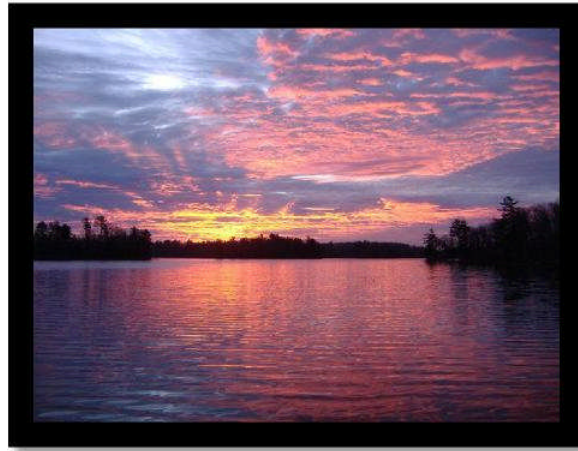


Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Fall 2011



An Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Dick Steininger

It didn't seem that long ago that I was writing that it was almost spring and we were looking forward to open up our home on Windigo. I hope all of you enjoyed your summer in and around the lake.

Your board has been busy working with Dan Tyrolt try to secure a grant from the state to fight invasive species. I am happy to report that we have been approved for a grant. We will be looking for volunteers this summer to help with some of the projects. The way the grant works the state will supply the money and we will supply the labor or pay for someone to do so. At this time I'm not sure how much time will be involved. The more volunteers that we have would not put the burden on a small group. If you would like to volunteer please contact Paul Neimann who is our committee head. I think we also would need someone to monitor the boat landing to check boats coming and leaving Windigo. This will be a paid position. It would be a great summer job for someone.

Upon receiving the grant I emailed past President Ray Cott-Meisell telling him that we had received the grant. He was board president when we started to investigate the grant. His comment to me was thank you for helping protect "his baby". I hope everyone feels the same way as Ray that we all protect our beloved Windigo for future generations.

I would also like to thank all of the members that have supported our association with their time and money. Have a great winter and I hope to see you at our spring dinner which again will be held on the first Saturday in May.



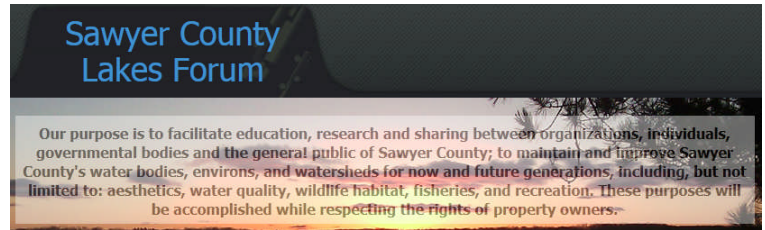
Dick

November, 2011

Sawyer County Lakes Forum Recap

Colleen Graham

The Sawyer County Lakes Forum held its fall meeting on September 17 at the Comfort Suites in Hayward. Barb Reindl Pjevach attended on behalf of the WLPOA. Of special interest was discussion of the proposed Sawyer County Shoreland-Wetland Protection Ordinance. Full text of the 37-page ordinance can be found at <http://www.sawyercountylakesforum.org/110410%20Final%20NR115%20Compliance%20Ord.pdf>.



The ordinance has been under consideration for many months and has undergone more than 21 revisions. It passed the zoning board and will be considered by the full county supervisor board yet this year. The feeling is that the document is good but not perfect, and that it is needed to be in compliance with other existing state and county regulations.

The ordinance includes several new or revised definitions that apply to property owners, including: access and viewing corridor; basement; bluff setbacks; boathouse; building envelope; existing development pattern; front lot line; routine maintenance of vegetation; shoreline wetland district; structural repair; and wet boathouse.

One significant proposed change relevant to non-conforming principal structures (sec. 15.5 and 15.6) allows for vertical expansion to a maximum height of 26 feet when certain other requirements are met. Height standards are generally discussed in section 22.

The county isn't adequately staffed to enforce all provisions of the ordinance, so it will continue to tie the land use permit process to enforcement. For example, a landowner not in compliance with section 17 regarding access and viewing corridors (e.g., because excessive vegetation was removed from the buffer zone to improve the view of or access to the lake), would be required to mitigate damage to the buffer zone before a future land use permit is granted.

Assuming the ordinance is passed, landowners would be wise to familiarize themselves with its provisions before making changes to their property that might later need to be made un-done.

Fishing and Wildlife Update

Dan Pjevach

Thanks to everyone who has donated funds to the Fish Crib Fund! We WILL be putting it to good use! We have been accumulating funds and will be replacing and/or repairing fish cribs that we have placed periodically over the years to increase healthy fish habitat in Windigo.

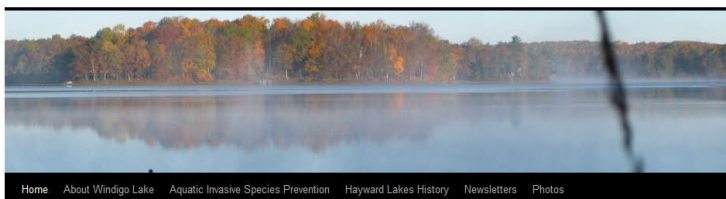
Have you checked out www.windigolake.com?

Barb Pjevach



WindigoLake.com

A site for owners and friends of the Windigo Lake area



We have a new website! If you have not had a chance, please check out www.windigolake.com It will have updates for area residents as appropriate and will also keep archived copies of WLPOA newsletters. Check it out and if you have any suggestions for improving its usefulness for all of us, email Barb Pjevach at brpjevalch@earthlink.net.

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who has responded to our membership reminders. Your support is critical to our association and it is very much appreciated. To date we have received renewals from 79 members and 24 people are signed up to receive our Newsletter as "Friends of Windigo". If you need a membership form, they are available on our new web site or you can request one from me by email.

Our membership form provided options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our new Fish Crib Fund. Donations to the Invasive Species Fund were received from 27 members and 16 members contributed to the Fish Crib Fund. Dollar totals for these contributions are shown in the accompanying Treasurer's Report.

WLPOA serves property owners on Windigo Lake, Hub Lake, and Lake 27 by protecting our lakes from invasive species, working with the DNR and local government to maintain lake quality and promoting communication and cooperation among lakeshore owners. WLPOA, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization so your membership donation is tax-deductible as provided by law.

Here is a breakdown of members by lake in our area:

| Lake | Owners | Paid | Percent |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Windigo | 95 | 75 | 79 % |
| Hub | 6 | 1 | 17% |
| Lake 27 | 5 | 3 | 60% |
| Total | 106 | 79 | 75% |

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

To date our 2011 income is as follows:

- We have received \$ 2,105 in dues from 79 members and 24 "Friends of Windigo" subscriptions.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 775 and donations to the new Fish Crib Fund totaled \$ 250.
- Forty-seven tickets at \$ 14 each were sold to the May 7th Spring Dinner for a total of \$ 658. Meal expenses were \$ 690.

Our annual operating budget is about \$ 1,600. This covers our membership mailing, the printing and mailing of three Newsletters, signs for our boat landing, purchase and maintenance of "no wake" buoys, our liability insurance, and memberships in the Wisconsin Association of Lakes and the Sawyer County Lakes Forum. Details of our 2011 Budget will be posted on our web site in early January 2012.

The WLPOA account balances are:

- Checking Account: \$ 1,765. This account is used for our operating budget.
- Invasive Species Account: \$ 5,782. This fund was set up to deal with the invasive species threat.
- Fish Crib Fund Account: \$ 250.

Thanks Editor Katy! Welcome back Editor Dennis!

Colleen Graham

Katy Cellucci recently resigned as editor of the WLPOA newsletter. Katy did a great job organizing content and getting newsletters to all of us like clockwork! Please join us in thanking Katy for her work over the past couple of years!

Please also join us in welcoming Dennis Arthur back as editor. Dennis performed this job for several years and has graciously agreed to pick it up again. If you have ideas for newsletter articles, feel free to pass them onto Dennis or any board member. Welcome back, Dennis!

Annual Picnic and Business Meeting Recap

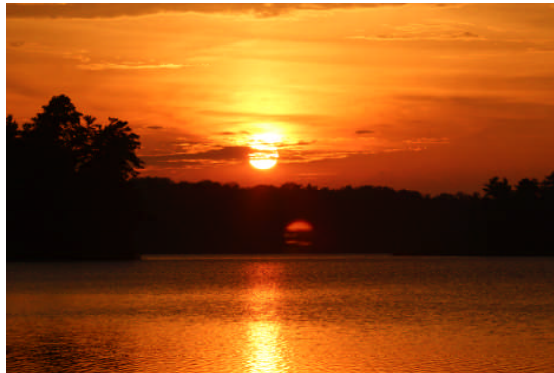
Barb Pjevach

We held our annual WLPOA business meeting and picnic on Saturday August 6th. Thanks for Sandy Bender and her support team for again attending to all of the logistics and food and thanks as always to Walt Pydo for letting us use his garage for our gathering. At the business meeting we discussed the invasive species prevention work and remediation plan and reviewed how curly leaf pond weed and Eurasian Milfoil manifest themselves. We also discussed eradication efforts on neighboring lakes and noted to call Bay Captains and Sawyer County if we think we find invasive species on Windigo. Copies of the materials sent out last spring are on our website if anyone missed it or misplaced the previous version. This includes the color pictures of these invasive species.

Ted Schwenker provided his always entertaining "critter report"noting that bears are prevalent in our area lately and giving us other area wildlife insights. Thanks Ted! Thanks to everyone who attended!

Mark Your Calendars and Join us for the Spring Dinner!

Colleen Graham



Save the Date!

Mark your calendar now for the
WLPOA Spring Dinner

Saturday, May 5, 2012 (fishing opener)

Interesting Speaker

Good Food

Connect with your neighbors

Look for details in the WLPOA Spring newsletter

Contact Sandy Bender (715-634-1590)
or Colleen Graham (651-253-0811) if you have questions.

Considerations Before you Feed the Critters

Dick Steininger

It has been called to environmental and safety committee attention by some of our lake members their concerns regarding the wildlife surrounding Windigo Lake. I thought about what I could add to their concerns that hasn't already been recommended by the State and County. Here's what we are experiencing in the Chicago suburbs.

We live in a suburb of Chicago, approximately 7 miles from O'Hare Int. Airport. Thirty years ago I saw my first deer and first Canada goose near our home. That was great hearing the honk of the geese as well as seeing the deer grazing in the forest preserve very close by. As we fast forward to today, our deer herd has been thinned over the past three years by 360, yet we still have them grazing in our back yard. This requires us to take measures to insure that our plants aren't devoured by the deer. As for the Canada geese, I have counted about 700 in our green areas while I've walked around the lake near our home. You can imagine the situation the goose droppings leave in the walking areas.

With all this, there are still some people who do not adhere to the posted signs "Do Not Feed the Wild Animals/Critters/Geese/Ducks", thereby encouraging all to wander out of the forest into the home areas spreading the deer ticks as well as wood ticks. Lyme disease is now a suburban concern.

The coyotes are now common feeding on the small deer and geese, but when the deer are too large, they feed on cats, dogs and other wild life in the area. There have been several cougars spotted in the Chicago land area – they go where they can find food!

As for Windigo, my wife and I spotted a cougar crossing Highline Road near the transfer station this past spring. We have noticed in the past few years around our Windigo home that many of our plantings and new growth in the wooded areas have been eaten by the deer.

With all this being said, it is with due diligence that each of us in the Windigo Lake area become good stewards regarding our wildlife. We know they were all here before we came onto their territory, but it is of the utmost importance to realize that the consequences of providing food and attracting wild animals such as coyotes, cougars, bears, wolves as well as Lyme disease.

Speedboats Pose Peril to Pontoon Boats and Other Small Craft

Paul Neimann

"Bodies of last 2 Chippewa River boat crash victim recovered.

The bodies of two Minnesota men were recovered Sunday from the Chippewa River in western Wisconsin, ending a search after a Friday night boat crash that also killed two others.

* * *

The wedding party's Princecraft boat collided with a Larson speedboat carrying two people. Both boats were traveling at more than 20 miles per hour, officers said. None of the boaters were wearing life jackets.

The Princecraft's driver, Robert Romanshek, 56 of Eau Claire, and four people on his boat were thrown from it. A sixth person, Matthew Overhauser, 27, later was found dead on the boat a half-mile downstream.

Mark Michels, 50, of Eau Claire, who was driving the speedboat, also was killed. His passenger, Carol Oller, 49, of Hayward, Wis., is in stable condition. . . ."

Minneapolis Star Tribune 7/24/11

The above tragic accident in which four persons were killed and one woman from Hayward badly injured serves as a warning to the residents of Windigo of the extreme peril posed by high speed boats to pontoon boats, kayaks, sailboats, canoes, to say nothing of swimmers. While the above accident involved alcohol, which one would think and hope is highly improbable on our lake, the physics related to mass and speed of a collision between a high speed boat and a smaller craft remain the same – with the same deadly consequences.

RECENT INCREASE IN HIGH-SPEED CRAFT ON WINDIGO

It was not long ago that one of the permanent residents on the lake stated that he could not understand why one

Speedboats...(continued)

needed an outboard larger than 10 horsepower since such a motor could get him to any fishing hole in ample time and as the lake was so small a larger motor took him so quickly from one end of the lake to the other that the ride was boring. With time more and more owners have acquired much larger motors and boats including even high speed inboard boats to accommodate water skiing and other activities. With these boats come the speed and weight which can pose a high risk to any person or boat (to say nothing of wildlife) that might come in their path. This risk has been recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources which has promulgated regulations to lessen the peril.

DNR REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO POWER BOATS WHICH DECREASE RISK:

All persons who use Windigo's waters should be mindful of the following regulations, which, if followed will greatly reduce the chance of a deadly accident which occurred on the Chippewa River.

It is unlawful:

- To operate a motorboat within 10 feet of any dock, raft, pier, or buoyed restricted area on any lake at a speed in excess of "slow-no-wake." (The narrowness of Portage Bay suggests that it falls in a "no-wake zone").
- To operate a motorboat repeatedly in a circuitous course within 200 feet around any other boat or around any person who is swimming, if such circuitous course is within 200- feet of such boat or swimmer.
- To operate a motorboat towing a person whether or not water skis, aquaplane, parasail, or similar device, unless there is in the boat a competent person in addition to the operator in a position to observe in fact, and must observe the person being towed and relay signals to the operator. (emphasis added)
- To operate a motorboat having in tow a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device other than in a careful and prudent manner and at a reasonable and safe distance from persons or property.
- All personal flotation devices must be of the appropriate size for the person for whom it is intended, to be legal. They must be readily accessible for use. (It appears that the passengers on the pontoon boat in the above article were not wearing flotation devices).

The local DNR office urges persons observing boaters violating the above regulations to call the following numbers:

DNR WARDEN FOR WINDIGO – Sue Miller (715) 634-9658 Ext. 3516
SAWYER COUNTY SHERIFF (715) 634-4858

Please help prevent a potential tragedy by making such a call if you see violations.

ACTION BY OTHER SAWYER COUNTY LAKES TO PREVENT OR LESSEN DEADLY CRASHES:

A number of lakes through their property and boat owners in Sawyer County have already taken actions to diminish the chance of high speed crashes in at least three ways:

1. Control boat speed. One example of this approach is nearby Spring Lake which by town ordinance limits boat speed so that no wake is produced. Other such lakes include Ghost, Teal and Lost lakes which have formed their own "quiet lakes association."
2. Control hours of operation. Through an ordinance requested by property and boat owners, a township can designate hours which high speed boats can operate. This course has been taken by Clear Lake.
3. Combined approach. Through this procedure, all boats may operate at all times except certain hours are designated as "no wake hours" which are set by town ordinance which has been requested by property owners. This course has been taken by Lower Twin and Placid lakes.

While there are probably other approaches to enhancing the safety of our lake the WLPOA invites suggestions and comments from all members. Please send your comments and suggestions to: WLPOA, Box 13071, Hayward, Wisconsin 54893, or to any WLPOA officer.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

| Officers | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| President | Dick Steininger | 847-364-0073 |
| | | r.steininger@sbcglobal.net |
| Vice-President | Colleen Graham | 651-253-0811 |
| | | colleen.m.graham@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Gary Hartmann | 715-634-1709; 763-574-1709 |
| | | gary.hartmann@comcast.net |
| Secretary | Barb Pjevach | 952-829-9016 |
| | | brpjevach@earthlink.net |

| Committees | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Social | Sandy Bender | 715-634-1590; 715-558-5859 |
| | | sbbender@centurytel.net |
| Membership | Gary Hartmann | 715-634-1709; 763-574-1709 |
| | | gary.hartmann@comcast.net |
| Communication | Dennis Arthur | 715-634-0686 |
| | | dearthur@centurytel.net |
| Lake Environment & Safety | Paul Neimann | 952-926-4254 |
| Fish & Wildlife Habitat | Dick Steininger | 847-364-0073 |
| | | r.steininger@sbcglobal.net |
| | Dan Pjevach | 952-829-9016 |
| | | dmpjevach@earthlink.net |