



The Chain Letter



Pike Lake Chain-Letter	
2018	
<i>Special points of interest:</i>	
Annual Meeting Saturday June 9, 2018 10:00am Pike Lake Firehall	
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Check out our website: pikelakechain.net Follow us on Facebook: Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc, Price County	

PREZ SEZ by Dick Mace

“HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018” It is with gratitude and a bit of sadness that I open this letter of thanks to all of you who have helped to make our Pike Lake Chain of Lakes a joy to use. It seems every year we lose someone who has been an active community member for many years, who many of us have known and will miss, but these past two years seem to have included an unusually large number. Therefore, before I talk about the upcoming new year’s efforts, I must take some time to remember those departed friends and neighbors. We lost a long time friend, Avis Wierzba, who was loved and respected by all who knew her. Her long time commitment and love of this community will not be forgotten. Her husband, Jack, has been a faithful and loving partner in his commitment to Avis and the community over the past few years. I also just learned that Denise Klein, a long time member of the Fire Department, has passed away after a long term illness. Denise and her husband Doug have been long time members of the Fire Department. Another member of our Association, Lois Hunter passed away. She and her husband Ed loved the lakes and supported the work of the Association as Ed continues to do so. We also remember the passing of long time resident, Dallas Helm. I did not know him well, but I have been told that he was a good fisherman and supported the efforts of the Association. We remember the passing of Dave Ayres, spouse of Judy Ayres, who were past residents on Pike Lake and strongly supported the Association and Fire Department. Most currently we mourn the loss of another member of the Pike Lake family and former Town Board Chairman, Doug Noetzel of Idle Hour Resort. Doug had been going through some troubling times with health issues recently and passed this January. He was very active in the community and a past member of the Fire Department. We offer our condolences to his wife, Rita and their son Oscar. We also are reminded of the loss of Tom Steeno, husband of Margaret, who passed away while wintering in the warmer “climes” of Arizona last winter. Tom also was a member of the Fire Department and strong supporter of its mission. We cannot forget the loss of another fixture in the community last winter, Dave Keehn (Musky Jack). Dave was our Fire Marshall for many years. He was very supportive of the efforts of both the Lake Association and the Fire Department. All of these folks were strong members of the community, we offer our sympathies and prayers to their families, they will be missed.

While preparing this report, I cannot lose sight of the positive gains over the past year. Our water quality remains high and we have been able to fend off intrusion of invasive species that would negatively impact our lake system. We also are hearing positive things about our future fish passage project at the dam. The DNR and Forest Service are supportive of this project and have recently conducted surveys of the fish populations in the river below the dam which is being reported on elsewhere in this newsletter. I would also like to thank the DNR for providing a report on the concept of a fish passage facility at our annual meeting last June. It was very informative and provided the membership with information I felt was very beneficial. I would also like to personally thank Steve Ave’Lallemant and Russ Schroeder for their due diligence on getting the information to us and following up on the project.

Continued on pg 2

Russ Schroeder and Brian Kastner are following through and updating us on fisheries issues and providing reports as available and I thank them for their efforts. Sandy and Rick Sironi continue to fight the purple loosestrife, as you can read in their report in this newsletter. It should also be noted that Rick and Sandy have asked to be relieved of this responsibility, so the Association will be looking for volunteers to assume these duties and chair the Aquatic Invasive Species committee. Rick as well as Ron Ahles, Jack Wierzba and Terry Mantor have been conducting water testing on the lakes. That is how we track our lake's water clarity and quality and I thank them for their efforts. I also want to recognize Pam Ahles, our Treasurer, for her work over the past few years in tracking and managing our financial condition and membership numbers. This past year our membership has fallen off from where it has been in the past and we encourage you to continue to promote membership in the Association. A Membership form is included in this newsletter and I hope you will complete it along with submitting your annual dues as soon as possible. Pam also was a significant contributor to the updating of our website and continues with that effort and I thank her for that. However, she has opted to not seek reelection, so we are looking for a person to fulfill the position of Treasurer. She has done excellent work over the past few years and the Board appreciates those efforts. I would like to thank our Secretary Ann Sloane and our board members, Steve Ave'Llallmant, Jeff Hellenbrand, Mike Ida, Sandy Sironi, Ron Ahles, Brian Kastner, Manny Stein, and Jim Robb for their continued good work. Elections will be held for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer along with 4 Board positions. If any of you would like to take on one of these duties, please contact any of the Board members to express your willingness to serve. Positions will be voted on at the upcoming Annual Meeting on June 9, 2018 at 10am at the Firehall, so please put the date on your calendars and try to attend. There is plenty of "early warning" so excuses for not coming should not be provided. Again, while we have had a good year, I want to remember in our thoughts and prayers all of those who have left us over this and in the past years. Thank you for your continued participation and support and I look forward to a good year. *Dick Mace* President

Fish Passage Status on The Pike Lake Chain Jan. 2018

The US Forest Service is continuing its work to investigate installing a fish passage on the South Fork of the Flambeau and into Round Lake of the Pike Lake Chain.

- Water level monitors have been in place continuous since 2016, and that data will be analyzed and used to prepare a preliminary design for the fishway.
- This design will be used by the FS for a proposed action in their NEPA process. Public comments would be asked for at that point.
- The comments would then be used to develop alternatives if necessary.
- A FS team of resource specialists would determine effects of the proposed action and any alternatives for the Environmental Assessment.
- Public comments would then be asked on the Environmental Assessment before a final decision is made.

Wild Rice Casserole

- 1 Cup Wild Rice, Uncooked
- ½ Pound – 3 Cups Fresh Mushrooms, Sliced
- 3 Tablespoons Onion, Minced
- ½ Cup Sliced Almonds or Water Chestnuts
- 3 Cups Chicken Broth
- ¼ Cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Rinse wild rice under running water using a strainer or in a bowl of water; drain. Combine rice, mushrooms, onion and almonds in 2-quart casserole. Add broth, dot with olive oil. Bake, uncovered, in a 325 degree oven, until rice is tender and liquid is absorbed (about 1-1/2 hours). Cool slightly and stir gently. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Pike Lake Shrimp (because it kind of tastes like it)

Brine: Mix 4 C water and 2 C vinegar. Cut and add to the brine: 1 stalk celery, 1 large onion, 1 whole bay leaf. Boil until soft, and then remove the bay leaf. Lay fish in brine (northern works great) and bring to a boil for 8 minutes – no longer! Remove fish and dry on paper towel. Remove all bones and break into bite size pieces. Mix sauce and pour over fish.

Sauce:

- 1 C ketchup, ¼ C lemon juice, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce, 4 tsp horseradish, and a dash of Tabasco.

Concern regarding the impact of catfish on the Pike Lake Chain

The following explanation was received from Jeff Scheirer (Fishery Biologist) WDNR

In the early outreach to inform a decision on whether to build a nature-like fishway that would reconnect the ecosystems in the South Fork Flambeau River and the Pike Lake Chain, WDNR and U.S. Forest Service staff heard a citizen's concern about the potential impacts of catfish on the more highly regarded sportfish populations in the Chain. A handful of survey records show that channel catfish are already present in the Pike Lake Chain at trace levels of abundance, but we found no useful information to describe catfish population status in the river. So in late July and again in late August 2017, WDNR's Fishery Team fished five hoop-nets baited with soymeal at nine deep-water sites in the South Fork Flambeau between its origin at the Round Lake Dam and the canoe landing on Sugar Bush Road about 20 river miles downstream. Our 37 net-nights of survey effort yielded 19 channel catfish that were 18 – 32 inches long. Not all river pools produced catfish—the two upstream- and downstream-most nets accounted for 95% of the catch. Our low catch rate (0.5 catfish per net-night) indicated low population abundance. By comparison, baited hoop-nets captured on average 18 channel catfish per net-night in 17 Upper Wisconsin River surveys (2005 – 2012) and 1.5 channel catfish per net-night in five St. Croix River surveys (2011 – 2015). In our small sample from the South Fork Flambeau River 63% of the catfish were 24 inches or longer, compared to 13% attaining that size in the Upper Wisconsin River surveys and 15% in the St. Croix River



Technician, checking baited hoop-net set for catfish in South Fork Flambeau River, July 2017




Channel Catfish 2017

surveys. Fishery publications on catfish diets consistently show that channel catfish are omnivorous and that they did not select or prefer specific foods over others available to them. Based on their low abundance in both the river and the Chain, as well as their habit to eat a broad variety of food, we do not anticipate that channel catfish will adversely affect sportfish populations by direct predation or indirect competition, if a nature-like fishway were to be installed at the Round Lake Dam. Instead, we expect that if a fishway is constructed, channel catfish and other aquatic species will once again move freely in both directions between the Chain and the river to restore the dynamics of the fish, mussel, and wildlife communities that evolved in this system.

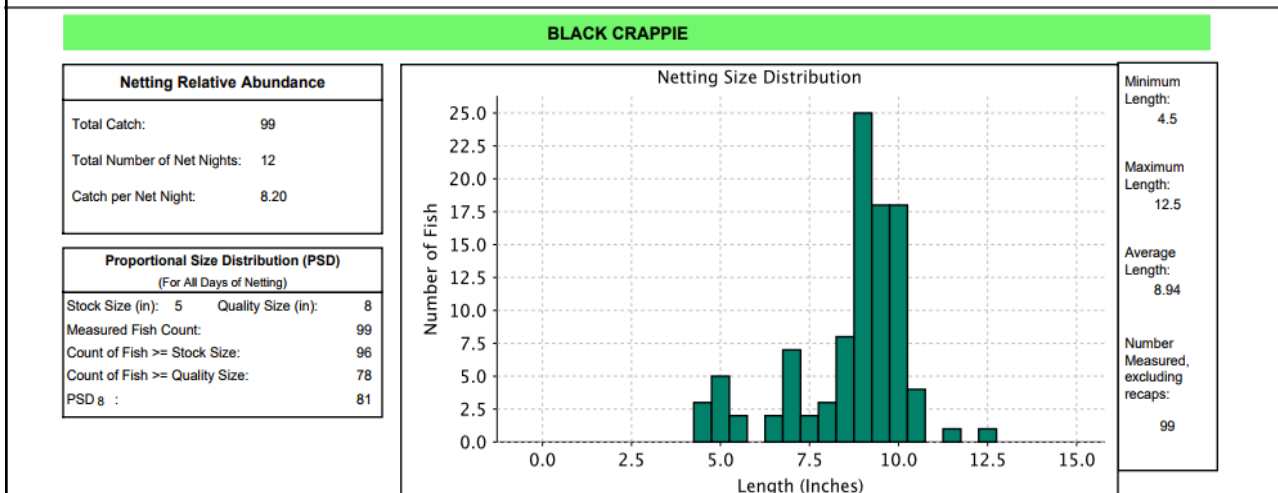
Fisheries Report: Russ Schroeder/Brian Kastner Co-Chairs


As reported by Jeff Scheirer (Fisheries Biologist) WDNR: Fyke nets set for black crappies in Oct 2017 showed a strong year class growing toward the sizes that anglers like to catch and eat. Right now we're estimating their ages from ear bones extracted from a sample 9 – 11 inches long. Unless these crappies are very old, panfish anglers should enjoy good fishing for crappie 10 inches and longer in the next several years.

	County: PRICE	Lake Name: PIKE LAKE	WBIC: 2268300	Survey Year: 2017		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Jeff Scheirer - Park Falls - 715-762-1354</td> </tr> </table>					WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information
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Jeff Scheirer - Park Falls - 715-762-1354						

Lake Characteristics		Lake Type: SHALLOW LOWLAND DRAINAGE
Acres: 806	Shoreline miles: 9.7	Maximum Depth (feet): 17

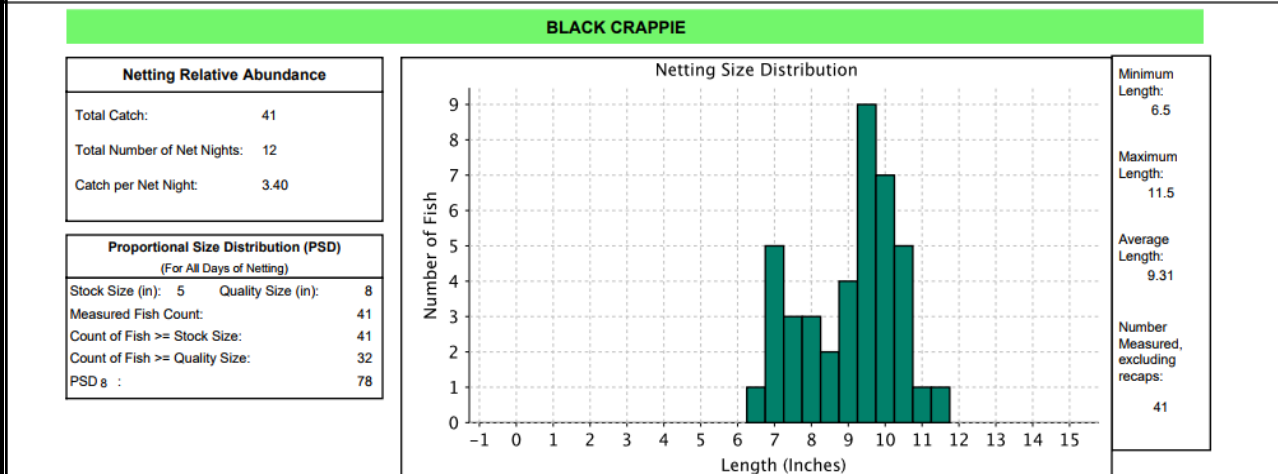
Survey Information		WDNR Survey ID: 515085369
Gear Types: FYKE NET	Survey Dates: Oct 16, 2017 to Oct 18, 2017	Survey Type: FISHERIES ASSESSMENTS FALL NETTING



	County: PRICE	Lake Name: ROUND LAKE	WBIC: 2267800	Survey Year: 2017		
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Jeff Scheirer - Park Falls - 715-762-1354</td> </tr> </table>					WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information
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Jeff Scheirer - Park Falls - 715-762-1354						

Lake Characteristics		Lake Type: DEEP LOWLAND DRAINAGE
Acres: 726	Shoreline miles: 5.1	Maximum Depth (feet): 24

Survey Information		WDNR Survey ID: 515085370
Gear Types: FYKE NET	Survey Dates: Oct 18, 2017 to Oct 20, 2017	Survey Type: FISHERIES ASSESSMENTS FALL NETTING





WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

County: VILAS
 Lake Name: AMIK LAKE
 WBIC: 2268600
 Survey Year: 2017

WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information
Hadley Boehm - Woodruff - (715) 356-5211 Ext. 246

Lake Characteristics

Lake Type: SHALLOW LOWLAND DRAINAGE

Acres: 224 Shoreline miles: 3 Maximum Depth (feet): 8

Survey Information

Survey Dates: Oct 16, 2017 to Oct 18, 2017

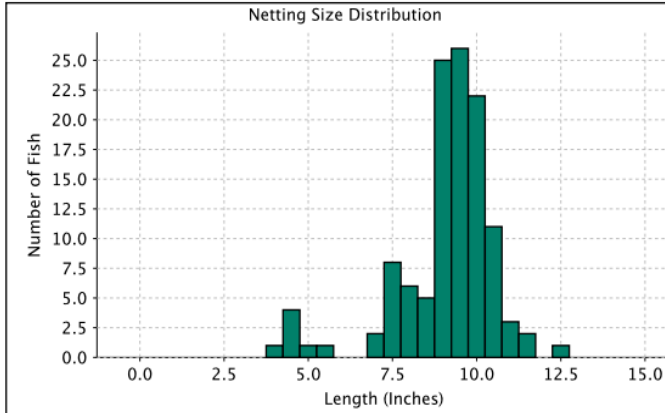
WDNR Survey ID: 515085371

Gear Types: FYKE NET Survey Type: FISHERIES ASSESSMENTS FALL NETTING

BLACK CRAPPIE

Netting Relative Abundance	
Total Catch:	118
Total Number of Net Nights:	8
Catch per Net Night:	14.80

Proportional Size Distribution (PSD)	
(For All Days of Netting)	
Stock Size (in): 5	Quality Size (in): 8
Measured Fish Count:	118
Count of Fish >= Stock Size:	113
Count of Fish >= Quality Size:	101
PSD % :	89



Minimum Length:	4
Maximum Length:	12.5
Average Length:	9.34
Number Measured, excluding recaps:	118



WISCONSIN DNR FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

County: PRICE
 Lake Name: TURNER LAKE
 WBIC: 2268500
 Survey Year: 2017

WDNR Fish Biologist Contact Information
Jeff Scheirer - Park Falls - 715-762-1354

Lake Characteristics

Lake Type: SHALLOW HEADWATER DRAINAGE

Acres: 149 Shoreline miles: 2.6 Maximum Depth (feet): 12

Survey Information

Survey Dates: Oct 18, 2017 to Oct 20, 2017

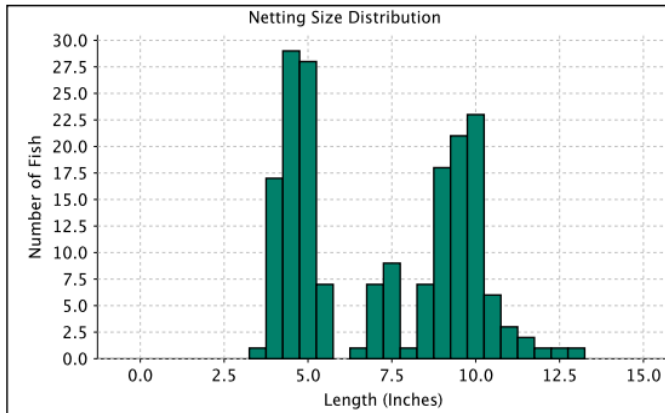
WDNR Survey ID: 515085372

Gear Types: FYKE NET Survey Type: FISHERIES ASSESSMENTS FALL NETTING

BLACK CRAPPIE

Netting Relative Abundance	
Total Catch:	183
Total Number of Net Nights:	8
Catch per Net Night:	22.90

Proportional Size Distribution (PSD)	
(For All Days of Netting)	
Stock Size (in): 5	Quality Size (in): 8
Measured Fish Count:	183
Count of Fish >= Stock Size:	136
Count of Fish >= Quality Size:	84
PSD % :	62



Minimum Length:	3.5
Maximum Length:	13
Average Length:	7.46
Number Measured, excluding recaps:	183

Lake Testing Report

While lake testing is a bit slow this time of year, 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.

During 2017 the blooming of Purple Loosestrife appeared to be down significantly. We were unable to acquire the beetles from the DNR as in other years, as McNaughton didn't raise any. We hope they will be back in that business in 2018. We did communicate several times with the DNR regarding the availability, but they seemed to be having trouble getting the plants and the starter beetles.

If the downturn in visible loosestrife was due to past distribution of beetles, the physical harvesting of plants before they went to seed, or simply the weather, we don't know. We continued to physically remove plants as they were blooming, but we noted very little beetle damage so it makes me wonder how well the beetles are surviving the winter to produce a native population. Evaluating the effectiveness of past beetle efforts will be a recommended focus in 2018.

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. We will be stepping down from the AIS chair position in 2018. We hope that someone with more time and focus will step forward to keep a watch on the Pike Lake Chain invasives.

INVASIVE SPECIES STILL A CONCERN DURING ICE FISHING SEASON

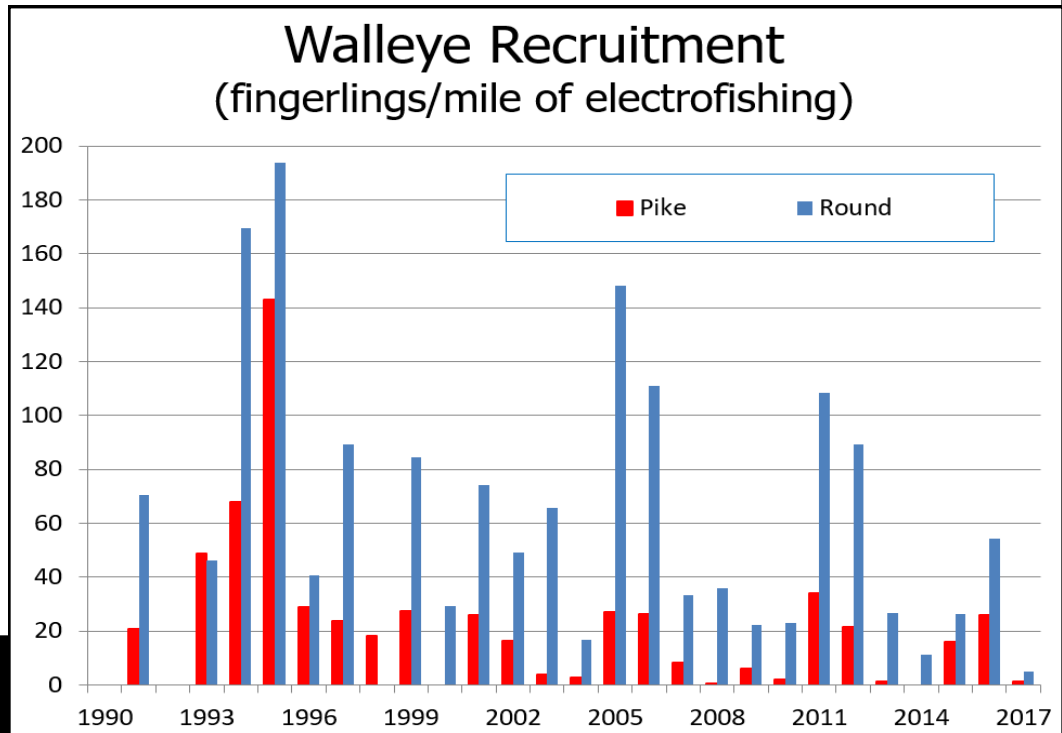
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) can be transported in the middle of winter as easily as in the heat of summer. Please visually inspect all equipment, especially if it has spent anytime in the water, and remove any debris or vegetation including mud that may have attached itself before moving to another part of our chain or moving from surrounding lakes.

Fisheries Continued WALLEYES

Per a report from Jeff Scheirer (Fisheries Biologist) WDNR

The walleye population in the Pike Chain barely produced a year class in 2017. At 4.9 fingerlings per mile, the DNR's measure of walleye recruitment in Round Lake was the lowest recorded since 1991. But, we found good survival of the 2016 year class. We captured 40.5 yearlings/mile in Round Lake and 20.5 yearlings/mile in Pike Lake. It's certainly not uncommon to see wide variation in walleye year class production from year to year. Fortunately, adult walleye populations are made up of several year classes, and these populations usually can get through one, two, or even three consecutive years of poor production without noticing too much decline in fishing quality. There's been much study into the underlying causes for the annual variation in walleye production and year class strength. Where natural reproduction takes place, poor production in some years is usually not due to a

shortage of spawning habitat. Adult walleyes can and do find suitable clean gravel substrate to deposit, fertilize, and incubate their eggs. Some of the suspected causes include starvation from lack of suitable-size food, predation (including cannibalism), and environmental factors, such as water temperature and battering disturbance from wind/wave action.



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 1/1/2018 to 12/31/2018

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.

I would like to receive my newsletter via: Hardcopy Email Facebook/Website

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

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE PLCLA BOARD

The position of Treasurer is open for election at our 2018 annual meeting. After serving for four years as Treasurer, Pam Ahles will not be running again.

The position of Treasurer includes keeping records for membership. It would be best if you have Microsoft Excel or some spreadsheet capability on your computer. Pam would be able to give you all the information electronically and will provide notes and assistance for a smooth transition. The primary duties of the Treasurer are: Attend all board meetings (4-5), make deposits, write checks, balance checkbook, maintain and issue reports using spreadsheets, prepare annual budget with help of other board members, and make necessary filings electronically. Please consider giving a little of your time to help out our Association. If you have questions or are interested in being the next Treasurer, please contact one of the board members or go to the website and use the "Contact Us" form to express your interest.

MEMBERSHIP

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 continue to be members year-after-year, we thank you for your continued support. Membership has been declining for the last couple of years. Please support us so that we can continue to keep our beautiful chain of lakes clean, healthy and safe.

Pike Lake Chain Lakes
Association, Inc.

NI4885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552

**2018 dues are
due now**

*Here to preserve and protect for
future generations*



Fifield SnoDroivers

Our Poker Run this year was a great success. We have snow on the ground and more on it's way, so head on up for some fun. If you don't belong to a club consider joining ours, membership forms can be found at our local Pike Lake Chain establishments. Like us on Facebook: Fifield Sno Droivers Snowmobile Club

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

PIKE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Our 2018 officers are: Chief - Tom Birchell, Assistant Chief - Matt Langenhahn, Captain - Rick Sironi, Safety Officer - Jim Nelson, and EMS Lieutenant - Carol Birchell. We would like to welcome new members: Thor Gunderson, Mike and Ann Sloane, and Ryan Zylka. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter, you can see what it's all about by attending a few meetings, as you have within two years of joining to take the firefighter class.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER CLASS

There will be a 70 hour EMR Class being held in Feb/March of 2018. If you are interested in joining our department by becoming a Responder please contact Tom or Carol Birchell. The Fire Department will cover your cost for the class and books. After one year of service you will be paid for your 70 hours of time taken to complete the class. If you are over 62, the cost to the Department for the class is greatly reduced, so please consider giving it a try.

FUN DAY SUNDAY SEPT 2, 2018

Mark your calendar and come join the fun! If you are interested in helping out with the planning for Fun Day, please come to our meetings the last Wednesday of the month starting in March. We are in need of a person to head up the gathering of prizes for our Hourly Raffle. If you might be interested please contact Jean Nelson, she is willing to assist. We also need a person to write out thank you letters for those donations. Many hands make light work, so please consider pitching in and helping out. If you own a business, or do art work/crafts, please consider making a donation for our raffles. Contact Tom Birchell or Jean Nelson with any questions.