Forty-nine years and counting!!

Your Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association will reach half a century of service in 2013!! Your Board continues our mission of educating, advocating and working for quality waters on our Lakes. This past year has been no exception with our work of identifying and treating invasive species, monitoring water quality with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, working with the Emmet County Locks Consortium for erosion and navigation concerns, contributing to the purchase and protection of vulnerable shoreline property with the Little Traverse Conservancy, promoting safe boating with the Crooked Lake Yacht Club and the Emmet County Sheriff, seeking compliance with building and environmental regulations that affect our lakes, participating in fish surveys, assisting the DNR with our walleye pond, and keeping you informed of activities on the lake. We keep you informed through mailed newsletters, Boat launch Kiosks, website, e-mails, monthly meetings, social events, door handle packets (delivered to every residence on the lake), and new this winter a “facebook” presence! All this activity while keeping your dues constant ($25.00 family - $40.00 business), and relying only on volunteers for your Board, lake and boat launch monitors, zone leaders and standing committee members. They sure have my “Thank you”!

Our Annual meeting will be August 4th at the Petoskey Outboard Motor Club, and please note that four of our current Board Members terms are expiring. While we hope that these four members will continue to volunteer, your ACTIVE participation for a Board seat is encouraged – please contact myself or Bill Wyman for details.

A final thought! As we anticipate another great season of water recreation for fishing, boating swimming, hanging out at Camp Petosega or the Crooked Lake sand bar, or just quietly enjoying your shoreline paradise, please do your best to promote boating safety, prevent pollution and follow good practices for maintaining your special piece of waterfront shoreline for future generations!

See you on the Lake!
Dudley and Darlene Marvin

PS. We are actively planning our 50th year celebration and need YOU to make our history “come alive”!
Give us a call – Karen, Judy, Dudley or any Board member!
Our Business Members provide additional support to the P.C.L.A. Please utilize their services and thank them!!

- Bayview Title Agency
  - (www.bayviewtitleagency.com) (timmurphy@bvta.net)
- Breezy Shores Property Owners
- Coldwell Banker Fairbairn Realty
  - (www.fairbairnrealty.com) (paul@fairbairnrealty.com)
- Crooked Lake Yacht Club
  - (www.crookedlakeyc.org) (dhughes@deltaconsultinglc.com)
- DeSilva & Mahan Interiors
  - (www.desilvamahan.com) (sdesilva@comcast.net)
- Edward Jones Investments-Dan Ledingham
  - (www.edwardjones.com) (dan.ledingham@edwardjones.com)
- Graham Real Estate-Bob Humphrey
  - (www.grahamre.com) (bob@grahamre.com)
- Grandpa Shorter’s Gifts, Inc.
  - (www.grandpashorters.com) (jennifer@grandpashorters.com)
  - Independent Management Services
    - (fcarswell@aol.com)
  - Jack Van Treese & Associates
    - (www.jackvantreese.com) (jack@jackvantreese.com)
- Kresnau Consulting, LLC
  - (dkresnau@hotmail.com)
- Little Traverse Conservancy
  - (www.landtrust.org) (ltc@landtrust.org)
- Music Makers of Petoskey, Inc
  - (dward@charter.net)
- Northern Periodontics & Implant Dentistry
  - (www.nperio.com) (mdoctor@nperio.com)
- Northwoods Chiropractic
  - (drspringborn@aol.com)
- Onaway Family Dentistry
  - (www.onawayfamilydentistry.com) (kit@kganderson.net)
- R.E. Dimond & Associates
  - (www.redimond.com) (danieldimond@comcast.net)
  - Ryde Marine
    - (www.rydemarine.com) (wcbloomberg@hotmail.com)
- Stafford’s Crooked River Lodge
  - (www.staffords.com/CrookedRiver) (davidm@staffords.com)
- The Bistro
  - (www.facebook.com/petoskeybistro) (bistro423@charter.net)
- The Office Shop
  - (keydesign@centurytel.net)
- The Shores on Crooked Lake Owner’s Association, Inc.
  - (www.theshorescondos.com) (lora@rentalsnorthernmichigan.com)
- Windjammer Marina
  - (www.windjammermarina.com)

$960 of our income this year came from these businesses. Let them know we appreciate it!!

2012 ALANSON RIVERFEST
August 10, 11, & 12

For the past several years we have participated in the Alanson River Fest, which is held the second week end of August. Last year we were rained out but we will be there again this year, to “show the flag” for PCLA and to pass out aquatic plant and boating information from Watershed Council. If you would like to volunteer to help man the booth please contact Bill Wyman. (billwyman43@yahoo.com)
Sanctuary Island Park
Boardwalk Vision Becomes Reality

The distance between a vision and reality depends on many things, but persistence and determination have brought a 10 year journey to a big leap forward. The Alanson Village Council first commissioned Wade-Trim Engineering to prepare a Master Plan for the Village of Alanson back in 2002, which lead to the formation of the Alanson Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Ordinance No. 01-2004. The Alanson Improvement Group (AIG) contributed the cost of the drawings.

Core feature of this plan is a Boardwalk extending from the bridge at M-68, all the way around Sanctuary Island and on down to the world’s shortest swing bridge on River Street. Project coordinator and lead volunteer Greg Warner of AIG, reported in the fall that the parking lot had been rough graded, pilings for both docking areas were in place, the docking platform on the mainland was complete, and the helical piers for the fishing platform, viewing center and gazebo were installed.

This spring the focus was on construction of the boardwalk, fishing platforms and gazebo. Eventually the AIG and the Village of Alanson hope to have a boathouse with restrooms built along the shores of the Crooked River. This is all part of a long range master plan.

The goals for this spring are right on target. Both docking stations were completed last fall, and now await a small hand propelled, chain cog ferry that will accommodate about 10 people.

The Mayor is now putting out a call to action for willing and able volunteers. To be put on a “call numbers: Greg Warner, 231-548-2664, or Mayor Richard Weidenhamer, 231-548-5323. Work began during the first week of May and needs to be completed this summer.

This portion of the Master Plan is covered by a grant from the State of Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund, and a match in the form of labor from volunteers supervised by the Alanson Improvement Group. The distance from Sanctuary Island Park to the old swing bridge is not covered in the grant, but the public is invited to participate by purchasing name boards for $20.00. Your business, memorial or family name boards can become a permanent part of this great project. Let’s finish the vision.

Please make out a check to The Village of Alanson, DDA and send it to: Boardwalk, P.O. Box 13, Alanson, MI. 49706. Be sure to print the name or names as you would have it appear on the Boardwalk on a separate piece of paper. Also, please include your phone # so we may get back to you with any questions. - Adapted from T he “Village Chronicle” - article by Doug Houseworth
In 2008 the PCLA sponsored and helped the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOM) conducted a plant survey on the Pickerel and Crooked Lakes. The purpose was to determine the amount and type of aquatic vegetation in the lakes. A secondary purpose was to determine if any invasive plants were present in the lakes. The survey gives us a base line for future reference and also provides anecdotal information about the health of the lakes. Another way to gage the health of the lakes is a shoreline survey. Your PCLA has contracted with the TOM to conduct a shoreline survey this summer. A shoreline survey provides information about nutrient pollution entering the lakes from the shoreline. The pollution is detectable through chemical analyses of water samples, physical water measurements, and the utilization of biological indicators (aka, bio-indicators). Chemical analyses of water samples to check for nutrient pollution is very effective though, costlier and more labor intensive than other methods. Typically, samples are analyzed to determine nutrient concentrations (usually forms of phosphorus and nitrogen), but other chemical constituent concentrations can be measured, such as chloride, which are related to human activity and often elevated in areas impacted by malfunctioning septic or sewer systems. Physical measurements are primarily used to detect malfunctioning septic and sewer systems, which can cause localized increases in water temperature and conductivity (i.e., the water’s ability to conduct an electric current). Biologically, nutrient pollution can be detected along the lake shore by noting the presence of Cladophora algae.

The typical methodology used to conduct a shoreline survey is to examine the entire shoreline of a lake using a kayak. The survey team documents shoreline conditions by note and photographing property features on all shoreline parcels. Shoreline conditions are surveyed by traveling as close to the shoreline as possible (usually within 20 feet) and noting Cladophora growth, substrate type, erosion, greenbelt length, greenbelt depth, shoreline alterations, and tributaries. All information is then recorded on field data sheets, subsequently input into a database, and used in conjunction with GPS data to link field data and photographs with property owner (equalization) data. Developed parcels are noted on field data sheets and included as a separate column in the database. Properties described as developed indicate the presence of buildings or other significant permanent structures, including roadways, boat landing sites, and recreational properties (such as parks with pavilions and parking lots). Properties with only mowed or cleared areas, seasonal structures (such as docks or travel trailers), or unpaved pathways were not considered developed. Additionally, large parcels that had structures in an area far from the water’s edge were not considered developed.

Shoreline surveys are conducted by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and are not inexpensive. They do, however, provide an excellent picture of the health of the lakes. Each property owner will receive a letter from TOM and PCLA outlining the health of their shoreline. This letter is provided for your information only, and results will not be shared with any outside agency. If you have any questions please use the PCLA webpage to let us know - Bill Wyman

Fish Committee Report  by Wayne Blomberg
The Inland Waterway is in the 2nd year of a 3 year comprehensive study and information collection by MDNR, LTTB Band of Odawa, and MSU. Activities include electrofishing to tag previously untagged fish, with approximately 400 being tagged measured and released. Also continuing this summer will be the collection of stomachs to be studied by MSU to help determine walleye diets throughout the year. They reported that a disappointingly small number of stomachs were turned in by fishermen from Crooked and Pickerel Lakes in 2011. The procedure is to record the date, length of fish, approximate location caught and to freeze in a small ziplock a.s.a.p. Stomachs can be dropped off at Ryde Marine, the DNR field office in Indian River, or LTTB Natural Resources building on Hathaway near Pleasantview Rd. This is a rare chance to have this study information collection so we beg for fishermen to cooperate in turning these stomachs in. MSU will be doing more baitfish and forage sampling in many spots in our 2 lakes again this summer. Growth rate information continues to show that walleye take nearly 5 years to reach legal size which is almost twice as long as the statewide average. Good numbers of young walleye are being found in our two lakes in spite of no planting having occurred for approximately 6 years. This shows that walleye are quite successfully spawning in our lakes. Planting more walleye when natural reproduction is occurring will not guarantee improved fishing. Round Goby (invasive) are present in Mullet and Burt Lakes and being eaten by gamefish. However gobies feed voraciously on spawn of gamefish at that time of year. To date, no Goby have been found in Crooked or Pickerel. We remind you to turn in information from any tagged fish including pertinent information, and remember some of the tags will be worth $10. If you catch a sub-legal fish you may remove the tag and release the fish, or you could write down the tag info and turn it in and release the fish.

PCLA is again assisting the DNR with the walleye rearing pond. Fish from that pond will almost certainly go to nearby lakes if the pond is successful.
Wildlife Corner

In addition to many species of birds on our lakes, we also have our share of mammals. One of the more common is the North American river otter. These great swimmers are often sighted in the Pickerel Channel, or if you're lucky, you may see them run across your shoreline early or late in the day. The river otter, a member of the weasel family, is equally versatile in the water or on land and has a variety of common names; including North American river otter, northern river otter, common otter, or simply, river otter.

It establishes a burrow close to the water's edge in river, lake, swamp, or estuary ecosystems. Their den's have many tunnel openings, one of which generally allows the otter to enter and exit the body of water. Female otters give birth in these underground burrows, producing litters of one to six young.

North American river otters, like most predators, prey upon the most readily accessible species. Fish is a favored food among the otters, but they also consume various amphibians, turtles, and crayfish. Instances of river otters eating small mammals and occasionally birds have been reported, as well.

The river otter is physically well-equipped for aquatic life. The ears are short, the neck is the same diameter as the head, the legs are short and powerful, the toes are fully webbed, and the tail (one-third of body length) is tapered. These qualities give the river otter a streamlined profile in water, but reduce agility on land. The smell and hearing abilities of the river otter are acute. The otter has a delicate sense of touch in the paws in addition to great dexterity.

River otters are active year-round, and are most active at twilight and at night. They become much more nocturnal in the spring, summer, and fall seasons and more diurnal during winter. They may emigrate as a result of food shortages or environmental conditions, but they do not migrate annually.

Keep an eye out along the shore for this good swimmer as you travel our lakes this summer. - Dave Droste

BE A TEAM PLAYER

Did you know the Marathon Boat Race is Aug. 11th & 12th this year!!

The Pickerel Crooked Lakes Association is proud to claim 275 members including 24 business partners. All of these members constitute a visible commitment and dedication to our mission to protect and preserve our precious waterways. The PCLA teams with a number of government and community groups to work toward our common goals as well as pursuing our own singular efforts. The aim of all of these activities is the maintenance of our lake quality and the enhancement of our lakes for the enjoyment of everyone for generations to come.

Some of our most notable projects have been
--establishment of informational kiosks at our local boat launches
--yearly boater safety classes in cooperation with Emmet County marine officers
--development of the "zone leader" concept for the monitoring and control of invasive species
--formation of the Crooked River Lock Consortium to work with the DNR to stabilize the lock operation while keeping fees affordable
--raised funds to preserve areas of sensitive natural shoreline
--ongoing oversight of all permit applications to ensure shoreline protection and wetland preservation

These outstanding accomplishments and many others were made possible by the dedication and support of our members. Participation in our various committees and projects is very rewarding and can be fun too. Socializing and getting to know your neighbors is part of our agenda and an added bonus as well. If you haven't been involved yet in any of our activities, we invite you to identify an area of interest to you and join us. Bring a friend or neighbor too!

We would be happy to help you if you have any questions or would like further information on any of our efforts. Just call any board member--phone numbers are in front of the newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to hearing from you! - Judy Reddick Brown
A short summary of how association funds are acquired and dispersed follows; the numbers shown are annualized and rounded to the nearest fifty dollars and shown in thousands.

INCOME

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PCLA ASSETS

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Your Association has saved in order to participate in land conservation of properties important to our lakes. Another of these events occurred in 2011 and paid out in early 2012 and new savings have been started using recent much appreciated donations. It takes volunteer hours and dollars to make a positive impact. Join in for 2012.

Reporting from Pickerel Lake, John Hoshaw, PCLA Treasurer 5/15/12

DID YOU KNOW WE ARE ON FACEBOOK!!!

https://www.facebook.com/PickerelCrookedLakesAssociation

Did you know Kevin Cronk and Jennifer Gelb, of Tip of the Mitt, were mentioned in the Spring issue of U of M's School of Natural Resources and Environment magazine (a magazine for alumni & friends of U of M)

June 16 & July 14 are the Boater Safety Classes co-sponsored by the CLYC and the PCLA. Contact Emmet County Sherrif's Dept. at 231-439-8900 for details. The class will be held at the Crooked Lake Yacht Club.

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Michigan Sea Grant

Michigan Sea Grant is a joint program of the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. It is part of the National Sea Grant College Program, a networking of 30 university-based programs in coastal states across the country. Michigan Sea Grant makes publications and other materials available at low or no cost for those interested in learning about the Great Lakes.

Currently they are offering a free Asian Carp fact sheet and charts which track the water levels on all the Great Lakes. Their current programs are on beach safety, boating, coastal communities and fisheries. You can access information on aquatic invasive species as well as invasive plants and insects. An online pamphlet called Natural Shorelines for Inland Lakes; A Simple Solution for Lakefront Owners is well done with very valuable information and pictures for those wanting to improve or stabilize their shorelines. There is much more information available than was just mentioned and it's all free, up to date, and reflects the latest trends. Check it all out at www.miseagrant.com - Jan Quaine
Drug Take Back Program

During the summer of 2011, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council launched a permanent multi-county medication drug takeback initiative to provide a convenient, secure, and environmentally sound option for the disposal of unused and unwanted prescriptions including controlled substances and over-the-counter (OTC) medications. This program has expanded with the addition of nine more collection boxes installed at local law enforcement offices. It now includes the entire four county service area of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan counties. This program is helping reduce the number of accidental deaths. Emmet County’s Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-off (POD) sites are:

• City of Petoskey Department of Public Safety – Front Lobby of City Hall
• City of Petoskey Department of Public Safety – Public Safety Station West (Bay Harbor)
• Emmet County Sheriff’s Office – Jeffrey P. Bodzic Administrative Office and Correctional Facility (Jail)
• Emmet County Sheriff’s Office – Richard L. Zink Law Enforcement Center in Harbor Springs (Road Patrol Building on M-119)
• Harbor Springs Police Department
• Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Police Department

Residents can drop off unused or unwanted medications at any time throughout the year. All medications are handled according to the law enforcement agency’s evidence protocols until taken for final destruction in accordance with state and federal laws. According to Elisa Seltzer, Emmet County DPW Director, “Northern Michigan residents recognize the need to dispose of medicines correctly, and we’ve worked hard to make these POD boxes convenient so there’s no reason not to use them. Getting unused medicines out of the house limits the potential for abuse, and using the POD boxes is the best available disposal option, protecting our water and air.”

Items accepted for the Pharmaceutical Collection Program include:
- Prescriptions including controlled substances
- Over the counter medications
- Pet medications
- Medicated ointment, lotions or drops
- Blood sugar equipment
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Blood or infectious waste
- Liquid medications (in sealed containers or plastic bags) (adapted from “Current Reflections” TOMWC)

Items not accepted in the program include:
- Sharps/needles
- Medication (in liquid form)

To Remember:

Gene Gulbransen
By Gloria Gulbransen

Richard Rust
By Phyllis Rust

Paul Zerges
By George & Jan Stewart

Agnes Rettig
By Suzanne Wingate

Frank Moore
By Stuart Moore
Windover Foundation

Mark Wieland
By Adie Wieland

Emile Wacker
by Malissa & Ken Sparks
Kurt & Carolyn Wacker
Suzanne & Chad Smoak

Tim Kuebler
Pat & Quint Kuebler

Marilyn Hoshaw
by Susan Hoshaw

Rick Kurtz
By Kathy Kurtz

Ray & Ruth Simons
by Peter S & Kelly Simons

Jeanne Moore
By Virginia Abernathy

Marie Abbott
By Don & Dolly Osborne

Henry Brode
By Joseph Leshock

Lewis E. Hopkins
By J G Hopkins

To Honor:
Wayne Blomberg
by John & Nancy Anderson
Crooked River Lock now under county operation by Dan Plasencia

The Crooked River Lock in Alanson is under new operational management, with Emmet County partnering with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to run the lock under the county’s Parks and Recreation Department.

Emmet County has entered into a sub-lease with the DNR to operate the lock for five years. The move came after more than a year of discussions with the DNR and following the recommendations of the Crooked River Lock Consortium. An agreement was signed by the Chairman of the Emmet County Board of Commissioners, James E. Tamlyn, in early 2012.

“The agreement allows the county to provide reliable, continued operation of the lock while decreasing passage fees and extending the boating season through the lock,” said Dan Plasencia, Emmet County Commissioner, District 4, and chairman of the Consortium. “The county encouraged this partnership, believing it will enhance recreational, economic and developmental impact in Emmet County and the surrounding communities along the Inland Water Route.”

The 2012 passage fee will be $30 annual and $10 daily. The 2012 Lock Schedule is as follows:

- April 14-15, 21-22, and 28-19: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- May 5-24: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- May 25-June 30: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- July 1-Aug. 19: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Aug. 20-Sept. 3: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sept. 4-10: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sept. 11-30: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Crooked River Lock closes for the season at 5 p.m. on Oct. 28.