

# The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

August/September 2023



## From the President...

It seems like the ice just went off the lakes and it's already mid-summer. That means fall is right around the corner, which brings me to my point: The annual meeting is coming up on September 9<sup>th</sup>!

This year we will be meeting at The Bridge Tavern on Highway 6 north of Crosby. Social hour starts at 5:00, with dinner around 6:00. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we can take advantage of the outdoor patio for the social hour. Details are included in the insert.

Please send the insert in as soon as possible, but no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>. Last year we had a few that came in late, and one that didn't arrive at all. We've added a "Confirmation Email Address" line near the bottom of the form. If you'd like to receive a confirmation email that we have received your payment, please add an email address.

This year we've added a silent auction to the annual meeting. Check out some of the auction items in the article within this edition of The Shoreline.

I want to thank everyone who ordered Crooked Lake items from Sota Clothing. And a huge thank you to Spencer Johnson for making this possible. It's great to see everyone wearing their shirts, sweat shirts and hats.

This year the picnic was great fun and the Family Fun Day set a record with over 100 people in attendance! Check out the pictures for these two events. Hope to see you at one of these events next year.

The boat parade had some awesome entries this year. The winners and photos are included in this edition. Thanks to everyone who participated!

While the parade was great fun, seeing the number of boats lining the parade route and people on their docks was really exciting. Seems everyone on the chain loves a good pontoon parade!

Check out the new golf outing we're planning for the day after the annual meeting. It is a low key get together to have fun, swing a club, and get to know some people on the lake.

As some of you know, the DNR performed a fish population survey earlier this summer. At some point the results of the survey will hopefully be available online. We'll try to keep you posted when this happens.

I hope you have a fun and safe rest of your summer!

See you on the water!

Scott Maghan

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2023**



**Fall Dinner & Business Meeting**  
Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Registration & payment due by August 29<sup>th</sup>  
Details in this newsletter



# Summer Fun!



**JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC**

## **JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> PONTOON & BOAT PARADE**



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**



**A Tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

As you can see, lots of creativity and hard work went into this year's parade! Congratulations to our winners and all of our other participants. Check out pictures of all our entries on the PCLIA Website and Facebook page. A special thank you to Patty and Jack Stasney for organizing this event each year!



## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> Third Annual FAMILY FUN DAY



What a great turn out! Roughly 100 people attended this awesome event! There was a swim/walk, proceeded by a bike ride followed by a run/walk. Congratulations to our winners and all of our other participants. How wonderful to see so many people cheering them on. Check out more pictures of this fun event on the PCLIA Website and Facebook page. A special thank you to the Larsons for organizing and hosting both this event and the June picnic each year!



Dean Forchas sharing good boating practices!



Ethan Wohlhuter  
(Team Stuber)



Dan Martin (Team Cashin)  
Harvey Mousel (Team Mousel)



Jeff Ostlund (Team Cashin)



Susan Hitchens (Team Cashin)



# TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 6/30/2023	
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$8675.20	\$3,060.00	\$1,243.00	\$10,492.20	<p>*The <b>Healthy Lakes/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund</b> contains money specifically donated for monitoring and taking corrective steps to protect the quality of our lakes.</p> <p>*The <b>Fish Stocking Fund</b> contains money specifically donated toward the stocking of fish according to DNR guidelines.</p> <p>*The <b>General Fund</b> contains funds not specifically designated for Healthy Lakes, AIS, or Fish Stocking.</p>
Fish Stocking Fund*	\$2,776.30	\$1,855.00	\$0	\$ 4,631.30	
General Fund*	\$24,775.02	\$7,508.68	\$2,627.79	\$29,655.91	
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	\$36,226.52	\$12,423.68	\$3,870.79	\$44,779.41	

## Get a Tax Break and Support Our Lake!

We all love our lake and the fun times we experience with our families. The PCLIA needs your help in maintaining the quality of our lake and continuing to combat the threat of invasive species. Controlling invasive species is expensive, yet it's effective.

Here's an idea to help support and maintain the lake and give yourself a tax break.

It's called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD), and it's pretty simple.

Many of us take required minimum distributions from our IRA and these amounts add to our taxable income each year. A QCD counts toward your required minimum distribution requirements and directly reduces your taxable income. Thus, making a QCD to the PCLIA as part, or all, of your required minimum distribution can help our lake and reduce your taxable income.

Here's what the IRS says about QCDs:

"Your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. For example, if your 2023 required minimum distribution was \$10,000, and you made a \$6,000 qualified charitable distribution for 2023, you would have had to withdraw another \$4,000 to satisfy your 2023 required minimum distribution."

Help our lake and save on taxes? Sounds like a good opportunity.

Talk to your CPA and see what they say about qualified charitable distributions and supporting the PCLIA.

- Submitted by Andy Larson



## 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 5<sup>th</sup>

September 30<sup>th</sup>

\* 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](http://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](mailto:info@pclia.com)

## ***New Membership Opportunities Coming Soon!***

We'll be introducing new membership opportunities to help support the PCLIA in our ongoing efforts to keep our chain of lakes healthy and beautiful for all to enjoy for generations to come.

Watch for more information this fall!

## ***PCLIA Golf Outing***

**When:** **September 10<sup>th</sup>**. First tee time approximately noon.

**Where:** Rutgers new 9 hole par 3 golf course walking only – if open. Otherwise, 9 holes on the main course. The White Oak Grill is handy afterwards to either help forget or reminisce about your round.

**Cost:** \$50 per person with a portion of proceeds going to PCLIA! Plus \$15 for a cart if desired on the main course.

**Format:** Flexible but I'm suggesting play your own ball if on par 3 course and a best ball scramble format if on the main course – (but see rules below).

**Rules:** THERE ARE NO RULES (except for the sign-up)! Just have fun!

**Sign-up:** Email [tomckaufhold@gmail.com](mailto:tomckaufhold@gmail.com) by SEPTEMBER 1.

*-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold*



# Eurasian Milfoil Update



late ice out date. At the time of this writing we have found milfoil in the lily pads on the east side of the channel between Sugar Bay and Hanks Lake.

We will continue to search weedbeds as the weather and conditions allow.

If you find a patch of weeds that look suspicious to you and you think it is Eurasian Milfoil, please send an email to [info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com). Include information about the location and approximate size of the patch. If you have GPS coordinates, that would be very helpful.

More information to come as we get a better look at what's out there.

Thank you to those who have made donations to the AIS fund that make it possible to fund treatment of the Eurasian Milfoil. Additional donations will be necessary to continue this fight. I hope you will consider helping us out. Donations can be sent to:  
PCLIA  
PO Box 564  
Deerwood, MN 56444  
*-Submitted by Scott Maghan*

We've started the process of assessing the results of the milfoil treatment we had done last fall and looking for any new patches that have developed.

So far, we have not seen any regrowth in the areas that were treated last year, or the year before. That is all very good news.

We have started looking for new patches. Some of these may not be visible until later in July due to the

## 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 are 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](mailto:info@pclia.com)



**Coming Soon**

## ***New for the Fall Dinner – Silent Auction!***

**100% of proceeds go to PCLIA**

**When:** At the September 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Dinner Meeting  
Limited bidding available on the PCLIA website September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

### **How You Can Help:**

- Bid during the auction
- Make a donation. Donations could be from you or an associated business. They could include: merchandise, gift baskets, services, event tickets or other creative ideas you may have.

### **Current member commitments include:**

- Local guided fishing trips
- DeWalt table saw
- Custom built fishing rod
- Unique wood pieces for paintings & rustic furniture
- Wine and liquor basket
- Hand crafted corn hole sets
- Framed loon print
- Relief carving of our chain of lakes
- Custom cork table runner/hot pad



*Just a "snapshot" of the many items that will be available for you to bid on!*

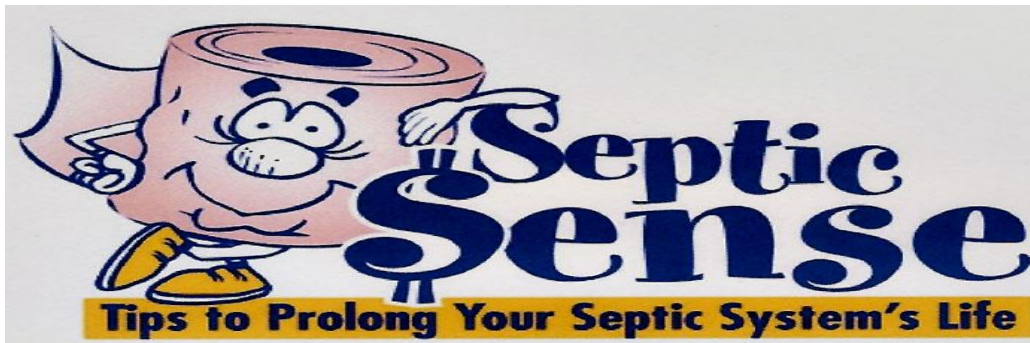
**Donations:** Local establishments have already made the donations below. We're working to add to this before the auction. Please support and thank the vendors who support PCLIA!

- (5) \$50 gift certificates -Lonesome Pine
- \$50 gift certificate - Iron Range Eatery, Crosby
- \$50 gift certificate - Rafferty's Pizza, Crosby
- \$50 gift certificate - White Oak Grill, Ruttgers
- \$50 gift certificate – Croft Pub, Crosby
- (2) \$25 gift certificates - Cuyuna Brewery, Crosby
- \$50 Cub Foods gift certificate
- \$25 Ripple River Gallery, Aitkin
- (3) \$20 gift cards – Tutt's Bait & Tackle, Garrison

- Round of golf for 4 with carts – Ruttgers
- 60V Toro trimmer -Anonymous
- 60V Toro blower/trimmer – Anonymous
- Original 14x18 Wood Block Print of Crooked Lake by Betsy Hsiao (Retail for \$225)

Contact [auction@PCLIA.com](mailto:auction@PCLIA.com) to provide a donation. Donations will be accepted through August 15<sup>th</sup>.





-Submitted by  
Tom Weber

If you're a Crooked Lake property owner you have a septic system. The following proactive suggestions will help you extend the life of your septic system, thus helping you prevent costly repairs or premature replacement of your system that can add up to thousands of dollars.

#### **Pump Timing and Professional Service**

The simplest and most basic way to protect your system is to have your tank pumped. According to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, septic tanks need to be pumped at least once every three years to remove excess accumulation. A reputable and reliable professional septic service provider will assist you with inspections, repairs, and pumping that keep your entire system healthy. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) maintains a list of professionals currently licensed by the state. Remember to keep a record of these activities.

#### **To Flush or Not to Flush**

Some people treat a septic system as a catch-all. They flush everything down the toilet and pour anything down the drain. Following some basic guidelines for what's flushable and what's not can increase the longevity of your septic system. The list of items that don't readily break down is very lengthy. Three particularly bad items are: unused medications, "flushable" wipes, and household bleach that can kill beneficial microbes in the septic tank. It's much easier to list what you should flush and that's human waste and toilet paper.

#### **Drain Field Don'ts**

Don't park boats, snow mobiles, four-wheelers, or cars, don't place a shed or a patio, and don't locate playgrounds on your drain field. Placing anything heavy on your drain field that compacts the soil can result in future septic system problems. Also pay special attention to the pipe that runs underground from the cabin to the tank.

#### **Septic System Landscaping**

Proper landscaping on and around your septic system helps you to protect it. Consider planting grasses and shallow-rooted perennials. Do not, however, plant trees or deep-rooted shrubs on or near the drain field. The roots from trees or shrubs may clog the system.

#### **Don't Add Additives**

The makers of commercial septic tank additives claim that adding their microbes to your system can foster complete sewage digestion and eliminate the need to pump your tank. The truth is the natural bacteria already within your septic system is enough to do the job. The MPCA advises against the use of these products.

#### **Conserve Water**

You don't want to flood your system with too much water. Doing so does not allow enough time for the separation between liquids and solids. Don't run your dish washer and clothes washer while taking a long shower. Install low-flow faucet aerators and shower heads. Upgrade your toilet to the more water-efficient model. Remember every gallon of water that goes in must eventually exit the tank and go into the drain field.

#### **Appliances**

Installing low water use appliances can extend the life of your system. Try to wash only full loads of laundry, and use only the correct amount of liquid non-phosphorus detergents. Finally, spread the use of these appliances evenly throughout the day or week to avoid overloading the system.

#### **Garbage Disposals**

Garbage disposals and septic systems can coexist. The accumulation of biodegradable food waste created by a garbage disposal could lead to tank pumping more often, so use your disposal sparingly. Better yet deposit your food waste into a compost bin.

#### **Prep Guests**

Cabin guests, who are used to city water, may not realize the limitations of a septic system and may need some instruction so as not to put undue strain on your system.

#### **More Than Saving Money**

Maintaining your septic system will help you save money, but more importantly, doing so will also protect the quality of the groundwater and surface water of Crooked Lake against contamination from inadequate and malfunctioning septic systems.

#### **Conclusion**

The Crooked Lake Association would like to thank you for all the many things you have done and continue to do to preserve our environment.



# CRITTER CORNER



## *Sandhill Cranes*

We recently learned of another big beautiful bird who has been enjoying our lake. We have heard the loud gu-rrroo gu-rrroo gurroo of the Sandhill Crane, but we hadn't seen them until recently.

Unfortunately, when we arrived at our cabin in late June, we found our parched front yard torn up in many spots. We suspected raccoons or skunks so we were surprised to look out the window and see two huge Sandhills ripping up big clumps in our already stressed turf in search of insects, grubs, shoots and tubers.

If you haven't had the opportunity to spot them, Sandhill Cranes are large, greyish brown birds with long necks and legs and a red crown. They are approximately 4 feet tall with a wing span of 6-7 feet. These incredibly majestic creatures are very ancient as they are among the oldest living bird species in the world!

The female lays two eggs in a nest built of grasses on the ground or in shallow water. We haven't found a nest but we suspect there may be one nearby.

Both parents share in caring for and defending the young who learn to fly at about 50 days. While the large adults have few predators, the young may become prey to great horned owls.

Our research has revealed that when Sandhills discover that they like the food sources in your yard, they can be difficult to deter. It is recommended that you remove bird feeders if that is the draw. They are not affected by repellants so bad-smelling sprays will not work. Cardboard owls have no effect on them. Movement is suggested as a deterrent, but so far, our shiny spinning CDs have done nothing to deter them.

The Sandhill Cranes are a protected species in MN other than during a hunting season in the north. Sandhill Cranes are closely related to the federally endangered Whooping Crane, and there has been some success in using sandhills to guide young whooping cranes to wintering areas in the southern US. Maybe the cranes digging up our front yard will help to save an endangered species!

-Submitted by Diane Lund

## HISTORY OF OUR LAKES

Do you have any history about our lakes that you would like to share with us? We would love to hear from you so we could highlight this interesting information in our upcoming newsletters. Pictures welcome.

Reach out to us at [info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com).

# PCLIA

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

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

[www.pclia.com](http://www.pclia.com)  
[info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com)







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

- Saturday, September 9, 2023
- The Bridge Tavern on Highway 6 north of Crosby
- 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 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!



Name(s) of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Selection 1: Buffet to include Bridge Tavern's house smoked brisket, honey/orange glazed baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic parmesan green beans and cheesecake. (\$30/plate includes tax and tip)

Selection 2: Plated walleye dinner which includes garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic parmesan green beans and cheesecake. (\$32/plate includes tax and tip)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Buffet (\$30)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Plated Walleye Dinner (\$32)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**\*This form must be mailed in order to reach us no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**PCLIA  
PO Box 564  
Deerwood, MN 56444**