

Shore Lines

Pickereel-Crooked Lake Association

Spring 2015

Working, Educating and Advocating for Lake Quality Since 1963

PCLA President's Letter ... SHORELINE PROBLEMS?

Many of you may have seen a U-Tube video this winter focusing on water levels, shore line erosion and the operations of the Crooked River lock. While the video was certainly dramatic and attempted to heighten the awareness of shoreline owners to the affects of high water on our shores; the video did not capture the whole story of this complicated process.

I am certainly not qualified to tell you the scientific reasons to state exactly the cause and effects of water levels on shorelines; however I can tell you that the "Key" is the amount and timing of the precipitation received from Mother Nature in our watershed. Our Crooked-Pickereel Lake Watershed is many times larger than the acreage of our Two Lakes, and when we receive more or less precipitation in this area, then we can have flooding or draught conditions when the levels are at the extreme. Excess water must be absorbed into the soil, evaporated from the surface, or spilled downriver at the outflow at the Crooked River Locks and "earthen dam" near Alanson. When there is too little precipitation in the watershed, then the dam and locks operations will attempt to keep water in our Lakes, when there is too much precipitation, the water is "let off" by the lock operations and by the over flowing of water across the 83 foot dam and its 15 foot fish weir (the weir is one foot below the top of the dam). This is the ONLY control that MAN has over the levels of the lakes as they exist now.



This control has been the cause of much discussion and blame for changing water levels. In 2010 an area Consortium made up of representatives from the four Townships, Emmet County, the Odawa tribe, Alanson and the PCLA was set up to discuss with the Army Corp Of Engineers and the Michigan's DEQ who should operate the locks. It was decided that Emmet County had the greatest "vested" interest by government and was given the responsibility for the locks operations. With Emmet County in control, water levels are monitored above the locks and below the locks – NOTE that below the lock, Littlefield Township, Alanson, and the entire Inland Waterway are part of the Greater Cheboygan Watershed, which has a control lock and dam on the Cheboygan river before exiting into Lake Michigan. Man has only two controls on this massive area of Northern Michigan.

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Kick Off The Summer 2015!!

Opening breakfast/brunch hosted by the Crooked Lake Yacht Club and the Pickereel-Crooked Lakes Association. This will be a fun social event with information and displays about the lakes, held at the Crooked Lake Yacht Club on **Saturday June 20th at 10:00 a.m.** Members of the Alanson Improvement Group and the Inland Water Route Historical Society will also be guests. The CLYC is the first building east of the Windjammer Marina. The address is 3708 Oden Rd (U.S. 31 N) in Oden. The price for the breakfast per person is still to be determined.

Please RSVP by June 16th to Roger Winslow at rogerwinslow@hotmail.com or Karen Plasencia at karenplasencia@gmail.com or call 248-421-3566

Who hears the rippling of rivers will not utterly despair of anything.
(Henry David Thoreau)

continued -

Mother Nature does the rest!

The Crooked River Lock was constructed in 1964 because prior navigational dredging occurred down river on the Inland Waterway which resulted in an extreme loss of water level in our lakes with many shoreline owners experiencing receding shorelines and the loss of boating access to the lakes. Your PCLA encouraged the investment in the locks, so that we and the public would have some control of the water levels for fish and waterfowl habitat, boating, shore line stability, sewage control, and the many attributes that the protection of wetlands brings to our environment. An environmental study of our watershed and extensive hearings with the public occurred before any work began. This study mandated the conditions of operations for the locks and established the seasonal water levels that were to be maintained by the operating authority, within the oversight of the ACOE and its governing act.

This authority resides now with Emmet County. The PCLA has been vigilant in monitoring the operations of the locks and listening to our members to evaluate how they are being affected by the changing water levels. The past several years have given us “extreme highs and extreme lows” in the seasonal precipitation on our Lakes; these levels have had a significant affect on our shorelines and shoreline structures. All shorelines are not equal.

Some have very shallow water levels, some lots have very little elevation above normal water levels, some are more subject to prevailing wind driven water and ice, some have no shoreline protection (natural or man made), some are sandy, some are clay, some are rocky; and ALL are uniquely affected by the limits of what the locks can “reasonably control”, and what Nature has to deliver.

While the PCLA does not have the last say in this, we do want to know your thoughts and suggestions so that we can be pro-active in representing you. We also offer our help with our “new” Natural Shoreline Committee and our close association with the Watershed Council in providing you with answers for evaluating and protecting your valuable shoreline! Give us a call, e-mail or snail mail!

See you on the lake. . .

Darlene and Dudley Marvin

The Ultimate Trailhead Project

The Unique Opportunity

This year the Top of Michigan Trails Council and Rotary Club of Petoskey will combine efforts with a 2nd annual “Diamonds and Denim” fundraiser to be held Saturday September 19, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Petoskey. Revenue from the event will provide a unique opportunity for the Trails Council to purchase the historic stone cottage located at the intersection of two prominent trails between Petoskey and Harbor Springs. This project will create “The Ultimate Trailhead” for riders and visitors of all ages.



Making the Dream a Reality



Accessible from both the Little Traverse Wheelway and the North Western State Trail (heading north toward Alanson), the trailhead will provide a unique place to stop along the trails. The acquisition will preserve a treasured historic stone cottage that dates back to the late 1800's, protect almost an acre of green space, plus allow the Trails Council a place to plan, execute and evaluate programs that help communities become trail towns. Active trails are proven benefits to a community and will add to their growth and economy for generations. This “The Ultimate Trailhead” stop would be a center for the Top of Michigan Trails Council, with trail maps, information on health and wellness, safety training, youth and family programs/events essentially being a “Trails Chamber of Commerce” for northern Michigan.

They are asking for your participation in “Diamonds and Denim”. They invite you and your friends to become contributing partners by participating in their wonderful September event. Diamonds and Denim should be a fun night for everyone, and a great opportunity to be a part of a lasting gift to the Top of the Mitt Trails Council.

For reservations to the September 19th, 2015

Diamonds & Denim Fundraiser

log onto petoskeyrotary.org

Last year's event sold out early, so reserve your seats now.



The second Boater's Safety Class sponsored by the CLYC and PCLA will be held on Saturday July 11th from 9:00-3:00 at the Crooked Lake Yacht Club. The classes will be taught by the Marine Division of the Emmet County Sheriff's Department. Please call the Sheriff's Department at 231-439-8900 to reserve your spot. Bring a bag lunch.

Who Needs to Take a Boater Safety Course?

Michigan conservation officers and Michigan county sheriffs encourage all persons operating boats in Michigan to enroll in a boating safety course.

Who May Operate a Boat?

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally only if they: Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat and are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

Crooked River Lock Update

The Crooked River Lock is open for the season. The past 2 springs and falls has been a challenge for the Lock Master with the record rains and snowfalls. Last fall was most challenging balancing the lake and river levels to prevent downstream flooding damage. The County was under strict daily direction of the USACOE in where the lock gate position was set. Still some ice push damage was reported in late fall/winter even though the Lock was full open starting October 14, 2014.

Automated water level gage installation by the USACOE at the lock is progressing. The wells are all secured, the conduit is run and wires pulled, data collection platform is mounted. A couple more days on site by the crew from our Soo Area Office and should be up and running. Their goal is to be ready to begin collecting & posting hourly gage readings starting in June after a period of data validation. They have been working on setting up the system to post to our Corps website. We can provide the link when ready.

Updated channel surveys for navigation channels throughout the system - survey crew was on site most of last week obtaining up to date channel depth surveys. These will also be posted to the Corps website (link to be provided). Please bear in mind that even if the surveys show shoaling in various locations the Corps does not have funding for maintenance dredging.

Happy Boating! Dan Plasencia

Wildlife Corner

Mayflies Mayflies Everywhere!



by Dave Droste

If you're like me the annual Mayfly hatch on our lakes is greeted with both horror and fascination. Here's the skinny on the short adult life of these amazingly prolific insects.

Mayflies have been around since before the dinosaurs; over 350 million years. They are in an ancient group of insects that is part of the same family as the dragonfly and damselfly. About 2,500 species are known worldwide, including about 630 species in North America. Mayflies need clean water to live in so scientists often look for their larva as an indicator of a healthy water ecosystem. They are aquatic insects that go through three stages of development: egg, naiad (nymph or larva), and adult. Eggs are laid in the water, hatch into a naiad and usually live one year in fresh water. As an adult, they will live only long enough to reproduce, from two minutes to two days.



Nymph Stage

Most mayfly nymphs are distinctive in having seven pairs

of gills on the dorsum of the abdomen. They also have long cerci or tails, usually three of these at the end of their bodies.

Eggs are laid on the surface of lakes or streams and sink to the bottom, where they mature until ready to immerse from the water. Some of the nymphs live in the more rocky parts of waters, where there is no vegetation, while others are more present in lakes, these being the most prolific. Although this is their development stage, the nymphs have the ability to feed themselves, mainly algae or diatoms, but they are also predators and feast on whatever they can catch while trying not to be eaten themselves. The nymph stage may last from a few months to a whole year, with as many as 20-30 molts along the way.

The final molt of the nymph is not to the full adult form, but to a winged subimago (or to fly fisherman, a dun), that physically resembles the adult, but is sexually immature. The subimagos are generally poor fliers, and typically lack the coloration patterns used to attract mates. Mayflies in this stage are a favorite food of many fish, and many fishing flies are modeled to resemble

them. After an interval lasting a few minutes to several days, but usually overnight, the skin is shed for the last time, and the imago, or adult stage (sometimes called a spinner), emerges. Mayflies are the only insects that molt after developing functional wings.

Adult Life

The mayfly is also known as the dune bug, lake fly, day fly, green bay fly, or fish fly. The last name is obvious because fish like to eat the larvae and the flies breed in water that contains fish. They are an important part of the food web, eaten in large numbers by trout in cold waters, bass and catfish in warm water streams, and walleye in cold water lakes. With millions of mayflies being born at one time, it is possible for most of them to be eaten and still continue the cycle of life. The lifespan of an adult mayfly is very short, from several hours up to two days. Often, all the mayflies in a population mature at once (a hatch), and for a day or two in the spring or fall, mayflies will be everywhere, dancing around each other in large groups, or resting on every available surface. The primary function of the adult is reproduction.



Mating and egg deposition

Mating takes place soon after the final molt. In most species death ensues shortly after mating and eggs are deposited on the water. Groups of males perform a mating flight, or dance, over

water as dusk approaches, flying into any breeze or air current. Individuals may fly up and forward, then float downward and repeat the performance. Females soon join the swarm, rising and falling as the dance continues. The male approaches the female from below and behind and grasps her thorax with his elongated front legs. Mating is completed on the wing. After her release by the male, the female deposits her eggs on the surface of the water and dies.



There are but a few mayfly species that live in lakes, but those that do are among the most prolific. For example, the emergence of one species along the shores of Lake Erie was large enough to be recorded on Doppler weather radar. Hopefully this little primer on the mayfly will help you appreciate the spectacle of the hatch as they cover your dock, boats, deck, house, driveway, porch, trees...

Sources: Encyclopedia Britannica, Wikipedia, and www.mayfly.org



BLACK HOLE TID BITS

- Ray McMullen and his hearty Invasive Species Committee will be working this summer to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed on three areas of Crooked Lake. Ray, the Committee, and our many Shoreline and boat launch monitors are constantly on the lookout for Invasives!

- The PCLA has been trading Newsletters and bulletins with The Burt Lake Preservation Association and the Douglas Lake Improvement Association. Our alliances with these two Lake groups and other Inland Waterway organizations help us to stay abreast of watershed issues on the entire Cheboygan Watershed.

- Pickerel, Crooked Lake, Round Lake and the upper portion of the Crooked River are all included in an aquatic plant study. Our last study was done in 2008, and this new study, which is being conducted by TOM Watershed Council, should reveal the presence of any invasive aquatic plants. This study is being paid for by a partnership with Emmet County, Alanson, the Townships of Bear Creek, Little Traverse, Littlefield and Springvale; and the PCLA. We are indeed fortunate to have local government know the value of clean water and early detection. Partial results tell us that Round Lake is clear of invasives, but Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed exist in patches along the Crooked River. Please clean those propellers, hulls and boat trailers to prevent these hitch hikers entering our Lakes!

- Springvale Township has established a water level Committee to monitor the water levels of Crooked and Pickerel Lake. Springvale Township has the largest acreage of property within the Pickerel-Crooked Lakes watershed; and feels that their citizens and shoreline property owners can be adversely affected from high or low water levels. They are taking their historical information from past studies by the Army Corp of Engineers, TOM Watershed Council, an author from the U of M Biological Center on Douglas Lake, and the established mandates and data for water levels at the Crooked River Lock. The Committee promises a report of its findings in the near future.



- The Army Corp of Engineers has installed an easier way to read water level gauge, with automatic reading and sending capabilities at the Locks, and is taking a detailed look at the high and low water levels from the last several years. Their analysis along with input from the PCLA, local government and residents could result in a change to the Lake Level mandates. Also, they have a survey team working on the river to determine river depths and evidence of shoaling. However, they say that whatever they find, they do NOT have money for dredging.

- Wayne Blomberg tells of an “alleged” 8 pound Walleye that was caught on Crooked Lake! Any other success stories?

- The DNR with assistance from the PCLA will again be planting Walleye fry in the pond that was previously owned by the PCLA. We will request that if the new Lake Prescriptions for fish populations show that our Lakes are in need, we will ask to see that some of the “fingerlings” be delivered to our Lakes.

- This past spring, The PCLA used a portion of its land acquisition funds to help the Little Traverse Conservancy purchase 9 acres and 600 feet of frontage along Crooked Lake, just East of the Ponsheawaig Nature Preserve. This area of the Lake is one of the few remaining natural areas that provides outstanding waterfowl, fisheries and wetland habitat.

- Nothing could be finer than a “sunny and warm” afternoon on your boat with friends in the Black Hole – Remember boating courtesy and the quiet of Nature in this “popular and protected area”.



Remembering Cliff Leestma

Cliff Leestma, an honorary life member of the PCLA, passed away on Oct. 3, 2014. He was chairman of this organization from 1985-88

Cliff was a quiet dignified gentleman who paired perfectly with his outgoing and vivacious wife, Blanche. They summered on Pickerel Lake for many years, eventually retiring there. Cliff attended Alma College and after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he obtained an MBA degree from Harvard. His entire working career was with Ford Motor Company.

Cliff led the PCLA in many of the important issues that define our quality of life on these lakes today. He was involved with the dry, fire hydrant project, fighting swimmer’s itch, especially, land development issues. I personally remember his involvement in opposing the development project to allow 55 short term rental condominiums at the site of the old Pon-She-Waig Hotel. This project, if allowed to go ahead, would have changed how we live and use Crooked and Pickerel Lakes.

Cliff lived 94 fulfilled years. - Roger Winslow



Last season the MDNR sampled milfoil in Pickerel Lake to determine if we had a hybridized form of the invasive eurasian milfoil in the lake. Those samples tested to be a form of native milfoil, therefore a positive result for Pickerel Lake.

Our lakes are scheduled for a comprehensive plant survey by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOM) this summer. We will inform you of the results upon completion.

Additionally, our Zone Leaders, Boat Launch Monitors, The Invasive Species Committee and PCLA Board members continue to survey our lakes to identify potential threats.

We are a volunteer organization and need your help. If you notice plant or animal life that seems out of the ordinary feel free to contact Ray McMullen 347-8073 (best method), mcmullens2@gmail.com, Jan Quaine 548-2111, janquaine@aol.com, or any Board member with your concern. We will do our best to use the resources available to us to protect our lakes.

In summary, data collected by our Lake Monitors (Kay and Roger Winslow for Crooked Lake and Diane and John Fowler for Pickerel Lake) and analyzed by the TOM indicate our lakes are healthy. Still, invasive species are a fact of life. To our knowledge the invasives present are being successfully managed or considered not a threat.

Respectfully submitted,
 Invasive Species Committee
 Larry Marvin, Gail May, Ray McMullen, Jan Quaine, Maggie Wyman

Crooked River Lock Schedule 2015

Fees: \$10 per day \$30 season pass



May 23-June 28.....	8:00 am to 9:00 pm
June 29-Aug. 16.....	8:00 am to 10:00 pm
Aug. 17-Sept. 7.....	8:00 am to 9:00 pm
Sept. 8-Sept. 30.....	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Oct. 3-4.....	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Oct. 10-11.....	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Oct. 17-18.....	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Oct. 24-25.....	9:00 am to 5:00 pm

CLOSED FOR THE SEASON at 5:00 P.M. OCT. 25, 2015



POD-Prescription & Over-The-Counter Drug Drop Off

Remember that you can recycle your prescription and over-the-counter drugs at the following sites:

- *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 - Jeffery P. Bodzick Administration Office and Correctional Facility (Jail)
- *Emmet County Sheriff's Office - Richard L. Sink 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

Items accepted for the Pharmaceutical Collection Program include:

- Prescriptions including controlled substances
- Over the counter medications
- Pet medications
- Medicated ointment, lotions or drops
- Liquid medications (in sealed containers or plastic bags)

Items not accepted in the program include:

- Sharps/needles
- Blood sugar equipment
- Thermometers
- IV bags
- Bloody or infectious waste

Our Business Members provide additional support to the P.C.L.A. Please utilize their services and thank them!!

- B&H Painting and Home Repair B.H.paintingrepair@gmail.com
- Breezy Shores Property Owners Association
- Coldwell Banker Fairbairn Realty www.fairbairnrealty.com
- Countryside Realty
- Crooked Lake Yacht Club www.crookedlakeyc.org
- Crooked Vine Vineyard & Winery www.crookedvinewine.com
- Edward Jones Investments-Dan Ledingham www.edwardjones.com
- Human Systems Change Consulting
- Key Printing and Design www.keyprintinganddesign.com
- Little Traverse Conservancy www.landtrust.org
- Maple River Resort
- Music Makers of Petoskey, Inc dward@charter.net
- North by Nature Landscapes www.nbnlandscapes.com
- Northern Periodontics & Implant Dentistry www.nperio.com
- Northwoods Chiropractic drspringborn@aol.com
- Onaway Family Dentistry www.onawayfamilydentistry.com
- Petoskey Outboard Cruising Club
- Ryde Marine www.rydemarine.com
- Stafford's Crooked River Lodge www.staffords.com/CrookedRiver
- Sun Shade North Window Tinting www.sunshadenorth.com
- Tigerlillys www.tigerlillysflowers.com
- Windjammer Marina www.windjammermarina.com
- WW Fairbairn & Sons, Inc. www.wwfairbairn.com



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GERLAD WENDELL by Wendell Living Trust UAD



Support PCLLA

NEW LICENSE PLATE

As you can see we have updated our license plate. The price will be \$11 or \$16 to have it mailed. We are excited about this new product because it represents our 50th Anniversary logo. The price has been changed on our renewal form.



PCLLA LOGOWEAR

It is still possible to order shirts and hats with the PCLLA logo on it. You can go to <http://www.personalgraphicsonline.com/> Pick out a shirt or hat you like and ask them to put the PCLLA logo on it. You can also contact Personal Graphics at 231-347-6347 they can help you by phone.

Shrink-Wrap Recycling

Remember that it is good to recycle your shrink-wrap after taking it off of your boat this spring. Be sure to remove any wood or metal items from the plastic as well as any leaves or other plant matter before bundling the plastic for recycling. Nylon strapping, tape and plastic zippers can stay with the shrink-wrap. The shrink-wrap should then be bundled up in a sleeping bag shape. Strips of the shrink-wrap can be used to tie it up. For more information contact Lindsey Walker at the Emmet County Recycling Center at 231-348-0648 or talk to your local Marina.

COMING UP!! JOIN US!

- The annual membership meeting will be held at the Inland Water Route Historical Museum on August 1st at 9:00. Coffee and snacks at 8:30. We hope you will join us to hear an overview of what we have done and hope to accomplish. It is your time to talk to the board about your questions and concerns. We hope to see you there.
- We will have our annual Meet and Greet in August and we are hoping to schedule it on the first, second, or third Thursday of the month. Details will be posted on our website as soon as it is scheduled and if you are on our email list we will send you the information. This is a chance to meet and get to know your neighbors and other people who care about the preservation of our two lakes. If you would like to be added to our email list send a request to karenplasencia@gmail.com. Be sure to mention that you are a PCLLA member.