

The
Chain Letter



Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.

2025 ISSUE



The
Chain Letter

PLCLA OFFICERS

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Russ Schroeder, Vice President
Lisa Brandt, Secretary
Lynne Clemens, Treasurer

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Steve Ave'Lallemant
Duane Baer
Tom Birchell
Jim Clemmons
Dave Ebert
Thor Gunderson
Everett Sammis
Jeff Wilton

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Aquatic Invasive Species
Steve Ave'Lallemant

Lake Monitoring/Water Quality

Rick Sironi
Terry Mantor
Jack Wierzba

Clean Boats Clean Water
Open

Fisheries
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**PIKE LAKE CHAIN
LAKES ASSOCIATION**

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mike Ida

I hope everyone had a meaningful Christmas and New Year's celebration and are hopeful as we begin a new year. Although lake activities and Association Board meetings slow down a bit during the winter months, our Lake Board remains engaged and active.



Currently, board member Lynne is busy recreating our Lake Association informational brochure. Once printed, this brochure will be made available at our four local restaurants on the chain. It will also be given to new property owners in Fire District 2 when they are visited by board member Jeff, who is our Welcome Wagon volunteer.

Recently, board member Steve and I visited Ranger Dan and his team of six specialists with regard to the Forest Service proposed Fish Passage Project. The purpose of our visit was to review the results of the Fish Passage Survey which indicated that 3/4 of the respondents opposed the project. Our meeting lasted over two hours and was very informative. To his credit, Ranger Dan and his team understood the main concerns that the survey raised and recognized that these concerns were valid and needed to be addressed. Ranger Dan also recognized that the project would not be feasible without a lot of research and work on the part of his team. Given this reality, the Fish Passage Project has been indefinitely sidelined.

In October, board member Duane led a team of volunteers on their first Adopt-a-Highway cleanup event. Enthusiasm was high and a lot of trash was collected. Many interesting items such as a polka dot bikini, a spare boat tire and rim (in excellent condition), and a clean pair of men's underwear were removed from the brush. The next highway cleanup will take place in the spring.

In October, the Forest Service and DNR had two boats shocking fish on Round and Pike Lake. Board member Jeff and I accompanied the Forest Service team as they shocked Round Lake. I don't have the results from the DNR team on Pike, but on Round Lake the shocking team raised 14 different kinds of fish with a total of 595 fish. The two largest groups of fish raised were walleye (441) and smallmouth (52). The largest fish raised was a 45 inch muskie and the second largest fish raised was a 19.6 inch smallmouth.

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PLCLA BOARD UPDATE

At the heart of every organization is a group of dedicated volunteers. We want to take a moment to introduce you to the new members of the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association Board of Directors.



LISA BRANDT - Secretary

Lisa was appointed to the secretary position after our previous secretary, Peggy Kuss, decided to step down. Lisa was born and raised in California but has been in Wisconsin for 30 years. She currently works as a Registered Nurse Care Manager and has been a property owner in the area for about 3 years. Lisa is an avid horseback rider.

LISTENING SESSION

When: April 12, 2025—9:00 AM

Where: Pike Lake Firehall

The purpose of this twofold listening session is to give people the chance to visit with PLCLA President Mike Ida and ask questions about the many projects that our Lake Association currently supports. Attendees might also want to share suggestions for future projects or raise concerns about our chain of lakes. The second part of this listening session will be used to introduce the extensive website that the DNR created showing the results of their lakeshore study for our chain of lakes. The Firehall's large screen TV will be used to access the website and show the many layers of information that is available. On this website, every property owner on the chain can access their shoreline and discover all kinds of valuable information that can be useful in preserving and protecting their property. If you have any questions about this upcoming event, please contact Mike at president@pikelakechain.net.



PIKE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Dan Metz

Hello Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association members. My name is Dan Metz and I am the new Pike Lake Fire, Rescue & EMS Chief. I am succeeding Warren Johnson who will stay on as Assistant Chief. Warren has chosen to step down to give himself more time to spend with family. He has been an excellent leader that has focused on department readiness, training, and inclusion. He ensured that all members had the best protective gear, equipment, and proper levels of training. We would like to thank Warren for leading and developing a department that our members and the community can be proud of.

Your Pike Lake Fire Department and EMS have had an active 2024. We upgraded our response capability by the sale of the heavy rescue vehicle and replacing it with a new mini-pumper. The new pumper has all the capabilities of a full-size fire apparatus in a slightly smaller format. This will allow us to respond to calls down narrow roads and driveways. It increases our overall pumping capacity and water availability. In addition, we are in the process of acquiring a new All Terrain Rescue (ATR) vehicle. The ATR will allow us to access and transport patients on trails and in wildland areas. It will also provide a climate controlled rehabilitation area for responders working in extreme weather conditions.

As I look forward to 2025, our focus will be on recruitment, infrastructure, and training. Our department has faced a continued decline in membership over the past decade similar to the

declining number of volunteers nationally as reported by The National Volunteer Fire Council. It will be my focus to reach out to our community and inspire new members to join our excellent organization. We are looking for people of any age and ability that have a passion to serve their community, work in a cooperative environment, and be willing to learn.

There are many tasks and roles that can be accomplished based on each member's skills and abilities. If you live or frequently visit our beautiful community, please consider volunteering.

Our current infrastructure is showing its age and is in need of meaningful operational upgrades. I will be evaluating the department's future needs and assessing various options to better protect and serve the community. We will also continue the current focus on training with an emphasis on road-related emergencies, water rescue operations, structure fires, and emergency medical response.

I would like to thank all those that support Pike Lake Fire, Rescue & EMS and especially our members who demonstrate daily their dedication to the safety and welfare of our community.

Dan Metz, Chief
Pike Lake Fire and Rescue

The DNR requests that each year we complete four lake tests during the open water season: one within ten days of ice-out, June, July, and August. As in most years, these were all completed in 2024.

The first test was unique in several aspects this year. First, it was earlier than most years given the warm winter and early ice-out. The test was also the first time we rated the water level as LOW in spring, given the paltry snowpack and dry autumn. The water was, however, surprisingly clear with a Secchi reading of as much as 4 feet, unusual for our chain.

The water levels for June and July were both HIGH, with August being NORMAL. These are somewhat subjective observations, unlike the rest of the tests we run. All test results continue to indicate no significant trend or variations in the quality of our lakes. This is a good thing!

The tests we run include measurements of:

- Secchi (water clarity)
- Dissolved oxygen at 3-foot intervals
- Temperature at 3-foot intervals
- Phosphorus
- Chlorophyll

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**RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
Online!**

<https://pikelakechain.net/membership>

Save a stamp and renew your Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association membership online! Simply visit <https://pikelakechain.net/membership> to renew your membership.

Paper membership forms are also available online if you'd prefer to mail in a check. Just visit the membership page and click on the link to 'Download the PLCLA Membership Form'.

AQUATIC INVASIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

by Steve Ave'Lallemant

Purple Loosestrife is still the only known aquatic invasive plant species on the Pike Lake Chain. A complete shoreline survey of all four lakes was done in late August, 2024. Thanks to Duane Baer for helping me with the survey. What a difference a year makes! Last year I reported that I had observed the least amount of loosestrife in some time. This year there was considerably more than last year.

Turner and Amik Lakes

No loosestrife was found on Turner or Amik Lakes and connecting channels.

Pike Lake

I dug five or six plants along the south end of Pike, a few more than last year. Loosestrife plants were observed along and near the old Pine Forest Resort area.

Round Lake

Duane and I dug a number of individual loosestrife plants along the north and west shores of Round Lake on USFS property. We observed more loosestrife plants on private property in the area of the old Wild Goose Resort and around the bay at Moose Jaw Resort than the past several years. The two bays just north of the dam held quite a bit of loosestrife, too much to dig out and most of it very difficult to access. The large wetland from the mouth of MacArthur Creek over to Shady Knoll Rd. held a lot of loosestrife, much more than was observed in recent years.

The overall density of loosestrife on the chain appears to be increasing. As I reported last year, younger plants would have been overlooked in past years since they were not old enough to flower. If this trend continues, we will need to

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PIKE LAKE CHAIN FUN FACTS

- Did you know the Round Lake Logging Dam is one of the only dams of its kind that remain? It was included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981.
- Pike Lake has a maximum depth of 17 feet, Round Lake has a maximum depth of 24 feet. Turner Lake has a maximum depth of 12 feet. Amik Lake has a maximum depth of 8 feet.
- The Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe originally owned the Pike Lake Chain in the early 1800's.
- Did you know that Otto Doering, vice president at Sears Roebuck Company, purchased the Round Lake Logging Dam and nearly 3,000 acres surrounding Round Lake in the early 1900's and developed an elaborate vacation retreat that served as the Doering family's summer residence into the 1960's?
- Ospreys have been known to nest on a large rock near the islands on Pike Lake.
- Dating back to 1959, there have been 29 species of fish and one hybrid species (northern pike x muskellunge) recorded in Pike Lake.
- Historic timbers and original iron hardware were used to renovate the Round Lake Logging Dam in 1995.
- The timber at the original Round Lake Logging Dam had never been out of the water, so when the restoration took place in the early 1990's, they did not need to be replaced.
- Did you know the lakes in the chain are considered eutrophic, meaning they are high in nutrients and contain large populations of aquatic plants, algae, and fish?

ZOOM MEETINGS

You asked, we listened. We recognize that it's difficult for many people to attend the PLCLA Board Meetings. After a long wait for an Internet upgrade to the Pike Lake Firehall and a technology investment on the part of the PLCLA, we are happy to announce that PLCLA Board meetings are now available via Zoom. Watch Facebook and our website for details on upcoming meetings. Meetings are also recorded and are available for viewing on our website.

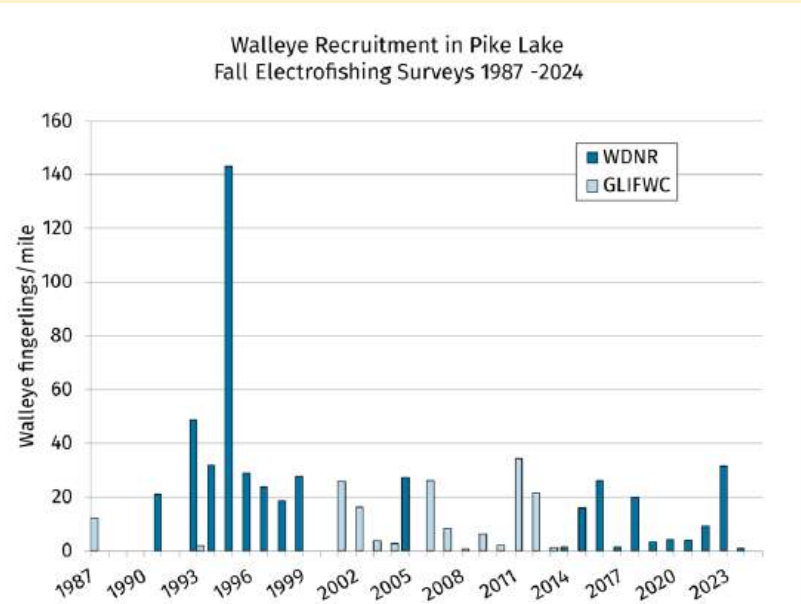
FISHERIES REPORT *by Dave Ebert*

According to the WDNR, the electrofishing catch rate of 7.84 walleye fingerlings per mile in Round Lake indicated that the 2024 year class production was about half of what they measured in 2023. In Pike Lake, the 2024 year class was barely detectable. This is not alarming because year class strength varies widely from year to year in all walleye populations. Both Pike and Round Lakes have sufficient natural reproduction to replace the adults that die to angling and natural causes.

The catch rate of yearling walleyes indicates good survival of the year classes produced in 2023 in both lakes.

Unless their schedule changes, the WDNR plans to do a comprehensive survey of the fishery throughout the Pike Lake Chain in 2025. Their first deployment will be fyke nets targeting walleye, pike, and muskies shortly after ice-out. They will sample bass and bluegill by electrofishing around Memorial Day, and then wrap things up next fall with their annual walleye recruitment surveys with a goal to sample all four lakes, rather than the two chosen to represent the Chain.

Below are chart summarizations of Fingerlings and Yearlings per lake.



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BOARD NOMINATIONS

Each year we hold elections for a rotating set of Board positions. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact secretary@pikelakechain.net no later than March 31st. Anyone interested shall be a member of the Association.

Positions up for election in 2025 are:

- President
- Secretary
- Four Board Member Positions

BOARD EMAIL

Feel free to contact our board via email:

- president@pikelakechain.net
- vicepresident@pikelakechain.net
- secretary@pikelakechain.net
- treasurer@pikelakechain.net
- communications@pikelakechain.net

GET INVOLVED!

Getting involved with these organizations is a great way to meet your neighbors, help your community, and have some fun!

Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association

This is the organization that brings you this newsletter. Our mission is to preserve and protect our lake system for future generations. [facebook.com/PLCLA](https://www.facebook.com/PLCLA)

Pike Lake Chain Firefighters, Inc.

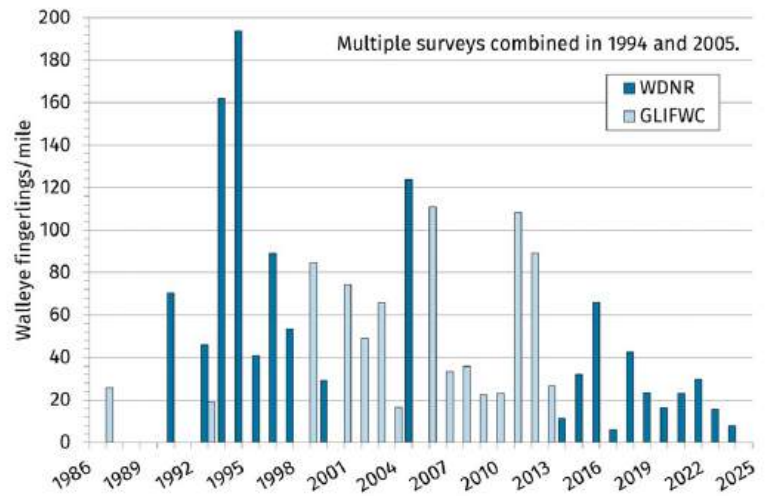
This is the organization that brings you Fun Day. Everyone who owns or rents in our Pike Lake Fire District is automatically a member. There are no dues. Fun Day helps support our fire department and EMS team. [facebook.com/pikelakefirefightersinc](https://www.facebook.com/pikelakefirefightersinc)

Fifield Sno Drovers

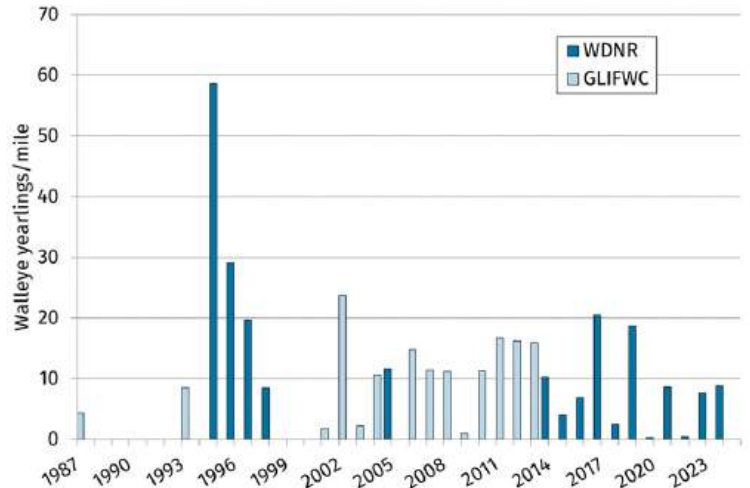
This is the organization that grooms our snowmobile trails. Our trails are known to be some of the best in the Northwoods. [facebook.com/snodrovers](https://www.facebook.com/snodrovers)

FISHERIES REPORT (continued from pg. 5)

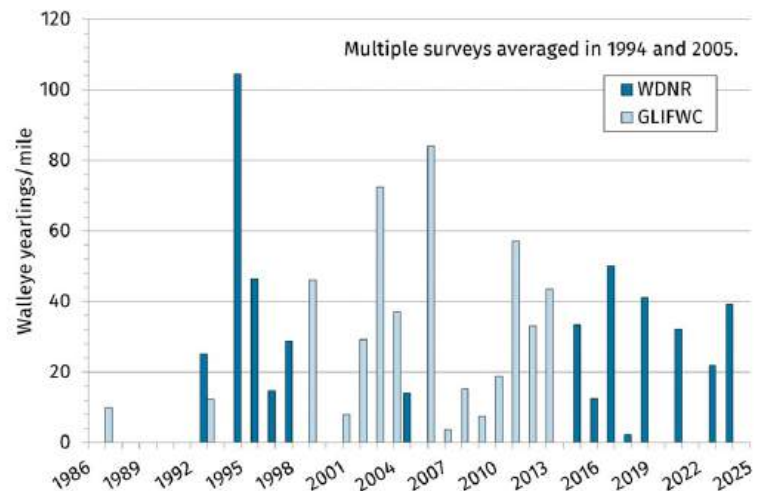
Walleye Recruitment in Round Lake
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1987-2024

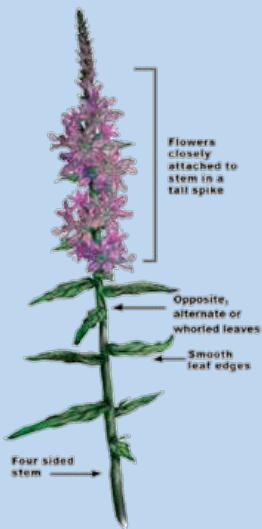


Walleye Recruitment in Pike Lake
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1987-2024



Walleye Recruitment in Round Lake
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1987-2024





think about control efforts like spraying herbicides. This can be done efficiently without broad application via drones which can spray individual plants or patches of them. We will look into that option if need be. The other option is to raise loosestrife beetles which are a natural control method. It worked in the past when loosestrife was quite dense. I have found evidence of beetles being present due to holes in loosestrife leaves caused by beetles eating them but damage to the plants was slight as beetle densities are likely low. Perhaps if loosestrife expands so will the beetle population. We will continue to monitor loosestrife density before consideration of spraying or beetles.

The most effective control for landowners is still digging out the plant with roots and disposing in the trash. Some landowners are likely unaware of what loosestrife is as we saw some large loosestrife plants actually being mowed around and left standing. It is a large showy plant but so is Joe-Pye Weed which is a non-invasive native plant. We observed plenty of that as well. Please monitor your shorelines for purple loosestrife and remove it when you see it. Dispose of in the garbage. If you are unsure of what purple loosestrife looks like or want more information on it and control methods, please visit <https://widnr.widen.net/view/pdf/badh2m8xdz/WY0799.pdf>.

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued from pg. 2)*

In January, a few of us from the Board will attend our first Walleyes For Tomorrow meeting. It is hoped that our partnership with this organization will lead to future projects that could increase the number of healthy walleyes in our chain of lakes.

All of us on the Board enjoy working on projects to preserve and protect our chain of lakes. I encourage you to keep informed about our lake projects by attending or zooming in on our Board meetings. Our first board meeting of the year will take place on February 10th at 6:00 PM at the Firehall. If you have any questions or ideas for future projects, please contact me at president@pikelakechain.net.

Sincerely,


Mike Ida
President

LAKE TESTING REPORT *(continued from pg. 4)*

To view the results of this year's tests, go to <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages>. Click on the SEARCH tab, enter the lake name of interest, and set the LOCATION to PRICE Co. Select the lake, then the MORE tab. Go to "Water Quality Reports and Data", then Details. You must open their new app (Water Explorer) to see the results of our testing in chart form.

The DNR has also provided a guide to help understand what is measured and what it all means. It can be found at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Lakes/InterpretiveGuideToCLMNWaterQualityReports.pdf>.

REMEMBER: Amik is in Vilas County.

The team of EXPERIENCED (note we didn't say OLD) testers includes:

- Terry Mantor: manning the water monitor, reporting dissolved oxygen and temperature at 3-foot intervals
- Russ Schroeder: documenting the results of all the tests
- Ron Ahles: manning the Secchi disk and providing the observations
- Jack Wierzba: handling the water sample collecting tube
- Tim Henke: backup where needed
- Dave Ebert: backup where needed
- Rick Sironi: coordinator, pilot, and bottle washer

Please note: Tim and Dave also serve to reduce the average age of the test team and to keep us focused on the task at hand.



PIKE LAKE CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION

N14885 Shady Knoll Road
Park Falls, WI 54552

2025 Dues

are due now!

Pay online at
pikelakechain.net

STAY CONNECTED:

Web: pikelakechain.net

Facebook: facebook.com/PLCLA



REMINDERS

- ◆ OBSERVE "NO WAKE" ZONES
- ◆ RESPECT THE 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM SKIING HOURS
- ◆ REMEMBER YOUR GARBAGE CARD WHEN USING THE DUMP



UPCOMING EVENTS

Some dates/times are proposed. Watch our website for updates as they are finalized.

- ◆ PIKE LAKE CHAIN LISTENING SESSION: SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025 — 9:00 AM
- ◆ ANNUAL MEETING: SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025 — 9:00 AM, PIKE LAKE FIREHALL
- ◆ FUN DAY: SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025 — NOON, PIKE LAKE FIREHALL



BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Board will meet in April to set forth its recommendations for a slate of nominees to be presented at the Annual meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should contact one of the existing Board members no later than March 31st to be considered as a potential nominee. Anyone interested shall be a member of the Association.