

PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1936

P.O. BOX 288
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“Preserving our lakes for future generations”

April 2006

*Cloverleaf Lakes
Protective Association*

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Action teams face challenges

By Bob Tomashek

The Board, with the help of many study group volunteers, has finished our Long-Range Comprehensive Management Plan for the Cloverleaf Lakes. We will present this plan at the Annual Meeting on May 21. At the final meeting of the plan writing phase Feb. 23, we brainstormed what we had to do for the next phase of the plan, which is implementation. **Implementation** of the plan was summarized into the following four challenges for the CLPA Board:

Challenge #1—Develop an organizational structure necessary to implement the recommendations of the study teams.

Challenge #2—Inform lake residents of best practices for enhancing their quality of lake living while preserving the well being of Cloverleaf Lakes.

Challenge #3—Inform lake residents of ordinances and practices that are meant to protect the lakes and its residents and guests.

Challenge #4—Support responsible recreational use of the lakes.

As a board, we decided to concentrate on completing the first challenge, develop an organizational structure necessary to implement

the recommendations of the study teams. We are going to develop Action Teams that will be focused on specific parts of the plan. We will start with forming these five action teams:

1- Aquatic Plant team

2- Lake Monitoring team (includes water quality, invasive species and carp)

3- Boat Monitoring team

4-Best Practices/Research team

5-Marketing/Communications team

Again, our first step will be to staff these teams. Our greatest challenge in this staffing effort is to find people who are willing to serve and to lead these action teams. This is what we will be doing in the months before the annual meeting. The Aquatic Plant team is already formed and functioning. We have a very competent volunteer to lead the Marketing and Communications team. So that leaves us three teams to find a leader for and then to staff these teams with members.

Come join in the fun. It is a good way to learn about the lake, get to know other people on the lake and to make a difference in the ecology of the lake.

Tomashek is president of the CLPA.



Mission Accomplished

The Gibson Island Project and the Town of Belle Plaine have achieved the mission to acquire the Island “to maintain and protect its natural environment and wildlife for present and future generations.” Sharing a “mission accomplished” moment at the Grass Lake boat landing are, from left, Town Chairman Alvin Bartz and Project board members Bob Tomczyk, Joy Krubsack, Leeann Little, Jan and Dennis Thornton, and Stan Kleiss. See page 4 for details.

May 21 annual meeting: Don't miss it!

The Long-Range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan will be shared with residents when the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association holds its annual meeting on **Sunday, May 21, at 1 p.m.** at the Rustic Resort.

The plan was developed after a year of research by five study groups of 35 lake residents and advisers from the University of Wisconsin and Department of Natural Resources.

Esther Letven will lead a discussion about the plan, which covers everything from recreation to water quality and invasive species control. She has been the facilitator of the group that coordinated the study as well as of the Recreation Study Group.

A pot-luck dinner and presentation of the results at Town Hall wrapped up the study groups' mission on Feb. 23.

"It has been through the direction and in-depth study by lake residents and professional consultants that this product, Long-Range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan, is presented," said CLPA President Bob Tomashek. "A special thanks goes to those who gave their time and energy to develop the plan."

Also on the agenda will be a proposal to sell the lake association's garage on Rustic Drive. The garage is seldom-used and the sale has been recommended by the board of directors.

The results of a DNR study of the Cloverleaf Lakes fishery will be presented by Al Nieber of the DNR. He led a team that shocked fish in the lake last fall to determine how many and what types of fish were present in the lakes.

Fran West-Tomashek will explain lake association efforts to obtain state grants to fund treatment of invasive aquatic plants. She will also talk about protection of sensitive areas on the lakes.

The Gibson Island Project will also be on the agenda. Now that the acquisition of the island has been completed, a town Stewardship Committee is being formed to develop plans, includ-

ing preservation in a natural state and walking trails.

Steve Joosten, board secretary, will discuss plans for Independence Day activities (see story on page 10).

An election will be held to fill two seats on the board. Terms will be expiring for Bob Tomashek and Ron Ostrowski. Tomashek plans to run again while Ostrowski doesn't.

After the meeting, which usually lasts about two hours, lunch will be served. Attendance has been growing each year with well over 100 last year who came to hear the latest news about happenings and initiatives affecting the quality of life on the lakes.



Dick Sachs, DNR adviser to the Invasive and Nuisance Species Study Group, talks at the wrap-up meeting of the study groups on Feb. 23. At right is Esther Letven, consultant to the CLPA on the study groups process and Recreation Study Group facilitator.

Many thanks to study group volunteers

The CLPA board of directors would like to especially recognize the work of the volunteers who participated in the study groups. "Their efforts are exemplary and resulted in a wonderful Long Range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan that will guide us for years to come," said Board President Bob Tomashek. "We can't thank them enough." They include the following people:

Design Group: Jim Aumann, Esther Letven, Leeann Little, Harriet McCauley, Dennis Thornton and Bob Tomczyk

Consultants: Chad Cook, UW-Extension; Mary Gansberg, DNR; Matt Harp, Lake and Pond Solutions; Bob Korth, UW-Stevens Point, and Dick Sachs, DNR

Invasive and Nuisance Species: Thornton, facilitator; Jan and Stan Kleiss, Joy Krubsack, Scott Monroe and Justinn Heraly

Watershed Issues: McCauley, facilitator; Craig Johannesen, Larry Malnor, Ed Stuebe and Roger Wilson.

Aquatic Plants: Fran West-Tomashek, facilitator; Darryl George, Kery and Russ Kafka, Dennis Krubsack and Monk Molitor

Recreational Use: Letven, facilitator; Jim and Nancy Green, Marv Letven, Carol Wegner and Mary Wetzel

Water Quality and Habitat: Little and Tomczyk, facilitators; John Koss, Donna Loesl, Arlene Schabo and Howard Unrath.

Reminder on boating rules

Town ordinance allows for water skiing, tubing, surfing or use of other towing devices to be done only between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Operation of motor boats and personal watercraft in excess of slow-no-wake is not allowed between 6 p.m. and dawn daily on Pine and Grass Lakes and is not allowed at any time in the channel between Pine and Grass Lakes. Round Lake is a slow-no wake zone at all times.

State grants help fund lake projects

By Fran West-Tomashek

The Town of Belle Plaine and the CLPA have been working hand in hand to find funding for the programs that need to be implemented to protect and maintain our lakes. We have been very successful (and fortunate, as we cannot take the acquisition of grants "for granted!") With the guidance of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and UW-Stevens Point, we have acquired these grants over the last three years:

1) A three-year grant through the Aquatic Invasive Species grant program that provided us with 50 percent matching funds of nearly \$25,000 for 2004 and 2005 to treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil threatening to overtake the natural plant population of our lakes and make recreation on the lakes a thing of the past. An amendment to this grant was applied for and approved this year to provide another \$5,552 for the treatment of EWM.

2) A one year (2004-05) Aquatic Invasive Species grant that provided a state share of \$3,666 to help fund the implementation of the Boat Launch Monitoring program and a boat launch fee station at the launch site. The fees collected at the launch site last year amounted to more than \$5,000. The fees collected from year to year at the launch site will be used to help fund future lake protection projects.

3) An 18-month Small Scale Lake Management grant (April 2005-December 2007) that provided \$3,000 to fund the purchase of a meter for measuring dissolved oxygen in the lakes and to offset the expenses of the Study Project that led to our Long Range Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.

4) A one year (2006) Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant (Early Detection and Rapid Response project) for the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed. The state's portion will be \$2,600.

5) A one year (2006) Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant that will help fund the services of a coordinator for our Boat Launch Monitoring Program. The state's portion of this grant will be \$2,500. The continuation of our Boat Launch Monitoring Program is a key to the protection of our lakes from being infested with other invasive species. We are particularly concerned with staving off an infestation of Zebra Mussels because they have been identified in Shawano Lake.

The Town of Belle Plaine has budgeted \$5,500 from general revenues to help with funding for lake projects. The CLPA will provide the balance of offsetting funds for these programs. The CLPA's 2006 share is anticipated to be approximately \$5,000 for all the above projects.

West-Tomashek is CLPA treasurer.

Volunteers sought to trap crayfish

We discovered last summer that we had Rusty Crayfish in our lakes. We worked with the DNR on this issue. The DNR gave us traps and we started to do some sample trapping to see how large the infestation is.

There were more Rusties than we thought but the DNR said not to panic. Most of these critters live in Pine Lake, with the majority of them living by the walleye spawning rocks on the east side of the Gibson Island isthmus.

Our plan for this year is to continue monitoring and to do some volunteer trapping. If we organize and get some volunteer trappers to take responsibility for a portion of the lake, we should be able to have a pretty good picture of the scope of this thing by next fall and have decreased the population of rusty crayfish. The CLPA is authorized to purchase traps for the volunteer trappers.

This is a great task for folks spending their summer on the lake looking for a little something to fill those summer days, and if you are looking for a gourmet treat you can even eat these things. They make a great etouffe. Go to creoleman.com for some great recipes. If you are interested in participating in the trapping program, please contact Dennis Thornton at 823-9151.

—Bob Tomashek

National expert to talk about conifers

Gardening with Dwarf Conifers is the name of a seminar scheduled Saturday, May 27, at 1 p.m. at the Thistledown Greenhouse. Gary Wittenbaugh of Oelwein, Iowa, will share his knowledge and love of conifers. He is nationally known and is recent past president of the American Conifer Society.

The shape, color and texture of conifers add year-round beauty and contrast to gardens and landscapes.

Thistledown Greenhouses is located at W5039 Landstad Road in Bonduel. Contact Karen Sojka, 823-3674, for more information.

Cloverleaf Calendar

April 17: Cloverleaf Lake Protective Association board, Rustic Resort, 7 p.m.

May 8: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

May 11: Cloverleaf Lake Protective Association board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7 p.m.

May 21: Annual meeting of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, Rustic Resort, 1 p.m.

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

June 30: Family-friendly Independence Day Dance, Rustic Resort, 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

July 1: Kiddie Parade, Boat Landing, 10 a.m.

July 1: Pontoon Parade, starting on the south side of Gibson Island, 6:30 p.m.

July 1: Fireworks, on Pine Lake, presented by Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association, dusk.

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

July 26: CLPA Golf Outing, Riverside Country Club in Clintonville, noon start, dinner and awards ceremony later.

August 14: Belle Plaine Town Board, Belle Plaine Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

Gibson Island to be kept natural forever

The acquisition of the \$1.025 million, 25.6 acre Gibson Island in Cloverleaf Lakes has been successfully completed by Gibson Island Project volunteers and the Town of Belle Plaine.

The final payment was made in late March to owner Lynne Lenius. She had offered an additional month past the initial closing date of Feb. 28 to receive all payments and she also waived interest owed to her. Formal closing on the deal was March 3 at Coldwell Banker Hilgenberg Realtors, Shawano, followed by receipt of a \$416,000 federal grant 13 days later and the final payment of \$4,000 on March 30.

The town now owns the property, which will be protected from development forever by deed restrictions and terms of the federal grant. An advisory Stewardship Committee to help safeguard the natural area has been appointed by Town Chairman Alvin Bartz (see Page 5). "We hope the citizens will have a little patience while we set up rules concerning access and that they don't disturb the bald eagles during their nesting season this spring," he said. Plans for the property include establishment of a Gary Lenius Nature Trail, which will be open to the public with some restrictions to protect the wildlife and habitat.

Two hundred private contributions, including 80 of \$1,000 or more, raised more than \$287,000 toward the purchase and related expenses. The purchase funds came from the sale of a town-owned lot on Pine Lake for about \$130,000, a \$200,000 contribution from Mrs. Lenius, the \$416,000 federal LAWCON (Land and Water Conservation) grant administered by the state Department of Natural Resources, and \$279,000 from donations.

A summer celebration is being planned. The island will be dedicated and the many donors and volunteers who helped with the project will be honored. June's newsletter will have de-



The closing, from left, Terry Hilgenberg, Town Supervisor Bob Tomashek, Project Board members Dennis and Jan Thornton, Lynne Lenius, Town Chair Alvin Bartz, Project Board members Joy Krubsack and Stan Kleiss, and Town Clerk Harriet McCauley.

tails. If funds permit, a commemorative booklet will be compiled with a narrative history of the project, photographs, a financial statement, and a listing of all the volunteers and donors.

"We would like to offer special thanks to Alvin Bartz for his visionary leadership and for his commitment to the greater good of the town," said Jan Thornton. "This could not have happened without him. We also are grateful to Terry Hilgenberg for bringing together a complex deal, to Mrs. Lenius for her kind patience, and for each and every generous contribution, from \$25 to \$35,000. In the end, we needed *every* penny."

People can still contribute to the Gibson Island Project. Although the acquisition is complete, approximately \$8,000 for post-purchase expenses are needed. The names of new donors will be included in future newsletters and those giving \$1,000 or more will be included on the plaque at Town Hall. Send contributions to Gibson Island Project, P.O. Box 61, Embarrass, 54933.

Donations continued up until last minute

Here are the names of new donors since the publication of the last newsletter as well as those whose additional giving brought them into new donor categories.

Bald Eagle (\$50,000 or more)

Land and Water Conservation of Natural Resources grant, (LAWCON) U.S. Department of Parks administered by DNR
Town of Belle Plaine

Blue Heron (\$10,000 or more)

American Marina, Anthony and Lugene Zielinski, Shawano

Loon (\$5,000 or more)

In memory of Jerry Altman by Bradley and Paula Clark, Pine Lake/Libertyville, IL

Edwin and Mary Jane Renaud, Pine Lake/Kimberly

Sand Hill Crane (\$1,000 or more)

James and Jana Aumann, Pine Lake

In memory of Jerry Altman by Daniel and Dolores Bleck, Pine Lake/Gurnee, IL

Norman and Annette Burton, Pine Lake/Appleton

Kevin and Darlene Godfrey, Round Lake

Dale Mahlik Agency, Clintonville

Allen and Pat Mahnke, Pine Lake

The Mijal Family, Grass Lake, Pine Lake/Appleton

Audrey Nolan, Grass Lake/Marion

Peter and Sanny Oberhauser, Caroline

Thomas and Beverly Rosenfeldt, Grass Lake/Greenville

John Torborg, Clintonville

The Howard Unrath Family, Pine Lake

William and Donna Varney, Green Bay

Mallard Duck (up to \$999)

Clayton & Barbara Anderson, Associated Bank, Luciano & Sarah

Benavides, William and Rosemary Bonifay, Mary Doan, Mary

Fischer, Michael & Shirley Fischer, Michael & Charlotte Fixler,

Craig & Donna Ford, Eric & Suzanne Fowle, Fox Communities

Credit Union, Geoffrey Gerrits, Wayne & Carolyn Hansen, Don

Heiman Builders LLC, Craig Johannesen, Randall & Vickie Keigley,

William & Patricia Kinzinger, Steven & Munira Kleiss, Dr. Donald &

Mary Mayek, Joseph & Bridget Mayek, John & Larue McKay, How-

ard & Llavonne Millard, D.J. Rohrer Community Fund of the Clinton-

ville Area Foundation, Michael & Lynn Mulholland, John & Dejon

Polzin, David & Sandra Rosenfeldt, Veryle & Virgie Sievert, Benja-

min & Leah Smejkal, Mark Speckhard M.D., Ed & Addie Stuebe,

Loyal & Donna Weishoff, and Lee & Mary Wetzel.

Bowfishing could thin carp population

By Donna Loesl

We have carp in Cloverleaf Lakes, but the number is uncertain. Long Lake is trying to remove the carp from that lake. There doesn't seem to be an alarm for Cloverleaf Lakes, according to Al Niebur of the DNR staff, but we should continue to observe and possibly try to eliminate carp. We have to observe the population of carp in our lakes to determine the number before they get out of hand and we have a real problem.

Carp can live in water with little or no dissolved oxygen. Their nasty habit of uprooting aquatic plants to get at bugs and larva in the sediment re-spends pollutants, like phosphorous, that feed algae blooms. The carp multiply wildly, completely displacing native species in some lakes, destroying native vegetation, increasing water turbidity, lowering oxygen levels and starving out young largemouth bass.

Carp are bottom feeders. Much of their time is spent feeding in water less than 10 feet deep. While digging in sediment, carp release phosphorus that is normally locked up within the bottom sediments. Phosphorus is the main driving force behind algae blooms that happen in warm water systems.

Carp grow at an extremely fast pace leaving only a small window of time that they are actually small enough to be preyed upon. Once a carp reaches three pounds, there are no natural



predators to impact their population. Carp can be sexually mature by the end of their first year. The carp is a keystone species that drastically alters the environment in which it lives by making it less suitable for other species.

Some lake associations have attempted to draw bow fishermen to their lakes by offering bounties for each fish that is taken. These tournaments often include a 25- or 50-cent per fish incentive to fishermen.

An article in the *Post Crescent* by Ed Culhane on targeting an unwanted fish informed people about carp shoots and the equipment they used in targeting the carp. The Wisconsin Bowfishing Association was established in the late 1990s. Each year the association holds a number of carp shoots. It is illegal to shoot game fish with a bow and arrow, but you can shoot all the rough fish you want.

Night bowfishing allows the bowfisherman to be much more effective in harvesting larger number of rough fish (carp). The fish tend to spend more time in the shallows at night and are less spooky and much easier to see with the aid of lights. Although it is legal only on specified lakes, shooting at night with the aid of lights is hugely popular. It's the reason bowfishing is one of the fastest-growing archery sports.

Loesl did this research on carp for the Water Quality and Habitat Study Group.

Boating safety course may become state law

Gov. Jim Doyle said he plans to sign into law a bill, passed by the Legislature, that would require anyone born after Jan. 1, 1989, to be certified by the state to operate boats.

A person would be certified after taking an eight-hour class that costs \$10. Uncertified boaters could face fines of up to \$200.

Current law allows those 16 and older to independently operate watercraft without certification.

The new law would apply to anyone whose birthday falls past the Jan. 1, 1989, date, regardless of how old that person is when they begin operating watercraft.

The Waupaca County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol plans a series of Boater Safety Classes, including classes in Clin-

tonville in May.

Clintonville boater safety classes will be held May 2, 4, 10, 11, 16 and 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Clintonville City Hall Meeting Room. For information, contact Steve Sullivan at (920) 740-5089, Jason Bayer at (715) 677-4084 or Bryan Stelzner at (920) 867-2420.

The Shawano County Sheriff's Department and DNR will offer boating safety classes at Shawano Community High School. Classes will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from May 1 to 15. Classes are for ages 12 and older and cost is \$10. To register, call Kathy at the Shawano County Sheriff's Department at 526-7925 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Town appoints Gibson Island Stewardship group

Town Chair Alvin Bartz has appointed a Stewardship Committee to advise the town regarding the long-term well-being of Gibson Island. The committee will offer advice on the development of a nature trail and rules for the property's use by citizens.

Bartz will be on the committee, along with Gibson Island Project board members Joy Krubsack, Stan Kleiss and Dennis Thornton. Representing the CLPA will be Fran West-Tomashek. Nancy Green and Barry Anker are town residents named to the committee. Bartz selected Allan Waelchli and Dick Thurow for

their expertise in forestry.

In other town news:

- Summer dump hours began April 17, with the transfer facility open Monday mornings, Wednesday afternoons and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The town will advertise for a person to serve on the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District Commission. Mike Nelson has resigned from the three-member commission board.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES 2006 TREATMENT PROGRAM FAQ's

What are Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)? AIS are often exotic species (non-native to Wisconsin or the U.S.). Because they lack their natural predators, they out-compete more beneficial native species and negatively alter the habitat.

Which AIS are of most concern? Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), Purple Loosestrife (PL), Zebra Mussels, and Curly-Leaf Pondweed are common in the Cloverleaf Lakes area or already in the lakes. They all have the ability to adversely affect the entire aquatic ecosystem of the lakes.

How will AIS be managed? At this point only EWM and CLP are present in the lakes. EWM will be managed again with the aquatic herbicide Navigate in the heaviest growth areas; CLP and sparse EWM patches will also be managed with selective SCUBA cutting. We also are always on the lookout for new AIS on the lakes.

Why these methods? What other methods were considered? For EWM in this case a selective herbicide approach is best. By treating only EWM, other beneficial plants can be left to flourish. A good bed of native plants is often a lake's best defense against EWM. Some other control methods can cause the plants to fragment, which further spreads EWM throughout the lakes and were thus eliminated as an option. Some options are simply not as effective or affordable for the particular situation on the Chain. Other EWM treatment options considered are: manual removal, harvesting, SCUBA cutting/harvest, bottom screens, drawdown, and other methods.

When will management take place? EWM treatment will take place likely in April or May, 2006 but is weather dependent. Treatment will be performed early in the week to minimize any potential lake use conflicts. Treatment areas will be posted at boat landings. Each pier in or adjacent to the treatment areas will also be posted (with a bright yellow placard), notifying of the treatment.

What are the water use restrictions? For EWM treatment, there are no restrictions on swimming or eating fish, though there is a 21 day (or less) irrigation restriction for food crops. It is recommended, however, that we avoid disturbing treatment areas for 24 hours to get the best treatment effect.

Some piers have signs and some do not. What does that mean? If your pier has a sign, it means you are either in or adjacent to the treatment area. Treatment usually takes place in 4 to 12 feet of water. Please refrain from swimming or boating in these depths for 24 hours to allow the product to work.

How can I help? If you have Eurasian Water Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed (or suspect another Aquatic Invasive Species), please notify Bob Tomashek, Howard Unrath, or another member of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association board. Give them your name, address, species, and location. Only with your help can we be sure to get all of the areas with AIS.

CLOVERLEAF LAKES PERMIT CONDITIONS FOR AQUATIC HERBICIDE TREATMENT SUMMARY

Applicant Information:

Town of Belle Plaine
Bob Tomashek
W8283 Cloverleaf Lake Road
Clintonville, WI 54929
715-823-4059

Site Information:

Grass, Pine & Round Lakes, Shawano County, WI
T26, 15E, Sections 33/34
323 Acres, approximately 23 acres to be treated

Applicator:

Lake & Pond Solutions, L.L.C.
N1025 Julius Drive
Greenville, WI 54942
920-757-9447

Reasons for Aquatic Plant Control:

Maintain navigational channel for common use
Maintain navigational channel for boating
Maintain navigational channel for fishing
Elimination of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) & Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP)

Nuisance Caused By:

Submerged water plants (leaves and stems below water surface, flowering parts may be exposed) EWM and CLP

Trade Name of Proposed Chemicals:

Navigate (2-4-D)
Aquathol, Cutrine Plus

Method of Application:

Hand Spread/Commercial Blower
Commercial Pump Sprayer/Injector

Which chemicals/other control options have been tried on the site and what were the results?

Treated areas of Round lake in 2003 with excellent results
Larger treatments in 2004 and 2005 with about 50% control

Note: Chemical fact sheets for aquatic pesticides used in Wisconsin are available from the WDNR upon request.

Permit Conditions:

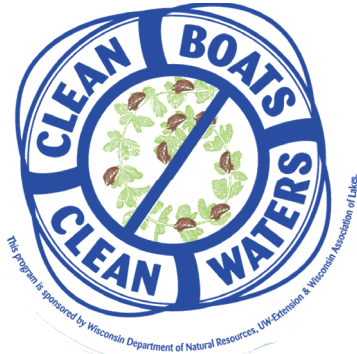
1. All provisions of NR107 must be followed.
2. All boat landings must be posted prior to treatment with a map showing treatment areas.
3. Treatment is restricted to EWM and CLP.
4. The DNR must be notified 4 working days in advance of treatment.

Note: Chemical fact sheets are available from the DNR upon request. For a full copy of the DNR permit, contact Lake and Pond Solutions LLC (see above). Also, a public notice of the treatment was published in the Shawano Leader in April, 2006 according to permit regulations.

Boat monitor coordinator hired

This year we are trying something different for the Boat Monitoring program. We have hired the services of a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point senior through Matt Harp of Lake and Ponds, LLC. Our CLPA Board will direct his daily tasks.

Mitch Lawver was hired to do a number of tasks, all concerned with monitoring the boats going in and out of our lakes to check for invasive species. One of Mitch's primary tasks will be to schedule and train our volunteer boat monitors. Hopefully



all of our volunteer boat monitors will return. Mitch will be contacting you.

We have hired Mitch for 20 hours per week for 16 weeks. This will cost about \$5,000. The money is coming from the Town of Belle Plaine and the state through a grant.

The Town's share of the money is coming from a portion of the boat launch fee money.

Last year we started collecting \$2 for town residents and \$3 for other boats. This is a coordinated effort between the Town, the CLPA and Matt Harp.

- Bob Tomashek

Water levels may be lower this summer

Action by the Department of Natural Resources and pressure from the Cloverleaf Lakes "Riparians" group could mean the controversial water levels will be slightly lower this summer than in previous years, although water levels are difficult to predict because of a multitude of other factors such as rainfall, temperature and beaver activity.

The Department of Natural Resources is enforcing Cloverleaf Lakes water levels set by the Public Service Commission in 1955. That level sets the maximum level measured down to the water from the top of the culvert between Round and Grass lakes at 72 inches. If the water level is higher than that (i.e., if that measurement is less than 72 inches) the DNR orders the outlet dam at the south end of Pine Lake to be opened.

"We have been directed by the DNR to follow this order, and if we refuse to do it, they will levy a fine on us of \$1,000 a day," CLPA President Bob Tomashek said.

The dam at the outlet under Rustic Drive has been open all winter. Another part of the DNR order sets the level of the dam at Pine Manor, where water from the lakes flows toward the Embarrass River.

"If CLPA doesn't open the gates of the Pine Lake dam during high water, the CLPA risks the fine," said Scott Koehnke, DNR water management specialist, Shawano. "If the water level control is at the Pine Manor dam and it's too high and the Pine Lake outlet is open, then CLPA is not at risk since CLPA isn't controlling the water level."

One development in the long-running water levels controversy is that the ownership of the dam at Rustic Drive has changed hands. The CLPA transferred official ownership to the Town of Belle Plaine, although the CLPA still opens and closes that dam. The official operator is Carl Bruggink of the CLPA board.

"The dam is attached to the road which belongs to the town," Tomashek said, adding that the Rustic Drive dam is getting old and may need work, which could be handled by the town.

Another development over the winter was installation of a lake level measuring gauge. "Residents of Cloverleaf Lakes will now be able to monitor lake levels utilizing a measuring gauge installed in Round Lake near the culvert," said CLPA Vice President Howard Unrath. He said a gauge was obtained from the DNR to indicate when the lake water levels are within guidelines.

A third development was a letter sent to the Town Board by an attorney representing the Riparians urging the Town Board "to undertake responsibility to apply for a permit and purchase two beaver bafflers for installation at the beaver dam upstream from Pine Manor Dam." The Town Board took no action on the request, noting that the beaver dam is in the Town of Matteson, not Belle Plaine. According to Koehnke, only the property owner of the wetlands with the beaver dam can allow the bafflers. He cannot be forced to put in the structures, but he is responsible for damage as a result of high water.

-Dennis Thornton

CLPA Notebook

Membership: As of early April, only 99 members had paid their 2006 dues to the CLPA. If you haven't yet joined this year, please send in your \$25 dues. Your receipt will be a new red sticker on your address plate.

Newsletter subscriptions. By popular demand, CLPA members who wish to purchase extra subscriptions of the newsletter for family members or property co-owners may now do so for \$10 per year per subscription. Details are on the membership form, Page 9.

Treasurer's Report. The CLPA had a total of \$26,722.65 in early April, according to Fran West-Tomashek. The savings accounts totaled \$25,316.24 with \$1,406.41 in checking.

Golf Outing. It's not too early to start lining up your foursome for the July 26 annual Golf Outing. Organizers Jim Aumann and Kurt Popp hope to attract 36 foursomes for the event, which is the CLPA's main fund-raiser. Details will be in the June newsletter, but early entries are welcomed at Pops Lake-Aire..

CLPA featured. Esther Letven, facilitator of the CLPA Recreational Use Study Group, will be a panelist at the April 20-22 Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay. Her topic is "Recreational Use Carrying Capacity and Your Lake." Her co-panelists will represent the Lake Ripley Management District.

2006 Annual Membership: Please Join Now!

If you haven't already joined, make a check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association and send it with this form to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. It's the right thing to do.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Home Address (if different): _____

Home Telephone: (if different) _____

Enclosed is my \$25 check for CLPA dues \$ _____

I would like to purchase _____ additional newsletter subscriptions @\$10 (attach separate sheet with names and addresses of new recipients) = \$ _____

I would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I would like to volunteer in these areas:

_____ Action Team member

_____ Help with events during Independence Day festivities (kiddie parade, pontoon parade, dance)

_____ Help check boats for invasive species and educate boaters at busy boat launch times:

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 and emergency information.

Fun on the ice: Clover Bares Fishing Derby



Four fishermen — Scottie Bruns and Brian Seaman of Lake Mills and Robert Frost and Doug Anderson of Clintonville— grill their lunch on Grass Lake. They participated in the Feb. 4 Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Clover Bares Snowmobile Club.



Lowell Stephani traveled from his home in Black Creek to the Fishing Derby in his Piper airplane, landing on the ice. The Clover Bares raised about \$1,700 and donated funds to the Belle Plaine and Embarrass Fire Departments, First Responders and Embarrass Little League.



FIRST CLASS MAIL

2006 Independence Day festivities planned

Plans for this year's Independence Day festivities June 30-July 1 are underway, according to events organizer Steve Joosten of the CLPA Board. A Friday night dance, Saturday morning Kiddie Parade and Saturday evening Pontoon Parade will be the highlights. The celebration will culminate with fireworks at dusk shot from a barge on Pine Lake sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association.

In addition, in light of last year's success of the Gibson Island Project's silent auction at the Friday night dance, tentative plans are being made for a silent auction that will benefit the CLPA, said Joosten.

As in 2005, the Friday night dance starting at 8 p.m. at the Rustic Resort will feature family-friendly music by a disc jockey. The evening will start out with family and easy-listening music and switch later to rock music for the younger set. Last year whole families had fun dancing together to such tunes as "Hokey Pokey" and "The Chicken Dance" early in the evening.

The annual Kiddie Parade will kick off Saturday's activities starting at 10 a.m. at the boat landing on Grass Lake.



Children of all ages decorate their bikes, trikes and wagons and ride and walk, often with their parents, along the triangular route from the boat landing, south on "Y," east on Rustic Drive and west on Adams Beach Road. Afterwards, ice cream treats are served.

Families with decorated pontoons should gather at the northwest corner of Pine Lake at 6:30 p.m. for the trek around the lakes. The pontoon

theme will be announced in June.

The climax of the fun will be the fireworks at dusk.

2006 Schedule of Festivities

Friday, June 30

8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Dance, Rustic Resort.

Saturday, July 1

10 a.m. Kiddie Parade, starting at Grass Lake boat landing

6:30 p.m. Pontoon Parade, starting at the northwest corner of Pine Lake.

Dusk: Fireworks display at dusk, put on by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association.