



# WINTER

2017

## Indian Lake Community Newsletter



**CHILI-ON-ICE**  
**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017**

The annual Chili-On-Ice winter gathering will take place on Sunday, February 19, 2017, starting at noon.

- The party will be located on the ice by the boat landing or alongside the island across from the boat landing, depending on wind and snow (a shuttle will help you get to the island, if needed).
- Chili and chili toppings will be provided.
- Bring a lawn chair, warm clothes, and a beverage of choice or a thermos of a hot beverage to pass around.
- Camp fire will be provided.
- Games and activities will be provided.
- If there is VERY BAD weather forcing cancellation, an email will be sent out the morning of the party (or you may call or text Greg Bujalski at 630-290-6331).



**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.

[www.IndianLakeAssociation.com](http://www.IndianLakeAssociation.com)

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## A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

### Changes on the Lake

Happy New Year to everyone in the Indian Lake Community. We have made it through the darkness of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, and gradually, the days are getting longer. The lake was quiet in late November and December, with very little activity on the water. Ice first covered the lake on or around December 9. The lake ice is now about 11 inches thick, and the activity level has picked up on the water with many fishermen, some 4 wheelers, and a few skiers, snowmobilers, and snowshoers. It was great to see adults along with children playing on the ice. As the winter progresses, the lake ice conditions will continue to change.

Change is one of the constants of lake living. We live in a dynamic community that appears to be the same, but is in a state of continuous flow from one season to another. The lake water is not static. It goes through daily and yearly changes of temperature, water clarity, and dissolved oxygen. The biotic communities in and around the lake are constantly changing. The microorganisms, the lake plants, the aquatic insects, the fish, and the waterfowl are never exactly the same from year to year.

The lake water level certainly changed after all the precipitation last year. I have received a couple of inquiries and suggestions about the high water. There are no simple solutions to our changing lake levels. Indian Lake is not the only lake dealing with this change. Many of the lakes and rivers in our area are experiencing above average water levels, and we will have to wait and see what happens to the water levels when the snow melts in the spring.

The human community on the lake is also constantly changing. Folks come and they go. Each year we are introduced to new seasonal and year-round neighbors. We should invite the new people to join our group. One of the functions of a lake association is to welcome the new lake residents, and share information about the lake. One way to keep our lake association vibrant and strong is to embrace the changes, and encourage participation. See you on the lake.



## Update...High Speed Internet Service for Sugar Camp

By Dave Noel

In the August newsletter I believe I said that Sugar Camp would have access to high speed wireless internet service “before the end of 2016.” Hmm...I was partly correct. The folks at *Northwoods Connect* were able to install their wireless internet service on the tall tower near Pine Lake in October 2016. Consequently, many homes in the south end of Sugar Camp, near Jennie Webber and Cross County Rd have been enjoying wireless high speed internet.

Unfortunately, *Northwoods Connect* was not able to secure a lease to use the tall tower near Highway 17, and County Rd. D as they had originally planned. Therefore, they intend to erect a dedicated 180’ tower near the commercial tower, on property owned by Sowinski Farms. I’ve been advised by *Northwoods Connect* that they hope to have this Sugar Camp north location operational within the next 60 days.

If you are interested in subscribing to this service when it becomes available, contact *Northwoods Connect* at [www.northwoodsconnect.com](http://www.northwoodsconnect.com).

A number of neighbors have asked me how this new wireless internet service would work in their home. The technology, which is often referred to as “fixed wireless” broadband service, incorporates a specialized radio and antenna located on a nearby tower. It transmits to, and is received by a small (6”) antenna typically installed on a mast on or near your roof. The effective range for each tower in the northwoods is approximately 4-5 miles. A coax cable brings the signal into your house to a special receiver box, connected to your Internet router. *Northwoods Connect* operates the service, which includes the antenna, receiver box, and all necessary installation.

As I mentioned in the past, I have no business affiliation to the *Northwoods Connect*, other than serving as a volunteer on a county economic development committee with the goal of assisting in the development of a county-wide broadband service.

## 2016 Loon Chick



Here is a photo Joe Smogor sent in of Indian Lake’s loon chick.

Loons flock together and head south for the winter and it is likely our loon chick is down in the Florida area, either along the Gulf or the Atlantic, having a wonderful time.

Did you know juvenile loons do not return north for two to three years after their initial migration?

## 5 North Woods Favorites

By Roger Ziff

Continuing our new feature of lists of five favorite places to go “Up North” (not counting going out on Indian Lake or sitting in the back yard), we have the following new submittals:

First, the Smogors submitted a list of five (or six) favorite food and drink establishments:

1. For fish fry, Moondance, on Highway 17 in Sugar Camp.
2. For steaks, McGregor’s Blink Bonnie Supper Club, on Highway 70 west of downtown St. Germain, across the street from the Whitetail Inn.
3. For Bloody Marys, the Cross Country Bar and Grill on Highway 17 south of Sugar Camp, or the Honey Bear Inn, just west of the intersection of Highways 17 and 70, west of Eagle River.
4. For pizza, the Jailhouse, at 4056 County W in Rhinelander.
5. For pies, the Golden Harvest Market, at 3215 Highway G in Rhinelander.

Second, an anonymous household submitted these five favorites:

1. Fayette Historic State Park at Fayette, MI, on the north shore of Lake Michigan. This would be an overnight trip. It is a reconstructed industrial iron smelting town from the second half of the 19th century.
2. Old Victoria Copper Mine and Restorative Site, 4 miles southwest of Rockland, MI, north of Eagle River near Lake Superior.
3. Lake of the Clouds in the Porcupine Mountains next to Lake Superior
4. Golfing and cross country skiing at the Eagle River Golf Course.
5. Picking berries along the road.

For more seasonal activities, Shirley Noonan said Moondance sponsors (1) the Polish Square Fun Run/Walk, a 7 mile run/walk in Sugar Camp each Fall to raise money for charities, and (2) a road cleanup each Spring, including snacks afterwards at Moondance.

Also in the Fall, I learned that at Rib Mountain in Wausau, at the peak of the Fall colors, you can ride the ski lifts to see the beautiful panorama. The charge is \$10, and for a shorter line, drive up and start at the top, rather than the bottom.



# Frozen Lakes Swimming with Life

By Paul Skawinski, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Education Specialist,  
Golden Sands RC&D, and author of *Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest*.  
(From *Lake Tides*, Vol. 37 (1), Winter 2012)

*Through the winter season, our lakes look quiet and dormant, but underneath that ice and snow, many plants and animals are busy doing what they do best.*

Water is most dense around 39°F, allowing ice to float and form a barrier between the lake and the frigid winter above. In most lakes, this insulation from the bitter cold allows much of the lake volume to be preserved as liquid water. The ice barrier has a negative side too though, as it reflects or absorbs much of the incoming sunlight before it can be used by aquatic plants for photosynthesis – an essential process that adds dissolved oxygen to the lake water. Plants like coontail, Elodea, and algae can remain active under the ice, producing that critical oxygen supply. When a lake is deprived of sunlight for too long, especially shallow or nutrient-rich lakes, a situation called “winterkill” results. This is when the level of dissolved oxygen in the water is so low that most oxygen-breathing animals cannot survive.

In lakes where the oxygen level is sufficient, living organisms continue as normal. Cold-water fish like cisco or lake trout that may have been restricted to deep water in the summer can explore the entire lake now. Warm-water fish like bluegills or largemouth bass may prefer being near the bottom where the water is slightly warmer, if they have enough oxygen.

The abundant aquatic insects that are seen swimming or flying around lakes in summer tend to survive as aquatic larvae in the winter to avoid exposure to harsh temperatures. Adult whirligig beetles – the ones you see zigzagging across the lake surface at lightning speed – survive the winter as tiny, predatory larvae on the lake bottom. Similarly, the aerial powerhouses, known as dragonflies, that zip through the air in summer also spend the winter on the lake bottom as predators of smaller insects. These insects and others provide an important food source for fish and other creatures during the winter season, as they wait for the bright sunshine of spring to rejuvenate the food web of the lake.

Most aquatic plants spend the winter in a dormant state, reserving their energy until the next growing season. Seeds and turions are often programmed to resist germination until a certain day length or water temperature is reached. This ensures that the plants will be growing when conditions are favorable for their survival. A few hardy species like coontail, Elodea, and curly-leaf pondweed can grow year-round because of their ability to survive in cold water and low-light conditions. Indeed, these species can be found in nearly every aquatic habitat in Wisconsin.

Some near-shore plants like cattails and water lilies send their energy down to the root systems below the sediment for storage over the winter season. The remaining leaves simply decay and are replaced in spring. While the lake bottom may seem like a safe location to store this energy, muskrats commonly dive down to snack on these tasty stores. In order to enter and exit the frozen lake, muskrats build large mounds of vegetation on top of the ice or along the banks in cattail marshes, which conceal an opening in the ice and serve as entryways to this aquatic supermarket.

*From above the ice-covered water, we see a lifeless, barren land. The howling winds blow cold. The ice reaches deep into the lake. Nevertheless, just a few feet below the harsh winter, our lakes are swimming with life!*



Juvenile dragonflies (nymphs) spend the winter under the ice.

# The Economic Value of Lakes & Rivers In Oneida County

By Roger Ziff

In October, Dave Noel, who lives on Indian Lake, made a presentation to the Oneida County Board of Supervisors on the economic value of lakes and rivers to the county. The information he presented to the Board included the following:

There are 1,129 lakes in Oneida County, of which 428 are named. Ten percent of the county is covered by surface water.

There are 13,850 waterfront residences in Oneida County, of which 10,316 are seasonal (74%). Seventy six percent of the value of county residential property is waterfront property, and 90% of that is seasonal residences.

**Based on studies of Delavan Lake and the Tainter Lakes in other parts of Wisconsin, if water quality in an Oneida County lake declines, property values around that lake could decline by roughly 50%. (Emphasis by editor).**

From the county's perspective, if the quality of the water in the county's lakes declines, there would not only be a loss of property tax revenue, but tourism would decline, and spending by both seasonal and full-time residents would decline - because seasonal residents would spend less time in the county and the overall county economy would decline.

Dave Noel quantified these potential impacts for the County Board. His point was to show how much the county depends on the quality of its lakes, and the need to maintain that quality.

The full study is available online. Go to [www.ocfra.org](http://www.ocfra.org), and click on Links.



## In Memory of Indian Lake Friends

### Christopher “Chris” Quandt

Long time Indian Lake resident Christopher “Chris” Quandt, age 54, passed on October 14, 2016. He was born on January 20, 1962, in El Paso, Texas to Glenn and Patricia (Johnson) Quandt.

Chris grew up in Milwaukee, WI, graduating from Custer High School in 1980. He moved to Sugar Camp in 1989. Chris was an auto body / collision repair and paint technician having learned the trade as an apprentice in Milwaukee. He took a few years to attend the Culinary Arts program... at Nicolet College, but returned to the repair profession, starting his own collision repair business. Chris had been a member of the Sugar Camp Volunteer Fire Department, the Eagle River Jaycees, and enjoyed participating in bowling and softball leagues.

Chris is survived by his mother, Patricia Quandt Ulsberger of Sugar Camp; a sister, Patricia “Patty” Quandt of Madison, WI; two brothers, William (Debbie) Quandt of Oshkosh, WI and Joseph (Nicole) Quandt of Madison, WI. He was preceded in death by his father, Glenn in 1968, and by his step father, Tony Ulsberger, in 1993, for whom he had much love and respect.

Though Chris never married, he shared his love and affection with his family in many ways, especially with the youngest generation of the family who loved to visit “Uncle Chris” to help split logs, hunt turtles while swimming at the lake, watch the loons, build great bonfires, luge runs in the winter, and enjoy rides on the ATV and snowmobile. He taught these young people to appreciate and respect our environment and all its wildlife. Chris will be greatly missed by all those who knew him. He will be fondly remembered as a person who was always kind, generous, and respectful of others.

