

The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

June/July 2023

From the President...

Thank you for your membership and ongoing support of PCLIA. I hope you like the changes we've made to The Shoreline and the website. We're also very excited about the new logo and the line of clothing and merchandise available from Sota Clothing.

This summer we will again be battling Eurasian Milfoil. We have been very aggressive in our efforts to minimize the impact of this invasive species. We've seen very good results from the application of ProcellaCOR and its ability to kill the plant at the root. However, it is more expensive than the traditional treatment option of 2,4-D, which doesn't kill the plant at the root. We have secured grant money from the DNR to help offset some of these costs, but it will not fully cover the anticipated cost to treat with ProcellaCOR.

We do appreciate your donations to the AIS fund that make it possible to fund treatment of the Eurasian Milfoil. However, we may not be able to continue with this aggressive approach in the future and may need to shift to a management approach. Additional donations will be necessary to make this possible. I hope you will consider helping us out, if possible. Donations can be sent to:

PCLIA

PO Box 564

Deerwood, MN 56444

To that end, we have taken steps to become a non-profit organization. That makes it possible for your donations to be tax deductible, subject to applicable tax laws and your filing status. We will also be sharing with you, in this and future Shorelines, how you can take advantage of our non-profit status to make donations.

Hope to see you on the water!

Scott Maghan

Official Ice Out Date for Our Chain of Lakes



May 2, 2023 (One day earlier than last year)

MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR



Summer Picnic & Get Together

Saturday, June 24th 12:00 p.m.

Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane
Details in this newsletter

Pontoon & Boat Parade

Sunday, July 2nd

Details in this newsletter

3rd Annual Family Fun Event

Tuesday, July 4th

Details in this newsletter

Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

Saturday, September 9th

Details in August newsletter

*All scheduled events are subject to change

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2023 membership form 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

TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2022	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31/2022	
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$9,809.48	\$7,715.00	\$8,849.28	\$8,675.20	<p>*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.</p> <p>*The Fish Stocking Fund contains money specifically donated toward the stocking of fish according to DNR guidelines.</p> <p>*The General Fund contains funds not specifically designated for Healthy Lakes, AIS, or Fish Stocking.</p>
Fish Stocking Fund*	\$1,076.30	\$1,700.00		\$2,776.30	
General Fund*					
Donations and Interest		\$1,141.88	\$6,404.44		
Dinner Deposits		\$1,440.00	\$1,500.00		
Membership Dues		\$5,820.00			
General Fund			\$11,378.35		
Total General Fund	\$35,655.93	\$8,401.88	\$19,282.79	\$24,775.02	
Total Fund Balances	\$46,541.71	\$17,816.88	\$28,132.07	\$36,226.52	

Donor Advised Funds

A Great Tool for Increasing the Impact of Your Charitable Giving

By establishing the Portage-Crooked Lake Improvement Association (PCLIA) as a 501c3 non-profit it creates the potential for our contributions to the organization to become tax deductible. One tool that can be used to increase the impact of charitable giving is a Donor Advised Fund.

If you are not familiar with Donor Advised Fund here is a link to an article that explains the basics:
nerdwallet.com/article/taxes/donor-advised-funds

If you already have a Donor Advised Fund, here's how you can direct contributions to PCLIA. First, make sure PCLIA is established with your fund manager as a recognized charity by searching their database of approved charities. If it is, then simply follow the process for making a one-time or recurring contribution. If it's not, you'll have to make a request to your fund manager to set up PCLIA. That generally requires providing the following information:

Charity Name: *Portage-Crooked Lake Improvement Association*
 Address: *P.O. Box 564; Deerwood, MN 56444*
 Tax ID: *30-0477083*
 Contact Info: info@pclia.com

If you don't currently have a Donor Advised Fund, but are interested in pursuing further, you should do your own research and consult with your tax advisor to see if a Donor Advised Fund is right for your situation. If you set up an account, then follow the steps above.

As we all work together to fund the mission of PCLIA it makes sense to look for ways to do it in the most tax-advantageous way possible. A Donor Advised Fund is one tool that can help.

-Submitted by Tim Kensok

PCLIA Board of Directors

President

Scott Maghan

Vice President

Andy Larson

Treasurer

Diane Lund

Secretary

Joy Larson

Past President

Kris Picken

Directors

Lynn Bremer

Kari Bunkers

Dean Forchas

Tim Kensok

Christine Lasley

Chuck Lund

Tom Kaufhold

Julie Maghan

Mike Stuber

Sue Weber

Board Meetings

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

August 5th

September 30th



* Scheduled meetings are subject to change.
Meetings are open to the public.

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 pclia.com. Check it out!

PCLIA 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



New for the Fall Dinner – Silent Auction! Seeking Donations

As part of the efforts to fund our fight against aquatic invasive species and strengthen our reserve funds, we are adding a silent auction to the PCLIA Fall Dinner on September 9th. We are in the process of contacting local businesses for contributions.

We also have some donations from PCLIA members and are **looking for more!** If you, or a business you are associated with, would consider donating please contact us at info@pclia.com. Donations could include merchandise or services. Suggestions include: gift baskets, hosting a dinner and/or cruise, sporting or other event tickets, or any other creative idea you may have. We are looking for items with a value of at least \$50. Your generosity is appreciated. Donations could be tax deductible as a business expense or a personal charitable contribution.

Look for more information in the August newsletter.

-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold

The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association (PCLIA) may contract to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Species in the Crooked, Sugar Bay, Hanks and Portage chain of lakes in 2023. This is dependent on an evaluation of the need.

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

The proposed dates for treatment is June 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023.

Eurasian Water Milfoil is the target species for the treatment.

The method 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.

Landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's 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 and email address below:

PO Box 564
Deerwood, MN 56444
info@pclia.com

Portage Hanks Channel: The Story of "Can" and "Should"

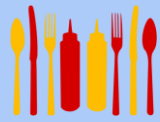
The channel has been an issue for some time. In years past it was simply a boat passage between the two lakes. In more recent times, it has become a place to park the boat and play in the water. **Can you do this?** Yes, according to the MN DNR the lake bed below the "natural ordinary low water level" is owned by the State of Minnesota. So, you can park your boat and swim, as long as you are on state property. However, you cannot go above said water line, as that is trespassing on private property.

Should you do this? No.

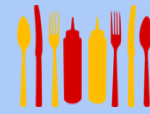
- The ongoing use of this area has impacted the vegetation on the lake bed. This vegetation is used to keep the sand in place during times of high water and increased current flow through the channel. Now, sand just washes into the channel and inhibits passage.
- Additionally, playing in the channel is causing the sand along the edges of the channel to collapse, fill in and inhibits passage.
- Finally, being in the channel as boats try to pass is dangerous, and it is also illegal. That's right, to "interfere, obstruct, or render dangerous for passage waters used by the public" is illegal.



-Submitted by Scott Maghan



SUMMER PICNIC & GET TOGETHER



The summer picnic is **Saturday, June 24th**, beginning at 12 noon. It will be held at the Larson's on Sugar Bay (14265 Maghan Lane). We will provide beverages, and be serving brats, hotdogs and all the trimmings. This year, in addition to good food and great company, Dean Forchas will be sharing some good boating practices with both our young and old boat captains.

We hope you and your families can attend and ask that you RSVP to andylarson1959@hotmail.com as soon as possible and let us know how many will be attending. An RSVP isn't essential, but it does help us with planning. Last year we had a great turnout; we look forward to seeing you there. Please bring a lawn chair.

Happy 4th of July



Happy 4th of July

PONTOON & BOAT PARADE



The annual Portage-Crooked Lake Boat Parade has been scheduled for **Sunday, July 2nd at 3 p.m.** We are hoping for a better forecast than last year!

Mark your calendars, and start thinking about your boat's theme now!

- Meet at the island by 2:45 p.m.
- Register, get your number
- Place your number on the starboard side of the bow so the judges can read it.
- If you have your number from last year, bring it to the island when you register
- Lead boat will begin the parade at 3 p.m.
- Parade route will be the same as last year – Main part of Crooked, Sugar Bay & Hanks Lake
- Three prizes of \$50 each, plus a traveling trophy will be awarded
- Email blast will go out in the event of bad weather.

3RD ANNUAL FAMILY FUN EVENT



The 3rd Annual Family Fun event will be held on **Tuesday, July 4th** at the Larson's on Sugar Bay. Their address is 14265 Maghan Lane, Deerwood. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and the event begins at 10:00 a.m.

The event consists of a short swim of about 25 yards (or walk along the beach), then a three-mile bike ride and a one-mile walk/run. The idea is for families to participate and have fun. Afterwards we have a short awards ceremony and treats.

We hope you can participate and request you RSVP as soon as possible. Again, an RSVP isn't essential, but it helps us with planning. Please email andylarson1959@hotmail.com and let us know how many will participate. We are also looking for volunteers to help at the event.

Check the PCLIA website at pclia.com or search *PCLIA of MN* on your Facebook home page for any last-minute details or changes.



CROOKED LAKE CHAIN MERCHANDISE IS HERE!!!

We are excited to announce the unveiling of Crooked Lake's brand new logo. This incredible design was created by the talented Spencer Johnson, a member of our association and the founder of Sota Clothing. We are truly grateful for Spencer's expertise and vision in creating a logo that so beautifully represents the lakes that we all cherish.

But that's not all we've been up to! Sota Clothing has partnered with us to create an exclusive collection for the Crooked Lake chain, featuring our new logo. All proceeds over cost from this collection will go directly to the PCLIA and our mission of safeguarding our lakes.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Spencer and Sota Clothing for collaborating with us on this project. Their dedication to our cause has been invaluable, and we are grateful to have them as partners in our mission to protect our lakes.

To purchase go to pclia.com
or
sotaclothing.com/collections/crooked-lake-collection

-Submitted by Marianna Bunkers

Protect Your Property Value – Be a Lakeshore Steward

The EPA, in their National Lakes Assessment, identifies poor lakeshore habitat and high levels of nutrients as leading stressors affecting the biological health of lakes. Many lakeshore property owners buy their lots to fish and enjoy nature, but then unknowingly harm the very lakes they love by replacing natural vegetation with lawns, clearing shrubs and trees, importing sand to make artificial beaches, and installing expansive structures close to the water's edge. To protect our lakes, we need to protect our lakeshores.

Here are some tips for improved lakeshore stewardship which provide for better habitat for fish and improved water quality, which can in turn help enhance the value of lakefront property. It is best for the lake to use natural vegetation when possible.

Natural vegetation has many benefits for the lake:

- Helps buffer the lake from construction site sediment, lawn fertilizer and other polluted run off
- Overhanging shoreline trees provide cooling shade for fish and other aquatic life that live in the shallows
- Native plants along the lakeshore provide shelter, food and habitat for song birds, butterflies, fish and aquatic life in the lake. Their deep, strong roots create natural buffers that absorb wave energy and reduce shoreline erosion.
- Rain gardens provide attractive landscaping that intercepts water drainage from downspouts and helps it soak into the soil instead of running off into the lake.

Fertilizers, pesticides and weed killers we apply on our lawns can wash into our lakes when it rains. Nutrients in fertilizers can lead to algae blooms and lower oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic animals; pesticides and weed killers can be toxic to people, pets, beneficial insects, fish and wildlife. Protect your lake by minimizing or eliminating use of fertilizers and other yard chemicals. If a fertilizer must be used, make sure it is zero phosphate. Remember to avoid raking leaves into the lake. Organic material breaks down and leads to algae blooms and poor water quality.

- Submitted by Kari Bunkers



Is Your Well Water Safe to Drink?

The State of Minnesota Department of Health recommends that you test your private well regularly to ensure that your drinking water from your well is safe for you and your family. They have provided a chart which offers guidelines on what to test for and how often.

Protect your health!

Test your well water for:



Testing is even more important if young children drink the water.

The Department of Health website has links to accredited A.W. Research Laboratories Inc. testing facilities, including one that is located at 16326 Airport Road in Brainerd. Phone # 218-829-7974.

You can easily test your water yourself by:

- Contacting a testing facility to purchase a test kit
- Obtaining a water sample carefully following the instructions provided
- Returning your water sample to the testing facility
- Receiving a written report with your test results.

If your water fails any of the tests see the MN Department of Health website for further instructions.

For more information check out the MN Department of Health website.

health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/index.html

-Submitted by Diane Lund

Boating at Night

A boat ride on a beautiful summer night with a sky full of stars and the moonlight glistening across our lakes is something that many of us love to take advantage of. However, night boating presents different dangers than those we are faced with during daylight hours.

To safely enjoy our chain of lakes, we'd like to offer some tips to keep you and your fellow night time boaters safe:

1. Slow down, visibility is reduced at night. Distances are harder to judge and obstacles more difficult to see.
2. Share the lookout duties. Have another set of eyes to help the driver watch for other boats and obstacles.
3. Tap into your preparations list. Keep flashlights handy and life jackets nearby.
4. Preserve your night vision. Dim onboard lights, and have a red filter on your flashlight.
5. Look for the red and green lights of other boats.
 - Red and green lights are forward on either side of the bow and a white light is aft at the stern.
 - If you see both red and green, the boat is coming head on.
 - If you see white, the boat is ahead of you and/or moving away.
 - If in doubt and you see red, stop. That means a boat is crossing your bow and it has the right of way.
6. Dock with extra caution. Again, distances are distorted at night so only approach a dock as fast as you're willing to hit it. Ask crew not to jump onto a dock but rather step off calmly when the boat is close enough.
7. Those white lights on the front of your boats are not headlights. They are called "docking lights" and should only be used when arriving at your destination to safely dock your boat. You're not in a car and the reflective water kills the benefits of bright forward lights. In addition, they can "blind" the driver of approaching boats. So please be kind to your fellow boaters and keep those lights off until docking your boat.

-Submitted by Chuck Lund



Tips And Tricks for Safer Boating

Most of us learned our boating skills from a friend or family member. Skipping over the question of who taught them it's safe to say they learned what they needed to know and filled in any holes as time went on. That system still exists today and it works! However, the US Coast Guard and Minnesota DNR have some wonderful resources to speed up the learning process. The combined boating experience of the Coast Guard and DNR is pretty tough to match.

The amount of information those organizations publish is overwhelming, and covers every conceivable scenario and every environment. That's too much for most of us who just want to have a nice day boating on the Crooked Lake Chain. I've highlighted just a few important points below.

One example is piloting a boat on a river or in narrow spaces such as the area that we call "The Narrows". The rules are very similar to driving, "Stay Right Unless Passing". Piloting a boat in a channel is the same. Imagine "The Narrows" as a four-lane road where boaters stay in the right most lane (starboard side) leaving the center for those who wish to pass.

Another rule has to do with anchoring. In calm water an anchor line can be tied off anywhere on the boat. But in windy or rougher waters never tie an anchor to the back of the boat or stern cleat. The bow of a boat (the pointy end) is designed to rise up and over rolling waves. The stern (back of the boat) is not. The DNR has recorded many sinkings because of this one small, easily avoided error.

These are just two examples from a list of good boating practices that the Portage-Crooked Lake Improvement Association wants to share at the summer picnic on June 24th and will continue at the Family Fun event on July 4th. We hope to give our younger and older boat captains a few tips. Here are some other topics that have been picked to cover:

- Life vests - Different types and when to use which type
- Man Overboard - What to do and what NOT to do
- Collision Course - How to identify this situation and what to do
- Navigation Buoys - Different types and what they mean
- Boating at night - Proper use of navigation lights
- Understanding the power of wakes - Both yours and others.

The bulk of this information was extracted from the study guide and exam for the MN DNR Watercraft Operators Permit. This certification it is required in Minnesota for people 12 to 17 years old to operate watercraft (of certain horsepower) unless supervised by an adult. The course is offered on line for a fee of \$30. For more information about the Watercraft Operators Permit visit: dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/education.html

The purpose of this certification is to make us all better boat captains which will help make our lakes safer and more enjoyable for our passengers and the entire PCLIA community. See you at the picnic!

-Submitted by Dean Forchas



CRITTER CORNER



It's a Bird, It's a Plane It's Either an Osprey or a Bald Eagle

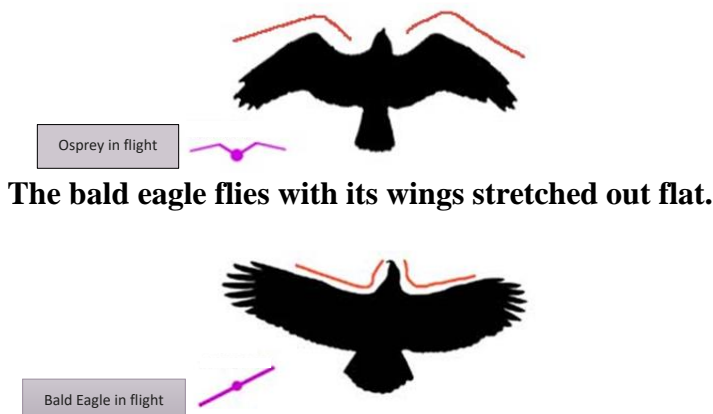
Last issue we shared information on our national symbol, the eagle. We also have another large bird of prey that can be seen soaring above our chain. During the summer, ospreys make their home along our shoreline. While eagles and ospreys have many traits in common, they are not related. Eagles, with a wing span of 7 or more feet, is a type of falcon while an osprey with a wing span of under 6 feet is a type of hawk. An osprey has a white body, white head with a dark eye stripe, wings that are dark on top and white with a dark wrist patch underneath, a two-toned grey/black bill and white feet. Eagle's wings are broader and their tails are longer than an osprey. Their wings are also positioned differently in flight.

Like eagles, ospreys build large bulky nests of branches and sticks lined with bark, grasses and plant material plus an occasional plastic bag or water toy. They will return and add to these nests annually. Osprey nests are always by water whereas an eagle may build inland.

The larger bald eagle is an opportunistic predator and scavenger, while the osprey's diet is exclusively fish. Ospreys require open water for hunting their fishy prey. Ospreys are the only bird of prey that will dive into and under water to depths of 3 feet to grab a fish with their sharp talons.

When you see a majestic bird soaring overhead you may wonder "Is it an eagle or an osprey?" Although we know that there is a size and coloring difference it can be hard to detect that difference accurately from your boat. Here is an easy guide to help correctly identify the bird.

To better catch fish, the osprey flies horizontally with its wings bent at the wrist.



Osprey populations, like eagles, were threatened by pesticides (DDT) and habitat loss, but fortunately they have recovered to a level that is considered a healthy population. Enjoy watching them as we both enjoy the summer on our lake.

-Submitted by Diane Lund

PCLIA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.pclia.com
info@pclia.com

