



Indian Lake Community Newsletter

FALL

2019

“The History Issue”

Indian Lake Information

Indian Lake, Oneida County, WI, is a 357-acre spring lake with a maximum depth of 26 feet and a mean depth of 10 feet. This mesotrophic lake has a relatively small watershed when compared to the size of the lake. Indian Lake contains 57 native plant species, of which fern pondweed is the most common plant. Indian Lake may be considered a spring lake due to its lack of an inlet stream and presence of an outlet. Water flows from this outlet through Sugar Camp Creek and eventually into nearby Chain Lake.

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Indian Lake Association

The purpose of *Indian Lake Association, Inc.* (chartered in 2005) is to preserve and protect Indian Lake and its surroundings and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Indian Lake as a public recreational facility for today and for future generations.

Website: www.IndianLakeAssociation.com

Reminder: Dues for the Indian Lake Association are \$20 for the June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020 fiscal year. Mail dues to: ILA Treasurer

P.O. Box 1801
Eagle River, WI 54521

(See Membership Form on page 12)



A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

Clean Boats Clean Waters 2019

The introduction of AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) into the Great Lakes and inland state waters is a source of biological pollution that has significant negative effects on natural resources, human health, recreational opportunities and other ecosystem services throughout the state and region.

AIS may compete with native species for food and habitat and can directly and indirectly harm or displace native species, degrade habitat and alter food webs and energy flow. AIS can also have significant economic effects on waterfront property values, tourism, utilities and other industries.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Volunteer Program promotes water resource stewardship by actively involving individuals in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species that can harm Wisconsin's ecosystems, economy, and recreational opportunities.

Citizen involvement in watercraft inspections and monitoring for invasives increases public awareness about the potential impacts of aquatic invasive species. Volunteers serve to inform and educate the public about how people can help prevent the spread of invasives by inspecting their watercraft and removing aquatic plants and animals from their boats and equipment before leaving an access site.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped out with the boat inspections at the landing. This season we logged over 58 volunteer hours, took a look at over 40 boats, and contacted approximately 85 people while entering or leaving the lake. Please consider joining our CBCW team.

The following people helped out this summer:

Joe and Liz Bartholomew,
Dan Buran,
Gary and Paula Edwards,
Dennis and Jan Gill,
Dave and Kathy Noel,
Mike and Shirley Noonan,
Joe and Joy Smogor.

If you would like to participate with this program, please contact Joe Smogor.



Indian Lake in 1954

By Roger Ziff (based on interviews this summer with Marty Haavisto)

Sixty-five years ago, in 1954, Timber Lane resident Marty Haavisto first came to Indian Lake. The Indian Lake he came to was quite different than it is today.

There were no homes on the Arbutus Drive side of the lake. In fact, there was no Arbutus Drive. The only buildings on the Arbutus Drive side of the lake were those of a small fishing resort with a few cabins called the Indian Lake Resort located off Arbutus Drive West, the slanted little road not far from the beginning of the current Arbutus Drive. One got to the resort by driving down a dirt and gravel road. The Rhinelander Paper Company owned the rest of the land on that side of the lake.

There was another small fishing resort with a few cabins at the end of Spruce on the north side of the lake. It was called the Blackhawk Resort.

On the Indian Lake Road side of Indian Lake (and Indian Lake Road was not paved either), there was a third fishing resort called the Chippewa Resort with a few cabins near the northwest corner of the intersection of Indian Lake Road and Timber Lane. There were about five private homes on the Indian Lake side of Indian Lake Road, two before Timber Lane and three after; and about seven homes on Timber Lane itself. The boat landing was also on Timber Lane (as it is today).

On the Sugar Camp Lake side of Indian Lake Road there was a tavern, seven or eight houses, and another fishing resort.

Finally, at the far east end of Indian Lake Road, there was the Tower Ranch Camp for Girls, and a summer theater in the round in a red and white tent off Sugar Camp Lake.

The Tower Ranch Camp for Girls included stables, tennis courts, and water sports. It closed in 1976. A few current residents have connections to the camp.

The theater featured actors from Chicago who performed a repertoire of plays each summer. It was quite popular and people drove their cars down the long dirt and gravel Indian Lake Road to get to it.

Some of the existing homes on Indian Lake were originally part of the fishing resorts or the girls camp.

The biggest difference in Indian Lake itself is that in 1954 you could drive a boat around the larger island on the west side of the lake. There was wild rice to the west of the island, an apple tree and an open area. It is believed that this area was the site used by the Ojibwa (aka Chippewa) Native Americans who sometimes lived along the lake. Early Rhinelander residents came up to buy maple sugar from the Ojibwa (thus the names Sugar Camp and Indian Lake).

The fishing in Indian Lake at the time, in addition to panfish, included big perch, walleye, northern pike, and some muskies.

In the surrounding area, Rhinelander and Eagle River have not changed much from a population standpoint, but Rhinelander is more spread out, with its newer commercial district along Lincoln Ave.

Three Lakes, WI had a luxury resort called the Northernaire, which advertised itself as the "Waldorf of the Wilderness." It featured gourmet chefs, a grand ballroom and big-name entertainment. Bob Hope performed once in Three Lakes.

In a future issue of the newsletter, there will be a separate feature on the Tower Ranch Camp for Girls.

Indian Lake Association History

By Joe Smogor

In the summer of 2004, a small group of Indian Lake residents gathered to discuss some lake related issues. This group concluded that all members of the Indian Lake community should be informed about these issues, and the formation of a lake association would be the best way to communicate to all lake residents. At the time the issues included: Plum Creek Development Company buying the paper company land to the east of the lake, public access to the lake from this property, traffic and noise from the gravel pit operation on the north side of the lake, forestry management practices on this property, and how all of these things might affect the water quality of the lake. The attendees at this meeting decided to investigate the formation of a lake association to have a stronger voice for the individual community members.

On August 14, 2004, 32 Indian Lake residents met at the Noel household to learn about the steps in creating a lake association. This was a very informative meeting that identified the benefits of a lake association. A featured guest from the Wisconsin Lakes Association talked to the group about how it could happen, and a small committee was formed to start writing the by-laws for the proposed Indian Lake Association.

On October 9, 2004, another meeting was called to approve the new by-laws and discuss the election of officers. Over the winter of 2004-2005 the by-laws were drafted and revised at a series of additional meetings, and by October of 2005, the by-laws and a membership sign up form were distributed to all residents around the lake. A minimum of 25 property owners and 3 directors were needed to approve the by-laws and get the association up and running. There was also an initial \$500.00 registration fee with the Wisconsin Lake Association. On July 3, 2006 the Indian Lake Association held its first official meeting and elected the first officers. The Association filed Articles of Incorporation with the state, and officers and committee members worked the rest of the summer on developing a logo, creating sub-committees, and discussing issues on the lake.

Since that first meeting 13 years ago the association has taken some significant actions. We have published a quarterly newsletter and a yearly lake directory, established a web page, received a grant for a Comprehensive Lake Management Plan and study, created a welcome basket for new neighbors, and investigated a variety of lake issues. The lake association participates in Clean Boats Clean Waters Program, and the water quality monitoring of the lake.



The association also has social gatherings throughout the year including the pontoon party/picnic, and the Chili-On-Ice winter event.

The Indian Lake Association continues to be a positive part of the overall lake community.

2019 Pontoon Party and Picnic

The annual Indian Lake BBQ took place on August 3. Special thanks go out to Mary A. for hosting the picnic. The picnic/party was the social event of the summer and was highlighted in the local society pages.



Island Names

Did you know the islands on the lake have names?

The big island with the eagles' nest is Squash Island. The small one near it is Balsam Island. The peninsula that has the boat landing on it is named Chippewa Point, and the island off the tip of the peninsula is appropriately named Point Island.

So now when you refer to Balsam Island, everyone will know which one you are talking about.

(Island information provided by Joy Smogor.)



The Plight of Wisconsin's Freshwater Mussels

By Jesse Weinzinger, Conservation Biologist, Wisconsin DNR as printed in UW-SP's Spring/Summer 2019 Lake Tides

Freshwater mussels play a significant role in aquatic ecosystems. They filter several gallons of water a day for food, making them an excellent purification system. Mussels also churn substrates which benefit other organisms found in the bottom sediments, and they provide food and shelter for several species of fish and wildlife. They are also sensitive to declines in water quality and habitat condition, making them good indicators of lake and stream health.

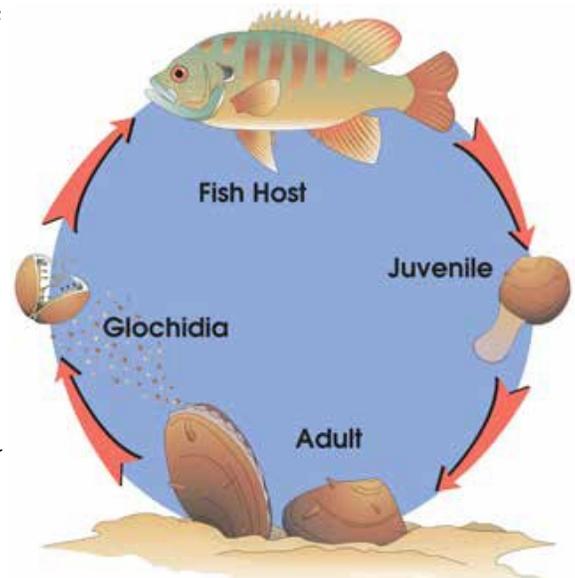


Although their lives appear simple, their reproductive strategies are quite fascinating. Mussels are long-lived, filter-feeding sessile (immobile) organisms, with a complex life cycle dependent upon a fish host during their early life stage.

Most species of freshwater mussels reproduce sexually. Males release sperm into the water. As the water moves, the sperm drift downstream with hopes of finding an active siphoning female who has produced eggs for breeding. After successful fertilization, eggs develop into an intermediate larval stage, called glochidia. The glochidia are stored in the female's special brood pouch called the marsupium, sometimes for several months. In the spring and summer, several species of female adult mussels become "underwater fishermen" as they attract a specific fish host using a modified tissue that acts as a lure. When the target fish approaches, the female mussel ejects her glochidia at the fish. The larvae must then attach to the fish's gills or fins to transform into the next life stage - it's a lot to ask so early in life!

The ejected glochidia resemble mini Pac-Man with their shell gaped wide open and ready to clamp down as soon as the fish is present. Once attached, the mussels hitch a ride for a few weeks while they continue their transformation into a juvenile mussel. When the transformation is complete, they drop off the unharmed fish and onto the immediate substrate. If habitat conditions are suitable and the mussels avoid predation, they begin their life as a young adult mussel.

Not only is this method of reproduction interesting to biologists and inquisitive students, but the fact that mussels require specific species of fish to reproduce means that mussels are also good indicators of the health of their host fish populations. Of the 52 species known to occur in Wisconsin, 24 are listed as rare or declining and considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR 2016). The decline of several populations across the state has resulted from failure to recruit young mussels to populations. The cause of these recruitment failures is associated with declines in water quality, habitat conditions, and loss of host fish presence. To best address local declines, the Wisconsin DNR is asking you to look for and report any mussel sightings in your lake or stream to the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program. With your help, these efforts will provide much needed up-to-date information on mussel distribution and status on a statewide level.



For more information on freshwater mussels and ways you can volunteer with the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program, please visit: <http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels/>

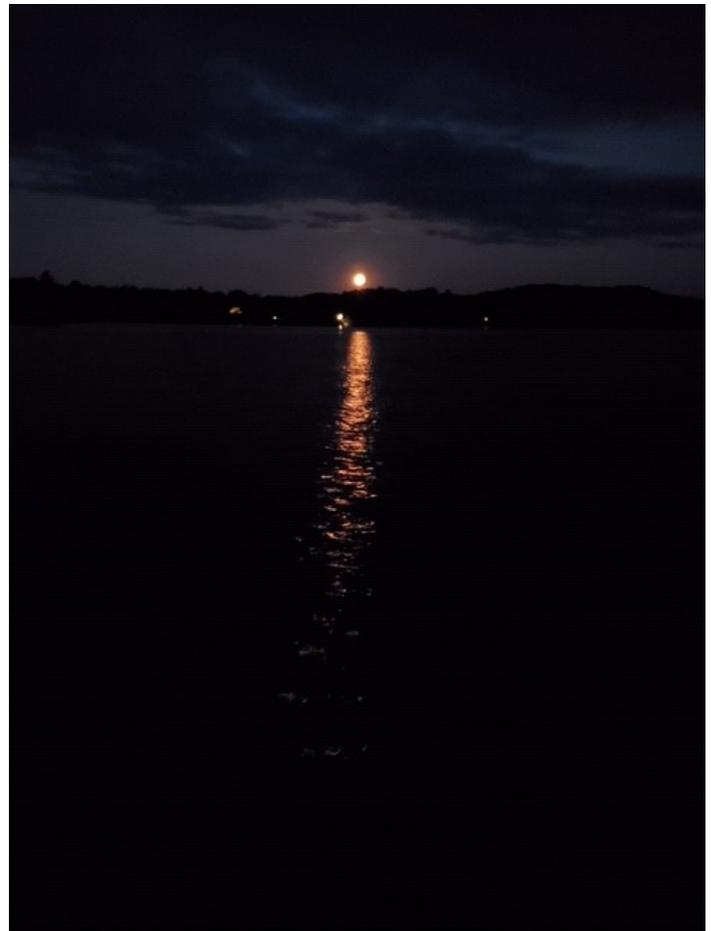
Mussels (continued)

How to Identify your Mussels and be A Mussel Monitor

Native mussels are commonly found in shallow water just beyond the wave zone, usually in open sandy areas with little aquatic vegetation. The best way to take a photo of a mussel is to hold it so the whole side of the shell is visible. If you have dead shells, you can take a picture of both the inside and outside, which helps with identification. Remember to put the live ones back! Just lay them on their side and they will dig in.

You can post the pictures on iNaturalist, a free phone app, or go to the iNaturalist website and look for the Wisconsin Mussel Monitoring Program. You can also e-mail your photos to Lisie.Kitchel@wi.gov or Jesse.Weinzinger@wi.gov, and we will let you know what you collected. You can keep the dead shells if you wish, just be sure to clean them thoroughly to get rid of the algae and other lake bacteria.

<http://wiatri.net/inventory/mussels/>



Sunrise and Moonrise by Liz Bartholomew

L^{OO}NS!

From Dan Buran: On the morning of August 10th (7am) my grandson spotted nine loons fishing on Indian Lake just east of the main island (Point Island). The picture shows eight, but the ninth was out of range. After a while they all took off and flew away. A flock of loons.



From Kathy Noel on August 18th: Thank you, Dan.

It has been an odd summer for loons. Dr. Walter Piper, who writes a blog about his loon research in our area, reported that high water, a period of black flies and decreasing nesting habitat contributed to a poor yield of loon chicks this summer. I reported a similar sighting to yours on Indian Lake just after the 4th of July, when our newly hatched chicks disappeared. He said that unsuccessful breeding adults seek out better breeding territory and try to oust weaker pairs on desirable lakes. Sometimes they kill chicks in their effort to overtake territory. Nature is not always pretty.

As fall approaches, adult loons mellow in color and gather in groups to migrate south. I see some evidence of the color change but it seems too soon for the premigration assembly. Keep the observations coming!



Indian Lake Puzzles

Here are this issue's new puzzles (answers will be in the next issue):

1. Cannibals ambush three hikers on Squash Island on Indian Lake (see page 6 for the location of Squash Island). The cannibals give the hikers a single chance to escape uneaten.

The captives are lined up in order of height, and are tied to stakes. The hiker in the rear can see the backs of her two friends, the hiker in the middle can see the back of the hiker in front, and the hiker in front cannot see anyone. The cannibals show the hikers five hats. Three of the hats are black and two of the hats are white.

Blindfolds are then placed over each hiker's eyes and a hat is placed on each hiker's head. The two hats left over are hidden. The blindfolds are then removed and it is said to the hikers that if one of them can guess what color hat he or she is wearing they can all leave unharmed.

The hiker in the rear who can see both of her friends' hats but not her own says, "I don't know". The middle hiker who can only see the hat of the hiker in front, but not his own says, "I don't know". The front hiker who cannot see ANYBODY'S hat says "I know!"

How did the front hiker know the color of her hat and what color was it?

2. Eric the turtle is at the end of a line of 50 turtles waiting to crawl into the water. But being an impatient turtle, Eric sneaks up the line two places every time a turtle crawls into the water. So, for example, while the first turtle crawls into the water, Eric moves ahead so that there are two turtles behind him in line. If at some point it is possible for Eric to move up only one place, he does that instead of moving ahead two places. How many turtles go into the water before Eric?



Last month's puzzles and solutions:

1. You are stranded on Point Island in the middle of Indian Lake. The wind is blowing from the west and lightning strikes the west end of the island and sets fire to the forest. The fire is very violent, burning everything in its path, and without intervention the fire will burn the whole island, killing you in the process. Due to an extreme tide, there are cliffs around the island, so you cannot jump off. How can you survive the fire? (There are no buckets or any other means to put out the fire and you left your cell phone at home.)

Solution: You pick up a piece of wood and light it from the fire at the west end of the island. You then quickly carry it near the east end of the island and start a new fire. The wind will cause the fire to burn out the east end of the island and you can then shelter in the burnt area. When the original fire gets to the burnt east end, it will die due to lack of fuel. (After the tide comes back in, you can jump into the water and swim to safety).

2. Three days ago, yesterday was the day before Sunday. What day will it be tomorrow?

Solution: Thursday.



Photo Acknowledgements

Many thanks to everyone who has sent me their lake photos. The submitters of the pictures in this issue are:

Page 2 Karen Sherman (friend of Ziffs)

3. Marty Haavisto

5: Joe Smogor

6: Alan Smith

Page 8: Liz Bartholomew

9: Dan Buran

11: Alex Ries (Ziff son-in-law)

13: Joe Smogor



Odds and Ends

Donations of Newspapers, etc. to Wild Instincts Rehab

If you wish to help out Wild Instincts you can drop off newspapers (no ads), sheets, blankets, towels, t-shirts. There are two plastic bins located at top garage of 3769 Tower Rd. To find out more about Wild Instincts go to:

<http://www.wildinstinctsrehab.com/>.

Indian Lake Facebook site

One of our Indian Lake neighbors has created an Indian Lake Facebook site. Now you can post your own lake-related pictures, notices, and comments. Search for "Indian Lake - Sugar Camp, WI". It's a private site, only open to residents and family.

Indian Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Year: June 1 to May 31

Annual Dues: \$20

Please make your check payable to Indian Lake Association and mail it along with this form to :

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

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____ Lake Phone: _____

Other Address: _____

Other Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Do you receive mail at your lake address? Yes ____ No ____

Would you like to be included in the Indian Lake directory? Yes ___ No ___

Are you interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the association? Yes ____ No ____

Comments or suggestions: _____

From September Song*

Oh, it's a long, long while from May to December
But the days grow short when you reach September.
When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame
One hasn't got time for the waiting game.

Oh, the days dwindle down to a precious few...
September, November...
And these few precious days I'll spend with you.
These precious days I'll spend with you.



*From lyrics by Maxwell Anderson and music by Kurt Weill.