

# PINE LAKE ASSOCIATION



May 2016 Edition

Contact info: [plaofficer@pinelk.org](mailto:plaofficer@pinelk.org) message or post on Pine Lake Facebook page

## Message from the President

I would like to thank the Pine Lake Association Board, the members of the Association, and especially the volunteers for the opportunity to serve with and for you as president of the Pine Lake Association. I have been on the Board for 6 years and have made many great friends, and wonderful memories. This is a great group and we do much for the community and have fun along the way.

Volunteers! WE thank you all so much for the help that you have given to the Association over the last year. You are the energy that keeps us going. Please everyone, if you enjoy any or all of the various events that we sponsor, help us out. "Many hands make for light work."

Issues: We are fortunate that at this time we do not have any controversial issues looming on the immediate future. Ironically, the lack to controversy leads to the lack of interest in the ongoing operation of the Association. I joking say, but with some truth that whenever I held a Board Meeting, if the room was packed I knew there was a problem. Fortunately and unfortunately at the same time, I never hosted a packed meeting. We do have continuing issues that we monitor and may have to address. Weed control, which really was a divisive issue for years, seems to be controlled in a manor that is beneficial to the vast majority of the lake residents. The group, PLM, that does our monitoring and treatments, has been very good to work with over the past several years. You will note that there are articles in this newsletter that address invasive species, and introduce you to environmental groups and programs that are working in the area to help preserve our beautiful lakes and the indigenous plant and animal life in them.

## Annual Newsletter

### Association Board and Newsletter Volunteers

President  
Don Haneckow  
[president@pinelk.org](mailto:president@pinelk.org)

Vice President  
Tim Yake  
[vicepresident@pinelk.org](mailto:vicepresident@pinelk.org)

Secretary  
Nancy Whitney  
[secretary@pinelk.org](mailto:secretary@pinelk.org)

Treasurer  
Christine Yake  
[treasurer@pinelk.org](mailto:treasurer@pinelk.org)

Sergeant-at-Arms  
Cindy Hook  
[sergeant-at-arms@pinelk.org](mailto:sergeant-at-arms@pinelk.org)

**See 2016 Events Calendar on last page of  
Newsletter**

We also have other issues that have been brought up, that show a concern to our lake residents. These include but are not limited to, Boat traffic/congestion, boat courtesy, shore erosion, and lake level. These issues have not stimulated enough interest to cause committees to be formed, but they are never the less, out there.

Facebook: Stay informed by joining our facebook page, Facebook is free and easy to get connected with. Open up a search engine a search for <https://www.facebook.com> set up an account, and then find and ask to join the Pine Lake Association group. We will accept you as a member and you will be able to see what is being talked about in the group. We do screen the requests to join and may message you asking what your connection to the lake is. We ask that you keep comments civil, remember lots of folks are reading this, we understand healthy discussion and disagreement, but we do not need mud slinging and or personal attacks. If you are a business, or have a business in the area we welcome you to post, but keep the posts to a reasonable number. As an advertiser on our site, we welcome your donation to the Association and our various funds (see dues and donations form below).

Don Haneckow

### **Treasurer's Two Cents Worth**

We currently have \$28,328.01 in our accounts. We have a General fund account of \$15,446.89 which is very healthy. Our Fireworks fund is at \$9,294.00, this is after we have paid roughly half (\$5,000.) towards this years fireworks. So we are solid for this years fireworks but are significantly behind for next years display. The Buoy fund is at \$3,587.12. There is also an amount of money collected at the Winterfest that is yet to be dispensed to the Fire Department.

Our annual membership as of April 30<sup>th</sup> is 126. This number is roughly 1/5 of the total households and cottages out here at the lake.

This is our primary funding mechanism for all of the projects we are involved in. This membership funding is required to support ongoing to lake activities. The higher the membership and more donations given the more we are able to do for Pine Lake residents. Note that donations from local businesses are welcome and appreciated.

### **Sgt. Of Arms Update**

We have had many events during the past year and signs have gone up to advertise them for you.

The buoys are in. They will be taken out in the fall before cold weather. The specific location is determined by township map. Buoys do not guarantee the depth in the channel nor the lack of hazards. You should be mindful of the changing configuration of the bottom and the changes in the lake level and proceed with caution and be mindful of your depth in the channels at all times.

### **June Annual Meeting**

Plan to attend and make your voice and vote known for your Pine Lake Association Board and financial directions for the year.

### **Garage Sales in 2016**

We support a lake wide garage sales again this year on Friday, June 24 and 25. Please complete your application and we will include you on the lake wide map. (See the registration form on back pages.)

### **Fourth of July Events Update**

The fireworks are on July 2<sup>nd</sup> this year with the 3<sup>rd</sup> as a rain date. We hope this provides time with your family on your days off and Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> as a day to attend the Turtle Races and night boat parade.

We remind all the Pine Lake residents and their guests to be safe while on the water. It is very busy and everyone is having a great time. We would hate to see the fun destroyed by boat crashes and or injuries.

Your donation to the fireworks fund is the primary way that we fund the fireworks. We may also have Tervis Tumblers for sale, but that will not sustain the fireworks. Remember, we pay the fireworks forward, what we collect this year, we shoot off next year. Please donate generously.

### Turtle Race Quilt



Interesting use of Turtle Shirts from the past, a quilt made for Helen Adams by her daughter

### Tervis Tumblers

Tervis tumblers will be available in 24 oz or "rocks" sizes this summer. The cost will be \$25.00 for the Tumbler and \$20.00 for the rocks glasses. This project forwards any profits made to the fireworks fund for the next year. Contact Robin Williams at 664-6093 to order yours. Any profits from these sales go towards the fireworks display for the next year.

### Halloween Party Update



Pine Lake Goblins and friends

Last year we had record turnout and best fun ever. Thanks to all who help create this event. You are all invited to come over and help with the set up, participate as a ghoul, goblin, or witch, or assist at the various games and crafts stations. Much fun is had by all. You really need to come to this, bring your kids, your grandkids, or just come up to see the mahem.

## Board and Volunteer Job Descriptions

**There have been questions about what the jobs are for those volunteering for the Pine Lake Association. The following is a description of the various offices and committee chairs that we use to make the Association function. Please take a look and volunteer for an area that ties to your talents and interest to keep this great organization going.**

**President:** The President shall preside at all meetings and perform such other duties as are usual to his office, BUT SHALL NOT VOTE EXCEPT TO BREAK A TIE.

- Call to order and run the business meetings
- Call for special meetings or work group meeting as needed to promote the ongoing work of the Association.
- Attend functions as deemed appropriate to represent the Association.
- Quarterly breakfast of area lake association presidents, usually at a restaurant.
- Governmental meetings as needed (township, county, etc.).
- Coordinates with work groups and committees for the Association. May assign other Board Members to work as liaison for groups and committees. (Recently the President has worked with the Fourth of July Festivities Coordinator and the Halloween Party Coordinator, as examples.)

**Vice-President:** The Vice President shall have voting privileges, assume the duties of the President in his absence, and carry on such traditional duties of the office as may be passed on to him. HE SHALL NOT HAVE VOTING PRIVILEGES WHILE

ASSUMING THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT EXCEPT TO BREAK A TIE.

This is a great place to get involved in the Association, see how things work and assist the president as requested or in the presidents absence

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall make a record of all meetings of the Association; carry on such correspondence as need be; check mail at the post office as necessary; and carry out the mandates of the office as expressed by the Board of Directors and/or the membership in annual meetings. Notify Board of Directors of meeting dates.

- Responsible to coordinate the solicitation of dues and donations for the annual funding drive.
- Coordinates with the editor of the annual newsletter.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall receive all dues, voluntary and special contributions; keep a record of receipts and disbursements; report the financial condition at annual meetings and regular meetings; and carry out the mandates of the office as expressed by the Board of Directors and/or the membership in annual meetings.

**Sgt. At Arms:** The Sergeant of Arms shall check membership eligibility at all meetings and act as advisor in parliamentary procedures.

- Coordinate with the committee or professional services company to place and remove the buoys from the lake.
- Publicizes the PLA meetings including storing and posting reminder signs and arranges for venue.

These are general descriptions and many times the Board Members step in to help one another. None of these jobs are overwhelming and they are generally fun. We tend to have meetings at private residences to discuss ongoing and upcoming events prior to the formal meetings of the Association. These meetings are open to all members of the Association and they are utilized to minimize the amount of time spent at formal meetings.

We utilize events coordinators, ad hoc committees, or standing committees to get the work of the Association accomplished. We try to have a Board Member Liaison with each of these committees when possible. These various coordinators or committees are tasked with completing all actions needed toward the various endeavors, not to be limited to, but for example, Fourth of July festivities, Buoy Committee, Weed Control Committee, Halloween Party Committee, Winterfest Committee.

The current Board does not do all the work of the various concerns within the association, but rather when a concern is brought forward it assigns a committee to investigate and then if interest is sufficient, assigns a board member to liaise and possibly provide funding for the concern. It is the current Board's position that we are elected to carry on the wishes of the membership and not to use the board to further specific personal agendas.

*This is a possible example of how a person or group's interest would work.*  
*Fiction: If there was interest in dredging a channel to Gun Lake, we would ask someone to chair a committee and let them appoint committee members (read in to that "get some friends to help") and then come back with the pertinent information, desire by lake residents, reasonableness, resistance, and cost, among others). If the report back indicated sufficient interest, etc., the Board would assign someone to liaison with the committee and have it added to the standing committee list for meeting review, legality, feasibility. If no one*

*wants to chair a committee or take the lead, it will not be done.*

One important element of the functioning of the Pine Lake Association is having enough human hands on board to get it all done. It's every one's lake association and collectively we need to be responsible and help, not depend on the "Board" to do it all.

### Standing Committees at this time

**Weed Control:** The membership of the Lake Association has shown it is in favor of weed control at Pine Lake. The committee is tasked with monitoring the current special assessment district for weed control, the effectiveness of the project, and to ensure that the reauthorization path is monitored and any petitions, signature drives, etc., will be done to ensure the requirements for reauthorization of the weed control measure are met.

**Newsletter:** Liaison with the Secretary, call or contact for articles and for advertisements, compose articles as needed, compile news letter, have it printed and sent to all lake residents before the annual meeting in June. (Actual printing and mailing is contracted out, we don't lick the stamps anymore.) This has been an annual newsletter in recent years. Facebook and the Web site are also used to communicate just in time information or questions during the rest of the year.

**Garage Sales:** Coordinate participation in and advertisement of our annual garage sale event. Usually have an article in the newsletter along with a registration form. Lists of participants with addresses are provided to locations to give to shoppers.

**Fourth of July Festivities:** Coordinate with committee usually working closely with the President of the Association for the following events. (This has been going on for a long time and every one knows what they have to

do, but it is important that it all be done correctly and timely.)

**Fireworks:** Ensures that the fireworks display and celebration events is authorized by the Prairieville Township, ensures that the fireworks display company is retained, insurance requirements are met, ensures that the site is available and approved by the fire department, that the fire department is on hand the night of the event, that the Sheriff's Marine patrol is aware of the date and in attendance for safety.

**Music:** Arranges for musical presentation during the fireworks, that the venue for the music is allowed by the owner, the musician (DJ), is retained, that any authorization for the musical event from the Township of Prairieville is obtained.

**Turtle Race:**  
Coordinate with Nancy Robinson who hosts the event. Make sure that her funding needs are met.

**Boat Parade:** Usually coordinated by the Sgt. At Arms, make sure the location of start and time are posted on facebook.

**Halloween Party:** This event has been going on for many years and tasks are well known and well volunteered. Coordinator gets approval from Fire Department/Township to use the fire station for the event. Makes sure all displays, props, etc., are brought from storage to the site. Coordinates with the Fire Department representative to have fire equipment removed from the station on the day of the event. Coordinates with set up crews to craft a spook house, crafts area, games area, and food area. Coordinates or assigns someone to order and pick up food (pizza) for the event. Staffs the event with volunteers. Ensures the props are taken down and removed from the station and the station returned to useable condition after the event.

**Winter Fest:** Establish a venue, obtain proper permits for activities, not limited to but

including, if using Township parks property-get Park's Board approval and pay for use of park if requested, if food is to be served-get any needed permits or insure that any vender has proper permits, if alcohol is going to be offered-get 24 hour LCC permit, if fireworks-fill out a request for fireworks permit, obtain proper insurances, etc.

Other committees that have been supported in the past are Pig Roast and Easter Egg Hunt. Should the Pine Lake Association Members have an interest in these or other activities in the future, they may request support from the Board and take on the responsibilities to manage the event if approved.

## News that impacts us

### Barry County Sheriff Marine Patrol Update

#### Have the Right Life Jacket?

Do you have the right life jacket? Nearly all boating-related fatalities are the result of drowning and most of these fatalities may have been prevented if a life jacket had been worn. Your life jacket is the most important piece of boating safety gear, so be sure to always Wear It!

#### Select the Right Style

Life jackets are designed for a boater's recreational water activity. A life jacket may be inherently buoyant – using foam or other buoyant materials to stay afloat – or inflatable – providing buoyancy when inflated by relying on CO2 cylinders.

Be sure each life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard-approved and appropriate for the water activity by checking the label printed on the inside of the life jacket.

#### Make Sure It Fits

You don't want your life jacket too large or too small. A snug fit is a proper fit. Remember, life jackets for adults do not work for children.

1 Make sure the life jacket is properly fastened.

- 2 All straps, buckles or zippers are secure.
- 3 Hold your arms straight up over your head.
- 4 Ask a friend to grasp the tops of the arm openings and gently pull up.

### How to Care for Your Life Jacket

Refer to OWNER'S MANUAL for specific maintenance requirements.

#### *All Life Jacket Care*

Use properly

No rips, waterlogging or mildew

Dry after use

Hand wash in mild detergent

Store in a dry place when not boating

## 10 Most Common Marine Law Violations

1. All watercraft shall be equipped with a Coast Guard approved PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD) of appropriate size for each passenger. Boats over 16' are required to have a Coast Guard approved wearable for each person and one additional type IV throw-able device. All PWC(Jet Ski) occupants are required to wear PFDs. Children under 6 must wear a Type I or II PFD while riding on an open deck of a vessel. Check the printed Coast Guard information on each jacket.
2. Vessels are required to operate at a slow, no wake speed within 100 feet from any raft, dock, occupied swim area, anchored or moored vessels, or persons in the water. The speed limit for an inland lake is 55 M.P.H. maximum and less for reduced visibility or congested areas.
3. Watercraft shall travel in a counter-clockwise direction on the lake when traveling the shoreline.
4. An operator of a vessel shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

5. Occupants of a vessel shall not sit or stand in an area not build to be stood or sat upon while the boat is under way ,i.e. seatbacks, decks, bow and gunwales.

6. Watercraft must have proper lighting from sunset to sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

7. A Personal Watercraft (PWC) may be operated during the hours between 8:00 AM until sunset.

8. Persons born after December 31, 1978 must have a Boaters Safety Certificate when operating a PWC. The minimum age for operating a PWC is 14 with a parent or 16 without a parent. **Those born after July 1, 1996 must have a Boater's Safety Certificate to operate any motorized vessel over 6 HP on Michigan waterways.**

9. A PWC may not jump the wake of another non PWC watercraft within 150 feet of the boat's stern unless at a slow, no wake, speed.

10. Water skiing is legal 1 hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset. An observer other than the operator of the vessel is required.

For further information contact the Barry County Sheriff's Department or visit <https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/handbook/book.html>

### Wake Boarders and Surfers

What Great Fun!

Please be mindful that your monster wakes do take a toll on the shorelines and beaches. Stay as far away from shore as possible when riding, this will minimize the amount of erosion done to the beaches and banks.

Be a great neighbor.

Thanks

## **Information from the Prairieville Township Parks and Recreation Commission**

### **Safety Fliers Available**

Two free safety fliers were distributed to Pine Lake lakefront residences last summer. The first flyer contains information about who should be contacted regarding launch site concerns and the second about who should be contacted on the lake for concerns. Fliers were not delivered to residences marked with private property, no trespassing or beware of dog signage. If you did not receive this information and would like to do so, please email your name and mailing address to John Hoek at flyindutch@yahoo.com.

### **Pine Lake Recreation Area Survey**

The Pine Lake Recreation Area is a beautiful but very under used park that requires considerable dollars to maintain. One of the Parks and Recreation Commission's goals this year is to have a professional survey conducted to determine: (1) if Prairieville Township residents support the continued operation of this area; and (2) if so, what their consensus is regarding the specific ways it could best be realistically and financially repurposed to foster a satisfactory rate of usage. Please be assured that the Commission has no plans to close this park at this time.

### **Boat Wash Station To Be Constructed At the Upper Crooked Lake Launch Site**

Upper Crooked Lake hosts five (5) aquatic invasive species. (AIS) This is more than any other lake in this area. As such, it is considered to be a "donor" lake since it donates AIS to other lakes primarily through the movement of recreational watercraft. To slow down the future introduction of additional AIS and to stop the continued donation to other lakes (like Pine Lake), a watercraft wash station will be constructed at the Upper Crooked launch site this spring. An enforcing ordinance will require that all watercraft be inspected by a trained attendant and be

washed prior to launching if required. And, prior to exiting, all watercraft must again be washed and flushed. This station is being built and staffed with financial support from Prairieville Township, the Delton Crooked Lake Association and private donors and will be managed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

### **New Reduced Rate Pass Option Available**

The Parks and Recreation Commission is offering (on a trial basis) a new reduced rate pass for Pine Lake lakefront and backlot property owners. This annual pass costs \$10.00 and enables the purchaser unlimited launching and reloading of his/her watercraft on Pine Lake at the Center Street launch site. For additional information about this new pass, please go to the Prairieville Township web site and click on the "Parks and Recreation" tab.

### **An Invitation**

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Prairieville Township Hall. During each meeting there are two opportunities for Pine Lake Association members--YOU-- to ask questions or submit comments to the Commission members. You are encouraged to do so! If you are unable to attend, please contact us via the USPS or by using the email address above.

### **Doggie Doodoo Do's and Don'ts**

It was brought up at the last Association meeting that there are folks not being the best of neighbors when it comes to their pets, (dogs mostly) using neighbor's yard as bathroom of choice.

Use common sense and courtesy in cleaning up. Carry plastic bags with you on your walk or bring a scooper along. Take a minute to clean up the mess and I am sure no one will complain if you toss it in the closest garbage can.



# Four Township Water Resources Council

The Four Township Water Resources Council (FTWRC) is a group of concerned citizens dedicated to protecting water quality in Barry and Prairieville Townships in Barry County, and Richland and Ross Townships in Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

Council members are dedicated to protecting water quality in the four townships. Currently, the FTWRC is led by a 12-member board of directors from all four townships and citizens from many backgrounds. The group was organized in 1994 as an informal group to discuss and address common land use and water quality issues on a watershed basis. The FTWRC is a resource for local governments and work closely with government officials to assist with the adoption of land use policies to proactively manage growth for the environmental and economic benefit of the community.

The Council is a Michigan non-profit corporation and donations are deductible under Section 501 (c) (3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code.

You may contact this organization for more information at:

Four Township Water Resources Council  
P.O. Box 634  
Richland, MI 49083-0634

**e-mail**

[mail@ftwrc.org](mailto:mail@ftwrc.org)

## Prairieville Township Fire Department News

We thank the community and especially the Pine Lake Association for your continued support of the Fire Department.

The Fire Station on Lindsey Rd has received a face lift and a much needed addition of space. We have been somewhat cramped in the past and it is nice to have sufficient room for our equipment, apparatus, and training needs.

The Fire Department is proud to announce that we have been recognized by the State of Michigan as a Medical First Responder (MFR) training site and we are holding our first classes now. MFR training is required to respond to medical calls for service. Medical calls compose the majority of our calls to assist in the community.



MJ, Chris, Zak (trainer) and Chastity during MFR class this Spring

We also have several State recognized Fire Fighter Instructors on our department and utilize their expertise to present tactical and safety training that is relevant to the fire fighting profession.

We are always looking for new members to the fire department. If you have a desire to help out your neighbors and provide services to your community we would love to have you join. Contact the Township Hall to get an application.

A reminder to you that you should check the address numbers for your house to insure that they are clearly visible from the road and that they are placed in a position that leaves no doubt as to where your residence is. (It's the Law) If we can't find you, we can't help you.

Thanks again for your continued support and have a fire safe and happy summer.

**Advertiser Contact Information** Advertisement has not been placed in the news letter, instead we invite those that would like to advertise to those that live and play at the lake to join our facebook page and place your ads there. Your generous donation to the Pine Lake Association will be gladly accepted instead of charging you \$100-400 to place an ad in the newsletter. Please note on the form that you are an advertiser when you donate. (use form below)



Pine Lake Association  
 P.O. Box 3  
 Plainwell, MI 49080  
 www.pinelk.org  
 Contact PLA Board Members  
 Email: plaboard@pinelk.org

Pine Lake Association Dues 2016-2017

Association Dues	\$25.00
Fireworks Fund Donation (\$25.00 recommended)	_____
Buoy Fund Donation (\$5.00 recommended)	_____
Other Donation (please specify) _____	_____
<b>Total:</b>	<b>_____</b>

Resident Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address (optional); \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Check here if you would like your contact information used for a lake directory.  
 (This is subject to participation.)

Please return this invoice by June 1, 2016 with your check to  
 Pine Lake Association  
 P.O. Box 3  
 Plainwell, Mi. 49080

Please remember that these dues and donations will be the only solicitation for funds for the Association, the Fire Works, or the buoys.

Thank you for your help in making our 2016 summer on the lake fantastic!

Hey everyone! Got a basement, garage or attic full of STUFF? Want to make some money on it? Then join us for the . . .

## ANNUAL PINE LAKE GARAGE SALES

Fri. June 24<sup>th</sup> 9–5 and Sat. June 25<sup>th</sup> 9–3

Cost for registration is \$5.00.

Here's the "great" news . . . if you are a ***Pine Lake Association Member***, then registration is ***free!!!***

Please fill out the application below and send it to Kim England before **Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>** in order for the location of your sale to go on the lake wide maps that will be handed out. Thanks, and have a great summer!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 check enclosed

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a PLA member

(Please make check to: **Pine Lake Association**)

Check box if you would like the Salvation Army to pick up your left over items after sale.

Please mail registration to:

Kim England

11323 Sunset Point

Plainwell, MI 49080

(269)330-2642

**You may register online by sending your Name, Address, and Phone to [Preciouspeasx3@aol.com](mailto:Preciouspeasx3@aol.com), and please also include if you want Salvation Army pickup in your email.**

## Pine Lake Association Calendar of Events 2016

<u>Event</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Date/Location</u>
Buoy Drop Day		Before Memorial Weekend
Publish Newsletter	Don Haneckow	Month of May
Ann. Mtg & Election of Officers	Pres.	Sat. Jun. 4 @9AM at MCTI Cabin
Garage Sale	Kim England	Fri.-Sat. Jun. 24 & 25 with map locations
<b>4th of July Events:</b>		
Firework Lake Two	Ian Bagley Jeff Bishop	Sat. Jul. 2 @ dark - rain date Sun. Jul. 3 Lake 2, MCTI
Boat Parade	Cindy Hook	Mon. Jul. 4 at dusk
Turtle Races	Nancy Robinson	Mon. Jul. 4 register 11AM-noon/race follows/ MCTI
Summer Meeting	Pres.	Thur. Aug. 18 @ 7PM at PTFD hall
Buoy Pull-out Days	Sgt at Arms	Before Halloween
<b>Children's Halloween Party</b>	Nancy G.	Sat. Oct. 22 - setup @9 AM/party 1-3PM PTFD hall
<b>Winterfest</b>	Cindy Hook	Date to be determined



P.O. Box 3  
Plainwell, MI 49080