

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Summer 2012

(For property owners and friends of Windigo Lake, Lake 27, and Hub Lake)



Windigo, an Island Lake with a Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Dick Steininger

Friends and Neighbors,

There will be a lot of activities on Windigo this summer.

Dan Tyrolt will be conducting an audit of the lake with

the help of David Ochu and a college intern. Nile Merton will be Windigo's boat landing monitor. Nile

is the grandson of Dick and Leah Peterson and is currently finishing his freshman year at Lakeland

College in Ashland. Nile has received his monitor instructions from Kristy Maki, the Invasive Species

Coordinator for Sawyer County. His hours are variable but he will be there most

weekends. I was able to sit in on Nile's training with Kristy. She mentioned to

him all the lakes that had some sort of invasive species. It seemed as if Windigo

was the only one that hasn't been affected so far. Keep up the good work and

keep Windigo clean and beautiful.

I will be celebrating my 75th birthday this year which is causing me to reflect on

my life. As some of you know, I have been coming to Windigo since I was one

year old and it has been a big part of my life. I know that I will have made an

impact on preserving the lake that I love so much by being a part of our board

and president. It is my hope that some of other association members would start

stepping up to the plate by being a volunteer and paying their dues so that we

would continue have the best lake in the Hayward area. In closing, have a great

summer at Windigo and respect our lake and your neighbors. I hope to see many of you at our annual business meeting and/or picnic on Saturday August 4th.



Dick

June, 2012

REMINDERS:

AIS Training: Wed June 27th 11 am

WLPOA Annual Picnic: Saturday August 4th

(Business meeting 4PM; Picnic approx. at 5PM)

Details below in Newsletter



Come to the Picnic!

Mark your Calendar for the WLPOA Annual Picnic and/or Business Meeting: Saturday August 4th at Pydo's Garage.



The annual WLPOA business meeting will be held at 4pm with the picnic to follow at approximately 5pm. If you plan on attending the picnic, please bring a dish to pass and your choice of beverage.

Bratwurst, water and lemonade will be provided by WLPOA. Join us to catch up

with your neighbors and friends of Lakes Windigo, Hub, and Lake 27. All family and friends of our lakes are welcome! Any questions? Please contact Sandy Bender. Thanks Sandy, again, for organizing this always enjoyable gathering!

Update on DNR Grant to prevent and identify aquatic invasive species

Paul Neimann

As previously reported, The WLPOA is the recipient of a DNR grant which will be used to conduct an extensive survey of the existing plant life in the lake and will also sponsor a summer AIS (aquatic invasive species) inspection internship at the boat landing to prevent against invasive species. Our initial survey is beginning this month with the assistance of Dan Tyrolt. In addition, the grant funds our boat landing lake monitor this summer as Dick discussed in his note.

However, the real protection of our investment and the beauty of this lake will come not from this grant, but from the efforts of the property owners this year and in the future. We need volunteers to assume a simple task of identifying and reporting any suspicious plant life. All property owners who are now “Bay Captains” are encouraged to join in this monitoring effort.

The task is easy and involves a brief one hour training session conducted by a representative of the Sawyer County Conservation Department, Kristy Maki. Our first training session successfully took place on Sunday June 17th with approximately 15 people in attendance. Our next training session will be:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Wed. June 27, 2012	11 a.m.	Pydo garage at 7991 Thunder Point Rd (Site of summer picnic)

Update on DNR Grant to prevent and identify aquatic invasive species

Update on DNR Grant to prevent and identify aquatic invasive species (continued)

The training sessions will introduce volunteers to the characteristics of invasive species plants, and will be followed by a brief training period on the lake itself.

Thereafter, the volunteers would undertake near their property a once a month visual inspection of the lake for questionable plants from May to September at a 5-12 foot depth. Since most of us are on the lake frequently the task could be done at any time. And if you do not have a boat a valuable service can be rendered simply by inspecting the shoreline for AIS or from your dock. If a suspect plant is identified, the volunteer should mark the location of the plant by a GPS unit or other method and place the plant in a ziplock bag and deliver it to the Sawyer County AIS coordinator in the Sawyer County Courthouse.

These simple and easy steps are essential to protect our lake, its beauty and our property values.

If you are interested in assisting in this important effort or want to come to the training session to learn more, please contact by email or phone Paul Neimann, Dick Steininger or any other WLPOA officer.

WLPOA Dinner Recap

Gary Hartmann

Our annual Spring Dinner was held on Saturday, May 5th, at the Veterans Center on Main Street in Hayward. Approximately 35 people attended and enjoyed a delicious home cooked buffet catered by Mary Jane Anderson followed by an interesting program. We wish to thank Sandy Bender for coordinating the event and handling the reservations.

Unfortunately our scheduled speaker from the Cable Natural History Museum had to cancel her presentation so Mike Heim filled in. Mike is a science teacher at the LCO High School and he gave a fascinating talk about the wetlands in Sawyer County.

The evening concluded with a drawing for prizes. As in previous years, Bob Christ donated a beautiful handmade lamp as the grand door prize. Bob has been handcrafting rustic lamps for many years. Feel free to contact him if you would like to purchase one! This year's lucky winner, Paul Neimann, is shown here with Bob.

The other door prize winners were Maryalice McHugh and Bob Lewis. They each received a "Windigo Lake" coffee mug.



Many favorable comments were received about the buffet format, the timing (fishing opener) and price of the event. Thus, mark your calendars for Saturday May 4th 2013 at the Vets Center again and if you did not join us this year, please consider joining us next year.

What Happened to the Hawk?

Colleen Graham

Attendees at the WLPOA Spring Dinner expected to see a presentation by a naturalist from the Cable Natural History Museum featuring a red-tailed hawk named Binase. Unfortunately, Binase was found dead the day before the dinner, so the program was cancelled.

I followed up with the museum to get more information about the hawk. First of all, "Binase" is an Ojibwe word (pronounced bin-AY-zee) meaning large bird. She was disabled after breaking her wing and spent the past ten years at a refuge in Washburn. Last fall, she was given to the museum to educate the public about conserving habitat for birds of prey.

A special outdoor shelter called a mews was constructed at the museum for Binase. It was carefully designed to prevent predators from entering by either digging underneath or chewing through the walls. However, the best guess is that a weasel managed to penetrate the shelter and reach the defenseless bird.

The museum hopes to obtain a new bird soon for educational purposes.

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who supported our lake association last year. Reminders to pay WLPOA dues for this year were sent out in February. If you need a membership form please contact me by phone or email.

To date we have received renewals from 77 members and 16 people are signed up to receive our Newsletter as "Friends of Windigo". Your support is critical to our association and it is very much appreciated.

Our membership form also provides options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Crib Fund. Donations to the Invasive Species Fund were received from 32 members and 15 members contributed to the Fish Crib Fund. Dollar totals for these contributions are shown in the accompanying Treasurer's Report. Thank you for your generous support of these activities.

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.

Treasurer's Report

Gary Hartmann

To date our 2012 income is as follows:

- We have received \$ 2,005 in dues from 77 members and 16 "Friends of Windigo" subscriptions.
- Donations to the Invasive Species Fund totaled \$ 685 and donations to the Fish Crib Fund totaled \$ 290.
- Thirty tickets at \$ 17 each were sold to the Spring Dinner for a total of \$ 510. Meal expenses including hall rental were \$ 635.

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. These two organizations are great resources; feel free to check out their web sites:

<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/> and <http://www.sawycounty lakesforum.org/>

The WLPOA account balances are:

- Checking Account: \$ 6323. This account is used for our operating budget and includes an advance of \$ 3605. from our DNR Grant.
- Invasive Species Account: \$ 6471. This fund was set up to deal with the invasive species threat; our plan is to build this fund up to \$ 10,000.
- Fish Crib Fund Account: \$ 541. These funds will be used to repair or replace fish cribs that WLPOA placed in Windigo some years ago.

Have you checked out www.windigolake.com? Videos and pictures now posted!

Barb Pjevach



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 brpjevach@earthlink.net.

May we please have your email?

Barb Pjevach

To aid in communications, we really appreciate having email addresses of property owners and friends of our lakes. We can quickly send out alerts and reminders by email and reach you timely. Note that even if you supply your email, you can still receive a paper newsletter. If we do not already have your email address, please supply it to Gary Hartmann or Barb Pjevach and let us know your preferences.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

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