

The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

October/November 2025



From the President...

We have arrived at the final edition of *The Shoreline* for 2025. This edition contains membership enrollment information for 2026 and is mailed to all property owners on our chain of lakes. For those of you who were members in 2025, I thank you for your membership and contributions that make it possible to fulfill our mission.

Looking back at this year I'm very pleased with the things we've done. Guided by the goals of our Lake Management Plan, we focused on these key issues:

- AIS control related to Eurasian water milfoil and purple loosestrife, and ongoing monitoring for zebra mussel veligers, starry stonewort and spiny water fleas.
- Protecting and improving water quality and shoreline through 19 grant-funded restoration projects, educational topics on the importance of water quality maintenance, and ongoing testing of our lakes.
- Discussing fish-stocking, stocking options, and expectations with the DNR.
- Promoting boating safety and best practices on the water.

Other things on our plate include reaching out to new property owners on the lake, researching fantastic articles for Shore Lore and the history of our lakes, and taking on our first corporate sponsor. Fun was had along the way at Back to the Lakes, the Summer Picnic, and the Family Fun Event.

I want to thank the board of directors for everything they have done to make all these things happen. I know they put in many hours and without their commitment and hard work, things wouldn't get done. I'm certain they have some new and exciting things brewing for 2026.

I am completing my 4th year in this role. I thought you should know why I do this. For me it's personal. My great grandparents moved here in 1904. I am the 4th generation to live here and I'm hoping I can leave it just as wonderful for the 5th and 6th generation as it was for me. I hope you'll join me on that quest in 2026!

Scott Maghan



2026 Membership Information Included in This Newsletter!

PCLIA Annual Fall Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction



The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association's Annual Fall Dinner and silent auction was held Saturday, September 6th at the Bridge Tavern north of Crosby. There were 64 members in attendance. An enjoyable time was spent when socializing and bidding on all the great items up for auction. This was followed with a wonderful meal of smoked brisket, chicken, or broiled walleye. Owners of the Bridge Tavern, Heather and Andy, provided great tasting food and friendly service.



President Scott Maghan reviewed the five goals of the lake association's management plan, and the work that revolves around it:

1. Minimize impact of aquatic invasive species.
2. Protect and improve the lake water quality & shoreline.
3. Protect native aquatic vegetation.
4. Protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
5. Safe boating and navigation.

The election this year was for four officers and six director positions. All incumbents were reelected. Maghan recognized all the work that is done by this group of people.



The silent auction fundraising effort, associated with our Fall Dinner, generated funds of \$6,490 through sales to PCLIA members and their families. Items and money generously contributed by PCLIA members accounted for \$2,985 and donations from businesses accounted for \$3,505.

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

- Weekend Extensions
- Beaudry Oil and Propane
- Farm Island Repair & Marine
- Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge
- Lonesome Pine Restaurant
- Deerstand Restaurant & Bar
- Chef Mike's Catering
- Barstock Liquors
- Tutt's Bait and Tackle
- Deerwood Bank
- Cuyuna Brewing Company
- Deerwood American Legion
- The Bridge Tavern
- Ripple River Gallery
- Northland Arboretum
- Cuyuna Falls Miniature Golf
- Brainerd Sports & Marine
- Crosby Ace Hardware
- Wings Airport Cafe
- Golden Eagle Golf Club
- Deerwood Rice & Grain Processing
- Pirates Cove Adventure Golf
- Nisswa Falls Mini Golf
- Timber Building Supply-ACE Hardware
- Howard Olson Custom Engraving
- Northwood Hills Golf
- Andrew F Kokesh VFW Post 1816
- Jack's House Entertainment Center
- Grand Casino Mille Lacs
- Stevie Ray's Improv Company
- S&W Bait and Tackle
- MN Landscape Arboretum
- Bay Lake Marine
- Oars and Mine
- CTC
- Cana Wine Bar
- KWIK Trip
- Northern Sports
- Real Life Wellness
- Key Wellness
- Hubbard Radio
- St. Paul Saints



Directors Sue Weber & Tim Kensok

Over the previous seven years, PCLIA has spent more than \$127,000 combating invasive species, particularly Eurasian Water 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.



President Scott Maghan & Director Sue Weber

Thank you to everyone who made this fundraising effort such a huge success. A special thank you to Sue Weber for heading this up.

PCLIA Board of Directors

President

Scott Maghan

Vice President

Andy Larson

Treasurer

Diane Lund

Secretary

Joy Larson

Past President

Kris Picken

Directors

Kari Bunkers

Dean Forchas

Tim Kensok

Christine Lasley

Chuck Lund

Julie Maghan

Jill Osborn

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. 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

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!



2026 PCLIA Calendar of Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| May 2 nd | Welcome Back to the Lakes
Time and location to be announced |
| June 13 th | Summer Picnic & Get Together
Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane |
| July 4 th | 5 th Annual Family Fun Event
Larson Residence |
| Sept. 12 th | Annual Fall Dinner Meeting
Time and location to be announced |



LAKE APPAREL/MERCHANDISE

Sota Clothing has an ongoing opportunity to purchase Crooked Lake merchandise.

We are grateful to Sota Clothing for providing our membership this opportunity. A portion of these proceeds go directly to the PCLIA. Thank you for your support.

Go to the "Crooked Lake Chain Merchandise" tab on the home page of the [PCLIA Website](http://pclia.com).



New Boater Education Law

Minnesota has new boating laws for 2025, primarily requiring a [watercraft operator's permit](#) for many boaters. Starting July 1, 2025, anyone 12 or older and born after June 30, 2004, needs the permit to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft. This requirement will expand to include older age groups born after June 30, 2000, in 2026, and will continue phasing in annually until 2028. A permit is not required if a supervising adult who meets the age and permit criteria is onboard.

New Permit Requirements

- **Who needs it:**

A watercraft operator's permit is required for anyone 12 years of age or older, and who was born after a specific date, to operate any motorboat or personal watercraft.

- **Phased Implementation:**

The requirement expands to older age groups over several years:

- **July 1, 2025:** Anyone 12 and older, born after June 30, 2004.
- **July 1, 2026:** Anyone 12 and older, born after June 30, 2000.
- **July 1, 2027:** Anyone 12 and older, born after June 30, 1996.
- **July 1, 2028:** Anyone 12 and older, born after June 30, 1987.

- **Supervised Operation:**

You can operate a motorboat without a permit if a competent adult (who has a permit and is at least 21 years old) is on board and within reach of the controls.

- **Exemptions:**

Some non-residents are exempt if they meet the requirements of their home state and are only temporarily using Minnesota waters.

Other Key Points

- **Youth Restrictions:**

No one under the age of 12 may operate a personal watercraft or a motorboat with more than 75 horsepower.

- **Rental Requirements:**

To rent a motorboat or personal watercraft, you must be at least 18 years old and possess a valid watercraft operator's permit.

- **Permit Benefits:**

Beyond the legal requirement, obtaining a permit ensures you are knowledgeable about boating safety and may also qualify you for discounts on boat insurance.

-Minnesota DNR



PCLIA FOCUS AREAS

Our Priorities at a Glance

Water Quality

Continued monitoring of water quality, engaging in research with AW Research, the DNR and MPCA

Shoreline Protection

Facilitating grants for shoreline plants & promoting shoreline stewardship through education



Fishery

Continued fish stocking per DNR Guidelines



Aquatic Invasive Species

Continued control and monitoring of Eurasian Milfoil



MEMBERSHIP RECOGNITION

The main purpose of the PCLIA is to preserve and improve the condition and the quality of our lakes and surrounding area. In an effort to achieve this mission we created some ways to support our cause financially in the face of existing and new challenges. The introduction of new membership levels was one way to do that. We would like to recognize and send out a special thank you in this newsletter to those donating at or above the bronze level. They are also being recognized on the PCLIA website.

Membership Levels

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

Platinum

Brian & Kari Bunkers
Dan & Kris Seeler
Mark & Cynthia Weber
Anonymous donators (3)

Gold

Roger & Jean Anderson
Dan & Michelle Fournier
Brian & Rhonda Maghan
Beau & Lindsey Manhart
Rob Mousel & Sara Mousel Williams
Jack & Sasha Skendzel
Anonymous donator (1)

Silver

Ben & Jamie Bastian
Joe & Kim Dahlheimer
Michael & Melissa Foster
Josh & Deb Kravik
Patrick & Sarah Lyon
Aaron & Kirsten Nielsen
Jill Osborn
Mike & Karen Pinske
Steve & Jackie Van Guilder
Anonymous donator (1)

Bronze

Robin & Joey Anderson	Rick & Vickie Lemke
David & Colene Blank	Bo & Melissa Lewis
Lisa Boerboon	Linda Linn
Juel & Marcy Caspersen	Chuck & Diane Lund
Bud Christopherson	Peter & Jennifer Massey
Brian & Kristen Edds	David & Elizabeth McDougall
Robert & Janice Erickson	Whitney Olson & Houston McIntyre
Jim & Cheryl Fleming	Bruce Miller
Ron Frykholm	Jim Lease & Becky Miller
Elizabeth Gall	Robert & Linda Mlnarik
Josh & Susan Hagel	Patrick & Kerry Munger
Jan & Karla Hansen	Gary & Diane Peterson
Jeff & Janet Haviland	Kim & Linda Podritz
Paul & Tricia Hjort	Marjorie Safaie
Nina & Mike Johnson	Steve & Sally Schmitz
Spencer Johnson	Matt & Angela Shefveland
George & Kathe Jukish	Mike & Heather Shetka
Greg & Susan Keane	John & Patricia Stasney
Mike & Sara Kenison	Mike & Ann Stuber
Jerry & Linda Knutson	Don & Jolene Twombly
	Anonymous donators (8)



TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2025	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 8/31/2025	
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$11,523.49	\$3,295.96	\$5,280.34	\$9,539.11	<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*	\$5,861.44	\$385.64	\$0	\$6,247.08	
General Fund*	\$62,868.69	\$10,953.31	\$3,276.91	\$70,545.09	
Total Fund Balances	\$80,253.62	\$14,634.91	\$8,557.25	\$86,331.28	
Please note – No AIS expenses have been paid as of this report date					

Help Us Save Money with Emails and Electronic Newsletters

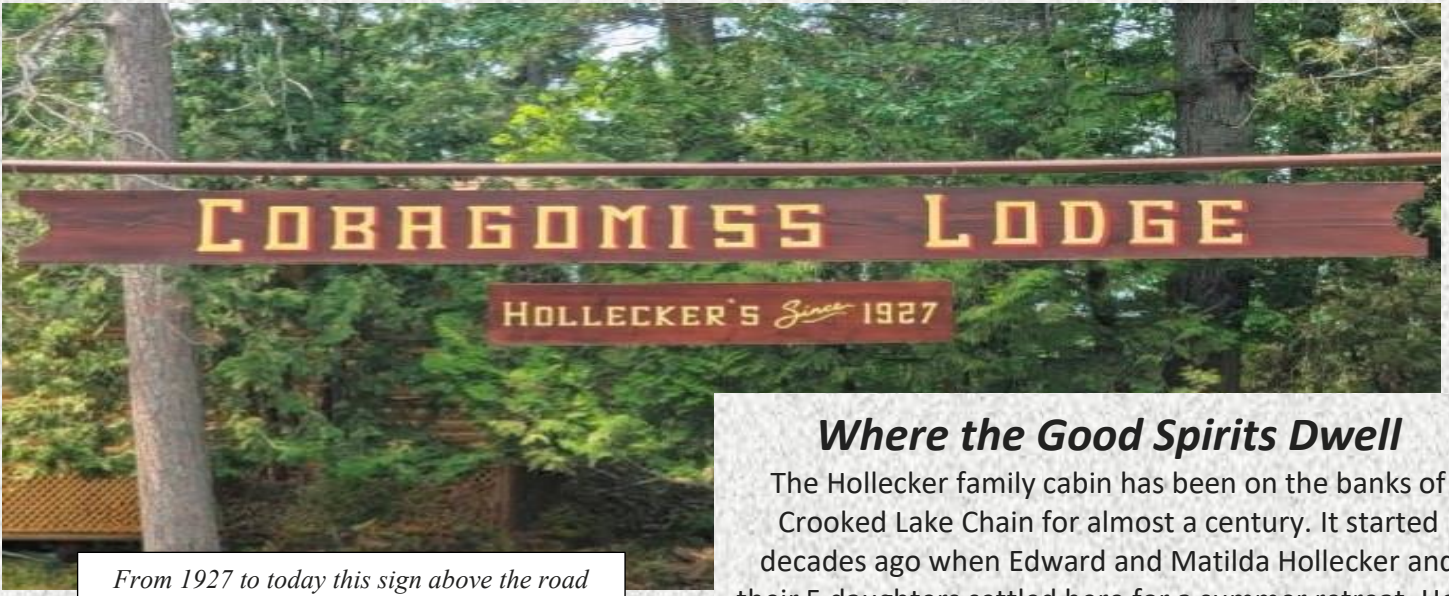
We urge you to share your email address with us and keep it updated if it changes. We also encourage you to sign up for electronic delivery of The Shoreline. Having your email address makes it possible to communicate with you quickly and cost effectively through email blasts when important events occur. Receiving The Shoreline electronically helps us reduce our costs by about \$4.00 per edition of the printed and snail mailed copy. Not to worry, all emails sent out by the lake association go out as a blind carbon copy, therefore you will never see other members' email addresses, and they will not see yours. The PCLIA does not give email addresses to any outside sources.

JIM CHRISTENSEN
LAKESHORE MARKETING GROUP

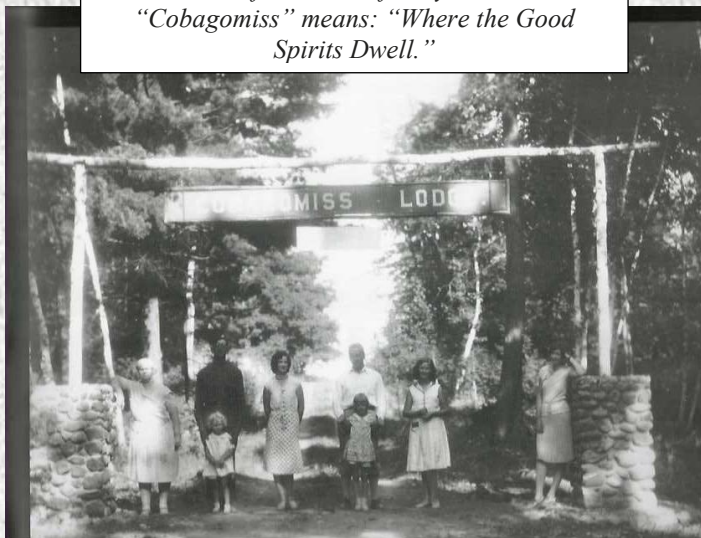
LakeshoreBroker.com
218-820-2147



**CALL FOR A COMPLIMENTARY
MARKET APPRASIAL OF YOUR PROPERTY**



From 1927 to today this sign above the road welcomes friends and family. The word "Cobagomiss" means: "Where the Good Spirits Dwell."



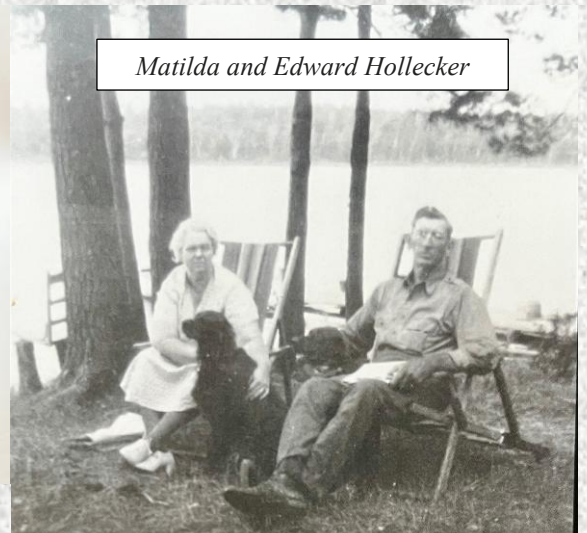
Where the Good Spirits Dwell

The Hollecker family cabin has been on the banks of Crooked Lake Chain for almost a century. It started decades ago when Edward and Matilda Hollecker and their 5 daughters settled here for a summer retreat. How a family from Kansas City, Kansas ended up owning a cabin on Crooked Lake is interesting. Edward, an avid fisherman, when on a fishing trip to Canada discovered Northern Minnesota. He fell in love with the area. Eventually Edward and Matilda discovered Crooked Lake, saw a small cabin on a beautiful lot, and bought it. It felt like a slice of heaven!

Over the decades, as the family grew, the small cabin needed remodeling, expanding, and modernizing. They added a kitchen, a bedroom, a dining room, and an indoor bathroom. Electricity was eventually installed as well. In 1951, a second small cabin was built to provide additional sleeping space.



Cobagomiss 1927



Matilda and Edward Hollecker

Traveling from Kansas City, Kansas, to the cabin stretched into a three-day ordeal. Though roads existed, they bore little resemblance to the highways we drive today. Whenever the Hollecker family reached an untrustworthy rural bridge, Edward insisted that everyone cross on foot before he tested its strength by driving the car over it. The journey was grueling.



One of the more familiar landmarks on Crooked Lake is the Hollecker “Sun House.” Its date of origin is unknown; however, it was rebuilt in 1997. It was, and still is, a perfect place for an afternoon nap in a hammock.

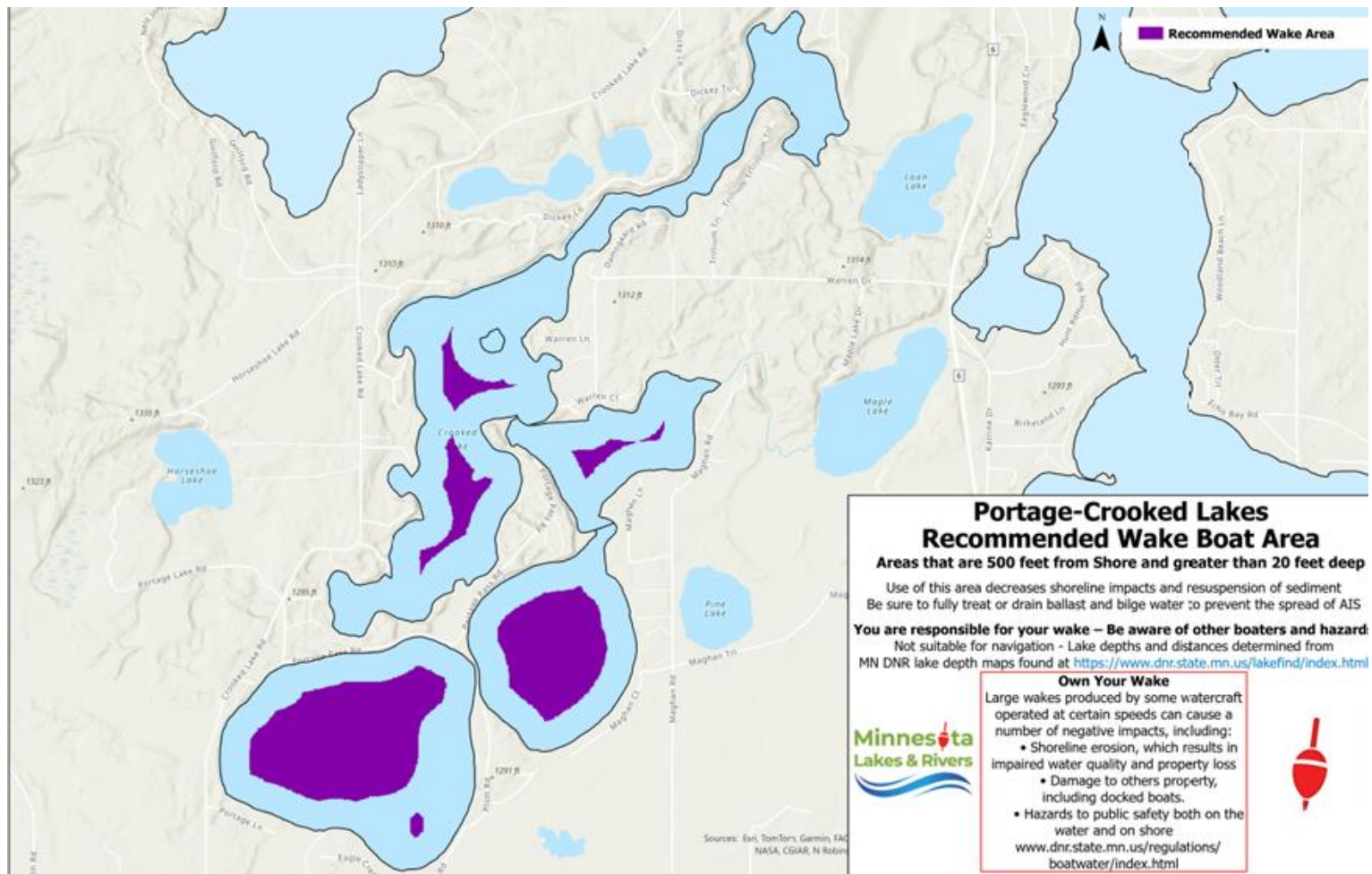


A visit inside the cabin is like a trip into the past. The interior has been meticulously maintained to keep the original aesthetic, charm and coziness.

Crooked Lake will forever be a place “Where the Good Spirits Dwell.” In 2027, the Hollecker cabin will celebrate its 100th anniversary—a milestone that spans five generations of family gatherings. The current Hollecker families regard Crooked Lake in Northern Minnesota as a treasured family tradition. Each summer, descendants of Matilda and Edward’s five daughters return from Kansas and beyond to enjoy and honor the legacy passed down to them.

Thank you to Barb Grimes and Anita Tobaben, Matilda and Edward’s granddaughters, for sharing their family history and pictures with us.

-Submitted by Tom Weber



Wake Boat Area Map

As a member of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, we had the opportunity to obtain a map of our chain of lakes. This map identifies the areas on our chain that are 500 feet from shore and are deeper than 20 feet. These are recommended distances and depths where operation of a wake boat will have the least impact on shorelines and disturbing the sediment on the bottom of the lake.

As you can see, we have very few areas that meet these criteria. Additionally, the areas we have are not large and cannot accommodate more than a boat or two. We encourage everyone who engages in this activity to avoid shallow water and distances of less than 500 feet from shore due to the adverse impact it can have.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/> is monitoring the research being done by the University of Minnesota on this topic. As we learn more from them, we look forward to sharing it with you. Hopefully, we can all find a way to use our waters in such a way that it does not adversely impact our environment.

If you're wondering why it is so important to operate more than 500 feet from shore and in water deeper than 20 feet, please take a minute to watch this short video. It was a presentation on Fox 9 News in Minneapolis in early August of 2025. The link below will get you there, as will a search for U of M Wake Boat Study.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6gHrqJwo0>

At the end of the day, we want to see everyone enjoy their time on the water. But we all need to remember, we own our wake and can be held liable for any damage it may cause.



Final Thoughts

Portage Hanks Channel

In June of 2024, we held a meeting at the Bay Lake Town Hall to share what we knew about options to address the shallow water in the channel. Of particular interest was what it would take to dig the channel deeper and longer by contracting with an excavation company. The first step to overcome in this process? Gain access from property owners in Portage and Hanks/Sugar Bay for the equipment to go in and out, and the sand to be removed. Why did we need access on both lakes? Because the channel is too narrow for the equipment to dig its way through, and the channel cannot be made any wider than the current opening.

We did receive a response from a property owner on Portage indicating we may be able to use their property for access to the lake. After several months of not getting a property owner on Hanks or Sugar Bay to come forward, we sent a letter to all lake residents regarding key points and the need for an access point in Hanks or Sugar Bay. We placed a deadline on this of 7/1/2025.

We revisited this in the June/July edition of The Shoreline laying out the steps and our need to have an additional access point. We did not get a response by the 7/1/2025 deadline and are considering this matter closed. We know this may be disappointing, but without this access point we don't have any options to move this forward.

Eurasian Water Milfoil

We have spotted milfoil throughout the chain this year. This was expected, as we mentioned in the June/July edition. We have many small patches and a couple larger ones.

We have contracted with Freshwater Scientific Services, LLC to survey our lakes and delineate any patches found. This should be accomplished by early September. The results of this assessment will be shared with PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. to determine what is treatable, provide an estimate, obtain permits, and if approved treat the known milfoil. Typically, this is done in October. More to come on this in the spring.

Fish Stocking

This is a year we are able to stock walleye fingerlings. We have a little over \$6,200 in the fund this year. I want to take a minute to thank George Jukish Sr., George Jukish Jr. and Kyle Jukish for allowing us to access the lake through their properties to get these fingerlings into the lakes.

Shoreline Restoration Projects

Thanks to the hard work of Shelley Larson, Kris Picken, and Kari Bunkers, 19 shoreline restoration projects took place on our chain this year. These were fully funded with grant money and some sweat equity. A big thanks to Shelley, Kris and Kari, and everyone who helped create an environmentally friendly shoreline for these 19 properties.

PCLIA

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

www.pclia.com
info@pclia.com

*2026 Membership Form
Included in this Newsletter*
We would appreciate receiving this by
January 31, 2026

