



Pickeren Crane Lake P&R District Spring, 2015

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

Spring is finally here and that means it's time for our 2015 Spring Pickeren Crane Lake District meeting. It will be held on May 23rd at 9:30 am at the Nashville Community Center and Office Building located at 1038 County Highway Q. I would like to invite you to attend, not only to get an idea of what the district activities will be during the upcoming summer, but we will also have the privilege of two very experienced and knowledgeable speakers giving presentations.

Mr. John Preuss, the Lumberjack Aquatic Invasive Coordinator for Lincoln, Langlade and Forest counties will be talking to us about aquatic invasive species, including Eurasian Water Milfoil, and the enforcement of State laws regarding invasive species. Hopefully, John can give us an update on the latest attempts to control Eurasian Milfoil and tell us if there is any new technology available to battle these invasive plants. John will also be able to answer questions on the Clean Water Clean Boats Program.

Our second speaker will be Mr. Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist for the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. He will be sharing his experience with the new Walleye Hatchery in Mole Lake. This hatchery has already produced several thousand Walleye which have been distributed to lakes in both Forest and Langlade counties. In 2014, 8,400 seven inch Walleyes from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community were placed in Pickeren Lake. Mr. Preul believes that the stocked Walleye need to be at least seven inches or larger to have a noticeable survival rate. I think we can all agree with Mike.

I would like to also thank Mike Preul for his support of our Lake District for not only recommending we receive a grant for \$3,000.00 from Mole Lake for lake improvement issues in our district but also for assisting the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) in the bullhead removal on Pickeren Lake. Thanks to Mole Lake's efforts, reportedly 84% of the bullheads were removed. My experience working with the Sokaogon Chippewa Community has been nothing but excellent, and our partnership in improving and enhancing our lakes is a perfect fit. I'm sure Mike will be able to give us an interesting presentation about Walleye raising and stocking.

I asked Greg Matzke, Senior Fisheries Biologist for the WDNR to provide us with a Pickeren/Crane Lakes 2014 report. I've read the report, and we have included it in this newsletter. I think you will find it very interesting and informative. Please don't miss the Walleye stocking plans for Pickeren and Crane Lakes in 2015. This past April I asked Greg if he had fish surveys planned for Pickeren and Crane Lakes this year. He informed me that the surveys were planned, but due to proposed State budget cuts there may be a shortage of funds for the surveys. I feel this is an important enough issue that we should discuss helping to fund the WDNR fish surveys which is why I placed it on the agenda for the Spring meeting.

Please keep in mind that elections for some Commissioner seats will be coming up in the fall, and I hope that we can encourage some of our members to get more involved. We need to hear new ideas and always need new energy. Please, seriously consider volunteering.

As always it will be good to see everyone after the long winter,

Chuck

WALLEYE STOCKING SUMMARY, 2014

BRAD KUPFER

Working with Fish Biologist Mike Preul of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community and Fish Biologist Greg Matzke out of the Florence County DNR office, we began stocking Walleye fingerlings into Pickerel Lake. We were able to purchase almost 8,481 three to five inch Walleye fingerlings from Mike, which were stocked into Pickerel Lake from October 1-7 of 2014. Special thanks and appreciation to Mike and Greg for making this happen for our district lakes.

On October 15, 2,000 six to eight inch Walleye fingerlings were stocked into Pickerel Lake from

Taal Lake Hatchery and another 1,000 were released into Crane. Special thanks to Gene Ebben for helping out with the stocking and handling all of the paperwork required from the DNR.

This year, Greg Matzke and his team will be doing a Boom Shocking Survey in late September or early October to measure the effectiveness of our 2013 and 2014 stocking. The purpose is to check on the year-one class small fingerlings' survival and growth rates from 2014.

IN MEMORY OF TWO OF OUR MOST VALUED LAKE FAMILY MEMBERS

Frank Zimmer

Frank will always be remembered as our first weed boss. He still holds the record for the most aquatic plants ever removed from Pickerel Lake in one summer by one volunteer. He was nicknamed "TOP GUN" by his fellow harvesters, and the name always stuck. Frank spent most of his summers operating the weed harvester and did so until his eyesight began to fail. He will also be remembered as a very talented wood worker and did many wood carvings for the local folks. Our lake family members will miss you Frank, but you will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Wanda and his family.

Jim Stormer

As Town Chairman, Chuck Sleeter had the privilege of working with Jim for over eighteen years, during which time Jim was the Town of Nashville Zoning Administrator. As we all know, this can be a difficult job, but Chuck was witness to Jim's hard work and dedication to lake management and preservation. Jim spent his career in zoning always focused on trying to protect our lakes and our treasured environment. He often said that if it wasn't for his love of our area lakes and making sure they didn't become endangered, he would have retired a long time ago. Jim also volunteered as a Pickerel/Crane Lake District liaison Commissioner for the Forest County Board of Supervisors. Our lake members will always be grateful to you Jim for your service to our community. You will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

FISHERIES UPDATE

GREG MATZKE

As hopefully most of you know, your Lake Association, WDNR and Mole Lake Community have partnered in a walleye rehabilitation project on Pickerel and Crane Lakes. The project consists of stocking large fingerling walleye (7-8 inches) that have a much higher survival rate than the standard small fingerling walleye (2 inch) to boost adult abundance and reducing an overabundant bullhead population from the lakes (which compete with and prey on walleye).

In 2013 we "peppered" Crane Lake with nets to remove bullheads. That project was incredibly successful, and we were able to remove an estimated 96.7% of the adult bullhead population. Last year we launched an even larger effort, with the help of the Mole Lake Chippewa Community, to remove bullheads from Pickerel Lake. Pickerel was a much tougher task, but eventually we were able to remove an estimated 84.1% of the adult bullheads from Pickerel Lake.

The total number and weight of bullheads removed from this chain of lakes is staggering. A total of 9,501 fish weighing 6,717 lbs were removed from Crane Lake. That is 28 fish/acre and 19.7 lbs/acre! From Pickerel we removed a total of 11,138 fish weighing 6,323 lbs. That is nearly 21,000 fish weighing over 13,000 pounds! What was equally as shocking were the prey items that we saw these bullheads throwing up during the project. We saw everything from 8" walleyes and perch to 12" bullheads that were consumed by bullheads. After seeing this it made sense why we were having such a hard time getting stocked walleyes to survey in Pickerel and Crane.

Since 2012 your Lake District has been stocking larger walleyes into Pickerel and Crane. The WDNR is also stocking larger walleyes during the "odd" numbered years, which means there will be a WDNR stocking this fall. This stocking event will be the largest stocking of large fingerling walleyes that these two lakes have ever seen, at over 16,000 fish. With the overabundant bullheads out of the picture, these walleyes will find a much more compatible home in the lakes and will hopefully survive at a high rate.

Thank you to all the Lake District volunteers that helped with the bullhead removal!

**Treasurer's Report / Pickerel / Crane Lake
P & R District
Treasurer's Report 1/01/14 - 12/31/14**

Opening Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	55,814.14
CD Septic Inspections	13,309.82
CD Inv. Aquatic Plant Cont.	36,899.95
Savings	23,119.95
Checking	1,620.42
Variable Rate	12,580.27
Total	\$143,344.55

Revenues

Interest	816.06
Private Donations	10,020.00
Boat Landing Donations	204.44
Tax Levy	27,800.00

Subtotal \$38,840.50

Expenditures

Aeration	1,410.49
Boat Landings	529.48
Capital Purchases	8,000.00
Dues	75.00
Weed Harvester	1,674.76
Insurance	3,446.00
Lake Monitoring	500.00
Meetings/Mileage	1,007.37
Postage	260.48
Webpage/Newsletter	804.84
printing	120.00
Rent	3,000.00
Administration	33.40
Miscellaneous	500.00
Walleye Restoration	10,788.10
Subtotal	\$32,149.92

Closing Balance

CD's Capital Purchases	44,789.17
CD Septic Inspections	13,383.07
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,102.99
Savings	38,128.48
Checking	3,994.49
Variable Rate/Savings	12,636.93
Total	\$150,035.13

HARVESTER WEED BOSS NEEDED!

With warmer temperatures, weeds will soon begin to grow. Without a Weed Boss, the harvester will not be able to be run as much as each of us would like. If you are able to volunteer, your service is MUCH needed. Contact Chuck at 715-484-4501 (h) or 715-219-0835 (c).

Respectfully Submitted; Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer
Audited by Walt Ferguson 4/4/15

Pickerel/Crane P/R District
 PO Box 18
 Pickerel, WI 54465

2015 Pickerel/Crane P/R District Spring Meeting
May 23, 2015 / 9:30 AM.
Town of Nashville / Comm. Center & Town Office Building
1038 CTH "Q" Pickerel, WI 54465
Phone 715-219-0835

AGENDA:

- (1) Call to Order**
- (2) Pledge of Allegiance**
- (3) Moment of silence for Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Stormer**
- (4) Welcome new members to the meeting**
- (5) Reading of Fall 2014 Meeting Minutes**
- (6) Treasurer's Report**
- (7) Old Business:**
 - (a) Aeration Report/ Information/Discussion**
 - (b) Aquatic Plant Harv. Report and Plans for 2015**
 - (c) Greg Matzke's Fisheries Update**
 - (d) Crane/Pickerel Walleye Stocking Overview**
 - (e) Walleye Fingerling Stocking in Crane Lake/2015**
 - (f) 2015 WDNR Fish Surveys in Pickerel/Crane issue**
 - (g) Seasonal Dock Removal and Installation**
 - (h) 2015 dock donation box information**
- (8) New Business**
 - (a) Appoint Nominating Committee**
 - (b) Guest speakers John Preuss and Mike Preul**
 - (8) Public Comment**
 - (9) Adjourn**

Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Treasurer's Report 1/01/15 - 3/31/15

Opening Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	44,789.17
CD Septic Inspections	13,383.07
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,102.99
Savings	38,128.48
Checking	3,994.49
Variable Rate/Savings	12,636.93
Total	\$150,035.13

Revenue	
Interest	195.78
Private Donations	3,000.00
Tax Levy	18,671.83
Subtotal	\$21,867.61

Expenditures	
Aeration	555.62
Rent	750.00
Subtotal	\$1,305.62

Closing Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	44,851.71
CD Septic Inspections	13,401.19
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,153.22
Savings	45,431.86
Checking	3,029.24
Variable Rate/Savings	26,729.90
Total	\$170,597.12

Respectfully Submitted / Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer