



Pine Lake News

June, 2009

2nd Edition 2009

The Outgoing President's Corner

Special points of interest:

- Pine Lake Garage Sale
- Annual PLA Membership Meeting
- 4th of July Activities
- PLA Raffle Tickets
- Boaters Safety
- 2009-10 PLA Membership Forms

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This being my final *President's Corner* article as your PLA President, I was determined to write something more educational, interesting and light-hearted, since all of my previous articles have been focused on the controversial subject of Eurasian Milfoil treatment, which we all know is still an issue on Pine Lake!

But first, I would like to sincerely thank the 2007-2009 PLA Officers & Directors for their untiring efforts and hard work during our time working together as your PLA Board. The 2007-09 PLA Officers & Directors have tackled many issues and accomplished a great deal since we all volunteered in October 2007 & June 2008. I would also like to thank all the kind Pine Lake residents for their support of me as the PLA~President, and especially thank the many residents

who volunteered for so many projects, whenever I called to request their time & help. There are too many of you to mention here, but you ALL know who you are and I sincerely **"thank you"** from the bottom of my heart for your ideas, your time and efforts to make Pine Lake a better place for us all to live, enjoy and play. Being President has proved to be a very rewarding experience for me and provided a great sense of personal accomplishment. I have especially enjoyed the opportunity I've had to meet so many nice Pine Lakers and I now have a renewed outlook on the kindness and goodness of our residents, who so generously volunteer their time for the betterment of our lake & community.

If you have never volunteered for the PLA, please consider doing so now. I can attest that it is a tremendously rewarding

experience to offer your new & fresh ideas and be directly involved in improving our community, our lake and our lives!!!!

Now for our Great Blue Herons!

Many of you may have heard talk around the lake, as I always had, about a nearby nesting place, where all the Blue Herons in our area nest together; however, I never paid too much attention. Well, a week before this past Easter and before the trees budded with leaves, I happened upon this nesting area (officially called *colonies*) quite by accident. With no leaves on the trees yet, the Herons could be clearly observed. Once I happened upon the colony, I decided to go back for a visit; more prepared, and for a closer look! On Easter Sunday, (see The Pres.' Corner cont'd.—p. 8)

Annual PLA Membership Meeting Saturday, June 20, 2009 at MCTI

The Annual PLA Membership Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the Kellogg Chapman House on the shores of Pine Lake at MCTI.** Everyone is invited! There will be free refreshments—coffee, juice, donuts, and rolls provided

by the PLA Officers and Directors. We will be covering PLA business and electing new officers for the year. This is an excellent time to meet new neighbors and friends. Just for attending you will have a chance to win a Pine Lake T-shirt or Sweatshirt in 2 drawings.

You must be present to win! Pine Lake Fireworks Raffle tickets will also be available.

Join the PLA for 2009-2010 if you haven't already done so—see forms on p. 7

See you on June 20th!

Annual Pine Lake Garage Sale—June 26-27, 2009

Join in with your Pine Lake neighbors and empty out those closets full of “stuff” you have been accumulating!! This is a great way to clear out the clutter and have fun, too! Here’s how it works:

- The sale dates are Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, 2009.
- You will be holding your own sale in your own garage.
- Times will be listed as Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. However, you may choose to open your garage at anytime.
- Each home that intends to participate is asked to make a \$5.00 donation to the PLA to cover the costs of advertising and signs for the sale. Any remaining balance will be used to help fund 4th of July activities.
- Each home that participates with the donation will be listed on a sale directory/map and dis-

tributed to participating homes the week of the sale. If money permits, extra copies will be available to hand out.

- Flyers will be distributed to each of the homes participating to post at your place of work or other local businesses.

We will also have a tent located on Doster Road to sell 4th of July Raffle Tickets & Pine Lake Apparel. Proceeds will help to fund the 4th of July activities.

These sales in the past have been a big success for all who have participated, and there are always special treasures to be found by our many treasure hunters!! Please join us and ask your neighbors to join as well.

A few reminders for all residents of the lake:

- **DRIVE CAUTIOUSLY!!** There will be many pedestrians in the

area.

- Please be courteous of your neighbors. Please watch that shoppers do not block the road or driveways.
- Please be patient with your neighbors holding sales, and also with the shoppers.

If you would like to hold a sale, please send your check for \$5.00 payable to the Pine Lake Association to Lori McAdam, 12920 Merlau, Plainwell, MI 49080 by June 20th to be included in the map and flyers.

For more information or to volunteer to help hang/take down signs, hang flyers in local businesses and/or distribute maps to all garage sale participants: please contact Lori McAdam at 664-6741 or email her at: BasketWeaves@aol.com.

Vice President’s Viewpoint

This is my last article as Vice President. It has been a pleasure to work with lake residents I did not know previously or I have gotten to know better.

If you are new to the lake or have never been interested in joining the PLA; if you used to be a member but got “worn out”, please accept this as your personal invitation to the **Annual Meeting Saturday June 20 at 9 a.m.** I personally promise that your comments and suggestions will be heard and treated with respect and courtesy. We’ll be providing refreshments and plan to keep the meeting brief. If you can’t attend, please support your lake with 2009-10 dues and any donations you wish to make. Why bother? The By-Laws of the PLA define our purpose - to protect the lake, promote safety and education. With the onslaught of invasive elements - zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, the possibility of hydrilla and other potential threats, lake residents need to have information to keep our lake the valuable resource we all enjoy. Even when we do not all agree on the best way to address these concerns we need to be aware and educated. Did you know that the lake buoy markers are paid for, maintained by, and put in by PLA volunteers?

Can you imagine safely navigating without them? Did you know the “Lake Rules” at the launches (which need replacing right now) were paid for and placed by the PLA? The PLA newsletter features boating and safety information in an ongoing effort to make our lake a safer place for sport and recreation. Living on the lake is a joy, a privilege and a responsibility. Becoming part of your lake association benefits us all.

We have a tradition of “community” at Pine Lake, most especially the 4th of July festivities. While not essentially a social organization, the PLA has long sponsored fun events for residents, foremost of these - the Annual Fireworks. Would you like to see that continue? If so, we need people to make it happen. In years past, PLA has held popular events like the Annual Barbeque, a community Halloween party, the 4th of July Boat parade and more. Again, without the interest and support of the Pine Lake residents these activities can’t be done. The consensus seems to be that people are “too busy”, “burned out”, “don’t have time”. If we, the lake residents, won’t put forward the time and energy to protect and promote enjoyment of lake living, who will?



And finally, no organization can continue without officers. The outgoing Board is committed to helping the next Board get up and running and to be available to act as a resource. The time involved is not really all that much! There are the Board meetings throughout the year and the Annual Membership meeting. Beyond that, it's a matter of recruiting others to join on committees for “many hands make light work”. There are processes in place for the Raffle, the 4th of July Fireworks, and other events that make it easy to get these projects going. Even if you have no experience in leading an organization, don’t let that stop you. Make Pine Lake a great place to live. Volunteer for an office, a project, a committee and make a difference. It’s your Lake! Thank you so much. Lana Langone

POST THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR—DON'T MISS ALL THE EXCITING INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES!!

2009 4th of July Activities on Pine Lake

See below for a complete schedule of events:

Friday, July 3rd

7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Boats gather on Lake 2 near MCTI.

7:30 p.m. – Music provided by DJ - Victor Minnard of A 2 Z Event Services

DUSK – Fireworks Display by Wolverine fireworks Display Company - from MCTI grounds.

(Rain Date for above July 3rd Activities will be July 4th)

Saturday, July 4th

- **1:00 p.m.** - Turtle Race, MCTI. **1:00 to 1:30** – Registration - **2:00** Race Begins
- **3:00 p.m.** – Paddle Boat Races, MCTI
- **4:00 p.m.** – Raffle drawing for all donated prizes, MCTI
- **Pine Lake Apparel and raffle tickets will be sold at the PLA Tent at MCTI from 12:30 until the 4 PM drawing!!!!!!!**

Sunday, July 5th

- **Pine Lake Pontoon Scavenger Hunt**
- **Meet at MCTI at 12:30** for Registration & Rules
- **1:00 – 3:00** Scavenger Hunt
- Any interested Pine Lake residents may participate in one of 2 ways:
 - 1) Form teams on your pontoons to join in the fun, and
 - 2) Support the teams from your homes around the lake.
- **Meet new friends and neighbors on Pine Lake.**
- **Entry Fee: \$10.00 per pontoon team**
- **Prize: \$100.00 for the winning team, donated by Don Verbeke, Pine Lake 4.**
Thank you, Don!!



4th of July on Pine Lake

Shoreline residents – The PLA thanks everyone for your participation and patience during this event. Pontoon teams/ participants, please be considerate and courteous of lake resident's properties and docks. Items obtained by the pontoon teams for the purpose of the scavenger hunt will NOT be returned. The items list will contain low value household products and pontoon teams must gather at least 1 item from each of the 4 lakes! Registration time will include all rules, this is a timed event. The team returning first with the MOST items will win the \$100.00 prize.

- COME & JOIN THE FUN!!! -

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **THERE IS NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED AT ANY TIME FOR ANY ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED ON MCTI PROPERTY!!!!!!!**
- 2) **DUE TO LACK OF PARTICIPATION, THERE WILL BE NO PONTOON PARADE THIS YEAR.**

(Turn the page for information on this year's Raffle Ticket Sales)

PLA Raffle Tickets On Sale

Every year the PLA sells raffle tickets to support our annual 4th of July activities. In particular, these sales pay for our most popular, yet costly endeavor—the 4th of July Fireworks. This year, raffle tickets will be on sale beginning June 12th at the following locations:

- Pine Lake Grocery
- Pine Lake Diner
- The Doster Country Store
- Pine Lake Boat & Motor
- Individual Volunteer Sellers

Tickets are \$2.00 each or 6 for \$10.00

The Raffle Drawing will be held on Saturday, July 4th, at approximately 4:00 pm. at MCTI. **There will be many prizes from local vendors as well as (3) three chances to win cash prizes of \$500.00 each.**

Please help support our efforts to provide all of the fun and family friendly activities listed on page 3 of this newsletter by purchasing your own raffle tickets and selling a few to

your friends soon! See letter enclosed with raffle tickets. for more information.



Raffle Tickets help support the PLA 4th of July Activities and Events.

Boating Season Is Here Again Think Summer Fun—Think Safety!

A few reminders:

- Every vessel towing a skier, tube, etc. must have a person in addition to the operator, observing the towed person at all times.
- It is **illegal** to tow persons on water skis or any device of this type between:
 - 1 Hour **after** sunset and 1 Hour **before** sunrise if towed behind a **boat**
 - 1 Hour **before** sunset and 1 Hour **after** sunrise if towed behind a **PWC**
- Persons being towed must stay at least 100 feet away from:
 - Shore line**
 - Any moored or anchored vessel**
 - A dock or raft**
 - Any marked swimming area or person in the water**

Reckless operation of a vessel or reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard or similar devices is opera-

tion which disregards the safety or rights of others. Such as:

- Weaving through congested traffic
- Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close or when visibility is restricted
- Chasing, harassing wildlife
- Causing damage with the wake of your vessel
- PWC must not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel other than another PWC
- It is illegal to operate a vehicle in excess of 55 mph (except 1 mile from shore on great lakes or Lake St. Clair)
- The proper direction is to operate in a counterclockwise direction
- Sailboats and disabled vessels have the right of way!

Slow NO WAKE zone means the slowest speed at which it is possible to maintain steering and which does

not create a wake.

And just a courtesy reminder - *slow down* when approaching a NO WAKE zone. Cutting back your engine at the last minute creates damaging waves that can erode and damage your neighbor's shoreline. **All coves on Pine Lake are designated as "No Wake Zones."** For the most part, Pine Lake has been fortunate to avoid serious or life threatening accidents. Let's continue to be safe and keep up the good work!

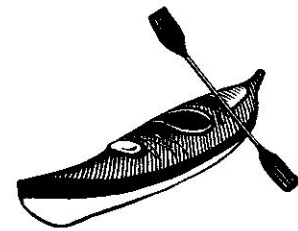
Source: The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities
FOR MORE INFORMATION: on line go to <http://www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook> for complete Michigan boating laws.

Don't Miss the PLA Annual
Membership Meeting on June 20th
at 9:00 am. at MCTI Kellogg-
Chapman House!

Boaters Safety Class

A Boater's Safety Course, open to the public, is offered on the last Saturday of June at Shady Shores Resort on Gun Lake. The resort is located on Patterson Road 1.3 miles south of M-179, and across the street from Premier Motors. There is no charge for the class and many adults take the class with younger individuals. Many residents may not be familiar with all of the legal boating rules, which are included below. Please read them carefully paying especially close attention to those marked with an **** which apply to adults**. Pre-Registration is **NOT** required.

What: Boater's Safety Course to obtain Boater's Safety Certificate
When: Saturday, June 27 from 9:00 am.—3:00 pm.
Where: Shady Shores Resort on Gun Lake
What to bring: A pencil and sack lunch (or students may go out during the hour period).



fill out and submit the form, available by logging onto www.barrysheriff.com and clicking "Safety Classes." You may also apply for a duplicate certificate by phone or mail. There will be no charge for this service. To apply by phone, call (517) 373-3292. unch period)

DUPLICATE SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE REQUEST

If you have previously completed a Michigan Marine Safety Education Course, and your original certificate has been lost or misplaced, please

The Treasurer's Two-Cents Worth

It's time once again that the volunteers for the Pine Lake Association are pounding the pavement and making phone calls trying to generate additional funds for our 4th of July fireworks display and events. If anyone knows of a business or organization that would be willing to make a donation in return for some free advertising anytime the raffle is mentioned, i.e. at area businesses, in our newsletter, and on our web site, please contact any member of the board and we will gladly "take it from there."

The money that we raise this year with donations and our raffle cover our costs for the following year's Fireworks events. Our cost for the fireworks display, with the DJ, is \$5925.00, the same as last year's. We were very lucky to have been able to keep our price and program the same. Presently our balance in the Fireworks fund is \$5621.00, so our efforts last year were a bit short. Hopefully, with a few changes that we are making in our so-

licitation, we can make up that \$300.00 and increase our balance a bit in case there is a price increase (which I'm sure there will be) for next year's show, without having to cut back on the fireworks display.

So, as a reminder, please return your membership forms as soon as possible (they are due by the June 20th Membership meeting) and remember that there are donation canisters located at **Doster Store, Pine Lake Diner, and Pine Lake Boat & Motor** to help support our 4th of July celebration. Please. Please. Every little bit helps.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer.

Dianne DeYoung
 Treasurer, PLA

PLA Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 20th at 9:00 am. At the Kellogg-Chapman House at MCTI

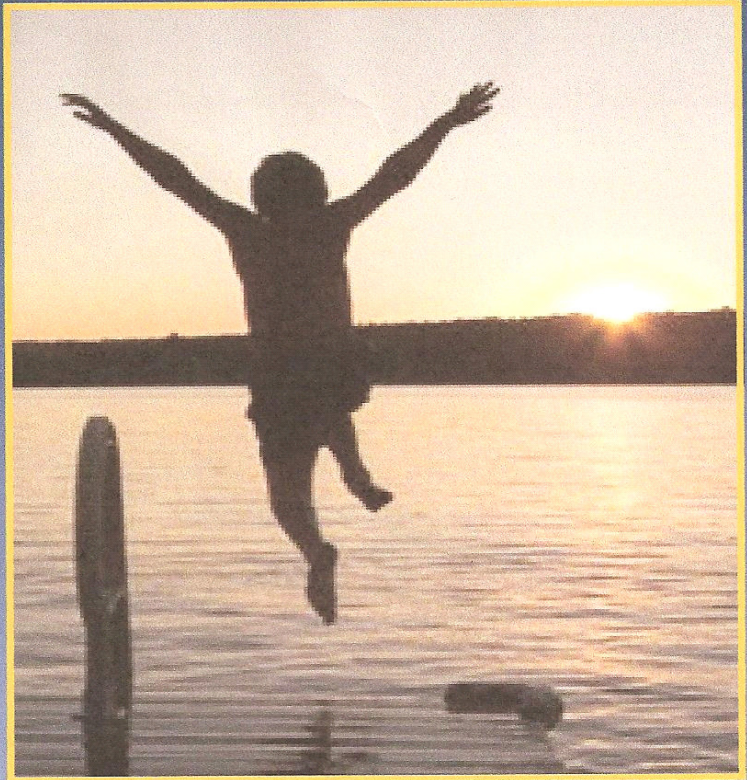
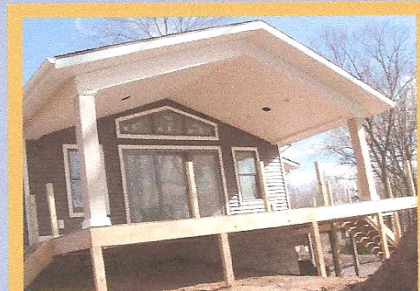
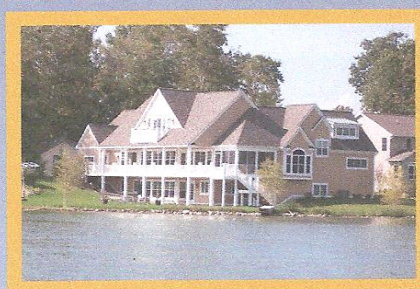
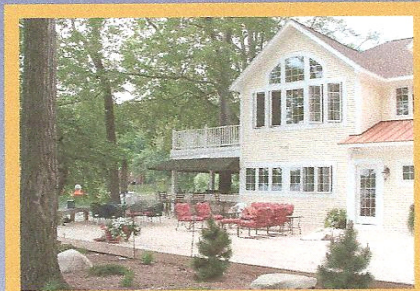
- **FREE Refreshments provided by PLA Officers and Directors**
- **FREE Door Prizes—win a Pine Lake Sweatshirt or T-Shirt**
- **4th of July Raffle Tickets on Sale**
- **Election of Officers**
- **PLA Membership Forms available at the meeting and in this newsletter—see p. 9**
- **All are Welcome!!!**

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PLA 2009-2010 Membership Drive

In an effort to continually increase our membership, we are requesting all current members to recruit one neighbor, friend, or relative on Pine Lake to join the PLA. If we each recruit one new member, we will double our membership! The information you supply will also be used to update our PLA Directory.

Pine Lake Association Membership Card & Directory Update

Names: _____ Dues: \$25.00
Lake Address: _____ Fireworks: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Donation: _____
City: _____ Buoy Fund: _____
State & Zip _____ Weed Control: _____
Lake Phone: _____ Survey: _____
Phone 2: _____ Total: _____
Email Address: _____

Residential Status: Seasonal _____ Year Around _____

Are you willing to receive your PLA Newsletter by e-mail? Y N

Are there any changes to your lake, mailing, or e-mail address(s) since last update? Y N

Please check if you do **not** want your personal information published in the new PLA Directory: _____

Please Make Checks to: **PLA**

Send Card and Check to:
Pine Lake Association
P.O. Box 3
Plainwell, MI 49080

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Please check if you do **not** want your personal information published in the new PLA Directory: _____

Please Make Checks to: **PLA**

Send Card and Check to:
Pine Lake Association
P.O. Box 3
Plainwell, MI 49080

The Presidents' Corner, Cont'd. from p. 1

I recruited a friend, packed up chairs, binoculars and a high powered viewing scope w/tripod to sit on the side of W. Ford Rd to view this spectacular and amazing sight. I counted 17 "huge" nests all located within 2 large trees, all-together, very high above the ground (Blue Herons will nest as high as 98' or higher)! As I watched the Herons coming and going, I realized they were dispersing to various lakes in the area to hunt for food. One Heron would fly off in this direction and then another would fly off in another direction. Some were "incoming" returning to the nests, having come from a lake somewhere in the area. I was able to watch them come & go, continuously for about 1/2 hour. For those of you who have an interest in learning more about this beautiful, majestic and amazing bird, I have provided some details and a few websites below:

The Great Blue Heron is grayish-blue in color with chestnut and black accents. Michigan's Great Blue Heron's are the largest heron species in North America weighing 5.5 #'s, standing 2' tall, 3-4.5 ft long and have an awe-inspiring wingspan of 6 ft!

The Blue Heron's migrate for the winter, leaving by end of October and returning in early to mid-March to Southern Michigan. Their exact migration destination is not known.

The Great Blue Heron males gather sticks for the female who builds the nest and their nests are re-used year after year. Both parents take turns incubating from 3-5, but as many as 7, "greenish-blue" eggs and the incubation period is 25-29 days. Once hatched during the first week of May, the young fly from the nest at about 60 days of age, leaving the nest permanently between 64-90 days.

The Great Blue Heron diet consists of fish, crayfish and frogs, although they will also feed upon insects, rodents & small mammals, birds, snakes & salamanders. They hunt visually, individually or in groups by slowly wading in shallow water or standing in wait of their prey. We often observe them on our docks & shorelines scanning for food, standing perfectly still! Abandonment of their colonies can occur when their colony or nesting habitat is threatened by overbuilding of roads, golf courses & homes, logging activity and human visits, making community planning & zoning vital in our area for the preservation of our Great Blue Heron's. My viewing area on West Ford Road was the appropriate and suggested distance so as not to disturb the nesting Herons, hence binoculars are needed for a close up, "bird's eye view"! *The pun IS intended!*

Directions to our nearby colony, heronry or rookery:

Take Pine Lake Rd to Lindsay Rd, go right, past Shelp Lake and Houvener Rd. on left, turn onto West Ford Road, (2nd dirt road on left w/no street sign). Continue on W. Ford Rd. past S. Enzian Road (paved w/a stop sign), go exactly .5 miles after you pass Enzian Rd. intersection. You will see a body of water/wetland on the left and look across the water, upward, high in the trees, you can still see a few nests even with the leaves on the trees (they are humungous nests!). For a better view, try to see them in late October, after the leaves fall or early next spring. They are quite a sight and well worth the time and trip!

Suggested websites to learn more:

http://www.birdweb.org/birdweb/bird_details.aspx?id=41

http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/abstracts/zoology/Great_Blue_Heron_Rookery.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12145_12202-60857--,00.html

Shawn Diebold, Outgoing President, PLA

**PLA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
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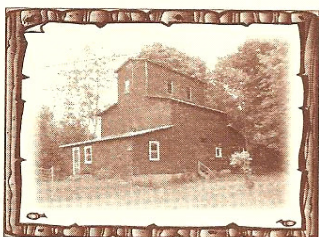
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PRAIRIEVILLE AUTO LCC

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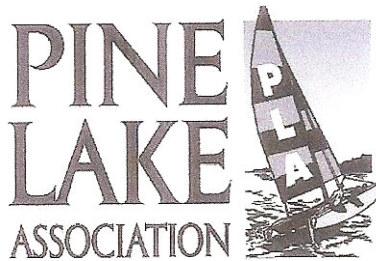
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Pine Lake News

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Annual PLA Membership Meeting

June 20 at 9:00 am. At MCTI

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