

Pickerel - Crooked Lakes Association

P.O. Box 211
Conway, MI 49722

SHORE LINES

Fall, 2006

PCLA goes pro-active to control invasive plants

By Karen Plasencia

Presently we have two known invasive plant species on Pickerel and Crooked lakes -- purple loosestrife and curly pondweed. We have been actively involved in working to eradicate the purple loosestrife and we want to be aware of any other invasive species that may be affecting us.

A first step is to conduct an Aquatic Plant Survey of Pickerel and Crooked Lakes and create a baseline aquatic plant map. This will aid us in monitoring and eliminating invasive species and working to sustain native plants.

The Aquatic Plant Survey will produce a variety of measurable data including: 1) a list of all aquatic plant species that exist in the lakes, 2) the number of native versus invasive plant species in the lakes, 3) the real extent of specific aquatic plant species and distinct aquatic plant communities, and 4) lake area that does not contain aquatic vegetation.

By knowing the extent of invasive species we can take action to control them in the early stages. This knowledge base is equally important to our efforts to protect habitat for fish and wildlife.

Copies of the plant survey and map will be shared with natural resource professionals so we can interface with their fish studies and determine what links may exist here between fish and plant populations.

We plan to work with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to conduct the baseline study, involving PCLA members as "trainees" so that follow-up studies can be conducted on a volunteer basis.

PCLA is seeking a Local Revenue Sharing grant to help fund this study. We are also appealing for donations from members (see form, page 7), business sponsorship, and/or revenues from the townships that border Pickerel and Crooked Lakes: Bear Creek, Little Traverse, Littlefield, Springvale.

There's more inside about:

Purple Loosestrife
Boat Wash Project
Michigan's Water Resources
Supreme Court Petition
Letter to DEQ: Monitor Permit Agreements

Easy Group E-Mail Coming
Boater Safety
Emmet County Master Plan
Grant to IWRHS

The Shores: A Change in Plans

PCLA's "Purple Corps" volunteers spread the bug for second year

By Dan Placencia and Ray McMullen

Thirteen volunteers spent approximately 190 "person" hours working on this year's purple loosestrife control project. We covered 14 miles of shoreline on Crooked Lake, eight miles on Pickerel Lake, and three miles of the Crooked River.

We began this year's assault on purple loosestrife with a fun get-acquainted and organizational potluck (brats, burgers, and beverages compliments of the Placencia's). The hands-on work included surveying the location of plants, contacting riparians with plants on their property, applying a herbicide to the leaves, disposing of plant blossoms, relocating loosestrife-eating beetles, GPS mapping and photographing each site.



We are working with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Purple Corps. This is our second year attempting to control loosestrife and we seem to be having an effect. Many sites had fewer plants than last year and there was definitely more evidence of beetle damage to plants. Starting this project before our lakes were heavily infested paid off.



Our volunteers:
 Chuck Bayless,
 Wayne Blomberg,
 Ron Brown, Barb
 and John Hoshaw,
 Dudley Marvin,
 Ray McMullen,
 Karen and Dan
 Placencia, Jan
 Quaine, Judy
 Reddick, Kooch
 and Bill Takalo and
 Bill Wyman.

OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS:

Bank of Northern Michigan
 Carpet Connection
 Breezy Shores Property Owners
 David Findlater
 Countryside Realty
 Ryde Marine
 Tigerlily's
 Northwoods Chiropractic, P.C.
 Little Traverse Conservancy
 Music Makers of Petoskey
 JR. Construction (Plichta's)
 Independent Management Services
 Stafford's Hospitality, Inc.
 Wendland Quality Autos, Inc.
 Hewitt & Sons, LLC



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OUR WEBSITE:

www.northquest.com

PRESIDENT'S E-MAIL

mcmullen@freeway.net

Don't pick up hitchhikers: Wash your boat and trailer before and after use

PCLA has been asked by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to partner with them to create a public boat wash on or near our lakes. Boats moving from lake to lake contribute to the spread of invasive species. It is hoped that a boat wash located at a launch facility would help keep unwanted aliens from "hitching a ride".

This would be a pilot project to determine the feasibility of installing similar boat washes throughout the state. We are studying Maine's boat wash system which has been in place for a number of years. That state has gone so far as to pass legislation making transportation of invasive species illegal. It is likely that many of their concepts and procedures would be utilized in this project.

PCLA joins group asking Michigan Supreme Court to review water case appeal

PCLA has joined "Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation" (MCFWE) in an attempt to bring the issue of groundwater withdrawal before the state supreme court.

The case relates to the rights of riparian landowners to surface waters. The original suit found that Nestle Corporation's pumping of groundwater reduced the levels of nearby surface waters, and issued an injunction to halt pumping. A 2005 appeals court decision reversed the injunction and established "reasonable balancing" which basically states that the public may not take action to stop or reduce pumping until substantial damage has been documented.

MCFWE has petitioned the supreme court to take up the appeal. We believe this is an important step because presently there is little case study on how ground water withdrawal affects surface water -- an issue that is extremely relevant to all of us in the Pickerel-Crooked Lakes watershed.

Welcome new members!

A heart-felt "howdy" and "welcome aboard" to these new members.

Hal & Gail Willens
10406 McCarthy Rd.
Alanson, MI 49706

Arlene Langhammer & Paul Tuerck
3610 Cincinnati Ave.
Oden, MI 49764 - and -
6489 Lantana Dr. P.O. Box 272
Liberty Township, OH 45044-1187

Walter & Barbara Howell
3220 US 31 North P.O. Box 302
Conway, MI 49722

We look forward to working together to accomplish our association's missions:

- Promote and endorse projects to enhance water quality
- Support and urge compliance with laws and regulations intended to maintain and protect water quality
- Oppose proposed developments or activities that could adversely affect the waters, shoreline, and environment of our lakes
- Educate and inform all users of the lakes about the care and management of water resources
- Monitor water quality
- Provide information to members with water quality problems and questions
- Advocate for other improvements conducive to the use of the lakes for health and recreation

PCLA by-laws amended

To encourage active participation on the part of PCLA board members, the following amendment was added to the by-laws:

"A board member shall be replaced if he or she misses three meetings in an annual meeting year without having notified a board member prior to each intended absence."

Board members are elected at the annual meeting and serve three-year terms.

One-click e-mail service coming for PCLA member subscribers

By Karen Plasencia

We are in the process of setting up a Yahoo Workgroup e-mail list so that we can all communicate with each other more easily. When you sign up, with a single click you will be able to e-mail everyone else who signs up. If you have an issue of concern, are interested in volunteer opportunities, or just want to know where the party is -- this is ideal.

Once we have worked out all the kinks we will be asking you if you want to join. (There will be space on your membership form to indicate your preference.) If you want to be included we will add your name to the list.

When your name is added Yahoo will strongly recommend that you sign up for Yahoo. This is not necessary to be a member of the work group. We only want to use this as a means of member communication through mass e-mail, so signing up for other Yahoo services is strictly optional. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!!

The Riparian: a great magazine for waterfront property owners

By Dolly Osborne

The Michigan Riparian is a quarterly publication. I did not know this publication existed until I became a PCLA board member -- a subscription is one of the "perks" of service! So I decided to share this information with all PCLA members.

The magazine is devoted to the management and wise use of Michigan's lakes and streams. It is the only magazine that deals exclusively with protection, preservation, and improvement of Michigan waters. Its special emphasis is on interpreting and upholding the rights that riparian owners have to

enjoy their waterfront property.

"The Riparian" usually has about 23 pages, and is full of interesting articles about various lakes, lake association issues and activities.

PLCA was featured in the August 2006 issue with a position paper that was sent to the MDEQ. The paper outlined concerns about the practice of building houses over water.

If you'd like to subscribe, contact:

The Michigan Riparian
P.O. Box 249
Three Rivers, MI 49093
Phone: 269-273-8200

PCLA asks DEQ to monitor and enforce permit agreements

Following are comments about adherence to permit agreements. PCLA contacted DEQ about this issue in October.

When the Windjammer Phase I dredging permit was granted in 2002, the community raised a concern about negative impacts of the project on bulrush beds in and near the dredge zone.

As a condition of the permit, the Windjammer agreed to move a portion of the bulrushes, monitor their status to ensure their continued vitality, and report annually. According to the DEQ file, no mitigation reports have been submitted.

This is a breach of trust between the developer, governmental agencies, and the public. We have a right to expect due diligence in the protection of our natural resources. We consider it a failure of the parties officially involved that there was no follow up to guarantee performance after the permit was issued.

We request that the DEQ initiate procedures to ensure that permit agreements are adhered to. Failure to do so demonstrates a cavalier attitude toward environmental protection. It also brings into question the integrity of developers who profess to act in the best interest of the community before they get their permit, and conveniently forget their promise the morning after.

“It isn’t just for seniors any more....”

The Shores: Age Stipulation Removed from Master Deed

When it approved a zoning change and project plan to accommodate the Shores condo-minium project on Crooked Lake, the Little Traverse Township Zoning Board recorded in their minutes the motion to approve the project: “The housing is for Senior Citizens, 55 years or older.... These conditions will be recorded in the Master Deed.”

The original Master Deed and Bylaws of the Shores did indeed stipulate that the units were for people 55 years and older. On February 16, 2006, however, the Master Deed and Bylaws were amended and now contain

NO mention of persons 55 years or older. The township cannot take action because there was no requirement in the original motion that stated amended master deeds also must include the “55+” statement.

PCLA did not oppose the Shores project because we felt that in spite of its high-density, impact on our lakes would be minimal because of the age restrictions. Now we have learned that under the federal Fair Housing Act, only 80% of the units must be occupied by one person who is 55 or older in order to comply with discrimination standards.

Randy Frykberg, Little Traverse Township Zoning and Planning Consultant, said he feels the Shores is meeting the zoning requirements in the R-3 “cluster housing service district”.

Frykberg said the township was going to enforce the intent of the project and that civil infraction citations will be used to remedy violations.

Boater’s Safety Classes To Be Offered in Spring

In response to last year’s member survey which indicated support for a boater’s safety class , PCLA is working with law enforcement and safety organizations to offer a weekend session in June -- if enough interested people sign up.

The class will probably be at the Littlefield/Alanson Township Hall. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in a boater safety please contact Karen Plasencia (Karen@plabay.net) or 231-548-5656 and we’ll put your name on a list. Please provide a phone number and/or an email address so that we can contact you in the spring when the class is scheduled. Also, if you would prefer a specific weekend in June let us know and we will try to accommodate if we can.



Driving his 1945 Allis Chalmers tractor and pulling Quint Kuebler’s restored 1959 Chris Craft Sportsman Run-about, board member Dan Plasencia guided PCLA’s very first float entry in Alanson’s 4th of July parade. A number of association member families accompanied the float, pitching candy to the children and distributing PCLA leaflets to adults along the route. For those who haven’t attended this parade in past years, it’s must-do in preparing for your July 4 activities in 2007. PLCA is already planning its entry. (Photo courtesy Karen Plasencia, story by Paul Lowley)

Michigan Water Resources – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By Dudley Marvin

The Good ! -- Having recently attended a seminar on Water Legislation that was sponsored by the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, we have good news in that the chamber is educating their business members on the importance



of the Great Lakes water (surface and groundwater). According to their statements, over 99.9% of all Michigan products manufactured today require fresh water resources, and because of this, they must be located in the Great Lakes watershed. The chamber is working with the DEQ and the DNR to convince business

interests that conserving, protecting and preventing diversion of our fresh water is a “long term” strategy that needs to be embraced by all.

The State has enacted new legislation that seeks to control our water resources from the three largest users; commercial, agriculture and municipal users. Regionally, the governors of the eight states and the two Canadian provinces that adjoin the Great Lakes have agreed to the Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2005 which adopted four “public trust” standards that apply to our fresh water: 1. return flow and conservation; 2. no significant adverse affects; 3. improvement of the water resources; 4. compliance with state, provincial, federal laws and international treaties. The charter prohibits any new or increased diversions, and restricts state and provincial control of diversions to containers less than five liters.

The Bad! -- The Great Lakes Charter must be passed by the eight states, two provinces and Congress before it becomes law. As of today, none of the state legislatures have completed this process. Although Michigan is far from implementing the charter, present state laws and policies have mirrored the

philosophy and spirit of the charter. The DEQ and DNR have adopted two very important tenets with their policies of “no net loss in water from diversions” and “no net loss in wetlands”. They have a major challenge to prove that “diversions or water use” has an “adverse impact” on the water resource. Recent court cases tell us of their frustration in objectively measuring this.

Present State law (Public Act 33 of 2006) does allow for the “consumptive” use of water resources, and sets quantity limitations (gallons per day) for existing and new permits. These limitations are different for inland water and Great Lakes water. Generally large water withdrawal permits are for 1-2 million gallons per day. Bottled water has a restriction of not more than 250,000 gallons per day. These withdrawals may come from surface or ground water. Examples of large quantity withdrawal permits are municipal drinking water, pharmaceutical companies, quarries and mines. Due to the lack of objective data on determining “adverse affect” on ground water resources, the DEQ has turned to the DNR and Trout Unlimited to study effects of water withdrawal on the population and health of native trout. Surprisingly, Trout have an acute sensitivity to water volume and temperature!

The Ugly! -- Only 3% of the World’s water is fresh, and of that 68.7% of this is “locked up in polar caps, permanent snow and permafrost. 30.1 % is in ground water, and the balance is in lakes, streams and the atmosphere. **The Great Lakes has 20% of the fresh water balance and the largest concentration of easily accessible fresh water of any place on the planet. Virtually 100% of Michigan’s land mass is in the Great Lakes watershed. Only 1% of the world’s population lives in the Great Lakes! Is there any correlation here with the World’s supply of oil?**

With that I leave you with the question, does the entire world look to us to be good stewards of our water resources? And what happens if we do not do a good job at this? Who wants to take the first shift at the Crooked River Lock?

S.O.S. --

(SUPPORT, OVERSIGHT & SECURITY)

The Pickerel Crooked Lake Association needs your **SUPPORT** to help us with community **OVERSIGHT** in our attempt to provide **SECURITY** for our water quality, environment and lakefront property. Identifying your property with a PCLA window decal, a reflective driveway post reflector or an automobile license plate will help to assure that our friends and neighbors will recognize our strong membership numbers and our neighborhood involvement!

**Purchase ONE or all three TODAY!
SOS Combo Package Price:
2 logo decals, one metal reflector and
one license plate just \$21.00--
shipping and handling included!**

**Send check and shipping address to:
PCLA
P.O. Box 211
Conway, MI 49722**

PCLA works with county to develop master plan

PCLA has been actively involved in Emmet County's work to create a new Comprehensive Plan. We are a certified "Community Involvement Group" and have been contributing with special intensity to the "Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources" sub-committee.

Sitting in on committee meetings, making public comment, clipping and mailing pertinent articles from national media, and documenting local issues, PCLA has been one of the few groups showing an interest in this process.

An inventory of resources begins the ANC section of the plan, which is still in draft form. The three committee members balance the interests of preservation and development as they arrive at goals, strategies, and objectives to optimize the availability of these resources to the people of Emmet County now and into the future.

You can follow the county's progress on this important work by tuning in on the website:

<http://www.co.emmet.mi.us/planzone/compmp.htm>

MEMBERSHIP - 2007

**Please fill out the membership form and return it with your check to
PCLA - P.O. Box 211 - Conway, MI 49722**

Name: _____

Summer Address: _____

Phone: _____

Alanson - Bear Creek - Littlefield - Little Traverse - Springvale
(circle your place of residence)

Winter Address: _____

_____ e-mail address _____

_____ Add me to the Members Only e-mail list

_____ Membership \$25

_____ Business Membership \$40 *

*name: _____

_____ Land Preservation Fund \$ _____

_____ Memorial * \$ _____

*for: _____

_____ Aquatic Plant Study \$ _____

Please send me:

_____ Reflector \$10 (\$14 mailed to you)

_____ Decal \$3 (\$3.50 mailed to you)

_____ License Plate \$5 (\$5.50 mailed to you)

_____ SOS Combination Pack (\$21 mailed to you)

Group preserves history, artifacts of important waterway

IWRHS is recipient of PCLA capital campaign gift

By Greg Warner

As a member of the Inland Water Route Historical Society board of directors, I wish to thank PCLA for their generous donation of \$500 to the 2006 capital campaign, and for their commitment for an additional \$500 to the 2007 capital campaign.

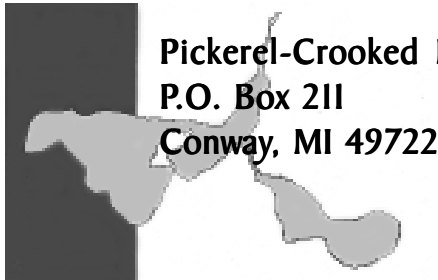
On June 30, 2006, the recently renovated Alanson City Hall officially became the home for our new museum. Since then we have been working hard to gather artifacts, historical photographs, and other memorabilia related to the history of

the inland water route. Our membership has been increasing and at present is close to 250 members. It is through our memberships, donations such as the one the PCLA has made, and grant money from charitable foundations that we hope to sustain our museum.

The inland water route played a very important part in the history of this area of Michigan. As we study the history we realize just how important our rivers, lakes, and streams were to the Native Americans, fur traders, and lumbermen who settled this area. The PCLA con-

tinues to focus on these same waters and strives to protect the lands that surround them.

We encourage those who may have items related to the history of the inland water route to think about donating or loaning them to our organization for display in the museum. The museum is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We hope to expand our hours during the summer months. If anyone has any questions or is interested in becoming a member, they can contact Sue Warner at 231-548-2664.



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Conway, MI 49722