

Windigo Lake Area Newsletter - Spring 2012

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



Windigo, an Island Lake with Natural Shoreline

Desk of the President

Dick Steininger

Well it's that time of the year again. The other morning I heard a few cardinals singing. That is one of the first signs of spring in Illinois. As I sit at my desk composing this article, I have seven more weeks before we will be returning to our beautiful Windigo. Your board has been busy this winter getting ready to implement our plans for keeping an invasive species out of our lake. We still have a lot to do but it is coming together. Part of our plan includes boat landing monitors. We're looking for people who will enjoy the benefit of looking at beautiful Windigo from the boat landing. The position will pay \$10.00 per hour. We are still developing the final job description but we know we need someone who is at least eighteen years old and works well with people. If you are interested please contact me. My home phone 847-364-0073 or email me at r.steininger@sbcglobal.net. I would like to thank all of you who have supported our association by paying your dues. If it weren't for you, our association would not have qualified for the grant nor could we be doing other lake related work which help maintain our property values. I'm looking forward to seeing you on May 5th at the spring dinner. Please remember to send in the page at the back of this newsletter with your selections and check to Sandy Bender as soon as possible. The guest speaker will be Katie Connolly, a Naturalist from the Cable Natural History Museum.



Dick

March, 2012

Have you checked out www.windigolake.com?

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.

Membership Report

Gary Hartmann

'Thank you' to everyone who supported our lake association last year. Your support is critical and it is very much appreciated. Reminders to pay 2012 dues were sent out in early February. The membership form also provides options for making voluntary donations to our Invasive Species Fund and our Fish Crib Fund. Payment was requested by April 1st if possible. If you need a membership form, they are available on our new web site or you can request one from me by email or phone.

Forty-seven renewals have already come in and I will have a complete report in the next Newsletter. Last year a total of 79 property owners paid dues; this is outstanding participation.

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 weeds. 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

There was no change to WLPOA's income for 2011 as reported in the last Newsletter. Our expenditures for 2011 totaled \$ 2,006. The expenditures by major category were:

- Printing and postage for Reminder mailings and Newsletters: \$ 428.
- Monitoring for Invasive Species: \$ 150.
- Memberships and Insurance: \$ 715
- Spring Dinner and Picnic expenses: \$ 713 (\$ 658 was covered by ticket sales).

Last year we did not have to replace any signs or marker buoys.

At the start of 2012, our lake association has the following account balances:

| Cash on Hand | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| General Fund (Checking) | \$1,099.00 |
| Dedicated Fish Crib Reserve (Savings Acct) | \$250.00 |
| Dedicated Invasive Species Reserve (Savings Acct) | \$5,784.00 |
| Advance on DNR Grant | \$3,605.00 |
| Total on deposit | \$10,738.00 |

Implementation of DNR Grant begins in June

Paul Neimann

As announced in the fall newsletter, the WLOPA has received a grant to be utilized in preventing harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS) and which is coupled with voluntary "in kind donations" by the property owners. Under the grant our consultant, Dan Tyrolt, will undertake an expansive survey of the lake over the summer months. An early season survey will take place in June, at which time he will be looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. In July and August, he will begin a full survey of the lake which will entail the taking of samples from 782 sample points. These samples will be analyzed and result in a report which will be available to all property owners.

As you know, the lake has been surveyed for AIS for several years and found to be healthy. However, these surveys were not the detailed DNR type surveys which will be undertaken this summer. With luck, this summer's survey will also conclude that the lake is healthy. Moreover, it will also provide much information concerning the plant life of the lake which is presently unknown and which will assist the property owners in taking the appropriate steps in identifying and maintaining plant life which is beneficial to the lake. It can be thought of as providing a health base line for the lake which can guide our actions in the future. The survey will also form the basis for an Aquatic Plant Management Plan which will direct future actions in preventing and eliminating AIS.

BOAT LANDING MONITOR

The grant further provides funding to establish a "clean boat clean waters" program by compensating individuals who will monitor our boat landing, who many think is the lake's greatest vulnerability to AIS. The details of the program relating to hours, days and personnel have not been finalized as of the writing of this newsletter.

AIS LAKE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The grant contemplates the need for a number of volunteers who will receive training in identifying Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) from our consultant as well as by a representative of Sawyer County. Years ago, the lake wisely established our Bay Captain program where the " Bay Captains" have been monitoring the lake for AIS as well as reporting to the Association on important developments in their respective geographic areas. It would be wonderful if the present Bay Captains, in light of their experience, would continue to offer their service to the lake as volunteers under the grant. And since the more volunteers there are, the better for the lake, all others are invited to be AIS monitors and receive training.

In the course of implementing the grant, the need for additional volunteers may become known and the property owners will be so advised.

The New Feeder

Colleen Graham

I retired in September and am spending my first full winter in the north woods. We've never kept a birdfeeder at our cabin in the summer so as not to attract bears to the yard. With the bears sound asleep, I thought it was safe to mount a simple feeder.

I bought a yellow wire mesh unit with a locking top, filled it with black sunflower seeds, and hung it from a shepherd's hook on a tree off the back deck. The feeder was soon busy with chickadees and nuthatches. The birds didn't seem shy at all when I stood close to the feeder. I loved the purring sound of their wings and their friendly calls.

It didn't take long for a squirrel to break the hook and drop the feeder to the ground, remove the latch, and open the top to gorge on the contents. I put it back together but it was missing some parts. The top was a little cockeyed and no longer closed properly. Pine warblers and downy woodpeckers now frequenting the feeder had pried open the mesh in spots with their strong beaks. All in all, it was looking shabby! Once refilled with seed, though, the feeder was again busy with birds.

A few days later, the feeder was almost empty and the nuthatches and chickadees were flitting in and out to get the few remaining seeds. A moment after a nuthatch flew inside, a squirrel climbed the tree, eyeing the feeder. Suddenly, it jumped into the feeder with the bird still in it. When I ran out on the deck to shoo it away, the squirrel jumped out of the feeder -- with the nuthatch in its mouth -- and headed for the woodpile! I followed a trail of feathers but never found the bird.

I'm not sure if this incident was unusual, but I'll give the squirrel the benefit of the doubt and assume it wanted the seed and not the bird. How about you? What strange encounters have you had with nature this winter?

Local Critter and Environmental notes from the home of Char and Ted Schwenker

Barb Pjevach

Spring has arrived on Windigo! The ice went out on the lake in Pydo's Bay on 3/20 and on the large bay of the Windigo on 3/23. At the current time the lake looks low again like last year. Rainfall has been minimal lately with a few nights with just sprinkles. One of our neighbors reported that while the lake was still frozen there were coyotes on one of the islands which were killing deer and the DNR came out and shot the coyotes. The loons arrived on 3/22 and there is also a flotilla of common mergansers and the mallards are quacking away. Geese are also on the lake already.

Only a few boaters have been on the lake so far. Greenery is coming up all over and the deer will have plenty to eat unless gardeners start using repellent early this year. There have also been plenty of sightings of deer and busy chipmunks! Thanks Char and Ted for the update!



Needed and Wanted?

Barb Pjevach

We thought as needed we would note items in the newsletter if people have things they want to buy, sell, give-away, etc.

We just have one thing this Spring that has come up. Dick was approached as President of WLPOA by a large family who is looking to rent a home on Windigo this summer. If you are interested, please let Barb or Dick know.

If you have any other things to post to fellow Windigo area friends, please let Dennis Arthur know. Our next newsletter is scheduled to go out in June.

Windigo Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 13071, Hayward, WI 54843

| Officers | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| President | Dick Steininger | 847-364-0073 |
| | | r.steininge@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.steininge@sbcglobal.net |
| | Dan Pjevach | 952-829-9016 |
| | | dmpjevach@earthlink.net |



WINDIGO LAKE AREA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SPRING DINNER

THE ANNUAL SPRING DINNER WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 2012 AT THE HAYWARD VETERANS CENTER, 10534 MAIN ST. SOCIAL HOUR @ 5:30 – 6:30 / DINNER TO FOLLOW.

The **guest speaker** will be **Katie Connolly**, a **Naturalist** from the **Cable Natural History Museum**. She'll be giving a **presentation on raptors** that will include a live red-tailed hawk. Also, if any crafters or artists would like to display their wares, please call Sandy Bender (715-634-1590).

CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE

APPETIZERS

SHRIMP DIP COCKTAIL MEATBALLS MOCK LIVER PATE

DINNER

BBQ COUNTRY PORK RIBS AUGRATIN POTATOES ESCALLOPED CORN

RUSTIC CHICKEN CACIATORRE WITH PASTA TOSSED SALAD

FRESH BAKED FRENCH BREAD

DESSERTS

CARROT CAKE BROWNIES CHEESE CAKE
COFFEE

COST OF EACH DINNER - \$17.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO WLPOA AND SEND TO SANDY BENDER,
7973N THUNDER POINT RD., HAYWARD, WI 54843.

AN EARLY RESPONSE WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

#_____ PERSONS @ \$17.00 EACH ATTENDING THE SPRING DINNER

THANK YOU VERY MUCH! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!