

The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

August/September 2022



From the President...

The Family Fun Event was a big hit in its 2nd year, despite the less than perfect weather. It was great to see the participants from young to not so young all out having fun. The category winners were Logan (adult), Ethan (teen), and Grant (kids). However, based on smiles, laughter and the comradery of those present, everyone was a winner! I think the planning has already started for the 3rd Annual Family Fun Event.

We were unable to hold the pontoon parade this year as planned. As all things weather go, after cancelling the parade, the forecasted storms never materialized and it turned into a nice afternoon for a boat ride. I guess we'll look forward to next year to hopefully a cloudless, sunny day.

It was also good to see the channel between Hanks and Portage was passable this year. Many thanks to those who worked on the channel dig last year. Your hard work and Mother Nature's helping hand with timely rain and higher water levels made this possible.

The PCLIA Annual Fall Dinner and meeting is coming up on **September 10th** at Rocky Bottom at the Y in Garrison. The registration form is enclosed in the newsletter. Please note we need to receive your registration and payment by **August 24th**. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Where did the summer go? It seems like only a few days ago I was writing for the June newsletter and here we are in August. The good news is there are still some great days ahead for getting out and enjoying the lake, reading a book, or cooking those burgers and brats on the grill.

Hope to see you on the water!

Scott Maghan

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR
2022**



Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

Saturday, September 10th

Registration & payment due by August 24th

Details in this newsletter



JULY 4TH FAMILY FUN EVENT



Thanks to the Larsons for hosting the 2nd Annual Family Fun Event. Come rain or shine, the participants and spectators seem to really enjoy this fun event!



Young and Not So Young



TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2022	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 4/30/2022
Healthy Lakes /AIS Fund*	\$9,809.48	\$2,225.00	\$396.43	\$11,638.05
Fish Stocking Fund*	\$1,076.30	\$700.00		\$1,776.30
General Fund*				
Donations and Interest		\$459.94		
Membership Dues		\$2,220.00		
Total General Fund	\$35,655.93	\$2,679.94	\$1,298.21	\$37,037.66
Total Fund Balances	\$46,541.71	\$5,604.94	\$1,694.64	\$50,452.01

*The **Healthy Lakes/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund** contains money specifically donated for monitoring and taking corrective steps to protect the quality of our lakes.

*The **Fish Stocking Fund** contains money specifically donated toward the stocking of fish according to DNR guidelines.

*The **General Fund** contains funds raised through membership dues, accrued interest and donations made without specific fund designation.

MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2022 membership forms and dues. We received an impressive number of responses this year, and we appreciate your commitment to the lake association.

If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership, you can access the *2022 PCLIA Membership Form* at www.pclia.com.

PCLIA Board of Directors

<p><u>President</u> Scott Maghan</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Diane Lund</p> <p><u>Past President</u> Kris Picken</p> <p><u>Directors</u> Lynn Bremer Kari Bunkers Chuck Lund Tom Kaufhold</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Andy Larson</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Joy Larson</p> <p>Julie Maghan Jill Mertes Marjorie Safaie Mike Stuber</p>
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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Held at Bay Lake Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.

August 6th
October 8th

* Scheduled meetings are open to members and are subject to change.



LAKE COMMUNICATION

Website
www.pclia.com continues to be updated. It provides a variety of lake association information as well as DNR resources.

Facebook
The PCLIA has a Facebook page for members to join and receive information on the association and its activities. Search PCLIA of MN on your Facebook home page, and you will be directed how to join.

MILFOIL

While the milfoil situation still looks good in Sugar Bay, it is now being found in the other lakes in our chain. Here's what we have discovered:

Crooked Lake

- A patch is in very shallow water in the bay west of the island
- A patch is on the SW side of the island
- Some plants and a small patch are on the west side of the lower end of the narrow

Hanks Lake

- A patch is on the east side of lake

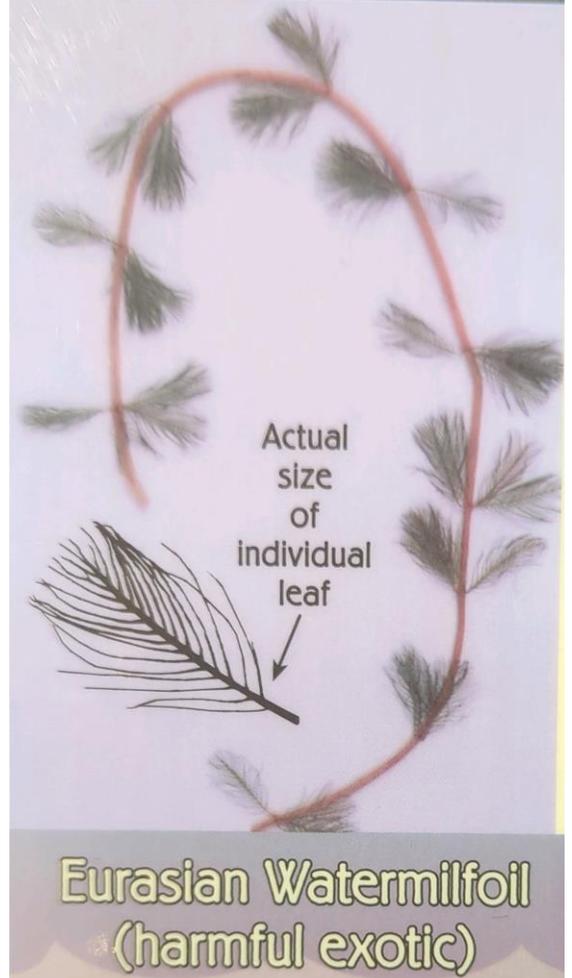
Portage Lake

- A patch is on the SE side of the lake

As of this writing, we are working with PLM Lake and Land Management on a plan to apply ProcellaCOR to these areas. We successfully used ProcellaCOR last year in Sugar Bay.



Please avoid the areas with markers.



The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association may contract to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil, an aquatic invasive species in the Crooked, Sugar Bay, Hanks and Portage chain of lakes in 2022. This is dependent on an evaluation of the need.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association a waiver requiring that the association obtain the signatures of lake-shore property owners for approval. Instead, the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This newsletter notice is one form that the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association is using to notify property owners. Other forms include, but not limited to, notification through the association's web page, and annual meeting.

The proposed dates for treatment is June 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is the target species for the treatment.

The methods of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides. Such as but not limited to Liquid 2,4-D, Granular 2,4-D, Granular Tri clopyr, Florpyrauxifen-Benzyl.

Property owners may request that control not occur adjacent to their property. If you desire that the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association immediately at the following address or email address below:

PO Box 564
Deerwood, MN 56444

info@pclia.com



Dock Damaged at Boat Landing

On July 2nd a boat caught fire while parked at the public access boat landing. This was a serious fire and the boat was engulfed in flames. Hopefully, no one was injured.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but this might be a good time to remind people with inboard motors to always turn on their blower before starting their engines.

The dock also caught fire and was damaged. The DNR was contacted regarding the damage. They conducted an on-site inspection and have replaced the dock.



What to Do With Unwanted Bait

After a great day of fishing on the Crooked Lake Chain what do you do with your leftover bait that you don't want to save or share?

The old school of thought was to just dump the remaining bait into the lake.

A convenient, harmless, and even helpful solution to the lucky fish who get a free meal with no strings (or hooks) attached.

Seems innocent enough. Right?

Not so fast.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) this technique could accidentally introduce unwanted fish diseases and non-native invasive species to our lake chain and upset the existing natural fishery.

So in 2010 the DNR, concluding that this was a significant enough risk, made it illegal to dispose of unused bait in the lake or on the land.

The newish law states that an angler must dispose of all unused bait: minnows, leeches, worms, night crawlers, and wax worms in the trash. Violation of this law is a \$125 penalty.

Well, in a recent Minnesota 2019 survey it was discovered that, of the roughly 1.4 million licensed fishermen in our state, 36% still improperly release unused bait into the lake.

Hopefully, sooner rather than later, correct bait disposal behavior will be a regular part of everyone's fishing trip.

The Crooked Lake Association encourages anglers to help protect our waters and comply with the law and dispose of unwanted bait properly for the future of our beloved Crooked Lakes chain and all of the other 9,997 Minnesota lakes.

-submitted by Tom Weber

C R I T T E R C O R N E R



The Critter Corner is a new feature of the Shoreline Newsletter updating our membership on critter sightings and encounters. If you have a sighting or encounter, please let us know at info@pcli.com.

The Flying Squirrel... The Guests that Won't Go Home

Among the summer pleasures on our lake is the abundance of family and friends that share the magic of Minnesota lake life. While we enjoy our summer guests it's usually a bit of a relief when they return home, and we get back to our usual routines.

However, many of us have summer guests that don't leave and instead setup permanent housekeeping in our homes and cabins; these guests sometimes remain undetected for years.

Who are these denizens? The permanent guests we often entertain unbeknownst are flying squirrels. The flying squirrel is a nocturnal critter and is rarely seen but they are here. In fact, for reasons unknown this area is a popular spot for flying squirrels. Once they move in, they remain as long as the homeowner allows.

Flying squirrels are usually about as large as a fist but can grow to the size of a small grey squirrel. Their most pronounced feature is the large "space alien" eyes. Think ET. The name is also a misnomer; they don't fly but glide with the help of skin flaps between the front and back legs.

Another unique feature is that in 2019 it was observed, by chance, that a flying squirrel fluoresced pink. Subsequent research by biologists at Northland College in Northern Wisconsin found that this is true for all three species of North American flying squirrels. At this time it is unknown what purpose this serves. Non-flying squirrels do not fluoresce under UV light.

They are clever and can get into a house or cabin through the smallest gap or opening. Even structures without attics are not immune from flying squirrel incursions. Flying squirrels can inhabit the spaces between a roof and ceiling. Any structure with a dormer has a very good chance of harboring flying squirrels. According to a flying squirrel abatement professional, the presence of a dormer is almost a sure indicator of large-eyed furry permanent guests.

How do we know if flying squirrels are in residence? First, skittering/scampering/scratching sounds in walls and ceilings are a dead giveaway. Next, flying squirrels are fastidious guests and they use the same spot in the ceiling as their latrine. Over time the chemicals in flying squirrel waste build up and are absorbed into the ceiling and wall materials. Abatement personnel use special lights flashed on ceilings and walls to look for a distinct "glow" which indicates the presence of the latrine. I know, its gross.

Once detected the usual abatement process is trapping out the squirrels and then sealing the gaps in the structure, especially the dormers.

So, now you know about possible permanent uninvited guests. They are cute but probably not suitable as permanent roommates.

-submitted by Andy Larson

PCLIA

Portage-Crooked Lakes
Improvement Association
Po Box 564
Deerwood, MN 56444

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.pclia.com
info@pclia.com



Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association Annual Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

- Saturday, September 10, 2022
- Rocky Bottom Grille (*at the Y in Garrison*)
- Social: 5 p.m.
- Dinner: 6 p.m.
- Business meeting to follow

NOTE: We cannot accept any last minute walk-ins.

Please plan on this, and submit your reservation form to be received by August 24th.

Thank you!



Name(s) of Attendees: _____

Selection 1: New York Strip Steak, bacon & cheese potatoes, asparagus & garden salad

Selection 2: Pan Fried Walleye, bacon wild rice, asparagus & garden salad

Selection 3: Chicken Roulade (stuffed with sauteed carrots, spinach and cream cheese), bacon cheese mashed potatoes, asparagus & garden salad

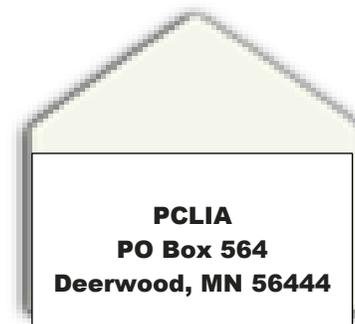
Dessert: Tres leches cake

_____ New York Strip Steak

_____ Pan Fried Walleye

_____ Chicken Roulade

_____ Dinners @ \$24/each \$ _____



Please mail completed reservation & payment made to **PLCIA**

***This form must be mailed in order to reach us no later than August 24th**