

## Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District Fall Newsletter, 2021

### From the Chairman's Desk – Chuck Sleeter

Hello everyone. I would like to share with you something that happened back in June. It was this type of event that has reminded me of why I have enjoyed being the Chairman for over 24 years. Ted Corona, who is not only a great harvester volunteer but does most of the repairs and assists our operators in any way possible, advised me that one of the lower conveyor belts on the harvester had slid over and had to be moved back. From past experience I knew what this meant. We needed to release the slack adjusters and pry the belt over. It's not that easy, it requires us working under the engine on our hands and knees and at the same time prying the belt over while releasing the slack adjusters.

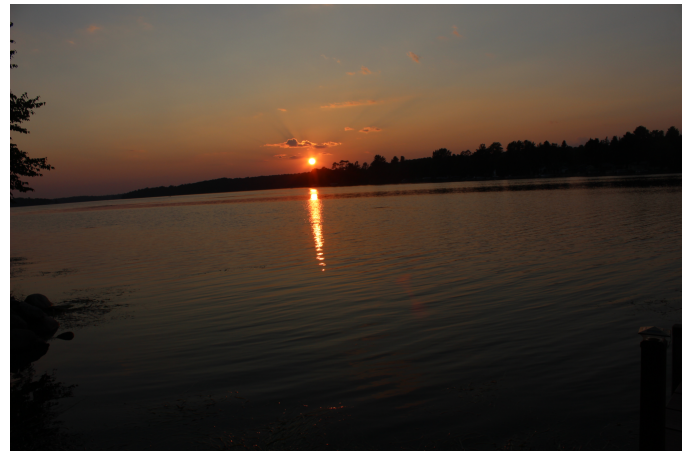
Well, the day was sunny, hot and humid. The sweat was running and our knees were hurting. It was then that three men arrived out of nowhere and volunteered to help us out. After a couple hours of struggling with the belt and the sweat still pouring, we all managed to complete the job. Ted and I know that without these volunteers we would not have been able to move the conveyor belt ourselves. We thanked them and it was at this point that another gentleman came up to us and asked if someone could teach him how to run the harvester.

What a day for the Lake District and one I will remember for a long time. You may not know this, but in this day and age most organizations are really struggling for volunteers. But that day I was

reminded how very fortunate we are to have generous folks around us who love these lakes so much that they are willing to give up some of their fun time to help out. If you would like to be a volunteer, please let us know. You don't have to operate the harvester. We have lots of committees and other positions. Many positions involve lake monitoring activities that you could do while out enjoying the lake. If you are interested in joining our great group of lake volunteers call Brad Kupfer at 715-484-2520 for more info. Have a safe and fun fall season!

Thanks for all you do,

Chuck



Pickerel Lake Sunset

### ***Mission Statement:***

*Citizens dedicated to the preservation and rehabilitation of  
Pickerel and Crane Lakes for present and future generations.*

# ATTENTION CRANE LAKE RESIDENTS



Eurasian Water Milfoil Weed

As you all know, Pickerel Lake has a lot of Eurasian Water Milfoil. While weed harvesting did not cause this, weed harvesting is responsible for some of the spread. Every time a Eurasian Water Milfoil weed is cut, any particle of that weed will sink to the bottom and grow more.

Crane Lake has a small area of Eurasian Water Milfoil. After consulting with two scientists who are knowledgeable about Eurasian Water Milfoil and its spread, we will not be weed harvesting on Crane Lake until we can remove the existing population. Based on our research and their recommendations, we are in the process of trying to secure a grant to rid Crane Lake of the existing Eurasian Water Milfoil. We will revisit the issue next year.

We will be discussing all of this at the August 28<sup>th</sup> Lake District meeting. Please try to attend and share your thoughts.

If you have concerns you can contact Chairman Chuck Sleeter at 715-219-0835

## Lake District Annual Fall Meeting

You are invited to attend our Fall Meeting to be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021 at 9:00 am in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 County Road Q, Pickerel, WI. No Covid mandates at this time, but if someone is ill, please stay home. Masking is optional and social distancing is recommended.

A limited number of our meeting minutes from the **Spring 2021 Meeting** will be available, and we suggest an early arrival in order to read them before the meeting starts. Also a copy of the Spring 2021 Meeting Minutes is posted on our website at [pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org).

**FALL MEETING DOOR PRIZE:** Please attend our annual Fall Meeting and sign up for a door prize donated by our Chairman Chuck Sleeter. The winner of the Spring Meeting's door prize was Ed Mytton. It was a Duck's Unlimited wine carafe and glasses donated by Brad and Kathy Kupfer. CONGRATULATIONS, ED!

## For Your Information

**Board of Commissioners** – Please contact Craig Farah (920-470-8845) if interested in being nominated to the Board of Commissioners. The following positions will be up for nominations in the fall: Chairman.

**Weed Harvesting** – Please remember to place a green flag at the end of your dock if you would like your dock-area weeds harvested. If interested in volunteering to help, please contact **Jim Huss at 715-216-2453 (Pickerel)** or **Brian King at 715-484-2807 (Crane)**.

**Mailing List Update** – 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!

**Volunteers Needed** – Check out our website's Home Page at [pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org) for a list of all the volunteer opportunities within our Lake District

**Our hearts are with the families, friends and communities who have lost loved ones to COVID-19 and with those who are fighting the virus**

## Lake Management Plan Update

Our Lake Management Plan was completed this past June by White Water Associates and forwarded to the Wisconsin DNR. All of the documents have been posted to the website. If you have not visited the site, I would highly suggest that you take a look. Virtually everything about our lakes can be found at:

<https://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org>.

One of the biggest initiatives coming out of the plan is the recommendation to form two *Citizens Monitoring Action Committees*, one for Pickerel Lake and one for Crane Lake. The Crane Lake Committee will be led by Brad Kupfer. Volunteers stepping forward to help are Brian King, Gene Ebben, Chris Randerson, Dan Stoehr, and Mark Starich. We will be having our first meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the following topics as it relates to Crane Lake. Topics will include the current status of our fisheries, water monitoring, invasive species update, boat landing status, shoreline restoration initiatives, weed harvesting, and septic compliance. We are urgently looking for volunteers for Pickerel Lake including someone to lead the committee.

## Fall Walleye Stocking

Pickerel and Crane Lakes are on the schedule for stocking every odd-numbered year. This fall, we are anticipating getting approximately 10 fingerling walleyes per acre or roughly 3,500 for Crane and 13,000 for Pickerel. All of the fish will be coming from the Mole Lake Fish Hatchery facility at no cost to the lake district.

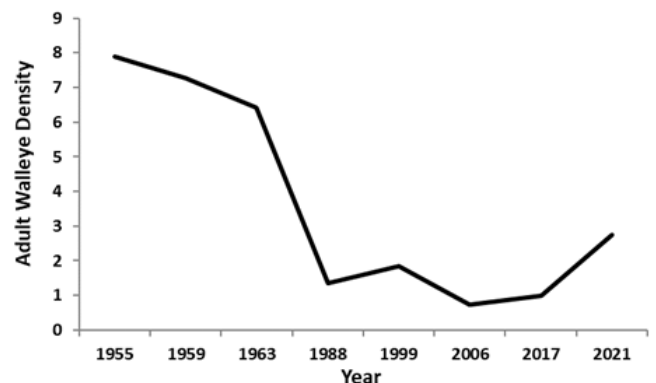
## Bullhead Netting Approval

We have been given a verbal approval to begin netting bullhead fry. (This is currently being done with much success on Lake Metonga.) Bullhead fry are usually found near the shoreline and look like a swimming "black cloud." If you should happen to see these masses of young bullheads, you may net them using a fine mesh net.

## Update On The Walleye Population

As you know Mike Preul along with lake volunteers, Gene Ebben and Brian King, did an adult walleye population estimate on Crane this spring shortly after ice-out, and also scattered fertilized eggs on the walleye reef. I have reviewed his data from that

survey, and it is nothing short of GREAT NEWS!! The adult walleye population is now 2.75 adults/acre, which means it has nearly tripled in the last 4 years! In 2017 the estimate was 1/acre. This is probably twice as high as I would have expected it to be. To put this into perspective, for our naturally-reproducing populations I expect to have a population of 3 adults/acre, and then I would call it meeting the goals of management. For stocked waters, I expect about 1 adult/acre. So Crane right now has the population of a naturally-reproducing population. Now that we know that the population is this high, we can safely say that we have enough adults in Crane to pull off significant natural reproduction, if it is possible. So for the next 5 years or so there really are no excuses. We should see a significant year class, if the lake is capable of doing it.



**Figure.** History of adult walleye population estimates for Crane Lake, Forest County.

Greg Matzke  
Fisheries Biologist-Sen  
Wisconsin DNR



## Have You Seen This?



Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection  
and Rehabilitation District



Your commissioners try to keep Pickerel Lake and Crane Lake property owners informed through our newsletters as well as our spring and fall meetings. Our lake district webpage ([www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org)) is another valuable source of information for our membership.

Topics covered include:

- Aeration
- Archived Newsletters (2009-Present)
- Archived Meeting Minutes (2009-Present)
- Lake Management Plan (Findings and Recommendations)
- Upcoming Meeting Dates, Times, and Agendas
- Shoreline Restoration
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Walleye Restoration
- Wild Rice Initiative
- Weed Harvesting

If you have ideas for more topics you would like to see, please contact Kathy Kupfer at [kathykupfer52@outlook.com](mailto:kathykupfer52@outlook.com) or 715-484-2520.

Thank you for taking a moment to familiarize yourself with the wealth of information available to you on our webpage

[www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://www.pickerelcranelakedistrict.org).

## Lake District Saves Dollars

This year volunteer Ted Corona suggested that the Lake District should install a central greasing system on our harvester. The reason for that was because our volunteers are getting up in age and they need a safe and convenient way to grease which needs to be done each time before the harvester is operated.

That being said, we contacted the harvester manufacturer and found that this improvement would cost us approximately \$13,000. It was then agreed that our volunteers would take on the project ourselves. While it took us several days we purchased the products, built some of the parts, and completed the project for approximately \$500. Thank you, Ted, for your expertise and guidance and all the volunteers that worked on this project. We saved the tax payers \$12,500. That's always a good day!



<b>Pickere/</b> <i>Crane Lakes Protection &amp; Rehabilitation District</i>		
<b>Mid-Year Treasurer's Report 1/01/21- 6/30/21</b>		
<b>Opening Balance</b>		
CD's Capital Purchases		51,411.76
CD Boat Landings		9,459.24
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		39,784.78
Savings		15,427.82
Checking		22,923.42
Money Market/Contingency Fund		47,563.84
<b>Prior Year Balance</b>		<b>\$186,570.86</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Boat Landings		191.00
Credit		38.84
Donations		100.00
Interest		651.61
Tax Levy		19,062.42
<b>6-Month Revenues</b>		<b>\$20,043.87</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Aeration		863.05
Dues		50.00
Insurance		132.00
Lake Management Plan		1,367.50
Meetings/Mileage		104.22
Postage		181.64
Printing		48.63
Rent		725.00
Webpage/Newsletter		239.92
Weed Harvesting		1,006.75
<b>6-Month Expenditures</b>		<b>\$4,718.71</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>		
CD's Capital Purchases		51,626.05
CD Boat Landings		9,517.69
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control		40,011.01
Savings		15,446.98
Checking		37,612.60
Money Market/Contingency Fund		47,681.69
<b>2021 Mid-Year Balance</b>		<b>\$201,896.02</b>
Respectfully Submitted,		
<i>Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer</i>		

<b>Pickere/</b> <i>Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District</i>		
<b>2022 Proposed Budget</b>		
<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>2022</b>
Administrative		200.00
Aeration	2022	2,000.00
Boat Landings	Proposed	2,000.00
Capital Purchases	Tax Levy	2,000.00
Dues	\$27,800	100.00
Insurance		4,750.00
Lake Management Plan		3,500.00
Lake Monitoring		200.00
Meetings/Mileage/Phone	Percentage	1,500.00
Misc./Contingency Fund	of Change	1,000.00
Postage	0%	550.00
Printing/Ads		500.00
Rent		800.00
Walleye Restoration Project		1,000.00
Webpage/Newsletter		700.00
Weed Harvesting		7,000.00
		<b>\$27,800.00</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
		<b>2022</b>
Boat Landing Donations		0.00
Contingency Fund		0.00
Interest		0.00
Tax Levy		27,800.00
		<b>\$27,800.00</b>

[pickere/cranelakedistrict.org](http://pickere/cranelakedistrict.org)

Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District  
PO Box 18  
Pickerel WI 54465



**NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT FALL MEETING**  
August 28, 2021 9:00 AM  
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1038 CTH "Q", PICKEREL, WI

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Greet and thank folks for attending
5. Commissioner meeting minutes May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of 2021 (please see website)
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Old Business
  - (a) Aeration report, Jerry Hietpas, Aeration Boss
  - (b) No weed harvesting on Crane Lake and 2021 Pickerel Lake harvesting report
  - (c) Lake Management Plan and request for project leaders urgently needed
  - (d) Walleye stocking for 2021
8. New Business
  - (a) Bullhead extraction volunteers for both lakes needed for 2022
  - (b) Three volunteers needed for our Audit Committee
  - (c) Temporary replacement for Vice Chairman
9. Budget Hearing/ Adoption of Tax Levy
10. Election for position of Commissioner
  - (a) Nominations from the floor
  - (b) Written ballot vote
  - (c) Announcement of results
11. Public comment
12. Adjourn

**COVID NOTICE**

**No Mandates. If someone is ill, stay home. Masking is optional, social distancing is recommended.**

**Pickerel/Crane P&R Lake District Commissioners' Meeting will be held immediately following the fall meeting adjournment.**

**AGENDA:**

1. Selection of Positions on the Board
2. Revisit "action items" from fall meeting
3. Adjourn

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

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman	715-219-0835
<a href="mailto:chucksleeter@gmail.com">chucksleeter@gmail.com</a>	
Jerome Hietpas, Vice Chairman	715-484-2219
Curt Haga, Commissioner	262-385-7398
<a href="mailto:chaga@wi.rr.com">chaga@wi.rr.com</a>	
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer	715-484-2520
<a href="mailto:kathykupfer52@outlook.com">kathykupfer52@outlook.com</a>	
Dan Stoehr, Secretary	715-484-2393
<a href="mailto:dtstoehr@gmail.com">dtstoehr@gmail.com</a>	
Barb Szopinski, Town of Nashville	715-478-2524
Steve Kircher, Forest Cty. Conserv.	715-478-1387
Ron Nye, Langlade Cty. Board	715-627-7298

**Please visit us online for more information at:**

**[pickerelcranelakedistrict.org](http://pickerelcranelakedistrict.org)**