



2026 WLA Board Candidates

The Winans Lake Association Board charts the future direction of our lake and community. Its focus is on safeguarding the lake's water quality, maintaining beach amenities and facilitating social events.

If you want to be involved in the future direction of our lake and community, please consider running for the Board. Two positions will become available in May at the annual meeting. Contact Dan Luria (dluria1943@gmail.com) or any member of the board for more information.

WLA Board Meeting

The WLA Board meets on the second Thursday of the month. The next board meeting will be April 9, 2026. The board meeting is held at Lakelands Golf and Country Club in the boardroom and starts at 6:30. You are welcome to attend.

Winans Lake Weed Control

The major focus of the Winans Lake Association is maintaining our lake's water quality. Weed control is a significant project for the board and our Lake Managers. Due to a long-term focus on controlling the invasive milfoil in our lake we have less than 5 out of 160 acres of milfoil (<3%). And this year's budget is \$14,000.

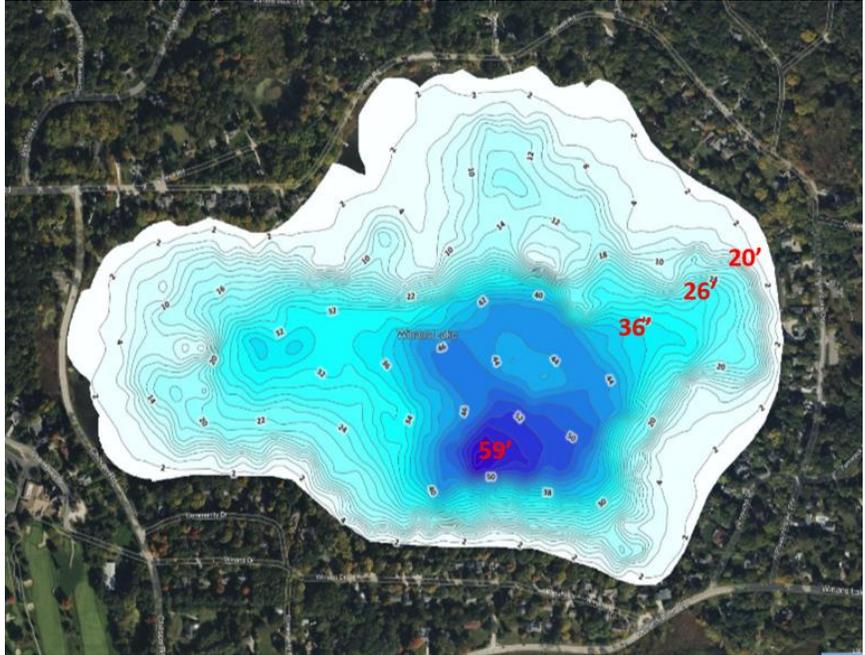
As a comparison, Briggs Lake is a small, private, no-motor lake in Green Oak Township, about half the size of Winans. Plans are being proposed to spend around \$100,000 through a special assessment to tackle the invasive milfoil, which currently covers roughly half of the lake.

Here is a link to [an article about Briggs Lake](#).



Winter Lake Water Quality

Steve Ruberg was able to make some winter water quality measurements on February 10th. Four locations from 20 ft to 59 ft were profiled measuring several water quality parameters with the most important being temperature, oxygen and specific conductivity.



Depth registered profiles showed normal water quality at the 20', 26', and 36' depths. Temperatures ranged from 35°F just beneath the ice and increasing to 39° near the lake bottom. At 39°F the water is at its maximum density, the cooler water near the surface is less dense and eventually makes ice. Oxygen and specific conductivity measurements were in the expected range for these locations.

Things got more interesting with the 59' profile, the deepest location in Winans Lake, where oxygen levels decreased to very low levels (1 mg/l) near the lake bottom and a warmer than expected temperature of 41°F was observed. The low oxygen is somewhat expected near the bottom of the lake as we've had ice cover since mid-December; normal oxygen at this temperature would be around 10 mg/l. The ice cover prevents wind driven mixing of oxygen into the water column. These low oxygen levels are not a problem for fish (they swim to water with higher oxygen levels) unless the low oxygen zone shifts suddenly due a weather event of some kind such as the event we had last summer when a number of



large crappies died. Oxygen levels will likely return to normal now that the ice has melted and oxygen can mix down to the lake bottom. Water temperatures were in the normal range until the sensor was on the bottom where the unexpected reading of 41°F was observed. This higher temperature could be from warmer groundwater seeping into the lake bottom. Groundwater flow into the lake is normal, as the homeowners on the north side of the lake know quite well. Specific conductivity levels were as expected for a fresh water lake. Specific conductivity is an indication of the salt and mineral content of the water. There was an increase in specific conductivity at the bottom, but levels were within the normal range for fresh water. The somewhat higher levels near the lake bottom might be an indication of increasing chloride from road salt and summer dust prevention.

These are basic measurements that represent a snapshot of winter conditions but don't tell the whole story of lake health. The 2025 PLM lake management report indicated that Winans Lake is in good condition, and these results support that assessment.

Canada Geese and Water Quality

This is the time of year that geese show up in numbers looking for a comfortable place to nest and stay the summer. While some may consider geese to be an interesting part of the wildlife scene, they are actually one of the more serious threats to our water quality.

Goose droppings contain harmful bacteria, which can cause illness and potentially force the beach and lake to be closed to swimming if levels get too high. This happens every year on nearby lakes. Goose droppings also present an additional nutrient load to the lake, leading to other water quality problems such as excessive weed and algae growth, something the WLA has been working diligently to control at great expense. (see above article on our success) In addition to the obvious mess, goose droppings on the ground are also unsanitary and are especially hazardous to children and pets.

Once again, the WLA is planning to participate in MDNR permitted remediation programs this year. In addition, the roundup program has been reinstated, but



captured geese will be destroyed instead of relocated due to the bird flu. Residents who attract geese to the lake by feeding or harboring them should be aware that they may be contributing to their demise. As always, it is extremely important that all members cooperate in keeping geese off our lake by actively harassing them and discouraging them from congregating and nesting on or near the lake. Under no circumstances should geese or other waterfowl be fed. WLA rules prohibit feeding and harboring waterfowl. Please do your part in helping to keep Winans Lake clean and swimmable.





First in the Lake - 2026

On March 10th, Charley Lewis, age 7, who lives at 5860 Cowell Road, went into the lake, in open water, went under, and had a witness. This makes her the *First in the Lake* winner for 2026. Congratulations Charley!





The Ice is Gone!

The last patch of ice melted in the evening of March 10th. Does this seem early to you?

In my 43 years of recording this, there have been 6 times earlier than this. They are: 3-6-83, 2-26-98, 3-8-2000, 2-24-17, 2-17-23, and 2-28-24.

Martha LeaBu



The ice is gone, occasionally there are warm days so spring must be around the corner. And so is the Easter Bunny!

The annual **Winans Lake Easter Egg Hunt** will be held Saturday March 28th at 10:00 am. The hunt is held at the red carriage house garage across from the Leabu's (6023 Winans Drive) home. Egg hunters are to bring their own baskets to collect the hidden eggs. After the hunt, there will be refreshments including the traditional bunny cake. The rain date is March 29th at 3:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate and watch the fun - with or without an egg hunter of your own.

Hope to see you there!



Quick Date Reminders

1. The WLA Annual Meeting will be held May 28th 6:30 pm at Lakelands Golf and Country Club.
2. Ice Anglers: Please return ice fishing flags before April 1st to Greg Dygert (5874 Cowell) or to any board member as soon as possible, but no later than March 31st per WLA rules.

BEACH CLUB

MEMORIAL DAY	FRIDAY, MAY 22	4:00PM - 8:00PM
WEEKEND HOURS	SATURDAY, MAY 23	NOON - 8:00PM
	SUNDAY, MAY 24	11:00AM - 7:30PM
	MONDAY, MAY 25	11:00AM - 7:30PM
	MAY 26 - MAY 28	CLOSED
SUMMER HOURS	SUNDAY - TUESDAY	11:00AM - 7:30PM
MAY 29 - LABOR DAY	WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY	NOON - 8:00PM

(WEATHER PENDING: IF THE TEMPERATURE DROPS BELOW 67 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, THE LIFEGUARDS WILL CLOSE THE BEACH. IN THE CASE OF STORMY WEATHER, THE LIFEGUARDS WILL WAIT 60 MINUTES FOR CLEARING BEFORE CLOSING THE BEACH FOR THE DAY.)

New Neighbors

Mary Evergreen does a great job welcoming new neighbors but could use YOUR help. Please send her an email if you see movement on houses next/close to you. Her email is mlevergreen@charter.net.

Newsletter

Please send any articles or pictures you'd like included in the newsletter to Terre Voegeli (voegelit@gmail.com).



WLA Board Members

Greg Dygert, President

Michael Wheeler, Vice-President

Simon Ren, Secretary

Trish Ibrahim, Treasurer

Dr. Marty Harris, Governor

Evan Yates, At-Large

You are receiving the Winans Lake Association newsletter because you are a current Winans Lake Association member on the Lakelands country club membership list **OR** because you have asked to receive the newsletter in past years. You can email me directly (voegelit@gmail.com) to add additional household email addresses, change existing email addresses or be removed. You can also use the Mailchimp unsubscribe option below to change your email address or remove yourself from the mailing list.