

The Shoreline

A Publication of the
Portage-Crooked Lakes
Improvement Association

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Editor: Pat Wimmer

Why Be a Member of PCLIA?

We are fortunate to live on and enjoy a beautiful lake in northern Minnesota. The beauty and health of our lake is maintained by three sources: Mother Nature, the DNR, and the PCLIA. The PCLIA works with and under the guidance of the DNR to identify and administer programs to preserve and improve our lakes.

The PCLIA conducts water testing in each lake to identify needs for treatment of invasive species and plants to maintain healthy lakes. A big undertaking this year was the successful treatment of milfoil in the lakes. While eradication may be difficult, continued monitoring and possible additional programs need to be in place to reduce the spread of milfoil.

Other programs to maintain and improve the lakes are the boat launch monitoring, shoreline restoration, and the walleye improvement program. The PCLIA also arranges for the social activities like the boat and pontoon parade, family fun day, welcome back to the lake, the fall dinner meeting, and the summer picnic.

Although we work in partnership with the Minnesota DNR to maintain our healthy lakes, the cost of doing so is predominately borne by the PCLIA. Since 2019 the PCLIA has spent over \$47,000 to combat aquatic invasive species. Of this amount, only \$9,000 is offset by DNR grants. Our ability to fund this effort is based on lake owners' generous contributions and annual dues. Please consider becoming a member of the PCLIA and contributing to maintain a healthy lake for future generations.

As a member, you will receive future editions of *The Shoreline* newsletter listing opportunities to help with preserving and improving our lake for future generations to enjoy.

With many people helping, the job is not overwhelming, and can be a fun social activity with your lake neighbors.

Mike Stuber

PCLIA Board Member 2022-2024



Congratulations!!!

To Eli and Cole Kunesh, winners of the Northern Pike Kids' Fishing Contest.

Other participants and winners in the 2021 Fishing Contest are the following families/cabins:

First Place: Frykholm Family

Second Place: Oberding Family

Third Place: Kunesh Family, Stuber Family

Winners in the Kids' Fishing Contest:

Ages 0 - 8: Eli & Cole Kunesh

Ages 8 - 16: Katie Schult

If you catch small northern, don't throw them back in the water. Wild & Free will gladly accept them for their resident wildlife!





From the President's Desk

Happy Fall and Winter everyone! I would like to thank all the volunteers and board members for your help throughout the year. Special thanks to retiring board members, Rick Wimmer, Pat Wimmer and Ed Gysler. These three people have given many, many years of hard work to the PCLIA Board!

I would like to welcome three new members of the PCLIA board for 2022, Mike Stuber, Kari Bunkers and Tom Kaufhold.

In 2022 the officers of the PCLIA Board will be changing to Scott Maghan as President, Andy Larson as Vice President, Diane Lund as Treasurer and Joy Larson as Secretary. Thank you for stepping forward to lead our group in the upcoming year!

This summer we pulled many hundreds of gallons of Eurasian Milfoil from our lake with using the DASH and by hand pulling with snorkeling. We also had the large areas of Eurasian Milfoil on Sugar Bay treated with ProcellaCOR. By the end of the summer the areas of Milfoil that were chemically treated were dying and all buoys were removed when we felt it was safe to boat in these areas without further spreading the milfoil. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with these efforts!

Safety issues continue to be a concern on our chain of lakes. Please boat safely and follow all DNR rules and regulations! The Crow Wing County Sheriff's office did an assessment of the Crooked Lake Narrows and determined that at this time we do not need a no wake zone in that area. The Sheriff's report is posted on our face book page. Please see an article in this newsletter for further information. If you see any unsafe behavior on our chain of lakes please take a video or picture of the boat with registration and call the Sheriff at 218-289-4749, and if emergency, call 911. This summer the channel between Hanks and Portage was hand dug by many volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work! Unfortunately, due to low water levels and erosion, the channel did not stay open very long. It is important to not play or park your boats in or by the channel area as this causes further erosion issues. The erosion issues were present before the drought this summer. We are working with the DNR to try to come up with a longer solution for this issue.

We have planned many activities for next summer. See this newsletter for dates to put on your 2022 calendar

We welcome donations to help us continue our work in improving our chain of lakes. We welcome all volunteers. Please join us at the PCLIA Board Meetings. Many hands make light work! If you have questions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the PCLIA board.

Happy Holidays!
Kris Picken



Thank You Weekend Extensions

A big thank you to Weekend Extensions for placing and removing the navigation buoys on our chain of lakes again this year. Keeping our waterways marked for safe passage is greatly appreciated!



Walleyes - We're Interested in What You're Catching!

At the last board meeting the question was asked, "Do we know if anyone is catching any walleyes?" So, we thought we'd ask you to share your success with us. We're not looking for information about your secret fishing hole or bait, but we'd really like to know if any are being caught, and what size they are.

If you'd like to help us out, please send the number, size and lake where they were caught to: pclia.fishing@gmail.com.

Milfoil Update

This summer we observed significant expansion of the milfoil in Sugar Bay. A survey was conducted by PLM Lake and Land Management which identified 7 sites which exceeded 1/2 acre in size of dense growth. The total acreage was 9.1 acres. The 1/2 acre benchmark is important because the DNR uses this as a benchmark for allowing chemical treatment of milfoil

Smaller sites were also identified along the north central area of the bay, and near the channels to Crooked and Hanks. The smaller sites that were not adjacent to larger ones were handpicked using the DASH.

PLM was engaged to treat the larger patches using a newer chemical call ProcellaCOR. This has been used successfully on other lakes. The website contains a video of Lake Pulaski in Buffalo, MN and the results they experienced with ProcellaCOR. The benefits of ProcellaCOR are:

- Environmentally Friendly – The EPA views this is a very safe chemical for humans and pets.
- Species Specific – It only targets milfoil, unlike other treatment programs that impact all plant types, ProcellaCOR only affects milfoil.
- Treatment is longer lasting than other programs. Literature indicates we may see control from one application for up to 3 years. Additionally, ProcellaCOR will move to the root of these plants, preventing them from growing back.

So, what did we see? Within 2 weeks after treatment, plants in the targeted areas were turning brown and dying. Additionally, the small patches near the treatment zones appear to have received enough chemical that they too turned brown and died.

We'll have a watchful eye on this come spring and hope to see continued positive results from our approach to addressing the milfoil.

PCLIA Membership Directory

The PCLIA Directory listing names, addresses & phone numbers of lakeshore owners will be published in 2022. Please let us know if you have any updates to assure the most accurate information possible. If you do not want your information in the directory, please let us know by January 1, 2022. A free directory will be given to members who have paid their 2022 dues.

Fish Stocking – What Do Creel Surveys and Science Tell Us?

As we prepare to stock the lakes with walleye again this year, it seems appropriate to review what science tells us about our likelihood of successfully creating a sustainable walleye population.

The articles in the links below reference research performed by the late Jim Lilienthal during his career with the Minnesota DNR. They provide a picture of population dynamics between perch, northern pike and walleye of lakes that have healthy populations of walleye and those that don't.

<https://www.in-fisherman.com/editorial/walleye-issues-esocid-factors/368344>

<http://anglersforhabitat.com/posts-notice/pike-vs-walleye-stocking-commentary.pdf>

<https://www.brainerddispatch.com/sports/outdoors/3378569-where-have-all-big-pike-gone>

So how do our lakes stack up compared to the research? The table below contains the survey results for lakes with healthy walleye populations, lakes without healthy walleye populations, and the 2012 DNR lake survey results for Crooked, Hanks, and Portage. The values represent the average number of fish caught per net.

Lake	Perch	Northern Pike	Walleye
Healthy Walleye Population	Greater than 10	Less than 5.3 with 30% longer than 26 inches	12
Not Healthy Walleye Population	Less than 2	Greater than 7.8 with 94% less than 24 inches	Less than 4.6
Crooked	Less than 1	10.22 with 84% less than 24 inches	1
Hanks	Less than 1	14.17 with 92% less than 24 inches	Less than 1
Portage	Less than 1	10.83 with 84% less than 24 inches	1.5

The numbers are not currently in our favor to create a sustainable walleye population.

Here's an excerpt from the article in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch above. This sound like it was written for our chain of lakes.

"Because northern pike are the top predator in most Minnesota lakes the lack of big individuals adversely affects the whole fishery. Big pike eat small pike. When big pike disappear the number of small pike explodes. The small pike then wipe out the perch, Minnesota's most common forage species. With fewer perch to feed on panfish fry the panfish population explodes and stunted fish are the result. Soon large numbers of small pike are cruising the lake in search of the few perch that still exist. Pike feed most efficiently on cigar-shaped prey that are 20 percent of their body length. When perch or tullibee aren't present the pike expend a lot of energy chasing down smaller prey and don't grow very fast. Stunted panfish don't help because northerns are reluctant feeders of round-shaped fish."

So, what can we do? There are steps that can be taken to reverse this trend as seen in other lakes, such as those in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch article. They look like this:

- Release all pike 24" and longer. Big pike feed on small pike.
- Keep all pike under 24," up to the legal limit.
 - Small pike taste great and there are several techniques to remove the Y bones. Search for them on YouTube.
 - Wild and Free Wildlife Program in Garrison frequently has eagles in recovery that love northern pike. Simply freeze them after catching.
 - There are several board members who volunteer at Wild and Free and would be willing to pick these fish up from you. Send an email to info@pclia.com and we'll get you connected with a volunteer.
 - Or, contact Wild and Free @ 320-692-5417 to make drop off arrangements.

Another survey is coming in the next few years. It will be interesting to see if the results from 2012 have changed. If northern populations decline, we will be keeping an open mind about what to stock in the future. The science may point to the need for perch as well as walleyes to reach the balance needed to return a sustainable walleye population to the lakes, and improve the health of the sunfish population.

Please join us on the PCLIA Facebook page. We post updates of information throughout the year, and if there is anything you think would be good for other lakeshore owners to know, you can contact the Facebook administrator to have it inserted. You can locate our Facebook under PCLIA. There is a sunset picture from our lake on the front page.

2022 Events

All dates are tentative, so please check our Facebook page, and the current issue of *The Shoreline* newsletter

PCLIA Board Meetings: April 2, May 7, August 6, October 8
Welcome Back to the Lake: April 30 -- Venue not confirmed
PCLIA Summer Picnic: June 18 -- Details in May newsletter
Pontoon & Boat Parade: July 3
Family Fun Event: July 4
Fall Dinner Meeting: September 10 -- Venue not confirmed

Aquatic Invasive Species Recently Confirmed in County Lakes**Crow Wing County Press Release****Date: September 9, 2021**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Horseshoe and Lower South Long Lakes, and faucet snails in Lower South Long Lake in Crow Wing County. A Crow Wing County watercraft inspector found adult zebra mussels attached to an aquatic plant that was removed from a boat and trailer at the Horseshoe Lake public access. DNR AIS specialists found adult zebra mussels at opposite ends of the west bay of Horseshoe Lake during a follow-up search.

A lake property owner found adult zebra mussels while fishing on the east side of Lower South Long Lake. DNR staff confirmed a broad distribution of zebra mussels in the lake. They found no zebra mussels upstream or downstream of the lake and will continue to monitor waters connected to the lake. DNR AIS specialist also confirmed faucet snails in Lower South Long Lake downstream of the fishing pier at the County's wayside park. This is the first time faucet snails have been introduced to Crow Wing County water bodies.

You can help protect our lakes and stop the spread of aquatic invasive species by following these steps:

1. Leave the water at the lake - Drain water from boat, motor, live wells, bilge, and bait bucket before leaving the lake.
2. Clean up your rig - Remove plants, mud, and other debris from your boat, trailer, fishing lines, and downrigger cables.
3. Dry it out - Do not move docks and lifts from one body of water to another without sufficient time to dry. It's a good idea to dry boats and gear for at least 5 days, lifts and docks for at least 21 days.
4. Spread the word, not the species - Unless it came from that body of water, don't put it in there. This includes anything from your aquarium. Dispose of unwanted live bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash.

View Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts and the 2021 AIS prevention plan by visiting www.crowwing.us/AIS. The 2021 AIS Prevention Plan includes funding for watercraft inspections at approximately 42 boat landings throughout the Crow Wing County. AIS funding is allocated by the state legislature as part of the program aid given to Minnesota counties.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary resources.

No-Wake Zone Denied

The Crow Wing County Sheriff's department will not recommend a no-wake zone for the Narrows. The Sheriff's department conducted several surveys of the Narrows this summer and determined there was insufficient watercraft traffic to warrant a no-wake recommendation to the County Commissioners. Regardless, we urge everyone to video unsafe watercraft operation and forward the video to the Sheriff's office immediately. We want to keep our lakes safe and it's up to us to report unsafe activity. In discussions with the Sheriff's department we were told, "Yes, it's okay to call 911 to report unsafe behavior."

Public Access Boat Inspections

Crow Wing County provides boat inspection services at the public access on Crooked Lake. Again this year, the PCLIA purchased additional hours of inspection coverage. According to the County, 665 boats were inspected at the landing. The PCLIA plans to purchase additional inspection hours next summer.

PCLIA Board of Directors**President**

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Vice President

Rick Wimmer Term Expires 12/31/2021

Treasurer

Joy Larson Term Expires 12/31/2021

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Pat Wimmer Term Expires 12/31/2021

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Andy Larson	Term Expires 12/31/2021
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Julie Maghan	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Scott Maghan	Term Expires 12/31/2021
Jill Mertes	Term Expires 12/31/2022
Marjorie Safaie	Term Expires 12/31/2023

Board of Directors effective January 1, 2022**President**

Scott Maghan

Vice President

Andy Larson

Treasurer

Diane Lund

Secretary

Joy Larson

Directors

Lynn Bremer	Kari Bunkers
Chuck Lund	Tom Kaufhold
Jill Mertes	Mike Stuber
Marjorie Safaie	

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 9, 2021

Savings Account:

\$53.29

Checking Account:

\$39,848.67

General Fund: \$26,536.31

AIS Fund: \$ 6,081.66

Healthy Lakes Fund: \$ 3,659.40

Fish Stocking Fund: \$ 3,571.30



Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2022 membership form with a return envelope. We thank all of you for your support of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association.

Please note the additional areas where we need important information from you this year:

- Indicate on the membership form if you want to receive future newsletters by mail or electronically. If you have more than one email, please indicate which email will work best for sending you the newsletter.
- Lake Directory: We have traditionally printed a directory with all lakeshore owners listed with lake address, home mailing address & phone numbers. You have the choice to opt out of having your information printed in the 2022 directory; however, we **MUST** know of your decision no later than January 1, otherwise we'll publish your information in the new issue.
- If your contact information has changed, please indicate this on your membership form, whether or not you want it published in the directory. It is *your* responsibility to inform the membership committee of address & contact information changes in order to send the newsletter to the correct address, and a good email to use when we send email blasts to all lakeshore owners.

From the Editor & the Past President

As we wrap up the November edition of this newsletter, we say goodbye to all the friends we have made during our years on Crooked Lake. Working on the PCLIA board of directors has been a great experience, and we'll never forget it, or all of you. We've made our transition to Blairsville, Georgia (still unpacking boxes!) and have been enjoying getting to know a new community. At this time, I'd like to acknowledge and thank all the past PCLIA presidents I have worked with, as recording secretary and newsletter editor, who have given me their support and encouragement: Bob Wrobel, Vern Skrivseth, Steve Swantz, Rick Wimmer, Ed Gysler and Kris Picken. It was a pleasure working with each of you.

We wish everyone on the lake the best of the holiday season, and a warm and happy (and safe) summer ahead.

Rick & Pat Wimmer

