



The Chain Letter

PREZ SEZ by Dick Mace

Pike Lake Chain Letter	
2019	
<i>Special points of interest:</i>	
Annual Meeting Saturday June 8, 2019 10:00 am Pike Lake Firehall	
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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019! Hope you are all having a very happy and joyful New Year. Many of you are likely wishing for more snow and less subzero temps. Maybe both conditions are on the way. At least the Polar Vortex has departed and will stay away. It was truly difficult to live through, but it looks like we made it and now can look for more moderate temperatures and snow for the snowmobilers, fisherman and cross country skiers.

I would like to share with you our Association's recent accomplishments, and tell you about what we hope to do this coming year. We continue to monitor our water conditions and invasive species. Our water quality continues to be very good and possibly a bit better than in the recent past. We also have not found any increase in Invasive species in the system, although we continue to see small patches of Purple Loosestrife on the north end of Round and a small intrusion in a small wetland area just east of where Pine Forest resort was located. No beetles, which thrive on the plant, were available to us last year but we hope that we can get some for release this coming season to help control this invasive species. If you see the plant, try to pull it out with roots attached, place it in a plastic bag, and throw it in the garbage. The fish passageway project at the dam, which we have talked about for 2 years now and which continues to be supported by the DNR and Forest Service, is moving forward with fish surveys having been done and a very preliminary design being prepared by a Forest Service expert in such things, although it is not yet available for public distribution, not even to the Board. We hope that we may be able to review the preliminary design sometime this year. At the appropriate time, it will be made available for public review. You may also recollect that an update to the Chain's Lake Management Plan, approved around 2012, was budgeted for and approved at the Annual Meeting in June. Since that time, a subcommittee was formed to usher this project along and after some meetings with the DNR in Woodruff, it was discovered that we may be able to save significant dollars, because the DNR's work plan for the coming year or two is going to perform the surveys and assessments we contemplated hiring consultants for, which were a critical part of an update process. This is a very significant accomplishment, but may require some volunteer help by lake residents to complete, along with DNR staff. This work should commence in the spring of this coming year and may continue through 2020. Detailed work plans will be prepared and presented to the Association Board and may be outlined at the upcoming Annual Meeting on June 8. "Stay Tuned" We appreciate the work of the Subcommittee and DNR staff for these efforts.

In other news, Jean Nelson has decided to no longer be responsible for publishing and distributing our Newsletter after this one is distributed. The Board thanks Jean

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Prez Sez

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for her years of work on this effort. We will be looking for future volunteers to take over the newsletter. If any of you wish to help out in this endeavor, please contact me or one of the Board members to express your interest. Please also be aware that two new board members have been appointed to replace Brian Kastner and Jeff Hellenbrand, who were unable to complete their terms of office and participate in Board meetings. The new members are Jack Wierzba and Jason Yates, both who will fill out the terms of Brian and Jeff. We appreciate the contributions of Brian and Jeff, and look forward to working with the two new members. The Board is also looking into the prospect of providing a handicap accessible fishing pier somewhere on the chain. Mike Ida has prepared a new Lake Chain brochure, which will be available soon. A new lake hazards map has been prepared by Nell Mace and Sandy Sironi that has been reviewed and approved by the Board, to be made available at the ramps and resorts and anyone else upon request. Thanks to Mike, Nell, and Sandy for their contribution.

Finally, please set aside 10am on June 8, 2019 for the Association Annual Meeting, to be held at the Firehall Auxiliary building. Also, note that membership forms are provided herein and we hope you will fill one out and return your payment as soon as possible. Thank you for your participation and contributions over the past years and hope to see you at our meetings, which are open, and at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely, Dick Mace President

Lake Management Plan

Steve AveLallemant

The PLCLA Board spent some time looking at whether we should update our current Lake Management Plan. We decided that a formal update was not necessary at this time but that repeating some of the surveys that were done for the latest plan, as well as looking into some new survey protocols developed recently that assess lake health, should be considered.

We met with Kevin Gauthier, Lakes Management Coordinator for WDNR in Woodruff. He took an interest in having his staff actually do some of the surveys on the Pike Lake Chain since it is a fairly large and high profile system. We paid a consultant to do these types of surveys for our past lake management planning efforts. Specifically Kevin's crews would repeat the extensive aquatic plant survey that was done in the past, as well as a look for AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) which will determine what if anything has changed for plants since the last survey. In addition, his staff would conduct two new survey protocols. One is a survey of wood habitat available to aquatic critters in the shallow areas around the lakes shores. This "coarse woody habitat" has been shown to be an important component of lake ecosystem production. The other is a look at the land near the lakes shore as to things like vegetation, structures, and erosion. These last two surveys will give us a snapshot of current conditions on our lakes, shorelines, and shallow areas. They may also suggest places where we might be able to improve habitat in these regions. Any projects of this type would be at the discretion of the landowner, but Kevin's past experience with this type of work has been that once a few are done to showcase it, more folks become interested. And our Association has money that could be directed to habitat improvement.

Following is correspondence from Kevin

Here is a rough timeline of when our crews are planning on sampling the Pike Chain this season using the directed lakes protocol by survey type:

- Mid-May/mid-June – coarse woody habitat survey and AIS survey (likely 2-3 days of sampling)
- Mid-June/mid-August – point-intercept baseline aquatic plant survey (likely 5ish days of sampling)
- Late August/late September – shoreland assessment (likely 5ish days of sampling)
- Data entry/reporting into late fall 2019/early 2020

Not sure on which lake or lakes yet will be sampled (still going through work planning), but as of now are thinking we could sample one of the larger and one of the smaller lakes this year (and maybe get the other 2 in 2020 - can't make this commitment yet, but I am hoping for this).

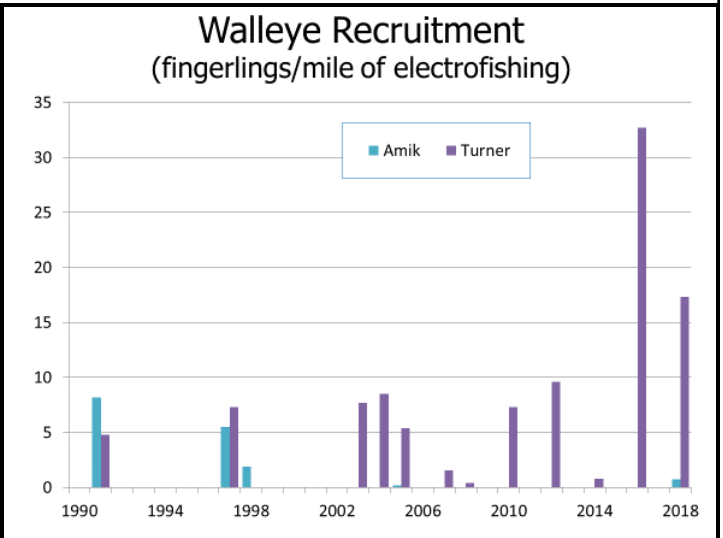
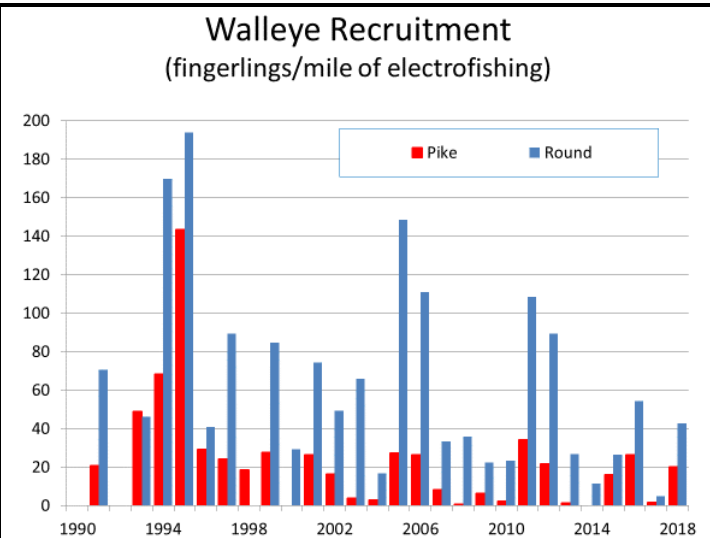
Once surveys are done, Kevin might be a good choice as a speaker for our annual meeting at a future time to discuss the findings at what might be done to help keep our lakes in great shape.

WDNR Pike Lake Chain of Lakes Fishery Surveys – 2018

WDNR and U.S. Forest Service Fishery Teams from Madison, Spooner, and Park Falls collected walleye by fyke netting and nighttime electrofishing immediately after the ice thawed in early May 2018 to estimate adult population density by the mark-recapture method. Two creel clerks counted and interviewed anglers to estimate fishing pressure, catch, and harvest in the 2018 – 2019 fishing season. In the table below, we compare results for walleye from surveys by identical methods in 2005 and 2018, and with the goals that stakeholders helped us define for the population. Estimates of effort, catch, and harvest are for the open-water period in both years, though the present-day creel survey will continue through March 3, 2019.

Lake	Acres	Walleye Density (adults/acre)		Walleye Density Goal (adults/acre)	Percent Walleye ≥ 15"		Percent walleye ≥ 15" Goal	Total Fishing Effort (hours/acre)		Fishing effort for walleye (hours/acre)		Walleye catch/acre		Walleye harvest/acre	
		2018	2005		2018	2005		2018	2005	2018	2005	2018	2005	2018	2005
Amik	224	0.9	0.9	1 - 3	91	64	20 - 40	46.7	38.2	4.1	4.8	1.2	1.0	0.51	0.35
Pike	806	0.9	2.9	2 - 4	67	31	20 - 40	22.9	19.6	4.9	5.2	1.7	0.93	0.72	0.07
Round	726	2.1	4.9	4 - 6	27	9	20 - 40	18.9	18.1	6.5	6.7	3.3	3.2	0.84	0.85
Turner	149	1.0	1.7	2 - 4	92	77	20 - 40	44.2	46.1	4.5	10.2	0.39	2.0	0.03	0.54

To assess the first – summer survival of walleye hatched in the Pike Lake Chain in spring 2018 and their contribution to the adult population, WDNR and U.S. Forest Service Fishery Teams from Park Falls completed electrofishing surveys along the entire shoreline of the four lakes in fall 2018. Our electrofishing capture rate of age-0 walleyes, expressed as fingerlings per mile, is our standard measure of walleye recruitment that can be compared among waters and years. The walleye recruitment history for the Pike Lake Chain is presented in the following charts. Annual fall electrofishing surveys in Pike and Round lakes serve as “controls” to track year-to-year fluctuations in natural walleye production as ongoing research tries to find out why walleye recruitment has declined so much in so many northern lakes.



Our Guest Speaker for the Annual June 8th meeting is our own Steve AveLallemant

Steve will be talking about the latest Fishery and Angler Harvest Survey that was done last year (see page 3). He will discuss how that compares with past surveys, and finally, how that information fits in with the entire fish community in the chain and the Flambeau River downstream, including the potential affect of a fish passage/ladder.

Lake Testing Report

Rick Sironi

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" and completing one per month for June, July and August. The results of the tests are all available on the DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) pages at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/clmn/>

If you are interested in the results of the test, and want to spend a few minutes going through the analysis provided by the DNR:

- ◆ At the bottom of the page, under GRAPHS & DATA, select Price County
- ◆ Select each of our lakes (you need to look at one at a time, as they are all different)
- ◆ Select the last column named REPORT (DETAIL)

The ANNUAL REPORT, while interesting, contains the detail test results. I would suggest spending some time looking at the NARRATIVE REPORT as it explains what the data means. I'd also spend a minute looking at the SECCHI GRAPH and the TSI GRAPH as those show how our lakes have changed over the years. It's very interesting that while Pike Lake shows a slight increase in chlorophyll this year, Round Lake was lower than some of the past years. I believe all these variations are within the natural variation of the measures and not something to get too excited over.

Shore Fishing Pier

The Association is looking into the possibility of putting in a shore fishing pier. Their first thought was at the thoroughfare bridge, but Jeff Scheirer, WDNR, stated that the area between Round and Pike Lakes has privately owned shoreline, limited parking space, and that a pier could potentially interfere with boat navigation. He suggests that the Pike Lake Chain has public land in state and federal ownership where a fishing pier could potentially enhance existing recreational facilities. Bring your thoughts and suggestions to our Annual Meeting in June.

Friendly Fiery Reminder

For those of you considering burning this spring, burning permits are required. Burning permits are free and it is the responsibility of the person doing the burn to check the WDNR Website for the regulations and restrictions on the day of their burn. You are solely responsible for costs incurred for any fires that get out of control. Please contact the Price County Sheriff at their non-emergency number, 715-339-3011, to let them know the location and time of the burn, so the Fire Department isn't called out to investigate smoke in the area.

Snow Snow Snow!

It finally came... and came... and came! As this "snow dog" picture, taken by Sig Kaminski, shows, all this snow can be beautiful, and sometimes even funny. Can you see the dog? Or is it an elephant?

We have several feet of snow on the ground, and also on buildings. And they tell us there is more to come. Our snowmobile trails are great, so get out there and enjoy them. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are also a big hit right now. Although many will tell you they got their exercise shoveling the snow off their roofs!

Unfortunately the deer are taking a toll trying to get thru it all.



**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 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2019

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

I wish to receive my newsletter via email, Facebook or hardcopy

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

Interested in becoming more involved in your community?

There are several organizations you can become a part of. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors, help your community, and have a little fun while doing it! Join one or join them all!

Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association - President Dick Mace

This is the organization that brings you this newsletter. Their mission is to preserve and protect our lake system for future generations. Annual Meeting June 8, 2019 Pike Lake Firehall 10am

Pike Lake Chain Fire Fighters Inc - President Carol Birchell

This is the organization that brings you Fun Day. Everyone who owns or rents in our Pike Lake Fire District is automatically a member, there are no dues. Fun Day helps to support our Pike Lake Fire Department. Meetings the last Wednesday of the month from March thru September, Pike Lake Firehall 7pm.

Fifield SnoDrobers - President Rick Sironi

This is the organization that grooms our snowmobile trails. Our trails are known to be some of the best in the northwoods. Meetings the second Tuesday of the month from September thru April at various bars/restaurants in our area.

Pike Lake Chain Lakes
Association, Inc.

NI4885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552

**2019 dues are
due now**

*Here to preserve and protect for
future generations*



Pike Lake Fire Department News

Our 2019 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 our newest member Eric Severud. If you are interested in becoming a firefighter or EMS personnel, please contact Tom Birchell. Fire meetings are the first and third Wednesday of each month.

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

Fun Day Sunday SEPT 1, 2019

Mark your calendar and come join the fun! All are welcome to attend our planning meetings, at the Pike Lake Firehall, the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm, starting in March. It's a great way to get to know people in our neighborhood, as well as help support our great Fire Department. We are thankful to all those who volunteered to take over positions, and appreciate those who are continuing on again this year. 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 or Carol Birchell, or Jean Nelson with any questions.

Some of you are receiving this newsletter because you did not indicate email or hardcopy, or because your email was incorrect. Please indicate on your dues form how you wish to receive your future newsletters.