
December 2021



NEWSLETTER

Hello PCLA members,

It's another beautiful fall day as I write this. I can't help but believe this may have been the best summer and fall I can remember. Granted I'm one who likes the heat, and yes, we do have the luxury of air conditioning in our house. After 2020 I think we all deserved 3 plus months of great weather to spend on the water doing whatever activity your family enjoys. It should be noted also that 2021 has brought many new families/property owners to the Pike Chain!

In 2021 the PCLA was required to complete a new Lakes Management Plan. One of the items required for this was the survey most of you received. With the help of our consultant, Onterra and the committee members we were able to get it approved. We were also able to get the necessary paperwork filed so we have the opportunity for additional grants. To date we've received \$340,566.55 in grant money from the WI DNR to help with our fight against invasive species largely in part to the efforts of Al Bochler.

We are also working on a new fisheries plan as part of the Lakes Management Plan as we are finally out of the study we've participated in for the last 11 years as of this fall. This too has a committee of volunteers who make the time to help keep our lakes outstanding. There is a bit of a hiccup with this as the DNR The fisheries individual assigned to our area has taken a transfer and it could be up to a year before the DNR fills the position. In the meantime, the outgoing specialist Zach Lawson has agreed to help us as much as he is able. We are hearing that the DNR may be stocking the lakes this fall with 10,000 walleye fingerlings.

We continue to have a very active Boat Landing Inspection Program thanks in part to Karen Austin. The PCLA Board voted to approve funding the last portion of this year's inspections so they could continue manning several boat landings through October. It should be noted that this program is largely responsible for keeping Eurasian Milfoil from spreading to any of the lakes in our surrounding area.

I hope everyone has a great Holiday season and an enjoyable winter.

Jay A Johnson
President Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association Board of Directors

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Al Bochler, Past President

Meet Our New Board Members Barb Beeksma and Kristina Sorensen

Kristina is a native Floridian who has lived in Georgia for the last 15 years. She has worked as a professional wildlife biologist for 21 years in the Southeast US. She spent her career working for the U.S Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources before starting her own biological consulting company in 2011, with a focus of helping landowners protect and manage their property. Although a native southerner, she and her husband have been coming to the Pike Chain for the last ten years visiting family. They loved it so much that they purchased a cabin on the chain in 2019 and have been spending the summers in Iron River ever since. She enjoys the great outdoors, traveling, and spending time with her dogs. She is very active in the Trails North ATV Club and is looking forward to getting more involved with this community that she considers her new second home. She appreciates all the work the PCLA has done to manage the lakes and their biological resources and can't wait to play a more active role in the organization!



Barb is honored to be one of the newly elected PCLA Board Members. Barb and her husband live in Ashland. They have 2 two adult plus grandchildren. Barb has worked as an LPN mostly in clinical and outpatient settings for over 30 years. She has also been the Ashland County Coroner for over 20 years and became D-AMBDI certified in death investigation and enjoy this work very much. She is also an instructor in the "The Medical Assistant Program" at Northwood Technical College. Barb says, "I grew up on the Pike Chain since the 1970's in the channel between Hart and Twin Bear. When our parents sold the family cabin we searched for many years to have our own place and to get back to my "Happy Place" where so many great memories have and will continue to be made."



Thanks to Howard Lehman (10 years) and Deb Sharbonno (9 years) for serving on the Board of Directors!



<https://facebook.com/PikeChainOfLakes>



www.pikechain.org

December 2021

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE LISTED HERE FOR THEIR
2020 CONTRIBUTIONS (2021 contributions will be in the next newsletter)**

Jassim & Margaret Al Kuwa
John & Susan Angster
Laurence & Robin Baker
William & Cynthia Barker
Chris & Sandy Beeksma
Janice Belanger
James & Julie Bender
Robert and Thurza Bender
Christopher & Lisa Berg
Scott & Ann Bochler
Michael & Amy Bochler
Alvin & Barb Bochler
John Bochler
Lawrence & Karen Bowman
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John & Mary Mahan
Mark & Shlley Manion
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JR McConnell
Betsey McKinney
Susan McLennan
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Gale & Julie Mellum
Brent & Lisa Mellum
Tom & Paula Millar
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Kim & Derek Ogle
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Don & Barbara Olson
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Janet Schaller
John & Nancy Schaus
Robert & Jeanne Sederberg
June Sellung
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Don & Barbara Vlasaty
Edwin & Amy Wangensteen
Doug & Peg Wangensteen
Sam & Jaime Wentzel
John & Bonnie Westman
Ronald Gloe &
Susan Wheeler-Gloe
Arnie Whitman & Terri Lundberg
Sally Witz
Dan Zak
Brian & Chris Zavaglia
Kenneth & Ann Zivic

Note: If you donated in 2020 and your name wasn't listed, please contact Tom Sandager at TSandager@yahoo.com or call/text 715-214-8808 and your name will be listed in a future newsletter.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

New lakes management plan approved by the Wis DNR October 2021! See it online at www.pikechain.org. Be sure to visit our website at: <http://pikechain.org/> for lots of information including the new lakes management plan, fishing and other things.

Fall 2021 Invasive Species Committee Report

Hand pulling by volunteers was our main project this Summer, with plans for major work in 2022 tied to a DNR Invasive Species Grant which has been submitted and accepted. Now we wait for the scoring process to learn if we have a score that results in funding. Our board and consultants Onterra made every effort to improve our score with research projects tied to the application. We will be needing considerable volunteer assistants in 2022 to complete the project.

Our Association has been working on control of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) since it was found in 2004 by one of the volunteer boat education and inspection staff. The management efforts have evolved over the years and we remain optimistic that we can control it to keep our navigation channels open and hold the density at an acceptable level.

Thank you all for your past and future support. Your generosity is both needed and much appreciated.
Barb Bochler JoAnn Bassett John Westman Fred and Carol Petroske Eddie Wangensteen Jay Johnson and Al Bochler

ATTENTION PEOPLE WHO FISH, PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!! The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is conducting an angler survey to gauge public interest in the Pike Chain of Lakes fishery. Results from this survey will help us understand what opportunities anglers would like to see the resource provide, which will serve as the foundation for developing objectives for each species as a part of a comprehensive fisheries management plan. Ultimately, your input here will help guide and support future management efforts such as stocking, fishing regulations, and habitat work on the Pike Chain of Lakes. Here's the link: [Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Fisheries Survey \(Use Google Chrome to look at this link\)](#). [If you're reading this newsletter in paper form](#), you can go to the IRPCLA website at pikechain.org to access this link.

Please let us know **if you have moved or updated your email address or other contact information**. Email changes to TSandager@yahoo.com or text 715-214-8808.

Pillars on Pine Lake Road fence restoration project. Some volunteers are working to replace the white fence and posts that have welcomed us at Highway H and Pine Lake Road for over 100 Years. The pillars have been an important landmark that many of us can identify with. If interested in helping out please mail a check to Sharon Coffey, 65905 Hart Lake Road, Iron River WI 54847 or drop off your donation with Amy Wangensteen at 10235 Pine Lake Road. Note: This is not an official IRPCLA project but many of us feel it's a good cause worth supporting. No IRPCLA funds are being used for this.

Are you concerned about shoreline erosion? Shoreline erosion can be a problem and contribute to more debris causing decreased water clarity. See the website [Wis DNR: CAUSES OF LAKESHORE AND STREAMBANK EROSION](#) for a good discussion of the problem. Although keeping deep rooted plants is the first line of defense, that doesn't work in all instances. Rocks can also be used but should be placed in a specific manner to be most effective. If you want to look into that further check out [Wis DNR: 2017 Chapter 30 Rip rap exemption \(from needing a permit\) information](#).

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Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

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Membership & Lake Management Donation Form

All information is confidential and used only by PCLA. Thank you for printing clearly.

Type of Membership: (circle one) New Renewal
(circle one) Household* Individual** Business** Trust**

Name(s) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Lake address (if different from mailing address) _____

Lake Name _____ Email address _____

If a business membership, would you like your business listed on our website (circle one): yes no

*Two votes per membership ** One vote per membership

Please list voter's name(s) _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

PCLA Board Member

PCLA Committee (please circle)

 Aquatic invasive species

 Education and communications

 Fishery

 Water quality

 Fundraising/Membership

Road-side clean-up "Adopt-a-Highway"

Other (please specify)

**Please make checks payable to
Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association and
mail form and check to:**

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association
Attention: Treasurer
PO Box 602
Iron River, WI 54847

• Annual Membership Dues	\$20.00
• Annual Donation for lake management <i>Tax Deductible</i> (Suggested donation \$1.00 per front foot. But any amount is greatly appreciated!)	_____
TOTAL (Thank you!)	_____

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



Happy Holidays

Our sincere thanks for your continued support and commitment in preserving our beautiful chain of lakes. We look forward to another great year working together. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season!

PCLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS