

The

# Chain Letter

Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.

2021 ISSUE



# The Chain Letter

## PREZ SAYS *by Dick Mace*



Happy New Year from your Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association Board of Directors and President!

As President, I think it is my duty to wish all of you a special holiday greeting, especially in this year of the Covid. It sure has not been all that happy this past nine or so months but soon we will all be able to get a vaccine, which the CDC has said should protect us from this virus. I feel we have turned the corner and are on the way back to a more normal life. However, we must all get the vaccine and continue wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. We can get through this if everyone cooperates.

As you know, our 2020 Annual Meeting scheduled for June had to be cancelled and our Board has not been able to meet since late last winter. We have set July 17th as the date for our 2021 Annual Meeting and are hopeful that we will be able to meet in person. We agreed to continue in our present roles as Board members and officers until this year's annual meeting, at which time a new election will be held to choose a new slate of officers and Board Members and adopt a budget for 2021. We have continued to function using our previously agreed upon 2020 budget until due consideration can be given to adopting a new 2021 budget. The new election will have to give consideration for all Board members due to the staggered two year dates that the Board operates under according to the Bylaws. All positions will be up for election so if any of you wish to run for office, please advise an existing Board member of your desire to run in order to prepare for the election at our upcoming Annual Meeting. Remember, the Bylaws call for staggered, two-year terms with four Board members and two officers being elected for those whose term expires in 2020 and the other half for those whose term expires in 2021. I hope this helps define our process. If anyone has questions, you can call me at 262-957-6227.

In other news, we have a new Facebook & Website administrator to replace Jean Nelson and Pam Ahles who have both decided to step down from these duties. We gratefully appreciate the time and effort Jean and Pam have put into these duties and offer our deep appreciation to them both for their years of service. Our new administrator is Derek Dieringer, whose permanent residence is in the Marshfield area and has recently acquired a seasonal home on Pike Lake near the former Pine Forest Lodge.

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### PLCLA OFFICERS

Dick Mace, President  
Russ Schroeder, Vice President  
Ann Sloane, Secretary  
Bonnie Ida, Treasurer

### BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Ave'Lallemant  
Jason Yates  
Mike Ida  
Jack Wierzba  
Ed Hunter  
Sandy Sironi  
Manny Stein

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*Aquatic Invasive Species*  
Steve Ave'Lallemant  
*Lake Monitoring/Water Quality*  
Rick Sironi/Terry Mantor  
*Clean Boats Clean Water*  
Open  
*Fisheries*  
Russ Schroeder  
*History*  
Manny Stein  
*Membership*  
Bonnie Ida  
*Newsletter Editor*  
Derek Dieringer  
*Facebook*  
Sandy Sironi/Derek Dieringer  
*Website*  
Derek Dieringer

### MAILING ADDRESS

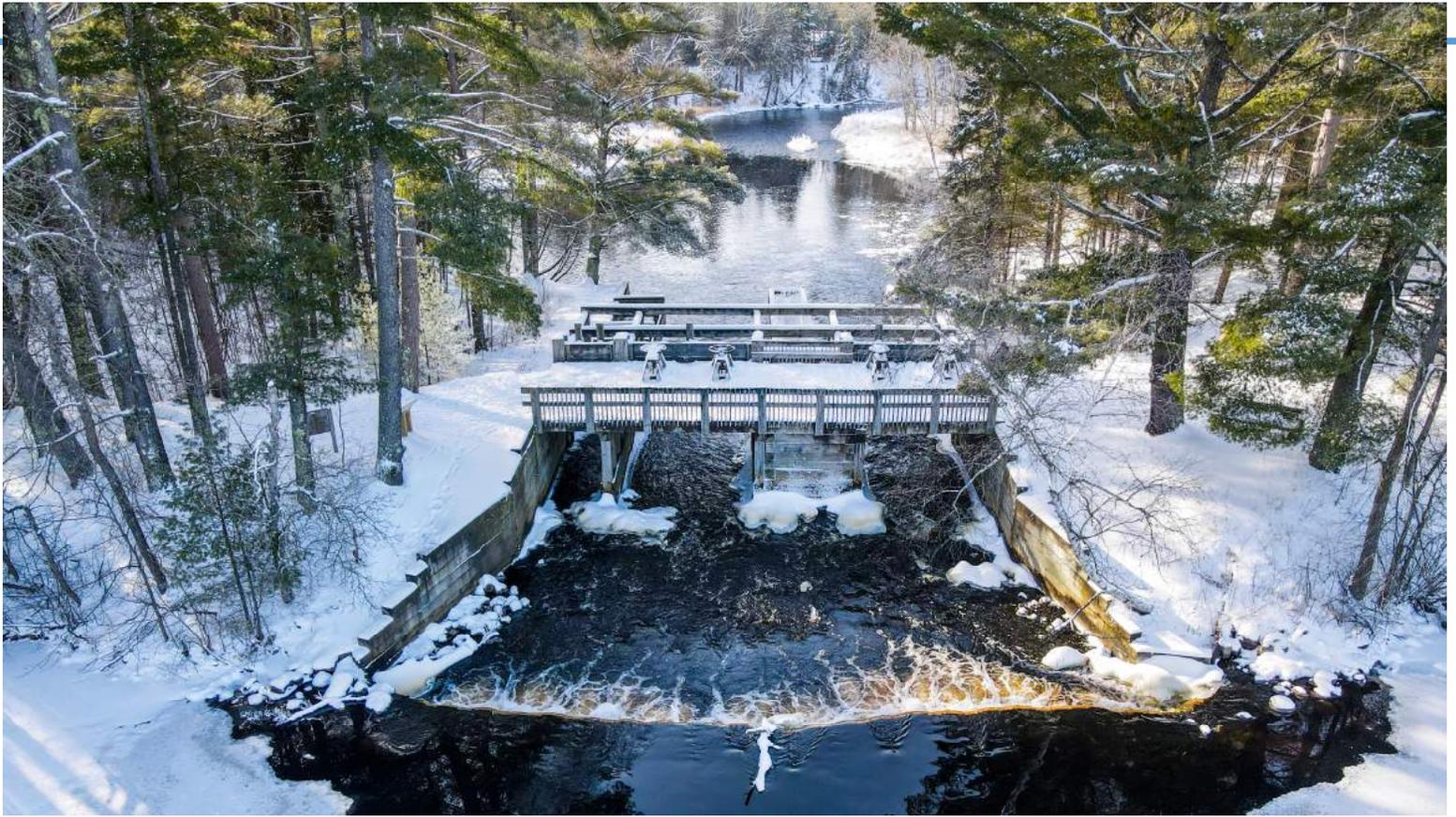
N14885 Shady Knoll Road  
Park Falls, WI 54552



PIKE LAKE CHAIN  
LAKES ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

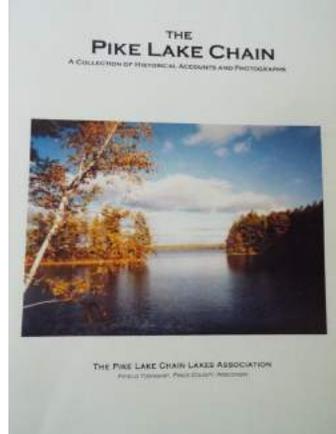
After several years of steady increases in membership, 2020 (and the pandemic) took a toll on our membership numbers. Our membership for 2020 was the lowest it has been in over eight years and was 41% lower than 2019. Now, more than ever, it is important that you support your Lake Association with your membership. **Please take a moment (now while you're thinking about it) to complete and return your membership form.** THANK YOU for supporting the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association!



## HISTORY BOOKS

Interested in learning more about the history of our area? Pike Lake Chain history books are available for sale. They also make great gifts!

To purchase a history book, contact Dick Mace at 262-957-6227.



## WELL TESTING

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) recommends having your private well tested yearly for Total Coliform (Bacteria) or more often should you notice a change in water quality, color, taste, or odor. The cost for this test is \$30. To order your free test kit, call 800-442-4618. 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 the testing be done in spring, summer, or fall so the sample does not freeze.

## INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

There are several organizations you can be a part of. 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.

### **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)

Our team of lake testers completed only three tests in 2020 due to the state labs being shut down in the spring. We did complete one test 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 REPORTS (DETAILS)

The ANNUAL REPORT, while interesting, contains the detailed 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.

While there is normal variation year on year, after reviewing the historic graphs, it appears there continues to be NO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT change in chlorophyll or phosphorus over the past years. The SECCHI measurements (clarity) continues to show the water is about as stained as we have seen but it is not any worse than it has been in the past few years.

## 2020 AQUATIC INVASIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

by Steve Ave'Lallemant

I conducted a shoreline survey of the entire Pike Lake Chain in late summer looking for purple loosestrife. While there is not much out there, the spots where it is still present could use some control efforts.

Turner - None; Amik - None; Creeks connecting the lakes - None;

Pike - there are a number of plants in the vicinity of the old Pine Forest Resort to the north end of it and around the old bay.

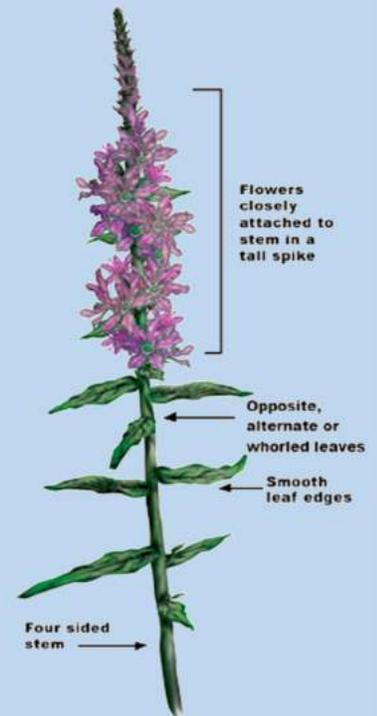
Round - most of the plants are here:

- 1) Old Wild Goose Resort area just north of boat landing and a number of plants on the point to the north of it.
- 2) NE end in the small back bay.
- 3) NW end by the whistle tube coming out of the flowage behind it. I did not see any in the flowage itself .
- 4) The bay just north of the dam had quite a few plants way back in. There were a few on the rocky shoreline of the lake proper in this area which I dug out.
- 5) McArthur Creek area had some plants on the shorelines of the lake adjacent to the creek inlet as well as some plants up in the creek wetland itself. I suspect there are more further up.

I did see some foliage damage to the loosestrife from loosestrife beetles which are a natural control and were introduced a number of years ago. However, in some areas no damage was evident. We will look into rearing some loosestrife beetles this coming summer for reintroduction in the more prevalent loosestrife locations.

That said, landowners who have a few plants on their properties can help eradicate it by digging the plants out and disposing of them in the garbage (bagged so no seeds escape). This is doable for areas with just a few plants. A seed bed remains so the digging may be a recurring event but for a few plants it doesn't take long.

Wisconsin DNR staff conducted a number of comprehensive surveys of the entire chain this past summer including aquatic plants, wood habitat (logs and trees in the water), riparian habitat (area at water and back a bit). I do not believe they found any other invasive plants besides the loosestrife. They had planned to present the results of these surveys at our lakes association meeting this past summer but Covid got in the way. Hopefully next year.



The WDNR got approval to do their high-priority fall electrofishing surveys to evaluate walleye recruitment in Pike and Round lakes. The Forest Service Team shocked the entire shoreline of Round Lake with two dippers, as normal. The WDNR team shocked 4 shoreline miles in our two traditional sampling stations on Pike Lake, but with only one dipper. They were limited to a two-person crew (driver and one dipper) as a precaution to avoid exposure to COVID-19. Attached below are the updated charts showing the walleye recruitment history in those lakes. Based on these measures, both lakes produced below-average year classes of walleye in 2020.

Those declining trends seen in the Pike Lake Chain and in 18 other nearby waters form the basis for the walleye harvest regulation proposal drafted last spring. The rule-change proposal will appear in the questionnaire published for the spring hearings and county meetings that will be hosted by WDNR and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress on April 12, 2021. The daily bag limit will stay the same at 3 walleye for the four lakes of the Pike Chain combined. It will be proposed to remove the special regulation that currently allows anglers to keep walleye of any size, but only 1 > 14" and replace it with the standard regulation for walleye in the Ceded Territory: walleyes 15 – 20" may be kept, except one may be over 24" in a daily bag limit of 3 in total.

Within 7-8 years following enactment of the proposed fishing regulation, the WDNR seeks to increase and restore adult walleye density to the objective ranges in the Fishery Management Plans by protecting young fish and some large adults in populations with declining trends in natural recruitment. For the Pike Lake Chain, the desired walleye density is 1-3 adults/acre in Amik Lake, 2-4 adults/acre in Pike and Turner lakes, and 3-6 adults/acre in Round Lake.

The proposed regulation would apply to the Flambeau River and its eight impoundments between Turtle-Flambeau Dam and Thornapple Dam, Solberg Lake, the entire Elk River, including the Phillips Chain of Lakes, Lac Sault Dore, and Grassy Lake, the Pike Lake Chain of Lakes, and the entire South Fork Flambeau River. The affected waters lie in six counties.

While Round Lake remains one of our highest-producing walleye populations, the downward trend is obvious in the nearly complete history of WDNR's and GLIFWC's annual walleye recruitment surveys in 1987 – 2020. Several nearby waters that often produced very strong walleye classes 15 – 25 years ago are struggling to sustain a walleye fishery by natural production. The current fishing regulation that allows anglers to keep walleye of any size is not the proper fit for populations with dwindling recruitment. Young walleye in low to moderate abundance should not be immediately available for harvest in ailing or recovering populations.

Historically, the WDNR believed walleye grew slowly in the Pike Lake Chain. However, walleye growth rates have apparently improved, perhaps in response to lower rates of recruitment. Age analysis of scales and cross-sectioned spines reveals that walleye are growing near the average rate among populations in northern Wisconsin.

Applying the standard Ceded Territory regulation should help to increase adult walleye density toward objectives; however, that change would also limit anglers' harvest opportunity beyond what they've been accustomed to when these waters had no minimum length limits. That's precisely the intent. The purpose of the proposed rule change is to take preemptive action to protect the young walleyes that most of these populations are still producing, but at much lower rates than they historically did, before their natural recruitment dwindles too far to sustain a viable fishery. If walleye recruitment rebounds to satisfactory measures and adult population density returns within our objective ranges for these water, someday we may be able to reinstate a liberalized harvest regulation to again direct angling harvest toward small fish in high abundance.

The WDNR hopes to return with their normal 3-person crew in fall 2021 for the walleye recruitment surveys on Pike, Round, and Turner lakes.

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Derek tells me that he has been coming to Pike Lake for many years and staying with relatives who owned a cottage on the north shore of Pike Lake off of Pike Lake Club Rd. Russ Schroeder and Jack Wierzba, along with myself, had conversations with Derek to determine his desire to help us out with these duties and we were all impressed by his interest and willingness to assist with these functions. Based on our discussions, we decided he was "our guy" and has now taken over those duties. Both Jean and Pam have offered to assist him for a short time until he becomes familiar with those duties. Thanks to Jean and Pam for their gracious offers of help.

Since the Board has not meet in the past months, I do not have any other news to share other than the above. Thankfully, we have a very healthy and clean lake chain without many problems. Hopefully, we can stay on track to make sure it remains so. I look forward to a good New Year and hope that all of you stay safe and healthy and continue to work toward a healthy lake system. Make sure you get vaccinated when it is your turn and keep social distancing, masking up and washing your hands as the CDC has advised.

Sincerely Yours,   
**Dick Mace**  
 President

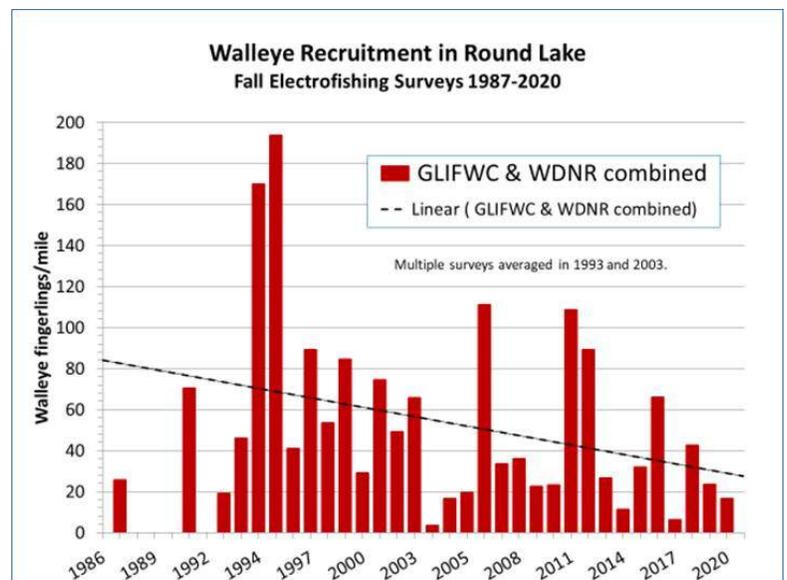
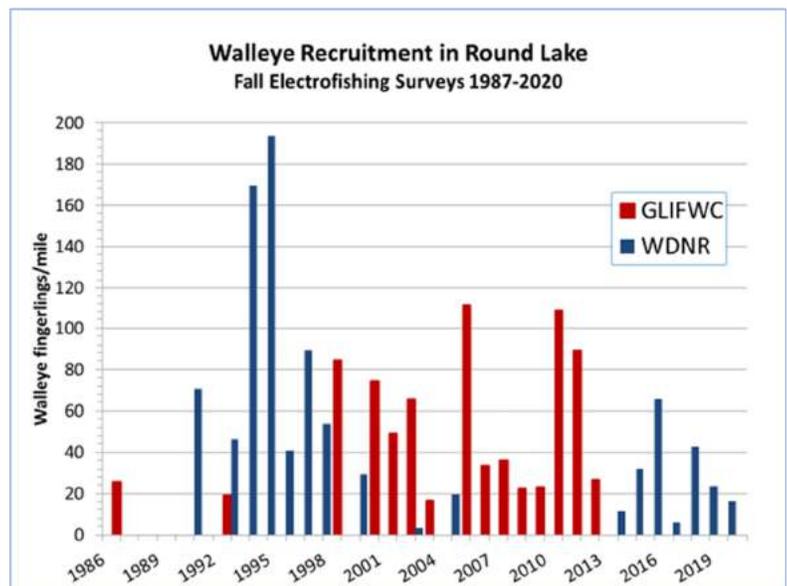
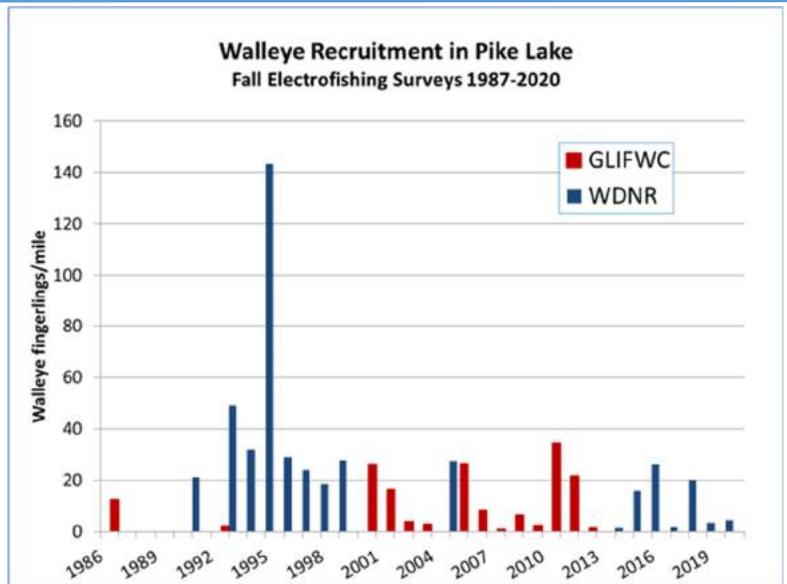
## PIKE LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

2021 Officers are:

- Chief:** Tom Birchell
- Assistant Chief:** Matt Langenhahn
- Captain:** Rick Sironi
- Safety Officer:** Open
- EMS Lieutenant:** Open

We are always in need of volunteers! If you are interested in becoming a fire-fighter or EMS personnel, contact Tom Birchell.

For burning permits, call the WDNR at 888-947-2876 or visit [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestfire/permits](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestfire/permits).



**PIKE LAKE CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**N14885 Shady Knoll Road, Park Falls, WI 54552**  
**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Dues are \$25.00 per membership per year. Dues cover the period 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021.

Record membership as: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual/Family, \_\_\_\_\_ Business, \_\_\_\_\_ Trust

**Please note:** One membership constitutes one 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Mail**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

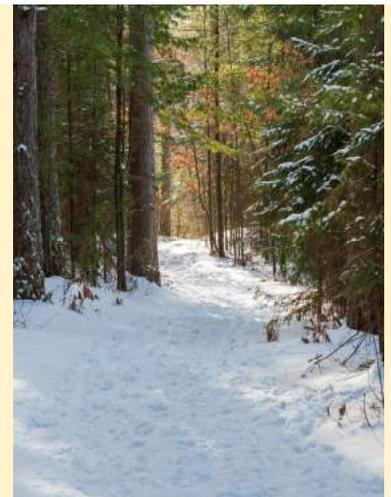
**\*\*\* Complete this form and MAIL TO \*\*\***

**Make checks payable to:  
Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association, Inc.**

**PLCLA Treasurer  
N14885 Shady Knoll Road  
Park Falls, WI 54552**

## TRAILS UPDATE *by Anne Sloane*

During a meeting with the Forest Service in early January, the conversation turned to revitalizing the beautiful landscape surrounding our chain. Unfortunately, much of the area had been neglected for decades as a result of budget restraints, workforce shortages, and outdated rules regarding the land usage. Shortly after, a team of neighbors and friends got to work grooming and revitalizing the hiking, biking, horseback riding, and x-country ski trails around our beautiful chain. It sounds a bit easier than it was; everyone involved took a safety class, signed a Forest Service contract, used our own equipment, and needed training and permission to use motorized vehicles and equipment on the trails. Covid actually helped us out - we all got to be outside (albeit at a distance) and work for a common goal. All we need now is some snow so we can start grooming the ski trails and show off PLCLA's once hidden jewel.





## PIKE LAKE CHAIN LAKES ASSOCIATION

N14885 Shady Knoll Road  
Park Falls, WI 54552

# 2021 Dues

are due now!

### STAY CONNECTED:

Web: [pikelakechain.net](http://pikelakechain.net)

Facebook: [facebook.com/PLCLA](https://facebook.com/PLCLA)



## REMINDERS

- ◆ OBSERVE "NO WAKE" ZONES
- ◆ RESPECT THE 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM SKIING HOURS
- ◆ REMEMBER YOUR GARBAGE CARD WHEN USING THE DUMP



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ ANNUAL MEETING: SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021 – 10:00 AM, PIKE LAKE FIREHALL
- ◆ FUN DAY: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 – 10:00 AM, PIKE LAKE FIREHALL