2026

SPRING/
SUMMER

2026

Indian Lake Community Newsletter

Volume 250

Inside this issue:

ILA Purpose	1
Coming Attractions	1
President's Message	2
Lake Hazards	3
1776 Photo	4
Declare of Independence	4
Women's Right to Vote	5
Poem: Paul Revere's Ride	6-7
Lake Associations	8-9
State Record Holder	9
Clean Boats/Clean Water	10
American Toads	10
Fishing/Hunting Tech	11
S'Mores	12
Tick Removal	13
Math/Logic Puzzles	14
Photo Acknowledgements	15
Odds and Ends	16-17
Membership Form	18

THE PURPOSE OF THE INDIAN LAKE ASSOCIATION IS TO MAINTAIN THE WATER QUALITY OF INDIAN LAKE IN ORDER TO:

- HELP THE ENVIRONMENT
- ENHANCE OUR ENJOYMENT OF THE AREA
- MAINTAIN OUR PROPERTY VALUES

PLEASE CHOOSE TO BE A MEMBER (SEE BACK PAGE).

Coming Attractions

Three Lakes Fireworks: Thursday, July 2.

ILA Annual Meeting: Saturday, July 4, 9:00 a.m.

The annual meeting will be held in the Town of Sugar Camp Fire Department classroom off Camp 4 Road just west of Highway 17.

ILA Social Event: probably July 25th (details to follow).

Perseid Meteor Shower: late Wednesday night, August 12.

A Message from Indian Lake Association President Mike McCarthy

Summer is finally here at Indian Lake. Docks and boats are in, the water is warming, and all the critters are out and about. The loons are back, pollinators are busy, turtles are laying eggs, robin eggs are hatching, and now after this rainy period, the skeeters are out in force!

I got to listen to one of the two Vilas County game wardens a couple of weeks ago. He gave us an overview of what they do, then focused on boater safety. Two things caught my attention. First, he reiterated that there must be a life vest for every person on board. Vests can be stowed under the seats or elsewhere on the boat. What I did not know, is that it is also required to have a throwable floatation device on deck, in case of an emergency. He then suggested that you have a line attached to the floatation device in order to pull someone to your boat.

Secondly, he talked about a number of incidents where a solo boater falls into the water, and then cannot get themselves back into their boat. He suggested that you have a ladder reachable to you from the water. He also mentioned that the hydraulic engine tilt mechanism (if so equipped) can help facilitate a self rescue. There is usually a button on the engine to raise it. All of this becomes even much more important during the "shoulder seasons" because of the threat of hypothermia in the Northwoods.

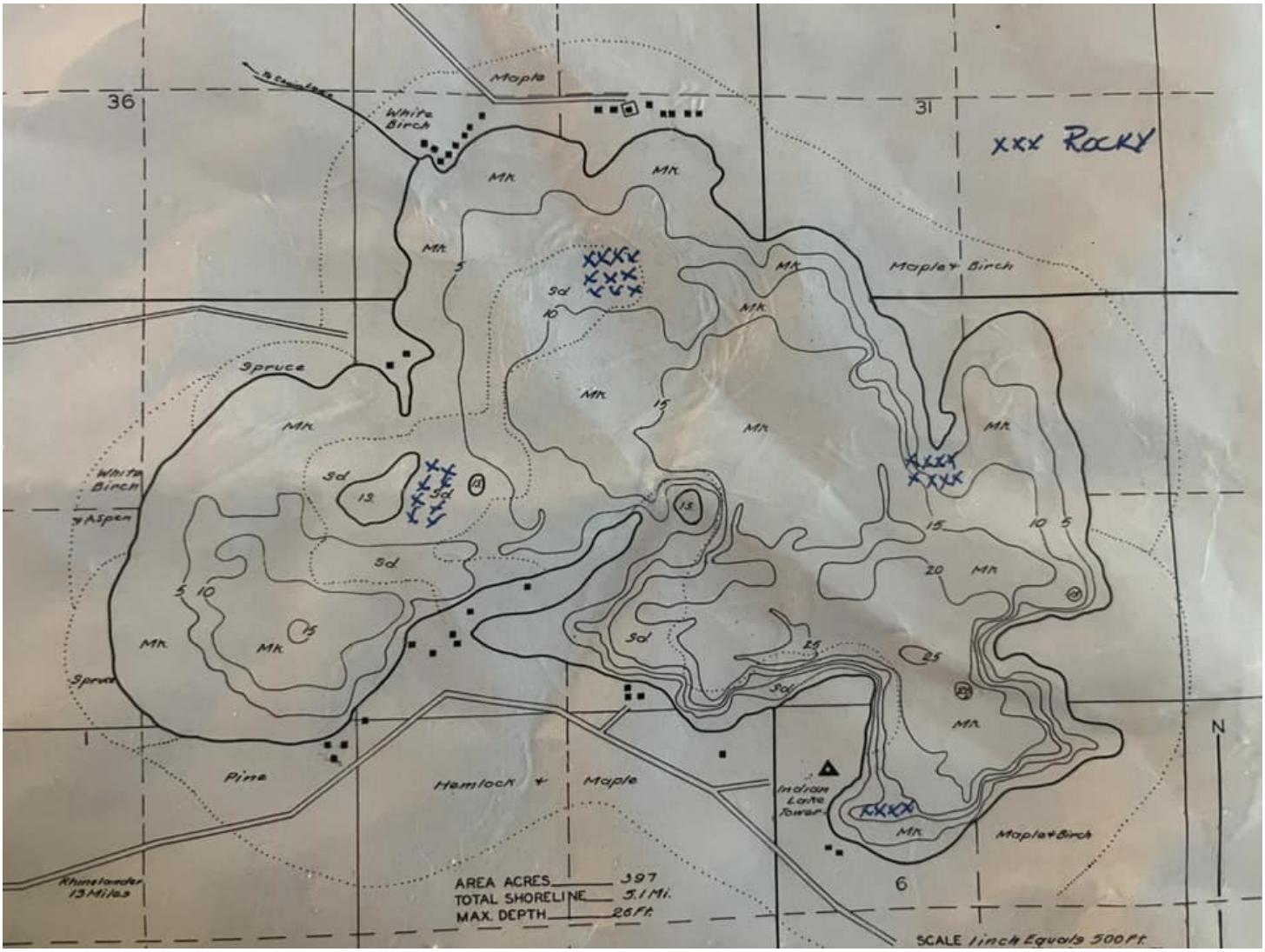
The ILA annual meeting is on Saturday, JULY 4, at 9:00 am, in the Sugar Camp Fire Department training room. The annual ILA party is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, JULY 25, probably on the island again.

Lastly, we are missing three longtime ILA members from the lake: Suzanne Millies (past president), and Cliff and Delores Woller. If you would like to visit, they are in the Milestone facility in Rhinelander.

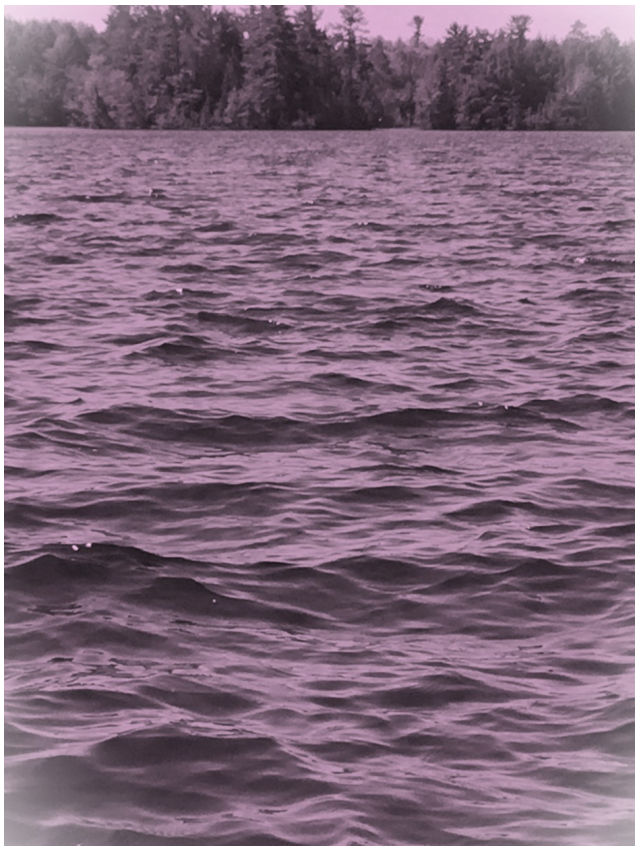
Look forward to seeing you all on the lake, and hopefully at the meeting. - Best, Mike

Lake Hazards

As a courtesy to Indian Lake boaters, lake resident Tim Michel marked the map below to show rocky areas, etc. As usual, the top of the map is north. Rocky areas are marked "XXX."



Rare Photo of Indian Lake in 1776



The Declaration of Independence: What America is All About

By Roger Ziff, paraphrasing parts of a recent essay by Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch

The Declaration of Independence contains three ideas that shocked the world in 1776, and are America's creed: (1) each of us is created equal; (2) God grants us all inviolable rights, including the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and (3) we have the right to govern ourselves.

Daniel Webster observed that it took thousands of years of human history for a nation devoted to these three ideas to arise, and "miracles" like that "do not cluster." It is still extremely rare for a nation to be founded on these concepts.

We have our differences and our nation will always be a work in progress. Americans disagree strongly about important matters, but that everyone can speak and vote is one of our greatest strengths. The Declaration of Independence stands as a reminder of who we aspire to be as we strive to form a more perfect union.

So, on this 4th of July, in addition to celebrating, Americans should spend some time reflecting on the Declaration, re-committing to its creed, and remembering that men and women gave up their lives for the causes of liberty, equality and self government.

The History of How the Women of Indian Lake got the Right to Vote

By Roger Ziff

The original, unamended, Constitution of the United States, passed in 1789, left it up to each state to decide who could vote. For the most part, states restricted the vote to white male landowning citizens.

Over time that started to change, and by 1856, all states had eliminated the landowning requirement. So, after 1856, all white male citizens, landowning or not, could vote in all states.

In 1870, after the Civil War, the 15th amendment was passed permitting black men to also vote. However, that amendment did not give women the right to vote, black or white.

One way the U.S. Constitution can be amended is as follows: a proposed amendment passes the U.S. House and Senate, each by a 2/3 vote; and then the amendment is ratified by ¾ of the state legislatures.

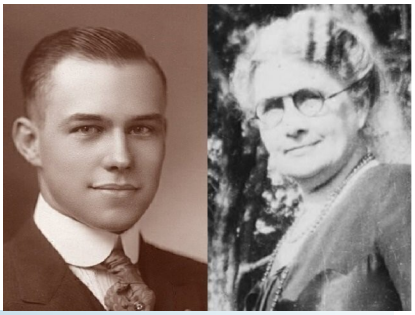
In 1878, an amendment was first proposed in the U.S. Congress to give women the right to vote. However, it did not get the necessary 2/3 vote in each chamber until June 4, 1919 (41 years later). Then the question was whether ¾ of the states (36 out of 48) would ratify the amendment.

You may be pleased to know that Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the proposed amendment on June 10, 1919. Illinois was the first to submit paperwork, but they made a mistake in the submittal process and Wisconsin became the first state, officially.

As the months went by, some states ratified the amendment, and some voted against it. By the summer of 1920, 35 states had ratified the amendment and 12 had rejected it, leaving Tennessee as the only undecided state. In August of that year, the Tennessee legislature gathered in Nashville at the Hermitage Hotel for a special session to decide. This was a widely publicized event because the amendment would not become law, if Tennessee did not pass it.

Initially, the amendment easily passed the Tennessee Senate. But the vote in the Tennessee House was expected to be very close. The public could count the expected votes because those in favor wore yellow roses on their lapels and those opposed wore red roses. On the day of the vote, as the public counted the flowers, it appears the amendment would not pass.

As the vote was taken, it was tied at 48-48 with one vote remaining. The remaining vote was that of Harry Burn, the youngest member of the House, who represented a rural Tennessee district. He had been wearing a red rose, so it was expected the amendment would not pass. But the day before the vote, he received a passionate letter from his mother, Febb Ensminger Burn, asking him to be "a good boy" and vote in favor of the amendment. So, at the last minute, Harry Burn switched his planned vote, and voted in favor of the amendment, which meant it passed the Tennessee House, which meant the amendment had the necessary 36 states approving it, which meant the women of Indian Lake (and Wisconsin and the United States) could vote in federal elections. It was that close.



The Landlord's Tale. Paul Revere's Ride

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Listen, my children, and you shall hear
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,
On the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:
Hardly a man is now alive
Who remembers that famous day and year.

He said to his friend, "If the British march
By land or sea from the town to-night,
Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch
Of the North-Church-tower, as a signal-light,—
One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm,
For the country-folk to be up and to arm."

Then he said "Good night!" and with muffled oar
Silently rowed to the Charlestown shore,
Just as the moon rose over the bay,
Where swinging wide at her moorings lay
The Somerset, British man-of-war:
A phantom ship, with each mast and spar
Across the moon, like a prison-bar,
And a huge black hulk, that was magnified
By its own reflection in the tide.

Meanwhile, his friend, through alley and street
Wanders and watches with eager ears,
Till in the silence around him he hears
The muster of men at the barrack door,
The sound of arms, and the tramp of feet,
And the measured tread of the grenadiers
Marching down to their boats on the shore.

Then he climbed to the tower of the Old North Church,
By the wooden stairs, with stealthy tread,
To the belfry-chamber overhead,
And startled the pigeons from their perch
On the sombre rafters, that round him made
Masses and moving shapes of shade,—
By the trembling ladder, steep and tall,
To the highest window in the wall,
Where he paused to listen and look down
A moment on the roofs of the town,
And the moonlight flowing over all.

Beneath, in the churchyard, lay the dead,
In their night-encampment on the hill,
Wrapped in silence so deep and still
That he could hear, like a sentinel's tread,
The watchful night-wind, as it went
Creeping along from tent to tent,
And seeming to whisper, "All is well!"
A moment only he feels the spell
Of the place and the hour, and the secret dread
Of the lonely belfry and the dead;
For suddenly all his thoughts are bent
On a shadowy something far away,
Where the river widens to meet the bay,—
A line of black, that bends and floats
On the rising tide, like a bridge of boats.

Paul Revere's Ride (continued)

Meanwhile, impatient to mount and ride,
Booted and spurred, with a heavy stride,
On the opposite shore walked Paul Revere.
Now he patted his horse's side,
Now gazed on the landscape far and near,
Then impetuous stamped the earth,
And turned and tightened his saddle-girth;
But mostly he watched with eager search
The belfry-tower of the Old North Church,
As it rose above the graves on the hill,
Lonely and spectral and sombre and still.
And lo! as he looks, on the belfry's height,
A glimmer, and then a gleam of light!
He springs to the saddle, the bridle he turns,
But lingers and gazes, till full on his sight
A second lamp in the belfry burns!

A hurry of hoofs in a village street,
A shape in the moonlight, a bulk in the dark,
And beneath from the pebbles, in passing, a spark
Struck out by a steed that flies fearless and fleet:
That was all! And yet, through the gloom and the light,
The fate of a nation was riding that night;
And the spark struck out by that steed, in his flight,
Kindled the land into flame with its heat.

He has left the village and mounted the steep,
And beneath him, tranquil and broad and deep,
Is the Mystic, meeting the ocean tides;
And under the alders, that skirt its edge,
Now soft on the sand, now loud on the ledge,
Is heard the tramp of his steed as he rides.

It was twelve by the village clock
When he crossed the bridge into Medford town.
He heard the crowing of the cock,
And the barking of the farmer's dog,
And felt the damp of the river-fog,
That rises when the sun goes down.

It was one by the village clock,
When he galloped into Lexington.
He saw the gilded weathercock
Swim in the moonlight as he passed,
And the meeting-house windows, blank and bare,
Gaze at him with a spectral glare,
As if they already stood aghast
At the bloody work they would look upon.

It was two by the village clock,
When he came to the bridge in Concord town.
He heard the bleating of the flock,
And the twitter of birds among the trees,
And felt the breath of the morning breeze
Blowing over the meadows brown.
And one was safe and asleep in his bed
Who at the bridge would be first to fall,
Who that day would be lying dead,
Pierced by a British musket-ball.

You know the rest. In the books you have read,
How the British Regulars fired and fled,—
How the farmers gave them ball for ball,
From behind each fence and farmyard-wall,
Chasing the red-coats down the lane,
Then crossing the fields to emerge again
Under the trees at the turn of the road,
And only pausing to fire and load.

So through the night rode Paul Revere;
And so through the night went his cry of alarm
To every Middlesex village and farm,—
A cry of defiance, and not of fear,
A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door,
And a word that shall echo forevermore!
For, borne on the night-wind of the Past,
Through all our history, to the last,
In the hour of darkness and peril and need,
The people will waken and listen to hear
The hurrying hoof-beats of that steed,
And the midnight message of Paul Revere.

Lake Associations

Submitted by Joe Smogor

Preface: The Indian Lake Association is a "qualified lake association."

What is a Lake Association?

The first association in Wisconsin was organized about 1898. Today, nearly 400 lake associations are in existence. Usually, lake associations are voluntary organizations with members who own land on or near a lake. They can be involved in various levels of lake management activities and vary from well-run lake management groups to loose-knit social groups.

What is its purpose?

Lake associations may operate under diverse titles, but the purpose is normally the same. In most, it is to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of a lake, its fisheries, and its watershed.

What is a Qualified Lake Association:

Advantages

1. Legal certainty. Nonstock corporations are governed by a well developed statutory framework (ch. 181 Wis. Stats).
2. Simplified business activities. An incorporated lake association can engage in a greater amount of lake protection activities by virtue of its ability to hold a bank account, make contracts and borrow money.
3. Qualified lake associations are eligible for lake planning and protection grants.
4. Limited liability. Members, officers and directors can be sheltered from personal liability.
5. Eligible for lake planning and protection grants.

Disadvantages

1. Slightly more complex organizational form and more formality in operations.
2. No authority over shoreland development or lake use.

Lake associations can serve many functions:

- Promote communication between lakefront property owners
- Help clarify the needs of the lake
- Assist the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in environmental conservation
- Promote water education
- Give the lake a strong, united voice in local government
- Promote environmentally sound policy
- Help all lake users understand the fragile nature of our waters
- Give lake folks a chance to volunteer or donate to their lake
- Make it possible to get DNR or state funding for projects
- Operate dams
- Maintain lake access

Lake Associations (continued)

- Contract for aquatic plant removal
- Buy and operate an aquatic plant harvester
- Purchase sensitive areas such as wetlands
- Improve fish habitat (with a permit from DNR)
- Stock fish (with a permit from DNR)
- Install and operate an aerator (with a permit from DNR)

Lake associations can also serve as an important way to collectively represent lake interests to local decision makers and build community with fellow lake residents.

Lake associations are voluntary groups, and include unincorporated associations, qualified lake associations (incorporated associations), and nonprofit corporations. Lake associations can form without any formal requirements, although many incorporate under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes to be eligible for state cost sharing grants.

Lake Associations vs. Lake Districts

Associations have no powers over lake community residents; membership and dues are voluntary. A voluntary association can have genuine advantages over a "lake district" (a special purpose unit of government with taxing authority) because they may be able to act more quickly than governmental bodies on some issues. Some folks may be more willing to support a voluntary organization rather than forming a new unit of government, particularly one with taxing power. However, if your lake management goals are ambitious, the more stable funding of a lake district may be essential. Also, voluntary lake associations are sometimes frustrated by low participation and monetary support.

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.

Indian Lake is State Record Holder

On June 21, 1950, the Wisconsin state record Small Mouth Bass was caught on Indian Lake.

It weighed 9 lbs., 1 ounce. It is still the record per the WI DNR.

Go to:
https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/recordfish/hookline

We Need Your Help: Clean Boats, Clean Waters is back for 2026

By Joe Smogor

It is that time of year again when people in blue shirts start to appear at boat landings to inspect boats and trailers for any evidence of aquatic plants. These dedicated volunteers are a part of the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program. CBCW is citizen involvement in watercraft inspections and monitoring for invasive species. It increases public awareness about the potential impacts of aquatic invasive species. Volunteers serve to inform and educate the public about how people can help prevent the spread of invasives by inspecting their watercraft and removing aquatic plants and animals from their boats and equipment before leaving an access site.

Please consider becoming a volunteer member of our Indian Lake Clean Boats Clean Waters group. We need some new boat inspectors to help with this task. We have had a core group of volunteers inspecting boats on Indian Lake for many years, but I would like to encourage more people to join in this effort. It is a great way to meet new neighbors on the lake and to help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). If you would like more information, or you would like to see how the program works, please contact Joe Smogor at 715-272-2030, or joesmogor@gmail.com.

The following link has information about the CBCW program:

https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/resources.aspx#videos

Meet Your Neighbors

The only species of toads in Wisconsin, Eastern American toads, begin vocalizing their mating calls in May throughout central and northern Wisconsin. Their loud, high-pitched trill can continue uninterrupted for nearly 30 seconds. Toads can be distinguished from frogs by their bumpy skin, and their tendency to occupy moist forests rather than open water. (FYI: There are eleven species of frogs in Wisconsin.)

New Controversial Fishing and Hunting Technologies

(Taken from an article in the May 14, 2026, Wall Street Journal by Ken Wells)

There are several relatively new high-tech devices that can be used for fishing and hunting, but not all fishermen and hunters support their use.

Examples:

1. Not so new (10+ years) is FFS (forward-facing sonar) mounted below the water line of a boat. It sends out a fan-shaped beam of sound waves ahead of the craft. Everything in the beam, up to 200 feet below the surface, is converted to an image on a screen on the boat.
2. But now, there are add-ons such as multiple transducers, which can broaden the sonar's scope up to 360 degrees, and very large screens for better underwater resolution.
3. In hunting, you can now use drones to find animals with ease at greater distances.
4. There are also trail cameras with cellphone or internet transmission so a hunter can see where animals are walking.
5. These also might have apps to analyze data to recognize patterns in the movement of animals so a hunter would know when and where an animal might show up.
6. There are also night-vision rifle scopes and thermal imaging binoculars for night hunting.
7. And rifle scopes can be fitted with digital rangefinders for taking shots at greater distances, beyond an animal's natural awareness.

Why do some fisherman and hunters object to the use of these?

1. These technologies are so effective that over time they can deplete the populations of targeted species.
2. The technologies weaken the idea of a "fair chase" – that the animal has a chance to escape. The Boone and Crockett Club, which is the official record keeper of North American big-game records, won't recognize animals that were killed with some of these technologies.
3. In competitive fishing tournaments with big prizes for the winners, those anglers who can afford the high-tech equipment have a distinct advantage.
4. The overuse of these devices could result in public backlash.

What is happening in Wisconsin?

1. A DNR survey in 2024 of 13,000 respondents was split down the middle. 51% favored a ban on forward-facing sonar and 49% opposed it.
2. 35 counties were in favor and 34 opposed it and one was undecided, so there has been no state action on the proposal to ban FFS.
3. But in Phelps, WI, the Midwest Musky Fishing Classic banned FFS from its annual tournament in 2025 on the grounds that the muskies show up like stationary torpedoes on the sonar.

S'More Recipes for the Campfire

Excerpted from Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine—Summer 2025 issue. Produced by the WI DNR. From article by Zach Wood.

Standard Recipe

A graham cracker base, half a chocolate bar, a marshmallow toasted to perfection, topped with another section of graham cracker.

Birthday S'More

Sprinkled toaster pastry + milk chocolate + toasted pink marshmallow + rainbow sprinkles

Spicy S'More

Graham cracker + chili powder + marshmallow + cinnamon + chocolate sauce

Sunshine S'More

Lemon cookies + white chocolate + marshmallows + lemon curd

Sugar Maple S'More

Pretzel chips + caramel + marshmallow +crispy bacon + maple syrup

Cheese S'More

Butter cracker + your choice of cheese + your choice of jam + marshmallow

Caramel Apple S'More

Graham cracker + apple slices + marshmallow + a chocolate-covered caramel

Door County Dark Cherry S'More

Graham cracker + ripe Door County cherries + dark chocolate + marshmallow

---

The popularization of the s'more is credited to Loretta Scott Crew via the 1927 publication of "Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts."

PS If you have a favorite s'more recipe, email it to rogerziff@gmail.com, and I will include it in a future newsletter.

PPS Per the article, the best way to put out a campfire is the "drown – stir — drown — feel" method.
It said burying the coals or dousing the fire with sand is not a reliable method.

Tick Removal (per Dr. Frank Bures, La Crosse Tribune)

Basics: 1. You can get Lyme disease from ticks and you don't want to get Lyme disease. It is a painful and sometimes debilitating disease. 2. A tick has to be attached 24-36 hours to transmit the disease to you, so you want to remove any ticks on you as soon as possible.

The proper way to remove a tick is with a fine-tipped tweezers (or any other tweezers, if you don't have a fine-tipped one). Grasp the tick firmly as close to the skin as possible and pull upward with a steady motion until it comes off. Don't twist or tilt the tweezers.

If you get the body and head off and leave a small piece behind, don't keep digging at it. It will gradually come out on its own. Only the head and body contain the germs that cause the infection, not the mouth parts. Some ticks are tiny, often compared to a poppy seed for size. You need to get help with one of those that is buried deeply.

Finally, wash the bite area with soap and water or use rubbing alcohol for cleanliness.

Either save the tick in a plastic bag for later testing or flush it down the toilet. Don't crush the creature because of possible bacterial transmission.

Indian Lake Math and Logic

Sometimes in the summer, I see a mother and father duck swim under our dock with as many as 8 ducklings swimming behind them.

I know not all the ducklings survive, but suppose two do, and the next spring four adult ducks come back to the lake and swim under our dock.

And suppose some of them have ducklings and suppose by the third year, eight adult ducks make it back in the spring and swim under our dock.

If things keep going like that, how many ducks will come back and swim under our dock in the 20th spring?

Last issue's puzzles and solutions:

April caught a large fish off our dock on Indian Lake. It weighed 20 pounds plus half its own weight. How much does it weigh?

Answer: 40 lbs. (20 + .5 W = W)

Bonus Question (not math and not logic)

If a person from New York is called a New Yorker, and a person from Virginia is called a Virginian, what do you call:

A. A person from Wisconsin?
B. A person from Indiana?
C. A. person from Illinois?
D. A person from Michigan?
E. A person from Utah?

(Answers will be according to the U.S. Government Publishing Office Style Manual.)

Photo Acknowledgements

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

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

Page 2 Joe Bartholomew
4 Louis Daguerre Ziff
13 Ben Soriano
15 Bonnie Kobilansky
16 Roger Ziff
17 Jud Omans
18 Stephen Stanner

Thank you. - Roger Ziff, Newsletter Editor.

Odds and Ends

Status of Wake Boats/Wake Board Restrictions

As we have reported before, wake boats/wake boards cause much more damage to lakes than regular motor boats.

As a result, around 80 Wisconsin municipalities have recently adopted ordinances limiting their use. However, so far there is no state-wide law governing the use of wake boats. Therefore, the 100 foot "no wake" from shore rules that apply to motorboats still apply to wake boats and wake boards as well. Please keep in mind that as property owners, it is in our self-interest not to damage our lake.

Loon Rescues:

If you see any loons in trouble along the lake, contact Linda or Kevin Grenzer of Tomahawk at 715-623-4015 or 715-966-5415 at Loon Rescue immediately for instructions.

If you wish to donate to the organization, send a check to Loon Rescue, N11615 Loon Bay Road, Tomahawk, WI 54487.

Wildflowers along the Lake:

Many pretty wildflowers grow along the lakeshore. If you see any along your lakeshore this summer, please take a picture of them and send them to me at rogerziff@gmail.com. I will include as many as I have room for in the Fall issue of the newsletter. Thanks.

Odds and Ends (continued)

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.

Donations of Newspapers, etc. to Wild Instincts Rehab

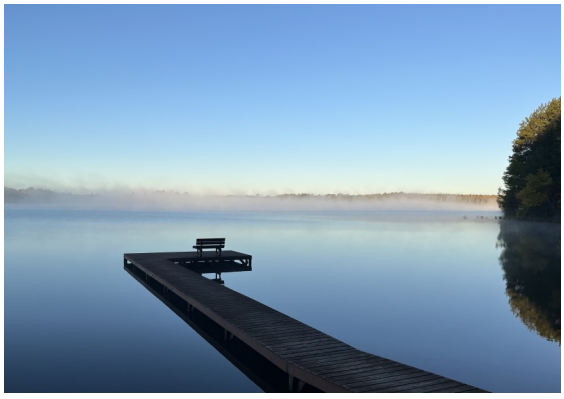
If you wish to help out Wild Instincts rehabilitate injured animals, you can bring newspapers (no ads), sheets, blankets, towels and t-shirts to their location a little to the northwest of Rhinelander. You do not have to go in their building to leave things. To find out more about Wild Instincts go to: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

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 Newsletter tab.

Wild and Scenic Film Festival

On July 24th the North Woods Land Trust will hold a "Wild and Scenic Film Festival" at the Three Lakes Center for the Arts in Three Lakes. Go to the North Woods Land Trust website for tickets.



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:

_____

_____