

# *The Shoreline*

A Publication of the Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement

August /September 2024



## ***From the President...***

The second half of summer is upon us and I'm hoping you have made many great memories with friends and loved ones. This is a good time to be looking ahead to the Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting on September 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be returning to The Bridge this year. Last year the food was off the charts good. I'm hoping you will help me accomplish the goal I set in the April/May edition of The Shoreline to get 100 members in attendance. We will be having the silent auction again this year with lots of great items to bid on. See the details of what's up for grabs deeper in this edition. Remember, the best way to win is to be in attendance.

Do you like surprises? I do, especially when it comes in the form of Sota Clothing and another opportunity to get Crooked Lake gear! A great big thanks to Sota Clothing for this offering of cool stuff and for their support from these fundraisers! See the details inside this edition.

If you missed the meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> about the Hanks/Portage channel, don't worry. A recap of the meeting is included in this edition. A huge thanks to Andy Larson for the great presentation and to Barb Vann for her many efforts throughout the years on this issue. I appreciated seeing such good attendance by all of the concerned home owners.

I hope everyone has learned something from our "Dark Skies" series this year. Thanks to Mark Weber, former board member for Voyagers National Park, whose mission was to reduce light pollution. He has given us a few more things to think about in this edition. Please consider what you can do to keep our dark skies, dark.

Shore Lore takes a look at a "gem" in the middle of our lakes. I've found this to be very fascinating and have probably barely scratched the surface on this topic. I hope you find it interesting. Do you have any history about our lakes that you would like to share with us? We would love to hear from you so we could highlight this interesting information in our upcoming newsletters. Pictures welcome. Reach out to us at [info@pcli.com](mailto:info@pcli.com).

Until next time, hope to see you on the water!  
Scott Maghan

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024**



**Fall Dinner & Business Meeting**  
Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
Registration & payment due by August 29<sup>th</sup>  
Details in this newsletter

# TREASURER'S REPORT

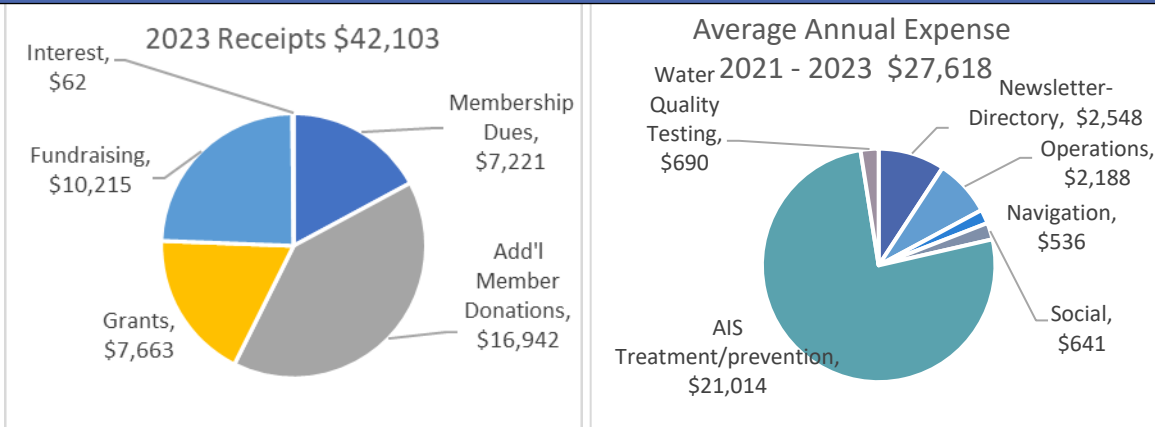
	Beginning Balance 1/1/2024	Income	Expense	Ending Balance 6/30/2024
Healthy Lakes/ AIS Fund*	\$4,400.78	\$2,707.89	\$1,387.00	\$5,721.67
Fish Stocking Fund*	\$6,353.25	\$1,366.32	\$4,600.00	\$3,119.57
General Fund*	\$43,788.35	\$5,580.74	\$1,096.90	\$48,272.19
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$54,542.38</b>	<b>\$9,654.95</b>	<b>\$7,083.90</b>	<b>\$57,113.43</b>

\*The **Healthy Lakes/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund** contains money specifically donated for monitoring and taking corrective steps to protect the quality of our lakes.

\*The **Fish Stocking Fund** contains money specifically donated toward the stocking of fish according to DNR guidelines.

\*The **General Fund** contains funds not specifically designated for Healthy Lakes, AIS, or Fish Stocking.

## A Note from the Treasurer



Funds collected and spent on the Fall Dinner and Fish Stocking are not included in these numbers. One hundred percent of those funds are spent on those activities.

The two charts above provide a pictorial representation of our sources of receipts for 2023 and the average expenses for the past three years. As you can see, the membership dues collected just cover our operating costs, the newsletter, our social activities, etc. Funding for treating invasive species comes from grants, our fundraising efforts and on your generosity with extra donations. You were very generous last year and our fundraising efforts were very successful. We have been able to replenish some of our depleted funds, but the future costs of fighting AIS are unknown. Thank you for all your contributions!

-Submitted by Diane Lund

### June Summer Picnic



*Inclement weather didn't stop the fun!*



## **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 3rd

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)



## **Crooked Lake Chain Merchandise**

## **Merchandise Now Available for Purchase**

Crooked Lake Sota Clothing and merchandise is back by popular demand! Show your love for Crooked Lake Chain while contributing to the improvement and protection of this beautiful area for generations to come.

Merchandise will be shipped to the address you provide in your order. Unlike previous offerings there is no pre-order and long wait. There will not be an option for pickup from Sota Clothing in St. Louis Park.

We are grateful to Sota Clothing for providing our membership this opportunity.

A portion of these proceeds go directly to the PCLIA. Thank you for your support, we can't wait to see you sporting your new apparel out on the water!

[Click here for Crooked Lake Merchandise](#)

or

Go to the "Crooked Lake Chain Merchandise" tab on the home page of the PCLIA Website



## Welcome Back to the Lakes – A Great Success

Free handmade pizza, cash bar & socializing with friends old and new! What a fun way for over 60 members of our lake association to spend a late afternoon in early May!

A huge thank you to the Deerwood American Legion for providing a great place for us to gather. In addition to their handmade pizza, the American Legion offers many other delicious food options. So, if you are looking for a place to eat, check out their weekly menu. They support us, so let's support them.



### Coming Soon

**Fall Dinner – Silent Auction!**  
100% of proceeds go to PCLIA



**When:** At the September 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Dinner Meeting  
Bidding available on the PCLIA website September 5<sup>h</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

#### How You Can Help:

- Bid during the auction
- Make a donation. Donations could be from you or an associated business. They could include merchandise, gift baskets, services, event tickets or other creative ideas you may have.

#### Current member commitments:

- Pine log queen bed frame originally from Twist of Nature with original retail \$630
- Local guided fishing trips
- Classic car ride in 1930 Franklin 5 passenger sedan
- Custom built chessboard with chess set and checkers
- Multi-course surf & turf dinner for four at Chez Larson. Minimum bid \$500
- Unique wood pieces for paintings and rustic furniture
- Wine tasting
- Framed lake map
- Relief carving of our chain of lakes

**Donations:** Local establishments have already made the donations below. We're working to add items before the auction. Please support and thank the vendors who support the PCLIA!

- \$1000 credit toward purchase of a new dock or lift at Weekend Extensions
- One lift removal by Weekend Extensions
- Five \$50 gift certificates - Lonesome Pine
- Two rounds of golf for 4 on the new Alec's 9 walking course – Ruttgers
- Two \$50 gift certificates for Craft and Crew restaurants in the Twin Cities
- \$50 gift certificate – White Oak Grill, Ruttgers
- Blackstone Griddle – Timber Building Supply (Ace Hardware)
- Two \$25 gift certificates – Cuyuna Brewery
- Two \$20 gift certificates – Bridge restaurant
- \$50 Cub Foods gift certificate

Contact [auction@PCLIA.com](mailto:auction@PCLIA.com) to provide a donation. Donations will be accepted through August 15<sup>th</sup>.

-Submitted by Tom Kaufhold

## ***Portage/Hanks Channel Informational Meeting Update***



On Saturday June 8th approximately 50 property owners from the Portage/Crooked Lake Chain met at the Bay Lake Town Hall to discuss the feasibility of dredging the channel between Portage and Hank's lake.

The goal of the meeting was to update those concerned with the status of the channel and discuss options for keeping the channel open to navigation. As various channel-related speculations were afoot, it seemed appropriate to get concerned property owners together so all could hear what was happening at the same time.

The meeting began with a review of previous efforts to keep the channel open to navigation going back to 2010. These manual dredging efforts were marginally effective and it was noted the most recent manual dredging of three years ago lasted approximately 24 hours.

The dredging process was discussed in some detail. The dredging itself is a simple process, but the real challenge is identifying a location where the barges and equipment can get in and out of the lakes, and then where to dispose of the dredged material. A dredging firm identified locations on Portage Lake and Hanks Lake they thought could accommodate the equipment, however these locations were only based on a road being adjacent to the lake near the channel. The reality is they are not realistically usable. One of the sights would require removal of trees. To use any site would obviously require the approval of the property owners. They also identified a tentative disposal location several miles away, which will increase costs. The quote from this firm for the dredging would be approximately \$140,000.

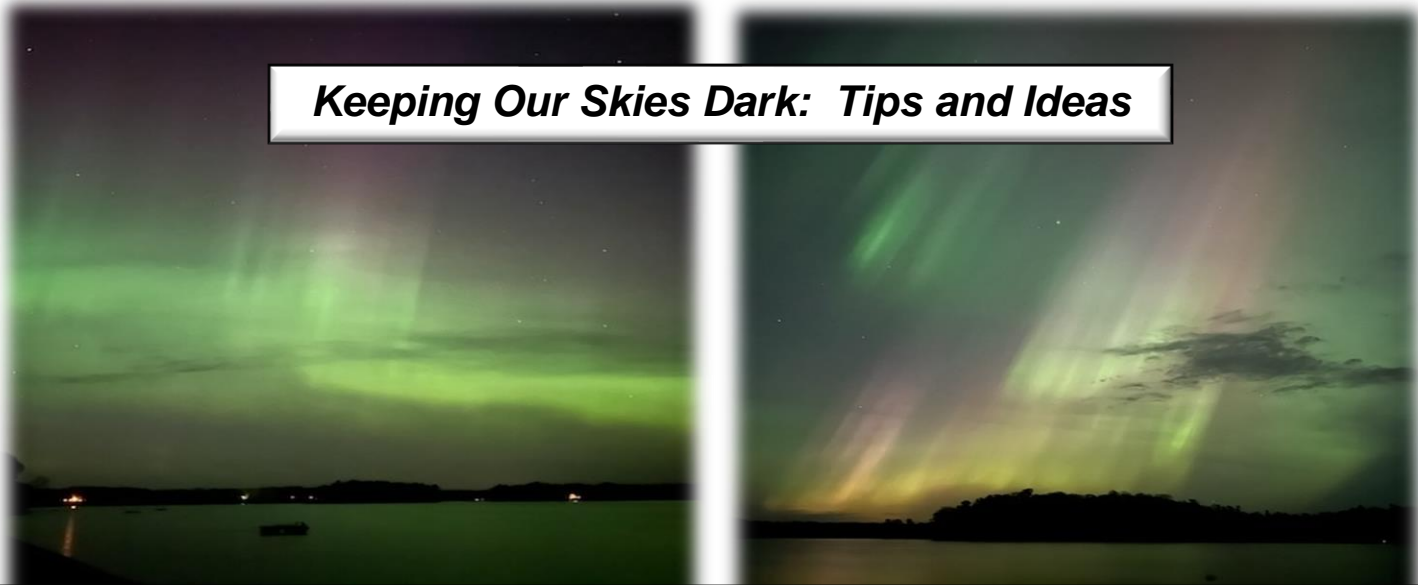
A key question is how long the dredging would keep the channel open. The dredging operator offered no guarantees and was candid in stating it could silt over within a year, conversely, he said it could last 10 to 15 years under ideal conditions. The factors that impact how quickly the dredging fills in include rainfall, winds, and unusual weather conditions. We will seek a second bid and then review the comparative costs and contract details.

Questions were asked about the DNR and whether they would help us keep the channel open. We have had various discussions with the DNR, and they have been clear that their role is not keeping the channel open to navigation. Others questioned whether the DNR could put a landing on Portage Lake. This is possible and we would have to acquire the land and possibly pay some of the expenses.

Another topic discussed was the trespassing issue on Portage Pass property on either side of the channel. This has accelerated the filling in of the channel, and attempts to stabilize the shoreline failed on account of the damage this trespass caused.

The next steps will include: getting a second dredging bid, and discussions with property owners about using their property as a point of access for dredging equipment and sand removal, if we proceed with the dredging.

## ***Keeping Our Skies Dark: Tips and Ideas***



The latitude of the Crooked Lake chain makes it possible to see Northern Lights. Many of us were lucky enough to have seen them a few months ago. We were very lucky as clouds can often be the culprit that inhibits getting a clear view. There is another element that can obscure them as well: light pollution.

The glow we see across our skies and along our shores isn't natural. It is light pollution; which we can all help reduce. My previous article outlined the need to keep our dark skies dark. Our goal is to keep dark skies top of mind as many of our members simply aren't aware of how it can help our chain, and the overall natural environment. We can all make a difference by doing some simple things. Here are a few tips and ideas:

Use your outdoor lighting only when and where you need them. It's as simple as turning off lights when they're not in use. Turn off your patio, dock, path and yard lights when you're done with them. It will save you money and conserve energy, too.

Close window blinds, shades and curtains at night to keep your inside lights inside. Your neighbors across the lake will thank you.

Shield your outdoor lights from your neighbors and the lake by directing them down. Avoid the temptation to over light, or to shine your lights out onto the lake. Install outdoor lighting fixtures angled downward.

Install motion sensors or timers on your dock and path lights to provide the lighting only when you need it. And, don't forget to point them down and shield them from views from the lake. Dock lights that remain on all night may look nice from your cabin, but folks across the lake might have a different opinion.

Be mindful of your light bulbs opting for warm-hued LED bulbs at low watt levels. Per the International Dark Sky Association, opt for bulbs that use less than 3,000 kelvins. Instead of a 110-watt bulb try a 50 watt. Brighter is not always better.

Brighter doesn't mean safer either according to the Dark Sky Association. Bad outdoor lighting can actually decrease safety. Security lighting can be effective and beautiful without upsetting everyone living nearby. See the International Dark Sky Association website [darksky.org](http://darksky.org) for a list of wonderful suggestions.

Brainerd which recently enacted a number of city-wide lighting ordinances. This includes requiring outdoor lighting that directs lighting down and shields lighting away from neighbors, placing limits on how you mount outdoor lighting, and implementing rules on outdoor lighting in public areas after 10 at night, to name a few.

If each of us implements one or two of these ideas, we can make a huge difference. Let's be a leader in Minnesota's efforts to keep our skies dark.

*-Article and photos submitted by Mark Weber*



## **Portage Pass – Scenic Gem**

Right in the center of the Crooked Lake Chain surrounded by all of our lakes is a gem. I'm referring to Portage Pass.

Portage Pass is an enormous peninsula whose shoreline is relatively untouched and underdeveloped except for a few cabins. When you boat around Portage Pass you can't help but notice the mature green trees and lush under-growth where the shoreline meets the sky-blue water.

I have always had a curiosity and admiration for this development. Fortunately, I was able to sit down with Gene and Wayne Andersen, and Gene's wife, Joyce, to get a better understanding of how Portage Pass came to be. My thanks to them for taking the time to share their history and knowledge of Portage Pass.

By some accounts, this land was originally used by Native Americans during their summers at Portage Lake as a place to keep their horses. Being surrounded mostly by water, there was little opportunity for the horses to wander off.

The land was then given to the Northern Pacific Railroad by the US government in 1864 as a land grant "to aid in the construction of railroads."

The development of the land began with the creation of the Portage Pass Development Company on March of 1921. The story, as told to me, was two doctors and a lawyer from St. Paul acquired the land from several individuals who had obtained the land from the Northern Pacific Railroad. They decided to sell 15 shares of the Company. In January of 1980, the shares were converted to individual, private lots on the lake. Each of the lots had 250-300 feet of lakeshore. The number of lots was limited to 15.

They also did something else that truly made this development ahead of its time. They created 9 lots that were not to be sold or developed, thus creating natural greenspace. Whether this was intended, or just an outcome of the geography of the terrain is not known. There are also rules about not cutting living trees, only those that have died or fallen.

Charles Wayne Wohlford, Gene and Wayne Andersen's grandfather, purchased one of the original 15 shares of the company in 1921, which later, in 1980, became a private lot. Wayne still owns this lot while Gene and Joyce were able to obtain the property next door in December of 1987.

For many years electricity did not exist on Portage Pass. So how did they keep food cold and get water for drinking? Well, they had a community ice house where ice that was cut from the lake during winter was stored. On your way in you could stop by the ice house and get what you needed. They also had a community hand pump where fresh drinking water could be found.

So, the next time you're out for a boat ride and are admiring the scenic shoreline of Portage Pass you'll have a better understanding of how it came to be, and how lucky we are to have this gem at the center of our lakes. Please, also remember, this is private property, so enjoy it from afar.

I want to say a special "thank you" on behalf of the PCLIA to the property owners of Portage Pass for keeping these scenic shorelines for all of us to enjoy.

*-Submitted by Scott Maghan*



# PCLIA

Portage-Crooked Lakes  
Improvement Association  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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







# Portage-Crooked Lakes Improvement Association Annual Fall Dinner & Business Meeting

- Saturday, September 7, 2024
- The Bridge Tavern on Highway 6 north of Crosby
- Social: 5 p.m.
- Dinner: 6 p.m.
- Business meeting to follow

**NOTE:** We cannot accept any last minute walk-ins.  
Please plan on this, and submit your reservation form to be received by August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!



Name(s) of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Selection 1: Buffet to include: Bridge Tavern’s house smoked brisket, honey/orange glazed baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic parmesan green beans and cheesecake. (\$33/plate includes tax and tip)

Selection 2: Buffet walleye dinner which includes garlic mashed potatoes, gravy, garlic parmesan green beans and cheesecake. (\$35/plate includes tax and tip)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Buffet (\$33)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Buffet Walleye Dinner (\$35)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed reservation & payment made to PCLIA

**\*This form must be mailed in order to reach us no later than August 29<sup>th</sup>**

