



## Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Spring Newsletter, 2023

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

Here we are again!

Hopefully, spring will bring better weather and the excitement of another summer. The fishermen will have their boats back in the water, and the wildlife will again return. With this picture in mind, I would like to tell you of something incredibly special that took place on Pickerel Lake last fall.

In early October, I received a phone call from the Raptors Educational Group located in Antigo, WI. I was told that someone on South Shore Dr. had reported seeing a loon tangled in fishing line. Truly, the loon was in a life and death struggle and was losing.

I told the caller we would do what we could to locate the loon and we set out to do just that. First, I texted all the members of the Pickerel Lake Monitoring committee, called Commissioner Craig Farah asking him to check the south shore area for the loon, contacted the area resorts informing them of the situation, and stopped at the Pickerel Point Resort asking them to watch for the threatened loon. Later that day, folks from Pickerel Point Resort observed the loon and rescued the bird. That same day, the loon was taken to the Raptor Group in Antigo. Initially, I was advised that the loon was there but was under a lot of stress. The Raptor Group named the loon Regi and thanked all the folks who had helped in the rescue. Unfortunately, this story has a sad ending as we were later notified that Regi did not survive.

I hope this incident will be a reminder to all of us to be more mindful with how we discard our fishing



line. Too often we let it lay in the bottom of the boat and when we motor off, the wind blows the line into the water. Many times, this is the line that becomes a death trap for the loons, eagles, and other wildlife. It is important to take the time to put that fishing line somewhere secure and deposit it in the trash at home. Please be careful and remind your family and guests to do the same.

I would like to thank all the folks who made the attempt to locate Regi. It was a real lake community effort. If you would like to help wildlife like Regie, contact Raptors at: [www.raptoreducationgroup.org](http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org).

Thank you,

Chuck Sleeter

#### **Mission Statement:**

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

## For Your Information

**New Rental Procedures for Forest County** - If you are currently renting your property or are considering renting your property in the future, you will want to attend our spring meeting. Jeannie Fannin, of the Forest County Zoning Department, will be attending our meeting to outline the new county rental process and answer questions from the audience.

**Welcome to Our Lakes** - Included in this spring newsletter is an informational flier regarding current boat regulations, boating guidelines, and fishing guidelines. Please make this document available for yourself and any visitors to our beautiful lakes. If you are currently renting, we ask that you display the enclosed document in a prominent location or include it in your rental guest book. Thank you!

**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: Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

### **Weed Harvesting – Pickerel Lake**

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**.

**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.

### **Bullhead Overview (Katie Renschen, WDNR Fisheries Technician Advanced)**

The Pickerel-Crane walleye rehabilitation and bullhead removal project has been going on for over a decade with some promising success. In total, over 40,000 bullheads have been removed from the Pickerel-Crane system since the project began in 2012. For the future, continued maintenance removals of bullheads are vital to keep things in check. This is where volunteers and members of the Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District can really make an impact and contribute to the ongoing success of this rehabilitation project. To maintain a low abundance of the bullhead population, registered DNR volunteers are able to legally remove schools of young-of-year/juvenile bullhead that congregate near shore during early summer months, using small mesh dip nets and/or seines. Volunteers are needed to quantify the number of juvenile bullheads removed (either by estimated number or weight) and report this

data, along with the number of hours spent on this activity, to the local fisheries biologist (Greg Matzke) on a monthly basis. This type of activity can be done individually, as a family, or even a larger group. It is our hope that we can foster this type of effort for the P/C Lake P&R District, and look forward to helping those who are interested get signed up as a volunteer. *(Greg Matzke, WDNR Fish Biologist, will be at our spring meeting to answer any questions you may have about our bullhead-removal project.)*

### **Walleye Fall Shocking Survey (Brad Kupfer)**

The fall shocking of Crane Lake was conducted on September 21, 2022. This is the fourth consecutive year where an age-0 non-stocked walleye was captured, which is further proof that the newly-constructed reef is working. While the amount of natural recruitment remains relatively low, the age-0 walleyes were extremely large. Of the 29 juvenile walleyes captured, sizes ranged from 6.7" up to 8.8". Another 11 age-1 walleyes were captured ranging from 9.2" to 11.5". Please continue to practice catch and release of walleyes under 18" and keep only 3 per the bag limit currently in place.

### **Eurasian Milfoil Update for Crane Lake (Brad Kupfer)**

Year two of the Eurasian Milfoil removal project will take place in early June. White Water Associates will be conducting a pre-survey to locate existing beds of milfoil, followed by Aquatic Plant Management doing the actual removal via the DASH method (Diver Assisted Suctioning Harvest) before the end of June.

### **\$3,000.00 Donation Received**

The Pickerel/Crane Lake P&R District is pleased to announce a \$3,000.00 donation was received this past February from the Mole Lake Band of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community. The Lake District Board will decide how to best use the money for use in the protection and rehabilitation of Crane and Pickerel Lakes.

### **2022- 2023 Aeration Update**

Jerry Hietpas, our aeration boss, reported that the system worked well this winter. Jerry noted that the electrical brakers are becoming loose and will need to be replaced this coming spring. Jerry wants to acknowledge the volunteers who helped repair the old safety fencing which encircles the open water caused by the system. The volunteers replaced the old material with a new type of reflective material. Thanks to those volunteers, there were no accidents this winter since everyone can clearly see the open water. A big thank you to Jerry and all his volunteers!

## Welcome to Our Lakes

The Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District welcomes you to our lakes. We have highlighted a few of the regulations and guidelines below so you and your family can enjoy a safe and memorable vacation while protecting our lakes for future generations.

- **Boat Landings** Please read all boat landing signage for important information.

### No Power Loading

Power loading creates holes in the landing area and dispenses sediment into the lake.

### Clean Weeds Off Trailers, Boats and Anchors Before and After Using the Lakes.

We are actively working to control the spread of Eurasian Milfoil. If this invasive species is not contained, both lakes will be difficult to navigate and will prohibit fishing and recreational boating.

### Please Do Not Litter

Take all garbage with you and dispense at a designated trash receptacle.

- **Boating Guidelines**

- ✓ **No Wake Through the Channel** connecting Pickerel and Crane Lakes

- ✓ **Wake Boats are Discouraged** on our lakes.

Wake boarding creates a substantial wave of water, disturbing sediment while releasing dormant nutrients back into the lake causing algae blooms and shoreline erosion.

- ✓ **Clean off Weeds Before Entering Culvert from Pickerel Lake** (Obey Signage)

- ✓ **No Wake in all Shallow Bays** as it disturbs the sediment, releasing nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

- ✓ **No Recreational Boating** (jet skis, tubing, water skiing, wakeboarding) **on Crane Lake after 6:00 P.M. and before 9:00 A.M.**

- **Fishing Guidelines**

- ✓ **Please Review all Bag Limits:** Walleye must be a minimum of 18" and a total of 3 may be kept.

A combination of panfish (including perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, and crappie) has a maximum bag limit of 25. Largemouth Bass must be a minimum of 14" and 5 may be kept.

- ✓ **Possession Limit:** The possession limit is the maximum number of a species that you can control, transport, etc. at any given time and is always twice the daily bag limit.

- ✓ **Bullheads:** Recent research has told us that bullheads are detrimental to walleye and perch populations. Any bullheads that are caught, should NOT be returned to the lake.

- ✓ **Trolling Recommendations:** We recommend that IF you decide to troll for any species of fish, you limit 1 trolling line per person and a maximum of 3 lines per boat.

Our Lake District has **Citizens Monitoring and Action Committees** on both lakes that constantly monitor all activity including recreational boating, fishing, boat landings and anything that pertains to the health and welfare of our lakes.

*If any activity is deemed illegal or unsafe, we do not hesitate to contact the authorities.*

**Please obey the rules and regulations while enjoying our lakes. See you on the water.**

## Pickerel 2022 Harvester Report

Started Harvesting July 8, 2022  
 Ended Harvesting Sept. 26, 2022  
 Number of truck loads 8  
 Approx. Tonnage 32  
 Lake Monitoring hrs. 35.5

Mother nature gave the harvester program a break this summer. According to our records, this was the lowest number of loads ever taken out of Pickerel Lake in one summer season.

## Lake District Annual Spring Meeting

You are invited to attend our spring meeting to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 9:00 AM in the Town of Nashville Community Center located at 1038 Cty Rd Q, Pickerel, WI.

There will be a **Door Prize Drawing** for those attending.

### Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Year-End Treasurer's Report 1/01/2022 - 12/31/2022

<b>Opening Balance</b>	
CD's Boat Landings	9,577.48
CD Capital Purchases	51,762.50
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,145.75
CD Walleye Restoration	8,006.57
Savings	15,534.42
Checking	24,169.13
Money Market/Contingency Fund	48,802.91
<b>Prior Year Balance</b>	<b>\$197,998.76</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	
Boat Landings	466.00
Credits	74.98
Interest	1,812.59
Tax Levy	27,800.00
<b>12-Month Revenues</b>	<b>\$30,153.57</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Administrative	104.66
Aeration	1,211.59
Boat Landings	1,246.46
Capital Purchases	783.96
Dues	100.00
Insurance	4,125.00
Lake Management Plan	(5,155.63)
Meetings/Mileage/Telephone	396.36
Postage	481.59
Printing	274.90
Rent	700.00
Webpage/Newsletter	1,256.86
Weed Harvesting	7,069.42
<b>12-Month Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,595.17</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	
CD Boat Landings	9,713.50
CD's Capital Purchases	52,218.83
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,545.83
CD Lake Management Plan	5,012.73
CD Walleye Restoration	8,072.66
Savings	10,668.30
Checking	9,228.59
Money Market/Contingency Fund	80,096.72
<b>2022 Year-End Balance</b>	<b>\$215,557.16</b>

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

## Water Balloons Discouraged During Pontoon Parade

The Lake District, DNR, and all the wildlife lovers would like to discourage the throwing of water balloons during the 4th of July Pontoon Parade. Wildlife, including loons, have been seen trying to eat these balloons and have a hard time digesting them. Several weeks after last year's event, hundreds of balloons showed up close to the culvert area, so please consider not throwing balloons during this year's event and in the future.  
 Thank You!

### Pickerel/Crane Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District 1st Quarter Treasurer's Report 1/01/2023 - 3/31/2023

<b>Opening Balance</b>	
CD Boat Landings	9,713.50
CD's Capital Purchases	52,218.83
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,545.83
CD Lake Management Plan	5,012.73
CD Walleye Restoration	8,072.66
Savings	10,668.30
Checking	9,228.59
Money Market/Contingency Fund	80,096.72
<b>Prior Year Balance</b>	<b>\$215,557.16</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	
Interest	962.73
Donations	3,000.00
Tax Levy	19,246.84
<b>1st Quarter Revenues</b>	<b>\$23,209.57</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Administrative	11.93
Aeration	686.05
Dues	150.00
Rent	700.00
<b>1st Quarter Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,547.98</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	
CD Boat Landings	9,755.16
CD's Capital Purchases	52,455.44
CD Invasive Aquatic Plant Control	40,695.00
CD Lake Management Plan	5,062.65
CD Walleye Restoration	8,117.07
Savings	10,694.50
Checking	29,931.41
Money Market/Contingency Fund	80,507.52
<b>Closing Balance, March, 2023</b>	<b>\$237,218.75</b>

Respectfully Submitted, *Kathy Kupfer*, Treasurer

Please visit us online for more information at:

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



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



**NOTICE OF PICKEREL/CRANE LAKE P&R DISTRICT SPRING MEETING  
MAY 20, 2023 9:00 AM  
TOWN OF NASHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER  
1038 CTH "Q", PICKEREL, WI**

**AGENDA**

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Welcome New Members to the Meeting
- 4) Introduce Commissioners
- 5) Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes (Handouts Available)
- 6) Treasurer's Report
- 7) Old Business
  - a) Aeration Report for 2022 & Acknowledgement of Volunteers (Jerry Hietpas)
  - b) Wild Rice Update (John Shuppe)
  - c) Boat Landing maintenance update (Curt Haga)
- 8) New Business
  - a) Bullhead Overview (Greg Matzke WDNR Fish Biologist)
  - b) New County Rental Requirements (Jeannie Fanning, Forest County Zoning)
  - c) Welcome to Our Lakes flyer (Kathy Kupfer)
  - d) Crane Lake Limnologist Study (Overview, Brad Kupfer)
  - e) Candidates for the Fall Election (Secretary and Vice-chairman)
  - f) Nomination Committee for Fall Election
- 9) Public Comment
- 10) Adjourn

*There will be a commissioners' meeting immediately following the spring meeting.*

Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Approve Commissioners' Meeting Minutes (8/27/22 and 2/22/23)
- 4) Report on Action Items from Fall 2022 Meeting and Commissioners' Meetings (8/27/22 and 2/22/23)
- 5) Bylaw Discussion
- 6) Adjourn

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

Chuck Sleeter, Chairman <a href="mailto:chucksleeter@gmail.com">chucksleeter@gmail.com</a>	715-219-0835
Craig Farah, Vice Chairman <a href="mailto:aznwis@yahoo.com">aznwis@yahoo.com</a>	920-470-8845
John Shuppe, Commissioner <a href="mailto:imsbceb@gmail.com">imsbceb@gmail.com</a>	608-698-3061
Kathy Kupfer, Treasurer <a href="mailto:kathykupfer52@outlook.com">kathykupfer52@outlook.com</a>	715-484-2520
Dan Stoehr, Secretary <a href="mailto:dtstoehr@gmail.com">dtstoehr@gmail.com</a>	715-484-2393
Barb Szopinski, Town of Nashville	715-478-2524
Steve Kircher, Forest Cty. Conserv.	715-478-1387
Doug Curler, Langlade Cty Board	715-623-2253