

# The Shoreline

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

June/July 2024

## From the President...

Greetings,

Summer is upon us and the sprint to enjoy as much of it as we can has begun. With that in mind, there will be a lot of activity on and around the lake. Please keep safety and consideration in mind. Doing so will ensure we can all enjoy the lake to its fullest and come out the other end of summer without incidents.

Looking ahead, we have many things planned. Please note these in the "Mark Your 2024 Calendar" section on this page. We hope to see as many of you as possible at these events.

I'd like to draw your attention to the Fall Dinner & Business Meeting being held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be returning to The Bridge Tavern north of Crosby again this year. Last year the food was incredible, and we are looking forward to it again. We also hold our annual meeting at this time. It's where we provide an update on what we have been doing, and hold the election for officers and board members. We're hoping to see a good turnout this year.

We're also in the process of looking at options for the channel between Portage and Hanks. As of this writing we are in the early planning stages of scheduling a meeting with lake residents to share what we know.

We know the channel has been a frustration for many over the years. We hope to clarify what we can and can't do, as well as challenges and the costs that come with doing what we can do.

Watch for an email, our website and PCLIA.com for news about this meeting.

Hope to see you on the water!

Scott Maghan  
President

### Official Ice Out Date for Our Chain of Lakes



**March 15, 2024**

(Earliest date on record since 1978)

And then came more snow...



### MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR



#### **Summer Picnic & Get Together**

*Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 p.m.*

Larson Residence 14265 Maghan Lane

Details in this newsletter

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Fun Event**

*Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> 10:00 a.m.*

Details in this newsletter

#### **Pontoon & Boat Parade**

*Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.*

Details in this newsletter

#### **Fall Dinner & Business Meeting**

*Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m.*

Details in August newsletter

\*All scheduled events are subject to change.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

	Beginning Balance 1/1/2024	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 4/28/2024	
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$4,400.78	\$2,632.75	\$867.00	\$6,166.53	<p>*The <b>Healthy Lakes/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund</b> contains money specifically donated for monitoring and taking corrective steps to protect the quality of our lakes.</p> <p>*The <b>Fish Stocking Fund</b> contains money specifically donated toward the stocking of fish according to DNR guidelines.</p> <p>*The <b>General Fund</b> contains funds not specifically designated for Healthy Lakes, AIS, or Fish Stocking.</p>
Fish Stocking Fund*	\$6,353.25	\$1,291.18	\$4,600.00	\$3,044.43	
General Fund*	\$43,788.35	\$4,282.20	\$575.14	\$47,495.41	
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$54,542.38</b>	<b>\$8,206.13</b>	<b>\$6,042.14</b>	<b>\$56,706.37</b>	

## A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you to our PCLIA members, donors, and fund raisers. The funds received in 2023 were greater than our expenses. That is great news! We have been operating with a deficit the past few years, depleting our fund balances.

The cost to fight invasive species is significantly higher than what we collect annually in dues alone. Thanks to many generous donations from you, the clothing fundraiser offered through Sota Clothing, our Silent Auction, and acquiring grants, we have given a badly needed boost to our fund balances. Thank you to all who donated their time, auction items, bought Sota Clothing or offered financial support.

Fighting invasive species is an expensive battle, and we hope to be able to continue funding this very worthy project. The costs vary from year to year depending on the areas requiring treatment. Thank you for what you have already provided and please know that the battle isn't over. Your continued donations will enable the PCLIA to continue striving to keep our lakes healthy.

*-Submitted by Diane Lund*

**Livin' & Lovin' The Crooked Life**

### Membership

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their 2024 membership form and dues.  
We appreciate your commitment to the lake association.

#### Some Interesting Membership Stats

- Total number of properties identified on the chain of lakes: 316
- Number of paid memberships in 2023: 190 or 60%
- Number of paid memberships in 2024 to date: 190 or 60%
- Number of people who are either new or have rejoined from 2022 or earlier: 22
- Number of members in 2023 who have not submitted their membership in 2024 to date: 27

\*Numbers at the time of this publication

## PCLIA Board of Directors

### President

Scott Maghan

### Vice President

Andy Larson

### Treasurer

Diane Lund

### Secretary

Joy Larson

### Past President

Kris Picken

### Directors

Lynn Bremer

Kari Bunkers

Dean Forchas

Tim Kensok

Christine Lasley

Chuck Lund

Tom Kaufhold

Julie Maghan

Mike Stuber

Sue Weber

### Board Meetings

Held at Bay Lake Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

September 28<sup>th</sup>



\* Scheduled meetings are subject to change.  
Meetings are open to the public.

## LAKE COMMUNICATION



### PCLIA WEBSITE

This is a great resource for accessing information about our chain of lakes. It provides a wide range of topics including: facts about our lakes, water quality, AIS education, boating tips, photos, video lake cruises, social events and much more.

You can find us at [pclia.com](http://pclia.com). Check it out!

### PCLIA FACEBOOK

The PCLIA has a Facebook page for members to join and receive information on the association and its activities.

Search *PCLIA of MN* on your Facebook home page, and you should be directed to the page where you can join the group.

### PCLIA EMAIL

Our board of directors welcomes all of your suggestions, comments and questions. Please contact us at

[info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com)



## *Fall Dinner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction!* *Seeking Donations*

As part of the efforts to fund our fight against aquatic invasive species and strengthen our reserve funds, we are once again planning a silent auction to be held at the PCLIA Fall Dinner on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. We are in the process of contacting local businesses for contributions.

We also have some donations from PCLIA members and are **looking for more!** If you, or a business you are associated with, would consider donating please contact us at [info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com). Donations could include merchandise or services. Suggestions include: gift baskets, hosting a dinner and/or cruise, sporting or other event tickets, or any other creative idea you may have. We are looking for items with a value of at least \$50. Your generosity is appreciated. Donations could be tax deductible as a business expense or a personal charitable contribution.

Look for more information in the August Shoreline newsletter.

-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold

# The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association (PCLIA) may contract to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Species in the Crooked, Sugar Bay, Hanks and Portage chain of lakes in 2024. This is dependent on an evaluation of the need.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted the PCLIA a waiver requiring that the association obtain the signatures for approval of lake-shore property owners. Instead, the PCLIA will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This newsletter notice is one form that the PLIA is using to notify property owners. Other forms include, but not limited to, notification through the association's web page, member newsletter and annual meeting.

The proposed dates for treatment is June 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. Eurasian Water Milfoil is the target species for the treatment.

The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides. Such as but not limited to Liquid 2,4-D, Granular 2,4-D, Granular Tri Clopyr, Florpyrauxifen-Benzyl.

Landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property. If you desire that the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association immediately at the following address and email address below:

PO Box 564  
Deerwood, MN 56444  
[info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com)

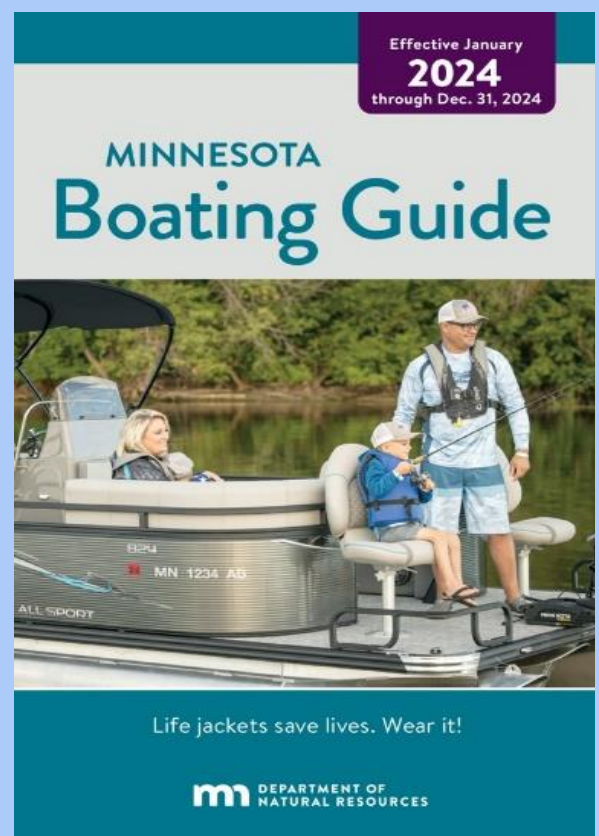
## The Boats on the Water...What to Remember

Each year we anxiously wait for the ice to go out so we can, once again, get our boats back on the water. Here are three good things to check before you splash your boat this spring:

- 1) License and registration. Because these are good for 3 years it's easy to forget to check if they have expired. They expire December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year shown on the sticker. License numbers and stickers have also been known to rub or peel off so it's a good time to check the conditions of those.
- 2) Life jackets. Torn fabric or missing straps can hamper the function and even disqualify a jacket from the required counts set by the DNR. Spring is a great time to give them a quick check over.
- 3) Finally, don't forget to check your fire extinguisher. Fire extinguishers typically have a gauge to show if they are full or need a recharge.

*-Submitted by Dean Forchas*

For an updated list of boating regulations in Minnesota visit:





## Summer Picnic & Get Together



The summer picnic is **Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**, beginning at 12 noon. It will be held at the Larson's on Sugar Bay (14265 Maghan Lane). We will provide beverages and be serving brats and hotdogs with all the trimmings. Please bring a lawn chair.

We hope you and your families can attend and ask that you RSVP to [andylarson1959@hotmail.com](mailto:andylarson1959@hotmail.com) as soon as possible and let us know how many will be attending. An RSVP isn't essential, but it does help us with planning. Last year we had a great turnout; we look forward to seeing you there.

# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July



# Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July

### PONTOON & BOAT PARADE

### 4th ANNUAL FAMILY FUN EVENT



The annual Portage-Crooked Lake Boat Parade has been scheduled for **Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.**

Mark your calendars, and start thinking about your boat's theme now!

- Meet at the island by 2:45 p.m.
- Register, get your number
- Place your number on the starboard side of the bow so the judges can read it.
- If you have your number from last year, bring it to the island when you register
- Lead boat will begin the parade at 3 p.m.
- Parade route will be the same as last year – Main part of Crooked, Sugar Bay & Hanks Lake
- Three prizes of \$50 each, plus a traveling trophy will be awarded
- Email blast will go out in the event of bad weather.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Fun event will be held on **Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>** at the Larson's on Sugar Bay. Their address is 14265 Maghan Lane, Deerwood. The event begins at 10:00 a.m.

The "Triathlon of Fun!" consists of 3 stages. Stage one is a fun 25-yard swim or walk along the beach. Stage 2 is a fun 3-mile bike ride. The final stage involves a fun 1 mile walk or run.

As the Triathletes approach the finish line, at the end of the last 2 stages, they are all greeted by throngs of cheering spectators (a.k.a. family, friends and neighbors) that line Maghan "Victory" Lane.

We will conclude the Family Fun Event with an awards ceremony and treats.

We hope you can join us and request you RSVP by emailing to [andylarson1959@hotmail.com](mailto:andylarson1959@hotmail.com) as soon as possible to let us know how many will participate. Again, an RSVP isn't essential, but it helps us with planning. We are also looking for volunteers to help at this event.

Check the PCLIA website at [pclia.com](http://pclia.com) or search *PCLIA of MN* on your Facebook home page for any last-minute details or changes.



## *Let's All Pitch In To Experience Our Dark Skies*

Having a place on the Crooked Lake chain means we've all had a chance to gaze up at the night sky to see the Milky Way stars through a canopy of pine trees or wonder at the sight of a bright full moon or even catch a glimpse of the Northern Lights. I often sit at the end of our dock at night hoping to see a shooting star or a satellite passing by.

But over the years I've noticed something slowly encroaching and starting to obscure these wonderful experiences: More and more light pollution. This light pollution isn't intentional or deliberate. None of us want to contribute to any kind of pollution; we're all environmentalists at heart or we wouldn't be here. It's simply a byproduct of our modern world that we all contribute to.

Let me give you some facts. Did you know that 80% of North Americans can't see the Milky Way or that the sky worldwide has brightened 9.6% over the last ten years? Light pollution hampers the mating of fireflies. An estimated 30% of outdoor lighting is wasted costing the U.S. over \$3 billion annually. You can see that we're not alone in the challenge to eliminate excess outdoor lighting; it's prevalent across all of Minnesota and beyond.

Many Minnesotans are starting to fight back to try to change this trend. The largest certified Dark Sky Reserve in the world is right here in Minnesota. Over the last few years, the BWCAW, Voyageurs National Park and The Quetico have teamed up to be certified by the International Dark Sky Association. Cook County hosts an annual dark sky festival. More and more lake associations like ours are starting to educate their members on the benefits of dark skies.

Our hope is that by bringing awareness to this issue we will make our members think about how they use artificial outdoor lighting for the benefit of themselves and our entire chain of lakes. Mindful approaches to lighting can and do make a huge difference.

I'll be providing some useful tips in our next newsletter but in the meantime let me give you some things to think about: If you have a yard light, does it need to be on all night? Do you really need your patio or front door light on when you're not using it? Can dock lighting be reduced by pointing them down or turning them off? Let's all start thinking about our dark skies and how we can pitch in to help keep them that way.

*-Submitted by Mark Weber*



*Photo courtesy of Diane Lund*

### ***Natural Island Paradise***

It's known as the Crooked Lake Island. A place where native plants thrive and wildlife flourishes. It's especially known for its large and abundant birch, oak, pine, and maple trees.

What makes this 2.6-acre island unique is that in the early 1900's when the entire Crooked Lake area and most of Northern Minnesota was extensively logged by lumber companies, somehow the Crooked Lake Island was missed and mostly forgotten by the lumber jacks with their axes and 2-man saws.

The earliest records of the island reveal that it initially belonged to the Chippewa Native Americans. Then according to the abstract in 1903 Liston B. Manley purchased the island from the Chippewa.

The Manleys and all subsequent owners decided to leave Crooked Lake Island in its natural state. No cabin was ever constructed on the island. No docks ever extended into the lake. Since 1903 the island was only used for occasional picnics and an impromptu swimming beach.

The current owners plan to honor the long legacy of habitat preservation established by all of the previous island owners. They're trying to keep the island in its natural state for future generations to explore and enjoy. They appreciate the respect shown by past island visitors for helping them to achieve their environmental goals.

The information for this article was taken from a 1975 Mankato State University thesis paper by Ralph E. Swantz.

Mr. Swantz, whose family still lives on the lake, realized almost half of a century ago that the habitat was being destroyed largely by commercialization and urbanization of land in Minnesota and wrote his thesis to study the effects.

This thesis paper, in turn, relied on the oral history of Crooked Lake provided by long term resident Albert Maghan who lived on the lake since 1904.

The PCLIA would like to remind island visitors to do your best to help keep the Crooked Lake Island a natural sanctuary. Remember, please, do not build fires or leave behind anything on the island.

# PCLIA

Portage-Crooked Lakes  
Improvement Association  
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Deerwood, MN 56444

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

[www.pclia.com](http://www.pclia.com)  
[info@pclia.com](mailto:info@pclia.com)

