



# The Chain Letter

## PREZ SEZ by Dick Mace

Pike Lake Chain Letter

2020

*Special points of interest:*

**Annual Meeting  
Saturday  
June 6, 2020  
10:00 am  
Pike Lake  
Firehall**

Our guest speaker will be one of the DNR Lakes Biologists. They will discuss the findings from our lake habitat and shoreline surveys conducted last summer as an assessment of lake health and possible management actions.

***Inside this issue:***

Fisheries Report

Voting in Price County

P 2

2020 Dues Form

Use Lead-Free Ammo/Save Eagles

Lake Testing Report

P 3

PLFD News

New Transfer Site Ordinance

Want To Know?

P 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!! As we enter a new decade, we are bringing you news about your Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association (PLCLA). The Board of Directors, and various partners, are entering this new year looking at new and exciting ideas and opportunities for the residents and users of our chain of lakes.

As all, if not most of you, are aware, we continue to explore the concept of a fish passageway at the Round Lake Dam, in partnership with the US Forest Service and WDNR. We do this with the idea of protecting the historic value of the dam site while exploring the opportunities of providing a passageway for the fish in our chain to move up and downstream in the outlet of the South Fork of the Flambeau River. This improvement, if built, will restore the fish movement patterns that were previously available to the aquatic species of our lakes prior to the placement and construction of the dam in the 1800s. We heard about those preliminary plans at our June 2019 Annual Meeting from representatives of the USFS and WDNR. More detailed information will be forthcoming. Those details have not yet been provided, but when they are, you will be informed and will have the opportunity to further discuss those plans with State and Federal officials and our Board.

Another opportunity you heard about at the June meeting was Thor Gunderson's interest in providing a handicap accessible fishing pier on the chain. Since receiving this request, the Board has discussed this idea and have asked Manny Stein, Ann Sloane, and Jack Wierzba to provide further information and ideas to consider advancing this concept, along with possible sites on which to build such a pier. They will explore financing, ownership, and funding opportunities. The Board expects to be briefed about their findings at upcoming meetings this year.

We continue to monitor our water quality, with testing throughout the coming spring-fall season, and we expect to continue to see very good water quality results, as has been the case in the past. Invasive species monitoring also continues to be on our list of functions to perform, again we expect positive results. Invasive weeds have not been an issue, but we do have a small population of purple loosestrife on the north end of Round Lake and in an off water location behind the former Pine Forest Resort on the east shore of Pike Lake. In the past we were able to obtain beetles that kept the loosestrife in check, but they were not available last year so hand pulling of plants occurred where plants were observed. We are hoping that beetles will be available this year, as we feel they have been very effective in the past. We also have a small but manageable population of Rusty Crayfish in parts of the chain, but those seem to be under control. WDNR personnel from the Woodruff office have completed the shoreline and in-water plant surveys they conducted last summer, those results will likely be available in the coming months. These results will assist the Association in making future decisions on Management ideas and concepts and become an integral part of our Lake Management Plan, previously adopted by the Association.

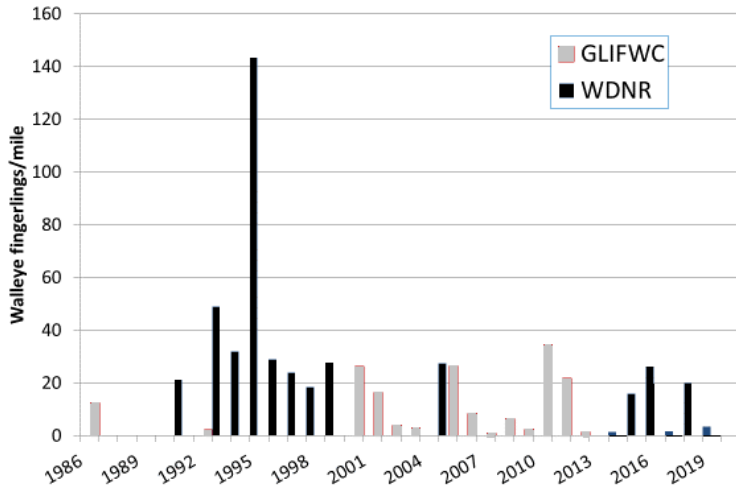
The annual State Lakes Convention is scheduled for April 1-3, 2020 at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn & Convention Center. For more detailed information, you may contact uwex.edu/uwexlakes.

The Board is also looking for a volunteer to assume the job of newsletter editor, as our longtime and faithful editor Jean Nelson would like to step down from that position after many years of service, for which we thank Jean for a "job well-done".

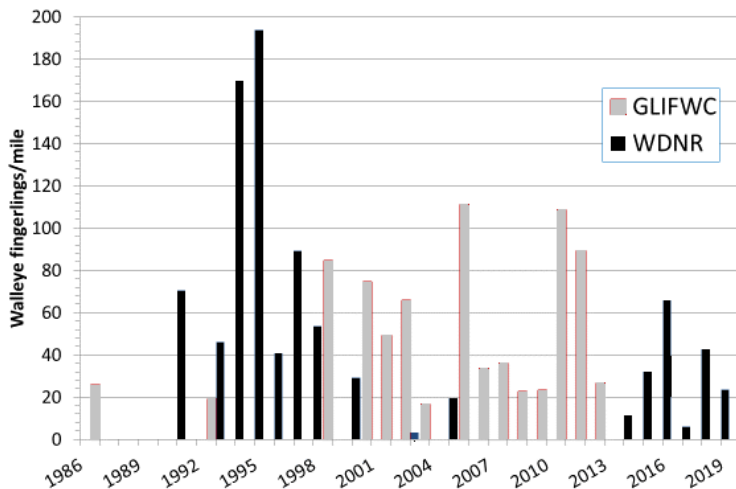
Our Annual Pike Lake Association Meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2020, at the firehall on Shady Knoll Road. I want to encourage you to renew your membership in the Association and encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well. Thank you for your involvement. I look forward to your continued support and membership.

*Richard L. Mace, President PLCLA*

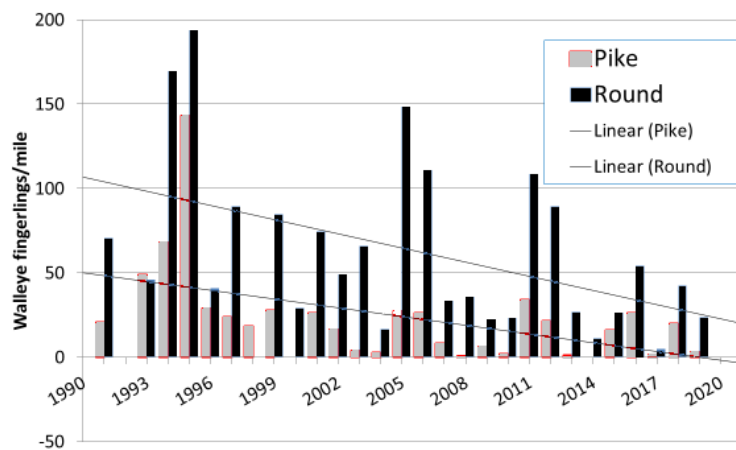
**Walleye Recruitment in Pike Lake**  
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1987-2019



**Walleye Recruitment in Round Lake**  
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1997-2019



**Walleye Recruitment in Pike and Round Lakes**  
Fall Electrofishing Surveys 1991-2019



**Fisheries Report Russ Schroeder - Chair**

**WDNR Surveys:** This past fall the WDNR annual electrofishing on Pike and Round lakes was done, which evaluates the over-summer survival of young of that Spring. Round Lake captured 20 fingerlings/mile over the 5.95 miles of shoreline surveyed. Pike Lake captured 13 fingerlings/mile of shoreline surveyed.

The future of the adult walleye population does not hinge upon the success or failure of a single year class. Walleye can live 15-20 years so the adult population is normally comprised of multiple year classes. Year class strength varies from year to year as these charts indicate. Pike Lake's poor year class production in 2019 was preceded by decent year classes in 2015, 2016, and 2018. Similar variations have occurred since their measurements began in 1987. The puzzling part is not the year to year variation, that's expected, but rather the declining trend over the entire period that is indicated by the black lines sloping from left to right. Nonetheless, the walleye population in the Pike Chain is still holding its own as far as natural walleye recruitment is concerned, and it's in much better shape than many other populations in northern Wisconsin and neighboring states.

Researchers are still investigating the cause for declining walleye recruitment and whether or not anything can be done to reverse the trend.

**Shore Fishing Pier:** The Forest Service position that would work on this project is VACANT, so no work will be done until that position is filled. That may happen in the first half of 2020.

**Pike Lake Public Boat Launch:** The WDNR declined an opportunity to purchase a parcel on the south shore of Pike Lake for developing a new boat access because of limited access funds. There also appears to be no public dissatisfaction with the current situation of having two launches on Round Lake.

**Voting in Price County**

For those of you that live and vote in Price County, please be aware that in 2020 Price County will be utilizing new ImageCast® Evolution (ICE) voting machines.

Unlike the paper-free touch screen machines used in the past, these machines will use paper ballots. Every ballot cast will need to be completed with a special pen and entered/fed into the machine by you. Using optical scanners, the machine will automatically count each ballot and store it in a locked and sealed interior compartment.

**2020 Wisconsin Election Dates**

- February 18, 2020** - Spring Primary
- April 7, 2020** - Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary
- August 11, 2020** - Partisan Primary
- November 3, 2020** - General and Presidential Election

Please remember that if you have had a name change or a change of address you will need to re-register, so bring the necessary papers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues are \$25.00 per membership per year. Dues cover the period 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

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

**PLEASE NOTE: A HARDCOPY IS AT A COST TO YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION**

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**

**Use Lead-Free Ammo and Save the Eagles and other Wildlife**

Wild Instincts Wildlife Rehabilitation Center out of Rhinelander gets up to 50 eagles a year to treat. This year 96% of the eagles tested positive for lead poisoning. Using special feeding techniques and medicine, they try to purge the lead from their system, but they lose many of these beautiful birds. It only takes 2 pellets from a rifle bullet to poison these eagles, which is why Wild Instincts encourages hunters to use lead-free ammo. It's not just a problem for eagles, but lead ammunition or fish tackle can get into bodies of water and mud hurting all types of wildlife.

Please... If you love our wildlife, do not use lead ammo or fishing tackle.



**Lake Testing Report**

**Rick Sironi - Chair**

Our team of lake testers (Ron Ahles, Terry Mantor, Russ Schroeder, Rick Sironi, and Jack Wierzba) 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/>

For insight into the test results 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 view 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.

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

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

**2020 dues are  
due now**

*Here to preserve and protect for  
future generations*



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.

#### **Pike Lake Fire Department News**

Our 2020 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 two new EMS personnel to our team: Catherine O'Hagan and Eva Pasewald. 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](http://pikelakechain.net)

Or like and follow us on Facebook:  
**Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc,  
Price County**

#### **New Transfer Site Ordinance: Effective date April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

All Town of Fifield Residences have received a Fifield ID Card with their tax bill. This ID Card **MUST** be shown to the transfer site attendant prior to off loading materials. There are now surveillance cameras on site. Once the Ordinance is passed by the Town Board, it will be posted on the Town of Fifield website, at the Transfer Site, and other places as legally required. At that time, you will have to pay the non-residence fee if you do not have your card. Even if the attendant knows you, you must show the card. You'll make it much easier on Dan if you show him your card right away, as it is his job to ask **EVERYONE** who does not show him their card and then charge those who do not have one. Many are keeping the card in their vehicle that is most often used to go to the dump; others are keeping it where they keep their garbage, one person even taped it to the garbage can he brings to the dump. You just want to make sure that whoever takes your garbage to the dump will have the ID card. The non-residence fee will also be changing, to make sure it covers Town costs. Right now it is cheaper for many non-residences to bring their garbage to our Transfer Site rather than their own. Many may not be pleased with this new Ordinance, but it is being implemented to help keep our Town costs, and therefore your taxes, down.