



# NEWSLETTER

## THE WHITE ELEPHANT

The splendor and beauty of the Pike Lake Chain and area has been enjoyed by people for well over a century. The charm of hunting and fishing for visitors to the area was popular at the turn of the 20th century. One of the well known landmarks on the Chain is known as the White Elephant. White elephant by definition means “a property requiring much care and expense and yielding little or no profit, also, an object no longer of value to its owner but of value to others (aesthetically).

The White Elephant fits this definition and here’s why. The property was acquired by W.B. Clubine, the General Manager of the Iron River Lumber Company. The company was owned by Hines Lumber and Clubine was married to the sister of the owner. The property at the time was 2000 acres on and adjacent to Twin Bear Lake. His intent was for farming, specifically potatoes. He named the farm “Twin Bear Farms” and he started the farming in 1910. Clubine planted and cultivated 40 acres of potatoes and his plan to get them to market included the construction of a “potato warehouse” along the Duluth South Shore and Atlantic Railroad between Twin Bear and Hart Lakes. This warehouse stands today on the North side of Teepee Trail.

Clubine invested an unknown amount of money in his plans to expand to having an apple orchard, dairy cows, hogs, goats and sheep. A series of failures in his crops and livestock led to his abandoning the property and buildings in 1918 and then moving to Park Falls still with the Hines Lumber Company. The property and buildings reverted to the county for back taxes. The remains of the pig and dairy farm is on the southwest corner of Twin Bear Lake. The actual barn was taken down in the late 60’s.

This really makes a long story short but captures the essence of big dreams and plans turning to unforeseen obstacles and failures for a man with a super confident nature.

By: Jim Bender

## SAVE THE DATE

► **INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE SUMMER 2017 LAKE TREATMENT PLAN**

Saturday, May 13, 2017  
(check PCLA website closer to the date for more information).

► **PCLA ANNUAL MEETING:**

Saturday, August 5, 2017 @ 9 a.m. at the IR Community Center

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Al Bochler, President  
Eddie Wangenstein, Vice President  
John Coffey, Treasurer  
Kristen Sandager, Secretary  
John Joseph, Past President/website

Debb Sharbonno  
Greg Ogren  
Howard Lehman

Kari Wangenstein  
Jay Johnson  
Joe Rapacz  
Josh Teigen

## EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL CONTROL PROJECT UPDATE-Fall 2016

By: Eddie Heath & Tim Hoyman, Onterra, LLC.

First documented in 2004 within the Twin Bear-Hart Lake channel, Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) has since spread to all six of the Pike Chain of Lakes. The Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association (IRPCLA) and partners have engaged in an aggressive battle against EWM during this period, through direct control with spatially targeted herbicide spot treatments and hand-removal. Although annual (seasonal) success may have been gained, the herbicide treatment strategy has not been effective at keeping the EWM population from increasing within the Chain.

During the winter of 2015/2016, Onterra proposed a different form of herbicide treatment for the Pike Chain of Lakes – a whole-lake treatment. This would include herbicide being applied to the target EWM colonies, but with the goal of the herbicide reaching a low target concentration when it equally distributes throughout the entire mixing volume of the respective lake. In the past, IRPCLA utilized spot treatments with target concentrations between 3.0 and 4.0 ppm 2,4-D. The whole lake treatment concentration, as mentioned above, would be very low at 0.3 ppm 2,4-D. Data suggest that the herbicide will mix evenly within the entire lake, reaching an equilibrium concentration as early as two days after treatment with the herbicide reducing over time as it becomes degraded by microbial activity. Although variable, the herbicide breakdown typically takes 21-35 days to be below detection limits.

In general, whole-lake treatments have become more favorable by lake managers as they impact the entire EWM population all at once. This minimizes the need for repeatedly exposing the lake to annual herbicide applications. Predicting success (EWM control) and native plant impacts from whole-lake treatments is also better understood than for spot treatments. Some native plants are quite resilient to this herbicide use pattern, whereas others can be impacted and take a number of years to recover. Whole-lake treatments have financial costs, as well as can have potential secondary impacts to the lake. Therefore, whole-lake EWM treatments are typically postponed until the population exceeds approximately 10-15% in order to balance these factors.

Figure 1 shows a subset of whole-lake 2,4-D treatments that have targeted EWM for control. If target herbicide concentrations are met, the EWM population is often greatly impacted the year of the treatment and low EWM levels are maintained for 4-5 years following the control action. Many lake groups initiate a whole-lake herbicide strategy with the intention of implementing smaller-scale control measures (herbicide spot treatments, hand removal) when EWM begins rebounding. Occasionally, the EWM rebounds in a fashion that does not lend well to these methods and the lake groups then tolerate the EWM until it again exceeds 10-15% littoral frequency of occurrence (or other predefined threshold) to trigger another whole-lake treatment. (continued on page 3).

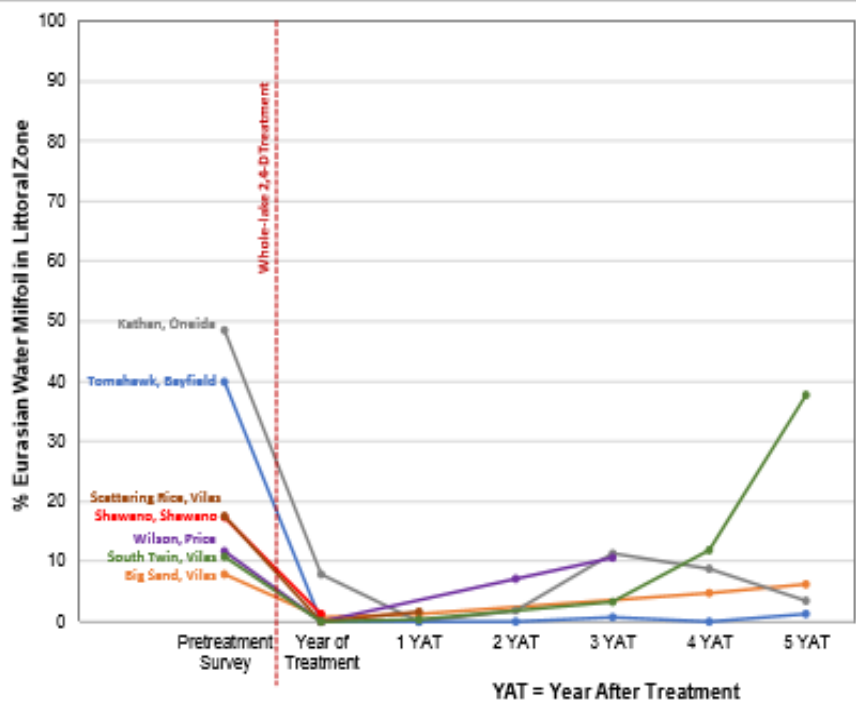


Figure 1. Whole-lake 2,4-D treatment results. Data from Onterra and WDNR point-intercept surveys.

(Continued from page 2-Eurasian Water Milfoil Control Project Update)

During the spring of 2016, the IRPCLA secured Wisconsin DNR (WDNR) grant funding to address the growing EWM population within the chain and further investigate the potential of a whole-lake herbicide treatment strategy. The project started with point-intercept surveys being conducted on all the lakes this past summer. Figure 2 shows the percent of the littoral zone of each of the lakes that contains EWM based upon these surveys. As previously discussed, whole-lake treatments are often implemented when EWM populations exceed 10-15% of the littoral zone. These data suggest that the EWM population may be approaching levels on some of the lakes where a whole-lake herbicide treatment may be considered.

Additional planning steps are required to implement a whole-lake treatment. This includes an accurate survey of the lake's depth contours (bathymetry) and water exchange patterns (vertical mixing and horizontal flow patterns). An acoustic survey of the chain will occur this fall to develop a new bathymetric model of the system. On the Pike Chain of Lakes, water flows from one lake into another; compounding the difficulty of determining the appropriate amount of herbicide to apply to each lake. Continued investigation into this aspect will occur to understand if it is appropriate to target multiple lakes at a time or if the control project will need to span multiple years with a single lake being treated each year.

The overarching goal is to control EWM within the Pike Chain of Lakes in order to keep the exotic plant from impacting the ecology of this unique waterbody. While there are definite ecological risks in allowing EWM to continue to spread and increase in density; there are also ecological risks to consider when implementing an herbicide control strategy. Careful planning is critical in reducing the risks associated with herbicide use.

As mentioned above, the IRPCLA has received state funding for continued monitoring and control actions on the Pike Chain of Lakes. The grant provides an approximately 75% cost-share with the remaining 25% coming from the association in the form of cash and volunteer in-kind time; therefore, everyone's contribution is very important in the success of the project and in the protection of the Pike Chain of Lakes.



**DASH unit on Eagle Lake  
Summer 2016**

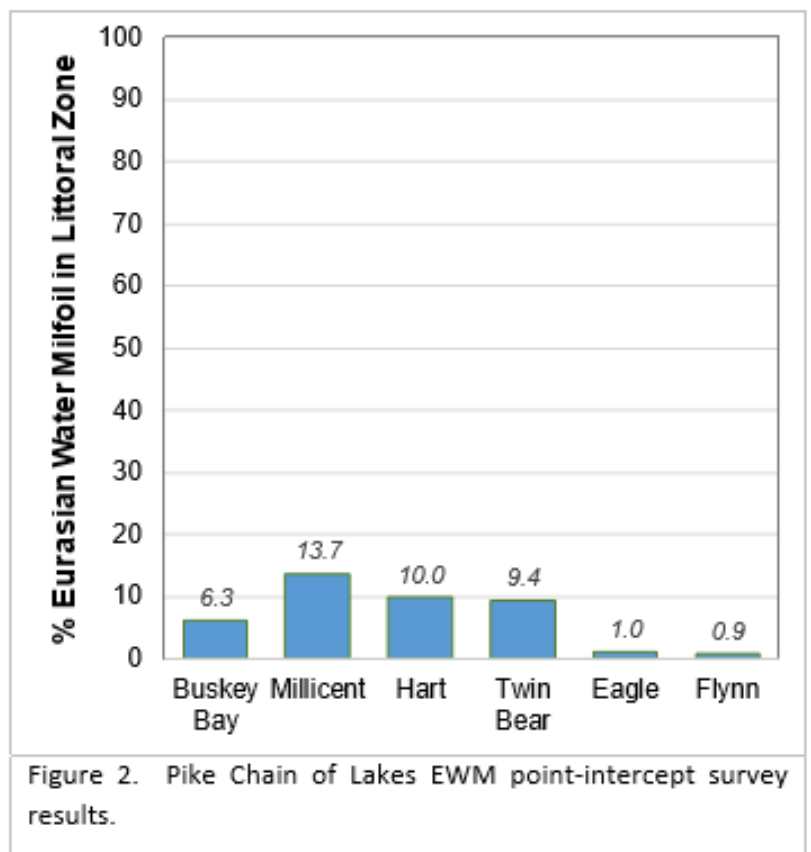


Figure 2. Pike Chain of Lakes EWM point-intercept survey results.



## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

An enthusiastic group of 14 members of the Pike Chain of Lakes Association cleaned up 3 miles of Highway H on Saturday, June 18th as part of the Adopt a Highway program. Five bags of litter, a wrench, and a small unidentified critter skull were collected. With such a good team the job was completed in about an hour.

Those that were part of the team included: Jason, Linda and Ed Brunner, Susie and Glenn Viggiano, John and Jeanne Joseph, Clayton McKinney, Buck and Dorothy Black, Mary Podlesney, Jack Brickson and Julie and Jerry Peck. Bob and Bertie Ruef also maintain a section of Highway H.



## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) UPDATE

Our AIS Committee and IRPCLA Board have worked with our consultants Onterra and the Wisconsin DNR to implement the three year DNR grant of \$119,597.25. The grant is a whole lake treatment at a lower level .3 parts per million than spot treatments which were at 4 parts per million. The 2,4-d will only mix with the water column above the thermal which is about 16 feet at this time of the year. From an environmental stand point this lower level is a positive.

We had about 100 members at our annual meeting in August which included a presentation from Onterra with considerable information in scientific detail on the effects to our lakes. Much of

this information is contained in an overview which John Joseph has included in our web site [www.pikechain.org](http://www.pikechain.org) See separate EWM update p. 2 & 3.

Our grant was based on our needs and research on whole lake treatments in a very high water quality lake. The chemical 2,4-D is broken down by microbial activity which will be at a lower rate than a typical Wisconsin lake. Based on the need for a cautious approach, we are looking at treating two of our four whole lake treatment lakes each of the next two years. The two lakes that meet the 10% guidelines set up by the DNR are Millicent and Hart lake. It is projected they will be

treated in 2017 with Buskey Bay and Twin Bear being treated in 2018. Dash hand pulling is set up on Eagle lake for a three year period. We are dependent on a DNR permit as part of our treatments which is considered as part of our over-all approach.

We do need volunteer hours to meet the terms of our grant. Please anyone who spent time monitoring the EWM or hand pulling EWM on our Chain provide hours. Forms are on our web page and can be mailed to our Post Office Box 602, Iron River, WI 54847. Barb Boehler, JoAnn Bassett, John Westman, Al Boehler-Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

### NEW LAUNCH FEE AT THE TOWN LANDING ON BUSKEY BAY TO HELP FIGHT AIS

In order for PCLA to receive the DNR grant to help control the spread of AIS, the Town of Iron River has issued a launch fee at the Town Landing in Buskey Bay. 100% of the fees collected will go to help control the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species on the Chain. Also, next spring PCLA will be educating boaters about AIS with signage, the installation of a cleaning station and "The Bucket Brigade", which is an area with buckets for the fisherman to "borrow" and put weeds in that hook while fishing.



## 2 NEW DIRECTORS JOIN THE BOARD: John Coffey and Josh Teigen

**Josh Teigen** (Iron River) has lived on Hart Lake for 22 years with his parents (Gary and Sandy Teigen). Josh now lives in Iron River but spends his summers and winters guiding/fishing on the Pike Lake Chain. Josh is a USCG Captain and makes his living guiding people on Lake Superior and the inland lakes all over NW Wisconsin.

**John Coffey** (Hart Lake) has been employed as Chief Pilot for C.G. Bretting Mfg. Co., Inc. for more than twenty years. Previous to his flying career John was an owner-partner of Tuttle's Accounting, Ashland, WI. John has had a love of the Pike Chain since high school years where he started camping at Twin Bear Campground. John and his wife Sharon have been property owners on the Pike Chain of Lakes since 1992, first on Twin Bear Lake until 2005 followed by their move to the north end of Hart Lake where they currently reside year round. John enjoys many activities on the lakes including kayaking, boating, water skiing and seaplane flying. John and Sharon Coffey have one daughter, Carrie Ann who works and resides in the Madison area who also shares an affection with the Pike Lake Chain.

Eddie Wangensteen, Vice President and Kristen Sandager, Secretary have agreed to serve on the board for another term. They were re-appointed at the fall 2016 board of director's meeting. Eddie and Kristen each just completed their second 3 year term.

**THANK YOU** Jay Kernan for serving as our treasurer for several years. This summer Jay resigned from his position.

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- **Thank you ROBERT & MARGERT JENSEN and ANN & ERIC BLOOMQUIST for your 2015 contributions to Lake Management that were missed in our Spring Newsletter.**
  - **Thank you Pine Point Lodge for hosting an After the Annual Lake's Association Meeting Party. They provided food, music and games as well as raised funds for our Lakes Association's efforts.**
  - **Please continue to contact new neighbors on the Chain and encourage them to join PCLA, donate to lake management and become involved.**
  - **If you are receiving duplicates of the newsletter or know of someone who isn't receiving it, please contact Kristen Sandager at 715-559-8633/sandagk@yahoo.com.**
  - **There is still time to make your annual contribution to lake management for 2016.**

**Dave Miller and Amy Wangensteen (not pictured) taking out the buoys for the year on a beautiful fall day. Thank you Dave and Amy!**



# PCLA MEMBERSHIP & LAKE MANAGEMENT CONTRIBUTION

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

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

Permanent mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred mailing method for FALL newsletter (please circle)    email    mail

PCLA bylaws allows a household to be member. There is a maximum of 2 voting members per household and they are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Name )

2. \_\_\_\_\_ ( Name )

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PCLA Board Member

PCLA Committee ( Please circle )

Eurasian Water Milfoil Monitoring & Hand pulling

Aquatic Invasive Species

Education/Communications

Water Quality Monitoring

Fishery

Water Quality

Purple Loosestrife Control

Fundraising /membership

Fundraising/Social Activities

Road Side Clean Up- "Adopt-a-Highway"

**Please make checks payable to Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Assoc.. Mail your completed form and check to:**

Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association

Attention: Treasurer

P.O. Box 602

Iron River, WI 54847

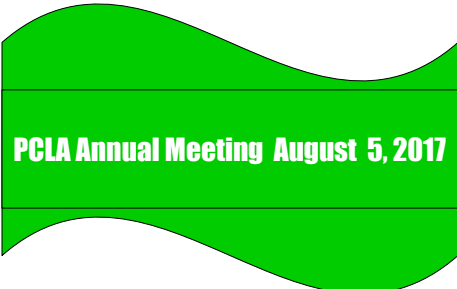
• **2016 Annual Membership Dues** **\$20.00**  
**(TAX DEDUCTIBLE)**

• **Annual TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation for 2016**  
**to lake management (Suggested donation**  
**\$1.00 per front foot or other amount)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU!**

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



**Together we can work to help protect our beautiful Pike Chain of Lakes.  
Thank you for all you do!  
From the Board of Director's of the Iron River Pike Chain of Lakes Association.**



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[www.pikechain.org](http://www.pikechain.org)