

Indian Lake Community Newsletter

"A Jewel of a Lake"

FALL

2023

2023

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, 2023 – June 30, 2024 fiscal year. Mail dues to: ILA Treasurer

P.O. Box 1801

Eagle River, WI 54521

(See Membership Form on last page)

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A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

The trees are showing some spectacular colors this year as we make the transition to the fall season. It was a warm summer, but as the air and water temperatures go down, we start moving our boats and docks out of the water and into storage. It was a good summer on the lake for fisherman, water skiers, paddlers, and for kids, who were getting pulled behind boats and PWC's. The long cold days of winter will be here soon, and that will give us some extra time to reflect on, and revise some of our "old" accomplishments as a lake association.

If we turn back the clock to 2011-2012, the ILA saw a need to take actions. We needed a process to identify aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the lake, and we needed more data to evaluate the overall water quality of the lake. We chose to apply for a DNR grant to create a Lake Management Plan for Indian Lake. We formed a partnership with Onterra LLC, a lake consulting firm, and in 2012 we received a grant for about \$20,000 to help create our plan.

Field surveys were conducted in summer of 2012 and winter of 2013 to collect scientific data for this study, and by early 2014 we had the core of a management plan that was consistent with our overall lake association's mission which is *"To preserve Indian Lake and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Indian Lake as a public recreation facility for today and future generations."*

Since the management plan was enacted in 2014 the ILA has been working on the goals identified in the plan. These management goals are:

1. Deepen the Community's Commitment to Protect, Preserve, and Enhance the Health and Aesthetic Value of Indian Lake
2. Develop and Maintain Appropriate Communication and Coordination between the ILA, non-Association Residents and other Lake Management entities.
3. Increase the ILA's Capacity to Educate and Involve Lake Stakeholders
4. Maintain Current Water Quality Conditions
5. Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) introductions to Indian Lake
6. Maintain and Enhance Indian Lake Fisheries and Fisheries Habitat

We have come long way in the last 10 years, and we have been successful in achieving many of these goals, but we are not done yet. This winter, we hope to recruit members of the ILA to create action plans to help us reach more of these goals. More information about this process will be sent out via the ILA email group.



Services Performed by the Indian lake Association

The main purpose of the Lake Association is to care for the lake. The association is NOT responsible for policing the lake. The following services are performed by the association:

- Citizens Lake Quality Monitoring
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters
- Loon Watch
- Fisheries Updates
- Grant Applications
- Directory of Lake Residents
- Neighborhood Watch
- Winter/Summer Social Gathering
- Indian Lake Newsletter
- Indian Lake Website

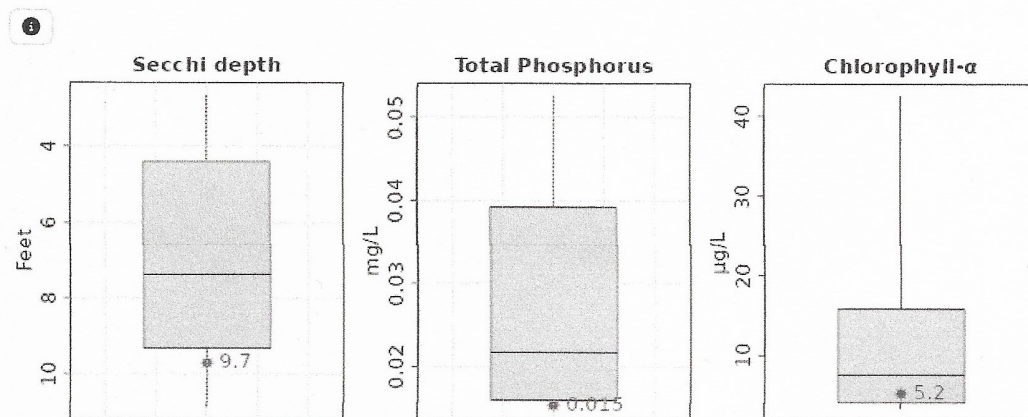
Indian Lake Water Quality

As part of the Wisconsin Citizens Lake Monitoring program, Joe Smogor and other Indian Lake residents have monitored Indian Lake over the years and submitted data to the DNR on the quality of Indian Lake. Some of this data is available to see on the DNR's website (see the Indian Lake Association's website and go to Links).

The graphs below are from the DNR's website and indicate that over the last 10 years, **Indian Lake has had clearer water (Secchi depth), lower phosphorus levels and lower chlorophyll levels than similar lakes in the State.** (Note that the reference to red dots below are shown as black dots here.)

Trophic status compared to similar lakes

Late summer trophic indicator averages (red) from the last 10 years compared to other **SHALLOW HEADWATER** lakes (gray box and whiskers). If red dots are absent, not enough recent data exists to calculate an average.



Death of our Loon

By Gary Mueller

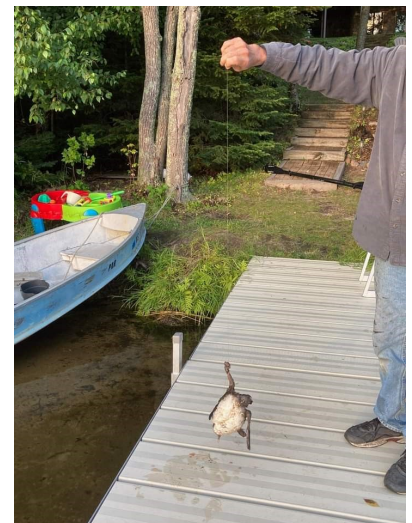
This spring we were anxiously watching Indian Lake's new baby loon grow bigger every day and gain more independence away from its adult chaperons. By the end of June, the baby was paddling off, sometimes as far as 50 feet, from its parents, while both parents were gathering food for the baby chick and keeping it safely within their sight. By the first few days of July, the baby loon was diving and staying under water for 15 to 20 seconds.

The morning of July 18th we observed both parents but no baby chick with them. One parent was loitering near the end of our neighbors' pier. She was mournfully calling for her baby, and then submersing her head under the water, as if she was listening and watching for her baby's return. This continued into the afternoon and the next 36 hours all the while staying very close to the pier. Shortly after noon that first day, I waded down to the neighbors' pier to investigate. I sensed that the baby had been taken and that the mother was remaining in the area where she had last seen her baby. As I drew nearer to the pier the tending parent became very agitated, and while I was still in waist deep water, the adult loon dove and torpedoed towards me. Hurriedly I got out of the water onto the pier and discontinued the search. For the next three days, Sue and I mourned the loss of the baby chick, certain that it had fallen prey to a natural enemy, an eagle, a musky or a large snapping turtle.

Three evenings later Sue and I went kayaking and investigated around the pier. To our dread we found a tangled mass of fishing line and feathers wound together around the end pier posts. Entangled in it was the decomposing body of our beloved baby loon. It died not because of a natural predator, but because of a person. The cause of death was exhaustion and drowning as a result of ensnarement in fishing line. A needless likely avoidable death.

I don't know where the fishing line came from, it was not the pier owner's line. Maybe it was a snagged line from a fisherman that cast his line to fish close to the piers, or maybe it was a fishing line that was carelessly discarded into the lake. I wished that it wasn't either of those.

Please everyone, occasionally check around your boat lifts and piers for wild life hazards. If you snag your line, remove it instead of breaking the line and leaving it there. The line that killed our baby loon had been snagged on the pier before the loon got tangled in it. All of us are responsible for the well being, health and beauty of our lake and it's wild-life residents. We need to consider the impact of our activities whether it is fishing, boating, flying, swimming, tubing, jet skiing or just enjoying a float boat cruise. We all need to protect and take care of this wonderful resource that is set before us. Hopefully next year our Indian Lake loons will successfully raise a family for all of our families to enjoy.



The Center of the World (or at least the center of the northern half of the Western Hemisphere)

By Roger Ziff, Newsletter Editor

You may not be aware that Sugar Camp has a latitude of 45.8189161 degrees and a longitude of 89.2984486 degrees or what that means.



A latitude of exactly 45 degrees north means 45 degrees north of the equator, or halfway between the equator and the north pole. A longitude of exactly 90 degrees west means 90 degrees west of Greenwich, England, or a quarter of the way around the world from Greenwich.

The exact 45 x 90 location is a little west of Wausau, but compared to the whole world, we are pretty close. So, Indian Lake is pretty much halfway between the equator and the north pole and a quarter of the way around the world from Greenwich, England.

There are only four 45 x 90 points in the world, and the two in the southern hemisphere are under water. The other northern hemisphere point is in a remote part of northwest China. So the only one that is really accessible is ours.



The 45 x 90 points on a world map

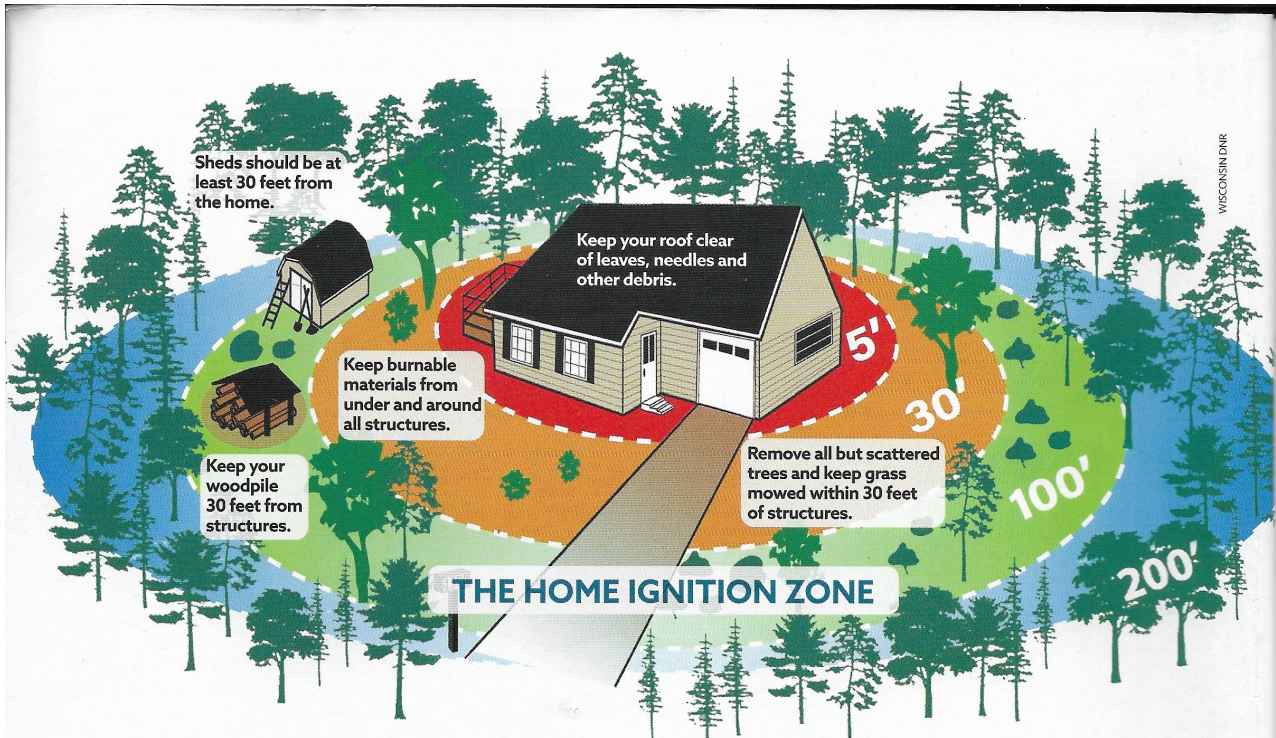
And what does this very special place west of Wausau look like? Have you ever seen a farm?

But there is a sign and markers and the Wausau Convention and Visitors Bureau has a registration book and gives out commemorative coins to people who were there.

By the way, the “antipode” of the WI point (the point on the opposite side of the Earth) is in the southern Indian Ocean.



Prepare Your Home for Wildfires



BE FIREWISE

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

KATHRYN A. KAHLER

Wisconsin has a long history of dangerous wildfires that can burn homes and other structures in forested areas and elsewhere, and spring is the most prolific time for wildfires in the state. The DNR estimates that 80% of all buildings destroyed by wildfire in Wisconsin are lost between March and June.

Three factors that affect wildfire are weather, topography and fuel — naturally occurring flammable material. While the first two are beyond your control, you can assess your risk, manage available fuel and take steps to prepare your home for wildfires.

To assess your property for risk, first be aware of the grades of fuel and how they are ignited:

- Fine fuels such as grasses, leaves and pine needles ignite easily and burn quickly.



- Ladder fuels including shrubs and small trees carry fire to treetops.

- Heavy fuels like trees, large limbs, downed logs and outbuildings burn longer and produce more heat.

Finally, think about ignition. Most homes near forestland destroyed by wildfire are ignited by small surface flames or flying embers that land on roofs, porches or other flammable surfaces. Most buildings are burned by fires that started on the same property or at a neighbor's.

With a little effort, you can improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. A home that is Firewise can survive a wildfire even without help from firefighters.

Picture your home in the center of a 100 to 200-foot circle, called the home ignition zone. In a well-managed zone, fuel sources are reduced so an approaching fire is starved of the fuels it needs to burn.

Prepare Your Home for Wildfires (continued)

Follow these Firewise tips to minimize wildfire risk within your home ignition zone.

WITHIN 5 FEET

- When planning new construction or upgrades, use fire resistant roofing and siding, cover vents with wire screen, box-in eaves and use fire resistant or noncombustible materials for decks or porches.
- Keep plants to a minimum near your home, using low-growing deciduous species rather than more flammable evergreens.
- Don't use wood mulch and instead opt for bare dirt, mowed grass or decorative stone.
- Keep roofs, gutters and decks free from leaves and pine needles.

5 TO 30 FEET

- Don't plant highly flammable evergreens.
- Trim tree limbs at least 10 feet from roof.
- Keep your lawn mowed, watered and free of dead vegetation, leaves and pine needles, especially during spring fire season.
- Rake debris from around buildings and wood fences.
- Prune dead branches off trees and shrubs.

30 TO 100 FEET

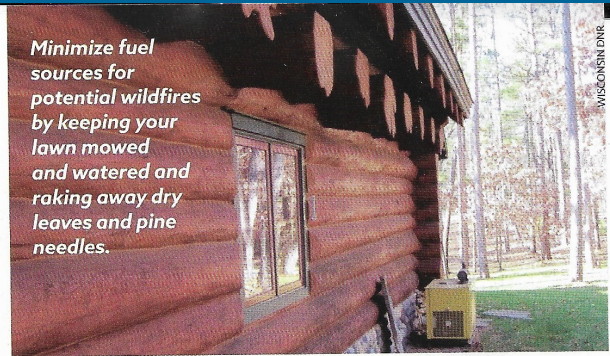
- Manage vegetation by creating space between evergreens and maintaining a mix of evergreens, deciduous trees and shrubs, mowed grass and garden islands.
- Trim lower branches of evergreens 6 to 10 feet up from the ground.
- Keep firewood stacks, sheds and stored vehicles at least 30 feet from your home.
- Around propane tanks, maintain a 10-foot area that is free of any combustible material.

100 TO 200 FEET

- Thin trees, leaving space between canopies.
- If your home is on a hill or surrounded by mostly pines, extend the home ignition zone to 200 feet and remove woody debris build-up on the forest floor. Fire burning uphill heats and dries the fuel in its path, causing the fire to burn faster and with more intensity.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

- For emergency vehicle access in case of a fire, make sure your address



or fire number sign is visible from both directions of travel.

- Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide, with 13 feet of overhead clearance for fire department access.
- If possible, create a space at the end of your driveway with adequate room for an emergency vehicle to turn around once it reaches your home.

Kathryn A. Kahler is associate editor of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine.

LEARN MORE



Scan the QR code for more on protecting your property from wildfire.

IS YOUR HOME AT RISK?

Use this checklist to help assess your home's wildfire risk. The more times you check YES, the higher the risk. Now is the best time to act.



Having a Smokey Bear fire danger sign in your community means your home may be more at risk for wildfires.



WILDFIRE RISK INDICATOR

YES NO

I own a home in a rural area.		
My home is in a wooded area.		
I see tall grass, oaks or pine trees outside.		
I see more pine needles and leaves than lawn.		
The soil around my property is sandy.		
Burning takes place on my or my neighbor's property (campfires, leaf or brush burning, burn barrel use).		
I, or my neighbor, dump wood ash outdoors.		
I have heard about past wildfires in the area.		
There is a Smokey Bear fire danger sign in my community.		

Things I saw at the Lake this Year (by newsletter editor, Roger Ziff)



Part of a dragonfly's lifecycle (1-2 inches)

The Giant Salamander of Indian Lake! (about 9 inches)



Crayfish (1-2 inches)



What kind of mushroom is this?



Long line of open clam (mussel?) shells just offshore. Apparently, this was a desirable spot for some animal to have its lunches.

Poem

The Road not Taken

By Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



In Memory of Indian Lake Friends

Astrid Moser

June 6, 1943–June 10, 2023

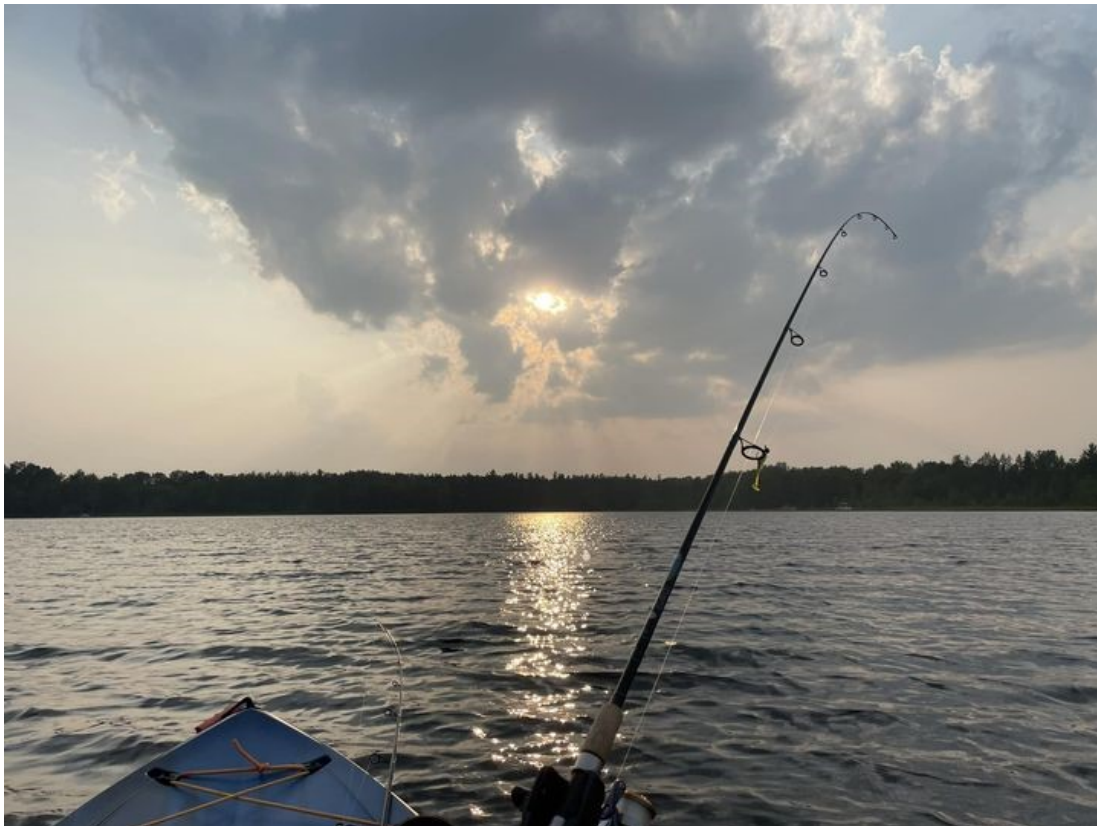
Astrid Moser, 80, formerly of Indian Lake, passed away on June 10 in Madison.



Astrid was born in Eastern Europe during WWII in 1943 and her early life was not easy. After the war, she lived in Lower Saxony, West Germany, but hard economic times in post-war West Germany resulted in her family immigrating to Milwaukee in 1956. She went to high school in Milwaukee and in 1962 met Ron Moser, who she married in 1965. They had two children and lived first in West Allis and later in Mukwonago, where she worked for the Bank of Mukwonago.

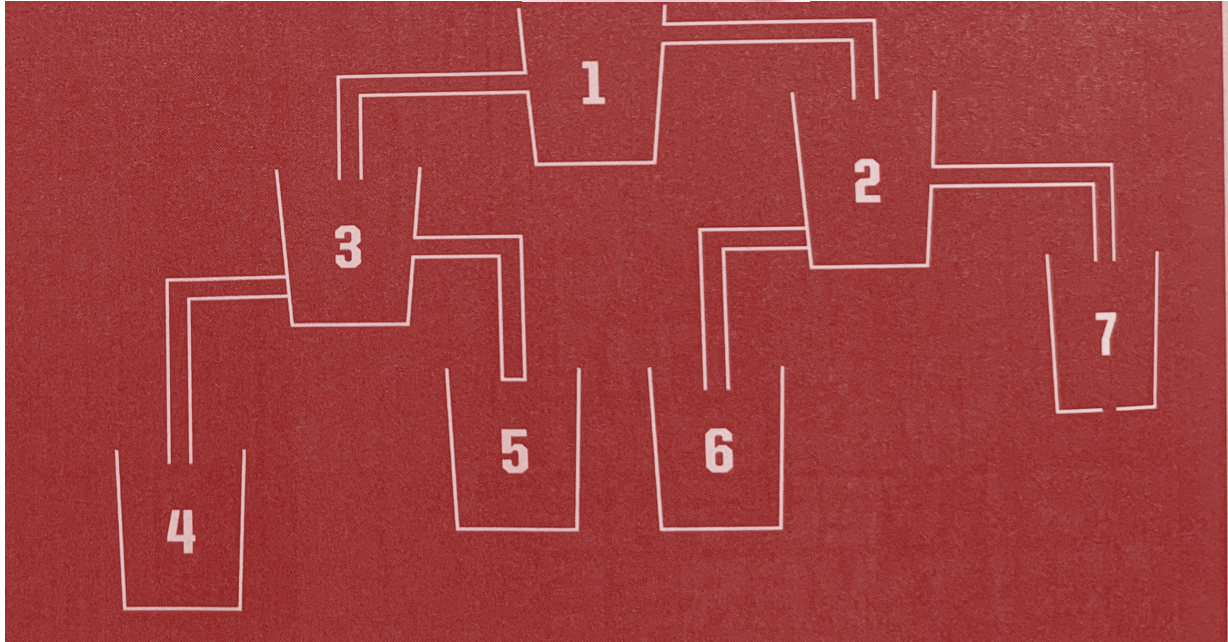
Upon retiring in 2003, Astrid and Ron moved to Indian Lake. Astrid loved her house on the lake and maintained a beautiful flower garden. Unfortunately, Ron died in 2009, and in 2012 Astrid sold their Indian Lake house and moved to Montana to live near her son, Kurt. But in 2016, she moved back to Rhinelander and lived there until 2022, when she moved to Madison to be near her daughter, Ingrid.

Many Indian Lake residents have fond memories of Astrid. Shirley Noonan still has irises in her garden that Astrid gave her.



Indian Lake Math and Logic

Which cup will
fill first?



Last issue's puzzles and solutions:

As I was walking to St. Germain, I met a man with seven wives.
Every wife had seven sacks. Every sack had seven cats. Every cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks and wives, how many were going to St. Germain?

Answer: Just one (the narrator). All the rest were walking from St. Germain.

A couple own a house on Indian Lake that needs a new furnace. Their current furnace is rated at 80% efficient and uses 1,000 therms a year to keep the house warm. The cost per therm is \$1. They could replace the old furnace with another that is 80% efficient, or they could get one that is 96% efficient, but it would cost \$1,000 more. How many years would it take them to make up the extra \$1,000 cost via reduced energy bills?

Answer: 6 years. Currently, they pay for 1000 therms and actually use 800. The alternative would be to use 800 and pay for 833 (800/.96). So, they would save 167 therms per year. $\$1000/\$167 = 6$ years.

Photo Acknowledgements

Special Note: Permission was obtained to use all photos in this newsletter taken by lake residents.

Many thanks to everyone who allowed me to use their lake photos. The creators of the great pictures in this issue are:

Page 2. Victoria Moen

4. Gary and Sue Mueller

8. Roger Ziff

9. Carol Ziff

10. Mike Moen

Page 12 left: Sue Ann Eicher

12 right: Mike Moen

13: Dan Reeve

14. Dianne Vanevehoven



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.



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: _____

