

# The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

April/May 2023

## From the President...

The summer season is right around the corner and I think we're all looking forward to it. With a new season comes some exciting new things we want to try.

We're moving "Welcome Back to the Lakes" to an afternoon time slot and utilizing the meeting room at the Deerwood Legion. There will be a cash bar, and we'll be providing free pizza to snack on. We think it will be a great opportunity to socialize with old friends and make new ones. We also look forward to hearing from you about what we're doing well, and what you'd like to see us improve.

We have updated lake apparel that will be available later this summer. There are new designs that are exciting and represent our lake well. More to come on this in the next newsletter.

We are now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In this edition of "The Shoreline" there is an article by Tom Kaufhold explaining the importance of this change. A big "Thank You" goes out to Tom for all the work and guidance he provided to make this happen.

We are also putting the final touches on the Lake Management Plan. More to come on this as we go through the summer.

Before I go, I want to thank the members on the board this past year for their hard work and great ideas. I also want to welcome Dean Forchas, Christine Lasley, Tim Kensok and Sue Weber as our newest members.

Hope to see you all at the Welcome Back to the Lakes!

Let's have a great, safe and respectful summer here at our little slice of heaven!

Scott Maghan

## WELCOME BACK TO THE LAKES

**Date:** Sat., April 29, 2023

**Time:** 3:30-5:30 p.m.

**Place:** Deerwood Legion

**What:** Free pizza, cash bar & socializing  
with friends old and new



## Livin' & Lovin' The Crooked Life

### MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR



#### Welcome Back to the Lakes

Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Deerwood Legion

#### Summer Picnic & Get Together

Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m.  
Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane  
Details in this newsletter

#### Pontoon & Boat Parade

Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Details in next newsletter

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fun Event

Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>  
Details in next newsletter

#### Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Details in August newsletter

\*All scheduled events are subject to change

# TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2022	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31/2022
<b>Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*</b>	\$9,809.48	\$7,715.00	\$8,849.28	\$8,675.20
<b>Fish Stocking Fund*</b>	\$1,076.30	\$1,700.00		\$2,776.30
<b>General Fund*</b>				
<b>Donations and Interest</b>		\$1,141.88	\$6,404.44	
<b>Dinner Deposits</b>		\$1,440.00	\$1,500.00	
<b>Membership Dues</b>		\$5,820.00		
<b>General Fund</b>			\$11,378.35	
<b>Total General Fund</b>	\$35,655.93	\$8,401.88	\$19,282.79	\$24,775.02
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$46,541.71</b>	<b>\$17,816.88</b>	<b>\$28,132.07</b>	<b>\$36,226.52</b>

\*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 not specifically designated for Healthy Lakes, AIS, or Fish Stocking.

## A Note from the Treasurer

As we finish up reporting on Fiscal 2022, I thought it might be nice to share information about our expenses. Below is a summary of how we spent our money over the past three years. The numbers are rounded for simplicity, but it gives you the general idea of what has happened and where the money has gone.

### Three Year Snapshot 2020 – 2022 Total Expenditures \$70,000

- **Combating AIS: \$56,000** This is 70% of our expenditures. Over the past 3 years we spent almost \$56,000 fighting Eurasian Milfoil. This includes ordering lake surveys, treatments and additional hours of Public Access inspections. We were fortunate to have established a large fund prior to the arrival of Eurasian Milfoil to fight this and other invasive species. In our battle with milfoil, we have drawn our reserves down to \$2,200. This reported AIS expense has been offset by over \$6,000 in grants. Kris Picken has just obtained a grant for 2023 of \$4,500. Thanks for your diligence in pursuing these funds, Kris!
- **Water Quality: \$1,800** With the help of volunteers we collect and submit water samples for testing at a cost of approximately \$600 per year or estimated cost of \$1800 for 3 years.
- **Education: \$400** We arranged for a space and provided refreshments and bring in a speaker for our Welcome Back to the Lake event.
- **Fish Stocking: \$3,500** In 2021 we stocked walleyes. Walleye stocking can only be done once every other year. We collect and maintain a fund specifically for future stocking. When we are allowed to stock again, we use all of the funds collected for that purpose. The DNR will allow us to stock a maximum of 393 pounds of walleyes with each stocking. At \$18 per pound we can reach the maximum allowed with a fund balance of \$7,075.
- **Communication: \$6,700** You are kept informed of PCLIA news and events via our newsletters, directory and website.
- **Navigation: \$700** We are responsible for purchasing, placing, maintaining and replacing damaged buoys. We have purchased \$700 worth of buoys over the past three years and we have more on order for this year. Please be careful as you pass the buoys taking care not to hit and damage them.
- **Governance: \$5,000** We pay for essentials such as insurance, environmental memberships and government registrations.
- **Social: \$850** And finally, we get to spend some fun money. Our total social expenditures which have included the Fishing Contest, Summer Picnic, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pontoon Parade, and Family Fun Day were \$850 or about 1% of our total expenses.

I hope this helps you understand how your donations have been used. We thank you all for your generosity!

-Submitted by Diane Lund



## Non-Profit Organization Status Approved!

As approved at the annual lake association meeting in September we submitted our application as a tax-deductible non-profit organization. **Approval by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was received in November!** In IRS terminology we are now a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

The most immediate impact of this change in status means that any **contributions to PCLIA since September 10, 2022 are now deductible** by those who itemize deductions on their tax return. Over time, contributions to PCLIA should grow as our members benefit from tax savings and get “more bang for the buck”!

Growing contributions has increased in importance as we have drawn down our accumulated funds by more than \$20,000 over the past 3 years largely due to efforts to fight invasive species. This issue will continue to require resources in the future.

In addition to possible tax deductibility, another option for some members to maximize the impact of their contributions is through **matching contribution programs**. For those members associated with organizations with matching contribution programs, PCLIA should generally be considered an eligible organization. You would need to check with your specific organization for their rules. (If verification is necessary, Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association with EIN 300477083 is included on IRS Publication 78 – a listing of tax-deductible organizations).

Future newsletters will contain other contribution considerations.

*-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold*

### MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their **2023** membership forms and dues.

We appreciate your commitment to the lake association.

If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership, you can access the

[PCLIA Membership Form](#) on the PCLIA Website.

## PCLIA Board of Directors

<u>President</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Scott Maghan	12/31/2023
<u>Vice President</u>	
Andy Larson	12/31/2023
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Diane Lund	12/31/2023
<u>Secretary</u>	
Joy Larson	12/31/2023
<u>Past President</u>	
Kris Picken	

### Directors

Lynn Bremer	12/31/2025
Kari Bunkers	12/31/2024
*Dean Forchas	12/31/2025
*Tim Kensok	12/31/2025
*Christine Lasley	12/31/2025
Chuck Lund	12/31/2025
Tom Kaufhold	12/31/2024
Julie Maghan	12/31/2025
Mike Stuber	12/31/2024
*Sue Weber	12/31/2025

\*A big welcome and thank you to our new directors!



### Meetings

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

April 1<sup>st</sup>

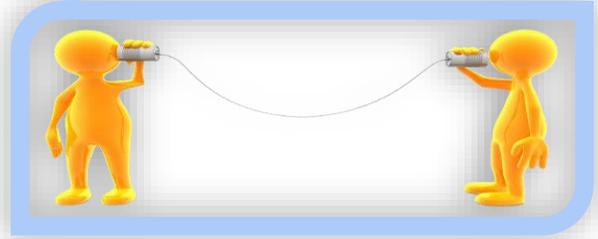
May 6<sup>th</sup>

August 5<sup>th</sup>

September 30<sup>th</sup>

\* Scheduled meetings are subject to change

## LAKE COMMUNICATION



### PCLIA WEBSITE

This is a great resource for accessing information about our chain of lakes. It provides a wide range of topics including facts about our lakes, water quality, AIS education, boating tips, photos, video lake cruises, social events and much more. You can find us at [www.pclia.com](http://www.pclia.com). Check it out!

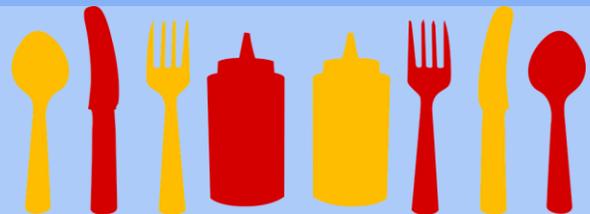
### FACEBOOK

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 should be directed to the page where you can join the group.

### PCLIA EMAIL

Our board of directors welcomes all of your suggestions, comments and questions. Please contact us at [info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com)

## SUMMER PICNIC & GET TOGETHER



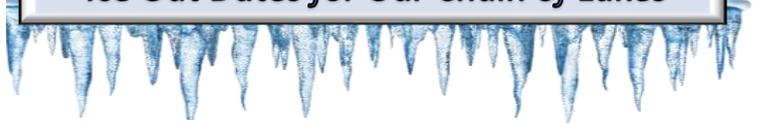
The summer picnic is **Saturday, June 24**, beginning at 12 noon. It will be held at the Larson's on Sugar Bay (14265 Maghan Lane). We will be serving brats & hotdogs. Last year we had a great turnout; we hope you can attend. If so, please email Andy Larson at [andylarson1959@hotmail.com](mailto:andylarson1959@hotmail.com) and let us know how many will be attending. Please bring a lawn chair.

*Livin' & Lovin' The Crooked Life*

# Saying Goodbye to Winter – Ushering in Spring



## *Ice Out Dates for Our Chain of Lakes*



<b>2023</b>	?	<b>1999</b>	April 11
<b>2022</b>	May 23	<b>1998</b>	April 5
<b>2021</b>	April 6	<b>1997</b>	April 21
<b>2020</b>	April 15	<b>1996</b>	April 26
<b>2019</b>	April 23	<b>1995</b>	April 29
<b>2018</b>	May 2	<b>1994</b>	April 8
<b>2017</b>	April 3	<b>1993</b>	April 19
<b>2016</b>	March 29	<b>1992</b>	April 6
<b>2015</b>	April 9	<b>1991</b>	April 8
<b>2014</b>	April 29	<b>1990</b>	April 21
<b>2013</b>	May 11	<b>1989</b>	April 24
<b>2012</b>	March 23	<b>1988</b>	April 14
<b>2011</b>	April 22	<b>1987</b>	April 5
<b>2010</b>	April 2	<b>1986</b>	April 13
<b>2009</b>	April 20	<b>1985</b>	April 16
<b>2008</b>	May 1	<b>1984</b>	April 16
<b>2007</b>	April 20	<b>1983</b>	April 24
<b>2006</b>	April 9	<b>1982</b>	April 26
<b>2005</b>	April 11	<b>1981</b>	April 6
<b>2004</b>	April 15	<b>1980</b>	April 21
<b>2003</b>	April 14	<b>1979</b>	May 2
<b>2002</b>	April 16	<b>1978</b>	April 26
<b>2001</b>	April 24		
<b>2000</b>	March 27		



# Burning Permits - A Burning Question

Thanks to the adequate snow cover currently in the Crooked Lake area wildfire risk is obviously very low. But a word of caution. Things are about to change.

“Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before grass greens up,” said Allissa Reynolds, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildfire prevention supervisor. Because of this burning, permits are not issued in the spring of the year when fire danger is traditionally high due to brown grass and low humidity.

## Burning Permits

Normally throughout the year, burning permits can be purchased by contacting the DNR website. The cost is \$5 per year. You can also get a free 3 day burning permit by visiting a fire warden or a forestry office. A burning permit is needed for fires more than 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. This permit grants the individual holder the right to burn dry leaves, plant clippings, brush, and clean untreated-unpainted wood. Permits are also needed for running fires when burning grass fields, piled material, or garden plots. A DNR approved burner, which is reminiscent of the old fashioned burn barrel, also needs a permit.

When it's time to burn all you have to do is call 1-866-533-BURN to activate the permit before each burning. It will then show up on a map that is viewed by local law enforcement and fire departments.



## Recreational Fires a.k.a. Campfires

It's common knowledge that you do not need a burning permit for campfires which are not more than 3 feet in diameter and 3 feet high in a designated fire ring. Campfires are also permitted, without a designated fire ring, in an area cleared of combustible materials within 5 feet in all directions from the base of the fire.



## Acceptable Burning Materials For Recreational Fires

Recreational fires can be made of wood from trees, small branches, and brush. It's also permissible to burn grass, leaves, untreated lumber, and charcoal. The intent of a recreational fire is for enjoyment and not for disposal purposes.

## Un-Acceptable Burning Materials

With or without a burning permit you may never burn certain materials that produce pollution in any type of fire. These hazardous materials include: rubber, plastic, chemically treated lumber, garbage, and construction debris to name the most common materials. A full detailed list of all materials can be found on the DNR website.

## Responsibility

We've all seen the images in the news of wildfires throughout the country. Minnesota is not exempt from significant wildfire events. According to the DNR with over 90 percent of the wildfires in the Brainerd Lakes area being caused by humans, it is our responsibility as caring Crow Wingers to follow these safety measures.

## Conclusion

The Portage Crooked Lakes Improvement Association would like to thank you in advance for doing your part to preserve the area woods for future generations.

## Miscellaneous

Like turning in poachers, it's the general public's responsibility to help the DNR by reporting dangerous or un-lawful fires by calling 911. For other burning permit questions, please contact the Crow Wing County - Brainerd DNR Forestry office at 218-203-4421.

*-Submitted by Tom Weber*

# CRITTER

# ORNER



Photo Credit  
Sherry McCartney

## *On Eagle's Wings*

The sight of our national bird, the bald eagle, is usually greeted with delight, a little awe, and picture taking when possible. We are very fortunate to have them grace our chain of lakes and rear their young here. But what do we know about these magnificent creatures?

They are certainly easy to spot with a wing span that measures 6'-7.5'. Typically they weigh between 6.5 – 14 pounds, with females being larger than the males by up to 30%. Their life span is fairly long at 20-30 years. The distinguishing white head and tail appear at 4-6 years of age. They are capable of level flight speeds up to 30 miles per hour and can dive at speeds up to 100 miles per hour.

Our chain of lakes lies at the very southern range of the bald eagle's nesting habitat. They start nesting early, often times starting in late January. At the time of this writing in mid-February I have already seen eagles carrying sticks to fortify their nest. The choosing of a mate in the world of the eagle is known at the "death spiral". That's right, they latch their talons together and spiral toward the ground.

This behavior is also used in territorial fighting. In the match making scenario it is a test of the willingness to "hang in there" together. In the territorial fight, it's a game of "chicken." In both cases it can become deadly!

Eagles will often use the same nest from year after year. However, human activity near the nesting sight is a primary reason for them to abandon the nest. This is especially so when the eagles are in a newly established territory.

The diet of the bald eagle is quite varied. While fish is the most desired choice, they don't seem to have an issue with the other offerings on the menu: rabbits, squirrels, waterfowl, snakes and other small animals. They also are not picky about how they come by their meal. Catching it is one option, stealing it is another! Next summer when you're out for a boat ride and you see a fish bobbing on the surface, sit back and watch the show. Hopefully, an eagle and an osprey will see it about the same time. The aerial acrobatic show that will follow is always quite interesting.

Unfortunately, the diet of the bald eagle is also the cause of many eagle deaths. It comes in the form of lead poisoning. Hopefully progress can be made on this issue as it was with DDT, which almost caused the collapse of the eagle population.

-Submitted by Scott Maghan

# PCLIA

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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