



# Indian Lake Community Newsletter

FALL

OCTOBER 2014

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## A Message from Indian Lake Association President Suzanne Millies

### Our New Vice-President

Judi Urban has graciously accepted the position of Vice-President of the Indian Lake Association. Judi and her husband John moved into their home on Indian Lake on July 26, 2013. Some of you may recall that their home on Arbutus Drive was previously owned by Eleanor Skulnick and her family. Judi is not new to the area, however; she and her husband had previously owned a home on the Watersmeet chain since 1993.

Judi and John have two children, Jeni and Josh. Jeni and her husband Rob have 3 children and live in Twin Lakes, WI. Josh has 3 children and they live in Elburn, Illinois. Judi also has other family members with homes on Indian Lake and in Eagle River. Northern Wisconsin seems to be a special place for the Urban family.

Judi is now retired but was previously employed as a Senior Programmer / Analyst for THE HUB GROUP located in Oak Brook, IL. The company is a logistics company which handles shipping all over North America and Mexico. John, her husband, is a retired firefighter from West Chicago, IL. They have lived in Elgin, IL since 1996.

Judi has been keeping busy serving as Director for Altrusa Fox Valley and also doing

volunteer work for a care center in St. Charles, IL. She and her dog Wink are especially popular with rehab patients and long term residents. Everyone looks forward to their visits, even the nursing staff. Wink lost an eye, hence his name, but his good humor and affection warms the hearts of anyone who meets him. Lady Bug is their other dog, and together they enjoy going on walks with their "parents", John and Judi.

John and Judi have already become part of the Indian Lake neighborhood. Thanks to Steve and Jean Ann Newcomb they quickly became acquainted with their neighbors and are already frequent attendees at various lake events. They, too, have recognized that one of the blessings of having a home on Indian Lake is not only the beauty and tranquility of the lake but also the camaraderie of caring and helpful neighbors. Also, the many other dogs on the lake have already welcomed Wink and Lady Bug, and their greetings can sometimes be heard across the lake.

So welcome to the Lake Judi, John, Wink, and Lady Bug. We look forward to getting to know ALL of you.



# Ric Wollak's Honor Flight

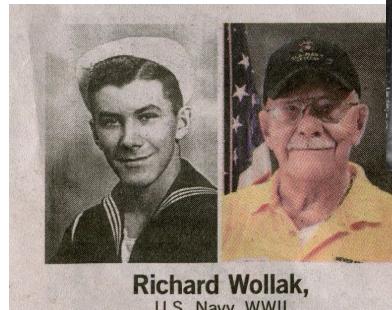
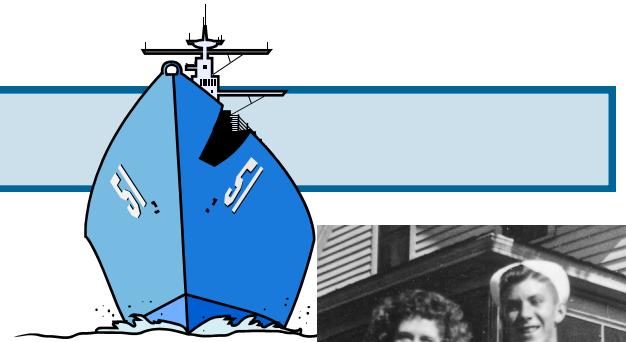
Interview and article by Kathy Noel

On September 8, our own Ric Wollak was able to be a part of Mission #17 of the Wausau Chapter of the Honor Flight Network. The network is an organization that makes it possible for America's veterans to see the memorials erected in their honor in Washington D.C.

Ric was accompanied by Walter Prien who works as his handyman, driver, and aide. The full group included 936 veterans of WWII, 625 of the Korean War, 16 of the Viet Nam War, as well as 920 guardians. The group assembled at the Wausau Howard Johnson Motel for festivities very early in the morning and returned late that same night. The busy day included visits to each of the war memorials and to the Washington and the Lincoln monuments. Ric particularly enjoyed the Iwo Jima statue where the granddaughter of one of the flag raisers was present to greet the veterans from Wausau.

Ric served in the U.S. Navy as a gunners mate on two LSTs (Landing Ship, tank). He sailed from the Philippines to San Francisco on LST 246 and then to Korea on LST 848. On 848, Ric also served as the "Captain's Talker." He relayed the captain's messages to the crew over the loud speaker. Ric only fired the 40-40mm rifles once - to disable a mine that was floating toward his ship on a Korean river. LST 848 would have been in the second wave of a landing on Japan if the Japanese had not surrendered. On that occasion, the captain sent Ric on a mission with \$100 (\$1300 in 2014) to buy liquor to celebrate the armistice. Ric reports that the party lasted a day and a half!

Ric wishes to thank the Indian Lake Community for the cards and notes he received at "mail call" on the flight to Washington D.C. He has high praise for the Honor Flight Organization that managed every detail from scheduling and equipment to coordination with supporting organizations. He will always remember the crowd that welcomed the group home near midnight in Mosinee. There were 700 people including cub scouts, families, and other veterans holding signs and cheering for the veterans, shaking their hands as they moved through the terminal.



**Richard Wollak,**  
U.S. Navy, WWII



**"Mail call"**



**Greeting the heroes**



# In Memory of Indian Lake Friends



## Gary R. Thompson



Former Indian Lake resident, Gary Ray Thompson, 72, passed away embraced in the love of his family on Tuesday, September 9, 2014. He was born in Columbus, Ohio on September 25, 1941, the son of Lester and Lucille (nee: Ray) Thompson. Gary attended Park High School and then joined the US Navy. On November 1, 1968 he was married to Linda L. Hanson in Crown Point, Indiana. Gary and Linda then returned to Racine where Gary worked at SC Johnson Wax until his retirement in 1999. After his retirement he and Linda divided their time between Rhinelander; Cadiz, Kentucky; and Lakeland, Florida.

Gary is survived by his wife, Linda L. Thompson; their daughters, Celeste DeHahn(Dave Sheriff) and Cindy (Andre) Maki both of Racine; his son, Theodore (Linda) Thompson of Niagra, Wisconsin; grandchildren, Josh Kohls, Erica DeHahn, Andrea Peeters, Brandon Kopf, and Hunter Thompson; great-grandson, Brody Paulson; mother, Lucille Thompson of Racine; his brothers, Ronald Thompson of Lakeland, Florida, Richard (Sharon) Thompson of Racine, Stephen (Sharon) Thompson of Columbus, Indiana; his sister, Sheryl (Stephen) Wasmundt of Lakeland, Florida; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Lester Ray Thompson.



## Kim Dean's "White Chocolate- Banana Foster"

1 pkg. (1 oz.) fat-free sugar-free white-chocolate pudding mix

1 cup low-fat milk

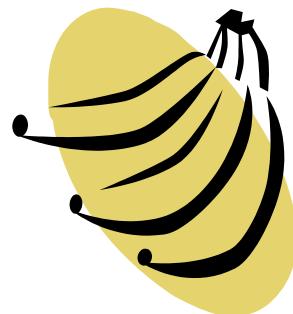
1 1/2 cups low-fat whipped topping

2 ripe medium bananas sliced

1/4 cup dark rum (optional)

1 1/2 cups chopped shortbread cookies

4 TBS butterscotch syrup



Prepare pudding mix according to package directions, using 1 cup low-fat milk. Whisk in low-fat whipped topping. Brush banana slices with dark rum, if desired. In 6 glasses , evenly layer cookies, banana slices, pudding mixture, and butterscotch syrup. Garnish as desired. (Instead of individual glasses, Kim uses a large glass bowl for her dessert.)

Active time: 15 min. Total time: 15 min . Serves: 6

# Our Snapping Turtles: by Gary Stiers

On a day late in June of 2014, I sat in the kitchen of our Indian Lake cottage drinking coffee and watching the dawn light grow over the lake when I heard Stormy, our 2 year old, 100 pound golden retriever giving someone or something a good “arfing”. On looking out a window, I saw a large snapping turtle with her rear end in a hole in our back yard and her beaked mouth wide open threatening to shorten Stormy’s nose if he came any closer. I recalled that in June of 2013 and 2012 we had seen snapper mothers laying their eggs in almost exactly the same place, but that on each of those occasions, the nests were opened and all the eggs were eaten within only a few days. On this occasion, as we watched this mother’s hours long labor (without any further help from Stormy), Bette and I decided that we would try to protect this completed nest with a metal mesh on a 2x4 wooden frame staked to the ground over the site. The mesh lets in the sun’s heat and the rain and is slightly elevated above ground level to allow the hatchlings to escape to the lake when they emerge. So far, the plan seems to be working, but as I’m writing this in mid-October, we are still waiting for the event which will likely occur in the spring sun. We will know they made it that far when we see the white dry curled leathery eggshells on the sand under the mesh frame cover without a large hole next to them made by a predator. A very warm longer summer might have led to an emergence in September of this year, but in colder climates like ours, the hatchlings often remain in the nest over the winter and actually freeze and then thaw without harm before digging out all at once to make their escape. It’s interesting to note that a warm summer results in more of the eggs producing females , while a cool summer results in more male hatchlings.

Snapping turtles are Wisconsin’s largest reptiles and have been on earth since the age of dinosaurs. The Minnesota snapping turtle weight record is 65 pounds. The only other real variation on snappers in the US is the alligator snapper from the southern states which can weigh up to 150 pounds. Snappers eat mainly dead or injured fish, snails, crawfish, and clams. Their healthy fish and water fowl intake is no

real threat to game populations and is certainly not a reason to destroy them. Their features are a large size, a long thick tail, a uniformly gray color, often with live algae on the back, and a prominent ridge on the carapace (the shell). When threatened, they open their large mouths wide and make a loud hissing sound intended to frighten golden retrievers.

The females lay 20 to 50 eggs once a year after they reach maturity after 10 years old. The vast number of eggs and hatchlings are lost to predators since the parents leave the nest to fate after the eggs are laid. The main predators are skunks, raccoons, foxes, crows and large fish. Humans are increasingly contributing to their declining numbers by unintentionally encouraging excessive predator numbers by leaving pet food outside, placing food on compost piles open to animals, intentionally running over turtles seeking nesting sites near roads, and trapping large turtles for food which has recently dramatically increased due to a growing Asian market for turtle meat. I hunt and fish avidly but have stopped eating turtle soup because the decline of snapping turtle numbers has reached a critical point in many areas of America.

The snapper has always intrigued me since my family caught them when I was a child in rural central Illinois for a local restaurant delicacy. They have a wilderness mystique about them which is probably why some Native American Nations have claimed them as a clan totem like the bear, wolf, eagle, and raven. The best ways to maintain the snapper as part of our lake’s web of life are to not run over them on the road, not disturb nesting turtles, not feed predators, and keep Stormy in the house at the lake in June. God bless beautiful wild Indian Lake, the great northern forest, and all its fascinating plants and creatures.

See you at the lake, Gary Stiers.



# Lake Grant Initiative Updates

AIS and CBCW Program Director : Joe Bartholomew



Clean Boats/Clean Waters concluded the 2014 Boater Inspection training for Indian Lake over the Labor Day weekend. Volunteers worked Memorial Day weekend, two weekends over July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day weekend. Twenty-four volunteers handled the 72 hours of inspection training. In addition to those hours, Lee Fetscher worked almost all of the days we did inspection training for the entire summer with a 7-9 AM shift...thanks Lee! Altogether 137 man hours were logged and 93 boaters were assisted. For those who have not taken the opportunity to work Clean Boats/Clean Waters, our objective is to train boaters in what invasive species are, what damage they do to a lake, and how to properly inspect and clean boats to prevent spread of AIS from one lake to another, as recommended by the DNR. Volunteers usually work in pairs and take a three hour shift either 9-noon or 3-6 PM. They are trained what to ask boaters and how to answer questions. Most say it is a very good experience, and it is a nice way to meet new people, share stories, and catch up with neighbors. It's also not uncommon for walkers to stop by and spend time with volunteers at the landing. Hopefully next year we will have a few more volunteers so that nobody has to work more than one shift per summer. As Clean Boats/Clean Waters director, I would like to thank the following people: Liz Bartholomew, Brooke Bartholomew, Lee Fetscher, Ryan Fetscher, Kathy Noel, Dave Noel, Tom Martinko, Jan Gill, Arlene Loehrke, Jim Loehrke, Corrine DeGroot, Cliff Woller, Greg Bujalski, Al Albee, Jim Hoover, Knobby Hoover, Joy Smogor, Joe Smogor, Suzanne Millies, George George, John Urban, Steve Newcomb, and Ric Wollak. These folks gave of their holiday weekend time to ensure we maintain the quality of our beautiful lake.

ALSO...we held a drawing (including the names of our 2014 volunteers) for a \$25.00 gift certificate to Moon Dance Bar and Grill. I am happy to announce that the winner of that certificate is Greg Bujalski. Congratulations! (Please note that no Lake Association money was used for that gift certificate.)

Thanks Gloria  
and Brad!!

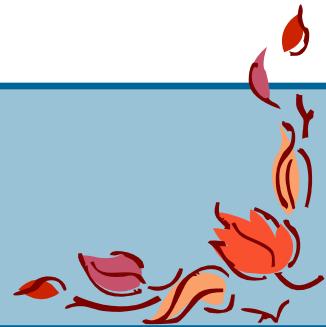


You can purchase your own CWCB t-shirt or hat by going to: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/resources/supplies.aspx> or call 715-346-2116 for help

# A Lake Undivided

## A “Tongue in Cheek” Editorial

### By Joy Smogor



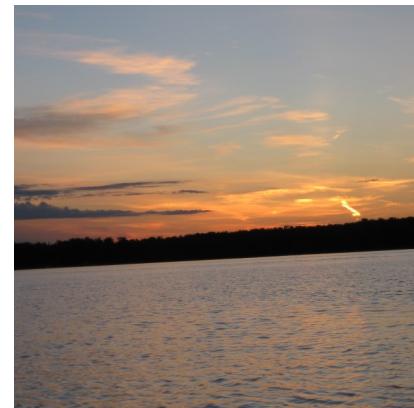
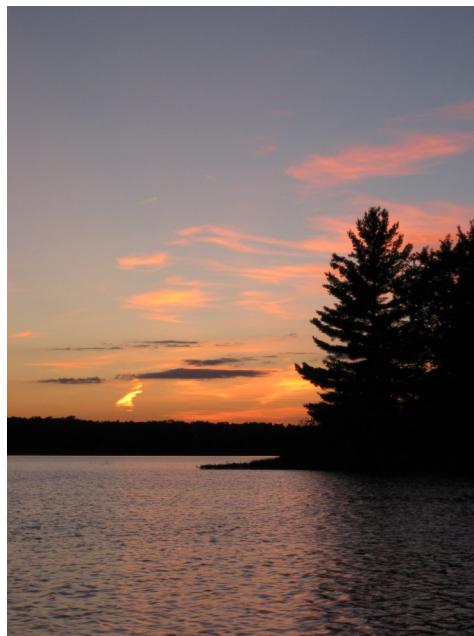
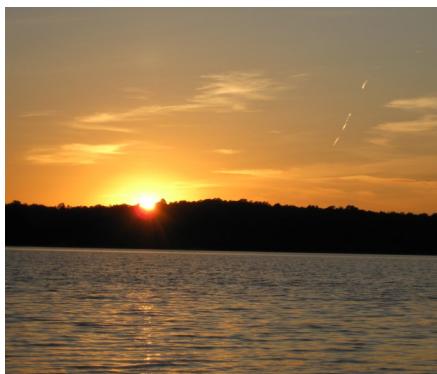
Have you ever tried to look up Indian Lake in the Oneida County Land Atlas and Plat Book? It is nearly impossible because the map is not complete. Parts of our lake appear on four different pages! That, in itself, adds to a perception I have been conscious of for the past few years. The perception is that there is some kind of division of Indian Lake.

Granted, physically Indian Lake has more than one distinct aquatic habitat. We know, too, that it is not possible to circumnavigate the lake by car. Unfortunately, residents on the north and south sides have different post offices and zip codes which adds to the schism. I have had friends refer to “our side of the lake” and “your side of the lake.” In fact, when I recently met John Urban and was asked where I lived, I said, “The other side of the lake.” Bad Joy!

In 2012 a most amazing thing happened! The Indian Lake Association applied for a DNR grant to create a Lake Management Plan. Much discussion occurred about how to raise the matching funds. Dave Noel suggested that we just ask residents to donate \$100 to the project. To everyone’s amazement, 53 families from all around the lake, stepped up to the financial challenge! Perception busted! Our lake residents united over a common cause – to study and plan to protect Indian Lake.

So, I am challenging all residents to cherish the Indian Lake Community as a whole. We can do a better job of describing where we live, rather than saying “the other side of the lake.” Joe and I temporarily live on Columbus Lake Road. In the near future we will permanently reside near the fire tower. Friends we socialize with live all along Indian Lake Road, Tower Road, Arbutus Drive, and Saari Point. We also have friends who have places where the Tower Ranch Camp used to be. A house and family I admire is located in “Hidden Acres” off Highway 17. Others have addresses on Highway 17 itself.

In closing, while we see the lake differently from the perspective of our own shoreline, we are a community of concerned citizens and friends united in a common purpose. That united common purpose is to love and protect Indian Lake!



**Summer sunsets over  
Indian Lake**

# GOOD-BYE TO SUMMER 2014!



## THIS AND THAT

If you have anything you are interested in selling or otherwise marketing in the "Market Place Corner," please email Joy Smogor at:

[joysmogor@frontiernet.net](mailto:joysmogor@frontiernet.net)

Another copy of the Indian Lake Community Newsletter will be published in early winter. Your ad can be included in the next issue. *Remember, we will not advertise weekly property rentals. Indian Lake is zoned "single family residential." As such, weekly rentals are prohibited.*

### *Reminder:*

*Dues for the Indian Lake Association are \$20.00 for the 2014-15 fiscal year.*

*Mail them to:*

*ILA Treasurer, Steve Newcomb  
P.O. Box 1801  
Eagle River, WI 54521*



FOR SALE:

- Dining room table and 6 chairs
- Electric range

Best Offer 715-272-2030

## Mark your calendars!

**Chili on Ice 2015**  
**Saturday,**  
**February 7, 2015**

More information to follow at a later date.



If you have ideas to contribute to the Indian Lake Community Newsletter, please contact Joy Smogor:

[joysmogor@frontiernet.net](mailto:joysmogor@frontiernet.net)

Features include:

- \* President's Comments
- \* Obituaries
- \* Welcome New Neighbors
- \* Market Place

Thanks to authors: S. Millies, K. Noel, G. Stiers., and J. Bartholomew

Thanks to S. Millies for continued fabulous editing