



The Chain Letter

PREZ SEZ by Dick Mace

Pike Lake Chain Letter

2017

Special points of interest:

**Annual Meeting
Saturday
June 3, 2017
10:00 am
Pike Lake
Firehall**

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“HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017” I trust you all made it through 2016 and look forward to a productive new year. This past year was a good year and positive things are happening in our Association. I was pleased to see Ann Sloane step forward at the Annual Meeting and agree to be our Secretary and take over those duties from our retiring Secretary, Jean Nelson. I very much appreciate the work that Jean has done, and while she steps away from all the duties of the Secretary, she remains to assist Ann and the Association in the preparation of our newsletter and will continue to monitor the Facebook account of the Association. A big thank you to both Ann and Jean, we all look forward to working together in the future. Another big debt of gratitude goes to Pam and Ron Ahles for rebuilding our website, which was taken down for a short period of time. They redesigned it and got it up and running with a new look and functionality. That effort was supported with the help of Larry Bresina. Larry works with the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership and has assisted other Lake Associations and Districts with the development of websites throughout the State. He also conducts website design and maintenance educational sessions at the Annual Lakes Conventions, which by the way is April 5-7, 2017 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. I also want to acknowledge the help that my son Erik provided Pam and Ron in salvaging the old website and getting the new one up and running with their help. Thank you to Larry and Erik and especially to Pam and Ron for all your time and work in providing the Association with a new, nice looking, and functional website. The Board also appointed two new members, Jeff Hellenbrand and Mike Ida, replacing Keith Roeske and Bob Tabbert. I thank Keith and Bob for their service and look forward to working with Jeff and Mike.

Looking forward, I am excited about a new project we discussed at the 2016 Annual Meeting, which proposes to construct a “fish passage ladder” at the Round Lake dam to allow the movement of fish from below the dam to again enter our lakes. Right now, fish living downstream of the dam in the river, are “blocked” from moving upstream into our chain where hundreds of years ago many of their ancestors lived, because they are unable to navigate the blocking effect of the dam and migrate into the lakes. This project will take some time to develop as explained by Steve Ave’Lallemant’s article in this newsletter but looks very promising and exciting.

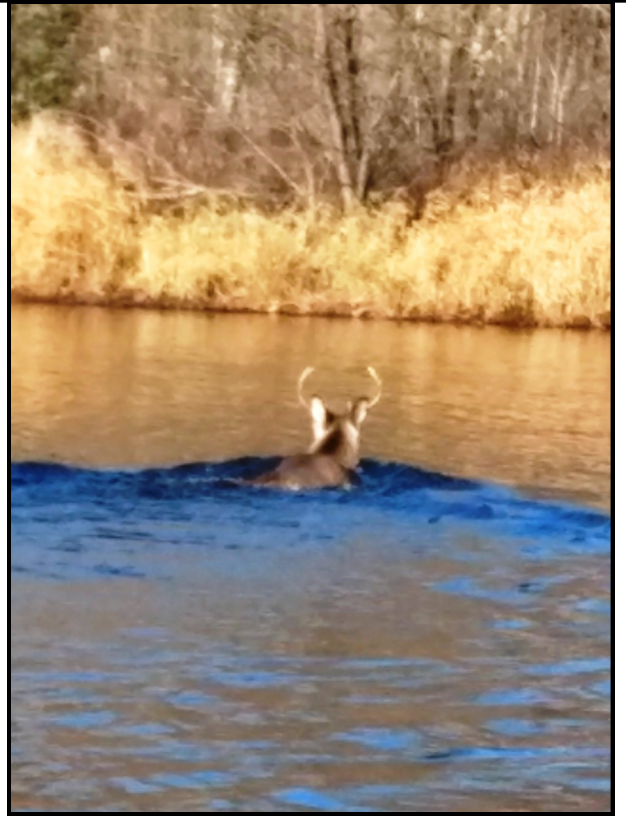
We have just recently received information from the Forest Service that they may now be willing to allow an “I-Lids” installation at their Round Lake Launch, which they had previously denied. Their new “look” is based on their positive experience of an installation at a Forest Service site at Lake Namekagon. This effort on our lakes was authorized to be looked into at a previous Association Annual Meeting, but was sidelined when we were not able to secure approval for an installation at the Forest Service Launch; we did have preliminary approval for one at the DNR launch on Thorofare Rd.

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Prez Sez Cont

We felt if both launches were not protected and monitored for invasive species, the effectiveness of those systems would be undermined, having only one installation rather than at both launches, so the effort was sidelined. Please also note we are in need of a member to step forward and agree to assume the responsibility for the Clean Boats / Clean Waters Committee, which is charged with the monitoring of boats at our launches to assist us in keeping invasive species from contaminating our Chain. Currently we are free of invasives, aside from purple loosestrife, and we want to prevent them from invading our lakes. It should be noted that in order to qualify for state funding of I-Lids, we have to have an active boat monitoring activity ongoing, which we have not had for a couple of years.

Finally, as you boat around the Lakes this coming season, please note the placement of the historically located and the new **"No-Wake"** buoys, which were placed in summer of 2015 and please observe the message contained thereon. Also, please visit the new website and monitor lake activities and information contained thereon. Please note that membership dues for 2017 are now due (see form on page 5). Thank you for your support and participation. As a final thought, please put June 3, 2017 at 10 am on your calendar and plan to attend your Lakes Association Annual Meeting at the Pike Lake firehall. See you all there.



Mike Ida took this picture of a buck, swimming across Round Lake, in search of a doe that passed by earlier.

Fisheries Report

Russ Schroeder Co-Chair

In 2016 we had new bag limits; signs have been placed at both Round Lake boat landings.

NEW PANFISH BAG LIMIT

Effective April 1, 2016, the pan fish bag limit for the Pike Lake Chain (PLC) has changed. The new bag limit will still be 25 a day, but you will only be able to keep a maximum of ten of any one pan fish, i.e. perch, crappie, bluegill, etc, per day. However, the possession limit will still be 'measured' the old way, i.e., you can still have 50 of any one pan fish (because there are still lakes on which you can keep 25 of any one pan fish). The PLC is one of about 12 lakes under this new bag limit rule.

WALLEYE BAG LIMIT

The walleye bag limit that started in the 2016 season will continue to be the same as last year. You can keep three fish a day, but only one can be over 14". That is the daily total for ALL four lakes combined. Possession limit is still double the daily bag limit.

The DNR did electro-shocking in September 2016, to evaluate the walleye growth and population as a control body of water. It will be used as a comparison to other lakes that have both natural reproduction (as the PLC has) and those that stock.

MUSKY STOCKING

Fall of 2015, 400 + musky fingerlings were released in the PLC. Stocking will continue every two years at a ratio of one fish for every four acres per lake. Last year's numbers were:

182 - Round Lake

201 - Pike Lake

37 - Turner Lake

Fish Passage at Round Lake Logging Dam Update

Steve AveLallemant

Since our check-in and approval at the PLCLA Annual Meeting, to continue looking into a fish passage project at the Round Lake Dam, the following has happened.

The US Forest Service (USFS) staff continue to monitor both water levels and flows above and below the dam. They will continue to do so through the spring of 2017. This information is needed in order to establish minimum flows needed to maintain good fish habitat year-round.

Jeff Scheirer and his crew electrofished the South Fork of the Flambeau at several sites below the dam to update fish community information. He didn't find any invasive species.

DNR Regional Supervisor Mike Vogelsang sent a letter to our president Dick Mace on July 6 backing the potential project and encouraging our support. Indeed fish passage is already formally identified as a beneficial project in the 2015 Pike Lake Chain Fishery Management Plan. The US Forest Service also endorses fish passage.

I met with DNR and USFS staff along with Luther Aadland who is a well-respected consultant on fish passage design at our dam on October 14. Luther thought that fish passage was indeed possible. It would be easiest to be able to work right up through the widest gate on the dam, but Sue Reinecke, FS Fisheries Biologist, reported that, because the dam is now on the register of historic places, we may be limited as to what can be done within the dam "footprint". Luther said it could be done by working both above and below the dam but would be logistically more difficult. We will have to wait and see once we actually have a potential plan to consider.



Luther designed a fish passage at the Winter Hydroelectric Dam on the East Fork of the Chippewa River over towards Hayward so there is a local example that we could go take a look at.

From what I can see there will no doubt be some hurdles to jump over in getting this project done but the agencies involved are supportive. There is a chance that the project could start in 2018 but a more realistic timeline would be 2019.

These two photos show examples of nature-like fishways, installed on rivers in the Upper Mid-west region, using a stair-stepped series of arches to form a cascade.

You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist. Friedrich Nietzsche

As in past years, there is no problem with purple loosestrife at this time, the -20 temperature has taken care of that problem, at least for the next few months.

We placed 12 pots of beetle-infested plants at locations that in past years supported purple loosestrife (PL) growth, our one significant aquatic invasive species on the chain. This year it was found in the same areas where it was previously experienced. The main three areas are:

- The marsh on private property behind the old Pine Forest Lodge area.
- The bay-like swamp on the northeast corner of Round Lake.
- The large stumpy bay north of the logging dam.

In addition, a significant population of PL was found just west of the trail leading back to Tucker Lake on the north end of Round Lake. By the time we located those plants we only had two pots left so we placed them there. We will target this area for more plants in 2017.

As in past years, the beetles were provided from the DNR through a program at McNaughton at no cost to the Association. We hope that will continue in 2017, as we see little evidence of a native population taking hold.

We physically dug-up plants and cut flowering heads where practical, prior to seed maturity. It should be noted that all our efforts will NOT eliminate the PL, but merely keep it at bay. The DNR tells us that is about the best we should expect.

Thanks to our PLCLA members who identified several PL plants near the Thorofare Bridge and reported and removed them. We again encourage anyone that is interested in doing their own spot checking to contact us to discuss how to collect the weeds and what to look for.

As for the other species of invasives that have been identified as a risk for our lakes (low probability), we continue to take samples of the aquatic plants and have NOT found any evidence they have been introduced to our chain.

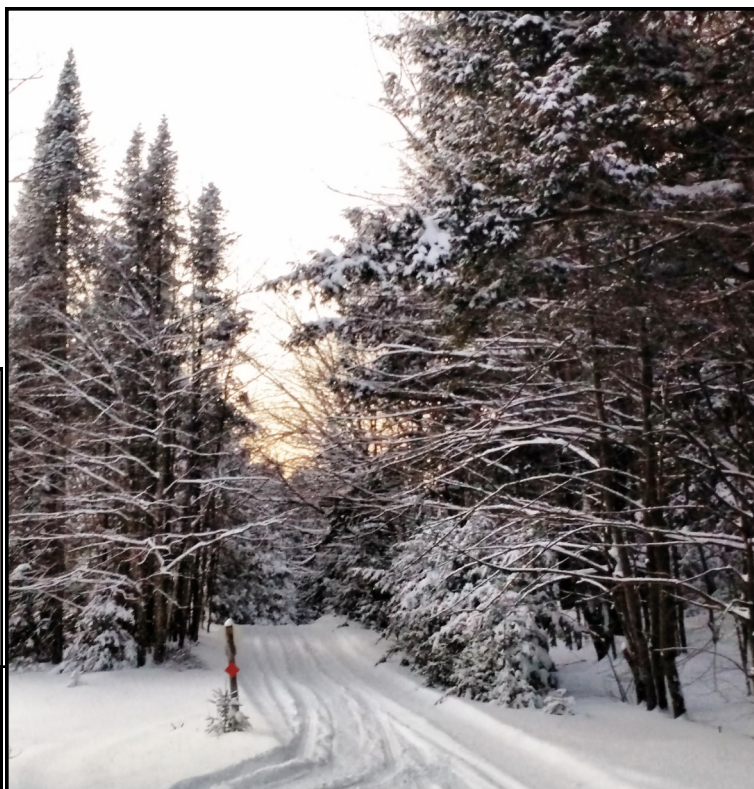
MEMBERSHIP Pam Ahles

This newsletter kicks off our "Annual Membership Drive". Please take a few minutes and complete the attached Membership Form and send in your dues *as soon as possible*. For those of you who were members last year, we thank you for your support. We did have a 22% decrease in membership this past year. Let's see if we can bring those numbers back up.

Fifield SnoDrobers

Over a foot of snow fell between Tuesday night (January 10th) into that Wednesday, making for excellent conditions on the top of the solid base we currently had. This brought out many snowmobilers to enjoy our trails.

Contact the Price County Department of Tourism for trail updates. pricecountywi.net/843/Reports---Trail-and-Recreation



Want To Know?

Want to keep up to date with what's going on around the Pike Lake Chain?

Check out our website: pikelakechain.net

Or like and follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/PLCLA](https://www.facebook.com/PLCLA)

PIKE LAKE CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.

N14885 Shady Knoll Road, Park Falls, WI 54552

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues are \$25.00 per membership per year. Dues cover the period 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2017.

Record membership as: ____ Individual/Family, ____ Business, ____ Trust **Please note:** 1 membership constitutes 1 vote, with a Family, Business, or Trust membership, anyone in your Family, Business, or Trust is eligible to cast that one vote.

of Memberships ____ @\$25.00 = Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____

NAME(S) : (Please Print) _____

Email Address (Optional) _____

Email addresses are used only as a means to forward information from within our chain of lakes, such as meeting dates, lost and found items, and Pike Lake Chain area events, etc, addresses are not made public.

Lake Residence Address _____

Place of Residence (If different from Lake address): _____

Residence Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Please indicate your areas of interest:

_____ Boat Landing Monitoring _____ Lake Aquatic Monitoring

_____ Other please specify _____

Make all checks payable to: Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc. (PLCLA Inc)

*****Please include a copy of this form and **MAIL TO*******

PLCLA Treasurer N14885 Shady Knoll Road Park Falls, WI 54552

Well Water Testing

Pam Ahles

Has it been awhile since your well water has been tested? The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) recommends that you have your private well water tested yearly for Total Coliform (Bacteria) or more often should you notice a change in water quality, color, taste or odor. The cost for having just this one test performed is \$29. They also suggest that you test for nitrates and metals. You can have all three tested for \$118.

If you are interested in testing your drinking water please call 608-224-6203 to discuss your testing needs. The WSLH will send you a free testing kit. You simply draw a small water sample from your pressure tank tap and mail it to the laboratory. The results are mailed to you along with an invoice. It is best that this sample is drawn and mailed in spring, summer or fall so the sample does not freeze.

Lake Testing Report

Rick Sironi

Your team of lake testers completed four tests throughout the summer, starting right after "ice out". The results of the tests are all available on the DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) pages at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>

No statistically significant changes were noted in Clarity (Secchi), Chlorophyll and Phosphorus compared to prior years.

Placement and Use of Piers and Swimming Rafts

Pam Ahles

Only a riparian (waterfront property owner) can place a pier or swimming raft in the "riparian zone". Piers, boat lifts, and related structures, which include swimming rafts, in this riparian zone are **private property** of the riparian. However, someone wading along the shoreline may cross over a pier to continue using the waterway. If you encounter someone accessing your pier or related structures, other than to cross over, they are trespassing and you should contact the local sheriff's office at 715-339-3011. You should **not** contact a warden. This information has been confirmed with the local sheriff's office.

**Pike Lake Chain Lakes
Association, Inc.**

**NI4885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552**

**2017 dues are
due now**

*Here to preserve and protect for
future generations*



Rick and Sandy Sironi's daughter-in-law Megan captured this great picture of an immature bald

Pike Lake Fire Department News

Your PLFD is starting off the new year with a new slate of officers. Tom Birchell was voted in as Chief, replacing Terry Mantor who decided to take a well earned break. We would like to thank Terry for the many years of service he gave us as Chief and we are glad that he is continuing on as a firefighter. Our Assistant Chief is Todd Faller, Captain is Matt Langenhahn, Lieutenant is Rick Sironi, Safety Officer is Jim Nelson, and our EMS Lieutenant is Carol Birchell. As always, we are in need of Firefighters and EMS personnel. If interested, please contact Tom Birchell, or talk to any firefighter or EMS personnel for more information. The cold may be here, but while daydreaming about warmer weather remember that Fun Day is just around the corner, September 3rd. If you are interested in volunteering to help out please contact Doug Noetzel or Jean Nelson. We welcome those in the Pike Lake Chain area to come to any of our meetings, new blood and ideas always welcome!

NEW Website!

Pam Ahles

The Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association has a NEW and IMPROVED website.

This website was designed to be more helpful to our members. We have included a lot more information about the lakes, meeting minutes, newsletters, membership information and informative links. Please visit us at pikelakechain.net and take some time to check out each of the pages listed on the "Home" page. If you have never had a chance to view our *Lake Management Plan* it is located under "Our Lakes" or our *Fish Management Plan* located under "Our Lakes"- "Fisheries". We are looking for great pictures taken on or around the chain to be included in the Gallery. If you have pictures that you would like to see in the Gallery, shoot us a message using the "Contact Us" form and we will arrange to get the pictures from you. We hope you find the new site informative and we welcome any feedback, using the "Contact Us" form.

The Flambeau Auxiliary Thrift Store in Park Falls is always looking for volunteers, please contact the store if interested (715)762-4800.

**Pike Lake
Chain Letter**

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