



WINTER

2020

Indian Lake Community Newsletter

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

1. February 29: Chili Cookoff
At Noon. See page 2 for details.
2. March 10: Sugar Camp Blood Drive
3:20 p.m. through 7:00 p.m.
(To schedule your life-saving appointment, please contact Mary at 715-490-3906. Appointments preferred.)
3. May 23: Memorial Day Meeting (Special Election)
9:00 a.m. There will be a special election as part of this meeting for the position of ILA Treasurer . If you are interested in this position, please contact Joe Smogor.



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 \$20.00 per June 1—May 31 fiscal year. Mail dues to: ILA Treasurer
P.O. Box 1801
Eagle River, WI 54521

(See Membership Form on the last page.)





Who? The entire Indian Lake Community, Friends, Relatives
What? First ever *Chili Cookoff Competition* and snowshoe hike
When? Saturday February 29, 2020 at NOON
Where? Bujalskis' fire pit—7111 Arbutus Drive
Parking will be limited to one side of the road, please!

Categories of Participants

COMPETITORS— Create your favorite pot of chili. Call Joe Smogor to register as a contestant. Bring chili to event in crock pot, along with any condiments required to enhance your chances. Your pot of chili will receive a number so the cook will remain anonymous. Voting will be by ballot after tasting. BYOB

NONCOMPETITORS— You will be among the chili judges!! Come hungry! Please bring a snack or dessert to share. BYOB Dress appropriately for an outdoor event! If needed, bring a folding chair. Bathroom will be available on site.

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN

Those interested in a snowshoe hike after chili,
please bring appropriate equipment.



Since 2017, nearly 15 % of the properties on Indian Lake have changed ownership. Please reach out to new neighbors to welcome them to this event!

**To register as a competitor, call Joe Smogor at 715-272-2030
or email joesmogor@gmail.com**

Should the event need to be cancelled, please monitor email from ILA.

A Message from Indian Lake Association President Joe Smogor

Winter Reflections

It is early in February, and it looks like we are going to have another long winter. The lake ice started to form in early November on Indian Lake and the “ice on” date declared this year was November 11. The ice came on Jennie Weber Lake on November 6, and Sugar Camp Lake wasn’t ice covered until December 2.

Ice fisherman started to venture out in the shallow bays by November 15 with 4-5 inches of ice. The snows came early and often after that, including a 12-14 inch snowstorm midway through the gun deer season that limited hunter mobility in the woods. The clouds, snow, and wintry weather continued through December, and by the end of the year we had approximately 30 inches of snow on the ground.

The snow cover has created a blanket of insulation over the lakes, and hindered the formation of additional solid ice. Travel on the lake is limited now due to the snow and slushy layer of water and ice on top of about 8-10 inches of solid ice. Some subzero nights and sunny days should help to reduce the snowpack, and firm up the slush.

The NOAA forecasters are calling for slightly colder than normal temperatures and above average precipitation for the rest of the winter. I hope the predictions are not accurate. We already have plenty of snow on the ground. Last year the ice was not off the lake until April 29.

The ice conditions have made it difficult for the fisherman to get out and find the fish. I have caught a few small northern pike through the ice, but I have not found where the panfish are hiding for the winter. The fish are sluggish now, probably due to the decreasing levels of dissolved oxygen in the water and because the ice and snow limit the sunlight that can get to the lake plants. There is very little, if any, photosynthesis, and as lake plants decay under the ice the oxygen is getting used up. As the days get longer, and the energy from the sun increases, some of the snow should melt, holes in the ice will remain open, it will be easier to move around on the lake, and the bite should improve.

Indian Lake was stocked again this fall with approximately 1,985 walleyes.

Also, this fall the DNR did another fish survey of the lake. We are still waiting to see the published results of the lake survey. It should be interesting to see if the 15/5 panfish limits are having any effects on the overall size of the bluegills and crappies. Indian Lake is one of the 94 lakes that was included in the panfish size study that began in 2016.

See you on the lake.



2019 Wisconsin Bald Eagle Nest Surveys

(Summary of report by WI DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation and Wildlife Management)



Year	# of Nests
1973	108
1983	198
1993	464
2003	880
2013	1,344
2015	1,465
2016	1,504
2017	1,590
2018	1,695
2019	1,684

Summary: Staff from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation and Wildlife Management completed statewide aerial nesting surveys for active bald eagle nests in cooperation with WDNR pilots in Spring, 2019.

Detailed records of eagle nest occupancy have been collected in Wisconsin since 1973, making it one of the longest running surveys of its kind in America.

The surveys this year found 1,684 occupied eagle nests in the state. All counties were surveyed, and active eagle nests were observed in 71 of 72 counties in 2019 (the exception was Milwaukee Co.).

As in past years, Vilas (n=175) and Oneida (n=150) counties had the highest number of occupied eagle nests. These two counties represent most of the Northern Highland Ecological Landscape, which has one of the highest concentrations of freshwater lakes in the world and one of the highest densities of nesting bald eagles anywhere in North America.

Wintering Eagles: Wintering bald eagle numbers were recorded throughout Wisconsin during the annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, which is conducted in conjunction with the winter waterfowl surveys by WDNR field staff, landowners, and volunteers. In 2019, the count was conducted between January 2nd to January 16th.

Annually, observers count the number of bald eagles observed on specific routes conducted by plane, vehicle, and on foot that are repeated each year.

In 2019, 47 midwinter bald eagle survey routes were completed with observers reporting 534 bald eagles (372 adult, 146 immature, and 16 of unknown age). This count represented a 14% increase in the number of eagles observed in the previous winter's count. Overwintering eagles are nomadic and tend to concentrate near open water and traditional feeding and roosting areas. Numbers counted on specific routes can be affected by snow and ice coverage across the region and do not necessarily reflect the status of the bald eagle population in the state.

2019 Wisconsin Bald Eagle Nest Survey (concluded)

Acknowledgements

Survey Team: Ryan Magana - Spooner, Austin Dixon, Spooner, Cala Hakseth, Spooner, Carly Lapin - Rhinelander, Laura Jaskiewicz - Rhinelander, Skyler Vold, Rhinelander, Joseph Henry - Green Bay, Jake Koebernik - Green Bay, Jim Woodford - Rhinelander, Tyler Boudry, La Crosse, Dean Edlin - Alma, Rich Staffen - Madison, Sharon Fandel - Fitchburg, Rich Clemo, Fitchburg.

Local eagle nest information was provided by numerous WDNR field staff and reports from the public. Aircraft pilots flying these surveys included: Mike Weinfurter (Rhinelander), Leo Bunderson (Eau Claire), Matthew Brandt (Eau Claire), Joe Sprenger (Siren), Paul Christensen (Siren), Mike Callahan (Oshkosh) and Greg Marshel (Oshkosh).

2018-19 ILA Financial Audit

A retired CPA volunteered to review the financial records of the Indian Lake Association for the year ended June 30, 2019. Based on his review, the ending cash balance on the ILA books at June 30, 2019, is correct, and the compilation of association receipts and disbursements for the year correctly reflects the association's actual receipts and disbursements during the year.



Lakes 101: These Water Animals Might Surprise You

(By Kim Becken, Outreach Specialist, Extension Lakes. From Lake Tides, UW–Stevens Point)

Just as we are drawn to water, there are many plants and animals that rely on water for sustenance and their home (habitat). These living creatures (the biota) inhabit our lakes.

Animals are just one small portion that utilize lakes. We often think of animals as mammals, however, over 95% of animals are invertebrates and many of those are aquatic! Let's take a closer look at these aquatic animals; there are five distinct groups:

1. **Flatworms, rotifers and roundworms** each help consume and decompose matter that ends up in the water or sediment of a lake.
2. **Mollusks** include snails, mussels and clams which eat microscopic algae or filter water through their bodies as they feed, which removes zooplankton, phytoplankton and detritus from the water.

[Zooplankton](#) – microscopic floating animals.

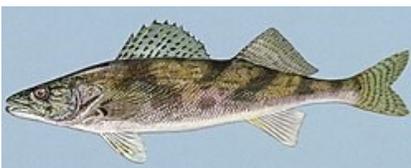
[Phytoplankton](#) – microscopic floating plants.

[Detritus](#) – dead or decaying organic matter.

3. **Aquatic earthworms and leeches** eat organic muck or latch on to other invertebrates or fish for their food source.
4. **Crustaceans, spiders and insects** often become food for other animals in the lake community.
5. **Fish** are the most commonly known and are the vertebrates in this group. There are six major families of fish that call freshwater lakes their home:

- (1) [Ictaluridae](#) – Catfish and bullheads are in this family, and are bottom feeders that can survive in stressful conditions including low oxygen and high temperatures.
- (2) [Salmonidae](#) – This family of fish includes trout, which prefer clear, cooler, and well-oxygenated water.
- (3) [Esocidae](#) – Muskellunge and pike are part of this family. These fish prefer shallow, warmer bodies of water with lots of aquatic plants.
- (4) [Clupeidae](#) – This family is comprised of the alewife and shad species that eat zooplankton and are, in turn, food for other larger fish.
- (5) [Centrarchidae](#) – This is the largest fish family that includes species such as bass, crappie and sunfish. They may be the most prevalent in your lake.
- (6) [Percidae](#) – Walleye and perch, both of which are very adaptable to different types of lake environments, belong to this family.

All these animals, and the plants in which they live in and amongst, operate in a delicate balance of lake life. Let's keep in mind this unique balance as we work near, play in, and protect our wonderful water resources.



[Sea Grant Fish ID App](#): Can you name the fish to the left? If you are interested in identifying fish while you're out on the lake, check out this fish ID app from Sea Grant. <https://www.seagrant.wisc.edu/fish-id/>

Winter Poems

Three Deer in Oquossoc

By Sonja Johanson

East will take me back. I drive
west. I wend between snowbanks,
until the road delivers me
to a sleeping boat launch.

They stand on the frozen ramp;
watch me with coats that are
better than mine. Ice houses
and snowmobiles edge the distance.

*I have to turn around, I say
to them, I went the wrong
way. They stamp and chuff.
No, they tell me, this is the way.*



Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know,
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

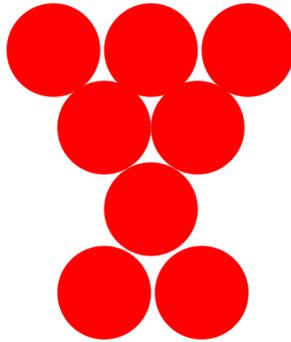
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Indian Lake Puzzles

Here is this issue's new puzzle (answer will be in the next issue):

Eight checkers are arranged in the shape of a person holding their arms up (see diagram). Move two checkers so that the person is upside-down doing a headstand (i.e., the shape is flipped 180 degrees).



Last month's puzzles and solutions:

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?

Answer: The hiker in front knew her hat was black because she knew the first hiker did not see two white hats and she knew the second hiker did not see one white hat because if he saw a white hat, the second hiker would have known his hat was black from hearing the first hiker's statement.

Indian Lake Puzzles (concluded)

Here is the answer to the second problem in the last issue:

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?

Answer: 17. (Each time a turtle goes into the water, Eric moves ahead of two others. So there are three less turtles ahead of him each time a turtle jumps in the water. After this happens 16 times, there are only two turtles ahead of him. When the 17th jumps in, Eric is at the front of the line.

Tips for Preventing Lyme Disease

(From UW-Stevens Point Lake Tides Newsletter)

1. Apply insect repellent with 20-30% DEET.
2. Spray permethrin on clothes - NOT on your skin.
3. Tuck pant legs into socks and shirts into pants.
4. Check for ticks after spending time in grassy or wooded areas.
5. Remove ticks promptly with a tweezers.
6. Heat your clothing in a dryer to kill any loose ticks.
 - Dry clothes = 10 minutes
 - Wet clothes = 60 minutes
7. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you may have been bitten by a tick and have these common symptoms of Lyme disease:
 - Fever
 - Muscle or joint pain
 - Stiff neck
 - Rash
 - Fatigue
 - Headache



1941 Map of Indian Lake

Shown below is a survey map of Indian Lake from almost 80 years ago.

The black squares around the perimeter of the lake are dwellings. The black square at the north end in the middle with a box around it is a resort. The black triangle at the south end to the east is the old fire tower.

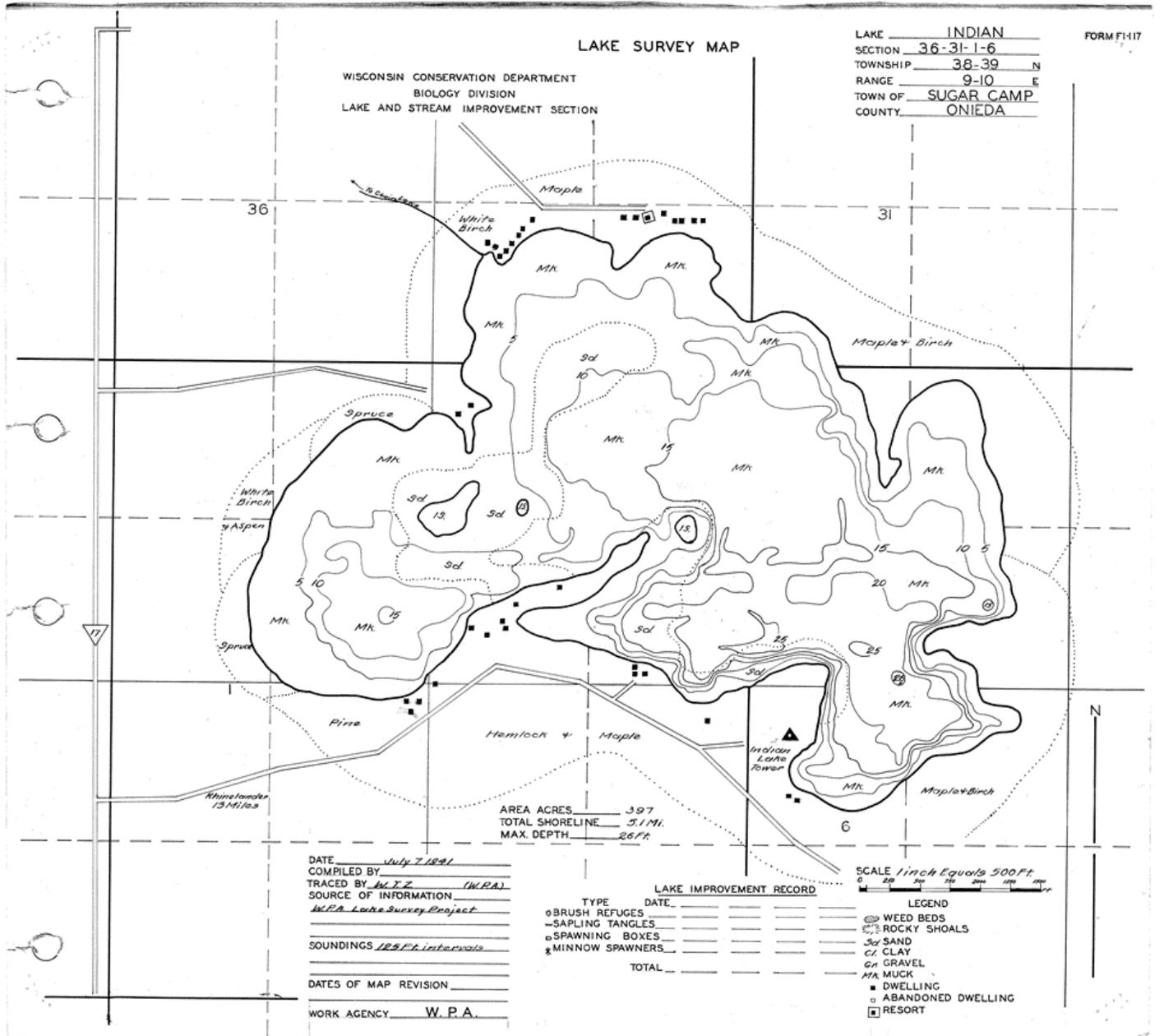


Photo Acknowledgements

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

Page 5: Dianne Mueller

9: Dianne Mueller

11: Shirley Noonan (photo of wealthy woodpecker wearing fur stole)



Thank you. - Roger Ziff, Newsletter Editor.

Photos

Do you have any good Indian Lake photos (or story ideas) you would be willing to contribute to the newsletter? If so, please email them to Roger Ziff at cziff@charter.net.



Odds and Ends

Interested in Indian Lake Spirit-ware?

Best Embroideries in downtown Rhinelander offers clothing with the Indian Lake Association logo. For more information, go to the home page of the Indian Lake Association website (www.IndianLakeAssociation.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: _____
