

Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District

Message from the Chairman

This is our 44st year that the LPPRD has been in existence. Some of you may be wondering why I am addressing you as Chairman of the LPPRD. It is due to the passing of our previous Chairman, Kurt McCulloch. Kurt passed away this past October while enjoying his passion for duck hunting. He will be missed. The LPPRD board asked me to fill his term this past December and voted me in as chairman.

Once again, we had an unusual amount of high water this past year. Some may not see it as bad, but yet for some it was a major headache. The Lake District has little if any control of the high water. It has been noted that the high water has created an over abundance of submergent aquatic vegetation which was not a goal in the Lake Management plan. Although with the high water and the vegetation the water clears up and the submergent vegetation goes wild.

The Lake Management Plan can be found at our web site or by going to: <http://www.lakepuckaway.com/updates/photos.pdf>

I would like to thank the many volunteers that have signed up this year to help on various projects within the district. Their efforts are much appreciated.



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Special points of interest

- Princeton Dam Project
- LPPRD 2021 Walley Hatchery
- East-West Dredge Bank Project



Lake Puckaway Endangered and Threatened Species Monitory Project

By: Daryl Christensen

Forster's Terns began arriving on the lake the third week of April, with numbers of birds increasing almost daily. Emergent habitat is beginning to show due to the early ice-out, a few mild days and low water levels. If levels remain low, the birds will begin to nest much earlier than in past years of high water. Of course, as all know, it only takes a couple of big rain events to dramatically change water levels on our beloved shallow lake! Current plans are to place Forster's Tern nesting platforms the second week of May on Pancake Island and a new experimental site yet to be determined based on habitat quality, water

levels and needs.

The two Common Tern rafts were placed on April 25th. Common Terns generally arrive in early May, about three weeks after the Forster's Terns. We banded a record number of chicks in 2020 and expect that trend to continue this season, barring any problems with egg or chick predation. So far, we have not seen chick predation at Lake Puckaway, but some egg predation has occurred in the past. Fortunately, the birds will do a re-nest if they lose their first batch of eggs

Princeton Dam Project

We have now completing the first year with the reconstructed Princeton dam and are learning more as we go. The WDNR engineer is currently trying to assess the effects of the gates being open. How many, how far and how long will these gates have an impact on the lake. All this "testing" will take some time. During the course of this year the WDNR and the LPPRD will work on and agree on a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement for the operation of the gates at the Princeton Dam.

Wisconsin's State Record Northern Pike, Fact or Fiction?

By: Daryl Christensen

On August 6th, 1952, a Chicago tourist named J.A. Rahn, did something no one had done before or has since: he caught a Wisconsin state record northern pike, which reportedly weighed 38 pounds. There were several witnesses to the catch and a photo of the fish was proudly displayed at Holland's Resort on the north shore of Lake Puckaway, where the fish was caught. Holland said that he entered the fish in the Sports Afield Award Program and that it was accepted. The International Gamefish Association certified the fish as a new Wisconsin record.

I personally had the opportunity to talk with Cal Holland who witnessed the weighing of the fish. The conversation occurred in the 1970's, but I can't recall exactly when. I do remember much of it, though. Cal was emphatic that the catch was real and that at least one or two people actually saw Rahn catch the fish.

But the story doesn't end there. Like most records, people often look at them with a skeptical eye and the Rahn pike is no different. In the mid-80's an attempt to discredit the fish surfaced when I was told that the fish had weighed 28 pounds and that a 10-pound window sash had been dropped down its throat before it was weighed. Being an outdoor writer at the time, I decided to do a little investigating myself and asked some of the old-timers, many whom I knew,

what they knew about the fish.

Some backed the claim that the fish was legitimate, while others smiled and claimed that the sash story “might in fact, be true.”

Of course, no one had any evidence to the fact, but during my search, I did find a yellowed story and photo of the fish on the wall at Good Old Day’s Resort. In the caption of the photo, it stated that: “the fish was 46 inches long and weighed 28 pounds.” Someone had crossed off the number “28” and wrote “38” above it. That old story has since disappeared. Was the caption correct, or was the newspaper guilty of a typo?

I managed to acquire an old photo of the fish being held for the camera by Mr. Rahn. I sent the photo to Jan Eggers in the Netherlands, recognized throughout the world as the foremost authority on northern pike as well as debunking old northern pike records. I received a report from him that he did not feel that a 46 inch pike could possibly weigh 38 pounds and that 28 pounds seemed more likely. I subsequently met with Eggers personally in Minnesota a year later when he was in the United States for a musky and pike symposium and discussed the pike record with him at length. His comments were as follows:

“The pike appears too short to be 38 pounds. However, not knowing the height of the man in the photo, makes it difficult to determine the exact size of the fish. It also would have been helpful to have had a girth measurement. Although I believe that this fish did not weigh 38 pounds, there isn’t enough proof to refute the claim that it did. So I would have to say that the evidence is too inconclusive to reject the record.”

Sauger in Lake Puckaway

WFT Sauger Population Enhancement Program

By: Mike Arrowood

Ten years ago, Walleye’s For Tomorrow (WFT) introduced hatchery incubated Sauger fry into Lake Winnebago. They survived and were sampled by DNR Trawling Survey; however, the program was halted for 5 years in anticipation of natural reproduction from the enhanced population which did not happen. For the past 20 years natural reproduction in Lake Winnebago has been minimal at best.

5 years ago, WFT initiated a program of introducing Sauger fry into the Fox River at Berlin from a WFT hatchery. For 3 consecutive years, fry was released into the river at Berlin and at the mouth of the Fox River, which directly runs into Lake Buttes des Morts.

By placing fry into the river current on

Lake Puckaway it is anticipated they will survive and eventually produce a river spawning strain of Sauger in the Fox River. Sauger are river fish, preferring turbid water conditions across North America. This stage of the program will take place this year and next and then end. The DNR will start conducting Fall electroshocking sampling to determine whether any fry actually survived and stayed anywhere in the Fox River.

Successful or not, this will end WFT Sauger incubation on the Winnebago System.

LPPRD 2021 Walleye Hatchery

This is the 12th year of the LPPRD hatchery (11 operating years). During this time, over 12 million fry have been released back into the Lake with a successful hatch rate at 58%.

Have we been successful? If you were at any of the Walleye tournaments and saw the size of the walleyes, they caught, you probably would think Lake Puckaway is the Walleye Capital of Central Wisconsin.

Although, we know that not all the walleye in the lake come from our hatchery, it’s really rewarding to be part of these numbers. There were reports all over of the excellent Walleye fishing on Lake Puckaway which even the DNR wardens took notice.

2021 Annual Meeting Agenda

(Face mask is optional for this meeting)

1. Call to Order Chairman Paul Gettelman
 2. Certification of Open Meeting Notice
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Secretary's Report; Paul Gettelman (August 29, 2020)
 5. Treasurer's Report: 2021
 6. Election of 2 commissioner's terms (2021-2023 Jaimes Johnson & Willy Stalker)
 7. Derek Kavanaugh—Green Lake County
 8. Onterra --Environmental Monitoring Plan
 9. Fish Hatchery Report; Paul Gettelman
 10. Commissioners Report
 11. Open Public Comment; (30 Minutes)
 12. Proposed 2022 Budget and Tax levy
 13. Budget Hearing and Adoption of the 2022 Budget
- 15 min break
14. Return to meeting to act on any topics from Annual Meeting and elect officers for 2021-2022; act on issues brought up in first part of meeting

Adjournment

East-West Dredge Project

At the time of this writing the East-West Dredge Bank project is on the way to be started. The LPPRD is working on a MOUA with the Village of Marquette to use selected streets to bring materials to the loading zone for the project. Hopefully by the time of the Annual Meeting we will be able to have a more in depth up date as to the status of the project.

Lake Puckaway Protection & Rehabilitation District Commissioners

Paul Gettelman, Chair
Term 2019—2022
W6202 Lakeview Dr.
Markesan, WI 53946
608-792-8489

Jaimes Johnson, Treasurer
Term: 2018—2021
4221 Sunset Ridge
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
608-712-7290

Jeff Kimber, Secretary
Term: 2019—2022
W6896 Jolin Rd.
Markesan, WI 53946
920-210-2471

Jason Schlimgen
Term: 2020—2022
W6844 Jolin Rd.
Markesan, WI 53946
608-617-5958

Willy Stalker
Term: 2018—2021
W679 Northshore Dr.
Montello, WI 53949
608-697-5148

William Boutwell,
Green Lake County Appointee
N5962 Killdeer Lane
Green Lake, WI 54941
920-539-6386

Gary Wilson
Standing Member of Mecan
W441 Huron Bay Dr.
Montello, WI 53949
815-520-0209

Fox-Wolf Water Alliance Lake District Award

This past January the Fox-Wolf Water Alliance informed the Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District they would be receiving the Watershed Hero Award.

This award is for the District's work in improving water quality, both in-lake and upstream ,through shoreline restoration projects, fixing the Princeton Dam, and our newest project of creating breakwaters to improve the aquatic plant community on the eastern half of the lake.

Our work to protect and maintain the multiple tern populations is also something they highlighted. I think this is a fantastic “feather in our cap” and the Lake District Board should be proud of the work they have been doing for Lake Puckaway.

Thanks to all for your support and efforts in making Puckaway a healthy lake. Again, you all should be proud of what you and the District Board has done.

Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

Pursuant to Sec.33.30 (2) of Sec.65.90 (3) Wisconsin Statutes, the Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District Annual Meeting and Budget Meeting will be held;

Date: Saturday June 5, 2021
 Place: Marquette Village Hall
 127 4th Street, Marquette WI.
 Time: 10:00 AM

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2022

ANTICIPATED REVENUES	ANTICIPATED EXPENSES
Projected Unexpended Revenues	
Administration.....8,000	
From FY 2021.....15,000	
Anticipated Donations.....300	Lake Management 23,000
	Hatchery 2,000
Anticipated Interest.....200	Rough Fish 10,000
	Dredge Bank Restoration 5,000
Tax Levy Recommended.....34,000	Tern Raft & Survey 1,500
	Operation 41,500
TOTAL REVENUE 49,500	TOTAL EXPENSES 49,500

Mission Statement

In 1977, when we started, we established a Mission Statement for the District. I think it is good to review this Statement from time to time:

The Mission of the Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District is to:

- ✦ Protect and enhance the quality of Lake Puckaway's fish and wildlife values;
- ✦ Promote ecologically balanced water levels, water clarity, and shoreline habitat;
- ✦ Preserve the recreational and economic value of the resource for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors, now and into the future;
- ✦ Promote the history and proper management of the lake;
- ✦ Promote the education, research, and information sharing between organizations, individuals, government bodies and the general public for the protection, preservation and improvement of Lake Puckaway.

Lake Puckaway Protection and
Rehabilitation District

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