



Fall 2011

www.pikechain.org

PCLA NEWSLETTER

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Assoc., Inc.

Promoting the Sustainable Management of the Pike Chain

Prepared by: Kristen Sandager

Invasive Species Committee Fall Update: The Threat Continues

Our dedicated Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (AIS) and volunteers have been working hard on locating and controlling the spread of Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) in our unique chain. The associations standing invasive species committee consists of John Westman, JoAnn Bassett, Barb Bochler, and Al Bochler. We have openings for additional members and need volunteers.

A very dedicated group of about 20 individuals have been working for a number of years to control and stop the spread of EWM. Individuals who turned in volunteer hours for 2010 are John Podlesny, Brad Wilson, John Bochler, Scott Bochler, Kim Bassett, Carol Lindsey, Robert Ruef, Roberta Ruef, David Onan, Scott Mitchem, Bill Swenson, Tom Sandager, Ann Bochler, John Westman's son and son-in-law and board members. We have forms on our web site for others who did monitoring or hand pulling in 2010 or 2011. We still need the hours to match the State funds received in our 2009 invasive species grant. (Jane Swenson and Karen Austin also did volunteer work but used the hours for other grant applications).

The 2011 Fall survey was just completed by our consultant Tim Hoyman from Onterra, LLC. He spent two days on our chain to check for EWM and review the status of our native plants. The good news is that where we have been treating the longest, mainly in Twin Bear, we only located 6 small areas with EWM rather than entire bays filled of EWM as was the case in 2009. Working with the DNR for approval of new and better practices has produced results. The bad news is EWM was found in Eagle Lake in three locations. We have attempted to hand pull these areas. The spread is very depressing and indicative of what a battle we are fighting.

When I find standing EWM on the end of someone's dock that has not been hand pulled or rake pulled, I wonder if it is a result of a lack of education on our part or lack of concern of the majority. We have less than **one half** of the property owners paying our \$15.00 annual dues.

We have our volunteer labor forms on the web site www.pikechain.org and ask interested individuals to review the form and report activities. Anyone having interest in receiving training on monitoring or identification of EWM can contact Al Bochler at 715-682-6372. Submitted by: Al Bochler

Contribute To Lake Management It's Not To Lake To Donate

Your generous annual contributions to lake management are greatly appreciated. Please consider contributing if you haven't done so yet this year-**contributions are tax deductible.**

Thank You Randy/Deb Sharbonno and Bob/Ann Prescott whose names were missed in the fall 2010 newsletter listing 2010 Lake Management Contributors.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Bochler, President
Eddie Wangenstein, V. President
Robert Ruef, Treasurer
Bill Swenson, Asst. Treasurer
Kristen Sandager, Secretary
John Joseph, website
Tony Mullozzi
Judy Barber
Greg Ogren
Jim Swenson
Howard Lehman
Ed Brunner

PCLA MEETINGS WILL START ON TIME

As we look back at 2011, I would once again like to take time to thank those that have donated their time and money to support our association and to invite more of you to get involved. We are a non-profit organization whose primary role is to promote the sustainable management our Pike Chain of Lakes and your financial support is tax deductible.

Currently, we have one annual meeting the first Saturday in August and I hope you will all mark this down on a 2012 calendar and save this date for our meeting. The August 6, 2011 meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 10:19 a.m. This was accomplished by limiting speakers to 5 minutes or less, except for our guest speaker, and using Robert's Rules of Order "Unanimous Consent". In cases where there seems to be no opposition in routine business, or on questions of little importance, you can save time by obtaining Unanimous Consent from the assembly. Any meeting can be ten times more productive if the chair will merely state, "If there is no objection, we will adopt a motion to do such and such)" When no objection is heard, the chair states, "Since there is no objection, such and such a motion is adopted.". If someone objects, the chair cheerfully proceeds with the traditional "Six Steps." Our meetings in the future will start on time, 9 a.m., and last 2 hours or less. We hope you will come early, 8:30a.m. or earlier, register, pay your yearly dues (if you haven't already) and enjoy your neighbors with a cup of coffee and a donut. After the meeting you can stick around, ask any "one on one" questions with the officers and board members, meet new people and enjoy your neighbors.

We are still looking to add a second meeting each summer with this meeting perhaps having a guest speaker and being more of a social event. The second meeting would be held at one of the three resorts/ supper clubs on the chain, rotating each year, perhaps starting at 10a.m. until 2 p.m. with brats and hamburgers or maybe a "bring something to share" with the resort selling the liquid refreshments. We are looking for your ideas.

There is a lot more that could and should be done to help maintain and improve our Pike Lake Chain. All of these activities depend on volunteers and money. We encourage you to increase your involvement within the association. We need both your ideas and commitment.

Sincerely,

Eddie Wangenstein, Vice President PCLA

Board of Directors



Thank you to Jerry Peck, Betsey McKinney, and Bill Swenson whose terms were completed and to Bill for agreeing to serve another term. Ed Brunner and Howard Lehman were elected to serve on the board at the August 2011 general meeting.

Judy Barber: Judy was on the Iron River Lakes Association Board and has continued to serve on the PCLA board. She and her husband Chuck live in Duluth and have 6 children and 15 grandchildren. She is a retired cardiac technologist. She has been on Millicent since age 15 and says the cabin is her first love and favorite place in the world.

Ed Brunner: Ed's wife Linda has been on Buskey Bay her entire life and together both have been on the lake since their marriage in 1969. They have made Buskey Bay their permanent residence since July 2007. Since 1988, Ed served as judge on the circuit court and most recently on the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He retired September 6, 2011. Ed and Linda have two children and two grand children, who love their time on the lake. "The Pike Chain has been an important part of our life, as it has with so many lake residents, and we are committed to its preservation."

Howard Lehman: Howard's grandparents, the E. M. Cheever family, were one of the original settlers on the Pike Chain about 100 years ago. He and his wife Patty live on Buskey Bay on property his grandfather originally owned. Two sets of cousins own property next door. He's boated and fished on every lake of the Pike Chain. He credits the work of the lake association for making things better. He's pleased and honored to be a part of PCLA to do his share to keep the lakes pristine just like they were for his grandparents. Howard is on his "3rd career", restoring wooden speed boats. He was a former high school band teacher in Eau Claire, WI. Patty and he have 2 sons.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Committee members needed!!! Please consider volunteering to serve on a committee. It would be nice to have 7 or 8 members per committee. Thank you to all volunteers-your work is important!

Education and Communications Committee: Works to develop and implement educational approaches and programs to promote the goal of sustainable lake management. This year the committee will continue to work on the Lake Management Poster project. We will also work with other committees to promote educational activities that serve to achieve our sustainable management goal. *Members:* Bill Swenson (Chair), Howard Lehman, Sue Davis, Jeremy Bates. Contact Bill Swenson @ 715-394-4680.

Fisheries Committee: Established to improve the fishery resource while striving to control the abundance of rusty crayfish. This year the committee will work with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Manager, Scott Toshner, to gain understanding of the changes in the fishery resource identified by the WDNR survey. We will also work with property owners and others to identify management options which best serve to improve the fishery and promote sustainable management of the Pike Chain of Lakes. We will promote implementation of these options as part of future management. *Members:* Bill Swenson (Chair), Derek Ogle, Al Bochlar, Scott Boehler, Mike O'Conner, Howard Lehman. Contact Bill Swenson @ 715-394-4680.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee: Functions to coordinate volunteer monitoring and control of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Pike Chain of Lakes. Volunteers are needed to serve on the committee. Volunteer hours for monitoring and hand pulling Eurasian Water milfoil to match the State funds received in our 2009 invasive species grant. *Members:* Al Boehler (Chair), John Westman, JoAnn Bassett, Barb Boehler. See article on p. 1 for those who have volunteered time monitoring and hand pulling. Contact Al Boehler @ 715-682-6372.

Water Quality Committee: Functions to monitor water quality of the lakes in the Pike Chain to provide the long-term data required to define trends in water quality. *Members:* Jim Swenson (Chair), Jane Swenson, John Boehler, Martha Oie, Glenn Viggiano, Josh Teigen, David Onan, Lona Schmidt.

Audit Committee: Conducts independent audits in an effort to assure that the annual budget and financial statements are accurate and are prepared and disseminated appropriately. *Members:* Greg Ogren (Chair), Judy Barber, Tony Mullozzi. (audit committee members need to be non officer board members).

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

Fundraising: Ed Brunner (Chair), Howard Lehman, Eddie Wangenstein. Contact Ed Brunner @ 715-372-5878.

Adopt a Highway: Volunteers clean up a 3 mile section of Highway H from Buskey Bay Dr. to Twin Bear Park twice a year (spring and fall). Orange vests and bags are provided. Contact Julie and Jerry Peck at 715-372-6005 or gjpeck@cheqnet.net to be placed on a phone/email list to be notified of clean-up date.

Buskey Bay Boat Landings: Gather ideas and form a plan for the 2 boat landings that are used but not being regularly monitored. Eddie Wangenstein (Chair), Greg Ogren, Ed Brunner. Contact Eddie Wangenstein @ 651-308-7008.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) Program: Anyone interested in volunteering or attending a CBCW training contact Karen Austin at knb@cheqnet.net or 715-372-4838.

Lake Management Posters-Help Keep Them Working!

The Education Committee developed the Lake Management Posters with the objective of having the activities critical to sustainable lake management posted on the walls of most if not every Pike Chain residence and within appropriate regional public facilities. We felt this was the best way to promote sustainable lake management and the future quality of life on the Pike Chain. To date, 150 posters have been distributed for display in public facilities. All the resorts on the Pike Chain have them on display. Resorts on Deep Lake, Long Lake and Delta Lake also display them. During the PCLA Annual Meeting essentially everyone accepted a free framed poster and expressed how beautiful they were. At the end of the meeting when it was announced that those who wanted to take another poster to give to neighbors who could not attend, the remaining framed posters were gone in a flash.

So far, ninety Pike Chain residences have posters on display. To achieve our goal we would like to get posters displayed within 200 additional Pike Chain lake proper-

ties. We have an adequate supply of posters. However, we are asking individuals or groups who think this program is worthy of the effort, to help by making a special donation of money and time to purchase frames and to frame and distribute them to neighbors on their lake. At \$4.00 per frame and approximately 1 hour to frame and distribute each, the cost per poster is minimal. The education committee would provide help with the purchase, instructions on framing and a list of property owners who already have posters on each lake. We would ask individuals or groups willing to help to provide the resources for a minimum of 12 posters (\$48.00 and approximately 12 hrs). We hope many of you will help us keep the posters working to promote sustainable lake management. Individuals or groups willing to help, should contact Bill Swenson at 715- 394- 4680 (home), 715- 372 -5262 (lake) or by e-mail: bill_swenson303@yahoo.com. **Although many of you will not be around until next summer, let us know if you are willing to help when you return so we can organize efforts on each of the lakes.**

Submitted by: Bill Swenson

BUSKEY BAY BOAT LANDINGS—Take Action to Avoid Future Problems

The Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association Inc. was established as a tax exempt organization with sustainable management of the Pike Chain of Lakes as its primary goal. Cooperation between the State of Wisconsin, Bayfield County, the Towns and the Lake Association has resulted in development of a comprehensive management plan, 7 day a week boater education and inspections at the Twin Bear Park Boat Landing, an aggressive program to control Eurasian Water milfoil, and educational programs to promote sustainable lake management.

While much has been done, the small number of lake property owners who are actively volunteering their time have been reminded on several occasions that the two boat landings on Buskey Bay are being used and little is being done to address the potential for additional Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) entering the Pike Chain through these access points. Because one of these landings is owned by the Town of Iron River and the other is privately owned, the actions appropriate for each may be different. What if anything should be done and who is going to do it are questions that should be investigated. The problem is that the people who are already volunteering their time can not do more. We need to recruit the ideas and efforts of some of the hundreds of others who use and enjoy these lakes to help develop a plan for these landings. PCLA Vice President, Eddie Wangenstein has volunteered to head an ad-hoc group to address this issue. The group will gather ideas and develop a plan of action, hopefully prior to the 2012 boating season. We need some of you who not only enjoy the lakes but also care about them to work with Eddie. To contact Eddie, call 715-372-4406 (cabin) or 651-308-7008 (cell). You can email your ideas to him at eddiewanenstein@gmail.com. Hopefully, you will also be able to attend one or two meetings to develop a plan to address this issue. It is up to you to decide, should I wait and let someone else do it. What you decide may determine if Zebra Mussels or other AIS become established and impact the lakes and their value to you and future generations.



2011 CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAKE MANAGEMENT FORM

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Be a PCLA member- *annual* dues 2011@ \$15.00 _____

2011 donation to lake management (tax deductible) _____

\$1.00 per foot of frontage annually or other _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to: Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTIONS (check any areas of interest)

_____ EWM Survey and Control: Continuing _____ New _____

_____ Boat Landing Monitoring: Time _____ Special fund _____

_____ Water Quality Monitoring

_____ Purple Loosestrife Control

_____ Shoreline Restoration

_____ Fundraising and Social Activities

_____ Serve on PCLA Board

_____ Serve on PCLA Committee:

Aquatic Invasive Species _____ Education _____ Fisheries _____ Fundraising _____

Water Quality _____

Name _____

Lake _____

Home address/city/state/zip code _____

Lake address _____

Email address _____

_____ *yes* _____ *no* *I'd like to get my newsletter by email. (If yes, please be sure the email address listed above is legible-thank you).*

MAIL TO:

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Assoc.

P.O. Box 602

Iron River, WI 54847

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Highlights from the August 2011 General Meeting

75 members and 7 visitors gathered at the Iron River Community Center on August 6, 2011 for the general meeting. The doors opened at 8:30 a.m. for registration with the **business meeting starting promptly at 9 a.m.** as promised and adjourning at 10:20 a.m. Feedback was that the meeting was informative and run efficiently.

- Pre-meeting activities: hands on learning to identify EWM; Lake Management Posters; Clean Boat Clean Water Program with Karen Austin; "The Pike Chain Perspective" artwork by Sally Witz and of course, time to socialize with other members and property owners.
- Iron River tipster and vacation check programs- Scot Eisenhauer, Iron River Chief of Police
- Update on Aquatic Invasive Species, Fishery, and Water Clarity
- Lake Management Posters!!!
- Surprise visit by the mysterious Milfoil Man
- Time for questions/ideas from members

We hope you can join us for the PCLA General Meeting in 2012 (date will be in the spring newsletter). Your involvement and support are needed to continue to promote the sustainable management of the Pike Chain. If you're not already, please considering becoming a member.

Check it out-www.pikechain.org