

# The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

April/May 2024

## President's letter...

Welcome to another year on the Portage, Hanks and Crooked Lake chain! A big thanks to all of you who have supported PCLIA over the years and a welcome to all our new members. As we look forward to 2024 there are two important topics on my mind.

First, I'd like to see a bigger turnout at the annual meeting. The annual meeting is your opportunity, as members, to get updated on what we have been working on, as well as to cast your vote for board members.

The second topic has to do with the channel between Portage and Hanks. I'm well aware the ability to navigate this channel throughout the summer has been an issue for many years. As a board, we want to get a clear picture of the options to address this. Here's what we know so far.

One option that has been proposed is to hire a company to dig the channel deeper and longer. The price tag for this solution is ballparked in the \$50,000 - \$100,000 range. That's a pretty big fund-raising effort. Now if we knew that this channel would last 10-15 years, it might be well worth it. But what if it doesn't last but a few years?

I have asked for input from the DNR on the likelihood a channel dug in this area, with the sandy conditions that exist, can last for a long time. They were not able to provide any guidance on how long it may last.

Then there is the issue of this area being used as a place to park boats and play in the water. These activities will only cause any channel that is dug to collapse sooner than the natural elements of wind and wave action might cause.

There are no easy answers to this topic, but we hope to at the very least understand what can realistically be done, if anything.

Scott Maghan

## Mark Your Calendar



### WELCOME BACK TO THE LAKES



**Date:** Saturday, May 4, 2024

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

**Place:** Deerwood Legion

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

### Summer Picnic & Get Together

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 p.m.

Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane

Details in this newsletter

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

Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Details in next newsletter

### Pontoon & Boat Parade

Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>

Details in next newsletter

### Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

Details in upcoming newsletter

\*All scheduled events are subject to change

# TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 12/31/2023	
<b>Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*</b>	\$2,200.00	\$8,799.59	\$6,598.81	\$4,400.78	<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> <p>** The <b>Healthy Lakes Fund</b> has been combined with AIS going forward and is now closed.</p>
<b>Fish Stocking Fund*</b>	\$2,776.30	\$3,576.95		\$6,353.25	
<b>General Fund*</b>	\$24,775.02	\$26,499.47	\$7,486.14	\$43,788.35	
<b>Healthy Lakes**</b>	\$6,475.20	\$1,205.00	\$7,680.20	\$0	
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$36,226.52</b>	<b>\$40,081.01</b>	<b>\$21,765.15</b>	<b>\$54,542.38</b>	

## A Note About Membership

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2024 membership forms and dues. We appreciate your commitment to the lake association. **If you haven't had a chance to renew your membership**, we strived to simplify the process for you. We now have two methods of renewing your membership and making donations:

1. **Traditional method of mailing a check** - Please mail your check along with the completed membership form to:
  - PCLIA
  - PO Box 564
  - Deerwood, MN 56444

If you have misplaced this form, which was included in the September/October Shoreline, you can find a copy to print off on the [PCLIA](http://www.pclia.com) website, or find it [here](#).
2. **Electronic Enrollment** - Go to the PCLIA home page ([www.pclia.com](http://www.pclia.com)) to start your enrollment. Complete the online enrollment form. After completing and submitting the form, you will be directed to Vanco to make your payment/contribution. You can pay either by credit card or ACH transfer from your checking account.

Should you wish to donate at any time outside of the annual membership drive, select the "[Donate to PCLIA](#)" link on the PCLIA home page.

### New Membership Levels

General \$35    Bronze \$135    Silver \$250    Gold \$500    Platinum \$1000 +

Those donating at or above the bronze level will be recognized in a future newsletter and on the PCLIA website. You have the option to earmark how you would like your donation used with a choice for recognition to remain confidential.

### Some Interesting Membership Stats

- Total number of properties identified on the chain of lakes: 316
- Number of paid memberships in 2023: 190 or 60%
- Number of paid memberships in 2024 to date: 153 or 48%
- Number of members in 2023 who have not submitted their membership in 2024 to date: 62

*\* Numbers at the time of this publication*

## PCLIA Board of Directors

<u>President</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Scott Maghan	12/31/2025
<u>Vice President</u>	
Andy Larson	12/31/2025
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Diane Lund	12/31/2025
<u>Secretary</u>	
Joy Larson	12/31/2025
<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



### Board Meetings

Held at Bay Lake Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.  
April 6<sup>th</sup>  
May 4<sup>th</sup>  
August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
September 28<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!

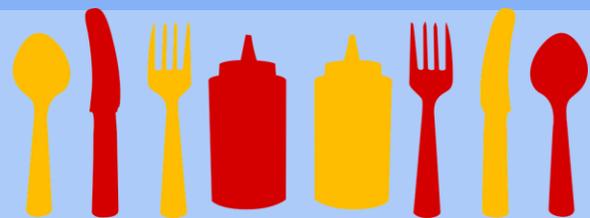
### PCLIA FACEBOOK

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)

## SUMMER PICNIC & GET TOGETHER



The summer picnic is **Saturday, June 22**, 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*

# *Fish Stocking*

We were allowed to stock walleyes in 2023. Below are some photos of these fingerlings being released last fall. The DNR gave us permission to release these young walleyes in Portage, Hanks and Crooked lakes.

The maximum quantity of walleye fingerlings that can be released is based on a formula that takes into account the littoral acres in each lake. So, what are littoral acres? It's the acres of water from the shoreline out to a depth of 15 feet. For our chain of lakes this is 393 acres. The formula allows us to stock up to 393 pounds of fingerlings every other year.

For 2023, and the 2021 stocking, the price per pound for fingerlings was \$20/lb. To reach the maximum of 393 pounds we would need donations of \$7,860 before the next stocking opportunity in 2025. This assumes the price/pound remains at \$20.

A big thanks goes out to Kyle Jukish for coordinating the release with the fishery staff. Another thanks goes out to board member Lynn Bremer for his work to procure these walleye fingerlings this year, as well as in many years past.

*-Submitted by Scott Maghan*



*-Photos courtesy of Kyle Jukish*



# Fish Survey



## Crooked Lake

	Walleye	1.3-5.5	Northerns	3.1-8.5	Bass	.3-1.2	Crappie	.5-2.7	Tullibee	.7-6.5	Perch	.5-2.7
Date of Survey	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE
6/5/23	6	0.67	67	7.44	5	0.56	5	0.56	117	13	0	0

## Hanks

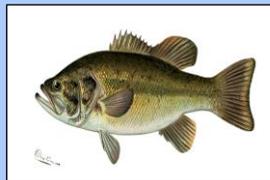
	Walleye	1.3-5.0	Northerns	3.1-10.5	Bass	.3-1.7	Crappie	.6-3.5	Tullibee	.7-6.5	Perch	3.4-43.6
Date of Survey	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE
6/5/23	6	1	74	12.33	3	0.17	1	0.17	169	28.17	0	0

## Portage

	Walleye	1.3-5.0	Northerns	3.1-8.5	Bass	.3-1.2	Crappie	.6-3.5	Tullibee	.7-6.5	Perch	3.4-43.6
Date of Survey	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE	Number	CPUE
6/12/23	10	1.67	77	12.83	2	0.33	2	0.33	110	18.33	0	0

Catch  
CPUE = Per Net

Above Range
In Range
Below Range



Last June the DNR placed nets throughout our chain of lakes to determine the health of the fish population. Above you will see the results of the catch rate per net placed. No real surprises here. We have a very healthy tullibee population, which means we have very clean water that is well oxygenated in the deeper portions of the lake where tullibee live.

The tullibee is considered the “canary in the coal mine” species due to their sensitivity to even slight changes in water temperature and oxygen levels. Due to the robust population of tullibee, our lakes have been included in the “Clean Water Critical Habitat Program” of the Northern Waters Land Trust, as well as being identified as a “Lake of Biological Significance”. You can learn more about this at [northernwaterslandtrust.org](http://northernwaterslandtrust.org).

As expected, the northern populations are also quite high. Crooked Lake did fall within the average catch/net for a lake of its type. What is notable, and not presented above due to space limitations, is the average size of the northern pike is increasing. In the 2016 survey the average fish weighed 1.67 lbs. In the current survey the average is 2.4 lbs. That’s a 44% increase in average weight.

While these northerns aren’t large by any means, they are getting bigger. Going forward, harvesting the smaller northerns and return the larger ones (26” and greater) to continue to grow more larger fish. And large northerns love to eat small northerns!

# The Winter That Never Was

Since early January we have been in March mode. You know, March, our least favorite month. Not winter, but not spring, and certainly not summer.

With temperatures almost twenty degrees above average, the snow all but gone, we are in March regardless of what the calendar says. Ok, what are the weather pros saying about this winter and the ghastly prospect of three months of March? We looked and here is what the FOX9 weather folks are saying:

- We are never "overdue" for a snowstorm. Just because we haven't seen a lot of snow yet doesn't mean that we are "due" to get walloped in March or April. Sometimes it just doesn't snow. Our chances for snow are roughly the same every year. However, they do trend low in El Niño years, which we are currently experiencing.
- There is no correlation between a very warm winter and a hot summer.
- The snow season often runs into April, and can go into May, so we have a long way to go.
- Our lack of snow can impact lake and river levels in the spring because there likely won't be any runoff. However, the amount of spring moisture, both rain and snow, has a much larger impact on potential drought and water levels than anything that falls over the winter.
- The overall trend for winter temperatures has been warming for years, but the opposite has been occurring for our spring months of March and April. Both have seen an overall cooling trend since 2010. While there are certainly exceptions, this could mean that colder weather is still more likely as we head closer to spring."

So, there you have it. The official first day of spring is March 19<sup>th</sup>, but we have been in "March mode" for much longer than that. Will we continue this weather pattern? I guess we will have to wait and see when the first pontoon boat hits the water.

*-Submitted by Andy Larson*



*Winter was here for a very short shot.*

## Ice Out Dates for Our Chain of Lakes

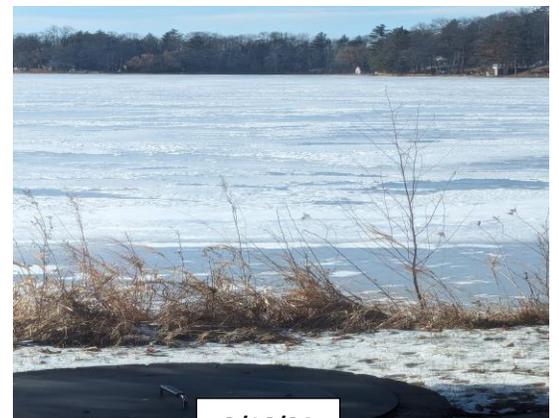
2024	?	1999	April 11
2023	May 2	1998	April 5
2022	May 3	1997	April 21
2021	April 6	1996	April 26
2020	April 15	1995	April 29
2019	April 23	1994	April 8
2018	May 2	1993	April 19
2017	April 3	1992	April 6
2016	March 29	1991	April 8
2015	April 9	1990	April 21
2014	April 29	1989	April 24
2013	May 11	1988	April 14
2012	March 23	1987	April 5
2011	April 22	1986	April 13
2010	April 2	1985	April 16
2009	April 20	1984	April 16
2008	May 1	1983	April 24
2007	April 20	1982	April 26
2006	April 9	1981	April 6
2005	April 11	1980	April 21
2004	April 15	1979	May 2
2003	April 14	1978	April 26
2002	April 16		
2001	April 24		
2000	March 27		



2/5/24



2/5/24



2/16/24



## ***The House That Bob Built***

On the northeastern shore of Hanks Lake sits a house that will be marking its 120<sup>th</sup> year of existence! This is the house that was built by Robert (Bob) John Maghan. After spending 20 years with his wife Alisetta (Alice) Violetta (Miller) Maghan on the south shores of Partridge Lake (1884-1904), they moved to their new home on Hanks Lake.

With a considerably large family consisting of 12 children, they needed a considerably larger home. The result was a 2 ½ story structure. The home had ornate hand carved woodwork, stained glass windows, and even running water all the way to the second floor.

The couple lived the rest of their life here, with Robert passing away in 1949 and Alice in 1954.

The house then came under the ownership their son, George and his wife, Lorna. Some maintenance was required about this time, which included a new roof. Unfortunately, a large storm befell the house during the reroofing project and a significant part of the upper 1 ½ stories was damaged. This resulted in the house being changed to a one-story. Upon George and Lorna's passing, their children took ownership of the property, until a few years ago when it was sold outside the Maghan family.

A scaled down replica of the original home exists on the fourth floor of the Crow Wing County Museum in Brainerd, MN. When open houses have been held at the museum the replica is opened up to display all the rooms, complete with furniture.

As you pass through the channel from Sugar Bay into Hanks, please take note of the one-story white house on the small hill on the east side, and remember, this is the house that Bob built 120 years ago.



# PCLIA

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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