



Sustaining the lakes for everyone.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL EXPANSION A GROWING CONCERN ON THE PIKE CHAIN

IRPCLA board members met with Wisconsin DNR staff and our consultants Onterra LLC to plan a strategy to deal with the **major expansion of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) on our Pike Lake Chain during the 2015 year.**

Board members Eddie Wangensteen, his wife Amy, Martha Oie, Jay Johnson and Al Bochler met in Spooner on 10-15-2015 with Pamela Toshner, Water Resources Management Specialist for the North West District and via conference call also with Scott J. Van Egeren, water resources management specialist Madison, WI and Scott Provost, water resources management specialist Wisconsin Rapids. Our consultant Onterra chaired the meeting.

Until early Spring 2015, we had been gaining on the areas infested with EWM. However, with the early spring in 2015 we are now seeing our previous years gains lost. Our past spot treatments have slowed the spread to new areas but hasn't worked to prevent the spread into our entire Chain.

Our group felt the DNR was very responsive to the present EWM crisis on the Pike Chain. We are unable to meet this challenge without financial assistance from the DNR. Re-

quests for DNR funds are very competitive. They recommend applying for an entire lake treatment approach as the best way to deal with our current situation and is the best prospect to receive funding. Hart and Millicent are the two lakes with the major spreading making them candidates for this treatment approach. We will be working with the DNR staff and our consultants to complete a grant application for an entire lake treatment for the 2-1-2016 deadline.

Hand pulling is recommended as an approach to slowing the spread. Individuals with plants in front of their property are encouraged to hand pull. We will be available to assist with identification of the EWM and how to hand pull.

We are able to keep the channels open for navigation as shown in the channel between Twin Bear and Hart Lake. This is positive but we have higher goals for our lake chain. The PCLA board and the EWM committee John Westman, JoAnn Bassett, Barb Bochler and Al Bochler will keep you informed as we proceed on this process.

The Fall 2015 EWM survey for each lake is on our web-site:
www.pikechain.org

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2 NEW DIRECTORS JOIN THE BOARD: Jay Johnson and Joe Rapacz

Jay Johnson (Twin Bear) retired from Enbridge Pipelines after 31 years where he was Manager of US Pipeline Compliance. He is married to Margie, daughter of Jim and Donna Puig who ran the Twin Bear campground for years. Margie's family has been part of the Chain for years. Her grandfather had one of the original cabins on Lake Millicent. They have 3 children: daughter Codi married with 1.75 children in Milwaukee, Luke who's also in Milwaukee and Tori who's in her second year at UW Madison and is your summer bartender at Pine Point.

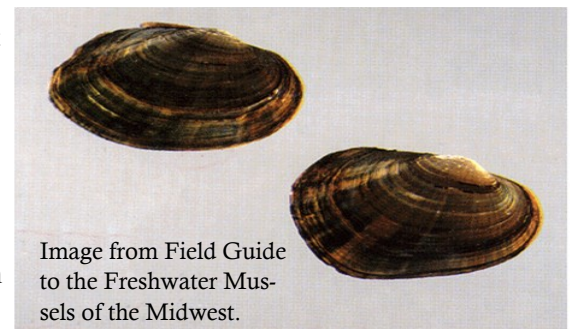
Joe Rapacz (Flynn Lake) is originally from Minneapolis. He began spending weekends and summers on the Pike Chain in 1982. Upon retiring from teaching in Eau Claire he moved here in 2012. He now works part-time at the Iron River Coop Hardware Hank.

thank
You

- Ed Brunner and Jim Swenson for your dedicated work and service with PCLA. This summer Ed and Jim resigned from their second term on the Board of Directors.
- Al Bochler-President, Greg Ogren and Debb Sharbonno who were re-elected to serve on the board for another term. Al and Greg have completed their second 3 year term and Debb her first.
- Pine Point Lodge for providing a venue for the presentation by Scott Toschner, WI DNR Fisheries Biologist, who spoke on the fishery on the Pike Chain in August.

FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT WISCONSIN NATIVE FRESHWATER MUSSELS

- They are part of a larger group of aquatic animals called BIVALVES because of their 2 external shells and can live for 20 years or more.
- They need a host species, usually a fish, to complete their lifecycle, whereas clams don't. There are 30 species of clams and about 50 species of native freshwater mussels in Wisconsin.
- They play a vital role in the aquatic ecosystem in keeping water clean by serving as a fresh water filter. A SINGLE MUSSEL CAN FILTER UP TO SEVERAL GALLONS OF WATER EACH DAY!
- They serve as food for animals such as fish, ducks, raccoons, otters.
- There has been a decline in mussels in the 20th century because of habitat alteration, overharvesting, and the presence of invasive zebra mussels. Over half of Wisconsin native mussel species have been identified as species in need of conservation.
- You can't collect live shells but you can gently pick them up, check them out and then gently place them back on the bottom. According to Andrew Teal, Bayfield County Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, you can collect empty shells in the Pike Chain.
- Remember, zebra mussels are invasive and harmful to native mussels and aquatic ecosystems.



For more information go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/news/features/feature.asp?id=2&article=9>



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www.pikechain.org

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While every effort was made to acknowledge everyone, some names may have been missed accidentally. If you donated in 2014 and your name wasn't listed, please contact Kristen Sandager at sandagk@yahoo.com or call 715-559-8622 and your name will be in our next newsletter.

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 602
Iron River, WI 54847



THANK YOU members, donors, volunteers and ALL who care and work to protect our beautiful Pike Chain of Lakes. There is still time to make your 2015 tax deductible contribution to lake management and pay your 2015 membership dues. Just complete the form below.

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