

# Pickereel-Crooked Lakes Association

[www.Pickereel-CrookedLakes.org](http://www.Pickereel-CrookedLakes.org)

P.O. Box 511  
Alanson, MI 49706

Working, educating, and advocating for lake quality since 1953

## SHORE LINES

Fall 2008

HEALTH – an important and often overlooked attribute. The PCLA board is proud to report that the health of our lakes – and our lake association – have not been overlooked. Furthermore, in overall terms, Pickereel and Crooked Lakes and the PCLA are doing well.

As the articles in this and past newsletters exemplify, there has been plenty of effort made by our members to pass on vibrant bodies of water to future generations. I'm sure you've noticed the next generation soaking up the water fun as they tubed and fished and splashed throughout the summer. Those memories are the foundation of our future lake caregivers.

Two long-time PCLA members and staunch lake caregivers passed away this year and will be greatly missed. We hope you will join us in honoring the legacy created by Jean Fairbairn and our former president, Frank Moore. Their contributions are part of the foundation that PCLA stands on today.

You are among our current caregivers. You will be receiving your dues notice soon; paying your dues promptly is one important way

to take care of the lakes. Just a few recent projects funded by your dues: Purple loosestrife control, aquatic plant survey, invasive species control program, "please release me" walleye fishing guidelines, Black Hole and Oden Island nature preserves. We plan in the near future to purchase and install informational kiosks at key locations to educate lake users about current issues and lake care guidelines.

Our membership is growing but if you have the opportunity to bring a new member on board please do so; contact our membership chair Karen Plasencia at 231-548-5656.

There is a membership application online: <http://www.pickereel-crookedlakes.org/join.html>. About one half of the riparian owners, and very few non-riparian lake users, are PCLA members. With more members, we have a greater voice in governmental decisions, and a bigger group of lake users to educate with the informative articles in our newsletters and on our website.

One of the great ways we stay educated is through our IT department: Karen Plasencia. Karen set up a Yahoo Workgroup that enables one

member to e-mail all subscribers with a single message. Recipients of the message then can respond to the whole group OR to the individual sender. This has proven to be very valuable in getting the word out on breaking news that occurs between our semi-annual print newsletters. Nearly two-thirds of our members subscribe to this service; if you'd like to be added, contact Karen ([karen@plabay.net](mailto:karen@plabay.net)). Our website ([www.pickereel-crookedlakes.org](http://www.pickereel-crookedlakes.org)) is also a good resource. It includes past and current newsletters, a list and contact information of your board members, a membership form, updates on current issues, and a number of interesting articles. If there is something you would like to see included on our website, please contact [audreymcmullen@gmail.com](mailto:audreymcmullen@gmail.com)

Finally, a wonderful quote from Paul Lowley: "Get beyond yourself. Get involved." We hope you had half as much fun this summer as we (the board) did serving you.

-Ray McMullen

## Presidents Letter

**Our Business Members provide additional support to the P.C.L.A.**

**Please utilize their services and thank them!!**

All About You Hair Care - Bill Takalo, Realtor - Breezy Shores Property Owners  
Country Side Realty - Crooked Lake Grill - Crooked Lake Yacht Club  
Dan Ledingham-Edward Jones Investments - Delta Consulting, LLC  
Emmet Brick & Block - Graham Real Estate - Jack VanTreese & Associates  
J.R. Construction - Little Traverse Conservancy - Northwoods Chiropractic  
R.E. Diamond & Associates - Ryde Marine - Side Door Saloon  
Spanky's Powersports, Inc. - Stafford's Hospitality, Inc. - Tigerlilly's  
The Bank of Northern Michigan - The Music Makers of Petoskey  
The Office Shop - The Shores on Crooked Lake Owner's Association, Inc.  
Wendland Quality Autos, Inc. - Windjammer Marina

## **Forth of July Parade**

The Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association participated in the Alanson Fourth of July parade. PCLA members carried a large parade banner stating, "Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association, Protecting Our Waters", and threw candy for spectators. In addition, many PCLA members carried large decorated umbrellas many with themes concerning lake conservation. It is important that the community sees the dedication and unity in our mission of protecting our wonderful resources, Pickerel and Crooked Lake. Thank you to the many PCLA members who walked in the parade and those of you who cheered for us along the way! - Jan Quaine

## **Remembering Frank Moore**

Frank Moore, long time board member and PCLA president for five years, passed away on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. Frank was dedicated to environmental and lake preservation measures for many years before he became president. He was especially interested in fostering cooperative efforts with other lake associations: he represented the PCLA on the Network of Lake Associations (NOLA). and served as a liaison between the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and the PCLA.

Frank's wife, Jeannie is planning memorial services to take place during the summer of 2009 at the family cottage. The family has asked that donations be made in memory of Frank, to the Pickerel Crooked Lakes Association - Betty Bayless

## **MEET YOUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBEERS**

**Judy Reddick Brown:** I have been a member of PCLA since my husband and I first purchased land on Crooked Lake in 2000. We permanently moved here three years ago when we retired and have actively participated in several PCLA projects from loosestrife patrol, land clearing and cleanup to the rummage sale. I worked twenty eight years in the health care field as an RN, employee relations representative, licensed counselor and manager of Human Resources for a large health care system. My passion has always been caring for and about people and their environment. I believe our most precious asset is our water and it must be preserved. I plan to use my project management, communication and problem solving skills to foster PCLA's efforts to preserve our lakes and rivers in any way I can

**Linda Caldwell:** Husband: Earle  
2 Beautiful Children: Shawn and Jody  
1 Adorable Granddaughter: Addison  
Vice-President of the Petoskey Outboard Cruising Club.

We have had a home in this area since 1989 and we have lived here permanently for the past 7 years. I hope to help keep our Lakes healthy and beautiful for our generation and generations to come.

**NEW!!**

In our quest to help educate the public and keep them informed we will be investigating strategic ways to get our message out. Therefore we have added an education fund to our membership renewal form. Please consider donating to this new fund when you send in your renewal form (renewal forms will be sent out in November)



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**ZONE LEADERS DO GOOD WORK**

PCLA's invasive species program drew to a close September 5th with a barbecue at the Plasencia's to thank zone leaders and other participants for their work.. Reports from all nine zone leaders were heard for 2008, continuing our comprehensive efforts to spot and control invasive species before they can establish themselves in our lakes.

Some new spots of purple loosestrife were found but they were mostly small, and the areas where we have worked on large patches over the previous three years were quite diminished this year. We saw many places where there was evidence of damage from beetles we planted. Pat yourselves on the back. We are making a difference.

More specifically, Zone 1 (Ron & Judy Brown) found new plants between the channel markers into the Crooked River and the lighted marker at the entrance. The loosestrife was on the east shore and also across the lake from there on the west shore. In zone 2 (Kay & Mike Farrimond) found one new spot located off of Channel road near Oden Island Road. Zone 3 (Bob & Sissi Humphrey) reported that on the south/east side of the island they found possible curleyleaf pondweed, floating yellow hearts and also possible Eurasian Water milfoil. This will be investigated and we will keep you posted.

Zone 4 (Linda & Earle Caldwell) found several areas that had previous plants however there were fewer of them and there was much evidence of beetle damage. Zone 5 (Roberta Vanderbreggen) found plants in the usual places however less of it. Roberta has also been working on loosestrife from the road near the fish hatchery outlet and Windjammer. Zone 7 (Steve & Carol Degnen) found no plants (their team also did part of Zone 6-the Pickerel Channel). Zone 8 (Greg & Sue Warner) found no plants, however Zone 9 (Pat & Ken Wallace) worked on quite a large area in Zone 8 north of Camp Petosega. They found no other plants. Finally, Zone 10 (Paul and Marjan Lowley) found one plant and they are working on taking care of it.

The Zones are roughly 1. Pickerel Channel to Ryde Marine; 2. Channel Road to Hency Road; 3. Oden Island; 4. Hency Road to the Conway Boat Launch; 5; Conway Boat Launch to Ryde Marine; 6. Pickerel Channel; 7. Pickerel Channel to Lakeview; 8. Lakeview to the middle of Camp Petosega; 9. Middle of Camp Petosega to Ellsworth; 10. Ellsworth to the Pickerel Channel. If you live in any of these areas and would like to help, contact Karen Plasencia at [karen@plabay.net](mailto:karen@plabay.net) or 231-548-5656 and she will hook you up with your prospective leader. We have a lot of fun when we work on the plants and we have a few barbeques a year to network. Please consider joining a team. - Karen Plasencia

### NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

We have an increasingly active membership based near Alanson, so we are finding it advantageous to take care of business in the Village. We do our banking and most of our printing in Alanson, and now will collect our mail there. Alanson is on the path of many of our board members who work there on a daily basis. This shift has made it possible for them to serve more efficiently; they don't have to burn additional fossil fuels and highway minutes to volunteer for us. Mail sent to our former address in Conway will be forwarded for a year to the new address, but we suggest that you change this contact information in your PDA (or whatever) now, and get in the habit of writing to us in Alanson. Thanks!

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### GAPS ANALYSIS

#### EMMET COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BEGINS FINAL STAGES FOR APPROVAL

*"Now is the time for people to get involved in planning for their community. All too often people wait until a development is proposed in their back yard. Then it is too late!"*

- Emmet County Planner Tammy Doernenburg

Beginning with a series of four public meetings in February, 2006, the Emmet County Department of Planning and Zoning has been leading residents through a process to develop and implement a current Comprehensive Master Plan. When approved this Plan will include graphic and written proposals indicating general locations for streets, roads, parks, schools, and public buildings as well as provide guidance for overall land use.

Most important for PCLA members, the new Master Plan will directly influence the zoning regulations which protect the quality of our lakes and streams for the next 15 to 20 years. It is easy then to understand why your board has been closely involved in the plan development process. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council engaged PCLA to support financially and participate in a "Gaps Analysis" documenting where existing zoning regulations fall short of current thinking on protecting water quality. Both organizations are using this information to influence content in the Master Plan. A draft of the proposed plan including a future land use map and an overlaid protection map is now available at: [www.co.emett.mi.us/planzone/compmp.htm](http://www.co.emett.mi.us/planzone/compmp.htm).

As a final effort to receive additional input from county residents, the Department of Planning and Zoning has recently conducted four more public hearings and are now preparing a revised draft to be presented to the County Planning and Zoning Committee. They will review this draft before referring it to the County Commissioners who will then authorize the draft to be sent to all adjacent counties as well as to all Emmet County township boards asking for comments. After a 63 day period, a final document will be drafted and presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Once approved, the Master Plan will be available through the internet.

Your PCLA board urges our membership to continue to provide us with suggestions of how we might be your advocates in seeking ways to protect our waterways.

Reporting from Pickerel Lake-Paul Lowley and John Hoshaw

#### **This just in,,,**

At the master plan meeting on 9-10-08, the PCLA was able to get the shoreline of Crooked Lake along US-31 changed from high density to a medium density designation to protect water quality and the viewshed. We consider this to be very important if we are to avoid creating an overbuilt environment on the lake in the future. Of course this is still in draft stages, but we are close to getting it through the planning commission and the county commissioners. Also, we will be looking at the master plan recommendations for ways to partner with the county in achieving some of our mutual goals. One project we are down for is the zoning gaps analysis. Zoning will soon be getting a comprehensive updating by the county, so this is the time for us to advocate for water quality. The planning department seems very open to our input.

## Bald Eagles On Pickerel Lake

Many of you have had the amazing experience of watching the American Bald Eagles successfully hatch and raise their chicks on the south shore of Pickerel Lake. The huge nest is quite visible as you cruise the lake and look south into the state land near the Pickerel-Crooked channel. This year, three young baby chicks were released into flight by their parents. This speaks to the healthy habitat we are all working so hard to preserve. The following information was taken from the Michigan DNR web site:

The beginning of the breeding season, from mid-February to mid-March, consists of the establishment of a territory, nest building and mating displays. The mating "cartwheel" display begins high in the air with the two birds darting and diving at each other, until they lock talons and drop in a spinning free fall, until the last possible moment when they separate. The nest is usually located in the tallest tree in the area, often a white pine or dead snag. They are usually made of sticks with a lining of grass and moss. Nests may be added to each year until they reach enormous sizes, up to ten feet in depth and 20 feet across.

From late March to early April, one to four (average two) pure white eggs, approximately twice the size of a chicken egg, are laid. Both males and female bald eagles participate in the incubation, and the feeding of the chicks that hatch around seven weeks later. In about three months, by late summer, the fledglings are ready for flight. When it is time to move for the winter, the young birds are abandoned by their parents. - Jan Quaine

## Walleye Planting

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), a deadly and contagious fish disease, has entered some Michigan waters. As a result, the DNR has placed a moratorium on rearing and planting walleye from our pond and others like it.

Because of this new DNR policy, no walleye have been planted in our lakes since 2006. Currently our agreement with the DNR reads: *"In the event that the MDNR does not intend to adhere to the provisions of the deed agreement with PCLA regarding walleye rearing and stocking, the DNR shall contact PCLA to request a one-year extension. When three consecutive extensions have been granted, the PCLA and DNR jointly will review and re-evaluate the agreement and determine the course of action they wish to take."*

The PCLA and DNR will annually review the walleye planting options and resume planting as soon as safely possible. That plan presently calls for stocking 50,000 walleye in Crooked, and 25,000 walleye in Pickerel every three years after the VHS moratorium is lifted. The plan will be reviewed by PCLA and the DNR every six years. The next review date is 2013.

The DNR, through their fish surveys, feels there is "good" natural reproduction of walleye in our lakes. Time will tell how fishing will be affected by not stocking these lakes.

**Be aware that there are new regulations** regarding the acquisition and disposal of live bait. The following is a summary of guidelines and regulations regarding live bait:

-Anglers can help prevent the spread of VHS by taking two simple precautions: Do not move fish or water from one water body to another.

-Anglers are asked to empty their live wells and bilges when they pull out of a lake and to disinfect their live wells. A solution of one-half cup of bleach in five gallons of water kills the virus.

-Live fish – including bait fish – should never be moved from one body of water to another. Empty bait buckets on land. Dispose of minnows in the trash or garden .

-Anglers who trap or net their own minnows – or who collect their own roe – should only use them in the body of water from which they were taken. It is illegal to fish with bait taken from water where VHS is known to exist, in waters where it does not.

-Certified disease-free minnows and roe are widely available at Michigan bait stores and can be used anywhere in the state. Keep the receipt from the bait shop where you purchased the certified disease-free minnows.

(The entire document is available on our website: [www.Pickere-CrookedLakes.org](http://www.Pickere-CrookedLakes.org). Look at the Issues and Articles section.) - Ray McMullen

# ALANSON RIVERFEST

Your PCLA participated in the Alanson Riverfest the second week end in August. Our purpose was to “show the flag” for PCLA and to pass out aquatic plant and boating information from Watershed Council. We pitched our tent, hung our banner and waited for visitors. The day was not the best and our booth was not in the best location, so we did not see a lot of people, however, all non-members who stopped by were impressed with our story, and we gave every one our information packet and an application to join the PCLA. Several members stopped by – Thanks for your support. We plan to participate again next year and will have a more central location, however we are looking for ideas to attract more people to the booth. Any suggestions are welcome. Please contact Bill Wyman ([billwyman43@yahoo.com](mailto:billwyman43@yahoo.com)) if you have suggestions. - Bill Wyman

## Crooked River Lock

Hurrah for TOM MacLean and his staff for their Lock operations this summer!

With only one incident, which resulted in the closing of the lock for “about one week”, the DNR and the Army Corp’s chief engineer (Joe Pintal) diagnosed the problem, repaired the component and quickly put the lock back into full operation. Further credit should go to the DNR’s Cheboygan field staff for bringing down the front end loader to lift the heavy gear box out of position and return the repaired box to operation. The broken part was taken to Detroit for repairs and quickly returned to Alanson by special truck. Certainly the fast action by the Petoskey State Park Staff, the DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers resulted in minimal down time at the height of our summer season! Please take the time to thank them as you pass through the locks this fall.

The park supervisor, Tom MacLean, tells us that major lock repairs and replacements will be performed this fall after the close of the season. The Michigan DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers will be actually replacing the gear boxes with a whole new mechanical drive system and three phase power with money that was allocated to the Inland Waterway last March. Additional repairs to the control room roof, the electrical wiring and operating controls will also take place. Bids have been prepared and it looks like we will have a reliable new system to begin the next season for 2009

The Lock operations are certainly a vital link to our lakes for not only boating, but for control of shore erosion. Your suggestions, concerns and accolades concerning the locks are important to the PCLA and an excellent source of information for the DNR and The Army Corp of Engineers as they pursue their work.  
- Dudley Marvin

## To Honor and Remember

**Ray & Billie Montgomery**  
by Joseph & Margaret Abbot  
George & Janice Stewart  
Charles & Christine Kneese  
John & Marcia Coble

**Eugene “Gene” Gulbransen**  
by Joseph & Margaret Abbott  
John & Sally Mosier

**Don Harris**  
by Ryde Marine, Inc.

**Helen & Karl Wiepking**  
by Goerge & Mary Stancel  
  
**Tim Kuebler**  
by Quinton & Patricia Kuebler

**Sue Gunderson**  
by Diamond & Associates.

**Beatrice Gephart**  
by Roland & Cynthia Jean

**Frank Moore**  
by Jeannie Moore  
Tom & Cece Bolz  
Joann Overstreet  
Chuck & Betty Bayless  
Denise Simoncini  
Jerry & Brenda Tripp  
Virginia & Sid Abernathy  
Dan & Karen Plasencia

# Northern Lights

One of the many advantages of living or visiting Northern Michigan is the breathtaking night sky we all have enjoyed! Nothing makes one feel smaller than viewing billions of stars and the Milky Way. If you are really lucky, you may have seen those illusive Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis. If you haven't seen them or just can't get enough of them, here are some hot tips. The best time to view them in the night sky is in March and late September through October. These months favor the correct temperature and a dark sky. States closest to the Canadian border have the greatest chance of seeing them. Michigan Tech in the Upper Peninsula has a great web site with beautiful pictures and links that will take you to weather satellites that monitor the best viewing places and dates. This link is [www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora](http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora) If you have a chance to see this spectacular display, you won't be sorry you stayed up late! - Jan Quaine



Joe pyeweed - native plant

## Erosion

You know all of those WEEDS that grow in the water and mess up your swimming beach? Those same weeds help protect your shoreline from erosion by dissipating waves and stabilizing sediments.

The shoreline is the narrow zone of direct interaction between land and water. It is the most dynamic of all ecosystems, and is subjected to stress from myriad sources. Wave action from wind, boats and storms can destroy the shoreline. As these waves crash into the unprotected shore, shoreline sediments are washed into the lake and re-deposited elsewhere. Prevention of erosion is one reason for statewide "no wake" regulations within 100 feet of shore.

The power of a wave depends in part on "fetch" – the distance of open water over which the wind can blow. Beds of bulrushes far out into the lake help reduce fetch and calm the power of the wind. Bulrushes are fragile and easily destroyed; please take care to avoid them in your boats and jet skis. When it comes to erosion, bulrushes are our friends!

Native lakeshore buffers are quickly becoming an accepted method to help control erosion on the shoreline as well as prevent sediments and contaminants from entering the lake. Native plants along a lakeshore act like "glue" to keep the shoreline soils from washing away, thus they play a critical structural role in the battle against shoreline erosion.

When properly arranged and blended, aquatic plants are an attractive addition to the landscape. Pickerelweed, arrowhead, blue flag, blue vervain, Joe Pye weed, cardinal flower, goldenrod, turtlehead, and others provide bright colors at different times of the year. These native plants require much less care and are better adapted to local growing conditions – just two more reasons to "go native."

Emergent aquatic plant communities along the lakeshore (reeds, bulrushes, water lilies) provide habitat, nesting sites, cover, and food for a wide variety of animals like frogs and turtles, wading birds, and mink. Vegetated shorelines also have an important function in the improvement of water quality.

As aquatic plants die, they produce soluble carbon compounds that feed plankton and microbial populations in the water. Such plants play an important basic function in the aquatic food web. They are also important in water quality improvement. Ponds and lakes that do not have vegetated shorelines frequently experience problems with floating algae mats or blooms that inhibit water clarity and are unsightly.

Please think seven generations ahead before you disturb native plants along your shoreline or in the water. They are important elements in maintaining the health of your lake.

*Information for this article was liberally plagiarized from several credible internet sources. More information, along with landscape suggestions, is available from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council ([www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org)) - Audrey McMullen*

## Aquatic Plant Survey Update

In spite of a late start due to a cold, blustery spring and early summer, PCLA volunteers and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff successfully completed an aquatic plant survey on Crooked and Pickereel Lakes. Kevin Cronk, Monitoring and Research Coordinator at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, sampled aquatic plants at 479 locations throughout the lakes. At each site, Kevin collected aquatic plants, noted species and relative densities, photographed collected plants, and recorded the site location with a GPS. PCLA volunteers, Ray McMullen and Jan Quaine (Linda Caldwell & John Hoshaw did some as well), assisted Kevin in the survey by mapping out the emergent plant beds (emergent plants include bulrush, cattails, lilies and more). Using the Watershed Council's GPS, Ray and Jan navigated around the different emergent plant beds, collecting GPS data and noting species and densities.

During the fall and winter months, Kevin will process the GPS data, link it to the information recorded in the field notes, and use the data to develop maps of the aquatic plant communities in Crooked and Pickereel Lakes. The field data and maps will be used to develop a report that will be written during the winter and, upon completion, copies of the report will be given to PCLA.

To date the only identified invasive aquatic plant that was confirmed by Kevin is an area of Curlyleaf Pondweed located at the mouth of Fish Hatchery Creek that flows through the Oden Fish Hatchery. A crew of PCLA volunteers is working on removing and destroying these weeds this fall and monitoring this area next spring and summer.

Thanks to All, whose donations and volunteer work contributed to our Proactive Efforts!

-Kevin Cronk & Dan Plasencia

**Remember John F. Kennedy  
Ask not what the PCLA can do for  
you. Ask what you can do for the  
PCLA!!!!**



Curlyleaf Pondweed