



APRIL 2025 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Kerry Romsa

The Pelican Lake Association is proud to present this newsletter to our members. Inside, you'll find updates on our 2024 accomplishments as well as plans for future projects and protections for our beloved Pelican Lake. At our 2024 Annual Meeting, we welcomed new board members: Pat Schenk, Rhonda Bell, Steve Tripp, and also celebrated the reelection of Bob Mott and Kelly Kraetsch. A heartfelt thank you to both our new and returning board members for their dedication and countless hours of volunteer work. If you see them, be sure to thank them for all they do!

2024 Events & Fundraisers

- Annual Waterski Show (July 6, 2024)--We had a record turnout and a record success! A big thank you to Jeff and Kathy Griffey for leading this fantastic event.
- **FUN** Raiser (July 27, 2024)--A great turnout and a successful fundraiser to support PLA.
- 3rd Annual Membership Appreciation (August 2024) So happy to see so many, despite the inclement weather!
- Rib Fest at Roadside Pub--We raffled Fischer's Meat Certificates to raise funds for the association.
- Fall Hunting Equipment Raffles--We ran three separate raffles around the lake. Huge thanks to everyone who participated and to our local businesses for their ongoing support.

Comprehensive Plan Update

As many of you know, we are in the final stage of the 10-Year Comprehensive Plan. Its implementation going forward will guide how we protect, maintain, or improve the health of Pelican Lake's ecosystem. Collaboration of all stakeholders in identifying issues and proposing solutions allows effective utilization of limited resources. A big thank you to the PLA Board and Plan Committee for contributing essential membership counsel to Eddie Heath of Onterra.

The plan includes:

- ✓ Extensive water surveys
- ✓ Aquatic plant studies
- ✓ Fishery assessments

Finalizing this plan restores our eligibility for WDNR grants, which we were unable to receive due to the expiration of our previous 10-year plan. This expedited effort is near completion, and I'm grateful to everyone who contributed.

Looking Ahead

Please refer to the articles in this newsletter for detailed recaps of our past and present activities.

As I wrap up, I encourage all of you to continue supporting the Pelican Lake Association in whatever way you can:

- Financial contributions
- Joining a committee
- Recruiting new members

Above all, help us promote the importance of a clean and healthy lake environment—one that benefits both our community and our future. Thanks to ALL!

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSORS!

Their donations make printing and mailing of this newsletter possible. In appreciation, we recognize donors for their support. Please support area providers of goods and services whenever you can. Without them, this newsletter and many of our additional fundraisers would not be possible.

WE SEND OUR APPRECIATION TO TWO GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

A heartfelt **Thank You** goes out to both the **Suick Family Foundation**, and the **Sokaogon Chippewa Community**. Their generosity continues to provide PLA with significant funds needed to achieve mission goals. They have both steadily increased their financial contribution each year. We are honored they have entrusted us to optimize their environmental philanthropy. Mutually beneficial partnerships with the Suick Foundation and Sokaogon Chippewa Community facilitated improved public recreation on Pelican Lake. Their combined donations of \$16K assisted in a more aggressive approach to AIS maintenance *and* coordinated additional fish stocking in October. It is an honor to partner with both, ensuring all may reap the rewards of combined resource utilization. 🐻

We would like to recognize those who aided in activities, programs, and education efforts:

Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida Co. Land & Water
Conservation Department
Dick and Veronica Duvall, Rock and Dick Bar
Scott Van Engren, WDNR Aquatic Biologist
Rick Fischer & Dan Fischer, Fischer's Meat Market
Gary & Sherrie Gerrits, Gerrits' Lakeview Inn
Jeff & Kathy Griffey, Ski Show event coordinators
Connie Guth, Public Works Coordinator
Barb & Scott Krueger, PLA Storage Donation
Nathan Lederman, Oneida Co. WDNR Fish Biologist
West Lowe, Pelican Piers LLC
Charles "Chuck" Moore- gun raffle donor
Wade & Patty Novak, Musky Mart
Jim & Tina Peerenboom, Boiling Springs Bar
Jack & Kathy Peiffer, gun donation
Wendy Peters, 4Imprint Apparel Grant
Mike Preul, Mole Lake Tribal Fisheries Director

Beth Reinemann, Facebook
Ted Rulseh, Annual Membership Meeting Speaker
Michele Sadauskas, Oneida Co. Conservationist
Brian Schell, Web Design
Wayne Sparks, Pelican Lake Fire Chief
James Salber, The Sportsman's Repair Shop LLC
Dave & Mary Schmitzer, assist AIS removal
Stu & Brenda Spaude, Dive on 45
Pat & Barb Stone, PB& J's Place
Dave Thom, Roadside Pub
Town of Enterprise, Buoy, ILIDS Contributors
& use of Keeler Landing for AIS removal.
Town of Schoepke, Buoy and ILIDS Contributors,
& use of town dump for AIS disposal.
Sandy Wickman, WDNR Water Resource Mgmt. Spec.
Randy Wiegert, Lee Distributing
Zach Woiak, WDNR Fish Biologist

Thank
you

2025 PLA Calendar of Events

Feb 15th	Pelican Lake WINTERFEST <i>@ PB & J's Place - US Hwy 45</i>	Noon-8 p.m.
May 17th	Spring Adopt-A-Hwy <i>@ Schoepke Town Hall - US Hwy 45</i>	8:30 a.m.
June 7th	*Annual Membership Meeting <i>@ Pelican Lake Firehouse - 737 Wausau St.</i> <u>Educational Guest Speaker: Michele Sadauskas,</u> Oneida Co. Land & Water Conservationist *Voting Required for 2026 Budget and Board Positions. PLA Website lists current board members and term limits. Membership sign-in opens at 9:00 a.m.	10 a.m.
July 12th	5th Annual Ski Show <i>@ Gerrits' Lakeview - Cty Rd G</i>	1 p.m.
July 26th	Pelican Lake FUN Raiser <i>@ Pelican Lake Firehouse & Ball-field</i> An official stop of Roadside's Poker Run	Noon - 8 p.m.
Aug 16th	4th Annual Membership Appreciation <i>@ Boiling Springs Bar - Cty Rd G</i>	1 - 7 p.m.
Aug 23rd	PLA Meat Raffle <i>@ Roadside Bar - Cty Rd G</i>	1 - 5 p.m.
Aug 23rd	Fall Adopt-A-Hwy <i>@ Schoepke Town Hall - US Hwy 45</i>	8:30 a.m.
TBD 2026	Pelican Lake WINTERFEST <i>@ PB & J's Place - US Hwy 45</i>	TBD



Pelican Lake Association



[Pelicanlakeassociation.org](http://www.pelicanlakeassociation.org)

Pelican Lake Memories : By Suz Romsa with Daryl Bessa

Daryl's family has been in the Pelican Lake area since the early 1900s. His maternal grandparents (Daniel and Katherine Hubbard) worked in area logging camps, and his wife worked as a cook in the camps.

His paternal grandparents moved from Chicago in the early 1900s, but when World War I broke out, they returned to Chicago so Daryl's grandfather Clemens Bessa could go work as a foreman in a foundry that was making war material. In 1923, when the war ended, Clemens Bessa and his family came back to Monico.

Dan Hubbard was the sheriff's deputy in the Southeast corner of Oneida County (Pelican Lake area) from the 1920s into the 1950s.

Daryl's Mother, Jean Bessa, owned the Wildwood Shopping Center, which was located in the same building as the Pelican Lake Post Office. The store had groceries, hardware, fishing supplies, and souvenirs, along with a large selection of penny candy. She bought the store from Ed and Ada Phillips. Each summer, the store held a fishing contest. The fish were displayed in the iced "Fish Box" in front of the store. People would stop by the store to see what had been caught recently. At the end of the season, the winner of each fish classification won a prize.



Photo of fish taken 1964, in front of the store.

In the winter years past, the lake had several ice fishing shanties located in a "Shanty Town" with plowed roads. For a few years, a junk car was placed on the ice north of town containing a clock tracking the date and time. People could buy tickets and predict when they thought the car would go through the ice. The person with the closest time and date won a cash prize. A cable was attached to the car so that it could be hooked up and pulled out of the lake when it went through the ice.

Kids who lived in Pelican Lake went to the two-room schoolhouse for grades one through six. The little room was for grades first through third. The big room was for grades fourth through sixth. The school and the lot where the school was located were a huge part of the students' lives. If you ventured off the premises and got caught, you would have to face the consequences with the teacher. Kids went to Elcho for grades 7th through 12th. The Pelican Lake School had four employees – two teachers, a cook, and a janitor.



Photo of Wildwood Store circa 1940's.

Each year, the Schoepke Town Hall had a Halloween party for the kids since families were too far apart from each other for trick or treating. Kids wore their costumes and had a parade in the building. A vote was then taken to see which kid had the best costume. Kids bobbed for apples and were given a bag of candy. This occurred in the early 1960's.

Daryl met his wife Susan while vacationing from Maryland at her family cottage on Antigo Island. They and their children have summered on Pelican their whole lives. They purchased a cottage on Sabinois Point from Vic and Martha Anderson in 1990 and later bought a home on the south side of the lake on Short B.

Pelican Lake Memories: Chuck and Mary Martin retrospect with Kelly Kraetsch

Leading up to 1965, Chuck and Mary increasingly became disenchanted with life in Chicago. Chuck's drive to and from work along the Eisenhower Expressway had become a daily, dreaded chore. As fate would have it, a Kraft Foods coworker of Chuck's was also a realtor. She shared with Chuck listings of entrepreneurial possibilities far from the hustle and bustle of the big city. The first listing they viewed was where Roadside Pub now sits. In 1965, it had a grocery store, bar, bait shop and four cottages with lake access. They declined this location as it lacked adequate accommodations to raise their three, young children: Steve, Neal, and Sally.



L-R: Steve kneeling, Neal, Chuck, Mary and Sally in front. ~1966

At the time they were looking, Pelican Lake had 13 resorts. Pelican Lake was fortunate that they found a three lot listing on County Q which they renamed the Martin House. Chuck and Mary bought the resort from Lester and Laurena Arntz. It was comprised of a main log house, which became the family's home, a main two-story lodge capable of accommodating 14 lodgers, a small log cottage, two additional white cottages, and a boat house which facilitated small boat rentals and bait sales on the lake. It was exactly what they were looking for to embark on a new family adventure. The main lodge, built circa 1898, is one of the oldest on the lake.

In the beginning, not all were on board with this big transition. Both Mary and their oldest son, Steve, had reservations leaving friends behind. A month after Chuck had come to learn the ropes of resort life the rest of the family stepped off the train at the Schoepke Station. It was across the street from the hotel. Steve reluctantly helped schlep family suitcases down to the lake where a boat would ferry them to their new home. Do not feel bad for young Steve. He soon learned the joys of living on a lake, including fishing and the many new friends he made when starting school. The three kids learned valuable lessons in hard work, as they assisted with the full-time duties running a resort requires in addition to school and play.

Many stories were shared of various “characters” Chuck and Mary had as lodgers or those they had to assist on Pelican Lake throughout their 60 years as residents. Mary wishes to omit details of the most scandalous tales for now. This story is a taste of the delicious antics they witnessed.

“Years ago, you were allowed to shoot muskie as you pulled them in,” Chuck reminisced. “Well, I heard the shot and thought nothing of it, but as I watched the boat in the bay from the house, I noticed the water-level rising around it. The guys were frantically stuffing whatever they could find in the leak”.

With a sentimental grin, he continued the tale. “I took one of our rental fishing boats out to help them, I don't know if the gun fired accidentally or if they just missed, but when I pulled up to them, I could see they shot a hole in their own boat!”

Most of the rescue stories Chuck and Mary shared were of fishermen and boaters who made poor to fatal decisions on the water or ice. Besides acting as the unofficial Musky Bay Rescue Squad, both Chuck and Mary have contributed much to the community. They were active in the Chamber, Mary in the Ladies Civic Group and Chuck was the first treasurer of the Pelican Lake Property Owners Association. Chuck turned 100 on August 9, 2024! Mary is a sprite 94 at the time of this article. Both stated with dignity, “*We had a good, but hard life.*”



Painting by Mary Martin of their Martin House home and lodge in the background.



From L-R: Steve, Sally, Mary, Neal & Chuck. ~2010

Financial Review Committee: By Ed Rueckl

The Financial Review Committee will conduct a review of the 2024 financial statements to ensure accuracy and transparency in financial reporting. To maintain objectivity, committee members must be independent of Association management. This year's committee members—Sherry Aulik, Peg Broker, and Ed Rueckl—meet this qualification, as we are not members of the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee. Our review process will include:

- Interviews with management to understand financial policies, procedures, and internal controls.
- Random sampling of transactions to verify accuracy and adherence to policies.
- Analytical review of selected income and expense accounts to identify trends or discrepancies.
- Comparison of 2023 and 2024 financials to assess year-over-year changes.

The 2024 Financial Review Report will be presented at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting.

Finance Committee: Joy Herman, Steve Tripp, Kelly Kraetsch, Sue Romsa, Pat Schenk, Beth and Rick Steiner, and Bryan Beyer with support by the Grant Committee: Bob Mott, Jim Frymark and Bob Kraetsch.

In 2024, the Finance Committee introduced three key policy documents to strengthen financial transparency and accountability within the organization. These policies are designed to safeguard the Association's assets, promote long-term financial health, and strengthen confidence among stakeholders:

- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** Now adopted, this policy requires Board members, Committee leads, and any members handling assets to read and sign an agreement ensuring all actions are taken in the best interest of the Pelican Lake Association.
- **High-Value Contracts and Multiple Bids Policy:** Still being refined to best fit our volunteer organization, this policy will establish guidelines for obtaining multiple bids on significant purchases.
- **Whistleblower Policy:** Also in development, this policy will protect and encourage transparency, ensuring ethical financial management practices continue under future leadership.

Budget & Financial Overview

Our budget policy, adopted in late 2022, has proven to be a valuable tool, allowing us to better allocate funds, identify potential shortfalls ahead of time, and focus fundraising and grant efforts.

This year marks the second time we have been able to generate a year-end “Budget vs. Actuals” financial report from QuickBooks, allowing for greater financial transparency. The 2024 adjusted budget proposal, presented to membership last June, had projected a significant deficit in net revenue. However, we performed better than expected due to:

- ✓ Strong fundraising efforts
- ✓ An increase in membership contributions across all donation categories
- ✓ Postponing the bathymetric mapping update for Pelican Lake

Budget Analysis & Key Takeaways

A review of the 2024 Budget vs. Actuals Report shows apparent shortfalls in Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) grant funds and Newsletter sponsorship revenue. However, these numbers are misleading, as payments in both categories fell outside the 2024 reporting period. Despite limited state assistance, the Pelican Lake Association successfully increased operations while continuing to provide environmental education. Moving forward, we will use the newly updated Lake Management Plan as a financial roadmap, ensuring we allocate funds strategically to support our mission. For further clarification or discussion, please attend the Annual Membership Meeting on June 7th.

Pelican Lake Association WI

Budget vs. Actuals: Adjusted Budget 2024_(1) for Jun 1 2024 Membership - FY24 P&L

January - December 2024

	TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Revenue		
4100 *PLA General	17,220.00	12,000.00
4110 * PLA Water Quality		
4601 *PLA CBCW	8,113.00	22,900.00
4625 *PLA AIS	19,215.00	13,000.00
Total 4110 * PLA Water Quality	27,328.00	35,900.00
4120 * PLA Fundraising/Marketing	51,812.01	35,700.00
4130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife	1,335.00	500.00
4150 *PLA Boating Safety		
4610 *PLA Buoy		
4620 Buoy Maintenance Donations	1,365.00	1,000.00
4630 Buoy Memorial Donations	375.00	350.00
Total 4610 *PLA Buoy	1,740.00	1,350.00
Total 4150 *PLA Boating Safety	1,740.00	1,350.00
4170 *PLA Education		
4650 Newsletter Sponsorships	3,300.00	3,500.00
Total 4170 *PLA Education	3,300.00	3,500.00
4901 Interest on Checking	24.86	20.00
4902 Savings Dividends	306.82	100.00
4903 Certificate Dividends	3,346.44	1,500.00
Total Revenue	\$106,413.13	\$90,570.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$106,413.13	\$90,570.00
Expenditures		
5100 *PLA General Expenses	6,095.63	11,475.00
5110 *PLA Water Quality Expense	82,442.02	107,000.00
5120 *PLA Fundraising/Marketing Expense	18,465.29	20,625.00
5130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife Expense	161.92	1,000.00
5150 *PLA Boating Safety Expenses	3,225.09	5,000.00
5160 *PLA Land Use Expenses	498.64	500.00
5170 *PLA Education Expenses		
5600 Education / Workshops	940.96	1,500.00
5711 Newsletters Print/Postage	3,320.25	3,500.00
Total 5170 *PLA Education Expenses	4,261.21	5,000.00
5351 Bank Charges	0.00	
Total Expenditures	\$115,149.80	\$150,600.00
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -8,736.67	\$ -60,030.00
NET REVENUE	\$ -8,736.67	\$ -60,030.00

Grant Committee:

In addition to the generous contributions from the Suick Family Foundation and Sokagoan Chippewa Community, Bob Mott was able to secure crucial grant funding for 2024. The grant application process is very competitive. Thanks to Bob’s exceptional writing and collaborative skills, in 2023 he was able to create and secure successful submissions! CBCW, ILIDS, and the Lake Plan were possible in 2024 due to forward thinking grant endeavors. We encourage membership to assist in identifying and securing any additional funding opportunities. The two grants below were submitted in late 2024 and will be utilized in 2025.



2024 Sokaogon Tribal Council Award

Clean Boats Clean Water 2025 - \$8,000
AIS small-scale population control of EWM through mechanical harvest and DASH - \$45,303



2025 Sokaogon Tribal Council Award

Water Quality Committee:

2024 Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) Report: By Suz Romsa

The Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) program plays a vital role in protecting Pelican Lake by trying to prevent the continuing spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Our dedicated volunteers staff boat landings, educate watercraft owners on AIS prevention and proper boat inspection protocols when entering and leaving the lake. These efforts, combined with our I-Lids system, help reinforce best practices and support ongoing lake conservation initiatives, outlined in the newly revised Lake Management Plan.



2024 CBCW Team: Lisa Erdman, Perry Miller, Dave Nichols, Kerry Romsa, Suz Romsa, Mary Schmitzer, Robin Schwartz, and Dylan Vanderbunt. Thanks to their dedication, over 2,300 boaters were educated on AIS prevention!

2024 Boat Inspection Data

<u>Landing</u>	<u>Boats Inspected</u>
Musky Mart/Hwy 45	8
Keelers Landing, CTH Q	736
State Landing, CTH G	1,609

Data retrieved from DNRSWIMS@Wisconsin.gov



2025 Pelican Lake Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Job Opportunity



Watercraft Inspectors: Starting pay is \$14.00 per hour with no benefits.

Required to work most weekends (Friday, Saturday, & Sunday), including holidays.

6 -18 hours per week beginning near May 22 through Labor Day.

Work schedules and employment period may vary, with some flexibility available.

Duties include: conduct watercraft inspections & educate boaters about AIS prevention

Qualifications required: Must be 16 or older, a valid driver's license,

and personal vehicle with proof of insurance. Mileage is not reimbursable.

Applicants must be comfortable working independently outdoors, and communicating effectively and courteously with the public. Previous AIS knowledge not needed; training is provided.

If interested contact kerryromsa59@gmail.com for an application.

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

Pelican Lake Association is an Equal Opportunity Employer



2024 ILIDS: The two ILIDS systems located at the DNR State Landing and Schoepke Town Landing provide video monitoring of launch activity and remind boaters to inspect trailers and drain live wells before entering or leaving the landings. Costs are shared by PLA, the Town of Schoepke, and the Town of Enterprise. The continued support from both towns is greatly appreciated!

DNR Landing:

Installed: 5/25/24
Removed: 10/16/24
Videos Captured: 9,362
Videos Reviewed: 2,958
Launches counted: 545
% of boat launch videos: 18%

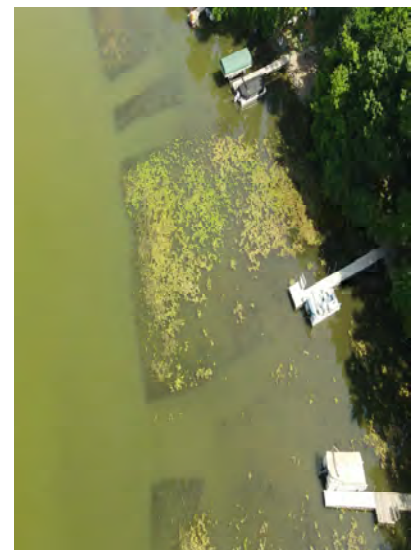
Schoepke Landing:

Installed: 4/30/24
Removed: 10/16/24
Videos Captured: 2,428
Videos Reviewed: 2,320
Launches counted: 247
% of boat launch videos: 11%

AIS: In 2024, we resumed services with Aquatic Plant Management (APM) in our efforts to mitigate Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). Onterra recommended the continued approach of both Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) and Mechanical Harvesting. A new approach of late harvesting EWM was introduced the fall of 2024.

Other lakes have reported native weeds are able to flourish after late EWM cutting. This seems to impede the aggressive EWM regrowth in spring. Navigational lanes in Musky and Outlet Bays were also cut to assist public navigation. For additional info on AIS management, go to the link below.

This fall, APM informed us they offer mechanical harvesting services to riparian property owners. A \$250 fee was quoted for one single lane channel per property. Channel dimensions are limited by the harvester's capabilities and DNR restrictions. **May 1st** is the DNR application deadline for this service. If possible, reach out to APM or similar companies *before* then or call them for more information for next year. These services are strictly between aquatic management companies and property owners. PLA does not endorse any specific company.



https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Aid/grants/surfacewater/APMSA_Final_2019-06-14.pdf

Pelican Lake Management Plan 2024: By Bob Mott

The Pelican Lake Association (PLA) engaged Onterra LLC of De Pere to develop an updated Lake Management Plan (LMP). This plan:

1. Expands upon the 2013 plan, providing a broader and more detailed comparison.
2. Meets WDNR requirements by documenting the lake's ecological conditions, which is essential for future grant eligibility.
3. Incorporates stakeholder input through an extensive 12-page, 45-question survey, collecting opinions on fisheries, water quality, recreation, and lake management.

To fund this two-year project, the PLA secured two WDNR grants that covered fieldwork in 2023 and data analysis, surveys, and meetings in 2024.

- Total project cost: \$42,515.72
- WDNR funding: \$28,485.45
- PLA contribution: \$14,030.27

A 13-member Planning Committee was formed to guide the process, ensuring the PLA's mission—to preserve, protect, and enhance Pelican Lake and its watershed—remains central to the plan. The Planning Committee met on April 17 and May 16, 2024, each for four-hour sessions, facilitated by Onterra's Eddie Heath. The first draft was submitted to the WDNR, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC), Sokaogon Chippewa (Mole Lake), and the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department for review.

Lake Management Plan Objectives

The 100+ page LMP (plus appendix) serves several key purposes:

1. Analyze historical and current ecological data
2. Identify potential threats to the lake's health
3. Determine stakeholder priorities and values
4. Outline feasible management actions
5. Strengthen the PLA's capacity to implement the plan effectively



Stakeholder Survey Results

A key component of the plan were the 583 distributed stakeholder surveys, designed to gather feedback from property owners and lake users. The following findings were calculated from the 302 surveys completed and returned. Our response rate was 53% which is considered excellent input for a large-scale survey.

- 49% of respondents have owned or rented property on Pelican Lake for 25+ years.
- Top reasons for owning/renting property:
 1. Relaxing/entertaining
 2. Open-water fishing
 3. Motor boating
- Top concerns:
 4. Invasive species
 5. Water quality degradation
 6. Algae blooms



Water Quality Data

Pelican Lake has consistent water data dating back to the late 1980s, collected by the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corporation (WVIC), WDNR, and Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network (CLMN) volunteers.

- Lake classification: Eutrophic – meaning high nutrient levels, excessive plant and algae growth, and periodic low oxygen levels.
- Chloride (salt) levels: Measured near the deepest part of the lake and well below levels that would cause ecological harm.
- Core sampling: A sample taken from the lake’s deepest point showed chlorophyll levels are significantly lower now than in the late 1800s.

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM)

For a detailed discussion on EWM, please refer to the LMP’s dedicated section on this.

- Most PLA fundraising supports EWM management.
- EWM levels fluctuate yearly.
- It cannot be eradicated—only managed.
- Hundreds of lakes statewide are affected.
- Biggest impact: Interferes with boating and recreation.
- Chemical treatment is a last resort and was last used in 2013–2014, providing only 4–5 years of control.
- EWM was first documented in Pelican Lake in 2011.

Future EWM Management Options (To be decided by the PLA):

1. No active management – Let nature take its course.
2. Lake-wide reduction efforts (if needed)
 - Herbicides as a last resort
 - Would not eradicate EWM, only control it
 - Establish a trigger point for herbicide use
3. Nuisance management
 - Minimize impact on boating/recreation
 - Most common approach in Wisconsin
 - Uses manual/mechanical removal



Other Key Initiatives:

- Bullrush Protection – Vital for shoreline stability and fish habitat. They reduce wave damage and provide shelter for small fish, birds, and waterfowl. PLEASE HELP PRESERVE THEM.
- Fishing – Extensive information included in the LMP’s fisheries section.
- Swimmer’s Itch – The plan outlines causes and prevention.

Lake Management Goals:

1. Maintain an up-to-date Lake Management Plan
2. Enhance PLA’s ability to communicate and collaborate
3. Protect and improve water quality
4. Support and enhance Pelican Lake’s fishery
5. Monitor aquatic vegetation
6. Prevent new aquatic invasive species (AIS) introductions
7. Manage EWM to minimize recreational impact
8. Assess and address sedimentation issues in Pelican Lake’s bays



This article is only a summary of the Lake Management Plan. Please take the time to review the full document on our website, PelicanLakeAssociation.org, especially sections that align with your interests.

A component of boating safety is the placement of buoys (even though they are not legally required) to identify water hazards. In 2024, there were 45 placed in the lake to mark rock piles, shallow water, and no wake zones. Historically, the Towns of Schoepke and Enterprise funded Spring placement and Fall retrieval of buoys within their respective boundaries. Due to fiscal considerations, the Town of Enterprise is discontinuing this service in 2025 for the 16 buoys within its jurisdiction. At this time, it is uncertain how the absence of these buoys will be addressed. These buoys are important not only for the safety of local residents but more importantly for visitors who are not familiar with our lake. Safe recreation leads to return tourism and the financial benefits to the local economy. We are hopeful the Town of Enterprise will be able to fund this important public safety service again in 2026. The Association will continue to uphold its agreement with both towns to pay for recurring maintenance of all buoys

Currently, eight buoys are illuminated. The addition of more light kits is planned for this Spring. The Association is working to coordinate the introduction of six new black and white vertical striped buoys. If allowed, they will improve lake access for Keeler Landing. The images below illustrate typical buoys found on Pelican Lake. Standard boating protocols should be adhered to in channels and extended to fellow water enthusiasts throughout the entire lake. The link below is a great resource for all boaters, particularly young adults to lay the foundation of safe boating practices:

<https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/wisconsin-handbook-entire.pdf>



Danger buoys are signified by an open diamond and mark hazard areas such as submerged rocks or shoals. Navigational buoys with black and white vertical stripes mark the center of channels, watercraft may pass closely on either side.

Illustrations taken from: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Topic/Boat/WaterwayMarkers>



Memorial Buoys 2024

Donated by:

Kaylene Tischauser

In memory of:

Ronda Radtke



Land Use Committee:

Shoreline Exhibit: By Mary Schmitzer

The shoreline buffer zone exhibit consists of the first 35 feet inland from the water's edge. It is critical to protecting water quality. The Town of Schoepke continues to partner with PLA providing and maintaining an exhibit where residents may freely walk, sit, and gain inspiration for personal properties. Come to the north side of the Schoepke Town Hall, off Hwy 45, to enjoy the native plantings and the critical pollinators they attract.



Key concerns:

- Development leads to more impervious surfaces, vegetation removal, and higher pollutant runoff.
- Property owners can help by allowing native vegetation to establish and grow along the shoreline.
- Planting trees, shrubs, and grasses in this zone helps filter runoff and protect water quality—a practice known as establishing a buffer zone.

Volunteers: Rhonda Bell, Bob Mott, Bruce & Pam Dantoin, and project lead Mary Schmitzer.

Thanks to Briggs Bulldozing of Monico for donating the gravel needed to restore the walk path.



Financial assistance is available through the Wisconsin Healthy Lakes grants. Contact the Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department for more information.

Adopt-a-Hwy: By Jim Frymark

We had great crews in 2024 representing PLA during our semi-annual Adopt-a-Hwy trash pickup events. Several newcomers joined this year! Both Spring and Fall events provide volunteers with a sense of pride in community by protecting our environment from harmful trash, and establish friendships with other members. Volunteer crews maintain both sides of over 13 continuous miles of shoulders and ditches.

PLA's area of responsibility starts at the County Q/Hwy 45 junction. Cleanup follows County Q all along the north side of the lake to County G. We continue along County G, picking up along the south side of the lake to County B. At County B we focus litter policing back towards Hwy 45. The final stretch of PLA's Adopt-a-Hwy commitment covers Hwy 45, heading north from County B and ending at McGinnis Road.

We have two changes concerning the program to share. Spring pickup is usually the weekend before Memorial Day and Fall pickup historically at the end of September. However in 2025, we will try a new Fall pickup approach. By moving Fall pickup to August 23rd, we hope to better accommodate volunteers and Labor Day cottage closure demands. Our Adopt-a-Highway signage has also been corrected by removing the language "Property Owners". The Association's membership is open to ALL residents of Enterprise and Schoepke who take pride in their community and enjoy the benefits of Pelican Lake. Thank you to the many residents who practice Adopt-a-Hwy efforts all year. Check out this link for more information: <https://biofriendlyplanet.com/the-connection-between-roadside-trash-and-wildlife-conservation/>



Just a few of the 15 who participated in Spring. "Scratch off's" won the Best Find contest



13 *A few Fall clean-up finds: baby bedsprings, various alcohol containers, rolls of tar paper, & YES, a toilet!*

Fish and Wildlife Committee: By Scott Sankey

The DNR's full fish survey of Pelican Lake is still underway, with spring fyke net surveys and fall electroshocking already completed. This year included a comprehensive spring and fall muskellunge survey, offering valuable insights into the lake's musky population.

With 10 PIT tag readers in use, our dedicated volunteers contributed data on 51 additional fish caught throughout the season. Notably, two muskies were caught in both 2023 and 2024, showing growth rates at or above average.

- **Minimum musky size reported:** 21 inches
- **Maximum musky size reported:** 48.5 inches
- **Mean musky size:** 37 inches

This size range aligns well with data collected through the DNR's netting and electrofishing surveys. Additionally, 34% of muskellunge caught by anglers in 2023 and 28% in 2024 were reported as having PIT tags.

Our DNR Fish Biologist, Nathan Lederman, has expressed his appreciation for our members' contributions to this ongoing research. If you're interested in participating in PIT tag data collection for muskies, please contact Scott Sankey (sdsankey3@gmail.com). The committee is also considering purchasing upgraded PIT tag readers, though cost remains a factor.



*Fish Committee Meeting before **FUN** Raiser with Nathan Lederman.*

Survey Insights from the DNR

As the survey progresses, here's what we know so far:

- **Largemouth and smallmouth bass** populations are slightly increasing, though their size structure has shown a slight decline.
- **Northern pike numbers** have been declining since 2017, but many anglers reported seeing an uptick this past fall and winter.
- **Walleyes continue to thrive**, with an estimated adult population of over 4 per acre—our second-highest estimate since 1990.

Upcoming Regulation Proposals

The DNR has proposed two changes, both of which will be presented in spring 2025 at the hearing and Conservation Congress agenda:

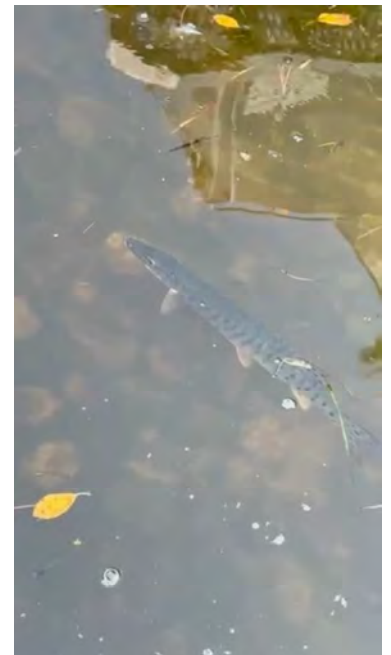
1. **A 10-fish panfish bag limit**, intended to improve the overall size structure of the panfish population. The DNR supports this change.
2. **A protected slot limit on largemouth bass from 14–18 inches**, with a **bag limit of 5 fish**. The DNR remains neutral on this proposal, though it has passed the warm water committee and will appear on the spring ballot for further consideration.

Pelican Lake: A Balanced and Thriving Fishery

According to the DNR’s preliminary report—as well as input from the Mole Lake biologist—Pelican Lake boasts a well-balanced fishery, offering diverse angling opportunities, strong size distributions, and healthy fish populations. This aligns with the long-term goals outlined in the Lake Management Plan, ensuring that our fishery remains sustainable for years to come.

Musky Stocking Update

On October 1, 2024, a total of 819 large fingerling muskellunge (average length: 12.7 inches) were stocked into Pelican Lake. This effort was made possible thanks to a generous donation from the Suick family, specifically for stocking. We extend our sincere gratitude to them for their support!



Looking Ahead: Your Input Matters

The Fish and Wildlife Committee welcomes input from members regarding potential new projects. We encourage members to share all ideas for fish habitat improvements or any other wildlife initiatives. The Association exists to enhance Pelican Lake not only as a healthy fishery, but as a natural wildlife habitat and valuable aesthetic element of the community today and for future generations.



How PLA Events Come to Life

Since 2024 Events were already highlighted in Kerry's introduction, I won't repeat details. Instead I thought you may like a behind-the-scenes look at what it takes to make them happen.

Planning for Success

The key to a successful event is to eliminate scheduling conflicts when possible. Many PLA members are also involved in other local non-profits. Assessing the availability of staffing and public participation determine if an event should even be considered. All local organizations are respected for the value they bring this community. Therefore, we defer to the Pelican Lake Chamber Calendar as an essential tool when planning events in the upcoming year.

Matching events with the right venue is another crucial step. Considerations include:

- ✓ Space availability for entertainment
- ✓ Vendor limitations and scheduling
- ✓ Optimal timing for attendance
- ✓ Volunteer Availability

Beyond securing the venue, logistical coordination is required for:

- Food & Drinks
- Adequate Shelter & Comfort
- Sanitation & Safety
- Permits, Insurance & Contracts

Many vendors prefer a year's notice, as it helps them plan ahead, operate more efficiently, and often provide discounts for early booking. Raffle activity has permit fees, application deadlines and rules of adherence, pre and post event.

Marketing & Fundraising

Once the details are set, marketing kicks off—before the first leaves fall from trees!

- Flyers & sponsorship outreach begin early to secure corporate donors.
- Large donors like Walmart Foundation and the Green Bay Packers require November-December submissions, assuming funds are available.
- Contacting media outlets to promote and educate the public of our event and mission.
- Securing external event sponsorship keeps PLA funds intact for lake initiatives.

Raffle baskets are a huge success at our events, but they don't appear out of thin air! The core fundraising team has been hustling since 2022, making:

- ✓ Countless phone calls & emails.
- ✓ Multiple trips to business donors.
- ✓ Diligent record-keeping to avoid duplication of efforts.



A huge thank you to our first-class, dedicated raffle basket collection team:

- ★ Pat Schenk & Sandy Cady
- ★ Linda & Mike Warpinski
- ★ Suz & Kerry Romsa
- ★ Roxanne & Scott Sankey
- ★ Lisa & Al Erdman
- ★ Taz & Kelly Kraetsch

Of course, this doesn't begin to cover the many members who contribute some of the best raffle prizes in the Northwoods! Thanks to all of you, the Pelican Lake **FUN** Raiser is gaining recognition as *the* must-attend event, drawing attendees from far beyond the borders of Enterprise and Schoepke!

Maximizing Fundraising Opportunities

The fundraising committee has gotten smart about shopping!

- Winter clearance sales are the perfect time to stock up on summer event items.
- Black Friday deals are another goldmine for future events.
- The organization has Amazon and Walmart nonprofit accounts, tax is not applied to purchases. Saving every time we can for administrative materials, fundraising supplies and prizes.

We've also partnered with *ShopRaise*, replacing the discontinued Amazon Smiles program, and recently joined Walmart Foundation's *Spark Good* program. If you have the opportunity, please support these initiatives!

The Heart of it All: Our Volunteers

At the core of every event are our incredible volunteers. They:

- ✓ Bring new ideas to the table
- ✓ Refine and improve events
- ✓ Donate time, goods, and services
- ✓ Pour their heart and soul into every detail



Why? Because they know they are creating more than just events—they are building a stronger, more connected community. A community working together to fund educational and scientific work required for the protection, preservation and improvement of Pelican Lake.

PLA Fundraising is about more than just raising money. It's about:

- Building friendships
- Strengthening community ties
- Creating networks of cooperation
- Achieving shared goals for Pelican Lake's future

Whether you have a little time or a lot, do what you can, when you can—you won't regret it

The next few pages capture a little of 2024's events. Thank you for your tremendous support!





2024 Ski Show and FUNraiser Memories

PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION WISCONSIN Welcomes ALL to Enjoy & Help Support,
2024's PELICAN LAKE FUNraiser!
 ~formerly known as Summerfest~

Saturday ~ July 27, 2024
 At the Pelican Lake Fire House and Ballfield
 737 Wausau St. Pelican Lake, WI
 Noon - 8 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC performed 2-6 p.m. by Pelican Lake's Own Premiere Band:
HOMEMADE BREW

Family Games & Cornhole Tournament Noon ~ 4 p.m.
 Raffle Ticket Sales Noon ~ 6 p.m.
 Raffle Winners Announced After 7 p.m.

Walk-Around Cash Raffles, Grilled Burgers/Brats, Desserts & Cold Beverages available during event!
 **All Tax Free Donations will go towards the longterm sustainment of Pelican Lake Waters
 Keep Checking our Facebook & Website for details!

Pelican Lake Association Wisconsin
 Pelicanlakeassociation.org



PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION WISCONSIN

Pelican Lake FUNraiser Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, July 27th @ 1:00 pm
 Pelican Lake Ball Diamond
 \$40 Registration per 2-person team
1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Winners Pay Out

All Tax-Free Donations go towards the long-term sustainment of Pelican Lake Waters.
 Check out our Facebook and Website for more details.
 Pelicanlakeassociation.org

Please sign up ahead of time by emailing dfede126@gmail.com
 OR - Sign up on the day by 12:30 pm
Come join in the fun!





WIN ME!!! An Everlasting Hunting Blind

Only 60 printed tickets, \$100 each, need not be present to win!
Over \$2,000.00 Value

Drawing on October 6, 2024, 5 p.m. at
717 US Hwy 45, more details soon.



Completely
Sealed
Scent
Controlled



This raffle is provided by:



*Raffle entries are not tax deductible. However, they do help the organization fund lake maintenance efforts that benefit the entire community. Consider purchasing at least one, and actively involve in your community! Raffle License Number: 8002215-A-87973 Exp: 09/30/24

!!! WIN !!!

Charles Daly 12 Gauge Shotgun
3" Bore Blak Matte Stock



ONLY \$10 per ticket, need not be present to win!

Drawing on SATURDAY,
October 26, 2024 ~ 6 p.m. at:

Roadside's Halloween Party

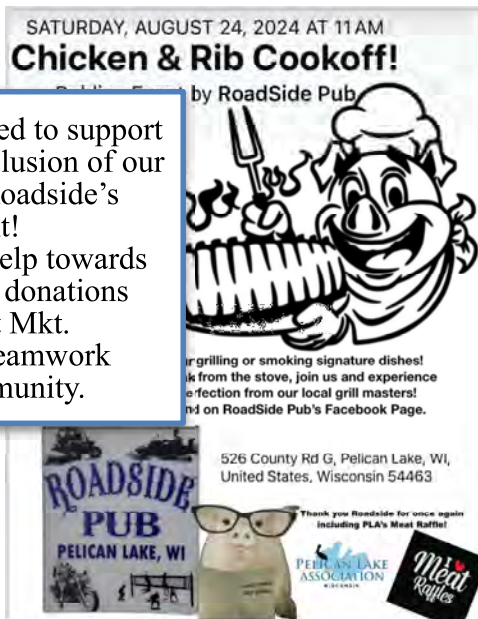


This raffle is provided by:



*Raffle entries are not tax deductible. However, they do help the organization fund lake maintenance efforts that benefit the entire community. Consider purchasing at least one, and actively involve in your community! Raffle License Number: 8002215-A-87973 Exp: 09/30/24

Thanks to: PB & J's Place, Dive on 45, and Roadside. They helped with our additional Fall Fundraising efforts! Thank you Kerry, for orchestrating the entire effort! These three raffles raised an additional \$10,500! Community support is the key to raffle success. Thank you to all who buy raffle tickets & congratulations to the winners!



Dave Thom continued to support PLA through the inclusion of our meat raffle during Roadside's annual cookoff event! PLA also received help towards the meat raffle from donations from Fischer's Meat Mkt. Great examples of teamwork benefitting the community.

Board Meetings:

We are fortunate that membership continues to attend Board Meetings as well as the Annual Membership Meeting. Attendance is crucial in a volunteer organization to ensure everyone is aligned on important policies and direction. The Board encourages membership participation in shaping the future of the organization and making sure leadership acts in its best interest. Meetings follow Roberts Rules of Order to facilitate constructive dialogue.



Give blood.
Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.
American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Pelican Lake Fire Department
Meeting Room
737 Wausau St.

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025
10:00am-3:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: pelicanlake to schedule an appointment.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
©2021 The American Red Cross

Community Service: We continue working together with the Pelican Lake Fire Department, and Pelican Lake Women's Civic Group assisting the Red Cross with life saving Blood Drives. In 2024, volunteers exceeded donation goals providing 145 units of blood!

Providing this local service resulted in **48 first time donors** and 27 Power Red. Power Red donations count as two units of red blood cells. Donors with type O, A negative, or B negative are ideal. Power Red is especially beneficial for patients who require large amounts of red blood cells due to trauma, surgery or those with sickle cell.

If you are able, please consider joining us during the May 14th 2025 Drive. Call 1-800-733-2767 for an appointment or walk-ins are always welcome!

The Pelican Lake Association bylaws serve as the foundation of our organization, outlining the rights, responsibilities, and operational structure that guide us. I believe that sharing small portions at a time will make them easier to understand and retain. It is essential for our members and community to know their rights and responsibilities, ensuring fair and transparent governance. I'll start by highlighting an essential role of membership, **Article 10.1: Committees of the Board**.

The Role of Committees

The Pelican Lake Association Board appoints committee leads to oversee various standing committees, each playing a vital role in advancing our mission. Committees must have 3 or more members who are delegated with the authority to manage Association affairs concerning each committees' responsibilities. This delegation of authority does not relieve the Board of any responsibilities imposed by law or the bylaws.

Key points about Board Committees

- Committees hold separate meetings, with at least 5 days' notice to all committee members.
- Minutes must be recorded and submitted to the Board or posted publicly for transparency.
- Each standing committee has defined duties outlined in Article 10.1(a-f), which provide essential guidance to support PLA's mission and objectives.

The Importance of Committee Involvement

Serving on a committee is a valuable opportunity for members to contribute time and expertise toward important initiatives, such as:

- Conservation and lake protection efforts
- Community engagement and education
- Fundraising and event planning

The Lake Management Plan (LMP) is a prime example of why committees matter. Its successful development required the collaboration of dedicated committee members who worked alongside experts to shape the future of Pelican Lake.

Committees empower volunteers to have a real impact, ensuring that important initiatives—such as water quality protection, invasive species management, and shoreline conservation—are properly executed.

Getting Involved

Committee work is not overly demanding, but it does require commitment and teamwork. The effort you put in directly benefits the lake and the community, helping to create a better quality of life for all.

If you are interested in learning more about committee roles or getting involved, the Pelican Lake Association bylaws are available under the "ABOUT US" tab on our website. Your time and contributions matter, and together, we can make a difference!

Membership Committee: By Suz Romsa

Between March 2024 and December 31, 2024, **15 new members** joined the Pelican Lake Association, bringing our **active membership to 401**.

Much of this growth comes from recruitment efforts at association events and through word of mouth. The more people who join and participate, the stronger our community becomes—helping to preserve and enhance Pelican Lake while also sharing the workload among volunteers.

If you know someone who loves Pelican Lake, encourage them to get involved. Every member makes a difference!



New Members

(Joined Between March and December 31, 2024)

Pamela Alesi
Bryan Beyer
Jevin and Margaret Budde
Steve Critchley
Jim and Lisa Cyrak
Laurie Dantoin
Joe and Carol Karls
Bob Korbar
Alan Motl
Tim and Nancy Olson
Curt Waldvogel and Penny Schuyler
Art Wrobel

IN MEMORIAM

March 2024 - December 31, 2024

Donated by:

Auggie and Peggy Augustiniak

Jan Biscobing

Douglas Brodzik and Deborah Sobczak

Mike and Peg Broker

Sandra Cady

Blake and Patti Carver

David and Cathy Cyrs

Rich Dantoin

Dennis and Jill Donohue

Thomas and Tracy Ebert

Barbara and Peter Elias

Barbara Else

Joyce Fasbender

Phillip Grubisic

Dion and Shannon Haase

Raymond Hajewski

Darryl and Jenny Hart

John Hefty

Jeff and Joy Herman

Ron and Barbara Kahl

Jim and Laurel Kniech

James & William Lancaster
and Cathy Olesuk

Tim and Renee Laufenberg

In Memory of:

Rollie and Maxine Pukall and
Alvin and Norma Pukall

Sid and Emaline Henning

Edward Wipijewski

David and Sally Broker

LaVern and Shirley Cady

Bullock Hathaway

Henry Kraimer

Don and Donna Dantoin

Jean and Bruce Beiersdorf

Richard Sommer and Anne Ebert

Keith and Beth Aulik

Merle and Bud Else

Harvey Fasbender and
Ken and Joyce Fasbender

Kay Grubisic

Daryl Haase

Laura Raymond

Merle and Bud Else

Pelican Lake, WI

Jeff Dantoin

Richard Drews, Jr

“Rudy” Rudolph

William and Ruth Lancaster

Dar and Helen Brandow

Donated by:

Loren Laureti

John & Joan Linden

Pat McDonald

Sue and Greg Neville

**Wendy Oberstadt and
Amy and Davis Lewis**

Ben and Nicole Pahl

Lori Parmentier

Jim Peerenboom

Pelican Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Janice Penn

Gloria Pinkowski

Billy Poppe

Mary Raddatz

Kay Reese

Rick Rettler

Sonja Roberts

Pat Schenk

Steve Suick

Chet Ulickey

Jacob Ulickey

Zachary Ulickey

Jeffrey VanAsten

Geoff and Laurie Wein

Ronald Zalewski

In Memory of:

Lula Moss

Phyllis Suick

Brian McDonald

Roland and Ila Mae Ziesmer

Pat Deprey

Gilbert "Gib" Pahl

Roland and Ila Mae Ziesmer

Marge Peerenboom

Virginia Radke

Art and Dorothy Umhoefer

Kaluzny and Pinkowski Families

Bob Hammen

Thom Raddatz

Michael Reese

Harold and Laura Rettler

Phyllis Suick

**Ken and Delores Diener,
and Delmar and Lila Schenk**

Pete and Ruth Suick

**Terese Ulickey, and
Dick and Hilda Gutoski**

Terese Ulickey

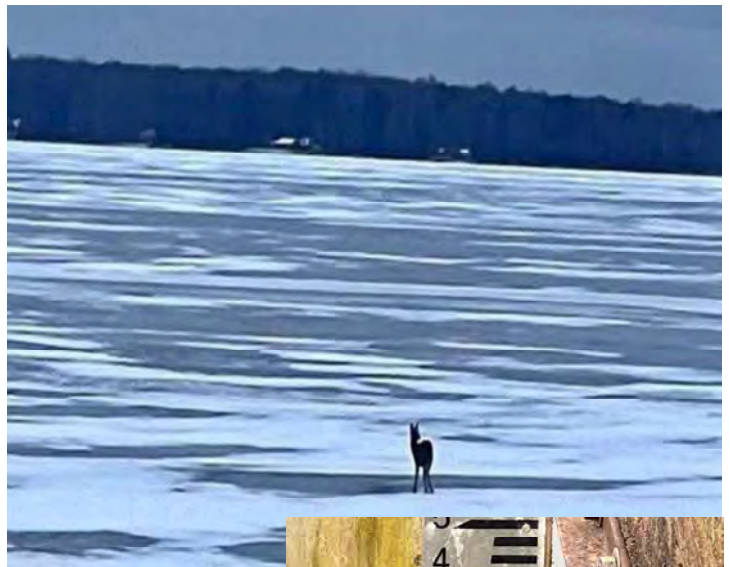
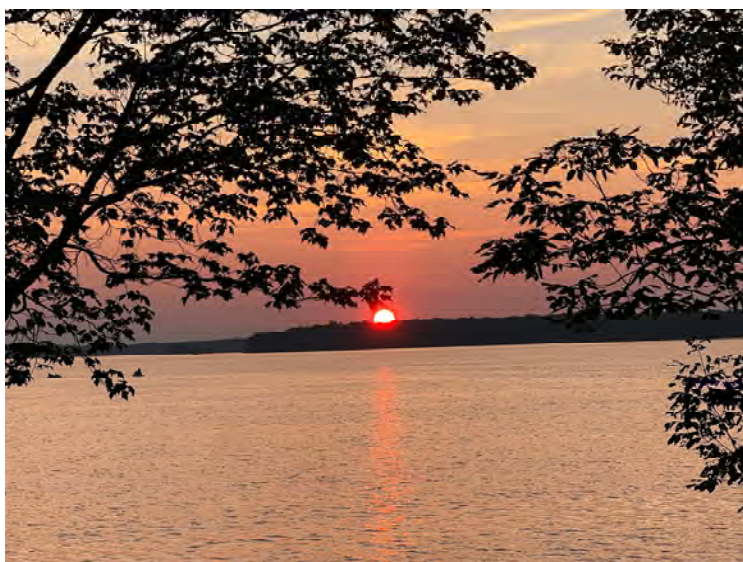
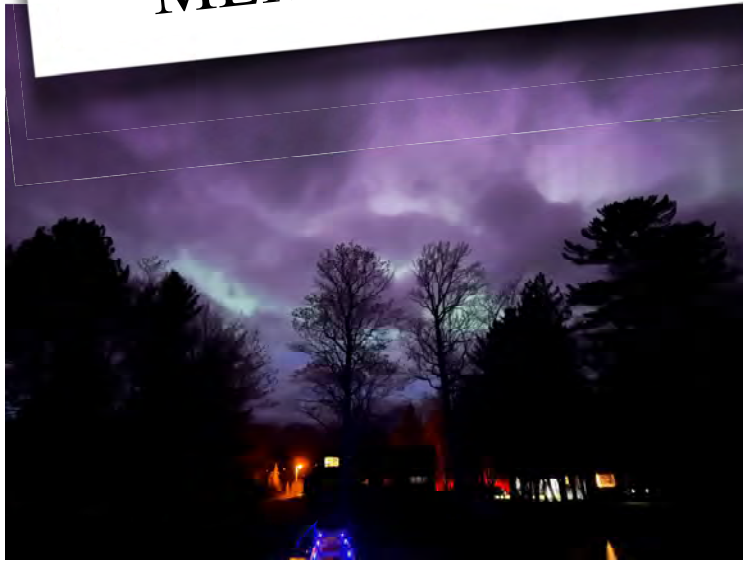
Terese Ulickey

Lois VanAsten

Marvin and Carole Birr

Sue Zalewski

Pelican Lake Life submitted from
MEMBERSHIP!



Let us not forget Dam details:
Throughout the year, Taz has been monitoring the dam levels and communicating regularly with Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company. Communications include notifications of transitions between seasonal levels and collaborating proactive dam procedure requests for the upcoming FERC license review/renewal. WVIC continues to operate the dam within the current FERC parameters.

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Pelican Lake Women's Civic Club

Serving the area through fundraisers and volunteer efforts to support scholarships, needs and community welfare.

Visit the Free Little Library located by Schoepke Town Hall

For more info or to become a member contact the club via Email: pelicanlakewomen@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/Plwcc2019>



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Pelican Lake Association Mission Statement:

The purpose of the corporation is to preserve, protect, and enhance the waters of Pelican Lake and its surroundings through the undertaking of various activities, including advocating and facilitating communications through sharing of information among individuals, environmental organizations, and state and local governmental bodies. This also includes involvement in various educational and special projects aimed at good stewardship and wise use of the lake to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, natural wildlife habitats, and aesthetic values of Pelican Lake as a public recreational facility for today and future generations.

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