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www.CloverleafLakes.com

*"Preserving our lakes for future generations"*

January 2007

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Protective  
Association**

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## We're progressing on lake plan

**By Bob Tomashek, CLPA President**

We have done many things around the lake in 2006 that we can be proud of. Our major accomplishment was completion of the Comprehensive Lake Management plan. This involved about 40 lake residents, a great process facilitator and five consultants from the DNR and UW-Stevens Point. We are starting the New Year with a plan to implement our Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

We currently have about 35 lake residents, the same great process facilitator and four consultants doing this job. We are accomplishing this job through task forces and committees. We have functioning task forces concerned with Biological Indicators, our Lake Fishery, and Residents as Lake Stewards (concerned with pollutants going into our lake). We have functioning committees that deal with the subjects of Communication and Social Marketing, Aquatic Plants (treatment and control of invasive species) and Data Management. This is a large job and I predict it will take this year and part of 2008 to have a newly designed Lake Association functioning.

I would like to thank all of the CLPA Board members for doing a great job in 2006. Each board member performs the function of helping to govern our lake community plus one or more on-going tasks:

**Carl Bruggink** – Vice President plus dam operator.

**Fran West** – Treasurer plus membership chairman.

**Steve Joosten** – Secretary plus social director, primarily for all Independence Day activities.

**Jim Aumann** – Director plus fund raiser, primarily the annual Golf Outing.

**Joe Mass** – Director plus other tasks such as selling garage, trapping rusty crayfish.

**Dennis Thornton** – Director plus newsletter co-editor and muskrat trapping.

These extra tasks seem to just get done, consistently and on schedule. We tend to take for granted the people who make it happen. Again, a big THANK YOU.

Happy New Year to all!

## Less salt to trickle into lakes

**By Joy Krubsack**

Chloride is an increasing threat to the Cloverleaf Lakes' water quality, according to a report by Stephanie N. Schmidt, a doctoral student at UW-Madison. Chloride is present in road salts and becomes part of the rainwater that runs into the lakes and is also directly deposited by tires at the boat landing as vehicles drive through the salted parking area and on adjoining County Highway Y.

As a result of chloride concerns, at the Town's request, the Shawano County salt truck has used a combination of sand and a five percent salt solution for many years on town roads around our lakes but has continued to use pure salt on Highway Y which is a *county* road (as you

could often see by its white surface color). As of December, county trucks are now using the sand and five percent salt mixture on Highway Y from Break-A-Way south to the county line (Pine Manor area). The five percent salt needs to be mixed with the sand to prevent freezing into a sand chunk during wet, freezing weather.

This is very good news for our lakes' water system, but please be aware that your winter driving habits need to adjust to a slower, more careful speed on that stretch of road. The ice will remain on our roads for a longer period of time and that can only be addressed with careful driving and slower speeds.

Please inform your family, friends and neighbors that the Cloverleaf Lakes is a "low salt area." We must drive with increased caution!

# Update on lake plan task forces

Have you ever wondered what happens to those long range plans that people spend weeks and months developing? Sad to say, many sit on shelves gathering dust and memories. Not true for the Cloverleaf Lakes Long Range Comprehensive Management Plan.

The “Plan” is now in its implementation phase with many lake residents participating in task forces and permanent committees. Many of the recommendations from the Plan were ready for action and those are embedded in permanent action committees. Other recommendations needed more work, so they’ve been referred to task forces.

The **Aquatic Plants Action Committee** is preparing for the 2007 EWM treatment while also monitoring other invasive plants as well as the naturally occurring “good” plants. Their team, headed by **Kery Kafka**, is working with the DNR to secure funding for future treatments.

The **Communications/Social Marketing Action Committee** has lots of ways to keep lake residents connected to the information they need. Be sure to regularly visit the new CLPA website ([www.cloverleaflakes.com](http://www.cloverleaflakes.com)). For information in a timely manner, send your e-mail address to **Ed Stuebe** at [aestuebe@charter.net](mailto:aestuebe@charter.net) so you can be added to the Lakes’ list for late breaking news. A new directory is being designed to put important lake living information right at your fingertips. Watch for spring and summer open houses and tours to learn how to be good lake stewards. Facilitator **Esther Letven**; members **Dennis Thornton, Ed Stuebe, Fran West-Tomashek**.

The **Bio-Chemical Indicators Task Force** is working hard to determine what should be measured to assure a healthy lake system for generations to come. So what if phosphorous and chloride levels keep rising? Why is it important to know that? We’ve been measuring water chemistry for years, but why? Can we do anything about it? Facilitator **Esther Letven**; consultants **Bob Korth, Al Niebuhr**; members **Stan Kleiss, John Koss, Joy Krub-**

**sack, Joe Mass, Ed Stuebe, Howard Unrath, Fran West-Tomashek**.

The **Lake Quality Action Committee** (to be formed after the Task Force completes its work) will review longitudinal data and track changes over time. Acting on this information will be the primary work of this action committee. Thanks to the historical data preserved by Howard Unrath and Carol Wegner’s willingness to set up a data management system, we aren’t starting from zero.

**Data Management Task Force:** Coordinator/Data Manager **Carol Wegner**.

The **Fisheries Task Force** is meeting to determine what a healthy fishery is for the Cloverleaf Lakes and what it would take to achieve this healthy fishery and maintain it year after year. Facilitator, **Christopher Sampson**; consultant **Al Niebuhr**; members **Jim Aumann, Jerry Eckers, Howard Essmann, John Koss, Sandy Mass, Monk Molitor, DuWayne Novak, Jeremy Van Ert**.

The **Resident Stewardship Task Force** is working on buffer zones, rain gardens and restoring shore lines. The name “resident stewardship” came from the thought that residents themselves on their own property could be doing some of this work and having an impact on the lake’s ecology. The Marketing Action Committee will be working with this task force to get the word out! Facilitator **Kery Kafka**; consultant **Susan Tesarik**; members **Bob Dercks, Nancy Green, Barbara and Scott Monroe, Dennis Thornton, Carol Wegner, Mary Wetzel**.

**Recreation Task Force:** Facilitator **Esther Letven**; consultants **Bob Korth, Tim Asplund**, members **Jim Aumann, Jim and Nancy Green, Marv Letven, Bob Tomczyk, Carol Wegner, Mary Wetzel**.

If you’re interested in joining a task force or permanent action committee, call Bob Tomashek to volunteer. In addition to doing good work, we’re having fun! This Plan is alive and well. Rest assured, many of your neighbors are working hard to preserve these lakes for future generations. Why not join us?

*-Esther Letven*



## Is winter on ice?

It may have been early January, but there was open water in the marsh just south of the Rustic Drive dam at the southern end of Pine Lake. Well into January, residents were wondering whether they would be ice-fishing this winter, which was setting records for its unusually warm weather. High temperatures on most days were well above freezing, some days into the 50s.

# Check out [www.CloverleafLakes.com](http://www.CloverleafLakes.com)

It's a long time between newsletters, with just four printed annually. Now you can keep up on news and events by taking a look at the new Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association's Web site.

The site at, [www.CloverleafLakes.com](http://www.CloverleafLakes.com), was set up in September 2006 and has been regularly updated with current events and photos.

Dennis Thornton, CLPA board member and co-editor of the CLPA newsletter, updates the Web site at least once a week. It is a work in progress, with new features being added regularly.

Besides current news, there are numerous documents available on the site, including minutes of meetings, past issues of the newsletter and presentations from the 2006 annual meeting of the CLPA.

Here are some regular features you can access by clicking on the arrows on the home page:

- \* Current News: This includes information about upcoming events such as the Fishing Derby, formation of task forces and news items.

- \* Calendar: Regular meetings of the CLPA board and Belle Plaine Town Board are listed.

- \* Newsletters: All 2006 newsletters, including the Fall issue of the town newsletter, *in color*, are available and can be printed.

- \* Gibson Island Stewardship: Activities of the town committee are included along with the 2006 dedication program.

- \* Lake Plan: The lake management plan, participants and reports on the fisheries and aquatic plants are here.

- \* Minutes: CLPA board meetings and committee reports are included.

- \* Bylaws: The CLPA's regulations are here.

- \* Membership Form: If you miss clipping and sending the form on page 7, here's a copy.

- \* Photo Gallery: Views of life on Cloverleaf Lakes have included scenery, Cloverfest, a house moving and holiday decorations.

- \* Contact Us: CLPA board members are listed, along with phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

If you have information or photos you'd like to share with your neighbors, send them to Thornton at [thorngb@frontiernet.net](mailto:thorngb@frontiernet.net).



Hoskings' Haven became a mobile home for a day in October, when Mike Nelson's crew moved the cottage from the east side of Pine Lake on Rustic Drive to a new spot at Rustic and Adams Beach Road. Work is well under way on the new Hoskings home and Nelson has the Haven on a new foundation.

## WANTED BOAT MONITOR:

This is a paid seasonal position reporting to the Cloverleaf Lake Association. The job entails working 30 hours per week at \$10 an hour starting in mid-May and running for 16 consecutive weeks. The job requires working on weekends. There is no age or gender requirement but the person should show maturity. The job of being a boat monitor on the Cloverleaf chain of lakes requires someone who likes the outdoors and is good at communicating with people. We will train the person for the technical aspects of the job. If interested, please contact Bob Tomashek at 823-4059.

## Clover Bares prepare for Fish Derby

The Clover Bares Snowmobile Club's annual fish derby will be on Saturday, Feb. 3, in front of Micksters Bar. Food and beverages will be served.

There will be first, second and third place prizes for the biggest fish in the adult and children's division. All participants must have their fish weighed and gutted by 4 p.m. to be eligible for the

fish prizes. Many other prizes will be awarded at the fish derby.

The Clover Bares are again selling raffle tickets for \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. The raffle drawing will be the day of the fishery and the winner does not need to be present to win.

The raffle prizes are \$500 for the first place drawing, \$250 for second, and \$100 for third.

# Pete's Bait lures anglers to the lakes

By Chris Sampson

Earl Peterson, who turns 80 this year, laughs when a visitor asks him about retirement.

"I already *am* retired," he answers, and he describes Pete's Bait and Tackle Shop as a pastime, "something to keep me busy."

Hobby or not, the bait-shop garage is a Cloverleaf Lakes landmark, just like its cigar-chomping owner.

"A lot of them (customers) say they've been coming here since they were little kids," he says, "and now they have grown kids of their own."

Peterson came to the lakes in 1933. His grandfather, Walter, lived on Rustic Drive and owned much of the land along Adams Beach. When Walter gave Earl's parents a lot, they relocated from Racine.

As a boy, Earl fished Grass Lake from a rowboat, where he cleaned up on northerns, bass and panfish near shore while others, anchored deeper, had fewer bites. His secret? He knew the "marl holes," depressions created where Depression Era farmers scooped sediment to spread on their fields.

He graduated from Clintonville High School and made a career in the Air Force, serving 16 years in airbase fire protection and crash rescue in Germany, Italy, France and England. He spent another five years stateside working civil defense and radar.

"When I retired from the service (in 1969), I said 'I'm going to open a bait shop,' and that's what I did," he recalls.

Earl and his wife, Helen (Cotter), a Shawano native, returned to the area and bought the little house at N12047 County Highway Y, about a mile south of the lakes. It came with an old metal tank to hold the minnows they'd net from Matte-son Creek. Their teen-age son, David, and occasionally his sister, Sue, helped as well.

They would pick as many as 1,500 nightcrawlers on a good night, and sell them self-serve from the yard.

For the first decade or so, Earl worked day jobs, first at a furniture-maker in nearby Embarrass, then as a foreman for a garage-door manufacturer in Shawano. Helen ran "Pete's," if sometimes a little reluctantly.

"She would use a screwdriver to count out a dozen nightcrawlers, at first," Earl remembers, smiling. "Then she went to a glove, and finally to the point of doing it barehanded."

When Helen died in November 2000, Earl stuck with it. Twenty feet from his living room, "Pete's" allows him to greet fishing friends, meet new ones, and clear just enough to "pay some bills and go out and have a few beers once in a while."

He rarely hangs out the "Closed" sign. "If I'm home, I'm open," he says, and having fished a lot as a kid and traveled the world in his Air Force days, he mostly stays home.



Earl Peterson, left, owner of Pete's Bait Shop, presents a check for \$150 to Bob Tomaszek, president of the CLPA. Peterson collects donations from his customers and contributes them to the CLPA.

Nowadays, Earl says, he still traps the creek, but orders most of his bait from an Antigo wholesaler. His tackle business is primarily hooks, bobbers and sinkers. About half his customers, he estimates, fish the Cloverleaf Lakes, with others hitting the ponds at Clintonville or Marion, the Wolf or Embarrass rivers, or Shawano Lake and others.

The popularity of muskie fishing is one big change he has seen. He was there when the DNR began stocking Pine, Round and Grass in the 1970s. He sells plenty of foot-long suckers from his tank each fall, muskie photos adorn the wall, and his selection of artificials includes famous trophy lures – Cisco Kids, Suicks, Bobbie

Baits – along with new ones like the "Beast Teaser."

It's the familiar lures, though, that seem most at home. With the exposed framing, vintage minnow tub,

well-worn refrigerator, and coffee can on the counter for fish-stocking donations, the garage has a classic Wisconsin feel. If ever anyone designs a bait-shop museum, this wouldn't be a bad look to shoot for.

In the meantime, as you're reading this, there's a good chance that Earl is selling fish-catching supplies to an angler near you.

He's figuring the bill longhand with paper and pencil. (No cash register here.) And he's concluding the sale with a reminder that even worms and crawlers can't squirm out from under the state's five percent sales tax. For decades, his customary tagline — "And a little something for the governor" — has been the cue for Cloverleaf Lakes fishermen to reach for their minnow money because he's ready to announce the grand total due.

Most of all, he's continuing to make Pete's Bait and Tackle Shop a Cloverleaf Lakes tradition.

*"If I'm home, I'm open."*  
Earl Peterson, Pete's Bait Shop

# 'Tu Tu' Yaeger raises funds for fireworks

By Hugh Bruecker

The Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association would like to congratulate **Tuffy "Tu Tu" Yaeger**, who was crowned the 2006 Leopoldis Drag Queen in July. Tuffy "Tu Tu" earned this crown by selling the most \$5 raffle tickets, of which \$2 of the \$5 is donated to the "Queen's" chosen non-profit group. The CLFA thanks Tuffy for choosing us as his recipient which, through his hard work, time and looking great dressed as a woman, netted the CLFA \$1,425.

For this year's competition **Paul "Rosy Cheeks" Gruetzmacher** has volunteered to compete as CLFA's "Queen." Please help Paul earn the crown by buying raffle tickets from him or from any of the local bars. We would like to thank **Debbie**



**of Just T's** for having a pig roast over the Labor Day weekend that helped raise \$360 for the CLFA.

In September, the CLFA voted to have **Pete Kristof** continue as president, **Tom Weniger** as vice president, **Sherry Bouchette** as treasurer and **Kerry Scherer** as secretary. Upcoming events to help support the CLFA: "Texas Hold 'em Tournament" in February; second annual "Poker Run" this spring. Watch for posters for exact dates.

This year's Independence Day celebration, with July 4 on a Wednesday, will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 6-7. Let's continue to have the fireworks be a part of our Fourth of July celebrations by volunteering your time or making donations. Please call Pete or Debbie Kristof at 823-2704 to get more information about what you can do to contribute.

## Cloverfest Run/Walk contributes \$1,000 to CLPA

The third annual Cloverfest Run/Walk was held Sunday, Oct. 15. About 140 runners and walkers participated.

Here are the results among the runners. Men: 1. **Shawn Howe**, 22:50; 2. **Bill Hogan**; 3. **David Pugh**. Women: **Nancy Gritt**, 23:35; 2. **Mary Wetzel**; 3. **Gretchen Sasse**. Kids: 1. **Ryan Popp**, 24:05; 2. **Stu Schabow**; 3. **Alex Maes**.

The event's proceeds of \$3,000 were divided among the

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association and the Shawano County Humane Society. More than 40 local businesses and individuals donated money or prizes to a raffle held at the luncheon at the Break-A-Way after the event. Shirts were donated by **Miller Masonry** and **Abel Electric**.

The organizers, led by **Joe Jaskolski** and **Mary Wetzel**, have made Cloverfest an annual event for three years.

## CLPA revenues, expenses for 2006

Increased revenue from the annual Golf Outing plus the sale of the CLPA's garage created a favorable bottom line for the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association in 2006. The net proceeds from the garage, more than \$17,000, were invested in certificates of deposit to be used for long-range projects. The sale also will mean annual savings on property taxes and insurance for the CLPA.

-Fran West, CLPA Treasurer

### January through December 2006

<b>Income</b>	
Golf Outing	\$16,043.50
Membership Dues	6,420.00
Independence Day events	1,314.00
Donations	895.00
Investment income (CDs)	348.21
Donation from Cloverfest Run	<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$26,020.71</b>
Sale of Garage	18,300.00
Cost of sale	967.73
<b>Net Proceeds</b>	<b>\$17,332.27</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
*Administration	\$ 3,754.09
Boat Launch inspection	560.08

Golf Outing	7,554.44
Independence Day Festivities	612.43
Lake and road safety	14.20
Lake management plan	138.87
Donation to Fireworks, others	519.35
Lake management study group	580.64
Rusty crayfish trapping	291.58
Water quality testing	195.00
CLPA Web site	<u>240.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,460.68</b>

**Income Less Expenses: \$11,560.03**

\*Includes such expenses as office supplies, garage insurance, taxes, liability insurance, newsletter printing, postage, equipment repairs, Association of Lakes dues. Web site includes three years domain rights and initial setup.

<b>Assets as of 12/31/06</b>	
CDs	\$45,732.27
Money Market	7,777.01
Checking Account	<u>1,683.21</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$55,192.49</b>

# Tomasheks graduate as Lake Leaders

Scott Hassett, secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, and Arlen Leholm, dean of the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension, have recognized **Bob Tomashek** and **Fran West-Tomashek** for completion of their training to protect Wisconsin's lakes.

Bob is president and Fran is treasurer of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

Bob and Fran were two of 30 participants to graduate from the 2006 Lake Leaders Institute, a statewide leadership program aimed at helping lake stewards gain a better understanding of lake ecology and how to work with governments to assure lakes get the attention they need. Through a combination of reading, classroom activities and field experiences, participants learned about lake management, local and state government, and leadership skills.

"With so many lakes worth so much and so few people in service to protect them, it is clear that no one state agency or unit of government can independently provide the attention that each lake deserves," explained Robert Korth, UW-Extension Lake Specialist. "This leadership program provides local lake leaders with effective tools as they volunteer their skills and talents to the stewardship of our lakes."

The Lake Leaders Institute drew participants from across the state to take part in three, two-day seminars that were held last year at Green Lake, Tomahawk Lake and Baraboo.

Bob and Fran demonstrated a commitment to protecting the integrity of the lakes in Wisconsin and of our own Cloverleaf Lakes



**DNR secretary Scott Hassett, left, presents a certificate to Fran West-Tomashek and Bob Tomashek recognizing them as Lake Leaders.**

with an investment of their time and their personal payment of the tuition fees.

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a team made up of the University of Wisconsin Extension, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL), recognized the need for new and on-going leadership in the management of our lakes and created the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute in 1996. The mission of the Institute is to assist citizen lake leaders or "crewmembers," in developing and enhancing both technical and people skills, ultimately enriching their communities and the waters within them.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Aldo Leopold Shack near Baraboo and was attended by Hassett, Leholm and John Molinaro, WAL president.

## Zebra mussels increase in Shawano Lake

A study of Shawano Lake found that the number of invasive zebra mussels there increased dramatically in 2006.

Bob Hynek of Bonduel has been monitoring the invaders and found a 12-fold increase over 2005, according to the *Shawano Leader*. One of the devices he used to collect zebra mussels had 9,620 mussels attached to it. The tiny mussels attach their shells to hard surfaces such as boats and piers as well as aquatic plants.

Hynek placed six of the devices, which have plates that the mussels attach to, at various areas in the lake. He said the mussels have killed clams in the lake and increased algae bloom.

Cloverleaf Lakes' boat monitoring pro-

gram is in place to warn boaters not to bring invasive species, including zebra mussels, into the lakes.

\* A report by the *National Land Trust* showed a 54 percent increase in acres protected from development since 2000. A story in *USA Today* said 37 million acres of private land is protected under trusts and easements and that 2.6 million acres have been protected each year from 2000 to 2005. That exceeds the 2.2 million acres that the Agriculture Department estimated is converted to "developed land."

Gibson Island is not in a land trust, but was purchased by a combination of private and public funds as a town conservation property.

## CLPA Notebook

**Garage sale:** The winning bid, of three received, for the CLPA's garage was \$18,300 by Mary Britten of Kaukauna. After expenses, the sale netted \$17,372.25 that went into a reserve fund for large projects. CLPA property that had been stored in the garage was moved to the town's garage.

**CLPA meetings.** The board of directors will meet Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at W8531 Cloverleaf Lake Road. The agenda will include reports of the ongoing committees and task forces.

**Newsletter.** The CLPA newsletter is published four times a year in January, April, June and August with extra editions published as needed.

**Please join.** Help us achieve a record membership of more than 300 this year by joining the CLPA. For \$25, it's a bargain! We welcome you. See Page 7.

## Another invader?

Shawano County is one of the areas in Wisconsin where state workers plan to cut about 1,400 ash trees to check for signs of emerald ash borer infestations. On another 4,400 ash trees, workers have removed or will remove a ring of bark around the base of the tree to act as a lure for the invasive insect.

Residents are advised to not bring firewood from Michigan or Illinois, two states where the invasive insect has been found.

## 2007 Annual Membership: Please Join Now

Please make your check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, fill out and clip this form, and send it to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. Or, print out the membership form at [www.CloverleafLakes.com](http://www.CloverleafLakes.com) and send it in.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lake Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address (if different):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like an additional newsletter for \$10 a year for a family member or friend. (include name and address of each additional recipient.)

<b>Dues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>I would like to make an additional donation of</b>	<b>\$</b>	_____
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>	<b>\$</b>	_____

**Thank you!**

Note: Be sure to include your e-mail address so you can be added to the CLPA's e-mail list (managed by Ed Stuebe) to receive late-breaking information about the lakes.

## Benefits of Membership

Here are some of the things that you buy with your \$25 annual dues: four newsletters annually, a new Web site, periodic update e-mails, invasive species control, boat launch monitoring, educating our citizenry, identifying best lake management and preservation practices, fish stocking, muskrat removal, Independence Day activities including the Kiddie Parade, Pontoon Parade and Dance, and a directory that, among other things, contains lake, town and state rules and laws and information about local merchants and services.

In addition you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are joining and supporting a community of committed volunteers working to preserve and protect our lakes for future generations. For \$25, it's a bargain.

Our membership goal for 2007 is 300 members, up from the 255 members in 2006. Joining now would *greatly* help us to plan early for expenditures this year.

Please join *today*. We welcome you!

- *Your CLPA Board*

## Cloverleaf Calendar

**Jan. 18:** Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board of directors, W8531 Cloverleaf Lake Road, 7 p.m.

**Feb. 3:** Fishing Derby sponsored by Clover Bares Snowmobile Club, on the ice, all day.

**Feb. 5:** Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

**Feb. 15:** CLPA board of directors, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7 p.m.

**March 12:** Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

**March 15:** Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board of directors, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7 p.m.

**April 3:** Spring Election

**April 9:** Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

**April 10:** Belle Plaine Annual Town Meeting, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

## Town News: Rules set for Gibson Island

The Belle Plaine Town Board, at its December meeting, approved rules for access and use of Gibson Island. The rules had been recommended by the Gibson Island Stewardship Committee.

Here are the rules:

- Access may be limited during eagles' nesting as designated by DNR's best practices.
- Pedestrian use only. Fires, picnics or camping are not permitted.
- No dogs or horses are allowed.
- Access is permitted during daylight hours.

Fencing is planned to keep snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles off the property during winter months. Hiking will be permitted.

Ron Ostrowski, Shawano County conservationist, has drawn up plans for a proposed boardwalk through the wetlands between the landward lot and the isthmus to the island. He estimates it will cost between \$8,400 and \$11,000 for 200 to 300 feet of boardwalk made of pressure-treated wood. The town will apply for a state Department of Natural Resources grant to provide half of the funds. There is about \$5,000 remaining in the Gibson Island Stewardship account, as well.

Grant application deadline is May 1 and the grants are awarded in late June.

\* The town's tax levy, approved in November, increased about 2 percent, from \$345,131 in 2005 to \$355,981 in 2006. The budget included \$6,500 for Cloverleaf Lakes treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Boat launch fees generated \$5,192 for the town in 2006 and are expected to raise similar revenue in 2007.

\* The town plans to hire a boat monitor coordinator for Cloverleaf Lakes. The position was contracted with Lake and Pond Solutions in 2006, but the board would like to hire a local person this summer and the CLPA board has no structure for hiring and paying employees.

The position is budgeted for \$5,000, including 50 percent funding through a grant program. It would be 30 hours a week during the summer months.

\* A meeting with a representative of Cellcom about the role of the cellular phone tower brought information about the phones that can take advantage of the tower located just north of the lakes on County Y.

The tower only handles phones using CDMA technology, including Cellcom, U.S. Cellular, Sprint, Alltel and Verizon customers.

It will not relay signals to GSM technology phones, including Cingular, AT&T, T-Mobile, Dobson/American Cellular and Airadyne.

To answer complaints about cell phone problems, Cellcom plans to adjust the signals on the tower.