

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK CHUCK SLEETER

Hi Folks,

Please let me take this opportunity to invite you to the Annual Fall Meeting on Sept 2, 2017, at 9:30 A.M. Several important issues will be discussed including the possibility of changing meeting dates and times. We will also have our budget hearing, discuss the possibility of changing the way we send out our newsletter, decide if the lake community wants to widen the Pickereel Lake north side boat landing, along with other topics.

Secondly, let me share with you some of the changes that will be coming to our newsletters. As per our Lake Management Plan, our newsletter is to be used as a source of educational information for the lake community. Therefore, we will briefly note Lake District activities, and include informative articles of interest to our readers along with reminders of upcoming activities. It is our hope that Pickereel/Crane Lakes families will join us at our annual spring and fall meetings where newsletter and agenda items can be discussed in more detail.

Finally, if for some reason you feel that your Board of Commissioners is not representing you the way you like, please consider being nominated and elected to one of three positions (Chairman, Treasurer, and Commissioner) on the board. Here is your chance to volunteer to be more involved and have a chance to make the changes you feel might be necessary. We always welcome your feedback and new ideas.

Have a great fall and winter!
See you all at the meeting,

Chuck Sleeter
Chairman



Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Update

Spring survey results confirmed that Crane Lake now has a healthy population of adult fish and a strong population of juvenile fish. Pickereel Lake is about 3 years behind Crane on walleye size and population but noted an extremely healthy population of juvenile perch. The bullhead extractions are believed to have played a critical role in the enhanced perch population. WDNR noted that the next priority in the Walleye Restoration Project on Crane is to enhance the process of natural reproduction. The creation of a proposed spawning reef has been put forth by WDNR and will be voted on at the fall meeting.

- Bullhead Removal
 - Pickereel: 11,000 bullheads removed
 - Crane: 800
- Walleye Stocking: projected October levels with fingerlings provided by Mole Lake Fish Hatchery
 - Pickereel: 12,000 fingerling Walleyes
 - Crane: 4,000 fingerlings
- Bass Resolution Update:
 - According to the spring survey bass populations have declined on both lakes. Greg Matzke is in favor of changing the daily bag limits on bass from 1 fish at minimum of 18 inches to the statewide limit of 5 fish at a minimum of 14 inches. More details on our next course of action to be provided at the fall meeting.

Protection & Rehabilitation

Algae in Our Lake – Is that Good or Bad?

Don't P in Your Lake

That's P as in the chemical symbol for phosphorus, a nutrient that in excessive amounts can cause noxious algae blooms in lakes.

The headline comes from an education campaign in a New Hampshire town that encourages people to help keep the phosphorus out of the water. It's a good rule to follow on any lake.

What's the trouble with phosphorus? It accumulates over time, and too much of it can cause explosive growth of weeds and blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).

Aquatic biologist Darby Nelson explains this brilliantly in his book, "For Love of Lakes". He describes the ingredients in his wife's blueberry muffins and how, if she has only two teaspoons of baking powder (the limiting factor), she can only make one batch – no matter how much flour and sugar and how many eggs she may have.

Then he notes that in lakes, phosphorus is the limiting factor: "Compared to demand, it is phosphorus that is available in least supply....little phosphorus in lake water begets few cyanobacteria, algae and aquatic plants, or both".

The worst culprit here is the blue green algae, which can reduce dissolved oxygen in the water. That leads to foul smelling pileups on shore, produces toxins that kill fish, and even makes people and pets sick. So, to keep the P out of your lake, what can you do? Here are some tips:

- ***Use Phosphorus-free fertilizer on your yard, or better yet, no fertilizer.***
- ***Use phosphorus-free detergents and dish soaps.***
- ***Keep a natural shoreline or at least a buffer strip of natural vegetation to limit run off.***
- ***Have your septic system serviced on a regular basis.***
- ***Take steps to limit runoff from hard surfaces.***

Keeping P out of the water will help preserve the quality of the lake you love.

By: Bob Martini, Oneida County Lakes and river Association.

At certain times of the year, a normal clear lake can appear green and not so clear. You're seeing the presence of algae in the water. In a healthy lake, algae are critical to the balance of life. But, as in life in general, the rule is: Everything in moderation.

Algae are tiny plants that have no stems or leaves but usually contain chlorophyll. They may attach to submerged rocks and branches, or they may float freely in the water. Algae provide food for the tiny creatures (zooplankton) that the fry of our favorite fish love to eat.

Algae exist when all conditions are right: temperature, sunlight, water pH, and the balance of nutrients. A critical nutrient is phosphorus. It must be present in precisely the right amount. Too little and the algae will not thrive. Too much and algae will "bloom". That reduces the lake's clarity, appeal and natural balance.

There are several kinds of algae. Tiny green spots floating in the water are fine. Dense mats of stringy brown or green matter near the surface are filamentous algae. They aren't pleasant to look at but they cause few problems.

The trouble can come in mid to late summer when lakes too rich in nutrients experience blooms of blue green algae. These organisms are really bacteria that form suddenly and grow rapidly. They create a thick, blue green mat near the surface, forming wave like patterns in quiet water. During certain times in their lifecycle these bacteria produce powerful toxins that can make people and pets sick.

So, get to know the natural cycles of your lake. Know when to expect the welcome presence of beneficial algae. Be aware of the sudden changes in algae growth. Don't be alarmed by the presence of tree pollen on the cold lake surface in late spring.

Join your shore land neighbors to help keep phosphorus in equilibrium. Don't use phosphorus fertilizers. Keep your septic system in good working order. Tend to your natural shore land buffer.

In balance, algae is a good thing. Healthy lake life depends on it. Too much algae may be a sign of a lake under stress.

By: Bob Martini, Oneida County Lakes and river Association.

Did you know...

A septic system should be inspected each year and pumped out every three years to keep it working properly and protect the lake water quality

Pickereel Lake North Boat Landing Expansion

Approval was recently received from all relevant agencies and construction can begin to widen the landing 15' to the west. The area to be widened will facilitate a safer utilization of the weed harvester as well as potentially a longer term storage location.

Treasurer's Report 1/01/17 - 7/31/2017

Opening Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	45,445.05
CD Weed Harvester	13,564.95
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,610.47
Savings	20,198.58
Checking	39,616.50
Variable Rate/Contingency Fund	7,379.68
Prior Year Balance	\$163,815.23
Revenues	
Boat Landings	\$300.38
Donations	5,000.00
Interest	684.23
Tax Levy	18,301.80
7-Month Revenues	\$24,286.41
Expenditures	
Administrative	101.32
Aeration	1,037.39
Boat Landings	168.00
Dues	75.00
Insurance	3,186.00
Lake Monitoring	63.98
Meetings/Mileage/Telephone	1,714.33
Postage	151.39
Printing/Ads	63.10
Rent	2,250.00
Webpage/Newsletter	168.30
Weed Harvesting	2,112.91
7-Month Expenditures	\$11,091.72
Closing Balance	
CD's Capital Purchases	45,660.09
CD Weed Harvester	13,618.70
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	37,759.46
Savings	31,906.60
Checking	2,065.72
Money Market/Contingency Fund	45,810.11
July 31, 2017 Balance	\$176,820.68

Respectfully Submitted; *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

2018 Proposed Budget

Expenditures	
Administrative	200.00
Aeration	1,500.00
Boat Landings	4,000.00
Capital Purchases	3,000.00
Dues	100.00
Insurance	3,000.00
Lake Monitoring	300.00
Meetings/Mileage/Phone	2,200.00
Misc./Contingency Fund	3,000.00
Postage	400.00
Printing/Ads	200.00
Rent	3,000.00
Walleye Restoration Project	15,000.00
Webpage/Newsletter	600.00
Weed Harvesting	4,500.00
	\$41,000.00
Revenues	
Boat Landing Donations	200.00
Donations	0.00
Interest	1,000.00
Tax Levy	27,800.00
Variable Rate/Contingency Fund	3,000.00
Boat Landing Project Reserve	9,000.00
	\$41,000.00

2018 Proposed Tax Levy: \$27,800

Percentage of Change: 0%

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

PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R FALL MTG
SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 9:30 AM
TOWN OF NASHVILLE
COMMUNITY CTR, NASHVILLE TOWN OFFICE
1038 CTH "Q" PICKEREL WIS.

1. Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll call
2. Greet and thank everyone for attending
3. Read Meeting Minutes
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Old Business
 - (a) Aeration report, Jerry Hietpas
 - (b) Weed harvester report, Jim Huss
 - (c) Consider donation to the Pick. T-stone Snow Club
 - (d) P&C fisheries 2017 surveys recap - Brad Kupfer
 - (e) Walleye stocking update, Brad Kupfer
 - (f) Discuss/vote on building a walleye spawning reef
 - (g) Thank the Sokaogon Chippewa for their donation
6. New Business
 - (a) Discuss / vote on date/time changes to spring/fall Meetings
 - (b) Discuss/vote on alternative methods to disseminate newsletter
 - (c) Discuss N. Pickerel Lake boat landing widening
 - (d) Discuss water testing on Pick. /Crane & future plans
 - (e) Discuss L/D office rental and meeting room
11. Public comment
12. Budget Hearing/Adoption of Tax Levy
13. Election for; Treasurer, Comm. and Chairman
14. Adjourn

**Pickerel/Crane Lake District
Commissioners & Representatives**

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman	715 219-0835
Rod Sternhagen, Vice Chairman	920 540-4507
Dan Vosters	920 419-0317
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer	715 484-2520
Mike Zelinski, Secretary	715 338-4343
Jamie Anderson, Town of Nashville	715 478-1038
David Solin, Langlade County Rep.	715 627-4221

In order for us to keep the mailing list current, please notify us if your address has changed. It would also be helpful if you would contact us with the name and address of the new owners in the event your property is sold.

Thank You