

# Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association Inc. Newsletter

Issue 1, Number 1, July, 2009 Prepared by Bill Swenson (6/16/2010)

## We are a 501c3 Tax Exempt Public Charity

With the Pike Chain of Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan completed, those involved in the planning process started thinking about the kind of organizational structure that would best facilitate achieving the goal of sustainable lake management. Recognizing that our work to manage the Pike Chain was clearly charitable, a decision was made to seek tax exempt status under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code. A motion to that effect was made and unanimously supported during the August 1, 2009, meeting of the IRLA. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up and on October 7, 2009, the Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association Inc., became registered as a Wisconsin Non-stock Corporation, under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes. With considerable legal assistance, our request for tax exempt status was prepared and forwarded to the Internal Revenue Service. It was approved April 12, 2010. This means all donations (both financial and property) to promote the sustainability of the Pike Chain of Lakes, will be tax deductible and all purchases will be tax exempt. This will help us to carry on EWM control, boat landing inspections and other projects especially when state support dwindles. For example, the cost for legal services and the IRS application exceeded \$5,000. It was covered by a substantial tax deductible donation by Susan and Jim Swenson. Be sure to thank them. If we wish to install a remote monitoring system to inspect boats at the Town of Iron River Landing, our public charity status should make it easier to raise the \$7,500 for the unit and \$2,000, maintenance fee.

Those of you who attended the August 1, 2009 meeting may recall members of the IRLA would automatically become members of the IRPCOLA and the existing board of directors would serve the new organization until the first annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for August 7 2010 at the IRON RIVER **VFW** (see Below). We hope those who were not members but wish to help promote sustainable management of the Pike Chain, including Delta and the other connecting Lake, will also become members and support our work to sustain the quality of all the waters in the "Pike Chain". Forming a non-profit charitable organization is the first step. Building the organization to implement the actions spelled out in the Lake Management Plan will require that those who love the lakes join in to make it work.

### IRPCOLA Board Actions

The board of directors met May 29, 2010. The following actions were taken.

Go to: [pikechain.org](http://pikechain.org), or attend Annual Meeting for details.

- Approval of the Treasures Report.
- Approval of a motion to use **Pike Chain Association**, as the working name of the IRPCOLA (Because it is shorter).
- Approval of a motion to forego a 2009 detailed Audit.
- Approval of a motion to print 5,000 Pike Chain,Map/Management document (See Page 2, for information on Map Project).
- Approved a motion not to include private landings on the map.
- Election of a Board of Directors Nominating Committee.
- Election of a Board of Directors Bi-laws Review Committee
- Election of Bill Swenson as Assistant Treasurer.

**OFFICERS:** Al Bochler, President; Eddie Wangenstein, Vice President; Kristen Sandager, Secretary; Robert Ruef, Treasure; Dr. William Swenson, Assistant Treasure.

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Judy Barber, John Joseph, Betsey McKinney, Tony Mullozzi, Greg Ogren, Jerry Peck, Jim Swenson

There is so much going on and many decision to be made. We really need you to help us move in the right direction so!!

*Mark your Calendar*

**IRPCOLA Annual Meeting**

**Saturday August 7, 2010**

**9:00- 11:00 AM**

**Iron River VFW**



**Veterans of Foreign Wars**



# Lake Management Map Project

The enclosed map represents one of two projects developed by the Pike Chain Association, Education Committee. The committee wanted to produce a document lake users would be happy to receive and read so they could learn about the lakes, our lake management efforts and hopefully, become better stewards. Sportsman's Connections, of Superior, donated their services and did most of the map layout. In addition to the enclosed copies, to all property owners, they are being distributed by the boat inspectors at Twin Bear Park. The cost per printed copy was \$0.21. We had 150 copies laminated. We anticipate the 5000 copies will should last for four to five years with an average annual cost of \$250. We hope to control distribution to avoid attracting more users. The maps will not be distributed at bait shops or other commercial outlets. The document is copyright protected and is not to be reproduced. For this reason only the informational side of the document will be posted on the web at: pikechain.org. We would like to post laminated copies at the the three Pike Chain Resorts and at cabins that are rented so that those who rent will know they are available through the boat inspection program. Hopefully, they will land their boats at the park.

Expanding the Twin Bear Park boat inspection program to cover weekdays was established as the highest priority by the Education Committee. To make this happen committee chair, Bill Swenson and President, Al Bochler, met with Mary Motiff, Bayfield County Tourism and Recreation Director and attended three meetings of the Bayfield County Board, Tourism and Recreation Committee. Bill's presentations at the meetings and letters he addressed to individual committee members centered on the risk and associated cost to Bayfield County if additional AIS becomes established in the Pike Chain. As a result, the County offered a space rent free to Patty Matchen, a longtime seasonal camper who is now trained and doing boater education/ boat inspections during weekdays. If you get a chance thank our County Board members for being proactive in protecting Bayfield County lakes from AIS.

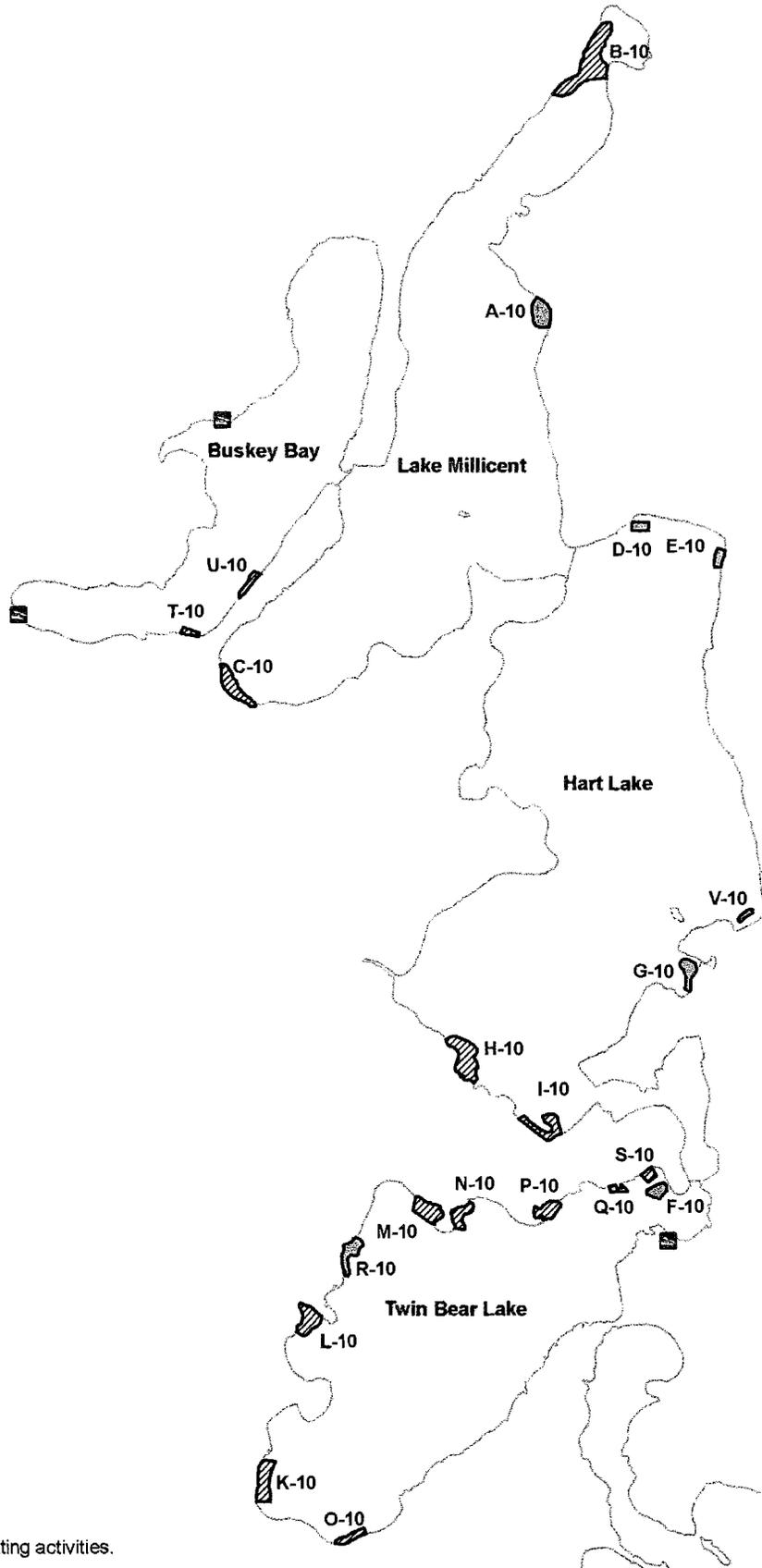
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## EWM Control Highly Successful

The map on the facing page shows the areas that were treated on June 3, 2010, to control EWM. The 15 acres treated this year is 45% smaller than the 27 acres treated last year. The change reflects the effectiveness of both the chemical treatments and the hand pulling efforts of volunteers. Possibly as a result of our effort and success, the WDNR is allowing higher chemical concentrations to be used on some of the tough to treat beds (see map). From what we have heard, we are the only group that has established an organized hand pulling control program. This approach has been very effective in stopping small clumps from becoming large beds that require chemical treatment. The two prong approach, saved approximately \$6,000 in treatment costs this year. Al Bochler reports there were 20 volunteers who put in 645 hours monitoring and hand pulling during 2009.

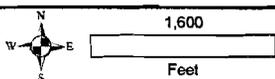
If some of you are wondering if all the costs in time and money to control EWM is worth it, you should talk to property owners on Sandbar and Tomahawk Lakes. EWM became established in these connected clearwater lake some years before it was found in the Pike Chain. However, the property owners took a wait and see approach and did not organize to keep it in check. The beds became so thick on Tomahawk Lake, that the whole lake was experimentally treated, to see if it was possible to get some control. In Sandbar Lake, which does not have a boat landing, residents report that "they have to back up the pontoon two or three times to get it into open water". As you know the segments that break off float away and can start new beds. I think we should say thanks to Jane Swenson, who really got things started and, Al Bochler who has probably organized one of the best control programs in Wisconsin, along with all the volunteers who are doing a great job.

On the down side, a single EWM plant was found in the South end of Eagle Lake during 2010 and should be of great concern. Although the plant was removed, the dense beds of native plants in Eagle and Flynn, make it difficult to find EWM and therefore a stepped up monitoring program is needed. Volunteers from both Eagle and Flynn will need to step forward if we are to continue to be successful in controlling EWM. If you wish to participate in a coordinated intense monitoring effort this summer, please Call Al Bochler at: 715 372 5829 or 715 682 6372.



Final Treatment Areas - 150 lbs/acre Granular 2,4-D			
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
T-10	Buskey Bay	0.2	5 feet
U-10	Buskey Bay	0.3	6 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>0.5</b>	
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
B-10	Millicent	2.8	5 feet
C-10	Millicent	1.0	7 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>3.8</b>	
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
H-10	Hart	1.6	6 feet
I-10	Hart	0.9	5 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>	
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
K-10	Twin Bear	1.0	7 feet
L-10	Twin Bear	0.9	6 feet
M-10	Twin Bear	0.9	4 feet
N-10	Twin Bear	0.6	6 feet
P-10	Twin Bear	0.6	5 feet
S-10	Twin Bear	0.2	5 feet
O-10	Twin Bear	0.4	6 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>4.8</b>	
Final Treatment Areas - 175 lbs/acre Granular 2,4-D			
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
A-10	Millicent	0.9	9 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>0.9</b>	
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
D-10	Hart	0.3	8 feet
E-10	Hart	0.3	8 feet
G-10	Hart	0.6	10 feet
V-10	Hart	0.2	8 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1.3</b>	
Site	Lake	Permit Acres	Ave Depth
Q-10	Twin Bear	0.2	9 feet
F-10	Twin Bear	0.4	8 feet
R-10	Twin Bear	0.7	8 feet
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1.3</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>15.0</b>	

**Please Note:**  
 1. Entire area of lake used for fishing.  
 2. Proposed Treatment areas are used for all boating activities.



**Onterra LLC**  
 Lake Management Planning  
 135 South Broadway Suite C  
 De Pere, WI 54115  
 920.338.8860  
 www.onterra-eco.com

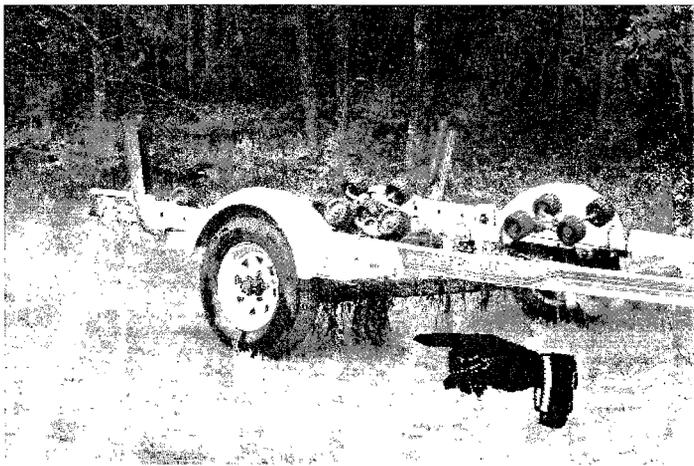
Sources:  
 Roads & Hydro: WDNR  
 Aquatic Plants: Onterra, 2010  
 Map date: May 27, 2010  
 File Name: PikeChn\_ARLakes\_T2010\_EWM\_Perm1.mxd

Extent of large map shown in red.

**Legend**  
**2010 Final EWM Treatment Areas**  
 150 lbs/acre  
 175 lbs/acre  
 Public Boat Landing

**Pike Chain of Lakes**  
 Bayfield County, Wisconsin  
**2010 Final EWM Treatment Areas v.1**

## Public Landings?



The Education Committee was split on whether to include only publicly owned boat landings on the enclosed map or to also include those privately owned. The Pike Chain Association Board voted to include only the publicly owned landings for several reasons. First the landing at Pine Point receives limited use and the owners have been sending clients to Twin Bear Park so the boats could be inspected. In addition, the landing at Hyde's is shallow, is adjacent to a large aquatic plant bed and the road access appears to present considerable risk. On days when the wind blows from the East or Northeast, aquatic plants broken off by boats running through the weed beds collect at the landing making it almost impossible to land or trailer a boat without large volumes of aquatic plants becoming attached to the trailer. The above picture was taken just after the owner landed their boat at Hyde's. It seems clear that when the boat is trailered, it will be difficult if not impossible to clear the trailer of plants in order to comply with the new Wisconsin No Transport Laws.

## Fish Study Underway

The Shocker Boats were out again this spring to assess walleye abundance. The WDNR and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, do these surveys primarily to set limits for the Tribal Spring Spear Fishery. This year however, the data will also be used as part of a detailed study of Pike Chain fish populations and fishing. The DNR set out fyke nets this spring and will conducting a creel census along with the netting program this summer. A report will be completed during 2012.

How the results compare with those for other area lakes and with a similar study conducted on the Pike Chain ten years ago, will serve as a basis for future fisheries management. For example, the Pike Chain Association, Fisheries Committee met with Scott Toshner, WDNR Area Fishery Manager, during 2008 concerning setting special regulations on smallmouth bass, bluegill and crappie. Property owners have also expressed interest in walleye stocking to enhance fishing. Once the report is available, our Committee will review the information and work with the WDNR staff to help development a fishery management program that promotes our lake management goals.



## Fun, Fund Faising - Your Ideas

We have chosen not to wait and see what happens when it comes to AIS. However, it is too bad that the time required to meet our sustainable lake management goals has required essentially all of our resources in recent years. As an organization we haven't been able to arrange more socially oriented activities or fund raisers that are enjoyable and serve to pull us together. Among the problem is the Pike Chain is large and lets face it, the season is short. Our two hour annual meetings require that we focus entirely on the key work of the organization. So much more could be done in terms of lake awarness and partnering if we could set up part of the organization to identify and implement social/educational events that serve to bring us together and help to build a stronger organization. We need both your ideas and your commitement. Pike Chain Picnics, fund raiser competitions such as canoe races or simple lake specific activities such as hosting breakfast for individual lake groups, you name it. Could we use the web site to organize events or stimulate friendly competitions or communication?

The last page of this newsletter provides space for your ideas as well as a form that you can use for membership, to contribute financially or volunteering for EWM monitoring or other management activities. We would also like to hear your suggestions for other activities and how you might help to implement them.

# Water Quality Monitoring

Secchi Disk readings which monitor water clarity were collected on most of the lakes in the Pike Chain during 2009. The water quality monitoring program is sponsored by the WDNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Program. The same type of data will be collected during 2010. In the future, the program will be expanded to include additional water quality parameters. However, the more detailed analysis requires more time in the field. To move forward, Jane Swenson, who has trained the volunteers and organizing the information, would like to purchase a Dissolved Oxygen Meter. The meters cost approximately \$900. The instrument would cut the field time required to collect the data to a fraction of what it would take without it. At this point the Pike Chain Association, is considering applying for a grant or purchasing the meter directly. The Board of Directors will look into the situation and take action in the near future. At present the following individuals have volunteered to continue taking Secchi Disc reading during 2010.

Jack Bochler - Eagle/Flynn

Martha Oie - Twin Bear

Josh Teigen -Hart

David Onan - Millicant

Lona Schmidt - Muskellunge

Glen Viggiano - Busky Bay

## Required Notification

### Northern Aquatic Services

1061 240<sup>th</sup> STREET DRESSER WI 54009 715-495-5252 CELL 715-755-3507 HOME/OFFICE

### Professional Aquatic Weed Control Services

Dear Lake Shore Property Owner,

5-7-2010

The intent of this letter is to notify you that the Iron River Lakes Association has hired Northern Aquatic Services, an herbicide application company for hire, to treat the nuisance exotic Eurasian watermilfoil in the Pike Chain. The Wisconsin DNR has yet to approve the treatment as the permitting process was just recently begun, but receiving a permit is likely. The herbicide I will use (Navigate) is approved for aquatic use by the Environmental Protection Agency. Any water usage restrictions for the treated area will be posted on yellow signs in that area.

The permit application requires all property owners to be notified that the permit application is being made and that they may obtain a copy of the application to personally review. The planned treatment is in accordance with the Pike Chain's Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM Plan) to control Eurasian Water Milfoil. Questions concerning the APM Plan can be directed to Al Bochler of the Iron River Area Lakes Association. A copy of the permit application may be obtained from the Lake Association. The Department of Natural Resources will review the permit application and is likely to issue the permit.

I am scheduled to make the treatment in mid May to mid June 2010.

If you have any questions you may contact Northern Aquatic Services at 715-755-3507 or the Wisconsin DNR's Water Resources Management Specialist Craig Roesler, 715-634-9658 at Hayward. Chemical fact sheets are available upon request.

Sincerely,

Dale Dressel  
Northern Aquatic Services

# Contribute to Lake Management Form

## Financial Contributions

Become an *TRPCOLA* Member \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Donate to lake Management

\$1.00 per foot of frontage or other \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to:  
Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes  
Association Inc.

MAIL TO:

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association Inc.

P.O. Box 602, Iron River, WI. 54847

Note: Those pledging or contributing \$100 or more will receive a laminated map perfect for display on a wall or table. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

## Volunteer Contributions (Check Any of Interest):

\_\_\_\_\_ *EWM Survey and Control - Continuing* \_\_\_\_\_ or *New* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Boat Landing Monitoring (Time or Spec. fund)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Water Quality Monitoring*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Purple Loosestrife Control*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Shoreline Restoration*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Fund Raising and Social Activities*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Serve on the PCA Board or Committees*

AIS \_\_\_\_\_, Education \_\_\_\_\_, Fisheries \_\_\_\_\_, Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_ Water Quality

Volunteer Ideas (What would you like to see our organization doing).

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lake \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_