

Dear Pickerel-Crooked Lake Residents:

All lake property owners and boaters using our lakes need to be vigilant for any suspicious or invasive plants, especially Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The EWM is a very invasive aquatic plant. Eurasian Water Milfoil has been found in Crooked Lake, and is being controlled and treated. The Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association (PCLA) has been very proactive in the early identification of EWM and therefore, we have been successful in controlling it. Numerous lakes in northern Michigan have confirmed the presence of Eurasian Water Milfoil including Paradise, Burt, Houghton, and Little Traverse Bay. In some lakes there are large areas that are unusable for recreational activity due to the thick growth of EWM. Riparians (waterfront property owners) on some lakes have had to spend significant amounts of money (from a few hundred dollars to more than thousands of dollars) to combat the spread of EWM.

The PCLA has an Invasive Species Committee which continually monitors the lakes for all invasive species. We have successfully controlled EWM at the Little Traverse Township Boat Launch (which is the public boat launch near Conway) and at the Petoskey Outboard Cruising Club. The Invasive Species Committee discovered EWM in the Crooked River and then notified Littlefield Township. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOM) assisted Littlefield Township in controlling the EWM at that site.

The PCLA has an organized Lake Zone and Launch Monitor program with over 25 volunteers. Pickerel and Crooked Lake and the channel are specifically divided into 12 lake zones and 10 boat launch areas and are monitored by these volunteers. We appreciate these dedicated volunteers and all their efforts in monitoring, but we can't do it alone with the size of our lakes and shorelines. Lakefront property owners and boaters are critical to the successful management of invasive species. The **KEY** is learning to identify suspect invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed, among others and their native look-alikes.

Please go to www.pickerel-crookedlakes.org and then go to “**Area Resources.**” Select **Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at watershedcouncil.org/ Hot Topics/ Aquatic Invasive Species** to educate yourself and answer questions you might have about invasive species. Everyone living on and using our lakes should be on the lookout for any suspicious or invasive plants. If possible, if you suspect something, put the suspect plant sample in a ziplock bag, record the area where you found it, and then contact:

Gail May (248-425-8962) or Marty Walker (614-205-7364)

Invasive plants can be a potential major threat to our lakes. The PCLA, with the support of lake property owners, Tip of the Mitt, area townships (Bear Creek, Littlefield, Little Traverse, and Springvale), the Village of Alanson, and Emmett County are all on-going partners who will be vigilant in helping protect and preserve our precious waterways. Our goal is to continue to be proactive and control any invasive species at the onset.

Working together, we will keep our lakes beautiful, healthy, and enjoyable. Thank you!

PCLA Invasive Species Committee