

Indian Lake Community Newsletter

FALL

2020

2020

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.

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, 2020 – May 31, 2021 fiscal year. Mail dues to: ILA Treasurer

P.O. Box 1801
Eagle River, WI 54521

(See Membership Form on page 14)

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A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

What Are You Doing?

The Labor Day weekend is just a memory, and the activity on the lake will now start to subside. The water is still high like it has been all year, so it will be more of a challenge getting docks and boats out of the water for the winter.

By the end of September, the day length will decrease by over 90 minutes, and the plants and animals are reacting to the seasonal cycles. Most of the hummingbirds are gone now, and soon the loons will be departing on their annual migration. Fall is coming to northern Wisconsin and the waters of Indian Lake will undergo the seasonal change known as fall turnover.

During the summer the lake water stratifies, or layers with the warmer upper layers over the colder more dense layers near the bottom. Stratification traps nutrients and sediments near the bottom. As the surface water temperature decreases, the upper layers of waters will get more dense and sink and mix with the lower layers and the temperature will become uniform throughout the water column. The turnover, or mixing of the water, will be noticed as the water gets cloudier.

The nutrients and sediments that enter the lake have a direct impact on the overall water quality. The algae blooms that we had this past summer were caused by excessive nutrients entering the lake with the heavy rainfall. As the summer season transitions into fall it is a good time to reflect and to ask yourself, "What am I doing to prevent nutrients from entering the lake?"

Here are some simple, but effective practices to help keep excess nutrients and sediments out of the lake.

- Don't mow your lawn all the way to the water. Establish a no mow buffer zone of native plants at the edge of the water. (The size of this vegetation layer will vary with the slope and soil conditions). This layer of living vegetation will filter and prevent sediments from entering the lake.
- If you use fertilizer, check that it has no phosphorus (the middle number on the bag). Make sure you follow the directions and keep the product away from the water.
- The next time we get heavy rain go out and observe where the water drains down and into the lake. You can easily create water diversion patterns to slow the flow using stone, landscaping timbers, or drain tiles.
- Finally, have your septic system checked regularly to make sure it is working properly.

As property owners we all have the responsibility to do what we can to keep nutrients and sediments from entering the lake.



The Low-Down on Lotus

By Emma Schmidt, UW-Stevens Point Graduate from UW-SP's Lake Tides

If you've ever come across the American lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*), you will probably remember its unique yellow flower and seed head that looks much like a shower head. The American lotus is native to Eastern North America, including Wisconsin. This emergent aquatic plant loves sunny areas in quiet floodplains, backwaters of major rivers and even lakes. It grows best in shallow water (1 to 4 ft) with mucky or sandy soil bottoms. Notable populations have been found in the Lake Winnebago and Mississippi River systems, as well as in scattered populations in central and southern Wisconsin. When full-grown, this unique plant can get to be as tall as six feet, and its leaves can be as wide as four feet.

The American lotus provides food for ducks who eat the seeds, bees who pollinate the flowers, and beavers and muskrats who eat the roots.

Wildlife aren't the only critters who benefit from the American lotus - humans can also eat this beautiful plant. Native American tribes, such as the Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Dakota tribes, used the American lotus for a large portion of their diet. The scientific name for the lotus (*Nelumbo lutea*) reflects how important the plant has been to humans for centuries. *Nelumbo* originated in Sri Lanka and translates to "sacred bean." This is likely in reference to the seeds, which contain a high amount of protein. When green, they can be boiled and eaten much like peas, and mature seeds can either be ground into flour or eaten like nuts. Additionally, the leaves and shoots can be eaten as a salad or used to wrap other foods. However, the roots are what have the most nutrition. For centuries, the roots were added to soups and stews, or baked, with the resulting flavor described as similar to sweet potatoes. These roots provided much of the carbohydrates in Native American diets.



Although there is not enough evidence to support its efficacy, the American lotus has also been used for health benefits in addition to food uses. The stamens have been used to treat many blood-related conditions, while the seeds have been known to aid in digestion. Many parts of the plant have also been used as painkillers.

The American lotus has done more than help humans sustain themselves throughout the years; it has also inspired fashion! The leaves of American lotus are covered in microscopic pores that trap tiny pockets of air. These tiny air bubbles prevent water from adhering to the leaf material. This natural phenomenon has been applied to the clothing industry and is referred to as the "lotus effect." The Gore-Tex brand has been very successful in replicating the lotus effect in their waterproof, breathable fabrics.

The American lotus is a beautiful plant with an equally beautiful history. So, the next time you are out enjoying the water, keep an eye out for the American lotus. You may even find your next favorite snack.



Indian Lake Residents in the News



Suzanne Millies (left) has been working on behalf of the new Kalmar Senior Center in Eagle River. The roof of the former Center collapsed under snow in 2019 (Vilas County News Review 7/14/2020).



Seth and Stevie Moe have stepped up to help out during COVID from their business. The two pharmacists own The Three Lakes Pharmacy (Vilas County New Review 7/21/2020).

Loon Report Fall 2020

By Kathy Noel

It was a disappointing loon season on Indian Lake.

Loons arrived on schedule; it appeared that we had a pair; we hoped for a nest, but it was not to be.

Meanwhile, lake resident Judy Studenec inquired about establishing an *Artificial Nesting Platform* on the lake. Nesting platforms are used successfully by many lake communities in our area to counteract the consequence of habitat loss.

I believe that it is time that the Association consider taking on a platform program.

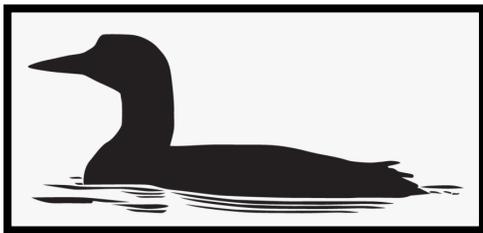
In another time, we might have invited a speaker to walk us through the process and pros and cons of such a program, but this is the time of COVID.

Fortunately, Erica LeMoine of LoonWatch, who coordinates the Loon Ranger program for Northland College, had a better idea.

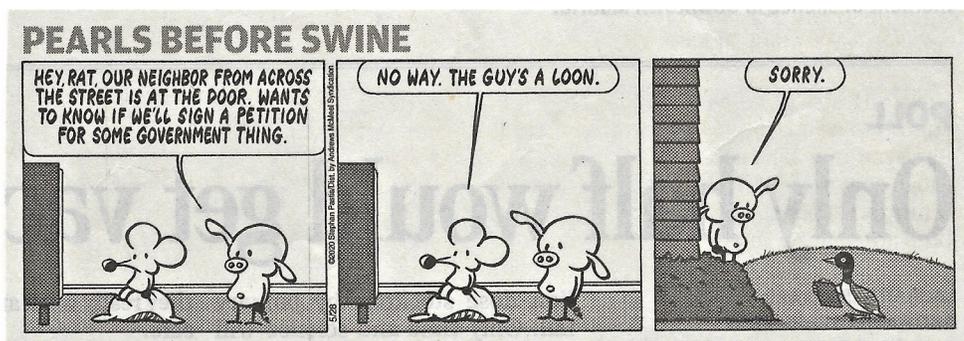
We are pleased to announce that she will present a program for us to attend virtually on **Tuesday evening, October 13, 6:30-7:30**. Those that can be “in attendance” will be able to interact with Erica and ask questions. The event will also be recorded so everyone will have a chance to view it afterwards at their leisure.

ILA has been welcoming many new community members in recent months, so Erica’s program will provide basic loon information as well as more specific information about Artificial Nesting Platforms.

Please look for additional reminders of this event in the information boxes and in your email.



Virtual Loon Event
Tuesday, October 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m
Erica LeMoine, Program Director, LoonWatch
Northland College, Ashland, WI
Presents a LoonTalk designed for the Indian Lake Association



Photos (with explanations)



In the photo on the left, Dave Noel is doing lake chemistry tests while Joe Smogor appears to be on guard for covid viruses.

In the photo on the right taken by Joe Bartholomew, the end of the rainbow is in Indian Lake, indicating that the pot of gold for all of us is that we get to live along this “little jewel of a lake.”



ILA Business News

By Joe Smogor and Roger Ziff

This past spring and early summer, there were two ILA meetings: one in May using Zoom and a July 4 meeting held outside at the outdoor pavilion of the Sugar Camp Town Hall.

There was an election of some new ILA directors. The current directors are:

Officers

President: Joe Smogor
Vice-President: Mary A
Treasurer: Jan Gill
Secretary: Dave Noel

Directors

Greg Bujalski - Social Coordinator
Randy Check - Director-at-large
Dennis Gill - Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Jan Gill - Volunteer Co-Coordinator
Mike McCarthy - Director-at-large
Suzanne Millies Past ILA President
Kathy Noel - New Member Co-Coordinator
Shirley Noonan - Website Coordinator
Joy Smogor - New Member Co-Coordinator
- Director-at-large
Roger Ziff - Newsletter Coordinator



Cliff Woller stepped down from the Board. Cliff was on the first ILA Board in 2006. Thank you, Cliff, for your years of service to the ILA and the lake.

The Indian Lake Association meeting normally scheduled for the Labor Day weekend was cancelled due to the Covid-19 virus. There were no urgent action items at the time, and the directors agreed that a meeting was not necessary. The next ILA meeting will be scheduled for the Memorial Day weekend in 2021. Hopefully, by then we can have a face to face meeting. If any new issues or problems come up, the directors can meet either in person or online to have a discussion.

2019-2020 ILA Financial Audit:

The financial records of the Indian Lake Association for the year ended June 30, 2020, have been examined by a retired CPA. Based on his examination, the ending cash balance on the ILA books at June 30, 2020, was correct, and the compilation of association receipts and disbursements for the year correctly reflected the association's actual receipts and disbursements during the year.

More Photos



More Photos



Indian Lake Activity This Summer

We had some old problems that were evident again on the lake this summer. The warm weather and water brought lots of people to the lake. The lake level was very high, and lake usage was also up. Anybody who has been out on the lake this summer was able to see that there were more people on the water in boats, on personal watercraft, on skis, tubes, and other devices pulled behind boats.

The combination of high water and more lake usage led to some problems that were brought to the attention of the lake association. As I have stated in the past, the lake association is not the lake police, and we have no legal power to enforce boating laws on the water. That said, I personally witnessed boats and PWCs travelling too fast and too close to me creating excessive wakes that moved pier sections and eroded shorelines.

Everybody wants to have fun and go fast on the water, but when the lake levels are high and the lake is crowded, we all need to slow down and follow the State of Wisconsin laws for boats and PWCs: “Slow No Wake speed within 100 feet of shoreline, piers, or another boat.” From my perspective it appears that the majority of the “drivers/operators” know the rules and follow them, but some operators, mainly part time residents or guests of residents, choose to ignore the rules and do whatever they want.

Boat and PWC operators must think about others while on the water and follow the “rules of the road” to keep our lake safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Thank you.

Joe Smogor,
ILA President



Indian Lake Math and Logic

An Indian Lake couple was married on a Sunday in June of 1970.
Their 50th anniversary this past June was also on a Sunday.

What are the chances that a couple would be married on the same day of the week as the day of the week of their 50th anniversary (to keep it simple, just consider couples married in the 20th century)?

Chose one answer from the following.

- a. Quite a coincidence. It only happens one time out of seven on average.
- b. Oh, no. It is always the case.
- c. I would say it happens a lot – maybe around 75% of the time – but not always.
- d. It is like flipping a coin: 50/50.
- e. It is rarer than one out of seven.
- f. It can't happen.
- g. It depends on how old they are.



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The answer will be in the next issue (or you can email the editor in the interim).

Autumn Daybreak

By Edna St. Vincent Millay



Cold wind of autumn, blowing loud
At dawn, a fortnight overdue,
Jostling the doors, and tearing through
My bedroom to rejoin the cloud,
I know—for I can hear the hiss
And scrape of leaves along the floor—
How may boughs, lashed bare by this,
Will rake the cluttered sky once more.
Tardy, and somewhat south of east,
The sun will rise at length, made known
More by the meagre light increased
Than by a disk in splendour shown;
When, having but to turn my head,
Through the stripped maple I shall see,
Bleak and remembered, patched with red,
The hill all summer hid from me.

In Memory of Indian Lake Friends

Neal Puncochar

We are sad to report the recent death of Neal Puncochar a long-time summer resident of Indian Lake. Neal loved to visit his home in the Northwoods. He especially enjoyed feeding the birds, watching the deer, loons and other wildlife, and, of course, fishing. He was a quiet, gentle, gracious friend who will be dearly missed....



Photo Acknowledgements

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

Page 2 Joe Smogor

6. Joy Smogor, Joe Bartholomew

7. Joy Smogor

8. Kathy Riske (upper left)

Alex Ries (upper right) (Ziff son-in-law)

Joe Smogor (bottom)

Page 9: Liberi Vivite (top)

Joe Smogor (bottom)

10: Kristin Dobo

12 Alan Smith

13: Mindy Smith

15. Rafaela Monchek (Ziff friend)



Odds and Ends

Donations of Newspapers, etc. to Wild Instincts Rehab

If you wish to help out Wild Instincts rehabilitate injured animals, you can bring newspapers (no ads), sheets, blankets, towels and t-shirts to their location a little to the northwest of Rhinelander. You do not have to go in their building to leave things. 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: _____

Odds and Ends (continued)

HEP a Success!

We are pleased to report the Hodag Eradication Program is working as planned.

For the second year running there have been no incidents of hodags attacking young children or dogs near the lake.

Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted with this effort..

Ask the Editor

Dear Editor: A few weeks back I was out on the lake and saw some young men standing in their backyard. One of them finished his beverage and threw his empty aluminum can into the lake.

My question is: was I ever that much of a numbskull? It's hard to remember.

Sincerely, Roger

Dear Roger: You did some pretty dumb things when you were that age, but you didn't do that. I know you spent your summers along Lake Michigan beaches with lots of other young people and no one ever threw their garbage in the lake. Somehow everyone understood that if everyone threw their garbage in the lake, no one would want to live along the lake, so no one did it.

Sincerely, The Editor

