



APRIL 2026
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Steve Tripp

Dear Members,

I'm excited to share the Pelican Lake Association (PLA) annual newsletter with you! You'll find some highlights from our events and achievements in 2025, along with a few sneak peeks at what we're planning for 2026.

In 2025, the Association welcomed **Ted Nelson, Wayne Morgan, Alex Rossman, and Lud Ludholz** as new board members. I would like to thank **Bob Mott and Pat Schenk** for their continued service, completing their two-year commitments that end, along with mine, at the June 2026 Annual Membership Meeting. Our outgoing board members; **Kerry Romsa, Rhonda Bell, Brian Schell, Kelly Kraetsch, Scott Sankey, and Dave Carriveau**, did an amazing job. I want to sincerely thank each of them for their dedication, service, and guidance to the new board.

In 2025, we finished and submitted our 10-year Comprehensive Plan to the DNR. This comprehensive document gives you a detailed look at our lake and outlines strategies to protect it for the future. It covers issues related to our watershed area, aquatic plant activity, and fishery. Before getting involved with this organization, I didn't realize that a document of this size was needed to approve projects and activities on the lake. It's basically our organizational guidebook.

Our updated Comprehensive Plan played a key role in helping us secure one of the largest Surface Water grants awarded to any lake association in 2025. We also contracted Lake Mapping, another comprehensive plan goal, in the fall of 2025. Details of these two major projects may be found within the newsletter's individual committee sections and on the organization's website. Please review and enjoy all the committee submissions for a detailed recap of our past and present efforts, as well as an overview of future planned activities.

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your support of the PLA. Your involvement and generous financial contributions have been instrumental in making this association possible. I also encourage you to invite any eligible neighbors who haven't joined us yet to come along. I look forward to the continued promotion of healthy lake practices that benefit our community today and for generations to come.

Looking ahead to 2026, I'm really excited about what's in store for Pelican Lake and our association. I'm eager to meet more of our members during fundraising events, strengthen our connections within the community, and see even more participation within individual committee activities. Whether you're new to PLA or a long-time member, your participation truly makes a difference, and there's always room for more helping hands.

Warm regards,

Steve Tripp
President

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSORS!

Donations make printing and mailing of this newsletter possible. In appreciation, we recognize this year's newsletter 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.

Acknowledgment and Appreciation for Continued Support

The **Suick Family Foundation** and the **Sokaogon Chippewa Community** continue to provide exceptional support to PLA. We are honored that they not only continue to support our mission, but they also significantly increased the amount of their contributions! We are committed to responsibly utilizing all funds entrusted to us. Their combined donations created \$22,000 in additional funding that bolstered our end of year net revenue. Comprehensive Plan goals such as lake mapping, AIS management, and fish studies continued to be achieved without detriment to our long-term savings. Strengthening these partnerships benefits PLA and the interdependent communities involved.

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

Pam Alesi, Merchandise Coordinator
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
Wade & Patty Novak, Musky Mart
Jim & Tina Peerenboom, Boiling Springs Bar
Wendy Peters, 4Imprint Apparel Grant
Mike Preul, Mole Lake Tribal Fisheries Director

Beth Reinemann, Facebook
Michele Sadauskas Annual Membership Meeting
Speaker, Oneida Co. Conservationist
Brian Schell, Web Design
Wayne Sparks, Pelican Lake Fire Chief
Stu & Brenda Spaude, Dive on 45
Pat & Barb Stone, PB& J's Place
Dave Thom, Roadside Pub
Town of Enterprise, 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



2026 PLA Calendar of Events

Feb 7th	Pelican Lake WINTERFEST <i>@ PB&J's Place-US Hwy 45</i>	Noon-8 p.m.
May 30th	Spring Adopt-A-Hwy <i>@ Schoepke Town Hall - US Hwy 45</i>	8:30 a.m.
June 6th	Annual Membership Meeting <i>@ Pelican Lake Firehouse - 737 Wausau St.</i> <u>Educational Guest Speaker:</u> Nick Johnson, Aquatic Plant Management *Voting Required 2026/2027 Budgets and Nominate Seven Open Board Positions Membership Sign-in opens at 9:30 a.m.	10 a.m.
July 11th	6th Annual Ski Show <i>@ Gerrits' Lakeview - Cty Rd G</i> Your Fundraising Committee has exciting, NEW details to share!	1 - 9 p.m.
July 25th	Pelican Lake FUNRaiser <i>@ Pelican Lake Firehouse & Ball-field</i> An official stop of Roadside's Poker Run, same day!	Noon - 8 p.m.
Aug 15th	5th Annual Membership Appreciation <i>@ Boiling Springs Bar - Cty Rd G</i>	1 - 7 p.m.
Aug 22nd	PLA Meat Raffle <i>@ Roadside Bar - Cty Rd G</i>	1 - 5 p.m.
Aug 29th	Fall Adopt-A-Hwy <i>@ Schoepke Town Hall - US Hwy 45</i>	8:30 a.m.
Feb 6th, 2027	Pelican Lake WINTERFEST <i>@ PB&J's Place-US Hwy 45</i>	Noon-8 p.m.



[Pelican Lake Association Wisconsin](#)



Pelicanlakeassociation.org

Update from the Town of Enterprise Chair: Leonard Guth III

The town of Enterprise is happy to continue its support of the Pelican Lake Association's ILID AIS notification system on the DNR landing in 2026. The system helps educate those who use the landing of invasive species issues. We are also hopeful that it raises awareness of those who come from other water bodies to be mindful of transferring invasive species that Pelican Lake has not yet been exposed to.

In the winter, we try the best that we are able to keep salt/sand efforts to a minimum impact on lake runoff while simultaneously ensuring public safety. Public safety is first and foremost. Plowing accumulation is our first step in snow removal. Sand is used mostly due to salts lack of effectiveness in severe cold temperatures.

The town board of Enterprise takes its duty in the oversight of taxpayers dollars very serious. In Wisconsin, all towns are legally required to provide core services under state law (Chapter 60), primarily focused on maintaining town roads, ensuring fire protection, managing elections, and handling property tax assessments. We must also provide garbage/recycling programs.

While we acknowledge that hazard marking buoys were a historical asset to the community, they are not legally required for the town to provide. While working on the 2025 budget, we identified the need to address increasing buoy contract costs without adequate oversight of taxpayer dollars. In the fall of 2024, we discussed with Kelly Kraetsch the need for competitive bids to ensure best cost efficiencies, and notification of proposed buoy increases prior to action. Adding buoys to the installation/removal contract effected our bill, not just PLA's maintenance commitment.

In 2025, we put a hold on funding buoy expenditures until increasing budgetary constraints were lessened. We did not receive any public input concerning buoys at any of our town meetings. We were grateful that Mike Fowler donated buoy installation services, until we could find an agreeable financial resolution. Although not our original intention, we were very happy when Kerry Romsa announced at our board meeting that the Lake Association would take over 100% of buoy funding going forward. This frees up taxpayer dollars for other public service needs. Thank you Pelican Lake Association for assuming this public safety expense.



Town of Schoepke Chairman 2025 Report: By Bob Mott

I'm currently serving my second term as Schoepke Town Board Chairman. Previously, I served as a Supervisor for at least six terms. As Chairman, I manage local infrastructure, public safety, and financial budgeting. The town board oversees town roads, fire services, and land use regulations.

In 2025, the town underwent significant developments. The town maintenance building underwent a renovation, including a new roof with enhanced insulation. This was the first exterior update since the shop's construction in the 1970s, when it served as the town's fire station. Connie Guth, Road Supervisor, stores many town assets inside for security and protection from environmental exposure damage. Construction of an adjacent building is planned to safely accommodate the current building's limited equipment maintenance capabilities. Lot preparation should begin in 2026 with construction projected in 2027-2028. We're also looking for people interested in training with Connie for potential advancement. Connie has expressed interest in scaling back his duties. (Contact info below for more details.)

Historically, road maintenance consumes 43% of town expenditures. These costs cover vital road maintenance, including snow removal and road resurfacing or replacement. In 2025, we treated three town roads with a new slurry mix process instead of the traditional chip-seal process. We contacted the town of Merrill, who has been using the product and affiliated company for several years. After they reported overall satisfaction, we physically inspected their roads comparing longevity of application, traffic loads, and general cost-effectiveness. The product has a surface similar to blacktop but with significant cost savings.

Schoepke just completed the first year of a five-year waste management contract with Howard Disposal. The new garbage service team has provided both timely and professional service. They have worked diligently with Schoepke to resolve an unexpected cost increase created from inaccurate external data used for point of pick-up service estimates. To help alleviate this cost overage, the town requests seasonal residents or those who do not have a garbage service need to contact the town clerk for coordinated removal of unnecessary bins. Bin identification and reduction will create a cost savings that may be used for additional public service needs. (Contact info below for more details.)

Enterprise and Schoepke share jurisdiction over Pelican Lake waters. Since the 1970s, both towns funded spring and fall removal of lake hazard buoys. In 2025, Enterprise cut funding for their portion, and it's unclear if they'll resume future allowances. The Schoepke Board recognizes the benefit of a safer fishing and water recreation environment. Return tourism is crucial to our community's economy. Marked hazards reduce damaged lower units and personal injuries, leading to positive visitor experiences and reinforcing a return tourism tax revenue stream. Schoepke passed a resolution in 2025 to continue funding hazard marking buoys in our jurisdiction for the 2026-2027 budget.

The Pelican Lake Fire District currently lacks local emergency medical service providers. A citizen committee has been suggested to investigate resource and funding possibilities. It is essential we as a community thoughtfully weigh the risk of a realized per capita tax increase against the reward of a full time trained emergency medical staff. (Contact info below for more details.)

The town dump is one example of Schoepke's commitment to environmental protection. Schoepke residents may responsibly dispose of various household items, eliminating the past practice of dumping in nearby forests and streams. Ray Stolarik and Rock Duvall manage metal recycling and scheduling. Connie Guth, with the Town of Enterprise's cooperation, successfully organized our first free Electronic Day public drop event last October.

Thank you to my Board! Supervisors: *Chuck Moore & Kelly Kraetsch*, Treasurer: *Veronica "Rock" Duvall*, Town Clerk: *Julie Taylor*, Road Supervisor: *Connie Guth*. **Need more details?** 715-487-6155 / schoepke@newnorth.net

Financial Review Committee: By Ed Rueckl

The Financial Review Committee will conduct a financial review of the Association's 2025 financial statements. The official report from this review will be shared at the 2026 Annual Membership Meeting on June 6th. Committee members during this review process are Sherry Aulik, Judy Boelter, and myself. Per the bylaws, we are independent of the Association's management and finance committee. The review process will include:

- Interviews with management regarding policies, procedures, and internal controls used for financial reporting.
- A random sampling of transactions will be reviewed.
- Selected income and expense accounts will be analyzed.
- Income and expenses from 2024 and 2025 will be compared and evaluated.

I have served as review committee chair for the past five years and have reached the point where I am ready to retire from the chair role. The committee members have worked well together and have done excellent work in their respective areas of the review. While these members have expressed interest in continuing on the committee, they are not interested in serving as chairperson. We are seeking a volunteer who would be willing to step into the role of committee chair. Experience with financial reviews would be helpful, but it is not required.

Finance Committee: Bryan Beyer, Joy Herman, Jim Frymark, Adam Lenarz, Wayne Morgan, Bob Mott, Suz Romsa, Kerry Romsa, Pat Schenk, Beth Steiner, Rick Steiner, Steve Tripp.

In 2025, two policies were adopted and implemented. The **Conflict of Interest** policy serves as a reminder to individuals responsible for managing PLA assets or funds to prioritize the organization's best interests. Standard agreements necessitate signatures from individuals handling cash or substantial asset transactions. Copies of these signed agreements are maintained by the secretary. The **Multiple Bid Policy** was followed during the solicitation for lake mapping and newsletter printing services. A threshold minimum of five thousand dollars was established to facilitate competitive bidding. This practice helps to ensure optimal utilization of stakeholder contributions.

Financial Overview and Budget Analysis:

The 2025 Adjusted Budget vs Actual financials report is located on page seven. It provides a summary of committee and organizational cash flows. Actual total **Income** exceeded budgeted expectations mainly due to membership and external contributors surpassing past donation trends. Thanks to Lisa Erdman and Kerry Romsa, who outperformed expectations by working diligently on year round raffle ticket sales. An unexpected partial ILIDS grant payment was received in 2025. The remaining ILIDS grant reimbursement balance will be received in 2026. Additionally, an unforeseen surge in buoy maintenance and memorial donations was received in response to recent town funding withdrawal. This topic is addressed on page 12. Membership demonstrated noble altruism while mourning personal loss. In February 2025, the family of Bob Biscobing requested donations made in his honor go directly to PLA for the sustainment of the lake he cherished. Following the passing of our esteemed member, Dennis Fink, a substantial buoy memorial contribution was made in his honor. This donation funded a bulk buoy order secured by Paul Tomczak.

Developing a concise budget for a nonprofit is challenging due to an uncertain volunteer labor force and unpredictable resource availability. Realized **Expenses** stayed under budget due to diligent committee oversight and maximized opportunities. Timely and accurate record keeping ensured funds were anticipated and available when required. The Association's most valuable asset is membership. Your combined contributions of time, financial resources, and expertise are indispensable. This proactive, progressive, and prosperous organization successfully achieved its 2025 goals with minimal impact from the anticipated financial strain. Financial momentum will require membership's continued support. Thank you to all past and present members and external supporters who make it all possible!

Budget vs. Actuals_2025 Adjusted Budget_(1)_Report
 January 1-December 31, 2025

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income		
4100 *PLA General	\$16,521.00	\$12,000.00
4110 * PLA Water Quality		
4601 *PLA CBCW	\$18,020.67	\$14,100.00
4625 *PLA AIS	\$21,850.00	\$15,500.00
4685 2025 DNR Surface Water Grant	11,325.75	11,000.00
Total for 4110 * PLA Water Quality	\$51,196.42	\$40,600.00
4120 * PLA Fundraising/Marketing	\$69,828.66	\$30,700.00
4130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife	\$1,719.00	\$500.00
4150 *PLA Boating Safety		
4610 *PLA Buoy		
4620 Buoy Maintenance Donations	5,470.00	1,000.00
4630 Buoy Memorial Donations	8,073.05	350.00
Total for 4610 *PLA Buoy	\$13,543.05	\$1,350.00
Total for 4150 *PLA Boating Safety	\$13,543.05	\$1,350.00
4170 *PLA Education	\$5,344.50	\$4,500.00
4901 Interest on Checking	38.81	20.00
4902 Savings Dividends	196.24	100.00
4903 Certificate Dividends	4,226.46	1,500.00
4631 OPEN CODE		0.00
Total for Income	\$162,614.14	\$91,270.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Gross Profit	\$162,614.14	\$91,270.00
Expenses		
5100 *PLA General Expenses	\$7,163.77	\$11,225.00
5110 *PLA Water Quality Expense	\$103,179.61	\$129,000.00
5120 *PLA Fundraising/Marketing Expense	\$22,134.97	\$23,325.00
5130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife Expense	\$706.69	\$1,000.00
5150 *PLA Boating Safety Expenses	\$8,692.54	\$5,900.00
5160 *PLA Land Use Expenses	\$183.23	\$1,500.00
5170 *PLA Education Expenses	\$3,697.07	\$6,000.00
Total for Expenses	\$145,757.88	\$177,950.00
Net Operating Income	\$16,856.26	-\$86,680.00
Other Income		
Other Expenses		
Net Other Income		
Net Income	\$16,856.26	-\$86,680.00

Grant Committee: By Bob Mott

As noted in the 2025 Newsletter, an **AIS small-scale grant for Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) control through mechanical harvesting** was awarded from the state for \$45,303. Late-season mechanical harvesting of EWM provides immediate relief from dense, nuisance growth enhancing recreational access during late summer. It acts as a non-chemical control method for reducing EWM biomass impacts to the ecosystem and encourages native plant recovery. A test area was harvested and measured several times in 2025 and will continue to be monitored in 2026. This is a new, environmentally safe strategy outlined within our updated comprehensive plan.

We were able to continue utilizing the **WIDNR Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW)** grant for \$8,000 in 2025. These funds offset the expense of our paid boat landing monitors. More details of the CBCW program are shared on page 9.

In addition to the DNR CBCW grant in 2025, we were happy to receive additional funding from the Sokaogon Chippewa Community for \$4,500 to use toward CBCW expenses. The Council also awarded an additional \$2,500 to be used toward our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management efforts!

On January 25th, 2026, I attended the Sokaogon Chippewa Community annual award presentation on behalf of PLA. PLA was honored to accept a \$2,500 award in continued support of our 2026 AIS CBCW program.



2026 Sokaogon Tribal Council Award

Water Quality Committee: By Bob Mott

The Water Committee has continued to focus on Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) which is an invasive weed first discovered by PLA's lake consultant, Onterra, in 2011. After initial discovery, the PLA addressed the problem with two chemical treatments in 2012 and 2013. The first treatment was a 14.3 acre area in Musky Bay with a much smaller area treated the following year. Treatments were effective in the short term, but EWM returned in following years. Chemical treatment is not a permanent solution, as EWM will typically re-emerge within 3-5 years after treatment.

The committee has decided that mechanical harvesting of large areas and DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) for new EWM colonies will be the preferred approach in 2026. We will focus on cutting navigational lanes with DASH minimally utilized as needed. It is a change in tactic with promising results documented on other lakes. The Small Scale grant secured in 2025 is funding a late season mechanical harvesting study. We harvested a test area in the fall of 2025. It will be evaluated to see if it creates a delayed need for harvesting in 2026. This could equate to potential savings in AIS management funding. Keep in mind that there have always been concentrations of native vegetation in Musky and Outlet Bays and that will continue along with the ebb and flow of EWM.

EWM appeared to be less noticeable in 2025, especially in Outlet Bay. Causes for the decrease are thought to be higher and cloudier water levels. Restricted light penetration consequently could have inhibited EWM growth. Stunted growth resulted in a substantial reduction in EWM biomass removal during normal mechanical harvesting season. Therefore, we postponed operations saving the 2025 budgeted funds for reapplication towards the 2026 EWM harvesting efforts. Aquatic Plant Management charges \$2,500/day for mechanical harvesting services.

Details of 2026 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) update and the effects on operational procedures of Pelican Lake dam are detailed on pg. 13. PLA will submit stakeholder recommendations during the update process.

Clean Boats Clean Waters: by Suz Romsa

The Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) program continued in 2025, reinforcing our ongoing commitment to protecting Pelican Lake from aquatic invasive species (AIS). This important program focuses on educating boaters about AIS prevention and promoting proper watercraft inspection procedures when entering and leaving the lake.

2025 Boat Inspection Data

Musky Mart / Hwy 45:	33 boats inspected
Keelers Landing, CTH Q:	776 boats inspected
State Landing, CTH G:	2,487 boats inspected

Throughout the season, a dedicated team staffed the Pelican Lake boat landings listed above. Their presence provided boaters with helpful information, hands-on guidance, and reminders about best practices to prevent the spread of invasive species. These efforts, combined with the I-Lids system, help reinforce responsible boating behaviors and support lake conservation goals outlined in our Lake Management Plan. The Pelican Lake Association extends its sincere thanks to all CBCW employees and volunteers for their time, dedication, and commitment to keeping our lake clean, healthy, and enjoyable for everyone.

2025 CBCW Team

Alan Erdman, Lisa Erdman, Perry Miller, Dave Nichols, Suz Romsa, Kerry Romsa, Mary Schmitzer, Robin Swartz, Dylan VanderBunt, and Michael VanderBunt



2025 ILids: Boaters are occasionally seen on-camera checking or cleaning after retrieval. Inspectors are sometimes seen talking to owners and checking boats before launches and after retrievals. A few out-of-state boats are noted. Costs are shared by PLA and both Towns of Enterprise and Schoepke. Continued support is greatly appreciated!



Possible plant hangs from back trailer light

DNR Landing:

Installed:	5/16/25
Removed:	10/19/25
Videos Captured:	7,100
Videos Reviewed:	2,238
Launches counted:	552
% of boat launch videos:	25%
Suspect AIS Violations:	2
Hours of operation:	24 hrs/day
Total hours inspection.	2,856

Schoepke Landing:

Installed:	5/2/25
Removed:	10/19/25
Videos Captured:	2,481
Videos Reviewed:	2,240
Launches counted:	259
% of boat launch videos:	12%
Suspect AIS Violations:	0
Hours of operation:	5am - 11 pm
Total hours inspection.	3,024

AIS: 2025 Summary from Aquatic Plant Management

To address the EWM population in 2025, the Pelican Lake Association Wisconsin (PLAW) partnered with Aquatic Plant Management (APM) to conduct mechanical harvesting and Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH):

- Between June 30th and September 26th, APM harvested 8 sites and removed 3,425 cubic feet of EWM over the course of 63.2 hours on the water
- From June 30th through July 31st, APM conducted 120 hours days of DASH, removing a total of 303 cubic feet of EWM from the 5 priority sites
- In addition to performing DASH, the crew took plant height observations at multiple time periods throughout the month
- The PLAW should continue to use an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach when evaluating different tools to actively manage its aquatic vegetation population



Map of 2025 Management Areas



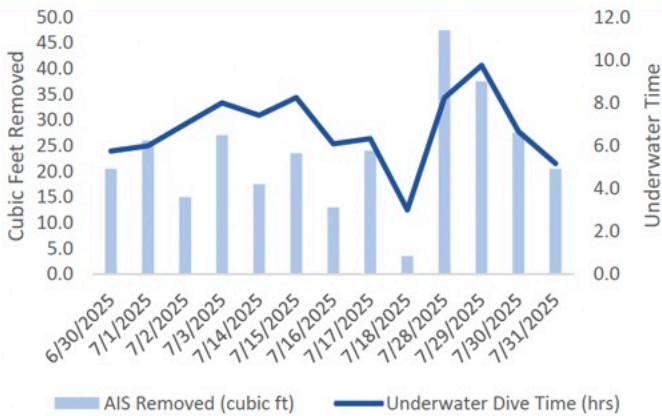


Summarized Manual Removal Results

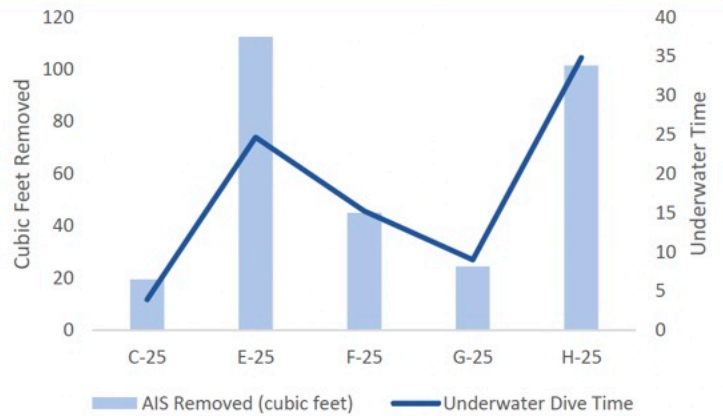
Manual Removal Commentary

- The DASH team started at G-25 and H-25 where they encountered a variety of EWM densities, ranging from small clumps to highly dominant colonies
- The team then moved on to F-25 and E-25, while ensuring to return to H-25 towards the end of the month
- During the dives on 7/7 and 7/31, the team dedicated some time to measure plants heights at multiple locations per PLAW's request

Summary by Day



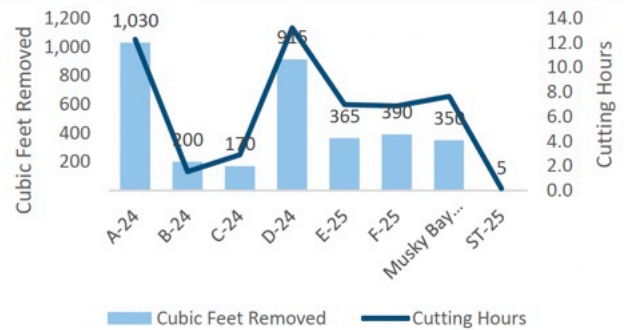
Harvest by Site



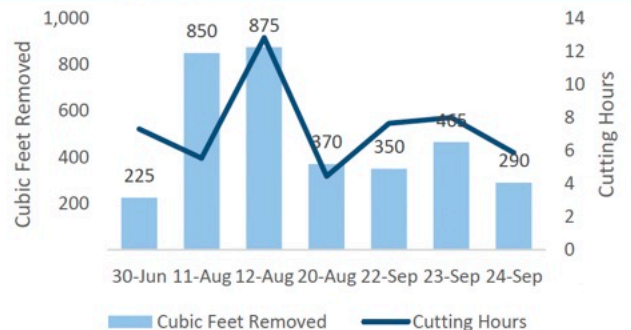
Mechanical Harvesting Highlights

- The harvest team first arrived on June 30th, but due to low plant heights and density, called the trip early since there would not be much relief granted at that time
- Upon returning in August, the team encountered much more EWM in the four primary areas (A-24 through D-24) and was able to target all four high priority zones
- In September, the team focused on the large polygon in Musky Bay and two additional sites to the south, E-25 and F-25 in Treacherous Bay
- Moving forward, the PLAW should be sure to validate that the EWM is causing hinderance to lake usage prior to mobilizing the harvesting crew

Harvest by Site



Harvest by Day





Detailed Diving Activities

Date	Dive Location	Latitude	Longitude	Underwater Dive Time (hrs)	AIS Removed (cubic ft)	AIS Density	Avg Water Depth (ft)	Native Species	Native By-Catch	Substrate Type
6/30/2025	G-25	45.49209	-89.20664	1.33	5.0	Clumps	8.5	Grasses	1.0	Sand
6/30/2025	G-25	45.49202	-89.20708	1.75	10.0	Dominant	8.5	Coontail	2.0	Sand
6/30/2025	G-25	45.49202	-89.20708	1.42	2.5	Small Plant Colony	8.0	Coontail	0.5	Organic/Gravel
6/30/2025	G-25	45.49213	-89.20703	1.25	3.0	Clumps	7.0	Coontail	0.5	Organic/Gravel
7/1/2025	G-25	45.49206	-89.20704	2.00	3.0	Clumps	7.5	Northern Milfoil	0.5	Sand
7/1/2025	H-25	45.49106	-89.19493	1.08	6.0	Dominant	7.0	Coontail	0.5	Sand
7/1/2025	H-25	45.49106	-89.19493	1.75	13.0	Clumps	7.0	Coontail	2.0	Sand
7/1/2025	H-25	45.49097	-89.19486	1.17	4.0	Small Plant Colony	7.0	Coontail	1.0	Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49115	-89.19512	1.08	2.5	Small Plant Colony	5.5	Coontail	0.5	Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49110	-89.19482	1.00	2.0	Clumps	5.0	Grasses	0.5	Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49074	-89.19266	1.42	3.0	Highly Dominant	7.5	None	0.0	Organic/Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49115	-89.19512	1.08	2.5	Small Plant Colony	5.5	Coontail	0.5	Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49110	-89.19482	1.00	2.0	Clumps	5.0	Grasses	0.5	Sand
7/2/2025	H-25	45.49074	-89.19266	1.42	3.0	Highly Dominant	7.5	None	0.0	Organic/Sand
7/3/2025	H-25	45.49048	-89.19298	1.92	3.0	Clumps	7.5	Pondweeds	0.5	Organic
7/3/2025	H-25	45.49067	-89.19298	1.67	2.5	Dominant	7.0	Coontail	0.5	Organic
7/3/2025	H-25	45.49078	-89.19285	0.58	2.5	Dominant	7.0	Coontail	0.5	Organic
7/3/2025	H-25	45.49084	-89.19274	3.33	16.0	Highly Dominant	7.0	Pondweeds	0.5	Organic/Sand
7/3/2025	H-25	45.49102	-89.19263	0.50	3.0	Highly Dominant	7.0	None	0.0	Organic/Sand
7/14/2025	H-25	45.49102	-89.19267	3.75	0.5	Highly Scattered	5.5	Grasses	5.0	Organic
7/14/2025	F-25	45.49366	-89.20637	2.42	10.0	Clumps	8.5	Grasses	0.5	Organic
7/14/2025	F-25	45.49355	-89.20576	1.25	7.0	Small Plant Colony	7.5	None	0.0	Organic
7/15/2025	F-25	45.49355	-89.20557	1.58	2.0	Clumps	8.0	Coontail	1.5	Organic
7/15/2025	F-25	45.49357	-89.20521	2.50	6.5	Clumps	8.0	Coontail	1.0	Organic
7/15/2025	F-25	45.49359	-89.20527	4.17	15.0	Small Plant Colony	8.0	Grasses	0.5	Organic/Sand
7/16/2025	F-25	45.49348	-89.20605	3.33	4.5	Scattered	8.5	Pondweeds	1.5	Organic/Sand
7/16/2025	H-25	45.49106	-89.19512	2.75	8.5	Clumps	7.0	Grasses	0.5	Organic
7/17/2025	H-25	45.49084	-89.19480	3.25	12.5	Clumps	7.0	Coontail	2.5	Sand
7/17/2025	H-25	45.49087	-89.19467	3.08	11.5	Clumps	7.0	Grasses	0.5	Sand
7/18/2025	H-25	45.49093	-89.19452	3.00	3.5	Clumps	5.5	Coontail	0.5	Sand
7/28/2025	E-25	45.49621	-89.21141	2.33	4.0	Clumps	5.5	Grasses	0.5	Sand
7/28/2025	E-25	45.49636	-89.21149	1.58	15.0	Dominant	8.0	Grasses	1.0	Organic/Sand
7/28/2025	E-25	45.49636	-89.21149	4.33	28.5	Dominant	7.0	Grasses	1.5	Organic/Sand
7/29/2025	E-25	45.49627	-89.21138	3.00	8.5	Clumps	6.0	Grasses	0.3	Sand
7/29/2025	E-25	45.49627	-89.21138	1.92	1.0	Highly Scattered	6.0	None	0.0	Sand
7/29/2025	E-25	45.49625	-89.21136	4.83	28.0	Dominant	7.5	Grasses	2.0	Sand
7/30/2025	E-25	45.49638	-89.21154	3.50	21.0	Dominant	6.0	Grasses	1.5	Sand
7/30/2025	E-25	45.49636	-89.21178	3.17	6.5	Clumps	7.0	Grasses	0.1	Sand
7/31/2025	G-25	45.49194	-89.20727	1.25	1.0	Scattered	6.0	Coontail	0.5	Sand
7/31/2025	C-25	45.49576	-89.21593	3.92	19.5	Small Plant Colony	7.0	Pondweeds	1.5	Sand
Total	40			87.66	303.0					



Plant Height Mapping Details

Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Inches from Surface		
			7/7	7/31	8/11
PH-1	45.50458	-89.22881	33	21	20
PH-2	45.50463	-89.22993	30	20	19
PH-3	45.50426	-89.22887	29	28	22
PH-4	45.50426	-89.22987	31	22	20
PH-5	45.50396	-89.22881	19	17	15
PH-6	45.50402	-89.22999	14	14	14
PH-7	45.50525	-89.23216	n/a	35	24
PH-8	45.50537	-89.23175	n/a	30	23
PH-9	45.50550	-89.23137	n/a	37	24
PH-10	45.50585	-89.23038	n/a	34	24
PH-11	45.50614	-89.22949	n/a	35	25
PH-12	45.50649	-89.22853	n/a	33	24
PH-13	45.50549	-89.23043	n/a	12	10
PH-14	45.50632	-89.22994	n/a	15	12

In recognition of two remarkable Pelican Lake volunteers for their outstanding leadership contributions and stewardship efforts. Kerry, as past President, along with Suz's unmatched support, have built a stronger Association, developed partnerships, and initiated stewardship efforts to protect the water quality, recreation, fisheries, property values, and enjoyment of Pelican Lake from the impacts of aquatic invasive species. Presented on August 7th, 2025 by the Oneida County Land & Water AIS Program. **Congrats Kerry and Suz!**



FERC Project 2113 Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC): Ben Niffenegger

The South Pelican Reservoir (often referred to within the context of the Wisconsin River Headwaters Project, P-2113) is central to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) 2026 updates regarding the management and relicensing of Wisconsin hydropower infrastructure. Key aspects of its importance in the 2026 FERC update include:

- License Expiration and Renewal: South Pelican is one of the reservoirs involved in the Wisconsin River Headwaters Project (P-2113). According to FERC documents, several WVIC projects, including those in the headwaters area, are slated for licensing actions this year.
- Environmental Review and Compliance: The 2026 FERC update involves reviewing the environmental effects of operating the reservoir, particularly for maintaining consistent water levels and regulating the flow of the Wisconsin River.
- Water Management and Storage: The reservoir system, managed by WVIC, is critical for water storage, flood control, and low-flow augmentation for 25 downstream hydroelectric dams, making its operation a key topic for FERC's environmental and operational oversight.
- Inspections and Safety: In 2026, WVIC submits Part 12D Periodic Inspection Reports for dams within the project area to ensure safety and regulatory compliance.

The South Pelican Reservoir is therefore critical to the 2026 FERC update as a key component of the ongoing, long-term regulation of the Wisconsin River's hydropower system. The following FERC license articles are included in the 2026 consultations:



- **Article 401** – Update of the Shoreline Erosion Control Plan
- **Article 413/415** – Update of the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan
- **Article 420** – Update of the Land Resources Management Plan
- **Article 421** – A five-year review of the Operating Plan for the headwaters project

Tentative Timeline for the 5 Year Review:

- **March 31, 2026** – WVIC will email a meeting notice, agenda, draft plans (reports), and associated materials to interested parties
- **April 24, 2026** – In-person public meeting of interested parties to provide comments with a Microsoft Teams virtual option for those unable to attend in person
- **May 15, 2026** – WVIC emails revised plans/reports to participating parties for final comments
- **June 8, 2026** – Final comments by interested parties on plans/reports due to WVIC
- **July 14, 2026** – WVIC submits final plans/reports to FERC

High-Resolution Bathymetric Survey: A Major Step for Informed Lake Management: By Alex Rossman

This fall, the Pelican Lake Association initiated a comprehensive, fine-scale bathymetric survey based on the Association's vote in support of proceeding with the project. This marks our first modern, high-resolution mapping of the entire lake bottom. The survey will provide a much clearer picture of Pelican Lake's underwater landscape and generate data that directly supports our Lake Management Plan and long-term stewardship goals.

Why We're Doing This Survey

Pelican Lake's management efforts—from aquatic plant control to sediment studies and water quality analysis—depend on accurate, up-to-date depth and lake-bottom data. While the existing Lake Management Plan includes depth-related information, Pelican Lake lacks a modern, whole-lake dataset created using today's mapping technology. Completing the survey provides a critical scientific baseline that the Association has previously lacked. This detailed, lake-wide information will support informed decision-making and help guide lake management for decades. It also establishes a reference point for tracking the lake's changes over time, including sediment and muck accumulation, aquatic biomass shifts, shoreline changes, and other long-term trends.

What the PLA Membership Gains from This Project

This project provides factual, objective information about the lake's underwater structure, benefiting the entire membership. The data will support:

- Safe boating and improved justification for buoy placement and hazard identification
- Stronger permitting and regulatory support for future projects
- Enhanced eligibility for WDNR grants and funding opportunities by demonstrating proactive, science-based lake management
- Protection of property values, as healthy lakes and water quality directly influence current and future valuation

Overall, the survey strengthens the Association's ability to responsibly manage Pelican Lake and advocate for its long-term health.

What Maps Are Being Produced

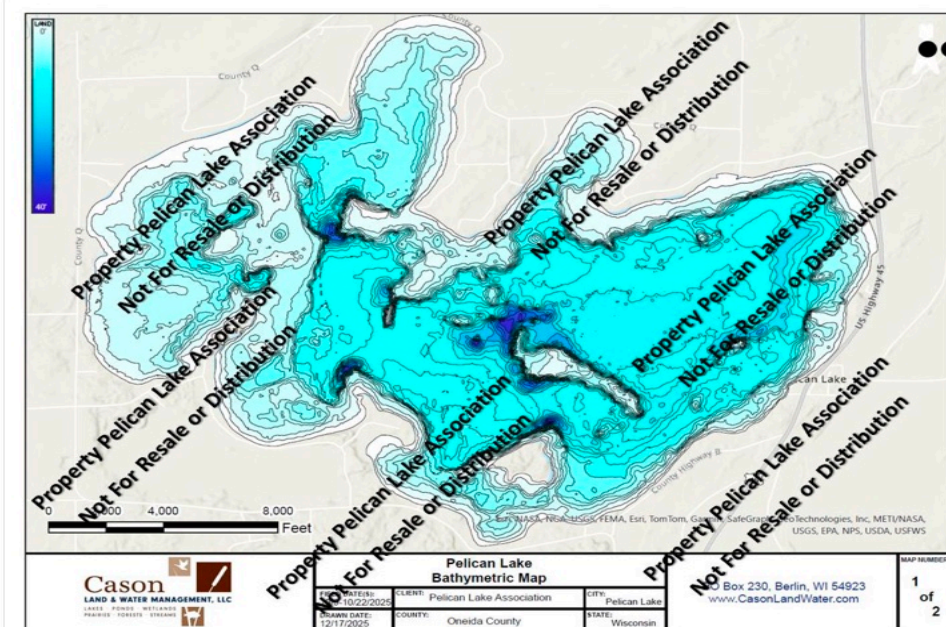
According to the proposal and scope of work, the survey will generate three primary lake-wide maps, each offering different insights that support the Lake Management Plan.

Bathymetric (Depth Contour) Map

This detailed map shows the contours and shape of the lake bottom using a fine-resolution 50-meter transect scan.

Why it matters:

- Reveals basins, shelves, drop-offs, and shallow hazards
- Provides key data such as lake volume and depth distribution
- Supports planning for aquatic plant management, fishery, and sediment studies
- Forms the foundation for nearly all lake assessment and management work

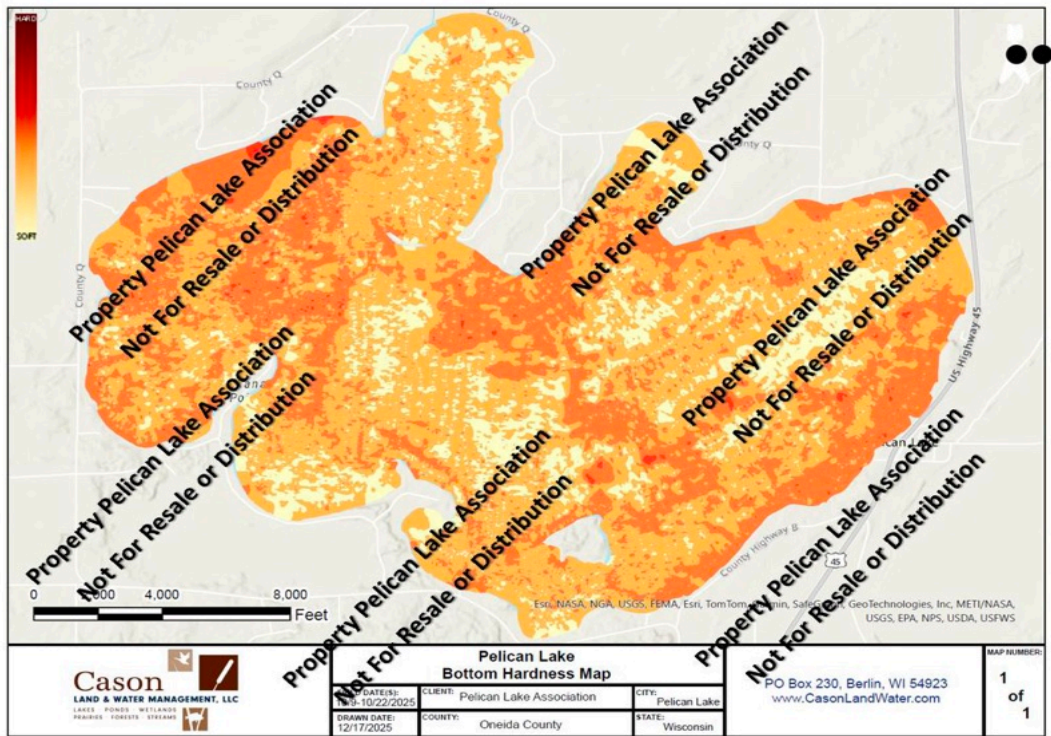
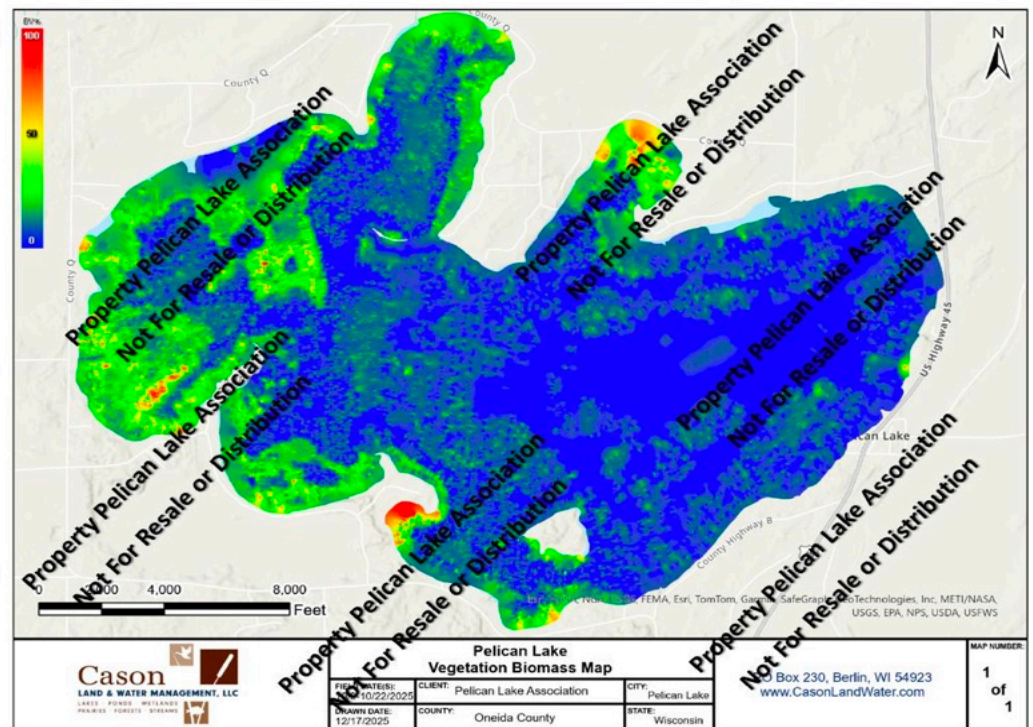


Aquatic Vegetation (% Biovolume) Map

Derived from sonar data, this map illustrates vegetation density throughout the water column.

Why it matters:

- Supports targeted aquatic plant management and monitoring
- Helps identify areas vulnerable to invasive species
- Provides depth-based context for future point-intercept surveys and comparative analysis



Bottom-Hardness Map

This map shows the distribution of soft versus firm substrates across the lake.

Why it matters:

- Assists with identifying fish habitat and spawning areas
- Helps locate zones of sediment accumulation or erosion
- Supports sediment management studies and long-term planning

All map layers will be delivered in multiple digital formats (GIS files, GPX, geoPDFs, and others). These formats allow the data to be shared easily with the WDNR, management consultants, and future project teams, ensuring maximum long-term usefulness. In addition to the maps, the project includes habitat management recommendations to assist the Association with future planning efforts.

How This Bathymetric Survey Aligns with the Lake Management Plan

Our lake management plan relies heavily on bathymetric data and its implications. Accurate depth and contour information underpins many key components of the plan, including:

- Lake mapping and physical characteristics
- Understanding stratification and internal nutrient loading
- Aquatic plant growth limits and littoral zone definition
- Fisheries habitat and depth-based population studies
- Sediment management and erosion assessment

The plan notes that WDNR grants and permits for aquatic plant management and invasive species control require management actions to be supported by the Comprehensive Management Plan and by appropriate, recent survey data (e.g., whole-lake point-intercept surveys). This survey contributes data needed to support those requirements.

Will the Survey Need to Be Repeated?

Whether and when the lake is surveyed again will be determined through future lake planning discussions. It is common for lake associations to resurvey every 5–20 years, depending on management goals, funding, lake conditions, and observed changes. For a lake of Pelican Lake's size, it may make sense to resurvey the entire lake in approximately 10–25 years. If specific concerns arise before then, such as sediment buildup or localized plant issues, targeted surveys of specific bays or depth ranges could be conducted more cost-effectively. Regardless of future surveys, this map will never become obsolete. It will serve as Pelican Lake's first comprehensive, high-resolution baseline and a permanent historical reference point.

Project Status

At the time of this newsletter, fieldwork and data processing are underway. Initial draft maps have already been shared with the Association, offering a first look at the improved level of detail. Contractor deliverables are expected by summer. Once completed, these maps will become key tools for implementing the Lake Management Plan.

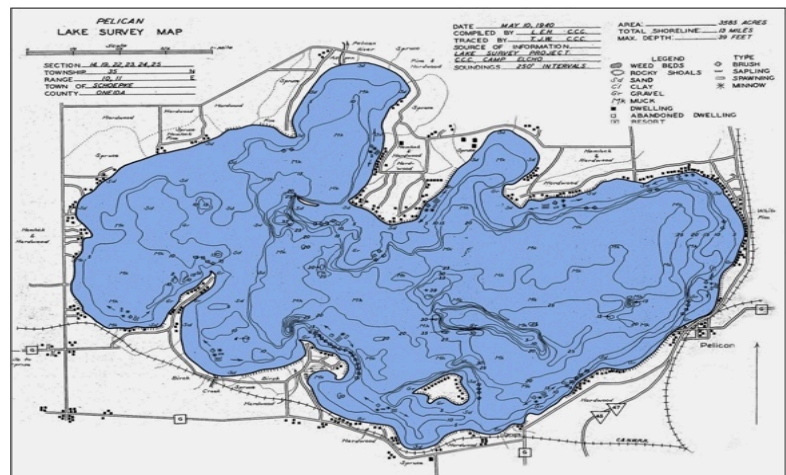
Volunteers are requested to establish a temporary subcommittee. The subcommittee will guide future utilization and distribution of the new maps. Go to the PLA Website to contact us for more information.

This survey represents a major step forward in understanding, protecting, and responsibly managing Pelican Lake—now and for generations to come.

Previously, this was the only recorded whole Lake Survey Project available to use as a lake basin management tool.

Date: May 1940.

Soundings taken every 250' intervals



Boating Safety Committee: By Jim Frymark

In 2025, the Boating Safety Committee focused on the future of buoy placement, maintenance, replacement, and removal. Prior to spring of 2025, Schoepke and Enterprise funded buoy placement and removal, while the PLA funded buoy maintenance and replacement.

Enterprise cut buoy expenses from their 2025 budget. Discussions among PLA Board members surmised it was unlikely Enterprise would include buoys during their next fiscal cycle. Schoepke's funding commitment continued in buoy support, within their jurisdiction area, for their 2026-2027 budget cycle.



Residents and PLA members demonstrated boating safety concerns if buoy service was discontinued. Thankfully, Mike Fowler and Paul Tomaczak donated their professional services to place and remove buoys for the town of Enterprise in 2025.

A subcommittee of the Boating Safety Committee explored alternative buoy funding concepts as the dependency on dwindling town budgets came into question. After several public meetings, a plan to adopt the entire buoy enterprise was drafted with plans to create a special fund to cover the associated increase in PLA's annual budget. Details will be presented during the 2026 Annual Membership Meeting for discussion and membership vote.

Funding for a restricted, buoy fund, capped at \$30,000, may come from several sources. Most notably, proceeds from raffling a hunting blind donated by Kerry Romsa (\$8,500-\$9,000) and a \$10,000 contribution from Kristin and Steve Tripp's charitable trust, that secures additional \$10,000 in matching funds. The total cost of buoy services in 2025 was \$8,060. To help offset the long-term increase to PLA's annual, expenditure budget, a modest increase to annual dues and requesting contributions from local businesses are proposed. Additionally, future fundraising activity would be implemented to replenish overages that the restricted, buoy fund may not cover due to inflation impacts.

A special thank you goes out to all boating safety buoy subcommittee members and general membership members who attended meetings and participated in these important discussions. Your time, input, and commitment are truly appreciated.

Buoy Memorials 2025



Donated by:

**Roger & Jane Groth
Ronald Mirinda
Cynthia Searles**

In memory of:

**Dick Beyer
Dennis Fink
Ralph D. Searles**

Fish and Wildlife Committee: By Scott Sankey

The Fish Committee had a relatively quiet year in 2025, largely due to the Wisconsin DNR’s continued assessment of Pelican Lake and their overall rating of our fishery as “above average.”

During the fall, the DNR—working in partnership with the Mole Lake Tribe—completed a fall electrofishing (shocking) survey. The results were very encouraging. The survey showed a strong reproduction year for walleyes, with an age-0 catch rate of 87 fish per mile (20 per mile is considered excellent). There was also solid survival of the 2024 year class, with an age-1 catch rate of nearly 5 fish per mile, which is well above average for Oneida County.

Large fingerling muskies were last stocked in 2024, and Pelican Lake remains on a three-year stocking cycle. During the fall survey, largemouth and smallmouth bass, along with northern pike and musky, were also found to be in very good condition.

As noted by several of the shocking crews, the lake’s forage base continues to be in excellent shape. Several Pelican Lake residents assisted the DNR with the survey and were very impressed by what they observed.

The musky PIT tag reader program continued in 2025. Committee members scanned 73 fish, with guide Taylor Flannery contributing scans of an additional 80 fish. Taylor also has the ability to add PIT tags to muskies that do not already have them. Now in its third year, this program continues to provide invaluable data to DNR biologist Nathan Lederman.



We are still looking for a few additional Pelican Lake anglers who would be willing to receive a PIT tag reader and help collect more data. This will help ensure our population numbers remain where they should be.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Scott Sankey at sdsankey3@gmail.com. Once sufficient data has been collected, DNR biologist Nathan Lederman will be invited to put together a short presentation for a future Fish Committee meeting.

Recent proposals for regulation changes have completed the final steps of the DNR approval process and will take effect with the May 2026 fishing season. These changes were adopted to improve the overall size structure of multiple species.

The new regulations include:

- No minimum length limit, with a 14–18 inch protected slot size and a daily bag limit of five
- Ten panfish in aggregate

The committee also has leftover materials from the last crib-building project several years ago and would like to put them to use this spring or early summer. Volunteers are needed to help build these cribs. If you are interested, please contact Kerry Romsa or Scott Sankey. As always, the Fish Committee welcomes new volunteers and fresh ideas.

Fish on!

Land Use Committee:

Shoreline Exhibit: By Mary Schmitzer

Last year, research went into expanding native plant species and the associated benefits to the Shoreland Restoration Garden at Schoepke Town Hall. We received assistance from Hanson's Garden Village ordering deep rooting native plugs to repair and hold ice and erosion damage at the water's edge. Grant applications are being submitted to help additionally fund future improvement projects. The town provided paint to reseal and protect the bear and eagle carvings. Since its 2014 inception, the Shoreland Restoration Garden has become a welcome oasis for Hwy 45 commuters and local residents. Come join this fun group of volunteers who polish the community and make her shine with pride.



Adopt-a-Highway Program: By Jim Frymark

The PLA once again conducted its annual spring and fall "pick-up trash" events. Each event had 10-12 PLA members participate in the event, collecting over 8 to 10+ bags of trash each time. For both events, there were new members joining the core team that have been volunteering for several years.

Through the Adopt-a-Highway program, the PLA is responsible for over 13+ miles of roadway, translating into 26+ miles of roadside. It is for this reason the program is always looking for additional volunteers to help the PLA fulfill its commitment. The area covered includes the county roads which wrap around the whole lake, County G between State highway 45 and County B, all of short County B, and State Highway 45 from the southern limits of the Town to the northern limits of Town.

Our volunteers have reported having an elated feeling from participating in helping our roadways look clean and maintained. A big thanks goes to them as well as to those members who also pick up trash while on their daily walks. Again, more volunteers are needed. The events are also great opportunities for youth to earn community service hours.





IN MEMORIAM

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Donated by:

Auggie and Peggy Augustiniak
Becker Family
Jan Biscobing
Renee Boerner
Michael and Margaret Broker
Sandra Cady
Blake and Patti Carver
Hugo and Linda Cuadros
David and Cathy Cyrs
Mary Sue Dantoin
Dennis and Jill Donohue
Richard Dvorak
Barbara Elias
Aubrie Ferg and Barb Millard
Sarah Fink
Dion and Shannon Haase
Raymond Hajewski
Don and Julie Hammen
Darryl and Jenny Hart
Molly Held
Jeff and Joy Herman
James Kniech and Laurel Rudolph Kniech
Jerrold Kracht

In Memory of:

Marv and Angie Wood
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Bob Biscobing Memorial
David and Sally Broker
LaVern and Shirley Cady
Mary Lucia Carver and James Bullock Hathaway
Sandra Anne Fransen (Mother of Lisa Ristow)
Henry and Agnes Kraimer
Dennis Dantoin
Jean and Bruce Beiersdorf
Jack and Toots Dvorak
Keith and Beth Aulik
William Millard Sr.
Chub Hansen
Daryl Haase
Laurie R. Hajewski
Bob and Janice Hammen
Bud and Merle Else
Angel Zimmerman (Sister)
Jeff Dantoin, Diz Dantoin and Don Dantoin
Rudy and Grace Rudolph
Bob Biscobing Memorial

Donated by:

Pat McDonald
Gladys Miller
Ronald Mirenda
Greg and Sue Neville
Don & Barb, Mike & Tammy Pache
& the Pache Family
Ben Pahl
Lori Parmentier
Gloria Pinkowski
Joseph M. Puccinelli
Mary Raddatz
Rick Rettler
Paul Ross
Ed and Jean Rueckl
Pat Schenk
Semrad Family
Bob Skaradzinski
Chet Ulickey
Jacob Ulickey
Jeff Van Asten
Geoff and Laurie Wein
Jeffrey Zwicket
Dyzoet-Wisconsin Inc. Woodcraft

In Memory of:

Brian McDonald
Dean Miller
Dennis Fink
Roland and Ila Mae Ziesmer
Gene Davis
Gilbert "Gib" Pahl
Roland and Ila Mae Ziesmer
John Pinkowski and Kaluzny Family
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Thom Raddatz
Harold and Laura Rettler
Carol A. Ross
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Delmar and Lila Schenk/Ken and Delores Diener
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Stan and Marge Skaradzinski
Terese Ulickey/Dick and Hilda Gutoski
Terese Ulickey
Lois Van Asten
Marvin and Carole Birr
Bob Biscobing Memorial
Bob Biscobing Memorial



Membership Committee: By Suz Romsa

Between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, 30 new members joined the Pelican Lake Association, bringing our total active membership to 352. During 2025, several members who were couples and previously held separate memberships chose to combine into a single membership. Additionally, a number of members did not renew due to selling their property, health concerns, or other personal reasons. Please be reminded, one paid membership ensures one vote during the Annual Membership Meeting. Make sure your voice counts by paying on or before June 6, 2026.

NEW MEMBERS

January 1 - December 31, 2025

Tim and Penny Braun
Jim and Theresa Coleman
Jake Dendinger
Jim Diers
Mike and Lisa Diestler
Debra Engman
Anthony Gatton
Adam Green
Molly Held
Sarah Jakel
Barbara Kahl
Scott Kluge
Don Krauske
Marvin Krautkramer
Scott Lassa

Adam Lenarz
Pam Monroe
Tim Novak
Joe and Wanda Pleshek
Michael Polenska
Tim and Jennifer Richey
Walter Rosie
Tom Sankey
Rena Schmidt
Joe Stai
David and Mary Tatro
Kevin Vandehei
Kurt Vanden Heuvel
Christy Vitek
Robert and Rachel White

4th Annual PLA Membership Appreciation!



Thank you to Edgy and Tina for facilitating another fantastic Membership Appreciation event at Boiling Springs! Kerry had the idea back in 2022 to create a day where everyone could simply enjoy each other's company. It was a chance to express gratitude for PLA's amazing membership. This organization can be very proud of all the contributions and dedicated hours membership has contributed over the years. Please take a moment to appreciate each other—together, we make Pelican Lake a wonderful place to live.

By-Laws Committee: By Kelly Kraetsch

During the 2025 Annual Membership meeting, Taz announced that the organization no longer required the active status of this committee. The restated bylaws, accessible on the organizational website since 2022, provide complimentary access to organizational procedures, safeguards, and policies. The bylaws adhere to Wisconsin Statute Chapter 181, which governs non-stock corporations. They were intended to re-establish membership rights and organizational, majority-based decisions. Over the past four years, the organization and committees have consistently referenced Articles 1-10, which delineate the purpose, responsibilities, and duties of the organization, akin to the Comprehensive Plan utilized as a roadmap for mission and goal achievement. Consequently, minor policy implementation or modification can generally be addressed through the adoption of a committee policy, such as the Finance Committee’s Multiple Bid policy.

Red Cross Blood Drive:

It’s so great to see the Pelican Lake Fire Department, Women’s Civic Club, and Lake Association working together to support Red Cross blood drives! And even though many of our population are away during winter hiatus, we’re still reaching donation goals! It really demonstrates the heart of this community—people who step up when there is a need.



Thank you to everyone who donates regularly, and to all of you who are new to donating! We’re excited to see you at all the 2026 drives. You can call to schedule a time for any upcoming event. Special thanks to:

- Wayne Sparks, venue coordinator
- Julie Monfort, registration & snack coordinator
- Deb Buschel, registration

Pelican Lake Blood Drive

May 5, 2026
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Pelican Lake Fire Department
737 Wausau St. Pelican Lake WI 54463

Keep doing the little things everyday!

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Impact



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App
©2025 The National Red Cross

Board and Committee Meetings:

To stay informed and ensure your voice is heard, try to attend every Board or Committee meeting you can. As a member in good standing, your input is incredibly valuable. The organization has Zoom capabilities, so members who don’t live on the lake full time can still participate in board or committee meetings. Being involved is key to the organization’s success.

Over the past four years, we’ve seen some significant changes and exciting initiatives. To keep this momentum going, we need everyone to pitch in and contribute as much as they can, when they can. If you have skills, knowledge, or a desire to help your lake community, don’t hesitate to get involved. If everyone assumes someone else will handle things, who will actually be taking care of them? Pelican Lake is our responsibility, everyone brings value.

The bylaws specify that the board can have at least three but no more than nine members. In 2025, seven members stepped up for board duties, please thank them. Encouraging diverse member participation facilitates new ideas and varied perspectives. The same is true for committee leads. If there’s a committee you’re passionate about or have experience with, consider taking an active role in guiding the organization. Together, we make things better.

FUNDRAISING:

PLA fundraising goes beyond generating funds for budgeted Committee goals. This committee thrives on membership integrity, ingenuity, teamwork, adaptability, and determination. Over the past four years, the number of members eager to join this committee has grown. Fresh concepts for exciting prizes, activities, events, and resources demonstrate PLA members' vested commitment in the organization's success and community impacts.



In 2025, we held three major fundraising events: Winterfest, Ski Show, and FUNRaiser. Kerry introduced several smaller fundraising opportunities with big rewards. He partnered with Roadside for a PLA Meat Raffle during their annual Ribfest. Dive on 45 created a Chili Cook-off event to assist with a PLA Ice Shack raffle. The year ended with a gun raffle during hunting-season at Roadside.



Fundraising generated approximately \$45K in 2025, an increase of almost \$14K from 2024. This growth is partially due to increased membership participation in requesting business raffle basket contributions and reaching out to more corporate sponsors. Most events saw an increase in gross income, except FUNRaiser. This decrease in gross revenue from 2024, was offset by focused cuts in spending leading to an overall positive net revenue!

Please thank Pam Alesi, a new 2024 member, for taking over PLA's merchandise efforts. She's worked diligently over the past year, with a limited budget, to provide premium products so members may represent this organization proudly. She's one of many members who volunteer their time and resources to make this organization and community great. Everyone has something positive to contribute. If you have time or skills to contribute, the fundraising committee team is eager to include you in the fun!



Look at all the smiles on these PLA volunteers! They represent PLA's front line, tasked with creating atmospheres for inspired public participation and trust to invest in our mission. As stated earlier, PLA fundraising goes beyond generating funds. We are Pelican Lake's ambassadors. The fundraising committee represents the whole community of Pelican Lake, known for teamwork, laughter, and civic pride. These traits strengthen tourism, attract desirable real estate investment, and foster responsible stewardship of our home, Pelican Lake. Be part of the team, contact us via the website: pelicanlakeassociation.org.

PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
THINK SNOW
ICE SHACK & CASH RAFFLE

1st PRIZE
BANKS OUTDOORS
The Stump Sequoia Ice Shack 'Phantom' Edition

2nd PRIZE
\$500 CASH


3rd PRIZE
\$250 CASH

CHILI COOK-OFF
DRAWING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 - 5PM
AT OUR CHILI COOK OFF EVENT!
Dive on 45 - 717 Highway 45
Pelican Lake, WI 54463
Chili at 5:30


\$50.00 per ticket. • Only 200 tickets sold. • Need not be present to win. Lic. W9000217-A-77957

PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
WATERSKI SHOW!
July 11, 2026
1 - 9 p.m.
Hosted at Gerrits' Lakeview
 2330 County Rd G, Pelican Lake, WI


Back by popular demand,
The Conover Chain Skimmers!
 Introducing after the ski show, a Cardboard Regatta and Live Music!



Chain Skimmers show begins at 1 p.m.!
 Watch comfortably and safely from Gerrits' Lakeview. Bring your own chair or use provided bleachers all while enjoying fresh grilled classics & ice cold beverages. Meet the members of this award winning Division II Competition Team!



Introducing ... **Pelican Lake Cardboard Regatta!**
 Sink or swim, are you up to the challenge?
 Competition will follow ski show.
 Registration and Rules available on website.



COUNTRY REWIND
Live Music begins at 5 p.m.
Food and drink specials served by friendly staff.
Dance to musical entertainment provided by Country Rewind!

Thank you to Gerrits' for hosting again! Off-street Parking Available!

Pelican Lake Association
 Pelicanlakeassociation.org

**Proceeds raised are used to support the long-term sustainability of Pelican Lake. Please contribute. PLA Tax ID 90-0587454. Lic. #R0023217-A-17610

The Fundraising Committee is excited to focus on family events in 2026! These events should appeal to younger citizens, who will be Pelican Lake's future caretakers. We're planning to include more educational activities and fun events to encourage public participation.

The Conover Chain Skimmers have kindly agreed to return and perform during the Ski Show at Gerrits' Lakeview. We're also introducing a **Cardboard Regatta**, where competitors build their own watercraft from only cardboard and duct tape. A two-person team must race against other watercraft entries without sinking! We're encouraging themed entries from all ages.

Plus, Gary & Sherry are providing live music to wrap up the days activities! The Ski Show is PLA's summer kick-off event, and making it more inclusive and varied will give the community more time to work, play, and relax together. Please mark your calendars to attend, or contact us to help make it happen!

Keeping FUNraiser efforts strong is super important because it's our most publicly attended fundraiser of the entire year. The key to continued success is generating public attendance with exceptional entertainment, desirable raffle basket prizes, Lake Protection CASH raffle support, and securing financial sponsorship to offset event expenses. Funds generated by this committee help all other committees achieve goals and commitments. You, as a PLA member, may assist fundraising by asking for raffle donations or financial contributions from your own favorite provider of goods and services. The water quality of Pelican Lake has far reaching impacts far beyond her 16 miles of shoreline. Downstream residents & businesses, where many PLA members live and work full-time, benefit from PLA's environmental initiatives and the safe water reservoir system supply.

Membership Appreciation, while not a traditional fundraising event, still requires committee planning and a small budget with a break even goal. Marginal profit has been accomplished every year from this event keeping donations available for organizational goals set annually by membership! Thanks to all who make it happen!

PELICAN LAKE ASSOCIATION
Pelican Lake FUN Raiser! 2026
Saturday July 25, 2026
 @ the Pelican Lake Fire House & Ballfield
 737 Wausau St., Pelican Lake, WI
Noon - 8 p.m.
 Local Star Performances featuring.....

TRISTAN CARLSON & HOMEMADE BREW
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.




Family Games, Food, & Fantastic Raffle Prizes!
 Cornhole Tournament—details on Website

**Tax free donations help fund longterm sustaiment goals of Pelican Lake waters!
 Keep checking our Facebook and Website for updates!

Pelican Lake Association Wisconsin
 Pelicanlakeassociation.org

5th Annual PLA Membership Appreciation!

Food service begins 1 p.m.
 PLA will provide the Sandwich, chips and soda, free to membership.
 This is a public event, those who are not members, we ask for a nominal donation.
 Also, to all, please contribute one of your famous sides to share, thank you.
 Live Music is 2-6 p.m.

Two Guys that sound like 6!
COMSTOCK LODGE
COUNTRY BAND



Live Music
BOILING SPRINGS TAVERN
 Pelican Lake Association Membership Event
 479 County Rd. G Pelican Lake Wisconsin
Saturday August 15, 2026
2:00pm to 6:00pm

WWW.COMSTOCKLODECOUNTRYBAND.COM

Sponsored together by:

*Donations may be tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Raffle entries are not tax deductible. However, they do help the organization fund lake maintenance efforts that benefit the entire community. Support as much as you can. Tax Id Number: 90-0587454 Raffle Lic. #R0023217-A-17610



715-360-4135

Christopher Slaton

slatonchristopher@yahoo.com

1846 USH 8 MONICO

TREE WORK

FIREWOOD SALES

**Go to Guys
Tree Service**



Christian's Campground Inc.

Your Hosts
Mike & Tammi
Christian
Welcome You

Seasonal Sites, On ATV Trail
Shower House, Playground
1 mile from Public Landing

715-490-1900

472 Eagle Lake Rd. Pelican Lake, WI 54463

Leonards Towing & Recovery



Towing & Roadside Assistance

24 Hour Service

715-977-0185

Hwy 45 • Pelican Lake, WI 54463

ENTERPRISE STORAGE



Individual Storage Units 8' x 10' up to 12' x 28'

Call 715-499-5971

790 COUNTY G PELICAN LAKE, WI 54463



Sandwiches - Soup - Pizza

On the UTV & Snowmobile Trails

Follow us on

526 Cty G, Pelican Lake, WI 715-487-5554




Quality Work at a Price You Can Afford!

Tree & Shrub Trimming & Removal • Fertilizing
Lot & Driveway Clearing • Cabling • Crane Service
Emergency Storm Damage

Prompt Service-Free Estimates-Fully Insured

www.toddstiptop.com 715-282-5858

LAKESIDE MARKET

PHARMACY  GROCERY

536 5th Avenue - Antigo, WI 54409
715-623-2631

OFFERING PHARMACY, GROCERY, LIQUOR,
FRESH MEAT, PRODUCE AND DELI SERVICES

Open 7 days a week

For more information and store hours visit our website:
www.lakesidepharm.com

ELCHO BED & BATH
STAY WHERE YOU PLAY

ELCHO BED &
BATH

715-610-4612

N11263 ANTIGO ST. ELCHO, WI UPPER UNIT
cdbrayton5@gmail.com
ElchoBedBath.com

CONNIE BRAYTON
CUTS WITH C.L.A.S.S.

715-610-4612



LAKE COUNTRY REALTY

P.O. BOX 395

N11263 Antigo St. (HWY. 45)
ELCHO, WI 54428

715-275-5222

715-610-4612 (cell)

Specializing in Lake & Country Properties!

Connie Brayton, Broker/Owner

E-Mail: connie@Lake-Country-Realty.com



AJ's Lawn Care LLC

715-490-0234

Adam (AJ) Jacobs

Owner

ajgrassman@outlook.com
P.O. Box 433 Elcho WI 54428

Mowing Snow Plowing
Spring/Fall Clean-up

Licensed and Insured



Forth
Floral

Henning Hempel
Ruth Hempel

410 N. Brown Street
Rhineland, WI 54501

Phone: 715.362.7600
Toll Free: 800.382.4942
Email: hempel@charter.net
Web: www.forthfloral.com

Fischer's Meat Products Inc.

Wholesale & Retail Foods

Mon-Fri 8am-5pm - Sat 8am-Noon

N8760 Cty. Rd. B Deerbrook

715 623-6191

North Trail Store

Groceries - Meats - Liquor - Beer - Ice

HOMEMADE Smoked Sauages

Huge Gift Shop!

Lake Gifts & Shirts

715-275-3500

N11220 Dorr St., Elcho, WI 54428

TJS CUSTOMS



Banners
Vehicle Graphics
Signs

715-484-3162
715-219-2858

tjacustoms@hughes.net

Owner
Troy Schuster



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>

BOILING SPRINGS TAVERN

ALL YOU CAN EAT FRIDAY FISH FRY

SANDWICHES & PIZZA

Located on ATV & Snowmobile Trails

ROOMS FOR RENT

Tina & Jim Peerenboom: Owners
Phone: (715) 487 - 5534 **OPEN 11AM DAILY**
479 County Rd G Pelican Lake, WI 54463



Come Straight to the Movement Specialists
No referral needed

Free 15-minute Screens
Expert advice.
No cost. No pressure.

Health In Motion
Physical Therapy

Antigo	Crandon	Rhineland
715-623-2292	715-478-6168	715-365-5252

Offices also in Eagle River, Marshfield, Merrill, and Wausau



MEL'S!

TRADING POST

"Quality sporting goods for all seasons"

Kayaks—Clothing—Fishing—XC ski—SUPs—Bikes

715-362-5800 mels@newnorth.net

DOWNTOWN RHINELANDER, WISCONSIN



Koni K's Korner Pub

11214 Antigo St.
Elcho, WI 54428

FREE Pool

Serving Pizza and Air Fried Foods

Open Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 5pm - Close

715-275-8007 - 715-610-3799



Pelican Lake Campground

9 Water & Electricity Hookup Overnight Sites
91 Seasonal Full/Partial Hookup Sites
Playground, Game Room,
Shuffleboard, Water Access,
Event Weekends
& So Much More!

Call 715-487-4600



Birchfield Nurseries Inc.

"LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS SINCE 1950"

- Retail Nursery & Garden Center
- Landscape Construction & Maintenance

7799 Hwy. 8 West, Rhineland • 715-282-5213

www.birchfieldnurseries.com



Dettman's Auto Salvage

Used Parts

Tires

Auto Repair

715-275-3900

N11926 Hwy 45,
Pelican Lake, WI 54463



NEW OWNERS!

**FOR DRINKS, B.S. AND
GOOD TIMES**

717 HWY 45 PELICAN LAKE, WI



GERRITS' Gary & Sherri Gerrits LAKEVIEW INN

Open 7 days a week

Serving Daily & Nightly Specials

Gasoline • Accessible from Snowmobile & ATV Trails

715-487-5290

656 Country Road G Pelican Lake, WI 54463

NEW OWNERS!

**PELICAN LAKE
MOTEL**

**CLEAN SHEETS &
GOOD VIBES**

711 HWY 45 PELICAN LAKE, WI
715-581-4546 / PELICANLAKEMOTEL.COM
PELICANLAKEMOTEL@GMAIL.COM



Judy Mixis
Broker Associate

715.367.9670
jmixis@shorewest.com
shorewest.com

Big Decisions Done Better.
ShoreWEST

EHO

THANK YOU!
PROPERTY OWNERS

pelicanlakewi.org
715-330-4302

From
PELICAN LAKE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"The Home of the Muskie" We truly appreciate you supporting our chamber members!



HANSON'S GARDEN VILLAGE

1 Mile Past Nicolet College
2660 County Hwy G, Rhinelander
www.hansonsgardenvillage.com
715-365-2929

Like us on Facebook Instagram

GROWN HERE NOT FLOWN HERE!

LARGEST GARDEN CENTER IN THE AREA

Annuals, Planters & Hanging Baskets
Vegetables & Herbs
Perennials
Native Plants
Spring Bare Root
Trees & Shrubs
Unique Garden Decor
Fall Mums, Pumpkins & Décor
Annual Events & Fun Planting Classes

PEL-CHO MUDDNUTZ ATV/UTV CLUB

Serving Elcho
Pelican Lake
Rhinelander & Lake George

Join Today!

pelchomuddnutz@outlook.com
https://pelchomuddnutz.com



Builders Service
INCORPORATED



We are your one stop shop for quality materials and trusted contractors for your home project!

715-275-3700 – www.bsielcho.com – Elcho



Mecikalski Stovewood Museum
Circa 1899
"A Folk Architecture Museum"
Only Historic Commercial
Stovewood Construction Known in the US
Private/School tours available by appt.
Yearly Stovewood Daze celebration 1st Saturday in Aug.

Memorial Day - Sept 30 • Wed, Sat & Sun 12-4pm
For More Info: 715-490-5953 or 715-487-2026
County Road B East of Pelican Lake in Jennings

Currently seeking volunteers to act as docents and board members.






(715) 493-1336





ELLYSE
BROKER/ OWNER
Lowe



**DOCK & LIFT
INSTALLATION/REMOVAL**

Dock & Lift Sales & Repair - Barge Services
Re-Leveling - Boat Lift Transport
Storm Recovery - Fully Insured

www.pelicanpiers.com
Call: 715-628-0214



REW MOTORS INC.
N9705 US Hwy 45 Birnamwood
715-449-2524
N2960 US Hwy 45 Antigo
715-627-7127

Your hometown
Kubota dealer
of choice.



#1 SELLING
COMPACT
TRACTOR

BX2380, SIDEKICK, Z422

Unleash your land's potential.

Make the most of every acre with professional-grade mowers, fast, durable Sidekick utility vehicles and a versatile tractor lineup combined with service and support from a family owned and operated dealership.

Stop in to Rew Motors Inc. US Hwy 45 in Birnamwood and Antigo or visit
WWW.REWMOTORSINC.COM

Visit your Kubota dealer today for a demo!

KubotaUSA.com



*Based on EPA tractor sales data of under 40 horsepower models from 2018 to 2022. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2025. Your Kubota Limited warranty gives you specific legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state. Kubota Tractor Corporation does not authorize any person to create for KTC any obligation or liability other than that stated in the limited warranty. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the sale of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety and product and incentive offer information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the Owner's Warranty Information Guide for the Kubota limited warranty on all products. Visit KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers for more information.

THE
BOONDOCKS
BAR & GRILL

In the middle of nowhere...
On your way to somewhere

Open 10 a.m. 7 days a Week

Sandwiches, Homemade Pizza

Fish Fry, & Broasted Chicken

Eat In or Order to Go

Inquire about Parties/Banquets

CAMPGROUNDS with Hookups

2288 Hwy 45 S. Monico WI 54463

Find us on Facebook, "The Boondocks" for menu and events.

715-487-2031



REGI
RAPTOR EDUCATION GROUP, INC.
A non-profit organization

**A Wildlife Rehabilitation & Wildlife Conservation
Education Organization since 1990**



Raptor Education Group, Inc.



**N2160 W Rollwood Rd,
P.O. Box 481, Antigo WI**



(715) 623-4015



raptoreducationgroup@gmail.com



raptoreducationgroup.org/donate

JACK LAKE
SILENT SPORTS ASSOCIATION

**COME HIKE, BIKE, SKI, AND SNOWSHOE
WITH US AT JACK LAKE!**

MONDAY FUNDAY MOST WEEKS

CRAZY 8's RACE 6.6.26

TRAIL-WORK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Find more information via Jack Lake
Silent Sports Assoc.'s Facebook!

Adam's Mobile Marine Service

"No time for down time"

- Pontoons in & out
- Servicing all watercraft, snowmobiles & ATVs
- Fully Insured
- 24 Hour emergency service

715-219-1152

Becky & Adam Justman, Pickerel



Generator installation & repair
Residential electrical

ALEX JAROS

715-610-4414

715-275-3770

920-468-8882

hbsalexj@gmail.com



"A Local Company -
With You in Mind"

Commercial and Residential Work

SERVICING ALL OF YOUR CONCRETE NEEDS

715-623-6788

Moccasin Ski Trail

Located 2 miles West of Elcho, WI

*Year-round trails for skiing,
snowshoeing, hiking, biking
and horseback riding.*

Michelle's Lodge
located in parking lot

Visit us on Facebook:
Elcho X-C Ski Club, Inc.

Maintained by:
Elcho X-C Ski Club, Inc.
PO Box 291
Elcho, WI 54428



SUMMIT LAKE



GARAGE

715.275.3490

Austin Mischler
N10284 Hwy 45 Elcho WI

**THE BUS STOP
LLC.**

COFFEE SHOP



N10285 Hwy 45 Summit Lake WI
Megan Mischler



COMPLETE
TREE CARE

TREE REMOVAL - TREE PRUNING - TREE PLANTING
STUMP GRINDING - HAZARDOUS REMOVAL

CERTIFIED ARBORIST
DEGREE IN ARBORCULTURE

OWNER - OPERATOR
CELL 715-439-6960 / 715-369-0555

FULLY INSURED - FREE ESTIMATES

Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sat - Sun Closed

www.aspentreecare-wi.com aspen.treecare@yahoo.com



Buying, building, or refinancing?

If you join CoVantage, we can offer:

- A simple application process
- No application fees
- Local service
- Opportunity for Loan Interest Rebate
- Great Mortgage Rates

**Apply online or contact us for
your mortgage needs!**

800-398-2667 ext. 1130 • www.covantagecu.org
723 6th Ave., Antigo • N11333 Antigo St., Elcho



PB & J's Place

**Boat Docking on Pelican Lake
Snowmobile Accessible
Deck Seating
Come Enjoy our Amazing Sunsets**

**Daily Drink & Food Specials
Friday Fish Fry
Homemade Pizza
Karaoke & DJ Music - call for dates!**

**715-487-3083
885 US HWY 45
Pelican Lake WI 54463**

YOUR NORTHERN ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!



MOLE LAKE
CASINO • LODGE • EVENT CENTER

Welcomes You!



NORTHERN WISCONSIN'S 18+ CASINO!
PLAY RESPONSIBLY

1-800-236-WINN (9466) | MOLELAKECASINO.COM | 3084 STATE ROAD 55, CRANDON, WI 54520
EVENT CENTER: sales@molelake.com 715-478-3200 ext. 4154 LODGE: 1-877-478-5772

(715) 275 - DOCK



DVORAK
DOCK & LIFT

US Hwy 45
Elcho, WI 54428



FIRST WEBER
REALTORS®



Rae Zelazoski

Your Local Real Estate Professional

715-490-1163

RaeZelazoski.FirstWeber.com

zelazoskir@firstweber.com

Call Rae Rae Your Home Girl!



ELCHO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
N11291 DORR STREET, ELCHO
WORSHIP 10:30 A.M. SUNDAY

**No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

We sponsor:

Elcho Connect • Fun & Fit

Ageless Aerobics • AA

Women's Fellowship

Men's Club

Call for dates & time 715-275-3031

ELCHO COMMUNITY PAVILION
Highway 45, Elcho



**Community Dinners, Fish Frys, Music
in the Park, Other Community Events**

**The pavillion is available to rent for
weddings, parties, and other social events.**

Contact Bob Brautigam
715-401-0057



Pelican Lake Homeowners
SAVE \$25
on any service

Ask about our
Cottage Club



Frasier's

HEATING • COOLING • PLUMBING • ELECTRICAL

715.201.2335



Heating



Cooling



Plumbing



Electrical

www.Frasiers.com

Your family's lakeside getaway

PELICAN

— LAKESIDE RESORT —

BRING FAMILY TOGETHER

- 19 bedrooms, 4 full Baths
- Dining room that seats 50+
- Beautiful Lakeview
- Historic 1920's Hotel Bar



Book your family's next getaway today!

Phone: [715-907-2211](tel:715-907-2211)

Web: PelicanLakesideResort.com

NORTH PELICAN ENTERPRISES



**New Shipments
for 2026 !**



Get Your Hunting Blinds

Contact Kerry 715-581-3327

MUSKY MART



**GAS
BEER
24 Hr Pay at Pump**

**OIL
LIQUOR
ATM**

**FOOD
GROCERIES
Propane Fill**

715-487-4033

723 Hwy 45 Pelican Lake WI 54463



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.

2026 Newsletter Contributors

ARTICLES: Aquatic Plant Management, Jim Frymark, Leonard Guth III, Bob Mott, Ben Niffenegger, Suz Romsa, Alex Rossman, Ed Rueckl, Scott Sankey, Mary Schmitzer, Steve Tripp

SPONSORSHIP: Joy Herman

COORDINATOR: Steve Tripp

EDITOR: Lisa Welz

PRINTING: Press Express, Rhinelander



DISTRIBUTION: Acknowledgement to be given during the June 6th Meeting.

No copyright infringement is intended. We tried to give credit to all articles and images that were shared from original source.