

# *The Shoreline*

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

October/November 2023



-Photo courtesy of Doug Picken

## ***From the President...***

Here we are at the end of another summer at the lake. With that comes annual membership enrollment for 2024. You will find an insert for enrollment by mail. We are also offering online enrollment and payment by credit card, plus options for friends and family. More details can be found in the specific articles on these topics. We hope to have as many of you as members as possible in 2024.

We continue to address the milfoil issue with a treatment plan for this fall. Fortunately, we are not finding large, dense patches like we have in years past. However, we still have a challenge ahead of us. Anything you can do with funding for Healthy Lakes/AIS is greatly appreciated.

One of the things we strive for is to grow the community of property owners together for the benefit of these wonderful lakes we get to enjoy. With this in mind I want to draw your attention to an issue that we all need to get on board with. It is the channel between Hanks and Portage.

I wish this channel was deep and wide and always easy to navigate. That is not the case. In times of low water, as we have seen twice in the last three years, it becomes very difficult for property owners on Portage to get their boats through. This makes it a challenge to get their boats out of the lake in the fall. This issue is made worse when we treat this area as a beach and a place to play in.

My appeal to everyone on the lake is to stay away from this area. We want to keep this channel navigable and that means we all need to treat it as a waterway and not a beach!

Hope to see you on the water!

Scott Maghan



**NEW 2024 Membership Information Included in This Newsletter!**



# PCLIA Annual Fall Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction



The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association's Annual Fall Dinner was held Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at The Bridge Tavern north of Crosby. There were 61 members in attendance. We had a wonderful meal of smoked brisket and chicken, or broiled walleye. Owners Russ and Jo blew it out of the park with the fantastic food and friendly service.



The Association goals were reviewed, and the following topics were also updated:

- Our financial status
- The success of our spring and summer events
- Milfoil status, treatment plan and grants
- Walleye stocking
- The Portage Hanks channel

The election this year was for the four officer positions, and the incumbents were re-elected.



The silent auction associated with our Fall Dinner generated funds of \$4,523 through sales to PCLIA members and their families. Items generously contributed by PCLIA members accounted for \$2,935 and donations from local businesses accounted for \$1,588.

Please continue to support the generous local businesses who supported us through the silent auction:

- Ruttger's Golf
- Lonesome Pine Restaurant
- Farm Island Marine
- Weekend Extensions
- Local 218 Restaurant
- Tutt's Bait and Tackle
- Ruttger's Restaurants
- Cuyuna Brewing
- Iron Range Eatery
- Rafferty's Pizza
- Croft Kitchen and Bar
- MacDaddy's Donut Garage
- Ripple River Gallery
- Super One - Crosby
- Larry Chismar – Crosby Farmers Market
- Dennis Drummond Wine Company
- Coach's Bar and Restaurant

Over the previous four years, PCLIA has spent more than \$65,000 combating invasive species, particularly Eurasian Milfoil. While we have made progress, it will certainly require an ongoing effort. The funds generated by the silent auction are critical to maintaining our progress.

It is never too soon to think about what you might be able to donate to help make next year's auction an even greater success!

*-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold*

## 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

### Thank You

#### Weekend Extensions

A big thank you to Kristy and George Jukish, Jr. of 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!



## 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)



### **LAKE APPAREL/MERCHANDISE**

Sota Clothing will be doing a limited run this fall. We will send out an email blast with information when we have dates.



### **2024 PCLIA Calendar of Events**

May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Back to the Lakes Time and location to be announced
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Summer Picnic & Get Together Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun Event Larson Residence
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Pontoon & Boat Parade
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Fall Dinner Meeting Time and location to be announced



### **2024 PCLIA GOALS**

- Assess Hanks/Portage channel options and determine what course of action, if any, PCLIA will take
- Increase Fall Annual Dinner Meeting attendance to 100 people
- Plan a winter activity

### **THANK YOU!**

To our two non-board members who volunteer so much of their time for the PCLIA...  
Doug Picken & Tom Weber, we appreciate you!



# 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.

PCLIA conducts water testing in each lake to identify needs for treatment of invasive species and plants to maintain healthy lakes. A big undertaking over the past 4 years was the 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. 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 cost to treat AIS has been \$65,496. This does not include treatment costs for 2023. 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 that lists social activities like the boat and pontoon parade, family fun day, welcome back to the lakes, the fall dinner meeting, the summer picnic, and opportunities to help with preserving and improving our lake for future generations to enjoy. Other programs to maintain and improve the lakes are the boat launch monitoring, shoreline restoration, and fish stocking.

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

*-Submitted by Mike Stuber*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 8/31/2023	
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$8675.20	\$3,079.43	\$3,475.00	\$8,279.63	<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	\$7,609.41	\$4,346.36	\$28,038.07	
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$36,226.52</b>	<b>\$12,543.84</b>	<b>\$7,821.36</b>	<b>\$40,949.00</b>	

Please note – No AIS expenses have been paid as of this report date

## New Option for Electronic Enrollment and Payment of Dues and Contributions

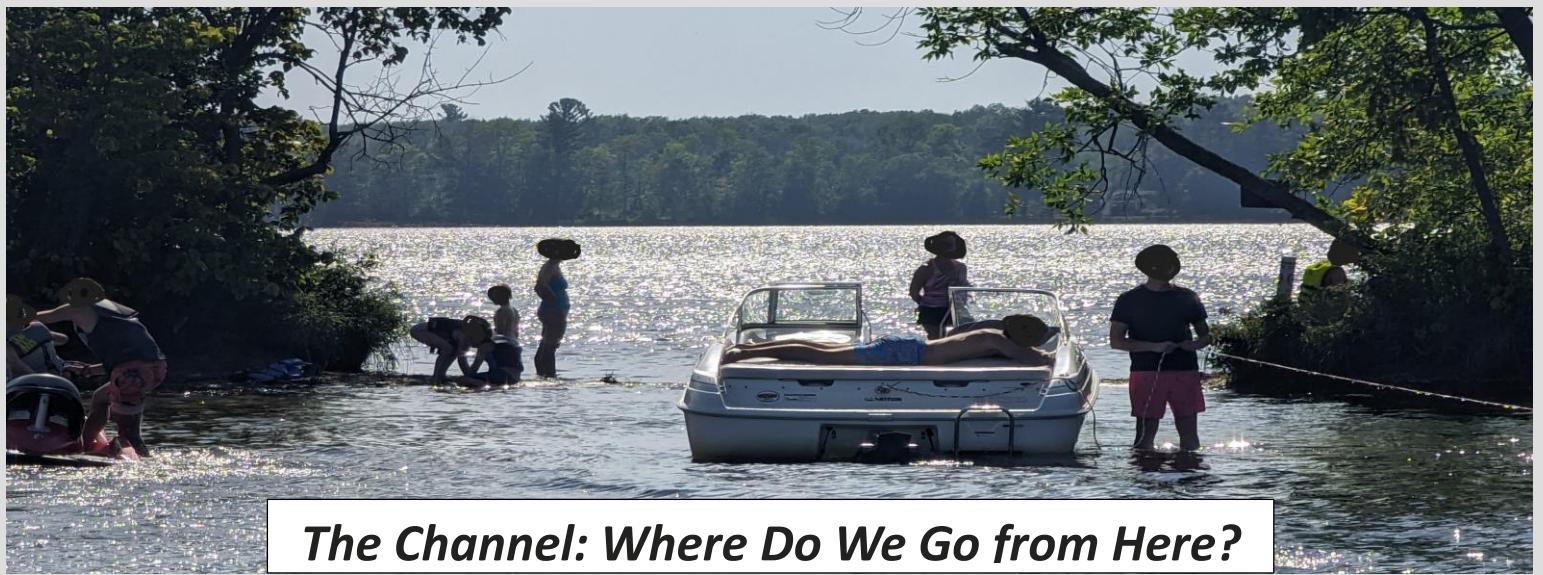
In response to many member requests, we are excited to announce a new option for electronic enrollment and payment. We have revised our website to allow for entry of membership information and partnered with Vanco, a Bloomington, MN-based company that provides online payment processing services to over 45,000 schools, churches, and non-profits to implement a secure and easy way to make your payments to PCLIA. Benefits of the system include:

- **Simplified giving.** You can make a one-time payment, or set up monthly, quarterly, or annual recurring payments for PCLIA dues or contributions.
- **Highly secure.** Vanco manages all data security and protects your financial data – PCLIA does not receive or retain credit card or banking information. Vanco is certified at the highest industry standards as established by American Express, Discover, and Visa.
- **Simplified accounting.** There are no checks for our Association's Treasurer to handle. Deposits are automatically made to PCLIA's checking account within 48 hours of your payment. Extensive system reporting capabilities make it easy to track and categorize all payments.
- **Affordable.** Vanco does not charge any flat rate fees, just a small fee for each transaction (which members have the option to cover as part of their contribution).

Select "Membership" on the PCLIA home page ([www.pclia.com](http://www.pclia.com)) to start your enrollment. After completing enrollment, you will be directed to Vanco to make your payment/contribution. Should you wish to make a donation at any time select the "Electronic Payments" link on the PCLIA home page.

- Submitted by Tim Kensok





## ***The Channel: Where Do We Go from Here?***

Please note the picture above and the activity in our channel. This is not a rare occurrence, but instead, a common sight. What do we want? A navigable boat channel between Portage and Hanks Lake, or a small play and party beach between Portage and Hanks Lake where there used to be a navigable boat channel? We can't have both.

Mother nature and her low water levels make getting through the channel between Portage and Hanks Lakes a challenge. Unfortunately, the low water problem is made worse by individuals on both sides of the channel, who through their actions are causing the channel to fill up even more with sand. In this article we'll look at what can be done to mitigate some of the human factors impacting the channel.

First and foremost- please stay off the land around the channel! It is private property and not a party beach. Human activity causes the sand to shift into the channel and makes the problem worse.

Secondly, boaters can also make things worse. We commonly see boats go through the channel and instead of maintaining a slow pace for 50 to 100 feet once they get through the channel, they immediately gun their motors and push more sand into the channel. Please be considerate and take extra time before you rev up the motor.

Several summers ago, volunteers worked many hours on a Saturday to help open the channel only to have their hard work ruined the following day by a group of individuals who decided to hang out and party in the channel. Again, please stay away from the channel.



### **Meanwhile, what can we do to minimize this problem?**

1. Please stay away from the area around the channel! It is private property.
2. Please do not walk or play in the channel.
3. Please advise your guests to stay away from the channel.
4. If you boat through the channel, please don't gun your motor until you are well away from the channel.

On behalf of the Portage Crooked Lake Improvement Association, and especially the cabin owners on Portage Lake who are unable to use the entire lake chain or access the public boat landing, a big thanks to those who are considerate of these simple requests.

*-Submitted by Andy Larson*



## A Short History of the Crooked Lake Dam

The dam controlling the water flow from Crooked Lake to Maple Lake was originally constructed in 1933. Very little information exists about how that dam was constructed. In 1937, as part of the Works Progress Administration, the dam was rebuilt with a stop log design. Stop log is a term used to describe a log, wood plank, or steel beam made to slide into tracks to block the water flow. Multiple stop logs could be stacked in the tracks to raise the dam to a desired height. The 1937 dam had two, five-foot-long stop log bays side by side. The dam was authorized to have 1.6 feet of stop logs in place. There was a wooden catwalk across and the abutments on both sides were paved with hand-placed fieldstone.



Crooked Lake Dam 1937



Crooked Lake Dam 1959

The dam was altered in 1948 and again in 1959 by replacing the stop logs with a concrete fixed enclosure. In 2000 a 10- to 12-inch-deep void was found and later repaired using steel plating.



Crooked Lake Dam 2000



Crooked Lake Dam 2018

The last inspection of the dam was in 2018, but the DNR has been contacted to inspect again.

-Submitted by Dean Forchas

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)

*2024 Membership Form  
Included in this Newsletter*  
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We would appreciate receiving this by  
January 31, 2024

