

www.CloverleafLakes.com

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

January 2009

**Cloverleaf Lakes
Protective
Association**

Board of Directors

Bob Tomashek,

President

823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

Carl Bruggink,

Vice President

823-2488

cjbrugg@dotnet.com

Dennis Thornton

Secretary

823-9151

thorngb@frontiernet.net

Fran West-Tomashek

Treasurer

823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

James Aumann

823-5632

Joe Mass

823-3758

jandmass@frontiernet.net

Dick Thurow

823-7924

Newsletter Editors

Dennis and Jan Thornton

823-9151

Inside this issue:

Gibson Island	2
Financial Report	3
Volunteers	4
Shoreland Help	5
Fun, Fun, Fun	6
Please Join!	7
Town Election	8

Town, state rules protect lakes

Maintaining a safe environment for boaters, anglers, swimmers and residents is an important part of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association's mission. The board of directors has reviewed town ordinances and consulted with DNR Warden Todd Wippermann on state regulations. That set of rules will be posted in the information kiosk at the town boat landing this spring.

Here is a summary of pertinent town ordinances:

- * Water skiing, tubing, surfing or any other towing device hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

- * A restricted boating area will be enforced on Pine Lake's Sandy Beach when buoys are present.

- * No person under 16 shall operate a boat when pulling water skiers unless accompanied by an adult.

- * No person shall operate a motor boat on any lake in the town of Belle Plaine in excess of 8 mph after 8:30 p.m.

- * Violations of any provision for which a penalty is not set shall forfeit not more than \$50 for a first offense.

- * Buoys mark restricted areas at Sandy Beach, walleye bed, slow no-wake area.

- * Enforcement of town ordinances is by officers of Shawano County.

- * No person shall operate a boat faster than slow, no-wake in the channel between Grass and Pine Lakes, approximately 275 feet wide and 550 feet long, marked by buoys.

SAFETY TIPS:

- * For the safety of the public, all swimming is prohibited, day or night, from the town boat landing.

- * No swimming from the town's Handicapped Pier on north shore of Round Lake.

- * Operate boats in a counter-clockwise direction.

- * Use reflectors on rafts or piers.

- * Turn to pick up skiers promptly.

- * Skiers should wear personal flotation device.

Shoreline restoration is top priority

By Bob Tomashek, CLPA President

Happy New Year, everyone.

We have had already enough cold and snow to take care of the 2009 winter. Many of the ice-fishing shanties are on the lake and the snowmobiles are zooming around, day and night .

For the 2009 season I will put our priority on the shoreline restoration project run by Kery Kafka. Shoreline restoration is more than just making a property look pretty. Although it does that, it is helping to stop the runoff of all the chemicals that are put onto your lawn and those that drip off of your vehicles.

If your lawn is one that grows grass down to the water's edge, it is a slope that allows these chemicals into the lake to do dam-

age to the lake's ecosystem. Excessive weed growth and damage to the lakes fishery are just a couple of things that happen.

So I am asking lake residents to assess their lawns and think of the possibility of installing a berm, along with some plants, to help stop this runoff.

We have a grant from the state (see page 5) and some monies will be available from our lake association funds to help residents with some of the restoration expenses. Think it over, we have a beautiful lake that could use some help keeping the chemicals out, along with possibly making your property and the lake look a little better.

Thank you for considering shoreline restoration for your property.

Gibson Island projects moving forward

By Joy Krubsack

The Town of Belle Plaine has voted to move ahead with the development of public access to Gibson Island from the Cloverleaf Lakes Road and that project continues to move forward.

Project items that have been completed

- *The kiosk signage at the road area.
- *The kiosk signage at the Gibson Island boat landing area.
- *Public parking area off the road has been completed.
- *The Gary Lenius Trail sign has been posted on the western hill.
- * The original "The Island" sign has been restored and placed on the isthmus.

Items that are still in progress

- *A boardwalk with the required strength and width (available for small maintenance vehicles) has been started. Mike Nelson has been hired for the building of the boardwalk that will take advantage of highland areas and be suspended over the wetland areas.
- * Chris Cloeter and Mitzi Thurow have begun the inventory work identifying native plants growing on the Gibson Island property
- * Dennis Nodolf will be establishing plot regions on the island for identification purposes and communication efficiency.
- * Work continues on the trail development and species control.

The Gibson Island Stewardship Committee would like to remind all citizens that together, we are the best stewards of the island property. If you see illegal activity, please report it to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department.

Guidelines for protection and use of Gibson Island are:

1. Access during daylight hours only.
2. No dogs, pets or horses.
3. Access is for pedestrian use only.
4. No fires, picnics, alcohol, camping or hunting allowed.



Some of the 25 people who toured Gibson Island in September stand on a completed portion of the boardwalk. The remainder is expected to be completed by spring, allowing pedestrian access to the nature trail.

Please spread the word that snowmobiles and other motorized vehicles are not beneficial to the protection of the island environment. Only pedestrians, snowshoes and cross country skis are allowed.

State laws restrict boating, personal watercraft

Here is a summary of Wisconsin boating regulations, provided by Warden Todd Wippermann.

IT IS UNLAWFUL:

- * To operate a personal watercraft (jet ski) from sunset to sunrise.
- * To operate a motorboat or PWC within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier or buoyed restricted area faster than slow, no-wake speed.
- * To create a hazardous wake or wash when approaching or passing another boat or PWC.
- * For any person to ride or sit on gunwales, tops, backs or sides of seats or on decking over the bow while underway, except in-boat of guards or railings.

* To tow a water skier or similar device in other than a careful, prudent manner and at a reasonable and safe distance from persons or property.

* For anyone under 12 to operate a personal watercraft. Persons at least 12 but under 16 must be in possession of an approved Boating Safety Certificate.

* For any person riding a PWC to do so without wearing a PFD (life jacket) of the proper size and type (I, II, III or IV).

* For any person at least 10 but less than 16 to operate a motorboat, except if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or by a person 18 years or older, or if they have successfully completed a prescribed Boating Safety Course.

CLPA financial report for 2008

(Figures as of Dec. 31, 2008)

ASSETS

Bank, Cash & Savings Accounts	\$20,403.18
(includes \$11,375 shoreland restoration grant)	
Investment Accounts	<u>56,777.91</u>
Total Cash & Investments	\$77,181.09

Income & Expenses – Jan 1, 2008 thru Dec. 31, 2008

Income

Directory Advertising - 2007-08	\$ 420.00
Donations – 2008	1,016.00
CLPA logo shirts	370.00
Golf Outing	18,003.00
Investment income	28.34
Membership Dues	5,495.00
Independence Day dance	<u>850.00</u>
Total Income	\$26,182.34

Expenses

Administrative	\$ 637.17
Membership stickers	121.29
Annual meeting	99.11
Liability insurance	864.00
Newsletter (printing, postage)	1,734.43

Office equipment	643.54
Office supplies	864.70
Postage	8.20
Wis. Assn. of Lakes dues	330.00
AIS grant	368.70
Donations-Fireworks	500.00
Directory printing	2,051.65
Donations-Other	100.00
EWM treatment	1,832.95
Golf Outing expenses	10,618.65
Heritage Days event	3,327.95
Lake & Road Safety	325.00
Lake Management Plan Implementation	697.00
Marketing & Communications Projects	1,005.00
CLPA shirts	932.63
Muskrat trapping	125.00
Pontoon Parade (Dance & Trophies)	1,083.13
Rusty Crayfish Trapping	69.15
Shoreline Restoration Project	2,956.19
Web site for CLPA	<u>96.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$31,391.44

Transfer from savings \$5,209.10

Russ, Kery Kafka complete Lake Leaders Institute

Russ and Kery Kafka, longtime Cloverleaf Lakes property owners and CLPA volunteers, were among 28 graduates from the Lake Leaders Institute in 2008.

The Institute is a statewide leadership program aimed at helping lake stewards gain a better understanding of lake ecology and how to work with state and local 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 draws participants from across the state to take part in a series of three two-day seminars. Participants demonstrate a commitment to protecting the integrity of the lakes in Wisconsin with an investment of their time and a \$300 tuition fee.

Both Kafkas have been leaders of the team that tracks and treats Eurasian Water Milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed and other invasive species. Kery also chairs the Shoreland Restoration committee.

The graduation ceremony took place at the Aldo Leopold Shack near Baraboo and was attended by Mary Ellen Vollbrecht and Carroll Schaal, DNR, Korth and Earl Cook, Wisconsin Association of Lakes president.

Clover Bares prepare for annual Fish Derby

The Clover Bares Snowmobile Club’s annual Fish Derby will be on Saturday, Feb. 7, in front of Mickster’s 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.

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

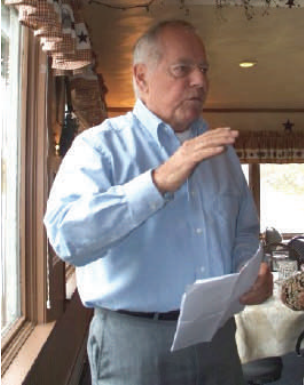
The raffle prizes are \$500 for the first place drawing, \$250 for second, and \$100 for third.

CLPA volunteers honored at fall luncheon

It takes a community to run a lake. The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association recognized more than 30 of the volunteers who help protect the lakes with a luncheon in October at Popp's Lake Aire.

Bob Tomashek, president of the CLPA, pointed out the many duties that are performed by residents, in cooperation with the association and the Town of Belle Plaine.

"We manage and care for a number of things that are necessary for the upkeep of the ecology of the lakes, along with some social activities that make living here that much better," Tomashek said.



Bob Tomashek speaks to CLPA volunteers at a luncheon at Popp's Lake Aire.

About 1,700 boats were launched on the lakes during the year, he said, and the boat monitor program is vital to checking for invasive aquatic species. There is also a chemical control program for Eurasian Water Milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed.

Some of the volunteer activities that Tomashek mentioned:

- * Shoreland restoration
- * Web site and newsletter
- * Fisheries committee
- * Water quality testing
- * Muskrat and rusty crayfish trapping
- * Grant-writing
- * Dam control



Some of the volunteers who were honored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association enjoy a luncheon at Popp's Lake Aire.

- * Fourth of July activities
- * Triathlon
- * Golf Outing
- * Welcoming committee
- * Adventures in Lake Living educational programs
- * Lending library and computerized record-keeping

"The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association is a volunteer organization managed by volunteers," Tomashek said. "We, the CLPA board, would like to take some time out to say 'thank you' for your work, creativity and effort in making the Cloverleaf Lakes one of the nicer lakes in the state."

Ice anglers warned to guard against fish disease

With a new statewide poll showing that some anglers aren't taking all the needed steps to prevent spreading VHS fish disease, state fisheries officials are asking anglers to redouble their efforts year-round, including winter, when water temperatures are the coldest and the disease is most active in fish.

VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) is not a threat to people or pets, but it's a significant fish disease and can cause fish to bleed to death. VHS can infect 37 different species of fish, including game fish and panfish favorites including walleye, bluegill, trout and muskellunge.

The disease has demonstrated in other countries and Great Lakes states the potential to cause large fish kills, long-term reductions in wild fish populations and severe economic impacts.

VHS was first detected in Wisconsin in fish from the Lake Winnebago system in early May 2007. Sampling in 2008

showed that VHS hadn't spread beyond Lake Winnebago and Lake Michigan, a credit to all anglers who followed the VHS rules.

A full listing of permanent VHS rules approved in 2008 can be found online at the DNR web site. Printed copies of "Minnows as Bait," a brochure explaining the rules, are available in DNR service centers and regional offices.

No-phosphorus fertilizer pushed

A bill introduced in the new session of the Legislature would restrict phosphorus in lawn fertilizer. The bill was passed by the Senate last year but not the Assembly.

Phosphorus runoff from lawns goes directly into surface waters, fueling smelly algae blooms and nuisance plant growth, depriving fish of oxygen and making summertime unpleasant.

Contact your legislator to comment on the bill.

(Courtesy of Wisconsin Association of Lakes)

DNR approves grant for shoreland work

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association has received a Lake Planning Grant from the Department of Natural Resources to aid with its shoreland restoration work.

The grant will provide more than \$11,000 in funding to the CLPA for shoreland restoration from Oct. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2009. The grant will pay for 75 percent of the project, with the CLPA providing 25 percent.

Phase one of the project will include developing designs for sites, designing and employing restorations at eight Cloverleaf Lakes sites, conducting emergent plant survey and reporting results. The plant survey will include species present, percentage of coverage, GPS mapping, water depth, wave energy potential and soil profile.

The cost for phase one, to be conducted by NES Ecological Services of Oneida, is \$11,711, with the grant to pay for \$8,783.

Phase two will consist of developing a shoreland restoration plan. It will include developing a shoreland restoration guide, summarizing experience with buffer/rain garden demonstration sites and conducting a restoration forum. The cost is projected at \$8,512, with the grant providing \$6,384 of that amount.

The shoreland restoration project kicked off in 2008 with work at three properties: Dennis and Joy Krubsack, Dan and Dode Bleck, and Dennis and Jan Thornton. The properties were visited by CLPA members in July during a Pontoon Classroom session and a follow-up visit is being planned for this summer.

Several properties are on the list for shoreland work in

2009, but the CLPA is still taking applications. The CLPA board of directors has approved spending up to \$6,000 to provide 50 percent grants to shoreland homeowners, up to \$1,000 apiece.

Keri Kafka heads the committee on shoreland restoration. "The other good news is that the CLPA has decided to set up a matching funds program for shoreline restoration," Kafka said.

The committee is exploring getting help with planting native plants and hauling mulch. School children may be recruited to work on the projects during the summer.

The committee members have information on shoreline restoration that meets DNR standards for protection from erosion and adding native plants.

Criteria to receive funding:

*Maximum matching funds available per owner is \$1,000. For example: If you spend \$600 or more, the maximum you may be eligible to receive in matched funds is \$300. Program is available for costs incurred in 2009 only.

*Your shoreline restoration plan must be designed by an approved shoreline restoration company. See list below. Attach that plan to this application.

*When you sign this application, you are agreeing to maintain the shoreline restoration work you have done for a minimum of five years. For example, if you have planted native plants in a buffer zone, you would be agreeing to maintain those plants for at least five years, and not pull them up and plant grass.

CLPA Application for Shoreline Restoration Matching Funds

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Total amount of matching funds requested:

Attach receipts to this application for matching funds verification. For example, if you are requesting \$100 in matching funds, you should attached receipts totaling \$200.

If I receive these matching funds, I agree to maintain the shoreline restoration area for at least five years.

Signature _____

Date _____

Approved Landscape Planning Organizations:

NES Ecological Services : 1-920-499-5789

LJ Reas Environmental Consulting Corporation: 1-920-294-3116

Ecoshore Solutions: 1-920-7105

Wild Ones: 1-920-730-3986

Others upon approval of Shoreline Restoration Team

Send application to: Dennis Thornton, W8443 Cloverleaf Lake Road, Clintonville, WI 54929

Fun, fun, fun all year round

Sure, it's only January, but there a good chance that we WILL have a summer in 2009. There will be fun on the horizon, once the snow melts and the lakes thaw.

Here's an early peek at the 2009 schedule for the Cloverleaf Lakes area.

Adventures in Lake Living: This series will combine hands-on experiences with educational information about our lakes and region. We'll plan some Pontoon Classrooms again this summer and likely will have guided tours of the Gibson Island natural area.

Lake Fair/Annual Meeting: Stay tuned. We're thinking of a shift to a Saturday morning, rather than the traditional Sunday afternoon of Memorial Day weekend. Good idea? Let your CLPA board members know what you'd prefer.

Fourth of July: Steve and Molly Joosten plan a bigger and better Fourth, actually held on Saturday, July 4. Events will start Friday night with a family-oriented dance at the Rustic Resort. Saturday will be the big day, with the Kiddie Parade in the morning, Pontoon Parade at 6:30 p.m. and the fireworks at dusk. The Joostens are asking for your ideas on the Pontoon Parade: should there be a theme for the boats or not? Let them know or

e-mail thornbg@frontiernet.net with your thoughts.

Golf Outing: Duffers, start dusting off your clubs early in the summer and get ready for the 12th annual Golf Outing, Wednesday, July 29, at Clintonville's Riverside Golf Course. Jim Aumann and Kurt Popp put on quite an event. Lots of food and prizes are available. We'll be trying to top the 2008 record of 30 foursomes..

Triathlon: It's not too early to start getting in shape for the third annual Tri Cloverleaf Lakes triathlon on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5. Mary and Lee Wetzel of the Clintonville Swim Club are helping to organize this event. You don't have to swim, bike and run — three-person relay teams are welcome to compete, with one person specializing in each. The event attracted nearly 100 athletes in 2008.

You'll be hearing more about these events as they come up and you are welcome to help out.

And if you didn't get your golf shirt with the CLPA color logo, a few are still available. Contact Dennis Thornton or Bob Tomashek..



Remember when it was actually warm and people could wear T shirts or no shirts? A runner sprints to the finish line in the Tri Cloverleaf Lake Triathlon, amid cheers. Nearly 100 athletes participated and the CLPA received \$350 from the proceeds.

CLPA Notebook

Card club: A men's card club has started meeting weekly at the Belle Plaine Community Center. The group meets from 9:30 a.m. until noon on Wednesdays to play sheepshead, cribbage, checkers and/or chess. No smoking or alcohol is allowed. For more information, contact Ed Stuebe at aestuebe@charter.net or 823-2682.

No zebra mussels: A single adult zebra mussel was discovered in Cloverleaf Lakes last June. The CLPA asked the Department of Natural Resources to investigate and it found no trace of juvenile zebra mussels in lake water samples. Residents should check their piers and boats and report if they find any mussels.

Native plants: The Wild Ones Fox Valley Area Chapter will hold its 13th annual Natural Landscaping Conference on Saturday Jan. 24, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oshkosh. Wild Ones is one of the approved providers of shoreland restoration plans and plants for the CLPA. Topics will include habitat for birds, prairie plants, managing woodlands, wetlands and stormwater management. For details, call (920) 987-5587.

Web updates: Check out www.cloverleaflakes.com for updates on lake area happenings.

2009 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 and send it in. The membership is for the calendar year 2009.

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.)

Dues	\$	25.00
I would like to make an additional donation of	\$	_____
Additional newsletters at \$10 each	\$	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$	_____

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 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 2009 is 300 members, up from the 250 members in 2008. Joining now would *greatly* help us to plan early for expenditures this year.

Please join *today*. We welcome you!

- *Your CLPA Board*

Cloverleaf Calendar

Feb. 7: Fishing Derby sponsored by Clover Bares Snowmobile Club, on the ice, all day.

Feb. 10: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 17: Spring primary election, Community Center, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

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

March 9: Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board of directors, Belle Plaine Community Center, 9 a.m.

April 7: Spring Election, Community Center, 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

April 13: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

April 13: Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board of directors, Belle Plaine Community Center, 9 a.m.



CLOVERLEAF LAKES
PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 288
Embarrass, WI 54933-0288

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Town News: No opposition in spring election

Spring Election: The incumbent Town of Belle Plaine officers will run unopposed for re-election in the Wisconsin spring election Tuesday, April 7.

Incumbents are Town Chairman Alvin Bartz, Supervisors Harold Polzin and Bob Tomashek, Clerk Kristine Vomastic, Treasurer Kay Kristof and Constable Dennis Hoffman. No one opposed the incumbents at the town caucus Jan. 6.

Also on the spring ballot will be state Supreme Court and state superintendent of schools.

Polls are open at the Belle Plaine Community Center from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Garbage: Plans to begin curbside garbage pickup in part of the town will not affect operation of the Recycling and Collection Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road. Rite Size Rolloffs of Mattoon will pick up garbage and recyclables weekly for town residents in the northern portion of the town, consisting of all roads including and north of Highway 22, Wisconsin Avenue and Belle Plaine Avenue.

Winter hours at the Collection Center remain Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Summer hours begin in April.

Dropping off an old TV, computer or microwave at the Recycling and Collection Center now cost residents between \$5 and \$15 for each item.

Here is the fee schedule, collected by "Bear" and his co-workers at the Recycling Center.:

- * Computer monitor, \$10 each
- * Computer processor, \$10 each
- * TVs (19-inch or less), \$10 each
- * TVs (20-inch or bigger), \$15 each
- * Microwave ovens, \$10 each
- * Miscellaneous items, \$5 each, including VCRs, DVD

players, CD players, laser printers, inkjet printers, small copiers, fax machines and AM/FM radios

New Bridge: A Belle Plaine landmark is scheduled to be replaced in three years.

The steel pony truss bridge on Highway 22 crossing the Wolf River into Shawano will be reconstructed with a two-lane concrete girder bridge with rural roadway approaches.

"It's deteriorating and in need of replacement," said Fred McCue of the DOT office in Rhineland.

The proposed improvements, according to the Shawano Leader, include realignment of the Riverbend Road/Eagle Nest Lane intersection as well as turn lanes on those two roads.

The bridge, built in 1921 or 1922, now carries about 8,500 vehicles a day, forecast to increase to 13,500 a day by 2031. That is below the 16,000 cars a day threshold for a four-lane bridge.