

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Jean Roach

As you read this, our summer/fall season on the lake is over for another year, our piers are on shore, and our boats and lake toys safely stored. It seems a good time to review some of the activities your Association has been involved in over the past six months.

Our Annual Meeting and Summerfest Fundraiser/Picnic on July 18th was a big success, thanks to a large crew of volunteers. You'll find their names listed inside this newsletter as our way of recognizing their outstanding commitment to Pelican Lake and to the fundraising needed to continue our lake-protection activities.

We invite all of you to join us next year for these festivities. We're going to try something new for 2016: the Annual Meeting will be separate from the Summerfest Fundraiser/Picnic. The Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday, July 9th, with registration at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting at 10 a.m. The Fundraiser/Picnic will take place the following Saturday, July 16th, from noon until dusk. This past summer too many of our Summerfest volunteers had to forgo the meeting because they were busy setting up the raffles, food, drinks, etc. This new schedule will allow everyone to attend the meeting, the best way to stay connected to the Association and make your views known. Please mark both dates on your calendar.

Our CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) Program made an excellent contribution to the education of boaters, both resident and visiting. The new coordinators, Lud and Von Ludholz, spent many hours making sure the landings were monitored, and troubleshooting any issues that arose. They also compiled and posted the statistics which go into a state database. This database is used for a variety of purposes, including being used as evidence in grant writing. Bob Mott wrote the grant that funded this important program,

and Lucy Nelson coordinated the resorts and campgrounds. This team of volunteers deserves a pat on the back for their good work.

In July a CBCW monitor found an empty zebra-mussel shell on shore at the State Landing. This set into motion a pro-active approach to determining if we had a problem. All the monitors were informed and instructed to be extra vigilant with inspecting and disseminating information to boaters about zebra mussels. The County AIS Coordinator, Michele Sadauskas, and her staff came to Pelican and did some water testing. Bob Mott enlisted the DNR to do some further water testing. We also put out zebra-mussel traps and checked them periodically. All the tests came back negative for live zebra mussels. As one final check, Paul Tomczak, a lake resident and contractor for placing and removing the buoys for the Towns, inspected each buoy as he removed it, looking for signs of zebra mussels. He reported none on any buoys. This is a good example of teamwork and emphasizes the value of having a Lake Association committed to protecting the lake.

As many of you have noticed, our model Buffer Garden (just north of the Schoepke Town Hall on Highway 45) is growing by leaps and bounds. The plants from last fall survived and took off, helped by spring rains. This year we added many more native plants and ground covers, installed a lake pump to water the new plants, and did a lot of weeding. Once the established plants drop their seeds, there will be little need for weeding. Yea! Signage and plant information will be the last step. We hope that all of you will consider adding some native plants to your shore area. It's one of the best things you, as individuals, can do to keep our lake healthy and full of fish and wildlife.

I'll end by encouraging you to read the Minutes from our meetings, as well as the informative articles contained inside this newsletter. Our editor, Lori Regni, is to be commended for her dedication to informing and keeping us updated on the best practices for taking care of our mutual resource, Pelican Lake.

I wish all of you a good winter, one filled with your favorite lake activities: ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, or sitting by the fire enjoying the beauty of our lake dressed in her winter colors. For those of us who flee south, we, as always, will be excited to return for the open-water seasons.

## PELICAN LAKE WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB by Lucy Nelson

The Pelican Lake Women's Civic Club held their 15th-annual Memorial Weekend Fundraiser on Sunday, May 24, 2015. We want to thank all who helped make this fundraiser another success, including the crafters and those who held the flea markets. We hope you plan to join us next year on Sunday, May 29, 2016, for our 16th-annual Memorial Weekend Fundraiser.

This year, we presented both Miss Savanah Henckel and Miss Shelby Ruhland with a \$1,000 scholarship each at the Elcho School Scholarship Program in May. This is a wonderful honor that our club is able to bestow upon qualified students.

The annual Fall Style Show and Luncheon was held October 8th at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander. The diversity of club members and assortment of ensembles make this an interesting and fun experience. Food, door prizes, and our silent auction complement this event. Debbie Lupie won our 50/50 raffle and donated half the money back to us. Peggy Augustiniak won a 1/2-gallon of maple syrup, and Alice Krueger won the Packer football and birdhouse. The event was fun for all.

Full and part-time residents of Enterprise and Schoepke Townships are welcome to join the Pelican Lake Women's Civic Club. Our meetings are held the first Thursday of each month. Please contact President Marsha Pahl (715-487-5990), Jane Prod (262-490-8480), or Treasurer Mary Lemke (715-487-4412) to join in the fun!

## **SUMMERFEST VOLUNTEERS 2015**

Without their help, Summerfest could never happen!

Lynn Anderson Auggie Augustiniak Peggy Augustiniak Ann Beran

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**Wendy Peeters** Jack Peiffer Kathy Peiffer Jean Roach John Roberts

Sonja Roberts

Livi Roberts

Joan Sage Paul Schmidt

Cynthia Searles Kay Shellestad

Thomas (Kay's grandson)

Vicki Smith

Richard Upthegrove Dennis Vanden Heuvel Sandy Vanden Heuvel

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL.



## FISH-SHOCKING REPORT: SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 by Gordon Bell

The DNR conducted a game-fish count on Pelican Lake this fall on September 22. Two volunteers from the Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association were able to assist the DNR in counting the fish for Pelican Lake. The counts were conducted around the entire outer perimeter, as well as around the island perimeters, of the lake. The shallow-water shorelines provided the best count areas of the lake.

Each boat was rigged with a live well, a generator, a counting station, and two electrical shocking devices which were lowered from the bow of the boat to initiate the temporary shock to the fish. A long-poled net was used to manually scoop up the shocked fish, placing them immediately into the boat's live well. (My task on my boat.) Each game fish netted was picked out from the live well to be processed for the count. All game fish were measured for size length, while a certain number of walleyes were scale-sampled. After the needed stats were accomplished, the fish were returned to the lake. The count process happened very quickly from electro-shock to netting, to counting, to then returning the fish to the fresh lake water.

The three boats took around five hours to complete the game-fish count on Pelican Lake that evening. It was a great, active experience for me to be involved with this, representing the PLPOA. I was amazed at the numerous amounts of game fish located in the shallow shoreline waters during these after-dusk hours.

Pelican Lake is a very diverse fishery and has a wide variety of game fish. The walleyes that are spawning on the lake seem to be reproducing at a healthy rate. The fingerling walleyes ranged from 3" to 7" in length.

It was an awesome experience to see all the game fish that Pelican Lake offers: muskies, northerns, walleyes, small-mouth bass, and large-mouth bass. Many thanks to the DNR and the fish biologist for conducting this survey to help us realize that Pelican Lake, our lake, is a healthy fishery!

## Clean Boats, Clean Waters by Lucy Nelson

A huge thank you to the resort and campground owners for their invaluable help with the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program on Pelican Lake. Our June report showed good control of the areas in Musky Bay and the ones in Treacherous Bay. All the people who helped in this effort to protect our lake from AIS are to be congratulated!!



## **Escaped Buoys**

When high winds and big waves occur on our lake, buoys are sometimes torn from their anchors. With no obvious markings left, boat motors become an easy target for the many obstacles in our beautiful, but rocky lake.

Paul Tomczak and Pete Pukall have volunteered to help. If a buoy lands on your shore, please contact Paul at 414-418-3567, or Pete at 715-487-5787 (or 715-777-5378) for assistance.

## **Shoreline Buffers**



The fate of Northern Wisconsin's most valuable resource (our lakes and streams) will be determined by the cumulative effects of human activity on or near the shoreline. Owners and users of waterfront property have the potential to directly improve or impair Wisconsin's long legacy of clean water. One specific action that property owners can directly influence is the nature of their shoreline. Creating a "natural" shoreline buffer area of native vegetation on the majority of shoreline on your lake lot will have many benefits and help to preserve the quality of your lake.

## **Benefits of natural shoreline buffering:**

- Protects water quality by filtering runoff containing silt, salt, fertilizers, and all chemicals resulting from human activity near the lake's edge.
- Slows runoff, allowing water to soak into ground rather than flush to the lake or stream.
- Prevents erosion of shoreline from waves and runoff.
- Is less expensive and time-consuming than maintaining a lawn.
- Improves shallow water habitat for fish and other aquatic life essential for healthy water.
- Provides visual screening (privacy) for landowners and muffles the noise of boats and personal watercraft.
- Is far less expensive than trying to clean up a lake or river after it is destroyed.
- Discourages unwanted species such as geese or purple loosestrife from invading your property.
- Provides habitat for terrestrial wildlife including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and bats (great insect eaters).
- Enhances property values!

For ideas about which plants are native and will be easy to grow, check out our model buffer garden next to the Schoepke Town Hall on Highway 45 in Pelican Lake. We also have members who are Master Gardeners and who are willing to offer their expertise for planning a buffer garden, as well as help in choosing appropriate plants. Contact us at: info@pelicanlakepoa.org or call one of the Board members.





## **Board of Directors**

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## 2016 Calendar: Pelican Lake Property Owners Association

## Wednesday, March 30 - Friday, April 1, 2016

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention, Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Stevens Point

## Sunday, May 29, 2016

PLWCC Memorial Day Brat Sale Schoepke Town Hall 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Saturday, July 9, 2016

PLPOA Annual Meeting Schoepke Town Hall Registration @ 9:30 Meeting @ 10 a.m.

## Saturday, July 16, 2016

PLPOA Summerfest Fundraiser Schoepke Town Ha**ll** Noon to the end of Fireworks

TBA Spring Road Cleanup.

## Frogs & Turtles & Butterflies – Oh, My! by Bob Mott

The development of our lakeshores is almost complete. In 1965 a study of lakes north of Highway 29 showed that 25% of the shoreline was developed. It is predicted that by 2025 over 90% will be developed. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has estimated that the amount of development along Wisconsin lakes in the last 30 years (1985-2015) is greater than that which occurred in the previous 100 years. The times, they are a-changing, and buffer zones offer an effective way to offset or mitigate the negative effects of shoreline development.

Problems caused by lakeshore development:

- Impaired water quality.
- Increased runoff volume.
- Increased sediment and pollutant loads- especially phosphorus.
- Phosphorus is often responsible for increased algae in a lake. One Wisconsin lake study showed runoff accounted for only 4% of the water flowing into a lake, but 51% of the total input of phosphorus.
- Reduction in the water that sustains the groundwater system. This reduction could adversely affect springs that feed water bodies.
- In a Michigan study on Higgins Lake concerning the effects of lakeshore development, groundwater beneath developed property showed higher concentrations of phosphorus, nitrogen, chloride, and boron than the lake water. In addition, E-coli was found in the groundwater, indicating leaching of septic-system waste into the groundwater.

People buy lake and river property to enjoy the natural beauty that water provides. Manicuring a lawn (green grass) to the water's edge takes away the natural protection that allows water to filter before it reaches the groundwater or the lake. Creatures that are part of this ages-old ecosystem thrive in a natural setting. Trees and shrub roots help stabilize the shoreline by protecting it from erosion and by protecting the lake from the turbidity that comes from runoff.

Buffer zones are a vegetated area of trees, bushes, plants, and ground covers that encompasses from 3 to 30 feet or more along the lakeshore. This area replaces the natural lakeshore that was lost through development. The plants chosen provide color for your landscape; are a home to birds, turtles, chipmunks, frogs, bees, butterflies, and more of nature's creatures; and filter the runoff that is created by highly developed lawns. This zone allows homeowners to have a beautiful shoreline and still protect lake quality.

## Homeowner Responsibilities:

- -Prevent impaired water quality.
- -Protect groundwater.
- -Promote a natural lakeshore environment for those near-shore creatures.
- -Plant a buffer zone.

When these responsibilities are fulfilled, frogs and turtles and butterflies will say, "Oh! My!"



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## **INVASIVE LOOK-OUT**

WANTED-SIGHTINGS OF THIS AGGRESSIVE PLANT

## JAPANESE KNOTWEED.

AN ESCAPED ORNAMENTAL **PLANT** 

Knotweed grows 8-10 feet tall and spreads rapidly.

Rhinelander area and Langlade County sightings and eradication efforts are underway.





**CONTACT: LORI REGNI** 715-487-4888

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## **SUMMERFEST 2015 SPONSORS/DONORS**

## **Businesses**

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Billy Timbers Pub & Eatery	-Summit Lake	North Trail Store	-Elcho
Birchfield Nurseries, Inc.	-Rhinelander	Northwoods National Bank	-Elcho
Boiling Springs Bar	-Pelican Lake	Office Max	-Rhinelander
Bremer's Bait	-Pelican Lake	Papa Murphy's Take 'N' Bake Pizza	-Rhinelander
Builders Service, Inc.	-Elcho	Pat's Tavern & Grill	-Rhinelander
Culvers Frozen Custard	-Rhinelander	Pelican Lake Campground	-Pelican Lake
Domino's Pizza	-Rhinelander	Pelican Lake Chamber of Commerce	-Pelican Lake
Dvorak's Docks	-Elcho	Pizza Hut	-Rhinelander
Elcho Shell & Convenience Store	-Elcho	Reggie's Roadside Tavern	-Pelican Lake
Enterprise Storage Units	-Pelican Lake	Rocky's Roadhouse	-Rhinelander
Friendship House Restaurant	-Rhinelander	Salon Tease	-Pelican Lake
Gerrits' Lakeview Inn	-Pelican Lake	Sammy's Bar & Grill	-Deerbrook
Hanson's Garden Village	-Rhinelander	Sears	-Antigo
Joe's Pasty Shop	-Rhinelander	Shabby Shack	-Pelican Lake
Ken's Country Bar	-Rhinelander	The Boondocks Bar & Grill	-Monico
Koni K's Restaurant	-Elcho	Trail Inn Tavern & Motel, Inc.	-Pelican Lake
Kwik Trip Gas Station	-Antigo	United Church of Christ	-Elcho
Kwik Trip Gas Station	-Rhinelander	WalMart: Brent Sundby	-Rhinelander
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## **Individuals**

Anonymous Kathy and Jack Peiffer
Bob Brautigam Jean Roach
Barb Groeger Cheryl Schmit
Dave Groeger Vicki Smith
Lance Tischauser

## **Car Show**

June & Porky Hogue Kay Shellestad Lou and Larry Moss Roger D. Stephens Kathy and Jack Peiffer

Thanks to the donations from the above businesses and people, our Summerfest 2015 was very successful. We hope that our members will take advantage of the many services and products of our sponsors.

If anyone made a donation and is not listed here, please notify us and we'll make a correction in our next newsletter. We want to be sure to give credit where credit is due!

## **PLPOA NEW MEMBERS**

Mary & Ralph Bauman	789 Mekinak Point Road	Karen Sass	Antigo Island, Cottage #3
Jim Cyrak	1151 Chicago Point Drive	Collette & Ron Timm	538 County Road G
Lisa & Ryan Engels	542 County Road G	Kaylene Tischauser/	1193 Chicago Point Drive
Nancy & Chris Kontney	2645 West Bay Road	Tom Lozier	
Pat & Brian McDonald	1070 Chicago Point Road	Lorie Van Langen	2411 County Road Q
Chuck & Mary Moore	2085 Kabel Road	Andrew Willemsen	Golden Sands Beach Resort
Margaret & Daniel Reim	1082 Weith Road		1103 Chicago Point Drive
		Jean & Rick Yunk	2641 West Bay Road

## From:

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Jim Berg Jim Berg

Mary Calmes Mary Calmes

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Elaine & Bob Cupp Judy & Floyd Dreher

Beth Aulik Bud Else

Greg Haese 6/29/53-4/8/12

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Betty & Bob Peeters

Brian Burant

Laura & Harold Rettler

Jean Meyers Tonda Kline Neal Schowalter Janie & Bill Podoll

## POSTCARD...FROM THE PAST



Rhinelander Star Journal

While Rhinelander may have had more hotels than the surrounding communities in the early 1900s, the city was definitely out-classed by the Pelican Beach Hotel in Pelican Lake, seen here in a postcard view from around 1910. Severely damaged by fire in 1912, the hotel was renamed the New Beach Inn after \$25,000 worth of improvements were made in the following year, which included hot and cold water in 25 of the guest rooms and electric lighting to the entire hotel. The veranda was also bricked over and at least one carport for visiting guests was added.

## 25 Years Ago Today - October 15, 1990

A lodge on the west shore of Pelican Lake, most recently known as Northern Don's, served as a classroom for over 120 firefighters and volunteers this past weekend in a "Learn-to-Burn" exercise coordinated by Nicolet Technical College. Once serving as a fine dining and lodging establishment, the structure dates back some 90 years, but hadn't really been used as an apartment building in the past 20 years or so.

A history of the building notes that the resort was built by George Keeler, one of the first Town of Enterprise settlers, in about 1900. His daughter and son-in-law, Rilla and John Young, took over operation of the resort as Young's Rest Haven in about 1916. Their daughter, Alice, and husband Phil Sharkey assumed control in 1946. It was later sold to the Don Radtke family in the 1950s.



## **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!**

## 2015 Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program

Weekends, from May 1 to September 27, your Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program inspected a total of **3,218 boats**:

At the State Landing: 2,567 At Keeler's Landing: 510

At the Town Landing

(behind Musky Mart): 51

The Program "educated" a total of **6,605 people.** Number of people contacted:

At the State Landing: 5,338 At Keller's Landing: 1,132 At the Town Landing: 135

Our PLPOA should be proud of the effort that our Boat Monitor Program is making. By inspecting the watercraft usage on

Pelican Lake, we are taking a frontline defense against the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

Our monitors are trained to educate boaters on invasive "hitchhikers." Yes, hitchhiking on our watercraft is exactly how they get into our lake. As boaters are entering and leaving Pelican Lake, our monitors inspect both their boats and trailers for invasive species. They also distribute informational brochures and encourage safe-boating as they report any new issues.

As the "new kids on the block," Von and I would like to thank our PLPOA President, Jean Roach, for her endless commitment to this program. We also worked closely with Michele Sadauskas, AIS Coordinator, at the Oneida County Land and Water Conservation Office. We thank Michele for all her support and training sessions. Her office is located on the second floor of the Oneida County Courthouse. Michele and her staff work diligently with the entire county to prevent the spread of invasive species. If you get a chance, go to her Facebook page (Oneida County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program within the Land & Water Conservation Department), or check out the county website (<a href="https://www.oneidacountyais.com">www.oneidacountyais.com</a>). The Wisconsin DNR is also a good source of information.

Looking forward to working with you again in 2016. From the south shore of Pelican Lake, Lud & Von Lodholz Remember:
Inspect Remove
Drain
Never Move

## MEET YOUR ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD SUPERVISOR: BOB MOTT - DISTRICT 7

**PLPOA:** Many of you know Bob from his active involvement in the Pelican Lake Property Owners' Association. Over the years, he's served on the Board, was instrumental in organizing the 2011 Lake Study, and has been our grant writer for the CBCW monitor program, to name just a few of the many projects he's been involved in. Through his elected County position he became aware of the Lumberjack grant possibilities. This led to his writing a grant that funded our shoreline restoration project, the one located north of Schoepke Town Hall on Highway 45 in Pelican Lake. He's been a terrific asset for the Association.

# Walk

## **County Committees:**

-Chairman: Health and Aging Committee

-Vice-Chairman: UW Extension/Conservation Committee

-Member: Administrative (Finance) Committee

-Member: Forestry Committee

<u>PILD Delegate:</u> In April of 2015 Bob was selected as one of twelve Wisconsin representatives to attend the Public Issues and Leadership Development Conference that met in Washington, D.C. He spent three days in leadership training, meeting the final morning with Senator Baldwin and Representative Duffy to advocate for the continued funding of UW Extension programs such as the 4H/Youth Development and Family Living programs in our county. Bob will return to the conference in April of 2016.

<u>Conservation</u>: Bob's involvement in the UW Extension/Conservation Committee allows him to work monthly with Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Michele Sadauskas. She leads the fight against the invasives which threaten our lakes and forests. She also works with the many lake associations in Oneida County. Her outstanding program is partly funded by Oneida County. Bob has taken her and DNR representatives onto Pelican Lake to do water samples and to search for phragmites (invasive tall weeds).

**Compromise:** For Bob, one of the highlights this year was the compromise reached between the Hodag Sports Club and a group trying to establish a recreational park near the Northwoods Golf Course. The Sports Club had purchased the entire 270-acre parcel, using part of it for a rifle range; the City of Rhinelander and the Town of Crescent wanted to buy part of the property for the development of hiking, biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country ski trails (similar to a small winter-park facility). Discussions were going nowhere, so, since the owners of the property agreed to meet, Bob asked both interested parties if they would consider mediation. In the end, the Sports Club got its buffer for the rifle range and agreed to a long-term conservation easement that would allow the development of a recreational area. This was good for Rhinelander, good for the Sports Club, and good for the citizens of Oneida County.

**Forestry:** Oneida County forests are managed for wildlife. They also are open for public use such as hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing. The forestry department works closely with ATV/UTV clubs to develop trail systems and, when possible, keep recreation in the forests and off county roads. This year Oneida County forests had a record year in stumpage revenue: 1.8 million dollars. This money keeps taxes low and helps offset operational costs for the county.

**Future:** Bob looks forward to continuing to serve the residents of Oneida County, and his constituents in District 7 in eastern Oneida County. This district is one of the largest in the county, stretching from Enterprise to the south side of Three Lakes. Bob enjoys the challenge of his county-supervisor's job and intends to run for another term in the April 2016 election.

If he can be of help, please call him 715-487-4212 or e-mail him (bobmott329@msn.com).

## SEPTEMBER 2015 FALL MEETING PRESENTATION by Vicki Smith

Marge Gibson, from the Raptor Education Group in Antigo, brought 4 different birds to our Fall Meeting in September and displayed each while she spoke: an American Kestrel, a Saw-Whet Owl, a Red-Tailed Hawk, and a Barred Owl. In addition to emphasizing the **importance of a natural shoreline**, she mentioned the following:

- -Lead bait is harmful to eagles (in 2015 REGI received one injured eagle per day).
- -New ATV trails have opened up previously-quiet habitat areas, thus having a negative effect on wildlife in the woods.
- -New owners with manicured lawns have had a negative effect on the water quality and on the habitat of many birds.
- -Houses/cottages that are closer together now than in the past (when they were miles apart), have also had a negative effect on the natural habitats of wildlife.

In answer to the question, "What can I do to get wildlife into my yard?", Marge responded that birds didn't need fancy birdhouses or anything brought in; simply supply them with habitat, food, water, privacy, a nice place to live, and safety (keep dogs and cats indoors). Since Northern Wisconsin, Northern Minnesota, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan are the only places where birds who migrate to Mexico breed, we should do the best we can with our lake property to support them:

- -Use pesticides cautiously and responsibly (read the labels: if not good for dogs, will not be good for wildlife!).
- -Take care with fireworks and cherry bombs that can frighten wildlife.
- -Be especially careful around July 4th, the prime time for birds to have their babies (often in nests on the ground).
- -Leave nests alone, especially those on the ground (eggs take 12 days to hatch, then 9 days from hatch to flight).
- -Monitor children who can harm wildlife, thinking it's fun.
- -Avoid contaminating the water through the use of fertilizers, green paint for lawns, or manure.
- -Take care when spraying: Nighthawks flying through "sprayed air" can be poisoned as they search for mosquitoes.
- -Take care when dusting plants for aphids: Birds can be poisoned when eating insects on flowers that have been dusted.



It was heartening to see that some of our members brought family and children to the meeting. These children are the next generation who will inherit an enjoyment of Pelican Lake, so it was wonderful to see them enjoy and learn about the wildlife that inhabits our area.

**REGI (Raptor Education Group, Inc.)** is a nonprofit organization founded in 1990 by Marge and Don Gibson. It is dedicated to the care and rehabilitation of injured and orphaned native bird species + public education on wildlife and conservation issues. REGI provides medical treatment, food, housing, and professional care to assure release back into the wild for 500-700 birds annually. REGI conducts education programs with live birds of prey for more than 10,000 people annually. In addition, during the summer and fall tour seasons, they are open for tours.

To donate to REGI, or for more information, call the clinic at **715-623-4015**; write to REGI, P.O. Box 481, Antigo, WI 54409; or go to: **www.raptoreducationgroup.org** (be sure to watch the 2014 eagle-release video).

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PELICAN LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION July 18, 2015

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by President, Jean Roach. In attendance were Cathy Cyrs, Vice President; Vicki Smith, Secretary; Ann Clark, Treasurer; Bob Brautigam, Dave Groeger, and Don Oremus, Board Members; plus 50 members. After an introduction of each of the board members, Jean Roach read the Mission Statement of the Association (to preserve, protect, and enhance the water of Pelican Lake).

## **PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

Minutes from the May 30, 2015, Spring Meeting were distributed and approved.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Ann Clark reported that the Association had a total of \$51,572.05 in all accounts, which included a July 8, 2015, checkbook balance of \$34,639.02 and three \$5,000 CDs with a total value of \$15,933.03.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL (EWM):** 2012 and 2013: chemical treatment of EWM invasive colonies; 2014; hand-pulling of EWM.; 2015: 1 day of hand- pulling EWM in early June. A second day was cancelled due to less growth than anticipated, a positive result in light of last year's pulling. When hand-pulling occurs, care is taken to prevent breakage of the stems, thus preventing the chance of spreading.

**LANDING MONITOR PROGRAM:** Costs split three ways between the two townships and the PLPOA. Still heavily funded by grants. Over \$100,000 already received from the state. At Keeler's and the State Landing combined: 858 boats checked, May 2015; 386 boats checked, June 2015; 298 boats checked, July 2015 (thus far).

**SHORELINE RESTORATION BUFFER ZONE:** Located just north of the Schoepke Town Hall, this is an on-going educational example of what lakeshore homeowners can do to improve the lake, its wildlife, and fishing. Homeowners are urged to return to a natural state at least the first 10' near the water's edge. Grant money is available for doing so. Contact Bob Mott (715-487-4212) for more information.

**LOON COUNT:** Northland College in Ashland has a Loon Institute that organizes a count every 5 years for research purposes. Pelican Lake has participated in the last 3 counts. 9 of our members volunteered to count early this morning. They found 13 adults, 2 juveniles (these don't count), and 0 chicks. 8 loons were counted in previous years.

**FISH REPORT:** Spearing was set at 1,028 walleyes and 22 muskies. 1,027 walleyes and 7 muskies were taken. According to the DNR, Pelican Lake only needs one good year every three-four years for a good adult population of walleyes to thrive. 2013 was a super year; 2015 was about half of what we'd like to see. In 2015 the DNR again took musky spawn out of the lake and will return about 3,545 9 ½" musky fry in September. Shocking will occur in September also. The DNR website has more information.

## PRESENTATION BY JOEL KNUTSON, Interim Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development Educator with the UW Extension in Oneida County: "WISCONSIN BAT PROJECT."

Since "the water's edge is a complicated and busy place," a natural shoreline, similar to the PLPOA sample buffer zone, helps bats as well as songbirds and other wildlife. A good bat habitat is a good fishing habitat!

There are seven species of bats; little brown bats are the ones that dominate the Pelican Lake area. They arrive in late spring (April/May), breed in June/July, and leave in the fall. From late fall through early spring they hibernate in caves. Similar to loons, each species has its own call (a fluttering sound). When mating on the roost, it's more of a chattering sound.

Bats are the best pest control ever, especially when it comes to mosquitoes and night-flying insects. Bats fly about and capture their prey in midair using echolocation (a series of echoes). For echolocation to be successful, an open area is needed, thus bats will use any opening when navigating and capturing prey..

Bat houses should be placed in an open area (not on a tree), a minimum of 8' off the ground, in a full-sun area that faces southeast or southwest. The location needs to be away from nearby trees and/or disturbances. This allows their echo system to work.

In 2006 a fungus arrived in New York from Europe, bringing the White-Nose Syndrome that kills bats. That fungus has now worked its way west and into Wisconsin. The fungus wakes up the bats early from their winter hibernation at a time when feeding is impossible. The insects that bats hunt for on the fly are not present then. Without food the bats cannot survive outside their caves, so they die.

For more information on bats, contact Joel Knutson at 3375 Airport Road, #10; Rhinelander, WI 54501/715-365-2750. For more information on White-Nose Syndrome go to <a href="https://www.scientificamerican.com">www.scientificamerican.com</a>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:** Vicki Smith announced that the Association would be sending a letter to each member, requesting information for publication in a 2015 PLPOA telephone directory.

**ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:** Bob Brautigam, Cathy Cyrs, and Vicki Smith were re-elected for their second term. Previously elected in 2014 to two-year terms and, thus, in their second year are Ann Clark, Dave Groeger, Dave Hardt, Larold Lodholz, Don Oremus and Jean Roach.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. Summerfest continued through fireworks at dusk.

Submitted by Vicki Smith, Secretary, PLPOA

## **Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) Invasive Species Management**

by Jean Roach

Despite our best efforts to have a lake that is free of invasive species, we discovered some small colonies of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the summer of 2011. Considering the amount of traffic on the lake, it was probably inevitable, which was why the PLPOA, with its forward-looking agenda, did a Lake Study in 2009-2010. Those Board Members should be commended for doing so. Having a Lake Study in place has since helped us obtain grant money for the treatment and management of invasive species.

After discovering small colonies of EWM, the first line of attack was to use chemicals in 2012 and 2013 to contain the colonies and prevent their spread. Since then we have been able to keep the EWM under control using hand-harvesting methods. With our grant money, we hired Aquatic Plant Management, Inc., (APM, Inc.), a company that specializes in diving and pulling EWM by hand. Doing this requires knowledgeable personnel who know how to harvest the weeds without breaking them and causing further spread to other areas.

In 2014 APM, Inc., spent three days on the lake, harvesting EWM. They loaded it onto their pontoon boat and hauled it to vacant land provided by Lori Regni. This past summer we scheduled more days of hand-

harvesting than we needed. After working one day in June, the planned July day wasn't needed. A relief to us all!

On a related topic, we've received some comments about why the association isn't doing more about the "weed" growth in Musky Bay. One reason is the majority of the "weeds" in Musky Bay are, in fact, native aquatic plants. Our association has harvested only the invasive weeds (EWM), not the native plants.

While Musky Bay can be considered the lungs of the lake, as well as an important nursery for young fish, it's true that there are more aquatic plants growing taller each year. As each lot is developed and its natural shoreline removed, these aquatic plants receive more nutrients. One line of defense is to restore a more natural shoreline in place of grass. All of us living on Musky Bay and the rest of the lake can help by planting some native plants in the first 30 feet of our shore area, and by avoiding the use of fertilizer on grass and/or plants.

Overall, we have a very healthy lake and we're managing the EWM in a very positive fashion. Your Association is committed to this task.



Northern Milfoil Eurasian Milfoil

The purpose of the PLPOA is to preserve, protect, and enhance the water of Pelican Lake, Wisconsin, through the undertaking of various activities, including advocating and facilitating communications through sharing of information between individuals, environmental organizations, and state and local governmental bodies. This includes involvement in various educational and special projects aimed at good stewardship and wise use of our waters, their natural wildlife habitats and fisheries both for us and future generations.