

# Windigo Lake Area Newsletter – Winter/Spring 2024

(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

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## **CURRENT REMINDERS:**

- 1) The Membership renewal letter and Spring Dinner reservation form were mailed out in February. Please return these as soon as possible.
- 2) Our Spring Dinner is set for 4/27/24 at Trailways.
- 3) Hold the date for our Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic on Sat 8/10/2024 at the Persells Family home on Windigo.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- April 27, 2024 – Spring Dinner
- August 10, 2024 – Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic at the Persells Family Home

## **PRESIDENT COMMENTARY**

*Dick Steininger*



### WLPOA Presidents Note

As the 2023 season came to a close, we have so much to be thankful for. We live on one of the most beautiful lakes in the north woods and want to keep it that way. The only way we can keep it this way is to help the association and being a good neighbor and pay your dues. Due to the lack of rain our lake level has come down to a more normal level which has helped some of the higher shores for eroding as well as keeping the mosquito population down.

We are looking into a boat cleaning station which will help keep that invasive species threat down. More to follow in the next newsletter.

I would also like to have for lack of a better term, bay captains. Our home is near the boat landing and I have a pretty good idea what is happening in our area especially the south side of our bay. If your board is going to represent you, we have to know what is happening in Portage Bay, Lake 27 (Little Bass), Hub Lake and middle bay. We do have some volunteers for the east bay and part of the middle bay but need some volunteers from west and east side of Portage Bay the south side of the middle bay and Lake 27. We are talking about a minimal amount of time to report what is happening in these areas. Please let me know if you can help out.

We have marked an area with plastic bottles around Pine Island where we have had some boating problems due to the rocks. If you know of areas around the lake that can cause problems, please let us know so we can identify them and do something about the problem.

I have had some feedback of loud outside parties going well into the morning hours. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

I'm looking forward to being your lake President for the next couple of years. Hope to see you at the spring dinner.

Dick Steininger WLPOA President  
egvdickjsteininger@gmail.com

## **Please join us for the Spring Dinner: Saturday April 27, 2024**

*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 Max Wolter, Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Fisheries Management, Wisconsin DNR.

Please join us! Reservation forms were mailed out in early February. 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 20, 2024.

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## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL WLPOA MEETING AND PICNIC**

*Barb Pjevach*

The Annual WLPOA Business Meeting and Picnic will be held again this year on Saturday **August 10, 2024**. The business meeting will be held at 4pm. The picnic will follow at approximately 5pm and will be a similar format to prior years.

We will have a musical entourage performing at the picnic named Home Again from Cumberland. We encourage family and friends and children to come to the picnic. We will have some yard games and encourage you to bring a favorite. **We would love to have a volunteer to help coordinate and get games going.** Please let DeAnn Persells ([depersells@sbcglobal.net](mailto:depersells@sbcglobal.net)) know if you could help out with this.

**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 (if needed).

Any questions? Want to help? Please feel free to contact any Board member or email us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org).

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## **WLPOA ANNUAL MEETING 8/12/2023**

*Barb Pjevach*

We held our annual meeting on Saturday August 12, 2023 at the home of Dennis and DeAnn Persells. The Annual meeting and picnic this coming summer will again be at the Persells home on Saturday August 10, 2024.

We had lots of good discussion and dialogue during the meeting and after at the picnic. This is a great event to meet your lake neighbors. Thanks to all who came!

Topics were:

- **Secretary Report:** Barb Pjevach had sent out the minutes from last year's annual meeting with the newsletter. The minutes were approved by membership as submitted.

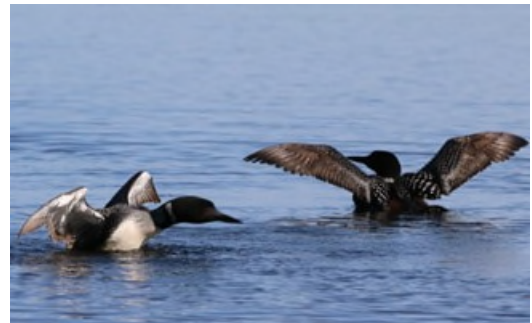
- **Treasurer Report:** Kris Soegaard reported the WLPOA finances that had been sent out with the most recent newsletter.
- **Nominating:** As discussed previously, we have not had many volunteers to be WLPOA Board members. Patrick Steininger has been our president for many years and wanted to step down. Luckily we had a couple of people volunteer to take positions on the Board and nominations from the floor were made. Dick Steininger was nominated as President and Paul Martin was nominated as Vice President. They were approved by membership. We thank them for volunteering to serve our organization!



- **Committee Reports:**

- **Membership:** Anne Marie Fries reported that to-date we have 82 members.
- **Lake Environment:** Marilyn Konkler reported that we did not have any successful loon nests on any of our lakes. There may have been a nest on lake 27 that was possibly destroyed by otters. There was discussion about possible trapping of destructive mammals but to date, people were only aware of beavers being trapped. There was also discussion about whether we could add loon platforms for the lake, but with some input from those with experience, we discussed that platforms are not recommended because they can be attacked by creatures and can be displaced by wind.
- There was also discussion about boating too close to shore and a reminder that in the State of Wisconsin, boats are only allowed at no-wake speeds within 100 feet of the shore. A possible new bridge on Thunderpoint Rd over the waterway between Windigo and Lake 27 was discussed.. This would be done by the Town of Bass Lake. Timing was not known.

- **Fish and Wildlife:** Paul Martin reported that there is heavy fishing pressure on our lakes. He also reported that the DNR does not have any fish surveys planned for the rest of the year. Paul also noted that we need to get the word out to not just fish on fish cribs and dropped trees because that leads to overfishing.



- **Social:** There was discussion about the Spring Dinner and possible options for next year. Trailways struggled to handle our group but ours was their first day open with their new kitchen equipment. There was discussion about giving them another chance. We also discussed other options like the Steakhouse, and the Veterans center. There are pros and cons to each option discussed. We discussed investigating different options.

- **Old Business:**

- **Decontamination Station:** There was discussion that we are working on a project to potentially add a decontamination station to the parking lot at the Windigo boat launch. We are planning to apply for a DNR grant to help fund the system. We will need a team to work on this project.
- There were questions about the Bass Lake Fire Department from the previous year discussion. Things have calmed down since the Fire Chief changed last year.

However, fire department volunteer numbers are not as high as the Town would like.

- **New Business:**
  - There was no new business discussed other than topics that were brought up in other parts of the meeting.

**TREASURER REPORT**

*Kris Soegaard*

Below is an update on financial activity through December 31, 2023.

**Member Dues Drive (as previously reported)**

WLPOA’s annual income from Member Dues paid in 2023 is summarized below:

- We received a total of \$4,658 in member contributions, which consisted of the following:
  - \$2,050 in dues from members.
  - Donations to the Fish Management Fund in the amount of \$1,189.
  - Donations to the Invasive Species Fund in the amount of \$1,299.
  - Donations to Friends of Windigo of \$120.
- Contributions for 2023 were higher than those received in 2022 (\$4,085).

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

**Expenses**

WLPOA had expenses for 2023 of \$2,703.61. Expenses were for the membership drive, the annual meeting/picnic, production of the newsletter, membership in the Wisconsin Lakes organization, required payments to governmental entities, administrative tasks and a refund to the DNR for an advance payment for the 2022 CWCB (Clean Water, Clean Boats) grant that we were unable to complete due to a lack of staffing for the boat landing.

**Account Balances**

As of December 31, 2023, WLPOA had the following account balances. The balances reflect the transfer of 2023 member donations to the Fish Management Reserve and the Invasive Species Reserve from the General Fund (Checking).

<b>WLPOA Account Balances – 12-31-2023</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Fund (Checking)	\$6,562.53
Dedicated Fish Management Reserve (Savings Account)	\$9,611.85
Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Account)	<u>\$17,030.27</u>
<b>Total on Deposit</b>	<b>\$33,204.65</b>



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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 83 members in 2023.

The annual dues letter is being sent out in early February via mail. If you do 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.

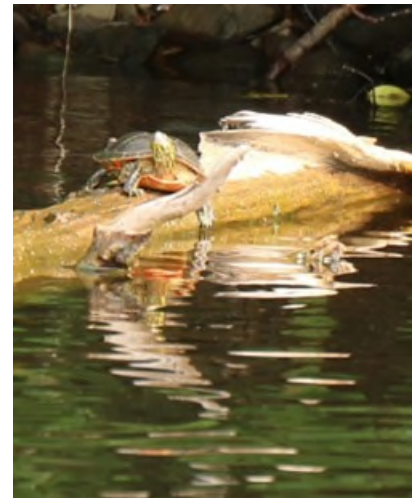
WLPOA serves property owners on Windigo Lake, Hub Lake, and Lake 27 by promoting communication and cooperation among lakeshore owners and by working with the DNR and local government to maintain lake quality and protect our lake from invasive aquatic species. WLPOA is a nonprofit organization so your membership donation may be tax-deductible as provided by law.

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## **LAKE ENVIRONMENT**

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

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 suspended our boat landing monitoring and participation in this program after we struggled getting staffing and someone to lead the program to hire and manage the boat landing monitor. If anyone is willing to voluntarily monitor our boat landing (it is an educational role to ask a few questions of people when they are launching and trailering boats) during some weekends this summer, contact us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org).



### **Windigo Decontamination Station**

Sawyer County has an ordinance regarding decontamination/wash 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 have similar ordinances. According to the DNR, the main way aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil spread to new waters is often by hitching a ride on the boats and trailers of the very people who enjoy the water the most. They have also noted that lakes that have installed decontamination stations have experienced

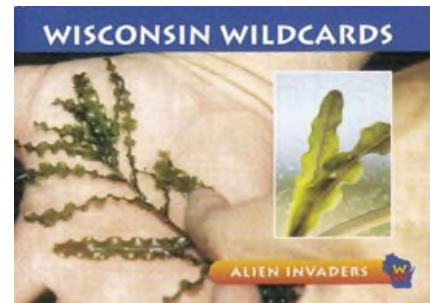
lessened use by fishing clubs due to time challenges of taking each boat through the decontamination/wash process. A fishing club event on our lake can bring up to 19 boats to the lake in an evening.

As we previously reported, Dan Lew did some excellent preliminary research work with the DNR and the Town of Bass Lake about a potential decontamination station at the Windigo boat landing. Paul Martin joined the effort and along with Dan researched other stations on other lakes and created preliminary specifications and drawings for a hot water based decontamination station at the Windigo boat landing parking lot. Based on their work, we submitted a plan for our decontamination station and requested a grant from the Wisconsin DNR to help fund this project. This was submitted in November 2023. We did acquire approval from the Town of Bass Lake to install the system. (They own the land with the landing and parking lot.) We also acquired letters of support from neighboring lake associations and Sawyer County.

In late February, we received approval of our grant request from the Wisconsin DNR. They will fund \$19,750 toward the system. We are currently working on quantifying the ongoing costs of operating the system to make sure we have ample ongoing dollars to cover these costs. The WLPOA Board and team are working on finalizing the design and putting together the detailed project plan. **If you have any interest in volunteering to help with any part of this project, please let us know by contacting any board member or emailing us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org)**

**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://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/AISByWaterbody.aspx?location=58>

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE**

*Paul Martin*

Winter finally showed up and is trying to make up for giving us a mild fall!

The fall season brought a constant flow of fisherman on the lake, with the majority of them pursuing walleye. We can only hope that some of the fish were released.

First ice came in early December, and the varying temperatures made the ice unpredictable for a few weeks.

The bad news is that Windigo Lake made the back cover of the *Outdoor News* as a featured lake for Crappies, so we can expect heavier fishing pressure, especially for the Crappies and Walleyes.

See you in the spring!



## **ICE OUT ON DATES**

We have records of “ice-out” dates back to the 1970s from various property owners who have kept track over the years. Based on these records, this year was the earliest ice-out on record. We recorded it on March 13 because even though much of the Windigo was open water days before, there was a still a significant ice sheet on the southeast corner of the lake. The previous earliest ice-out date was March 24, which occurred in 2000 and 2012.

## **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:

**Lake Environment and Safety Chair:** Focus on conservation efforts relating to water quality, shoreline preservation and maintaining a high quality aquatic environment for fish and wildlife. Work with the 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 and 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. 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/>



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.

## 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 10-12, 2024, 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/>

### Agenda At-A-Glance

Click through to view descriptions of workshops, sessions, and networking opportunities. [wlrconvention.org](http://wlrconvention.org)

Wednesday, April 10	Thursday, April 11	Friday, April 12
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Morning Workshops (pre-registration required)	8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Exhibits Open/Papers on Display	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Exhibits Open
12:00 - 7:00 p.m. Exhibits Open	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)	8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own or pre-register for provided lunch	9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Welcome Digital Production & Kickoff Program Event	9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (pre-registration required)	10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)	10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)
4:45 - 8:45 p.m. Special Technical Sessions (Optional)	12:15 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Speaker	12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Friday Conference: Critical Thinking about Our Waters (Includes Lunch)
8:00 - 11:00 p.m. Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership Convention Welcome Reception	1:45 - 2:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)	2:15 - 4:00 p.m. Afternoon Workshops (pre-registration required)
	2:00 - 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (Pre-convention sessions)	<a href="#">Printable Presentation Descriptions (coming soon)</a>
	5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Lighting Talks	<a href="#">View Virtual Presentation Descriptions</a>
	6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Poster Session	
	8:00 - 8:00 p.m. Wisconsin Lake Stewardship and Instream Stream Monitoring Exhibit (aka Awards Ceremony & Banquet)	

### Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference, Spooner Wisconsin

The annual Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference will be held June 21 from 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM at Spooner High School. This popular annual program on lake science, policy, and culture brings together lake-lovers from all around northwest Wisconsin.

It is a one day event with three topic “streams” to choose from. The keynote address will be by Tom Fitz, Northland College Professor of Geoscience and lunch is included. There will also be exhibits & networking. Registration will begin May 1, 2024.

Here is the link for more information and registration:

<https://wclra.org/event/2023-northwest-wisconsin-lakes-conference/>



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**All Events**

**2024 Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference**

**June 21 @ 8:00 AM - 3:45 PM**

This popular annual program on lake science, policy, and culture brings together lake-lovers from all around northwest Wisconsin.

**ONE DAY IN PERSON EVENT!**

- Three topic “streams” to choose from
- Keynote address by Tom Fitz, Northland College Professor of Geoscience
- Lunch included
- Exhibits & networking
- Students welcome & encouraged!

**REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1.** For more details and a link to register, [click here](#)

This year's conference is brought to you by a partnership of the lakes and rivers associations of Bayfield, Burnett, and Washburn Counties, Extension Lakes at UWSP, Wisconsin Lakes, the Wis. Dept of Natural Resources, WSI Rivers Conservancy, and the Land and Conservation Departments of Ashland, Bayfield, Polk, and Washburn Counties.

**MAPS**

*Barb Pjevach*

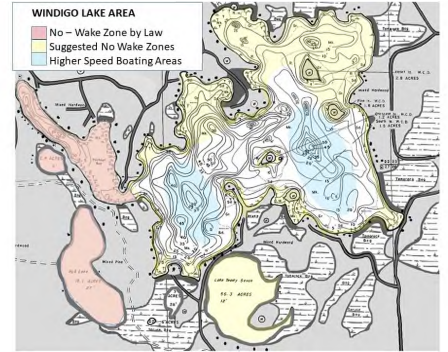
We have historically distributed a contoured lake map for fishing and boating. It also notes lake courtesies for Windigo. We encourage all property owners to keep this map visible and show it to guests. If you would like to print off additional copies, click on the link below to download the map and lake courtesies. If you have any difficulties with the links below, contact us at [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org) and we will email the documents to you.

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 also maintain a lake map with property owners noted.

Here is a link to the updated map and property owner listing as of 7-26-2023: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-O3XD5Ka3n\\_HRTH\\_Ugptgt5JaFuej-eB/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-O3XD5Ka3n_HRTH_Ugptgt5JaFuej-eB/view?usp=sharing)



**Windigo Lake Property Owners Association**

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

Email: [info@windigolake.org](mailto:info@windigolake.org)

Website: [www.windigolake.org](http://www.windigolake.org)

<u>Officers</u>		
President	Dick Steininger	708-899-3194 <a href="mailto:egvdickjsteininger@gmail.com">egvdickjsteininger@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Paul Martin	651-260-1733 <a href="mailto:pmwood80@yahoo.com">pmwood80@yahoo.com</a>
Treasurer	Kris Soegaard	612-616-0742 <a href="mailto:soegie0002@gmail.com">soegie0002@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Barb Pjevach	612-964-6199 <a href="mailto:brpjevach@gmail.com">brpjevach@gmail.com</a>
Past President	Patrick Steininger	708-899-3193 <a href="mailto:Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com">Patrick.Steininger@skodie.com</a>

<u>Committees</u>		
Social	Dave & Donna Roeker	715-634-6013 <a href="mailto:roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net">roekersupnorth@CenturyTel.net</a>
Membership	Anne Marie and Mike Fries	715-634-3062 <a href="mailto:amf291@gmail.com">amf291@gmail.com</a>
Lake Environment & Safety	Open	
Invasive Species Monitoring & Safety Volunteer	Open	
Fish & Wildlife	Paul Martin	651-260-1733 <a href="mailto:pmwood80@yahoo.com">pmwood80@yahoo.com</a>
Communications	Barb Pjevach	612-964-6199 <a href="mailto:brpjevach@gmail.com">brpjevach@gmail.com</a>