

PLA NEWS

Spring 2025

Welcome to our annual PLA Newsletter. Every year at Pine Lake is special and last summer's northern lights were just one of those moments. This background picture is of those lights. Thank you to Meggie Haneckow for sharing it with us.

We are so glad you are all a part of our community. We hope this newsletter helps you enjoy the lake to the fullest. There are many different activities available for all, information on water quality, water safety reminders and the list goes on. There is a hard copy of the calendar with PLA events in this newsletter for you to keep.

It is the cycle of life as we also sadly say good bye to friends each year. Our condolences go out to the families as we cherish the memories of those who are no longer with us.

IN MEMORIAM

DICK VAN NIMAN

JUDY STEVENS

PHILLIP J. GLASS

SHARON HANSEN

LIANE RILEY

DEAN HONSBERGER

LORI BLACKEN

BEVERLY ZIENTARA

WANDA HAMMOND

NORA HAFF

JOANN VANDERBORGH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2025

Dear Pine Lake Association Members,

As we transition out of the Winter months of enjoying the ice and embrace Spring, I think we are all looking forward to being on the boat once again, enjoying the beauty of the lake, and all the fun that summer brings as well.

All the while, the Pine Lake Association (PLA) is making preparations to bring you as many of our traditional Pine Lake events as we have volunteers for, including the Easter Egg Drop, the 4th of July Celebration, the Turtle Races and the Float Fest! These events provide opportunities for neighbors to connect, celebrate, and strengthen the bonds that make our community so special.

None of this is possible without our local event volunteers, help and support from Pine Lake Boat and Motor, the Prairieville Township Fire Department, Shelps Resort & RV Campground, Lake Trades and our PLA Board Members that work all year around. Please extend your patronage and gratitude when you see them!

To ensure we can continue to enjoy the lake for years to come, the health of our lake as well as boater safety remains a top priority. We will continue to work with PLM as they conduct their annual water quality testing, identify and manage invasive species, replace damaged channel buoys and we hope to add a new shallow area marker to the currently unmarked shallow spot on Lake 3. I am also working on an improved solution for buoy lights at night. Our water quality remains very high, very clean and we have kept invasive species to a minimum. However, we also face challenges such as increased boat traffic, common disregard for boating regulations and erosion issues. We will continue to work with the DNR, PLM and Barry County Marine Patrol to preserve and protect our lake, its precious natural resources and our wonderful community.

In looking ahead, the PLA is excited to welcome new residents to our beautiful Pine Lake and encourage everyone to join and support the PLA so we can continue our Pine Lake traditions and do what we do each year to make this a great lake community! Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous year ahead.

Sincerely,

Andrea Bernard

President, Pine Lake Association



LOOK

**NEXT PLA MEETING
ON JUNE 7 AT 9 AM AT
THE PINE LAKE REC CENTER.**

We all need to find ways to give back to our lake community. In the listing to the right you will see two activities which have black arrows pointing at them. There is no lead for these events. This is the second year without a lead for the boat parade and the first without a lead for the fireworks. The PLA Fireworks show is a favorite and this year the PLA Board is making it happen. This is not sustainable. Someone needs to step up to lead. In 2025 you would have the opportunity to shadow the process. Contact any board member if you have questions.

Treasurer's Update

3-31-25

General Fund: \$14,499.85

Fireworks: \$25,177.45

Buoys: \$7,480.23



PLA VOLUNTEER OFFICERS

President, Andrea Bernard
president@pinelk.org

Vice President, Corey Case
vicepresident@pinelk.org

Secretary, MaryAnn DeVries
secretary@pinelk.org

Treasurer, Sara Smith
treasurer@pinelk.org

Sergeant-at-Arms, Brad Deneau
sergeant-at-arms@pinelk.org

OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Easter Egg Drop, Sara Smith

Boat Parade, lead needed

Fireworks, lead needed

Float Fest, Andrea Bernard

Garage Sales, Amy Hamilton

Halloween Party, Patty Millard

Newsletter, MaryAnn DeVries

Turtle Races, Brad Deneau

Webmaster, Pete Seibert



*Invoices for PLA are due
June 1. If you need an invoice one
can be found on the PLA FB page.*

Pine Lake Management Update 2024- 2025

Andy Tomaszewski, PLM Lake and Land Management

Management has been going well on Pine Lake. Since the beginning of the program, the primary focus has been on controlling exotic, invasive plant species. Currently there are three on Pine Lake. These are Eurasian watermilfoil, curly leaf pondweed and starry stonewort. Management has consisted of cycles of whole lake treatments followed by periods of spot, maintenance treatments.

A whole lake treatment was conducted in 2021 and we have been in a spot treatment period since then. We did see a small increase in 2024 which was likely due to the mild winter weather. We anticipate another year of spot treatments in 2025. You will be receiving a calendar in the mail showing these dates.

Water quality has also been a part of the management program each year. In 2024 things looked very good in the spring in terms of phosphorus in the lake. We did see a higher amount of phosphorus in the late summer. This is to be expected since the sample is collected 25 feet below the surface. Natural lake processes tend to cause higher values at this depth and it is not necessarily a representation of the majority of the lake volume.

For 2025 we will monitor Pine Lake every 3-4 weeks and address problems as they are found. Hopefully a more typical winter with prolonged ice cover will help reduce some early season growth of invasive species.

Lake Safety

When on the lake always remember that you are sharing it with other boaters, fishermen, swimmers and others. Make your decisions based on everyone's safety. Listed below are a few laws when operating a boat or PWC. A more comprehensive list can be found at www.barrycounty.org/marinedivision.

- Travel counter clockwise on the lake.
- The driver of the boat or PWC cannot be intoxicated.
- Boats must have proper lighting from sunset to sunrise.
- A Boater Safety Certificate is needed for students under 12 to drive a boat, at least 14 to operate a PWC with parent and 16 without a parent. Contact Barry County Marine division about upcoming trainings.



Garage Sales

There are 2 ways to register for the Pine Lake Garage Sales on June 13 and June 14.

1. Use the QR code on the flyer to the right.

2. Call Amy at (269) 303-0709.

Make sure to contact Amy if you are having a sale.



Friday June 13th & Saturday June 14th 2025

I am very excited to sponsor our 2025 pine lake garage sales! If you are interested in participating, please register by scanning the qr code or clicking the link provided.

Want to participate but don't know where to start? Here are some things you can do to prep!

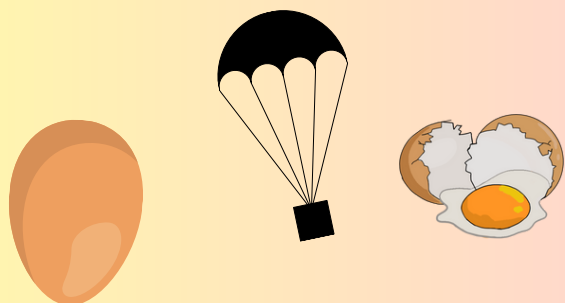
- ▶ Start collecting plastic or paper bags
- ▶ Hang onto shipping boxes to start your items
- ▶ Start thinking of how you will need to display your items (tables, clothing racks, sheets, tarps, etc)



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Egg Drop 2025

For the third year Pine Lake had a unique Easter Celebration. Children who attended the Egg Drop built containers before arriving. The purpose of these was to hold a raw egg. The container was dropped from a bucket high in the air and hit the ground. Some containers were not able to protect the eggs but others were more successful. Some eggs remained intact and went for a second drop. The creativity of the builders was amazing and fun was had by all.





Fireworks

Fireworks are one of the most looked forward to events at Pine Lake during the 4th of July celebrations. In 2025 they will be on July 3 at sunset with a raindate of July 12. Enjoy them from your home, your boat or the shore but just make sure to enjoy the show! Thank you to the many people who make this possible.



Pine Lake Big Ski

By Joel Schneck

Photos courtesy of Pine Lake Big Ski lovers.



The Pine Lake July 4th Big Ski Extravaganza continues to grow in popularity, and we are looking forward to another exciting event this year. Each year, our goal is to get as many skiers behind one boat as possible. Thirteen skiers made it in 2024. Thank you to the folks surrounding the perimeter of lakes 3 and 4 who cheered and kept the lake wave free! This year, we will again start from the south end of Lake 4, circle Lake 3, and return to Lake 4. We target launching between 9a-10a. on July 4. We look forward to seeing you there.

Turtle Races

In 2024 the Turtle Races were once again a big hit!! Back by popular demand in 2025 they will be on Saturday July 5 from 11 am - 2pm. Registration begins at 11 and the races start at noon. Come and visit the historic Shelp's Resort for family fun. Parking is at 11011 Doster Road or there is pontoon parking at the beach in front of the store/pavilion. The swimming area will be closed during this event. We hope to see you there!!

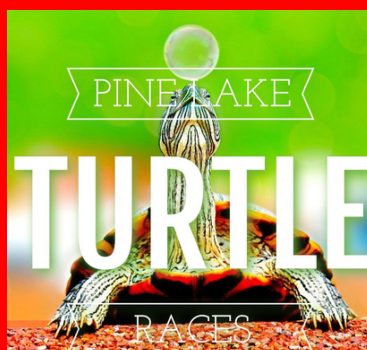


Photo courtesy of Brad Deneau



Pine Lake has amazing people with special stories. This story highlights the Dave Mumma family and the contribution they have shared with Pine Lake on Memorial Day these last years. If you haven't been able to attend, read this and then schedule your day so you do not miss "Taps Across America" via Pine Lake.

Taps Across America

There was a nationwide effort to gather in your hometown and play Taps at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to honor our soldiers. It spread across the country and Dave Mumma brought the idea to Pine Lake starting in 2019. The Taps have been played every year since then except for the Covid year. The Taps are meant to be a very somber 24 note bugle call. It is a prayer, nothing grandiose yet very meaningful. Each year when the taps are played at 3:00 p.m. it is with the knowledge that people all over the country are doing the same thing at the same time in an act of patriotism.

Since Dave played the Taps in 2019, his daughters, granddaughters, sons, grandsons, friends and neighbors have joined. Everyone is proud to be a part of this ceremony. The hope is more Pine Lakers will join in. Musicians, colors, uniforms and flags are all welcomed. Contact Dave Mumma at (269) 720-3774 by 5/16/2025 with your interest. Everyone else is invited to witness this somber ceremony either by boat in front of the township launch on Center St. or on shore. This will take place rain or shine on Memorial Day at 3 p.m. sharp. Thank you to the Mumma family for involving Pine Lake in this tradition.



Photos courtesy of Jess Parks.

Come Join Us Ladies!

by Karen Blamer

The Pine Lake Area Ladies Group (PLALG) started seven years ago and has grown to over 200 members! It's where women around the lake connect through many fun activities - book clubs, Bible studies, pickleball, monthly summer evening flotillas, rock painting/crafts, wine and appetizer nights, monthly breakfasts at the Pine Lake Diner, jigsaw puzzle exchange, Christmas Party, Four Roses dessert night, and lunches at MCTI. Other ideas are always welcome and anyone can post an activity or event on our PLALG Facebook page - be sure to join us on that. If you don't do Facebook, contact Karen Blamer at 269-312-3447 to be notified of upcoming events. Let's get connected ladies and make 2025 a wonderful, fun year!

The Children's Halloween Party

The PLA Children's Halloween Party tried a different strategy to get more children in attendance in 2024. A weeknight over the dinner hour was chosen as our community offers so many Halloween activities for students. Even though the numbers were still low, those in attendance had a lot of fun. Plans for 2025 are still being determined.



Get involved with PLA activities! The more people we have helping, the lighter the work. Reach out to any board member if you have questions.

We need you!!

Pine Lake Community Outreach

By Glo Kelly

Two new and exciting events were held last year!

Pine Lake Blessing Walk

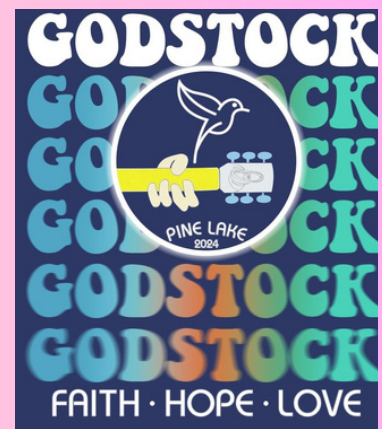
On May 18, 2024 a beautiful Saturday morning, about 30 ladies and girls walked the roads around our lake praying for God's blessings on our Pine Lake neighborhood. Prayers were said for peace and love, for health and healing, and for safety for everyone using the lake during the busy summer months. The Pine Lake Blessing Walk was so well received by the community that our second annual walk is planned for Saturday, May 3.



Pine Lake Godstock Music Fest/Revival

The first annual Pine Lake Godstock Music Fest/Revival was held on Saturday, Sept. 7 on a very cool afternoon at the Kelly barn on Merlau. This event welcomed the Pine Lake community to experience the love of God through live music, testimonies, food, games, bonfire and family activities. About 160 people braved the chilly temps! What an overwhelming experience it was to see so many supporting this event. Over sixteen very generous sponsors donated to it so all expenses were covered.

The 2025 Pine Lake Godstock Music Fest/Revival is being planned again this year for Saturday, Sept. 6 so mark your calendars!



Safety at Pine Lake

The Prairieville Township Fire Department (PTFD) and the Prairieville Township Police Department (PTPD) are both crucial to our ongoing safety. Listed in this article are some of the many ways they are working together to guarantee our well being.

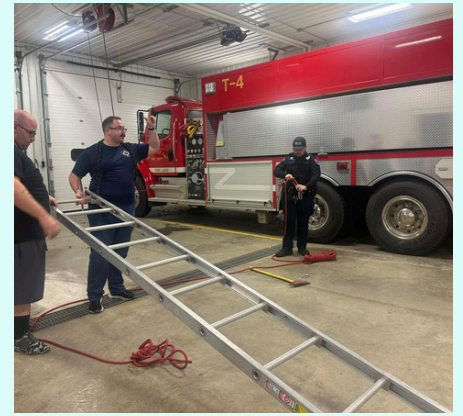
- Chief Mike Reizin, Officer Paul Green and Officer Brandon Robinson make up the PTPD. Scheduling is done so someone is available every day. This year a new police vehicle was purchased to improve street patrolling.
- Chief Brian Uridge leads the PTFD. The majority of their calls are medical in nature. Today they have more EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) trained staff than ever before in their history. There are 4 EMTs and one Paramedic. Having these personnel allows more effective emergency medical care for our community.
- The Fire and Police Departments work closely together through training and responding to calls. This allows time to understand priorities and needs of each other. The knowledge provides faster and more efficient response to the community.
- The two groups make better use of community funding by sharing resources such as reflective jackets, radios and other emergency gear.
- Both the PTPD and PTFD work with Delton and Plainwell to coordinate for our local schools. Prairieville Township and Barry Township have mutual aid agreements to back each other up. There is a strong working relationship with Plainwell Public Safety also.



PTFD, PTPD and Barry Township Police prior to handing out candy at Gilmore Car Museum's Trunk or Treat.



Learning and Working Together

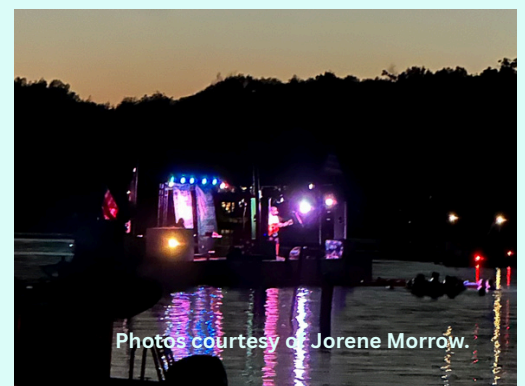


Photographs courtesy of Taylor Stewart.



Float Fest

The 2024 Pine Lake Float Fest did not disappoint. It was a great way to end an amazing summer on the lake. People listened to the Float Fest from shore but many brought their boats over, met friends and enjoyed the evening together. The 2025 Float Fest is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, August 31, 2025 on Labor Day Weekend.



Photos courtesy of Jorene Morrow.

PLA 2025 Calendar of Activities

Activity	Leader	Date/Location
February Meeting	PLA Board	Sunday, 2/2/25 3:00 at Fire Station
Buoy Drop/Removal	Andrea Bernard	Before Memorial Day/After Labor Day
Annual Newsletter	MaryAnn DeVries	April/May 2025
Egg Drop Event	Sara Smith	Sat. 4/19/25, 11 am at Pine Lake Rec
June Meeting	PLA Board	Sat. 6/7/25 9 am at Pine Lake Rec
Pine Lake Garage Sales	Amy Hamilton	Friday 6/13/25 and Sat. 6/14/25
Independence Day Fireworks	Lead Needed	Thurs. 7/3/25 at sunset, raindate 7/12/25
Boat Parade	Lead Needed	Decided by the volunteer lead!
Turtle Races	Brad Deneau	Sat. 7/5/25 11am-2pm at Shelp's Resort
Children's Halloween Party	Patty Millard	TBD
Pine Lake Float Fest	Andrea Bernard	Tentative date Sunday, 8/31/25 *CHANGE

