



APRIL 2024  
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK  
*by Kerry Romsa*

The Pelican Lake Association had an excellent 2023! Our Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, June 3, where we had nominations and election of three new board members to our nine-member board of directors. Welcome aboard Scott Sankey, Dave Carriveau, and Brian Schell!

We had several fund raisers this past year, including our annual Waterski Show at Gerrits' Lakeview on Hwy G on July 8<sup>th</sup> and a very successful summer celebration on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Pelican Lake Fire Department and Ball Diamond. Wrapping up our summer fundraisers, we held a meat raffle at Roadside Pub on Hwy G on August 26<sup>th</sup> during Ribfest.

We honored all of our members with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Membership Appreciation on August 19<sup>th</sup> at Boiling Springs on Hwy G. We also presented framed lake maps to our donor families for their donations and renamed five of our crib reefs installed in the lake after those families. THANKS to the Suick Family, Mott Family, Rueckl Family, Joe Hiland Family, and the Miller Family! Their generosity has helped put a great finale to the fish crib habitat project.

As we head into 2024, we have the ongoing growth of Eurasian Milfoil in our lake. At the point when our Fall Survey was completed by Onterra, we had over 100 acres of dominant colonies primarily in Musky and Outlet Bays. With the guidance of Onterra and the Wisconsin DNR we will continue to make efforts to control and prevent further expansion of the Eurasian Milfoil.

We should complete our required 10-Year Lake Plan in 2024. It will outline and recommend management options for us to consider for the next ten years. We as a board do not take this issue lightly, but like many lake groups throughout our state, we are facing a lot of unknowns regarding Eurasian Milfoil.

Everyone, please enjoy the articles presented in the newsletter from our committee leads and others. Remember we have the strength in our membership to continue to allow us to grow and protect our most valuable resource – Pelican Lake.

I want to thank each and every member of the Pelican Lake Association for their financial and moral support in helping the association continue to be a leader in our community.

In addition, thanks again to all the volunteers, donors, and businesses that allow us to do what we do.

## Grateful Acknowledgments

Membership, please take the time to review the ads within this newsletter. Advertising fees are applied to the printing and postage of this newsletter. Whenever possible, support our local businesses. Many of them contribute to the community in various ways. *Thank you* to our steadfast advertisers and the new!

### Continued Support from Two Generous Donors

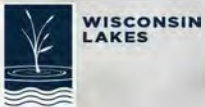
The **Suick Family Foundation**, graciously supports the organization by providing \$10,000 to assist with fish stocking, buoy replacement, and water quality efforts. Phase I of our 10-year Lake Plan was completed this year. In 2024, Phase II will wrap up the requirements needed to provide access to state and federal funding programs. The Suick Family Foundation provides a financial pillar to ensure business as usual takes place while we ensure our legal requirements are fulfilled.

Both Kerry Romsa and Todd VanLangen attended the **Sokaogon Chippewa Community Tribal Council's** donation ceremony. A \$5,000 check was presented by Chairman, Robert VanZile, Jr. The ceremony highlighted the importance of partnerships and working together for the benefit of our natural resources and how they affect regional economic development. We look forward to continued mutual support.

*To those who raise the bar assisting PLA activities, programs, and educational efforts:*

Aquatic Plant Management, Event Sponsor  
Boiling Springs, Event Sponsor  
Stephanie Boismenu, Oneida Co. Land & Water Conservation Dept.  
Dan Butkus, Association Guidance & Networking  
CoVantage Credit Union, Event Sponsor  
Enterprise Wood Products, Event Sponsor  
Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC, Event Sponsor  
Foley's Tree Service, Event Sponsor  
Jim Frymark, Adopt-a-Hwy Coordinator  
Gary & Sherri Gerrits, Gerrits' Lakeview Inn  
Jeff Griffey, Fish Committee - Events Coordinator  
Connie Guth, Event Logistics  
Peter Hansen, V.P. Operations WVIC  
Barb & Scott Krueger, PLA Storage Donation  
Nathan Lederman, Oneida Co. WDNR Biologist  
Musson Brothers, Inc, Event Sponsor

Wade & Patty Novak, Musky Mart  
Jim & Tina Peerenboom, Boiling Springs  
Wendy Peters, PLA Logo Apparel Grant  
Pitlik & Wick, Event Sponsor  
Mike Preul, Mole Lake Fisheries Director  
Beth Reinemann, Facebook  
RJB Hardwood Floors, Event Sponsor  
Brian Schell, Web Design  
Schulz Heating & Cooling, Event Sponsor  
Wayne Sparks, Pelican Lake Fire Chief  
Dave Thom, Roadside Pub  
Vernes Honda, Event Sponsor  
Walmart Foundation, Event Sponsor  
Sandy Wickman, DNR  
Randy Wiegert, Lee Distributing  
Zach Woiak, DNR



February 27, 2024

Wisconsin Lakes, the Extension Lakes Program at UW-Stevens Point, and the Department of Natural Resources, are delighted to inform Kerry Romsa, that he and Pelican Lake Association have **been selected as a Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award recipient in the Excellence in Building Partnerships category!**

Congratulations to Kerry and Pelican Lake Association as a whole on this well-deserved award!

## 2024 Events you don't want to miss!

|                      |   |                      |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>May 18, 2024</b>  | <b>Spring Adopt-A-Highway</b>   | <b>8:30 a.m.</b>     |
| <b>June 1, 2024</b>  | <b>Annual Membership Meeting</b><br>@ Pelican Lake Firehouse  | <b>10 a.m.</b>       |
| <b>July 6, 2024</b>  | <b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ski Show</b><br>@ Gerrits' Lakeview – Cty Rd G   | <b>1p.m.</b>         |
| <b>July 27, 2024</b> | <b>Pelican Lake “FUN” Raiser</b><br>@ Pelican Lake Fire House/Ballfield<br><i>An official stop of Roadside's Poker Run, same day!</i> | <b>Noon – 8 p.m.</b> |
| <b>Aug 17, 2024</b>  | <b>3rd Annual Membership Appreciation</b><br>@ Boiling Springs Bar – Cty Rd G   | <b>1 – 7 p.m.</b>    |
| <b>Aug 24, 2024</b>  | <b>PLAW Meat Raffle during Ribfest</b><br>@ Roadside Bar – Cty Rd G   | <b>1 – 5 p.m.</b>    |
| <b>TBD</b>           | <b>Fall Adopt-A-Highway</b>   |                      |

Stay up to date on PLA events, projects, and meetings by following:



**Pelican Lake Association Wisconsin**



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



# Pelican Lake Memories

## Pelican Lake Association's Early Years

By Norbert Huebsch

The first steps in forming a lake-wide association were taken at an informal meeting in the Schoepke Town Hall in the early summer of 1973. Two lake front property owners called the meeting to discuss the issue of rising property taxes. In the ensuing discussion it became apparent that attendees were also interested in broader issues, among them water quality, protection of the environment, boating safety, and zoning. Somebody suggested notes be taken, and I volunteered. Responding to the debate, Bob Croft, a Chicago Point resident, volunteered to serve as acting president. I remember the meeting vividly but haven't found any notes or minutes that I took.

In the weeks that followed, meetings were held primarily at Croft's cottage on Chicago Point to pick a name and write what would become the Articles of Association and Bylaws. This was a labor of love for all of us. Sadly, I have no documents that have the names of this hard core group. The organizational meeting took place on August 27, 1973, in the Enterprise Town Hall because we expected a large number of attendees. I remember it clearly. As acting secretary, I submitted minutes of the Schoepke meeting and they were approved. New business consumed the remaining time.

The name of our fledgling organization and the Articles of Association and Bylaws were presented, seconded, and approved by a voice vote from the floor. The names of those nominated to serve as officers and board members was presented, although attendees had an opportunity to nominate from the floor. Bob Croft was elected as the first president. I was secretary; however, do not have the names of others who were elected to serve.

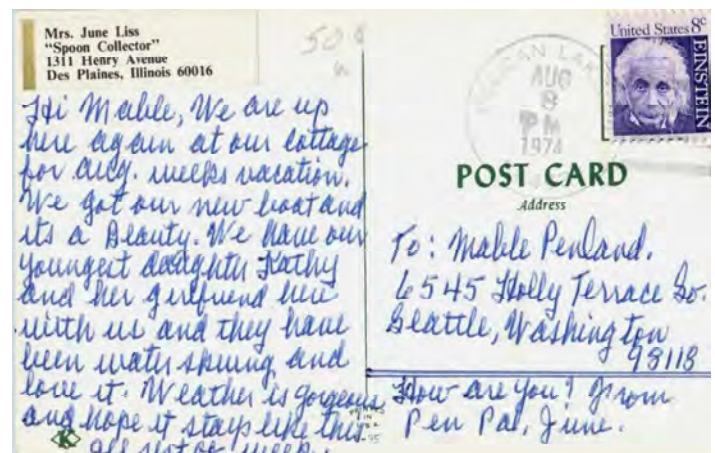
Shortly after this organizational meeting, my wife and I moved to Germany for one year to conduct my thesis research. I'm sure I passed what I had on to my successor. When we returned, I took over the secretary's job which I held for about four years before taking teaching positions in Maryland, Ohio, and Florida (independent high schools). I returned to Pelican Lake every summer but was never active in the Association again.

I have been working on a historical book of the area. The book, close to 350 pages, consists mostly of old and new photos. In every layout I have attempted to provide an historical focus—just the facts. Everything considered, I don't want text to get in the way of the pictorial history.

The PLPOA/PLAW layout consists of fourteen pages, evenly divided. It begins with a paragraph - thirteen or fourteen lines - providing basic information from above: just the facts, nothing about missing notes or minutes. The PLAW section begins with a photo of the board over an excellent open letter that Kerry wrote to the members. Most of the photos are of Summerfest and the first appreciation party for members.



4.





## Joyce Welz: The History Behind a Family Legacy

As told to Lisa Welz

Circa late 1950s-early 1960s: Early on, my parents always wanted to vacation at a housekeeping cottage because that was the trend. My father said if they ever went up north, he wanted one where they could cook and have privacy. They eventually rented cottages, and although they were advertised as furnished, something would be missing every time—knives, blankets, frying pans—so the next time, my mom would add to what she brought along. One day, she said, "I'm taking half of my house with me on vacation." So, dad said, "Why don't we look around and buy a place?"

They couldn't afford much, but my dad said he wanted to be on the water because he had a boat. Somebody had suggested Pelican Lake, and one of my father's friends said a realtor had his own plane and would fly you over the area to see what you would like. Then, he would land on the water, cruise up to the dock, and they would walk around to see if they liked it. The first time at Pelican Lake, they met a guy with a hunting and fishing lodge named Frick's Maple Beach Resort that was owned by an insurance company that would send their personnel to this lodge. They had five cottages, three on one side and two on the other. They originally had six, but one had burned.

As camping became increasingly popular, business fell off. The company decided to sell the lodge because it was not being used, and they were losing money. So, John Sadowski bought it and decided to sell off the surrounding cottages.

My dad walked into the cottage, and the first thing he saw was a deer lamp and that sealed the deal. He fell in love with that deer lamp, which we still have today. So, they bought the cottage. John agreed to let my parents use the plumbing and electricity connected to the lodge for one year if they bought it. After that, they would have to make other arrangements. It was the closest one to the lodge, almost on the lot line, which they didn't consider a disadvantage because John wasn't using the lodge.

Later, John decided to run a boy's summer camp. His wife said he bought new mattresses for the lodge and canoes for the summer camp and hired several boys from the University of Wisconsin-Madison to be counselors. Well, about four boys signed up for the season, and one by one, they left. They didn't like it because there wasn't enough to do. John had thought he could get them to do landscaping. But that was labor, not fun and games, which is what they were expecting. After the boys left, they decided to open up a bar. On Saturday nights, the new jukebox was playing, drunks were hollering back and forth, and we were right there for it all. I thought, if this was my place, the first thing I'd do is sell it.

After that, the lodge was turned into an antique shop that eventually failed. Strapped for cash, John sold the cottages on the other side to Gene DeBruin. The lodge stayed empty until it caught fire and burned to the ground. Karl and Carol Kapke purchased the land and the rubble that remained. A few years later, Max and I tore down the cottage with help from the kids and built a home that could be enjoyed all year round. Our family legacy began to take shape and, today, our children and grandchildren continue to make memories at Pelican Lake.

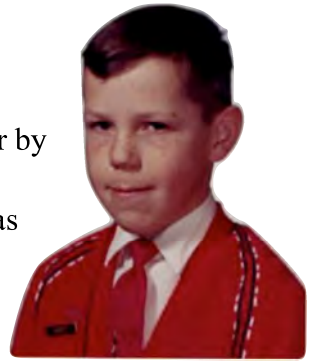


# *Pelican Lake Memories Continued.....*

## **A Century of Memories on the Shores of Pelican Lake**

By Suz Romsa

Scott Krueger was born in 1952 and has lived in the Pelican Lake area his entire life. The corner by Scott and his wife, Barb's, current residence (corner of Hwy G and Hwy Q) has been in Scott's family for over 100 years. His grandparents owned the Enterprise grocery store that also had gas pumps and a unique feature—a beer bar. Scott and his family lived across the street. However, in 1955, his parents bought the business, so his family moved to the residence that was attached the business, and his grandparents moved to the house across the street.



When Scott was growing up, Pelican Lake was home to more resorts than private residences. The resorts' rentals began a new cycle every Saturday, so the grocery store was bustling on Saturday afternoons as new arrivals stocked up on supplies for their vacation. Scott's mom spent many hours at the grocery store, so he spent lots of time with his grandparents.

A memory of Scott's from each season:

Spring – When the ice was getting ready to go out, Scott's family and neighbors did a lot of fishing in Musky Bay for perch. When his dad drove the car onto the lake, he made sure the kids opened the car doors in case the car broke through the ice. Scott also remembers pushing an aluminum rowboat out onto the ice so if they broke through the ice, they could climb into the boat. Often, they would have to float the boat to the ice, push it up onto it, and then drag it to where they wanted to fish.

Summer – When the fishing season opened, the family would borrow the neighbor's boat or rent one from Whispering Pines Resort. However, they didn't fish as much in the summer as in the spring. When Scott did fish, he could catch his limit of walleye in no time. Scott spent much of his summer swimming and helping the neighbors bail hay since there were about 25 farms in his neighborhood.

Fall – Fall meant hunting when Scott turned age 12! Whether it was ducks, deer, or something else. For those of you who know Scott and Barb, you know they still love to hunt.

Winter – Since South Shore Road only had two permanent residences when Scott was a kid, the neighborhood kids would get together and sled from the stop sign at South Shore Drive and County G, all the way to Indian Point Road if it was really icy.

In Scott's 71 years, Pelican Lake has changed dramatically, with more private residences than resorts, the number of people living in the area, and the types of boats and recreational vehicles. Imagine--in the 1960s, a 25 hp motor was huge!



**Pelican Lake, oh tranquil view,  
in Wisconsin's heart, a soul's rescue.  
The water calm, a mirror's hue,  
reflecting skies of cerulean blue.**

**Springtime frogs croak in harmony,  
nature's chorus sung with glee.  
Majestic Eagles, with wings so wide,  
gliding above, in graceful stride.**

**Kayaks cut the summer lake,  
leave trails of memories in their wake.  
Adventurers seek, with skiing thrills,  
fulfillment only nature wills.**

**Autumn sunset's paint warm swaths,  
as fish beneath in cribs do froth.  
Pontoon wakes throw refreshing spray,  
final days on sand beach we play.**

**In winter's grasp, the lake stands still,  
a glassy sheet, a frosty chill.  
Snow-laden trees, a white embrace,  
deer frolicking with such grace.**

**Pelican Lake, through seasons' turn,  
your beauty makes the spirit yearn.  
In Wisconsin's arms, our home so fine,  
a gem amidst the fragrant pine.**



*Aurora Borealis Image courtesy Brian Schell*



## **Bylaws—A Helpful Tool:**

By Taz Kraetsch

It is in the best interest of the whole organization for Pelican Lake Association members to acquaint themselves with our bylaws. Our bylaws include the purpose of our association and establish the rules that govern our board and members. They also include the purpose of each of our standing committees.

Much hard work went into establishing the core concepts of this organization over 50 years ago. Then, about 35 years later, the smart decision was made to obtain nonprofit status—something we must be diligent to protect.

Knowing what we should do, are allowed to do, and restricted from doing ensures we all stay on track towards beneficial goals. If you are unclear about what we can or cannot do, AFTER you've reviewed them yourself, please reach out to your by-laws committee or board member. Current bylaws are maintained on the Association website.

## **Membership Committee:**

By Suz Romsa

I am happy to say that between March 2023 and December 31, 2023, we have had 39 new members join the association. With that addition, we now have 396 active members as we start 2024.

This increase in membership is a result of recruiting activities at our various events throughout the year, word of mouth, and several new members who decided to join when it was mentioned in the Pelican Lake Stakeholder Survey.

The more people who join the association and get involved, the easier it is to help make Pelican Lake a better place.

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrew*

## **New Membership Directory in 2025**

In anticipation of the upcoming 2025 directory, our team is already laying the groundwork to compile a comprehensive directory of lake association members. This initiative is designed to foster a sense of community and connectivity among our members, offering an invaluable resource for networking and collaboration.

As you prepare to renew your membership for 2024, we ask you to pay close attention to the section regarding your participation in the directory. If, for any reason, you prefer not to have your personal information featured in the directory, please make sure you mark this clearly on your form.

We are committed to respecting your privacy preferences while simultaneously providing a useful and accurate directory for membership to use.

Take the extra minute when you see a new member, to thank them for supporting PLA.  
Maybe invite them to join you in a wholesome activity. Help strengthen your community.



### **New Members from March 2023 thru December 31, 2023**

***Michael Andrzczyzak***

***Leif and Vickie Christianson***

***Woods and Jill Dreyfus***

***Leif Erickson***

***Jordan and Brittnie Felmer***

***Paul Fowler***

***Scott Gierhahn***

***Debbie Giles***

***Michael Goeden***

***Harv and Anne Gross***

***Phil Grubisic***

***Derek and Ashley Hawley***

***Randy Heise***

***Amy and Steve Henselin***

***Dave and Judy Hill***

***Gerard Janikowski***

***Dan Julie***

***Zachary Luther***

***Debbie McCloy***

***Dave Nichols***

***Kevin Peiffer***

***Pelican Lake Campground***

***Karen Perlewitz & Kathy Muench***

***Tom Perock***

***Alice Piehl***

***Alex Rossman***

***Ann Sanders***

***Julie Shelley***

***Frank Stasik***

***James Swiecichowski***

***Mark Tomchek***

***Steven Tripp***

***Tim and Mary Wallenfang***

***Geoff and Laurie Wein***

***Gary and Mary Werner***

***Paul Zangl***



## Financial Review Committee:

By Ed Rueckl

The committee will perform a financial review of the 2023 financial statements. A qualification to serve on this committee is to be independent of the management of the Association. Committee members are Sherry Aulik, Peg Broker and Ed Rueckl. We qualify because we are not members of the Board of Directors, nor of the Financial Committee. The review will consist of interviewing management regarding the policies, procedures and internal controls used for financial reporting purposes. A random sampling of transactions will be reviewed, selected income and expense accounts will be analytically reviewed, and 2022 and 2023 income and expenses will be compared. The 2023 Financial Review report will be presented at the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting.

## Finance Committee:

By Kelly Kraetsch

In 2023, the Pelican Lake Association went to QuickBooks online for its financial record keeping. All reports are now generated directly from this program. This past year we also incorporated our budget into QuickBooks. We have completed our first ever budgeted cycle, and are happy to have a new actual vs budgeted report to share with you. Overall, all Committees knocked it out of the park! The report represents the commitment of all committees to forecast their spending and remain within the membership approved budget though the year.

Many of our committee members work tirelessly and quietly to ensure the Pelican Lake Association accomplishes its mission. One of those is **Joy Herman**. I would like to acknowledge the many hours Joy has spent over the years, creating custom reports for meetings, something most members would never see in action. Please thank her when you happen to see her. She continues to be a key member of our organization. It is also important to thank **Beth and Rick Steiner**. They have provided the Finance Committee with crucial accounting guidance and financial/legal knowledge. Please thank them for keeping your inexperienced treasurer on the straight and narrow. It is no easy task!

**Pat Schenk** is also on the Finance Committee and gives us valuable input thanks to her professional fundraising and financial expertise. Although separate from the Finance Committee, the **Review Committee** also offered constructive input after their review process. Altogether, this resulted in better record-keeping and reporting procedures that either reinforced changes we had already made or highlighted a few things we needed to fine tune. Much of this organization's active work could not be accomplished without the essential financial support **Bob Mott** accomplishes with his tireless efforts as Chair of the Grant Committee! His ability to articulate competitively the scope of our needs to effectively secure limited federal and state funds, year after year, is crucial to our budget. Grants secured in 2023 assisted with ILIDS, CBCW and updating the legally required 10-year Lake Plan.

It is quite apparent that Pelican Lake Association would not be here as reinvigorated and active as it is today without **Kerry and Suz Romsa**. They actively participate on this Committee, as well as every committee the Association has created. At times they serve as the only point of contact for a few programs. They give their all to every aspect of the Association. Take the time to thank them, or ask if there is something they could use some help with. Together, we make all things better.

Finally and most importantly, THANK YOU, **Membership!** Provided now, the financial result of membership's hard work and generous donations: the Financial Overview Report for 2023!



# Pelican Lake Association WI

## Budget vs. Actuals: FY\_2023 - FY23 P&L

January - December 2023

|   | TOTAL               |                     |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
|   | ACTUAL              | BUDGET              |
| Revenue                                 |                     |                     |
| 4100 *PLA General                       | 14,912.26           | 8,500.00            |
| 4110 * PLA Water Quality                | 71,042.63           | 54,400.00           |
| 4120 * PLA Fundraising/Marketing        | 49,861.71           | 38,260.00           |
| 4130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife                 | 11,235.00           | 11,000.00           |
| 4150 *PLA Boating Safety                | 1,915.00            | 1,000.00            |
| 4160 *PLA Land Use                      |                     | 1,500.00            |
| 4170 *PLA Education                     | 3,180.00            | 3,500.00            |
| 4615 Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW)      |                     | 1,500.00            |
| 4901 Interest on Checking               | 30.77               | 0.00                |
| 4902 Savings Dividends                  | 124.60              | 0.00                |
| 4903 Certificate Dividends              | 3,061.98            | 1,000.00            |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                    | <b>\$155,363.95</b> | <b>\$120,660.00</b> |
| GROSS PROFIT                            | <b>\$155,363.95</b> | <b>\$120,660.00</b> |
| Expenditures                            |                     |                     |
| 5100 *PLA General Expenses              | 6,994.41            | 8,100.00            |
| 5110 *PLA Water Quality Expense         | 80,910.49           | 85,040.00           |
| 5120 *PLA Fundraising/Marketing Expense | 20,986.11           | 16,060.00           |
| 5130 *PLA Fish/Wildlife Expense         | 1,347.97            | 500.00              |
| 5150 *PLA Boating Safety Expenses       | 2,479.00            | 3,000.00            |
| 5160 *PLA Land Use Expenses             |                     |                     |
| 5170 *PLA Education Expenses            | 3,732.64            | 4,700.00            |
| 5640 Shoreline Garden Project           |                     | 1,500.00            |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>               | <b>\$116,700.62</b> | <b>\$118,900.00</b> |
| NET OPERATING REVENUE                   | <b>\$38,663.33</b>  | <b>\$1,760.00</b>   |
| NET REVENUE                             | <b>\$38,663.33</b>  | <b>\$1,760.00</b>   |

# Pelican Lake Association WI

## Statement of Financial Position Detail

As of February 26, 2024

| DATE                                | TRANSACTION TYPE | NAME | MEMO/DESCRIPTION | BALANCE             |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                       |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Cert of Deposits                    |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Beginning Balance                   |                  |      |                  | 112,610.15          |
| CoVantage Checking Account          |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Beginning Balance                   |                  |      |                  | 16,439.54           |
| Savings                             |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Beginning Balance                   |                  |      |                  | 8,002.48            |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                 |                  |      |                  | <b>\$137,052.17</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>       |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Equity                              |                  |      |                  |                     |
| 3010 Unrestricted Funds             |                  |      |                  |                     |
| 3020 Restricted Funds               |                  |      |                  |                     |
| 3023 Buoy Maintenance               |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Beginning Balance                   |                  |      |                  | 422.05              |
| 3025 Fish                           |                  |      |                  |                     |
| Beginning Balance                   |                  |      |                  | 1,441.60            |
| <b>Retained Earnings</b>            |                  |      |                  | <b>\$139,068.31</b> |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                  |                  |      |                  | <b>\$7,362.70</b>   |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                 |                  |      |                  | <b>\$137,052.17</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b> |                  |      |                  | <b>\$137,052.17</b> |

## Fish/Wildlife Committee:

Lake Association Members,

As it was in 2022, 2023 was a very productive year as we wrapped up our Fish Crib Habitat Reef Project. I would like to thank everyone involved with this project from construction to installation of each crib and the families that have donated funds to memorialize each Reef in their families' name. I do plan to take short videos of each crib reef each spring when the water is clear to show how the cribs are holding up along with the amount of fish that use them. Videos will be uploaded to the lake association's website.

We started a Muskie tag reader program, (Summer 2023) and hope to have some information to post soon. If not, it will be sent out by email. This is a coordinated program with the Pelican Lake Muskie League, the Pelican Lake Association, and the Wisconsin DNR. This data will help us all monitor the Muskie population in the lake.

As a reminder--in early Spring, 2024, just after ice out, the DNR will be conducting their lake survey of all fish species using fyke netting. This is your chance to get up close and personal by helping work the nets or to just watch and take photos of the operation itself. I highly recommend we all set time aside to see this in person. It will take 5-6 days, so everyone can find time to fit it into their schedule.



*Example Images of WIDNR Electroshocking*

The Mole Lake Fishery Tour that was held in September was outstanding. The information and facility that Mike Pruel has is second to none. We had a decent group of people attend, and some new faces, but I would like to see this grow into a group of 40-50 people. I do understand this took place during the week; however, what you get with a once-in-a-lifetime viewing and direct conversations with the people who know Walleyes is well worth a day off work or using some of that PTO. We hope to plan a get together with Mike from Mole Lake every other year in September.

Have you been wondering how the fishing was in 2023? Overall, I heard good to great reports of both Walleye and Perch catches. The Walleye bite started early in Spring and seemed to hold strong throughout Summer. Perch started in late Spring and improved all Summer to a great bite in mid-August. Muskie this year took a bit to get going, but if I'm not mistaken, the Muskie League caught a 48 - 49" fish which is incredible!!

As always, if you have Ideas or concerns to help us and our lake, please feel free to attend the Fish Committee Meetings or send your thoughts through the Lake Association Website. With the growing involvement, it's become difficult for me to personally text or call everyone individually as projects and meetings come up. Please check your e-mail for notices.

Thanks much,

Jeff Griffey  
Vice Chair Fish Committee  
Pelican Lake Association

## Crib Project Complete

As many of you are aware, with the help of many volunteers and vendors, 40 wooden fish cribs were placed in Pelican Lake during the Summers of 2021 and 2022. This was a very successful project.

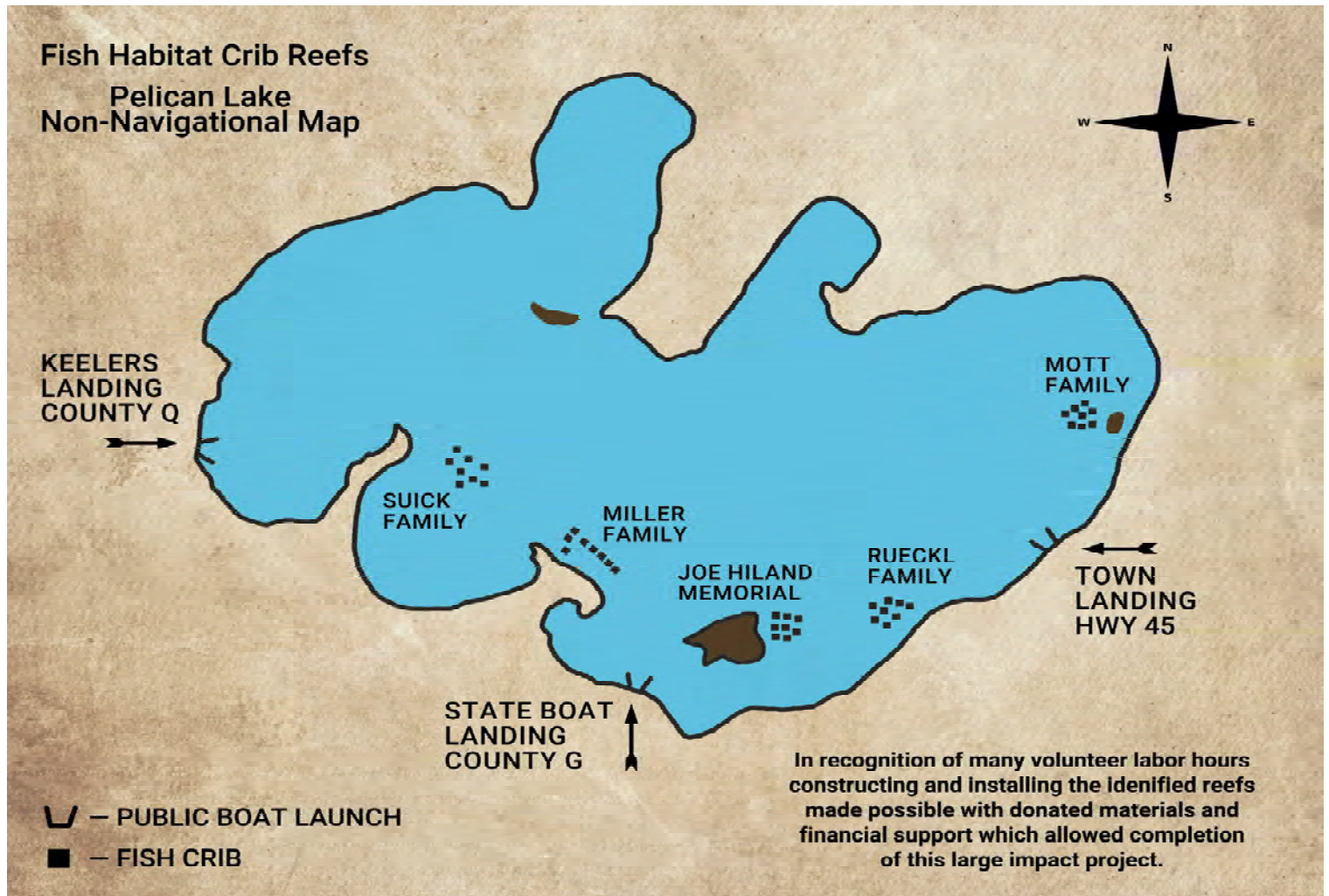
The project was completed on August 19, 2023, at our Membership Appreciation Event at Boiling Springs on Hwy G. We presented five framed and matted non-navigational crib maps to our five Donor Families, raising over \$10,000.

The Donor Families were awarded naming rights of each crib reef in honor of their family, The five families are: The Suick Family, The Mott Family, The Rueckl Family, The Joe Hiland Family, and The Miller Family.



*Gladys Miller at presentation ceremony*

THANK YOU for your generous donations! The Association will use these monies to preserve and protect our precious Pelican Lake. Thanks again to everyone that was involved in making this a successful project.



Unframed maps are available for those interested. Reach out to Kerry Romsa at 715-581-3327.  
(12" x 16" = \$18, 18" x 24" = \$25)



Water Committee:  
By Bob Mott

When it comes to the Water Committee, there were three highlights for 2023, with the first being the installation of another I-LIDS camera at the town landing near the Musky Mart. A grant was awarded by the Department of Natural Resources that covered 75% of the cost.

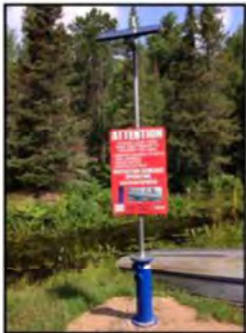
There is another I-LIDS camera operating at the state landing off County Highway G. The camera takes a video of watercraft entering and leaving Pelican Lake. Reminders are announced that ask boaters to remove any aquatic vegetation and to empty live wells to prevent introducing aquatic invasive species (AIS) into Pelican Lake or carrying invasives to other water bodies.

All videos are reviewed to see if there are any weeds being introduced or carried out. Videos showing possible violations are reviewed again and then referred to the Pelican Lake Association (PLA). If the PLA confirms that there is enough to follow up, the sheriff’s department is involved, and they then contact the owner of the watercraft. This year there was one citation issued.

The advantage of the cameras is that they operate all day every day, unlike the paid monitors who operate on weekends and holidays. The PLA thanks the Oneida County Sheriff’s Department for supporting the effort to reduce the transport of invasive species. Please check your trailers before entering or leaving the lake.

ILIDS Summary Report 2023

|                           | <u>Town of Schoepke</u> | <u>State Landing</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Date Installed:           | 6/8/23                  | 6//7/23              |
| Date Un-installed:        | 10/4/23                 | 10/5/23              |
| Videos Captured:          | 1903                    | 9542                 |
| Videos Reviewed by ESP:   | 1845                    | 5003                 |
| Launches Counted:         | 154                     | 861                  |
| % of boat launch videos:  | 8%                      | 17%                  |
| Suspect AIS Violations:   | 0                       | 3                    |
| Hours of Operation:       | 5 am - 11 pm            | 5 am - Midnight      |
| Total Hrs Inspection Time | 2142                    | 2261                 |



**Town of Schoepke Observations:** People are curious about and aware of the camera, with many stopping to look, listen, and read the accompanying sign. One person is seen on-camera checking/cleaning then pointing at the camera. No inspectors are visible at this launch. Very few out-of-state boats are noted. Excessive videos occur due to high wind at times.

**Recommendations:** None at this time.

**State Boat Landing Observations:** People are curious about and aware of the camera, with many stopping to look, listen, and read the accompanying sign. Boaters are often seen on-camera checking, cleaning, and draining. Inspectors are often visible and very active, talking to owners and checking boats before launches and after retrievals. Quite a few out-of-state boats are noted. Excessive videos occur at times due to foot traffic, wind, and sun.

**Recommendations:** Please trim grass around the system on a weekly basis to prevent false positives.

The second area was the money that the PLA invested in the lake to try to control Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM.) EWM was addressed largely in Outlet Bay where the colonies are large and growing. Using maps developed by our consultant, Onterra from De Pere, Aquatic Plant Management (APM) of Minocqua used the hand harvesting method called DASH where a diver hand pulls the weed and uses a suction tube to transport the EWM to the surface. It is bagged and the weeds disposed of in the landfill.

Both Outlet and Musky bays have dominant colonies of EWM. In the opinion of Eddie Heath of Onterra, DASH will not be effective in reducing these large, dense colonies. DASH is more effective in scattered plants or nuisance areas near docks. The other area of treatment is mechanical harvesting where paths were cut in Musky Bay to provide navigation areas from Keelers Landing. Mechanical harvesting is like cutting your lawn or giving the weeds a haircut. After a period of time, it has to be done again. This allows better navigation in areas of dense weed growth.



*Image of APM on Musky 2023*

For 2024, the Board of Directors is suggesting an increase in the use of mechanical harvesting and DASH, up to \$40,000 total. DASH will be used in areas that are showing scattered EWM growth in order to minimize its spread. The cost will all fall on the PLA as the proposed grant was not accepted by the DNR due to the Pelican Lake Management Plan being incomplete. The plan will be completed in 2024 and grant applications will be made for 2025.

The third highlight is the 2023-2024 Lake Management Plan (LMP) being conducted by Onterra LLC. This year there was a great deal of data gathered all over Pelican Lake—looking at aquatic vegetation, water quality, shoreline development, wildlife, fisheries, water chemistry, and other areas to update the plan last completed in 2013. Using the data discovered, a plan to address concerns will be developed and Onterra, along with the DNR, will suggest ways to move forward in an informed manner.

This process sets up a map to follow for the upcoming decade with a flexible approach as conditions change. Once the plan is completed, it is shared with the public, the membership, and the DNR. The plan allows the PLA to apply for a wide range of cost sharing grants from the DNR.

One of the most valuable parts of the LMP is a survey sent to 583 Pelican Lake stakeholders with 302 being returned. The 52% return rate is considered very good for such a large-scale survey. The draft form is out now (Dec. 23) and will be released when the material in the survey is fully analyzed. There are 45 questions in the wide-ranging survey along with all comments that were made included. The information will be used for the PLA to make decisions on managing Pelican Lake.



## Water Quality Committee Continued:

### Water Levels and Dam Management

By Taz Kraetsch

As you may or may not be aware, our lake water level impacts the lake's water temperature, clarity, algae blooms, fish spawning grounds, and aquatic plant growth, as well as watercraft and snowmobile safety.

Our lake water level has experienced some extreme and concerning lows in recent years. Because of this, we reached out to the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), the company who regulates the gates on the dam, to voice our concern.

WVIC's water level management practices are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) via a FERC license. This license is reviewed and coordinated by an extensive list of organizations to include the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource (WDNR), and the Towns of Schoepke and Enterprise, as well as the Pelican Lake Association (PLA).

The FERC license operations procedures are reactive vs. proactive, and requires one gate to be open 1" at all times. Since PLA established a cooperative and transparent dialogue with WVIC they have done an excellent job in maintaining current water level requirements within the scope of the FERC license.

It is the regulatory guidance in the license that needs addressing. As of the drafting of this article, we have the following requests in with WVIC:

1) Adjust procedures for managing the water level. Reduce the gate opening from 1" to 1/4" to keep a minimum water flow into the Pelican River while simultaneously preserving the water level in Pelican Lake. Our preference is to incrementally decrease the gate opening prior to reaching the season minimum water level.

For example:

- When water level is within 4" of the minimum level, reduce the gate opening to 3/4"
- When water level is within 2" of the minimum level, reduce the gate opening to 1/2"
- When water level is within 1" of the minimum level, reduce the gate opening to 1/4"

2) Revalidate and adjust seasonal maximum/minimum water levels. Considering climate change and knowing the maximum/minimum levels for South Pelican were established over 100 years ago, revalidation of the FERC maximum/minimum levels for both summer and winter is warranted.

The recommended approach is to increase the maximum and minimum seasonal levels incrementally (by 1 or 2 inches) then assess any impacts and repeat the process again the following year. The assumption is that seasonal maximum levels will not be increased beyond 3-4 inches.

This will be a long-term effort. We did request an out of cycle review and license update to address our concerns. However, the next FERC license review and update is currently scheduled for 2026. For more information on WVIC, please visit [www.wvic.com](http://www.wvic.com).





2023 Clean Boat Clean Water  
By Suz Romsa

Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) is a very important part of our lake protection plan to keep invasive species from entering or leaving our lake. We have employees at the boat landings to educate watercraft owners in regard to invasive species, and to help teach them how to inspect their boats upon arrival and departure from the lake. They work in combination with our I-Lids systems to enforce and educate boaters of AIS protocols.

Our CBCW Employees and Volunteers for 2023 were:  
Wyatt Dickman, Lisa Erdman, Joseph Julie, Xander Lenzner, Perry Miller,  
David Nichols, Suz Romsa, Mary Schmitzer, and Dylan Vanderbunt.

Due to their dedication we were able to educate over 2,500 boaters about AIS! Great Job!  
If you would be interested in this important duty, please contact us through FB or the Website.

| Landing                                 | Boats Inspected 2023 |
|---|----------------------|
| Pelican Lake -- Musky Mart/Hwy 45       | 11                   |
| Pelican Lake -- Keelers Landing - Cth Q | 746                  |
| Pelican Lake -- State landing at Cth G  | 1930                 |

Landing Inspection Data retrieved from: <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/WatercraftSummary>

Be More Informed: Do Your Research, Share What You Learn  
By Bob Mott

We get it. Your biggest concern when hanging out at the lake can be applying sunscreen, having enough beverages on hand, and deciding what to cook for dinner. We’re asking you to add one more—to take a few minutes and learn about the biggest concern the Pelican Lake Association has→ Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM).

Why? EWM is an invasive weed that clogs waterway, hinders navigation, crowds out native weeds, and can become so dense that sunlight can’t penetrate, and the ecology of the lake is disrupted. In short, it can kill off the fish that so many of us and you enjoy fishing for.

Please look at the following sites (and others) to find information on EWM so you can become an informed PLA member and share what you find with your family and friends. There is a wide range of information regarding EWM – growth, life information, control methods, etc. At this time, the only method known in Wisconsin to eliminate EWM for any period of time is herbicide use and even that is short term. The plant often returns in 3-4 years.

Here are some sites where you will find interesting and relevant information:

- Eurasian Watermilfoil – New York Invasive Species
- Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) – look at EWM control options
- North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA)
- USDA- National Invasive Species Information Center – refine research : Eurasian watermilfoil
- Eurasian watermilfoil control: chemical herbicides – systemic herbicides
- Clean-Flo.com
- SIS.bio. This is a different approach to attacking invasive weeds from what the PLA has used in the past.

These are just a few sites, please research these and share others that you find. We are interested in your feedback.

## Boating Safety and Buoy Committee:

By Jim Frymark

I'm pleased to provide the following highlights from the Boating Safety and Buoy Committee:

- A Boating Safety Exhibit/Table was incorporated into the offerings at the Association's Annual Summerfest. We ensured that informational materials addressing boating safety as well as regulations and registration requirements for boats was available at no charge. The materials were provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Additional items on hand that day included a sample bundle of items that boaters should have on their boats and was provided as a raffle item. The bundle was packaged by the Pelican Lake Association and its costs were recouped through the sale of raffle tickets.
- The Committee encourages the membership to share any concerns you may have regarding boating safety along with suggestions on how to address those concerns. Your concerns will help us to develop an agenda for the Committee's 2024 work plan.
- Not to be overlooked are the safety concerns of kayakers, paddle boarders, other "man-powered" watercraft, and swimmers. Regarding swimmers, water depth varies, and in shallow shoreline areas, swimmers are often further out from shore than may be expected. Boaters towing skiers or tubers should pay close attention when bringing them back to the dock. Please consider going straight out from your dock when on a jet ski or towing. At a minimum, the Committee strongly advises all boaters and non-motorized watercraft to review boating and water safety requirements and guidelines by reviewing information made available by the DNR on its website. A starting point is the following link: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Boat/safety>

### BUOY DONATIONS

-2023-

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Stuart and Brenda Spaude

#### In memory of:

Bub Hayes  
Dave Servi

## IDENTIFYING WATERWAY MARKERS BOATING IN WISCONSIN

There are two main types of waterway markers designed to assist boaters in navigation and accident prevention. "Regulatory buoys" are designed to identify areas with speed limits or where boats are not allowed. "Navigation aids" are designed to identify lanes of navigation or "channels." It is important that boaters be familiar with each of these buoy types and the message each one conveys.

For safety reasons, except for an approved mooring buoy, no person may moor or fasten any vessel to a regulatory buoy or aid to navigation. It is unlawful for unauthorized people to move, remove, molest, tamper with, destroy or attempt to destroy any waterway marker.

All regulatory buoys are white with a single orange band at the top and bottom of the exposed buoy. The control symbol is spaced between these bands and is also orange in color. Any wording or message will be in black letters.



Information from: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Topic/Boat/WaterwayMarkers>. Check it out, for more buoy information.

## Land Use Committee:

By Todd VanLangen

I hope everyone had a great year in 2023, enjoying all that the Pelican Lake area has to offer. Now, we can look forward to the upcoming year and all the anticipated memories that we can create in the beautiful Northwoods.



*Pictured from L-R: Todd VanLangen, Roxane Sankey, Bob Mott, John Hefty*

The Land Use Committee has several projects that we will be working on in 2024. We are going to continue working on improving the **Shoreland Restoration Garden** at Schoepke Town Hall. Last year, with the guidance of the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Department and local plant expert, Lori Regni, we identified invasive plants that were growing in the garden. Together with a group of volunteers, we spent the day removing invasive plants, pruning several shrubs and trees, and transplanting native plants into different parts of the garden. A large brush pile was removed from near the shoreline of the lake. The trail going through the garden leading to the lake was cleaned up and made easier to navigate. This year, we will be pulling any invasive species that come back, continue to transplant native plants in different areas of the garden, and improve the trail going through the garden down to the lake. We also want to place informational brochures on shoreland restoration on the sign by the garden that describes the original project. We will be planning a couple of workdays to continue improving the garden and will be looking for volunteers to help.



Please also mark your calendars for the Spring and Fall **Adopt-A-Highway program**. We are happy to continue this important program. Jim Frymark is our lead in this projects success. He is currently working on getting the signage along our assigned areas updated. Reminders for both events will be shared through all media outlets as time gets closer.



We would also like to construct an **information board** this year at the Town of Schoepke Boat Landing, similar to the boards at Keeler's and the State Landing. These boards provide information to lake users that can help to keep the lake healthy and safe for all users, and also provide important information to those who will be fishing and boating. We will be seeking volunteers to help construct the board, so if you have any construction skills, carpentry, or cement experience, we may be asking for your help.





## Public Relations/Marketing/Fundraising:

By Kelly Kraetsch

2023 was a record year for the Public Relations and Fundraising Committee. The **Ski Show** at Gerrit's Lakeview Inn kicked off the fundraising efforts for 2023. Unfortunately, presale of raffle tickets did not meet expectations. Sales of raffle tickets is an instrumental part of fundraising efforts. It not only pays for the prizes, food, entertainment, and incidental fees required, but the additional monies generated goes right back into maintenance and other projects that benefit everyone. With this in mind, please purchase very reasonably priced tickets for any of 2024's events.

After the Ski Show, we moved rapidly into **Summerfest**. Generous membership contributions of premium raffle items and many volunteers participating raised the bar for what this community can do. A more aggressive approach to soliciting local businesses as sponsors for various aspects of the fest helped greatly reduce overhead. This allowed us to keep all donations generated for the sole purpose of meeting the needs of the lake.

This marked the second year that we held a **Membership Appreciation Event** at Boiling Springs. Tina & Edgy covered the entertainment and sales of drinks for us. Thanks to feedback after last year's event, the date was moved to accommodate seasonal members. However, attendance was down from 2022. The beautiful day tempted many to take advantage of the fleeting days of summer. It is totally understandable, and we would have preferred to be out on the pontoons and fishing boats with you. Please remember, this is a volunteer organization. It is important that we all pitch in and do what we can, when we can, even if it is only for a few hours a year. Every minute makes an impact. In 2024, please take at least 30 minutes to stop by and enjoy a cool beverage, a free sandwich, and great laughs with your fellow neighbors and friends. Another aspect of what makes living here special, enjoying each others company after working so hard together!

Finally, Roadside once again let us benefit from Dave's extreme generosity within the community. We were able to pair our **Meat Raffle** fundraiser with Roadside's Ribfest. It was a win for everyone! We are fortunate to have many great BBQ masters and chefs who share delectable secret recipes.

**Thank you** to everyone who took the time to help support all of 2023's events with funds, resources, volunteer time, and ideas to make events better. We look forward to 2024's events to strengthen the organization. It is an honor to build upon 50 years of solid foundation, laid by the hard work and good intentions of past membership and boards! ❤️



Julie Monfort July 2023 Blood Drive

Additional PLA impacts: 2023 marked the beginning of partnering with Red Cross, Pelican Lake Fire Department and Pelican Lake Women's Civic Club. Both the Fire Department and Women's Civic Club have long supported the Lake Association and we wanted to help support an activity that was important to them.

The **Red Cross** Blood Drive is an activity symbolic of putting others needs above self interest. Our partnership in organizing, marketing and volunteering along with the critical support of the community giving of themselves helped supply 76 units of blood in 2023! Please continue to help support this gift of life effort. We just completed the first drive of 2024, surpassing previous single event goals. The next drives are scheduled on May 22nd and July 24th! You can sign up now. Thank you Chief Wayne Sparks, Julie Monfort and Deb Buschel for all your time and effort! ~ Love this community! ~Kel





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*Todd and Lori Van Langen*

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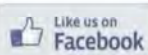
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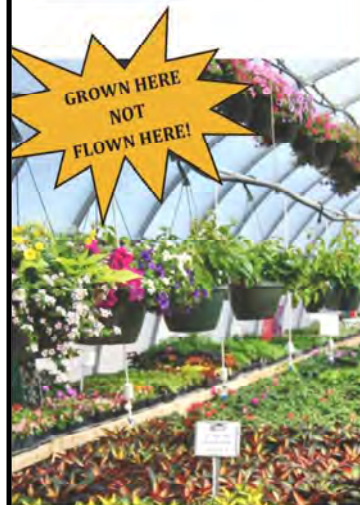
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Kerry Romsa, President  
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Dave Carriveau  
\*Steven Tripp

Todd VanLangen, Vice President  
\*Kelly Kraetsch, Treasurer  
\*Jim Frymark  
Brian Schell

***\*3 Director terms and 1 temporary Director appointment expire on June 1st.  
Membership will nominate and vote to fill all four positions at the Annual Meeting.***

## 2024 Annual Membership Meeting June 1, 2024 10 a.m. Pelican Lake Fire House

**VOTING REQUIRED for Board Elections and 2025 Budget**







***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.**

**2024 Newsletter Contributors**

**EDITORS:** Lisa Welz & Kelly Kraetsch

**CREDITS:** Jim Frymark, Jeff Griffey, Joy Herman, Norbert Huebsch, Kelly Kraetsch, Taz Kraetsch, Bob Mott, Kerry Romsa, Suz Romsa, Ed Rueckl, Todd VanLangen, Lisa Welz, WIDNR, WI Lakes & Rivers

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