

## PCLA: working more efficiently

Your board of directors is moving with the times in order to communicate with you more efficiently. More and more of our members are using the internet, so we have a website on which we post current issues as well as the newsletter. [www.Pickerel-CrookedLakes.org](http://www.Pickerel-CrookedLakes.org)

We also have a list-serve e-mail address so members can write and reply to all other subscribers in one message. If you're not on our Yahoo Work Group and wish to join, e-mail Karen Plasencia: [karen@plabay.net](mailto:karen@plabay.net)

**To save printing and postage and trees and fuel, we are e-mailing the newsletter to everyone on the Yahoo Work Group. If you prefer that we "snail-mail" the newsletter to you, please e-mail Karen Plasencia.**

The work group allows the board to inform subscribers of breaking news. It also creates an e-mail dialogue to which all subscribers can contribute. As a matter of e-mail etiquette, however, if you have a personal response to a posting, send it "off list". Hit "reply," then copy the address of the sender and paste it into the "to" line to replace [pcla@yahoogroups.com](mailto:pcla@yahoogroups.com)

We have a fabulous group of dedicated volunteers who donate a lot of time and skill to perform the tasks that keep our organization running smoothly. Like you, our volunteers like to play in the summer, so we try not to overburden them with indoor tasks when the sun is shining. This has led us to make another important change. Historically, dues were payable by April 30. We are finding, however, that with a late spring deadline, our bookwork gets pushed into the great outdoor season. Sooo-o-o-o-o.....

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE NOW DUE JANUARY 1

This will enable the membership chair to update records when the sky is gray and the slush is deep. It will allow the board to assess its financial position and prepare a budget and an action plan before things get busy on the lake and company arrives for the summer.

**You will receive a membership renewal envelope in November, before the holidays fill up your mailbox. Please return it promptly to save yourself, and us, the hassle and expense of those pesky reminder letters.**

## Crooked River Locks funding moving through Congress

According to Tom MacLean, the DNR supervisor of the Locks, "Outside of a few routine repairs, the Locks ran trouble free this season". He stated that Lock transits were 9243 (to date), and this was an increase from last year's 8,205, or an increase of 12.6%.

Harold Chase from US Senator Carl Levin's office tells us that the Senate appropriations bill, which is due to be presented to the Senate on October 1, includes a total of \$775,000.00 for the Inland route, and has a specific earmarking of \$375,000.00 for the locks. It is likely that if the \$375 thousand is not enough to do the job, then a portion of the remaining \$400 thousand could be tapped to complete the project. The House version of this funding request was very similar to the Senate version, how-

ever it was not passed this fall. Mr. Chase cautioned that the Senate appropriation will need to be coordinated with the proposed House version, passed by the Senate, and the entire package signed by the President for the 2008 funding year. This money is part of the Army Corp of Engineers 2008 budget, and if approved, would provide the money for the permanent hydraulic controls for the locks, as well as for some necessary dredging .

On behalf of the Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association, Tom and Harold were thanked for their efforts. I also thanked Tom for having such gracious people working the lock this summer...it does make a difference.

-- Dudley Marvin

**Special Thanks to our Business Members:**  
Breezy Shores Property Owners Association  
Carpet Connection  
Carter Pickerel Properties  
Countryside Realty

**Northwoods Chiropractic**  
Pickerel Lake Association of Botsford Landing  
Petoskey Outboard Cruising Club  
Ryde Marine  
Stafford's Hospitality

RED DOT on your mailing label? Oopsie, your dues are not paid for the current year. Please send your check for \$25 to treasurer Maureen Kerton, 8273 Channel Road, Petoskey, MI 49770. Thanks!

**Start sorting for Garage Sale June 7th, 2008!** This past June, the PCLA was able to raise \$1,191.90 from our first garage sale. PCLA members donated items and all proceeds went to our Aquatic Plant Study. Due to the success we had, it was decided that we would hold another garage sale on Saturday, June 7, 2008. Please save items you have that you would be willing to donate. Furniture and baby items sold particularly well, but every donation will bring us continued funds for our Aquatic Plant Study, scheduled to begin in the spring of 2008. We will be sending out details of where and when to drop off donations in our spring newsletter. If it is a larger item, we will store it for you after the Memorial Day holiday. Please contact Ray McMullen at 347-8073 or Dan Plasencia at 231-548-5656 to make that arrangement. -- Jan Quaine



**Be ready for the '08 boating season!** This distinctive red, white, and blue boat flag is now available to PCLA members by pre-order. Show you belong, and spot other PCLA members as you enjoy the lakes. Pre-orders will be taken at \$22.50 each, which includes shipping. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Our profit of \$5 per flag has been designated for the Aquatic Plant Survey Fund. For more information contact Karen Plasencia: karen@plabay.net

**The flowers at the Alanson Hillside Gardens** just get better every summer! The group spends on average \$1,500 each summer on plants. Also the rotting 27 year old retaining wall was replaced with concrete formed walls this year. This has been a definite enhancement to the Hillside Gardens.

The gardens are maintained by volunteers, who hold a flower sponsorship drive each year to help defray expenses. The group requests a contribution of \$10 per flat of flowers. If you appreciate the Garden's beauty or have ever said, "Wow!" when you drive by, a donation would be much appreciated and is tax deductible. Checks can be sent to; Alanson Beautification Center, PO Box 326, Alanson, MI 49706. -- Dan Plasencia

**First Annual Riverfest in Alanson** was a huge success! The Festival coincided with the Tip of Mit Marathon Races August 18th and 19th. The Riverfest featured six bands, a juried arts and craft show, flea market, boat and motorcycle show. The children were entertained in the park with numerous free games, trout fishing and other activities. The entertainment tent served refreshments and served for Sunday church services. Organized by the Alanson Downtown Development Authority, the festival was a great boost to awareness of Alanson Revitalization. Riverfest 2008 will be a three day event: August 8, 9 and 10th. -- Dan Plasencia

**Zone Leaders set to tackle invasive species** Volunteer leaders of 10 geographic zones on Pickerel and Crooked Lakes have agreed to communicate with their neighbors, survey their local lake area for invasive species, and help with needed projects as they occur. PCLA put together a notebook of nine non-native species that are already here, or threaten to invade in the future. Our zone leaders will be educated about these nine species and they in turn will educate their neighbors. **Maureen and Bob Kerton** are leaders of zone 2; **Steve and Carol Degnen** are leaders of zone 7; **Greg and Sue Warner** are leaders of zone 8; **Pat and Ken Wallace** are leaders of zone 9; and **Paul Lowley** is the leader of zone 10. **We still need leaders for:** Zone 1 (the northeast arm of Crooked Lake approximately from the Pickerel River north to the Crooked River, on the east side, and South from the Crooked River to Lake Street on the west side); Zone 3 (the shoreline of Oden Island); Zone 4 (the west shoreline of Crooked Lake from approximately Hency Rd. to Conway Rd.-where the boat launch is); Zone 5 (the north shoreline of Crooked Lake from approximately Conway Rd.-where the boat launch is, to Lake Street-just past Ryde Marina); Zone 6 (the Pickerel River); Zone 10 (the southwest shoreline of