

The event will be held again at Dennis and DeAnn Persells’ home at 15881W Tanager Trail. Note that similar to last year, this will be an outdoor event with rain cover provided in Persells’ big 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. Also feel free to just come if you forget to RSVP.

WE NEED WLPOA VOLUNTEERS – PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING BOARD/COMMITTEES

In addition to the openings below, many of our Board members have been on the Board for many years and we really need some new people to volunteer to 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.

Lake Environment Board Member: Annually hire a boat landing monitor to staff weekends, enter data into the DNR SWIMS database, assist the Treasurer in administrating the annual Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) grant. Keep in touch with the DNR, the Loon Ranger volunteer and other property owners regarding lake environment topics. We thank Colleen Graham who has volunteered in this role for many years in addition to several other Board positions. She is retiring at the end of this year. We also would like a 2nd volunteer to help with some of the activity during the year. Maybe 2 people could volunteer together?

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.

MEMBERSHIP

Anne Marie and Mike Fries

Thanks to everyone who has submitted membership dues thus far this year. We currently have 80 paid members in 2022, staying 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://drive.google.com/file/d/1I-OaE48EyM72gNWpO3QL1RoHa-hss-4l/view?usp=sharing>

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.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Kris Soegaard

WLPOA’s income through June 15, 2022 is summarized below:

We have received a total of \$5,997 in member contributions to date. As of June 15, 2022, WLPOA had the following account balances.



WLPOA Account Balances	Amount
General Fund (Checking)*	\$9,096.20
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Account)	\$7,660.60
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Account)	\$14,828.88
DNR Grant for 2022 (active)*	\$750.00
Total on Deposit	\$32,291.68
<i>*amounts sit in general checking account</i>	

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

For many past years, WLPOA has been awarded a DNR Clean Boats Clean Water Grant. 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.

This year, we have been unable to hire a boat landing monitor so we will need to return the advanced funds. To continue getting this grant in the future, we desperately need a volunteer to take over the Lake Environment job from Colleen Graham. Colleen will help the new volunteer with the grant application this fall.

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

As reported earlier this year, we did receive another CBCW grant for boat landing monitoring. However, our previous monitor, Dennis, was not available this summer to monitor on weekends and our attempts to hire someone else have not been successful. So we have been unable to use our grant. We hope that we can get the program going again in 2023 and that we can get a grant even though we did not use our grant this year. Also, as previously discussed, we need a new volunteer leader for this role after this year.

If anyone wants to read about the CBCW program and status, here is a link to their website: [CBCW website: https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/FAQ.aspx](https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/FAQ.aspx)



FISHING AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE UPDATES

Paul Martin

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources completed a study that was designed to estimate the crappie population this spring. I had the pleasure of accompanying Max Wolter and crew when they were pulling the Fyke nets used to capture fish for the study. The pace was fast, as the crew had another lake to go to in the afternoon, but the experience was very interesting. The Fyke net is a large tube-like net with steel rings holding it in a long circular shape. There is a larger capture area at the end that the fish swim to and can't escape. When the nets were pulled, the fish were scooped out with a hand net and placed in a large tub filled with water in the middle of the boat. Once the net was empty and stored on the boat, the fish were taken one by one out of the tub and measured. This data was being entered immediately into the computer database by Max.

The process was amazing and the number of crappies was very good. It was a direct result of the 5-15 rule put into effect a few years ago. Walleyes were few, and this parallels the data that although they are of decent size, they are not very abundant in our lake. Largemouth bass continue to decline because of heavy fishing pressure.

Please remember to catch and release, especially bigger fish that are the breeding stock for next year. A photo of the fish is all you need!

I would also like to mention the major contributions that Colleen Graham has given this community over the years. Her work and efforts to better this lake has been greatly appreciated. Thanks Colleen!

**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

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: This is not an information number)

**Practice CPR Catch, Photo, Release
our lake depends on it!**

Catch And Release Responsibly: It Will Grow On You!
 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 held 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/responsiblerelease.html

SHORELINE AND BOATING UPDATES

Thankfully, the water levels have subsided this year. Even though extreme shoreline damage has lessened, it is still nice that boaters have been keeping higher speeds away from the shore. This really enhances protecting the shore and enables safety of shore-hugging wildlife, swimmers, floaters, and others who enjoy fewer waves near their property.



Here are a few boating reminders:

- 1) Please make sure that you and your guests know the Wisconsin laws for boating. You can download the Wisconsin DNR handbook at this link: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/0vw8hwrae3>.
- 2) As a reminder there is a Bass Lake Ordinance that classifies **the entirety of Portage Bay as a no-wake zone.**
- 3) Sawyer County has an ordinance that requires any Wake Boating be done at least 700 feet from shore. Because of Windigo Lake's size and bays, **Wake Boating is not allowed at all on any part of Windigo Lake.** FYI, Wake Boating is a specific type of boating in which the boat creates a large wave that enables surfing behind it without a rope. It is becoming more popular on large bodies of water.
- 4) Please operate all boats at no-wake speeds on Lake 27 It is a small shallow lake with lots of wildlife and adjacent wetlands.
- 5) Please operate all boats at slow/no-wake speeds in all of the smaller bays on Windigo Lake.

A Few Key DNR Regulations:

As a reminder, here are a few of DNR regulations for all Wisconsin lakes. Boats need to have no wake 100 feet from shore. 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.

All boats (motorized and non-motorized) should stay clear of the loons. Motorized boats including PWCs, should stay at least 200 feet from any loons.

The WI DNR did some studies about impacts of boating on lakes. Here is a link to the report: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/publications/documents/lakes.pdf>.

NEW AIS DECOMTAMINATION LAW AND POTENTIAL WINDIGO PROJECT

Barb Pjevach

In January of this year, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors passed a law that requires decontamination of all boats entering and exiting any lake in Sawyer County that has a decontamination station at the boat launch. The new law was written up in the February 2, 2022 Sawyer County Record.

Per the article, "The ordinance defines a "decontamination station" as "any device provided at a public or private waterway access to remove



all potential invasive species.”

It notes “the station may consist of high temperature water (140 degrees Fahrenheit or more) applied with pressure washer by trained personnel, a recommended chemical solution (such as simple bleach/water 500 ppm solution, i.e. 2 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water) applied with a low-pressure sprayer, or any other acceptable technique as approved and abided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Best Management Practices or other equivalent policy.””

The article gives the following additional information: “Penalties for a first offense for failing to follow the ordinance would be a warning letter from the county’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coordinator. The second offense carries a \$300 fine plus court costs, and for a third and subsequent citation, \$1,000 plus court costs.

Zoning Administrator Jay Kozlowski said the ordinance is for the prevention of AIS that are already present in the county, and other species, such as zebra mussels and spiny water fleas, which are present in neighboring counties.”

Another facet of implementing a decontamination station is that because each boat entering and exiting the lake must use it, it would make timely entry of large numbers of boats at one time much more difficult. The Whitefish Lake Association has implemented signage and a simple tank with bleach solution at their boat landing. The cost to implement a simple system is estimated at under \$5000, mostly for the signage.



A few of us have discussed this concept for Windigo for implementation at the parking lot by our boat landing, but we need a volunteer to lead the implementation of the project. If you are interested in helping out on this project, please contact any WLPOA Board member.

HIGHLINE ROAD ATV ROUTE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Barb Pjevach

Thanks to everyone who contacted the Bass Lake Board this Spring and Summer regarding Highline Road as an ATV route. Whatever your opinion, engagement with our local government is always good. Highline Road between Williams Road and Highway K had been turned down as an ATV route several times in recent years with the support of many including property owners on the road. Last month with pressure from Sawyer County organizations, the Bass Lake Town Board did approve that section of road as an ATV route last month and signs have been put in place.

Also as an FYI, at the July Bass Lake Town Board Meeting, the long-time volunteer Bass Lake fire chief, Marvin Mullet, was asked to leave his job by the Bass Lake Town Board even though many who attended the meeting voiced strong support for Marv. Following the meeting quite a few firemen have also quit. As an FYI, The Bass Lake Fire Department is a volunteer organization. We thought we should make our property owners aware of the situation because if someone does need the fire department in the near term, the LCO Fire Department or the City of Hayward Fire Department will be the closest departments to help us.

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 but we don't think we have any surviving young loons this year. There was a nest in Lake 27 but it was attacked by a predator of some type.
- 3) Great Blue and Green herons has been spotted again.
- 4) We saw Bufflehead and Merganzers earlier this year.
- 5) Some geese and our neighborly deer are also present.
- 6) Eagles have been spotted and we believe the nest location is near Lake 27.
- 7) Beavers were in action last fall and were seen often this winter.
- 8) We have spotted otters again.

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. Adult loons can become stressed and will readily abandon a nest when strangers approach. Please stay well clear of the loons with ALL BOATS 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 has been Marilyn Konkler. Please contact her at **mkonkler55@gmail.com** with your loon sightings and observations throughout the summer. Marilyn would like pass the baton to a new Loon Ranger so we need someone for this role for the future. Please talk to Marilyn about what it entails. If you want to read more about the Loon Ranger program, here is the link:

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

You can even sign-up easily on this page and Northland College helps with the education process.



OAK WILT UPDATE

Barb Pjevach

As we discussed last year at our Annual Meeting, Oak Wilt has been increasingly found in Sawyer County and in trees on a few properties on Windigo Lake. Since last year, properties on both the south side and north side of the lake have been found to have Oak Wilt.

Oak Wilt has been in Wisconsin since the 1940s. It is a fungus that gets in the root systems and blocks the ability for water to fuel the tree. It travels thru roots of Oak trees that can spread 100 feet. It can also be spread by beetles that feed on dead Oak bark and then can carry the fungus to other trees. So, the best time to trim Oak Trees is in winter, but sometimes, dead wood can happen other times of the year after thunderstorms and can create risk.

Oak Wilt fungus is fatal to the tree. However there is a preventative treatment that can be injected in uninfected trees every 2 years to prevent the fungus from taking hold. The DNR website has good pictures to help identify Oak Wilt. Oak Wilt starts at the top of the tree. Red Oak are the most

susceptible and White Oak can also get Oak Wilt but are less susceptible. Professional tree services can help with preventive treatments.

Here is a link to more information from the Wisconsin DNR:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/foresthealth/oakwilt>.

LAKE TIDES NEWSLETTER – PROTECTING LAKE HEALTH

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.

There was an interesting article about lake health that talked about the Grindstone Lake cranberry bog project. Note that the article starts on pages 4 and 5, then finishes on page 15. Here is a link:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/resources/newsletter/vol46-vol50/vol46-4fall2021web.pdf#page=4>

Here is the link to the current newsletter and newsletter search page:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/resources/newsletter/default.aspx>

Capacity Corner - Nov. 2021 Carrying Out Programs to Protect Lake Health

As Eric Olson, Director and Lake Specialist, Executive Editor

The pyramid diagram illustrates the relationship between Program, Membership, and Capacity. The top level is Program, the middle is Membership, and the base is Capacity. Text explains that Capacity is the foundation, Membership is the middle, and Program is the top. It notes that Capacity is the foundation of a program, Membership is the middle, and Program is the top. It also mentions that Capacity is the foundation of a program, Membership is the middle, and Program is the top.

For more information, visit www.wisconsinlakes.org.

SPRING DINNER RECAP

Barb Pjevach

After a 2 year COVID hiatus we had a fun and successful Spring Dinner at Trailways Inn on Saturday April 30th with close to 40 people in attendance. It was great to connect and catch up with fellow property owners in a comfortable social setting with good food! Thanks to everyone who joined us!

Our speaker was Alison Slavik of the American Birkebeiner Foundation. She told us about the Historic Telemark Property Project.

The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation’s mission is to promote and conduct the finest international cross country ski competition; to serve as good stewards of the American Birkebeiner Trail; and to support healthy and active lifestyles among people of all ages and abilities. The Foundation acquires land for conservation purposes to help reach their goals. In a nutshell, the Foundation has a mission to get people outside.

In purchasing the historic Telemark property, they are reaching toward a dream. They have established a conservancy to protect the property’s recreation and conservation value forever. They have already received some state grants and have sold some of the land to a land trust as a preserve and 500 acres will be protected for recreation.



Alison gave us a short history of the Telemark property which was originally opened in 1947 by Tony Wise who grew up in the Hayward area and had attended Harvard. He got the idea for the 4-star

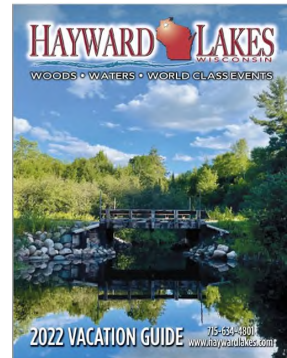
Telemark Ski Resort from skiing in the Swiss Alps. He operated it successfully for over 40 years. He led the creation of the Birkebeiner Ski race in 1973. Tony dedicated his life to the Hayward area. He also founded the Lumberjack Championships, was Mayor of Hayward and held numerous community service roles. The Telemark Lodge was lost to bankruptcy in 1984. The Birkebeiner Race was saved by creation of the American Birkebeiner Foundation. After Telemark was closed, the lodge building was quite distressed. Alison noted that the old Telemark lodge could not be saved, but they were able to save the rocks from the massive fireplace and they will be used in a future project at the site. They are continuing to apply for grants and are taking donations to help with the project.

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=727436&pre=1>



Local government and upcoming meetings

We have stayed involved with the town board on issues that affect our lake. Thank you to everyone who has attended the town meetings, sent letters or made phone calls 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. You can participate in person or remotely via Zoom.

Our current Town Supervisors are:

Justin Hall, Chairman

Phone: 715-634-4226

Dave Aubart, Supervisor

Phone: 715-634-5016

Jim Evans, Supervisor

Phone: 715-558-7575

Marshal Savitski, Supervisor

Phone: 630-800-7787

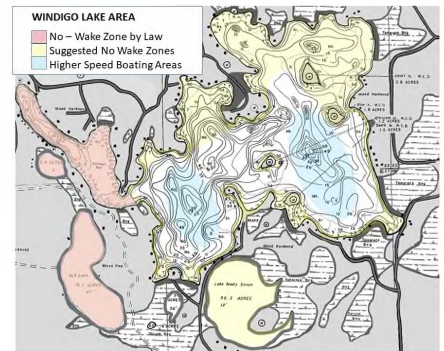
Bob Hammond, Supervisor

Phone: 651-338-7532

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:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_RXKRjwDk91Nc1tzKEu-vC1RWhKOW8vx/view?usp=sharing

We also maintain a lake map with property owners noted.

Here is a link to the updated map and property owner listing as of 8-2022:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D7GDIJlejg4BEDJ83ye8ZLDvZL34DBS-/view?usp=sharing>

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	Barb Pjevach	612-964-6199 brpjevach@gmail.com
Board Member At-Large	Steve Soegaard	612-360-7205 soegie1@centurylink.net

<u>Committees</u>		
Social	Open	
Membership	Anne Marie and Mike Fries	715-634-3062 amf291@gmail.com
Lake Environment & Safety	Colleen Graham	715-558-3008 colleen.m.graham@gmail.com
Invasive Species Monitoring & Safety Volunteer	Open	
Fish & Wildlife	Paul Martin	651-260-1733 pmwood80@yahoo.com
Communications	Barb Pjevach	612-964-6199 brpjevach@gmail.com