



Indian Lake Community Newsletter

“A Jewel of a Lake”

2021

FALL
2021

Inside this issue:

<u>President's Message</u>	2
<u>Summer Lake Party</u>	4
<u>Water is the Best of Things</u>	5
<u>Wildlife Photos</u>	7
<u>Lakes Belong to Everyone</u>	8
<u>Birds of Indian Lake</u>	9
<u>Peshtigo Fire</u>	10
<u>Math/Logic Puzzles</u>	11
<u>Limericks</u>	12
<u>Photo Acknowledgements</u>	13
<u>Odds and Ends</u>	14
<u>Membership Form</u>	15
<u>Facts about Fish</u>	15

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 July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 fiscal year. Mail dues to: ILA Treasurer

P.O. Box 1801
Eagle River, WI 54521

(See Membership Form on last page)



Your Lake Association and How it Works to Protect Indian Lake

By President Joe Smogor

In the summer of 2004, a group of Indian Lake residents formed a discussion group to investigate some local land use issues that could have had a lasting negative impact on Indian Lake. The group concluded that they would have a stronger voice with the town and with local businesses around the lake if they formed an organized group like a lake association. A guest speaker from the Wisconsin Lakes Association spoke to the group, and talked about the benefits of forming a lake association. By the fall of 2004, a committee had been formed to investigate the steps needed to create the Indian Lake Association. The stated purposes of the association were: to promote water education and communication among lake property owners, to address water quality issues, and to give the lake a stronger voice in local government.

Over the course of the next 2 years committees were formed, the by-laws were written and approved by at least 25 lake property owners, and officers and directors were nominated and elected. The application was sent to the Wisconsin Lakes Association, and on July 3, 2006, the first annual meeting of the Indian Lake Association took place with approximately 25 of the 40 paid members attending the meeting. We had 74 paid members in the year 2020-2021.

As it is written in our by-laws, *“The purpose of the Association 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.”*

So, what does a lake association do, and what are some of the benefits of having an organized group on the lake? Here is a short list of things that a lake association could do:

- Promote communications among lakefront property owners
- Plan and facilitate social gatherings
- Promote water education
- Give the lake a strong unified voice in local government
- Assist the DNR in environmental conservation
- Give people a chance to volunteer or donate to the lake
- Apply for DNR grants or state funding for lake projects (Wisconsin Healthy Lakes Program Best practices for shoreland protection)
- Solicit and collect data on a broad range of lake related concerns: including water quality, shoreland development, and lake use conflicts
- Contract for AIS plant removal
- Maintain and improve boat landings (with the approval of the town)
- Improve fish habitat or stock fish (with a permit from the DNR)
- Advise the lake residents of proposed actions by the town or the county, such as zoning changes that may impact the lake owners' property values
- Coordinate citizen science investigations and activities on the lake including:
 - Citizen Lake Monitoring (water clarity and chemistry)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring
 - Loon Watch
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters

Your Lake Association and How it Works to Protect Indian Lake (continued)

To be eligible for state lake planning, protection, and recreational boating facilities grants, a lake association must be “qualified” which includes being incorporated and meeting other standards. Our status as a qualified lake group gives us more opportunities to form partnerships with a variety of different state and local organizations. Lake associations have no powers over lake community residents; membership and dues are voluntary.

We are incorporated and registered as a non-stock corporation (Chapter 181 WI Statutes) which also limits our liability. Since our inception as a “Qualified Lake Association” in 2006, the ILA has been a part of many lake related activities. Here are a few of the of the initiatives of the Indian Lake Association:

- Update and maintain the Indian Lake website
- Publish an annual lake directory: 2003-present
- Participate in Project Loon Watch: 2006-present
- Collect data for Citizen Lake Monitoring and Aquatic Invasive species (AIS): 2006-present
- Created Neighborhood Watch Program: 2010-present
- Sponsor Annual Pontoon/Picnic summer social: 2000-present
- Sponsor Annual Chili Fest winter social: 2004-present
- Create and distribute the Indian Lake community newsletter: 2005-present
- Distribute DNR Fisheries reports and updates: 2007-present
- Support walleye stocking: 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019
- Raised \$9,721 in matching funds towards a \$19,737 WDNR Grant to fund and create the Indian Lake Management Plan: 2014

If an aquatic invasive species is discovered in our lake and mitigation is necessary, our status as a “Qualified Lake Association” and the fact that we have completed a Lake Management Plan will allow us to seek immediate WDNR grants and other funding to help eliminate the problem plants or animals.

The Indian Lake Association **does not:**

- Propose or enact rules and regulations for the property owners to follow, but reminds lake users of the current DNR rules for safe watercraft operations.
- Issue fines or penalties for illegal shoreland practices, but tries to educate property owners about good shoreland protection practices.

The Indian Lake Association is a group of dedicated, volunteer property owners who are committed to taking care of the lake. See you out on the lake.

Joe Smogor, ILA President
September 2021

Summer Lake Party

The annual Indian Lake summer party took place on July 24, including the band Bogfoot, who were great! Thank you to Mary A. for hosting the party.



Water is the Best of Things

By Richard Kyte, Viterbo University

“Water is the best of things,” wrote the Greek poet Pindar, and surely he was right.

I grew up on water. Just a stone’s throw from the Ottertail River, I would spend my summer days fishing for panfish and pike in the morning and swimming all afternoon. By mid-July my skin was so dark, visitors to our little Scandinavian community would ask my mother if I was adopted.

“No,” she would reply, “but he is half fish, just like his grandpa.”

Grandpa Ralph was the one most responsible for my early love of water. Every year, as summer approached, he would take me downtown and tell the barber to shave my head. “That much,” he would say, indicating $\frac{1}{4}$ inch with his thumb and forefinger. Then he would turn to me and wink, “You will swim like a feather and dive like a stone.”

That sounded good to me, and I would spend the rest of the summer trying to do just that. As the years went by, I would spend my days fishing, hunting, swimming, and water skiing on just about every one of the dozens of lakes within a few miles of my home in northern Minnesota, lakes with names like Eagle, Wolf, Acorn, Pine, Tamarac, Grey’s, Rose, and Height of Land.

Even at that time, however, the quality of the lakes was diminishing.

Houses and cabins occupied much of the shoreline, and old-timers like my grandpa would reminisce about how good the fishing used to be. When it came time for a family vacation, we would inevitably head further north, to camp on lakes whose shores had not been developed, with water so cold and clear you could drink it straight off your canoe paddle.

Today I live by the Mississippi River, and while I enjoy fishing the river and the numerous streams that flow into it, I remain in love with the deep, cold, clear northern lakes that, since my youth, represented what Sigurd Olson called “the intangibles,” things like freedom, wildness, beauty, and wholeness—things we value but don’t know how to protect.

But as more people seek those very same things, the places where they can be found are diminishing.

Many of those places are being slowly, inexorably destroyed by the people who love them most. For the last 22 summers, my brother and I have travelled north to one lake in particular to camp and fish. The lake in question sits just below the Canadian border. It is a large lake, over a hundred and fifty feet deep, with numerous islands and rocky reefs.

At night, lying in a tent on one of the islands, you can hear the loons’ tremolo echoing against the pines, and later, as the moon rises, packs of wolves howl to one another across the dark face of the water.

When we first started going there the fishing was easy and the water clarity exceptional. We would fish in the morning, catching our limit for supper that evening. In the afternoon we would go snorkeling along the reefs, observing fish where we had been catching them earlier in the day, looking down at walleyes feeding on leeches and crayfish in the crevices between rocks a dozen feet below.

Water is the Best of Things (continued)

About ten years ago we started noticing changes. One of the old family-run resorts was sold and several large houses built with lawns running down to the shoreline. Phosphorous from fertilizer was contributing to algae growth, and water clarity had diminished to less than six feet. More boaters with larger outboards were showing up at the landing. The water was warmer in mid-June than it had been a few years earlier, and every year we caught fewer walleyes. In 2016 the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources added the lake to their list of impaired waters.

Today, the lake still looks pretty much the same to the casual observer. One still sees mostly rocky shores lined with pines. Loons still call to their mates in the evening. The wolves still howl. But below the surface everything has changed.

What is happening to that lake was described by Garrett Hardin in an article in *Science* in 1968 as the “tragedy of the commons.” It is when a common good, like a lake or stream or forest or meadow, is loved too much. Too many people use it for their own short-term interests, and nobody pays attention to the long-term effects on the whole. It is in this way that we often destroy the things we love.

Sometimes I think about finding another lake, further north, one that has not been contaminated by gasoline and phosphorous, by mercury and plastics. But then I recall the words of Henry David Thoreau, “It is in vain to dream of a wildness distant from ourselves. There is none such. It is the bog in our brain and bowels, the primitive vigor of Nature in us, that inspires that dream.”

Then I come to my senses and remember that my responsibility is not to escape the world but to preserve the best of it.

Water is the best of things. It nourishes and sustains, it cleanses and purifies, it restores our bodies and our minds, it draws us together and receives us. When we take care of our waters, we take care of ourselves.



Indian Lake Wildlife



Fox photo by Joe. Bartholomew/

Snake photo by Marty Haavisto outside his house.



Bear swimming on Indian Lake on June 27, 2021.
Photo by Sara Moe Chapman, Tish Stanner's niece.



Lakes Belong to Everyone: Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine

Taken from an article by Eric Olson in Lake Tides, Vol 45, No.3 and the WI Lakes Partnership.

After European settlement, but before Wisconsin was a state, it was part of the "Northwest Territory," a region beyond the newly established United States, west of the Appalachian Mountains and east of the Mississippi River. It consisted of current day Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and northeast Minnesota.

In 1787, Congress created the Northwest Ordinance to provide for the settlement of immigrants in the region and the future admission of new states into the Union. To facilitate trade and migration, the ordinance included the following clause: "The navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the said territory as to the citizens of the United States, and those of any other States that may be admitted into the confederacy, without any tax, impost, or duty therefor."

When the Wisconsin State Constitution was passed in 1848, it drew from the Northwest Ordinance to incorporate the navigable waters language as Article IX. Since that time, the waters of Wisconsin have been held as public goods, to be managed by the state for the benefit of its people.

The body of laws and court cases concerning Article IX and its implications are collectively referred to as the Public Trust Doctrine. The Doctrine has evolved along with our society to delineate rights and responsibilities regarding water. **A core tenet of these laws and court cases is that the lakes and rivers belong to everyone in the state; they cannot be privatized without satisfying a public interest and the state has a duty to protect and advance their value.**

For much of Wisconsin's early statehood, the legislature and private interests focused on developing water resources to advance commercial and industrial development. Dams could be constructed on rivers provided that there was a public benefit, and waterfront improvements were promoted to encourage industrial revolution factories and shipping.

As early as 1898, the Wisconsin Supreme Court was concluding that waters were more than common highways; **a case from western Wisconsin that year noted that the fish in those waters were also public trust and so angling in rivers and streams was a public right.**

In 1930, the court found, "As population increases, these waters are used by the people for sailing, rowing, canoeing, bathing, fishing, hunting, skating, and other public purposes." The state was obligated to balance these activities with the predominant industrial uses.

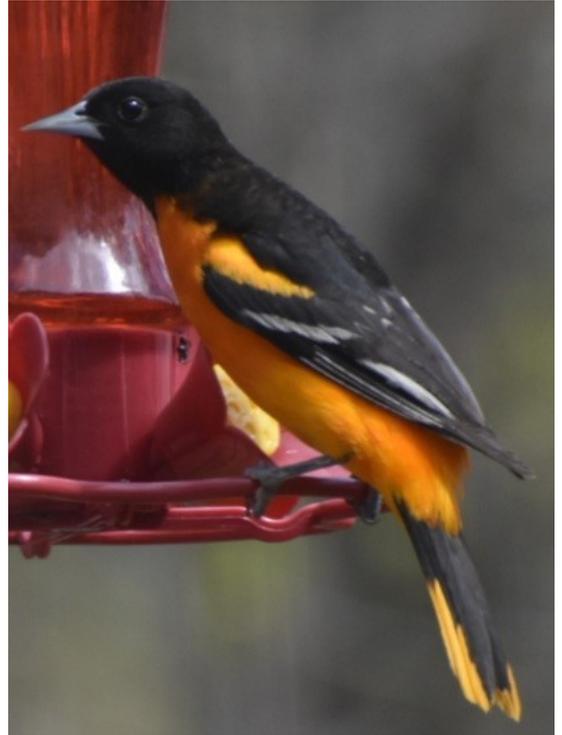
The ensuing decades saw numerous laws and programs to protect and restore water quality. Because of this work, the young people of Wisconsin stand to inherit a priceless collection of lakes and rivers that, overall, are healthier than they have been for decades.



Birds of Indian Lake

Photos by Joe Bartholomew

(Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Indigo Bunting)



The Peshtigo Fire: 150 Years Ago- October 8-10, 1871

By Roger Ziff

Growing up in Chicago in the 1950s, everyone knew about the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Everyone knew the legend of Mrs. O'Leary and her cow. Everyone knew the Chicago Water Tower on North Michigan Avenue had survived the fire. Almost everyone knew you could no longer construct buildings out of wood in Chicago because of the fire.

A large part of the City was burned to the ground (3.3 square miles), around 300 people died and nearly 100,000 people were left homeless.

But fewer people knew that on the exact same day in Peshtigo, WI, 120 miles southeast of Indian Lake near Lake Michigan, **the deadliest fire in US history** took place, killing around 2,000 people, burning up 1.2 million acres, and leaving only one building standing in Peshtigo, a city at the time of 1,800 people (bigger than current Eagle River).

People died in the fire, people drowned running into the river, and people died of hypothermia from the cold river water. But because the area was so remote, and communication methods so limited (there was not even telegraph), knowledge of the fire was delayed and less well known.

Both these fires and others in Michigan (e.g. 2/3 of Holland, MI was destroyed,), took place after a hot, dry summer on the same windy days 150 years ago.

How does this relate to Indian Lake? One of the worst things that could happen to our lake area would be a fire that destroyed all our homes and the surrounding forests. So please be careful shooting off fireworks and be careful with your campfires. Think about the fires in California and the fires in Minnesota and Canada this summer. Destructive fires still take place and we have no fire hydrants.

(The interesting photo below was taken by Gretchen Passmore between Indian Lake and Sugar Camp Lake at sunset. It looks like a fire, but it wasn't.)



Indian Lake Math and Logic

Jim runs 10 yards, then turns 180 degrees and runs 10 more yards. After repeating the turn and running two more times, he ends up 25 yards away from where he started. How?



Last issue's puzzles and solutions:

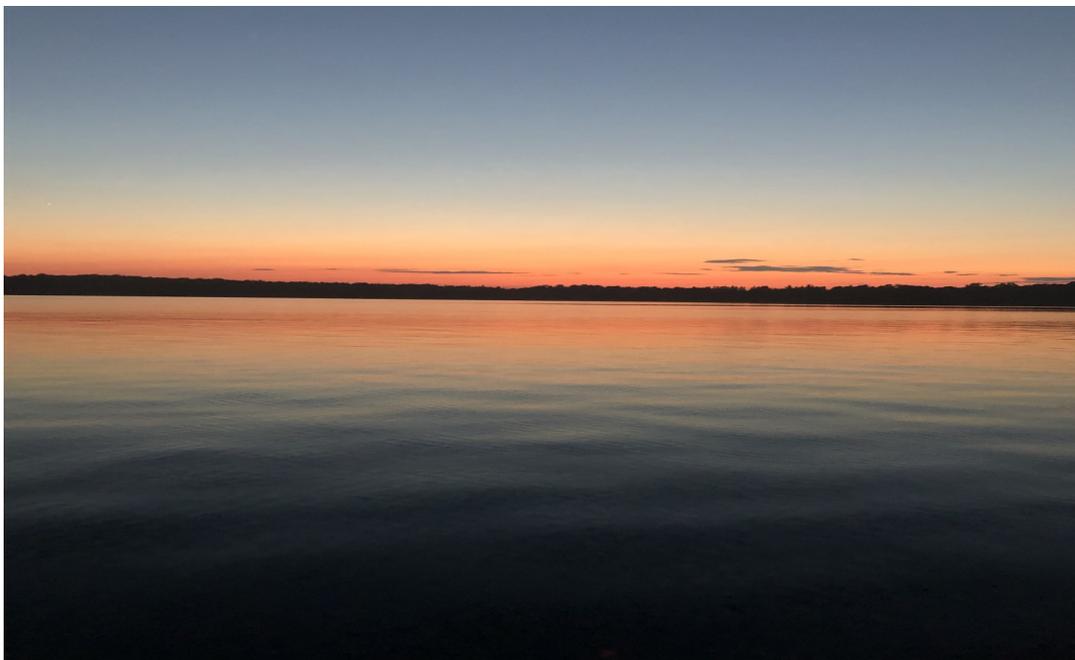
1. Shown below are 10 shovels grouped in a 1, 2, 3, 4 pattern from left to right. By only moving one shovel, change the pattern so it is 1, 2, 3, 4 from right to left.



Answer to shovel puzzle: move the second shovel on the right to the opening on the right of the first shovel on the left.

2. Diane's odometer shows five different digits, none of which is zero: (a) the first plus the second equals the third digit; (b) the third times two plus the second equals the fifth; (c) the second times two equals the first; (d) the first times four equals the fourth; and (e) the fourth minus the second equals the fifth. How many miles does her odometer show?

Answer to odometer puzzle: 21387.



Limericks exhibiting English's Spelling Peculiarities

There was a brave soldier, a Colonel,
Who swore in a way most infolonel;
But he never once thought
As a Christian man ought
He imperiled his own life etolonel.



There was a young girl in the choir
Whose voice went up hoir and hoir,
Till one Sunday night
It vanished from sight
And turned up next day in the spoir.



Notice to she-ers:

Be sure when your're coasting on skis
To avoid running into the tris
For it never is wise
To scratch out your ise
Or to let your poor nose or tose fris.

Breaking it ough:

There once was a man who for hiccough
Tried all of the cures he could piccough.
And the best without doubt,
As last he found oubt,
Is warm water and salt in a ticough.

There was a young lady of Crete,
Who was so exceedingly nete,
When she got out of bed
She stood on her hed
To make sure of not soiling her fete.



It might take a bullet or tu:

When reformers have nothing to du
They might take a shot at the Gnu.
To nock off the G,
Would fill them with glee
And wouldn't embarass the Nu.



Photo Acknowledgements

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

Page 4. Shirley Noonan

6. Joe Bartholomew

7. Joe Bartholomew

Sara Moe Chapman

Marty Haavisto

8. Bonnie Kobilansky

Page 9. Joe Bartholomew

10. Gretchen Passmore .

11. Lauren Pavlik

13. Kathy Berendt



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 Association Website

For much more information about Indian Lake, go to our ILA website at: <http://www.indianlakeassociation.com>. Thank you, Shirley Noonan, for all your work maintaining the website.

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 Spirit Apparel

Northwoods Embroidery and Gifts at 22 W. Davenport in Rhinelander offers clothing with the Indian Lake Association logo. You can also bring clothing there to have the logo stitched on. Ask for Bria.

Lake Tides Newsletter

The quarterly Lake Tides newsletter produced by the Wisconsin Lake Partnership and UW-Stevens Point can be accessed by either (1) typing Lake Tides Newsletter into Google, or (2) going to the Indian Lake Association website on Google and clicking on the link in the left hand column of the home page.

Membership Form

Indian Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Year: July 1 to June 30

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: _____

Facts about Fish

1. Do fish feel pain? Scientists now believe fish feel pain.
2. Do fish feel fear and panic? Try taking one out of the water.
3. Do fish feel loneliness? Many fish prefer the companionship of other fish.
4. Do fish feel love? It depends on what the other fish looks like.

