

# Pickerel - Crooked Lakes Association

Working, educating, and advocating for lake quality since 1953

P.O. Box 211

Conway, MI 49722

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

SHORE LINES

Summer  
2008

## Annual meeting set for July 19; walleye on the menu

Actually, walleye are on the agenda. DNR fish biologist Neal Godby will be our speaker, bringing us up to date on VHS and the state of the walleye population in our lakes.

The DNR will be asking us to revisit the agreement we have with them for use of our walleye rearing pond, so be sure to attend.

**The annual meeting will be held at the Bear Creek Township Hall near the Division/Mitchell intersection. Refreshments at 8:30 (courtesy of Crooked Lake Grill), speaker and business meeting to follow. A ballot is enclosed; please mail by July 15 or bring it to the meeting. We must have a quorum of 45 ballots in order to have a valid election.**

PCLA acquired the walleye rearing pond in 1965. The property was granted to us by Ray and Charlotte Bechtel through a quit-claim deed. Between 1965 and 1991, PCLA reared

and planted walleye into Pickerel and Crooked Lakes with very mixed success: Frank Lambert reports that during one particularly poor season, one walleye was reared and planted.

In August of 1991 PCLA and the Michigan DNR entered into an agreement whereby PCLA would grant the DNR possession of the pond through a quit claim deed and the DNR would plant 75,000 walleye in our lakes every other year. The agreement states if planting are not done for three consecutive years, ownership of the land reverts to PCLA.

Since that agreement, the pond has been improved to the point that it is one of the DNR's best northern region producers and PCLA has regularly been receiving walleye fry. The planting here has been so successful that the last DNR fish study shows excellent natural walleye reproduction and very high numbers of fish.

Enter VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia). This deadly virus has caused the DNR to stop production in all walleye rearing ponds that empty into larger water bodies (our pond water discharge reaches Burt Lake).

The board and the DNR have been discussion the pond's future. Walleye have not been planted here for two years; next year the terms of the deed will be broken unless we act soon.

We feel it is the interest of both parties to continue our stocking relationship and create a new deed agreement. The board and the DNR are working on new terms and hope to have a recommendation for discussion at this year's annual meeting.

## Boater Safety Class June 28

The Pickerel/Crooked Lakes Association is sponsoring a free Boater's Safety Class for anyone 12 years of age or older (or turning 12 during the 2008 boating season). The class will be held on Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-1:00 at the Littlefield-Alanson Township Hall (7631 Burr Ave., U.S.31). To register call the Emmet County Sheriff's Department at 231-439-8900. Please mention the date and place when registering. There must be at least 10 people signed up for the class or it will be cancelled (maximum 40). For questions call Karen Plasencia 231-548-5656 or email at [karen@plabay.net](mailto:karen@plabay.net)

## The Crooked River Lock is operating for the season!

It appears that the "temporary repairs" are holding well, and funds are available should the lock mechanism encounter any "routine" type problems.

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

**The lock fees remain the same** as last year. Daily pass is \$6.00 for recreational, \$8.00 for commercial. Seasonal Pass is \$45.00 for recreational and \$90.00 for commercial.

### 2008 Locks Schedule

- Thru June 30.....8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- July 1 - Aug. 17.....8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Aug. 18 - Sept. 1.....8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sept. 2 - 14.....8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sept. 15 - 30.....9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 4-5.....9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.
- Oct. 11-12....9-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m.

Additional information on the locks is available by calling Petoskey State Park, 231-347-2311

# PCLA Aquatic Plant Study to begin in July

Thanks to all your hard work and generous donations we have raised enough money to do the aquatic plant study of Pickerel and Crooked Lakes.

The purpose of this study is to create a baseline so that future monitoring can alert us to changes in the health of our lakes. The study will educate us about the vegetative population and its connection to fish populations and also create early awareness of any harmful invasive species.

We have signed a contract with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to perform this study this summer. They will be documenting the species composition and relative density of aquatic vegetation throughout the two lakes.

Specifically they will collect field data, conduct plant identification, analyze and process the data and generate a map and report for our records. They will provide us with

data gathered during the project including databases, photographs and a poster size map displaying the results of the survey.

Results of the survey will be shared with our members in the fall newsletter.

## PLEASE USE THE SERVICES OF OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF PCLA

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

## Zoning: a critical element for protection of water quality

Northern Michigan has always been an attraction for people who enjoy the beauty of nature and the lakes and rivers that are found here. Our ever-increasing population has ensured a growing demand for waterfront property. With that demand comes rising value in any property that can provide access to the water, and pressure to provide access to as many people as laws and codes allow.

Quaint cottages are giving way to larger and larger homes, and we have seen the number of approved common-wall housing units reach over 100 units on Crooked Lake and the Crooked River in only the last 6-8 years. In some cases variances are granted and in one case a loophole was used to justify approval of six units on a man-made lagoon that were not required to conform to the county's 60-foot waterfront setback.

It was ruled that a man-made lagoon, even though it was connected to a public water body, did not need to comply with the setbacks because it did not appear on the USGS map that delineates waterfront.

PCLA, along with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council led by Dr. Grenetta Thomassy, began to try to prevent repeated circumventing of the waterfront setback. After several years, many meetings, and help and cooperation from County Planner Brentt Michalik and Tammy Doernenburg, an amendment was voted on by our county board, and the loophole was closed.

Without action by the PCLA board and some of our dedicated membership who attended long and repetitive meetings to ensure our voice was heard, this county zoning text change would not have come about.

A committee has been established to study the entire zoning ordinance with an eye to recommending changes that will help ensure protection of surface and groundwaters in our watershed.



### Show your colors!

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

PCLA has other member ID items available: license plates (\$5); driveway reflectors (\$10) and window decals (\$1). Look for these items at the annual meeting!

### Your future on the line

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), of the Emmet County Planning Commission will be meeting to work on the Emmet County Comprehensive Plan. It will be an open meeting.

June 23, 2008, 5:00 pm

Board of Commissioners room

Emmet County Courthouse

200 Division Street

Petoskey, Michigan 49770

PCLA representatives have taken an active role in formulating the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources section of the plan. Other areas of the plan address transportation, housing, utilities, intergovernmental cooperation, and economic development.

**This plan is the document that will guide land use and zoning in the future, so it really is a critical compass by which our direction in the county will be set.**

We encourage you to be informed and aware. Drafts of the plan are available online at [www.co.emmet.mi.us/planzone/PESDrafts.htm](http://www.co.emmet.mi.us/planzone/PESDrafts.htm)

# Howdy, Partner!

The Inland Water Route Historical Society (IWRHS) is another of PCLA's important partners in the effort to maintain and improve the quality of our northern Michigan experience.

The IWRHS was created in 2005. It is located in downtown Alanson and is open regularly on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., and irregularly when volunteers are present.

Alanson's former fire hall has been renovated and established as an historical museum for the collection, preservation, and display of artifacts, pictures, documents and exhibits relating to the history and significance of the Inland Water Route, which winds between Pickerel Lake and Lake Huron.

**Wayne Blomberg, a member of PCLA and the IWRHS, put it brilliantly when he said, "When people appreciate their past, they take care of their future."**

Rustic birchbark is used extensively in the interior design and exhibit signage, lending a professional cohesiveness to the displays of photos, maps, and items that were used when the Inland Waterway first became a major northern Michigan tourist attraction.

Upstairs, IWRHS has its business offices, storage, and a meeting room which has been used monthly by PCLA for its board meetings. PCLA extends its sincere thanks for use of this elegant facility.

We encourage you to visit the museum, and to support it by becoming a member and/or contributing to reduction of the capital debt. Membership dues are \$50 per family or \$25 per individual and can be sent to Box 433, Alanson MI, 49706. You can visit the IWRHS website at [www.IWRHS.com](http://www.IWRHS.com)

## Curious about water quality?

There is a great job waiting for you. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been keeping records of lake water quality for a number of years, with the help of volunteers.

Once a week, these volunteers boat out to a specific spot on the lake to take water samples, read water clarity, and take other measurements such as temperature. These reports are turned in to the watershed council and compiled so that we have a record of changes in water quality.

For several years, Greg Warner has monitored Pickerel Lake. If you know Greg, you know that "busy" is an understatement when it comes to the time he volunteers in service to his community. This is one job he needs to give up, and he is taking bids for someone to take over a fascinating and rewarding role.

Greg would love to talk about what is required for the lake monitor position; please give him a call at 548-2664 to find out what joys await you in this important and fascinating position.



Some of the viewing and display areas at the Inland Water Route Historical Society are shown here.

## Two PCLA members file to run in August 5 primary elections

While PCLA does not offer political endorsements, we are pleased to let you know that two of our members are interested in higher levels of service to the community.

Bob Kerton is seeking the position of Springvale Township Treasurer. He is on the Republican ballot opposing incumbent Corrine Shomock.

Dan Plasencia is running for County Commissioner representing Springvale and Littlefield Townships. He is on the Republican ballot opposing incumbent Al Behan.

**Your 2008 Membership Directory** is in production! You can pick up your copy at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, July 19, at the Bear Creek Township Hall. If you have neighbors who cannot attend, please offer to pick up their copy for them. A friendly hand-delivery builds networks and saves money!

**Call a board member to report your concerns**

**Wayne Blomberg**  
526-5062

**Dudley Marvin**  
438-0169

**Roger Cyr**  
347-8078

**Ray McMullen**  
347-8073

**Dave Droste**  
548-1800

**Dan Plasencia**  
548-5656

**John Hoshaw**  
487-1942

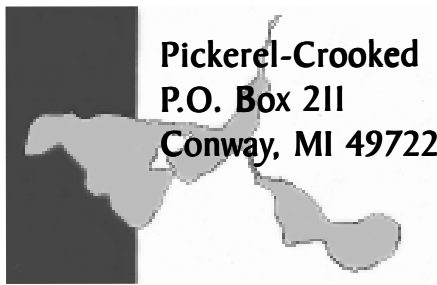
**Don Priest**  
348-5833

**Maureen Kerton**  
347-1742

**Greg Warner**  
548-2664

**Paul Lowley**  
347-9373

**Bill Wyman**  
347-5241



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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!

**While you're out boating....**

## **keep your eyes open for invasive species**

Preventing the spread of invasive species is a lot easier if we spot the little devils before they have a chance to get well established. It's for this reason that PCLA developed an "early warning system" of lake volunteers to check designated areas for signs of several species known to be moving north.

Purple Loosestrife is one example of an invasive species run amok. PCLA has worked with our members for three years to control the population of this greedy plant, but Loosestrife Attack Expeditions are still required every year to keep it controlled. Eurasian milfoil is poised to become the next Purple Loosestrife -- and far more harmful than Purple Loosestrife -- unless we keep our eyes open and prevent it from invading our lakes.

**We divided the lake into 10 zones, and are asking our members to "adopt a zone" and check it periodically, educating and enlisting the cooperation of their neighbors in this important effort. Volunteer leaders agree to communicate with their neighbors, survey their local lake area for invasive species, and help with needed projects as they occur.**

PCLA created 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.

### **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 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).

**If anyone is interested in being leaders for any of these zones contact Karen Plasencia [karen@plabay.net](mailto:karen@plabay.net), Jan Quaine [janquaine@aol.com](mailto:janquaine@aol.com), or Ray McMullen [mcmullens2@gmail.com](mailto:mcmullens2@gmail.com)**

### **These fabulous volunteers have already put their oars in the water:**

**Maureen and Bob Kerton** are leaders of zone 2 (the southwest shoreline of Crooked Lake approximately from the Pickerel River, along Channel Road to about Hency Rd.) If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact them at [rmkerton@parishonline.tv](mailto:rmkerton@parishonline.tv) or 231-347-1742;

**Linda Caldwell** is the leader of zone 4 (the west shoreline of Crooked Lake from approximately Hency Rd. to Conway Rd.-where the boat launch is). If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact her at [ecaldwell43@chartermi.net](mailto:ecaldwell43@chartermi.net) or 231-348-5360;

**Steve and Carol Degnen** are leaders of zone 7 (the northwest shoreline of Pickerel Lake from the Pickerel River to approximately Lakeview Rd.) If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact them at [sdegnen@deggen.com](mailto:sdegnen@deggen.com) or 231-548-1222;

**Greg and Sue Warner** are leaders of zone 8 (the northeast shoreline of Pickerel Lake from approximately Lakeview Rd. to the middle of Camp Petosega). If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact them at [mooselodge98@aol.com](mailto:mooselodge98@aol.com) or 231-548-2664;

**Pat and Ken Wallace** are leaders of zone 9 (the southeast shoreline of Pickerel Lake from approximately the middle of Camp Petosega to the point of Pickerel Lake where Trails End and Ellsworth Road would meet). If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact them at [pk3wallace@hotmail.com](mailto:pk3wallace@hotmail.com) or 231-347-0238;

**Paul Lowley** is the leader of zone 10 (from the point on Pickerel Lake where Trails End and Ellsworth Rd. would meet, to the Pickerel River) If you live in this area and would like to help, please contact him at [plow@racc2000.com](mailto:plow@racc2000.com) or 231-347-9373.