

Wisconsin's Recreation Center
The Place for Health, Rest & Pleasure
CLPA incorporated in 1936

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

www.CloverleafLakes.com

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

June 2009

**Cloverleaf Lakes
Protective Association**

Board of Directors

Dennis Thornton

President

823-9151

thorngb@frontiernet.net

Carl Bruggink

Vice President

823-2488

carlbruggink@frontiernet.net

Carol Wegner

Secretary

823-6270

cawegner@frontiernet.net

Fran West

Treasurer

823-4059

kfwest@frontiernet.net

James Aumann

823-5632

Joe Mass

823-3758

jandmass@frontiernet.net

Dick Thurow

823-7924

Newsletter Editor

Dennis Thornton

823-9151

thorngb@frontiernet.net

Inside this issue:

Shoreland	2
Annual meeting	3
Meet the Kafkas	4
July Fourth plans	5
Update on eagles	6
Golf Outing	7
Shadows on Wolf	8

Ribbon-cutting opens island boardwalk

Walking access to the Gibson Island nature trail was officially opened June 6 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a boardwalk spanning a wetlands area.

About 40 people attended the event marking the final step in a six-year project acquiring the 25-acre centerpiece of Cloverleaf Lakes and providing public access.

The 270-foot boardwalk, constructed on a bed of house trailer frames by **Mike Nelson** and his crew from Nelson Services, connects a landward lot on Cloverleaf Lake Road with an isthmus leading to the "island" and its one-mile Gary Lenius Nature Trail, named for a former owner of the property.

Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** said future generations will enjoy the natural beauty of the area. The town financed the \$20,000 boardwalk project from transmission lines funds, along with a grant from the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe.

The island was acquired by the town in 2006 with a combination of private donations, town funds and a federal grant administered by the Department of Natural Resources totaling \$1,025,000.

"You're exactly the kind of folks we love to work with," said **Chris Halbur**, a DNR grants specialist from Green Bay. "You made it happen."

Joy Krubsack, who chairs the town's stewardship committee, said, "We were blessed with people who helped in so many ways. We will keep it natural and beautiful forever. This is the island's independence day."

Jan Thornton, who chaired the Gibson Island Conservation Project that worked with the town to acquire the property, cut a ribbon



Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** and **Chris Halbur** of the DNR try out the Gibson Island boardwalk.

opening the boardwalk, along with several grandchildren of people who worked on the project, symbolizing future generations.

"This project was started because there was a threat of private development to this picturesque centerpiece of Cloverleaf Lakes," Thornton said. "Now Gibson Island will be preserved forever as a natural area and, with this boardwalk, you will have access to the walking trail. Take a walk on the wild side."

The trail is open during daylight hours for pedestrian use. The boardwalk was closed to the public until June 1 during the sensitive nesting period for a nearby pair of bald eagles.

There is also a pier on the south side of the island for water access. For more information, check the CLPA web site.

The stewardship committee is identifying and mapping wild plants and trees on the property, which include beech and birch trees, hemlock and a wide variety of plants.

Shoreland plan expands; shore day is June 27

By Kery Kafka

Thank you shoreland restoration team members: **Dan Bleck, Kathy Nodolf, Joy Krubsack, Howard Unrath, Dennis Thornton**, with assistance from **Kris Doan**.

Our team's theme is "Go Wild," which is why we handed out wild, native violets to everyone at the annual meeting, along with the DNR booklet on preventing run-off on your lakefront. If you want additional information on shoreline restoration, contact **Ed Stuebe**, our CLPA librarian, who has a lot of information on protecting our lakes.

Shoreline Restoration Sites

Last year three property owners began shoreline restoration projects with assistance from the CLPA: Blecks, Krubsacks and Thorntons. This year eight additional sites are being finalized with support for the project's plan from the DNR and support for its implementation from CLPA. Kathy Nodolf has also organized teams of students to help with mulching, planting, etc., because we know this work is labor intensive. The DNR will also support shoreline restoration with an educational program (see below) and with a study of native shoreline plants around the Cloverleaf Lakes, so we will know what plants work well along our shores.

CLPA Reimbursement for Shoreline Restoration Sites

If you have a plan for shoreline restoration on your property, and seek monetary assistance for plants, and/or student assistance in planting, please contact Kery Kafka.

Shoreline Restoration Workshop

Many of these sites will be highlighted in a pontoon boat/ educational trip on Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m.-12 noon. This educational event will be presented by our shoreline restoration consultant, **James Havel**. Join us in exploring what fellow residents are doing to help preserve our lakes through re-creating



Wildflowers planted last summer as part of a shoreland restoration project are in bloom.

natural shoreline. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Kery Kafka** at 823-9183 or rkkafka@sbcglobal.net by June 24, to make sure we have enough space on pontoons.

No-Phosphorous Law

The governor has signed the phosphorous free fertilizer law that will go into effect in 2010. You can start now by using phosphorous-free fertilizer, if you need to use it at all. No grass and no fertilizer saves you lots of work and money. Natural lake frontage with native plantings, rather than the suburban model of grass down to the lakefront, is the model of today. This natural shoreline enhances water quality, improves the environment for fish and wildlife, and is esthetically beautiful.

Thank you for "Going Wild."



Hail to the chiefs: The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association honored a pair of presidents at its annual meeting in May. Outgoing CLPA President Bob Tomashek, left, is presented a plaque by Vice



President Carl Bruggink honoring his achievements during five years as president. At right, Bruggink hands a plaque to Howard Unrath, a former CLPA president and lake activist for 30+ years.

Summary of 2009 CLPA annual meeting

Date: May 23, 2009

Location: Rustic Resort

Time: 10 a.m.

Attendees: Board members Bob Tomashek, Fran West, Carl Bruggink, Dick Thurow, Joe Mass, Jim Aumann, Dennis Thornton; about 85 members of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

Business Meeting

A 10-minute video, Cloverleaf Lakes for All Seasons, was shown. Esther Letven produced the video, with photos by Letven and Dennis Thornton and videos by Fran West.

Vice President Carl Bruggink gave a welcome and introduced guests, including Town Board Chairman Alvin Bartz, Supervisor Harold Polzin, as well as Todd Wippermann and Al Niebur of the DNR.

Minutes of the 2008 annual meeting, held May 25, 2008, were read. Marv Letven moved, Sandy Mass seconded approval of minutes. All in favor.

Fran West presented the treasurer's report. Assets total \$78,941. Membership as of this date is 140. Ed Stuebe moved, Vilas Krueger seconded approval of the treasurer's report. All in favor.

Election of board members followed. Bob Tomashek declined to seek another term. Dennis Thornton was re-elected and Carol Wegner was nominated for a three-year term. They were unanimously elected.

Bruggink presented a plaque to Howard Unrath honoring his years of service to the CLPA and community; reading Roger Wilson's letter about Unrath.

Bruggink presented a plaque to Bob Tomashek detailing his many accomplishments during his five years as president of the association.

Lake Management Planning Reports

Three-year plan: Jim Aumann updated the membership on the long-range plan. The invasive aquatic plant control program is continuing, along with shoreland restoration. A new dam on Pine Lake may be built through the work of the town and the DNR. A new chapter of Shadows on the Wolf has been formed in Clintonville and will raise funds for conservation projects. Shawano County sheriff's officers will staff a water safety patrol this summer on a trial basis.

Gibson Island: Joy Krubsack, chair of the town stewardship committee, invited CLPA members to a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Gibson Island boardwalk to be held at 10 a.m. June 6. She said the committee was identifying native plants on the island and that the bald eagles nesting nearby are being protected according to a DNR directive.

Shoreland restoration: Kery Kafka reported that eight projects will be planted in 2009 and that a DNR grant will cover much of the cost of the planning. The CLPA will provide matching grants for plants and labor. NES Ecological of Oneida is the consultant. A shoreland day will be held June 27 from 9 a.m. to noon and will include tours of the 2008 sites and a hands-on demonstration at this year's sites. She passed out violets that members could plant.

Aquatic plant invasive treatment: Russ Kafka reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil is down from 70 acres in 2004 to about six acres in 2009. About five acres of Curly-leaf Pondweed were treated. He said the committee is working to locate and map invasives using GPS and working with a consultant to treat the weeds. He said volunteers are welcome to help.

Fisheries: Chris Sampson and Al Niebur presented the findings of Niebur's DNR fishery survey in 2008. (Details were in the May newsletter and on the web site.) The DNR did netting and boom shocking in 2008 and followed up this spring. Large-mouth bass, crappies, bluegill and muskies are the dominate species. Very few walleyes were found, despite years of planting them. The board will look at fish stocking practices in light of the findings. Niebur said the DNR will survey the lakes every four years.

Adventures in Lake Living: Esther Letven said the summer's programs will begin with a shoreland planting day June 27. How to Fish Our Lakes is scheduled for July 11; Eco-Recreation and Tour of the Lakes will be Aug. 15; and a tour of Gibson Island will be Sept. 12. Details of the free programs will be in the June newsletter.

Activities update

Numerous activities were presented in a Powerpoint presentation, including:

Boat monitoring is under way, with Rebecca Furdek hired for the season.

Water quality testing has been done by Joy Krubsack, Joe Mass and Dick Thurow.

Joe Mass is also starting to trap rusty crayfish, while Dick Thurow is trapping nuisance muskrats.

Fourth of July activities include a July 3 dance and July 4 Kiddie Parade, Pontoon Parade and fireworks.

The Golf Outing will be held July 29 at Clintonville Riverside Golf Course.

The third annual Tri Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon is scheduled for Sept. 5.

The Welcoming Committee reported on handing out information packets to about a dozen new residents on the lakes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m., followed by lunch.

- Recorded by Dennis Thornton

Kafkas provide Leadership on Takes

By Dennis Thornton

You don't have to be a full-time resident at Cloverleaf Lakes to make a difference here. **Russ and Kery Kafka** prove the point by heading two key lake committees and enjoying their summer cottage while maintaining their residence in Milwaukee.

Kery chairs the Shoreland Restoration team, while Russ is in charge of the Aquatic Plant Invasive Species team that locates and orders treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly-Leaf Pondweed.

They first got involved in volunteer work benefiting the lakes five years ago when task forces were set up to develop a comprehensive lake management plan. They also were active in supporting the Gibson Island Project, with Kery dressing up as a "Gibson girl" along with Joy Krubsack to distribute literature.

Russ is a Clintonville native who had "good memories of the lakes" from his childhood, including taking swimming lessons at Sandy Beach. He went to school with the Gibson family's grandchildren as well as longtime Pine Lake resident Dennis Krubsack. He bought the cottage on Rustic Drive in 1978. "It was the first thing I ever owned," he said.

Kery said for years "we just came up on weekends and left again. We didn't think about stewardship. We weren't involved."

They have more time for volunteer work and more time at the cottage now that they're retired. Kery was a school administrator and Russ was a banker and investment manager.

Russ said he's enjoyed working on lake projects. "There are good people here with the well-being of the lake in mind," he said. "They're well organized and had a plan and vision."

Both Kafkas have served on the aquatic species team. "It's fun," he said. "We learned how to operate a GPS and about the good and bad plants." The team marks patches of invasive plants and turns the information over to Matt Harp, whose crew chemically kills the invasives. The work covers "a couple of half-days," he said. He's looking for two more volunteers to help out.

The team has seen results, with EWM diminishing from 70 acres five years ago to just six acres now. "We can't rest on our laurels. It's not totally gone" and will require ongoing treatment.

Kery said her work on shoreland restoration focuses on changing behaviors and attitudes in residents accustomed to tending their lawns. Eight properties this year, as well as three pilot projects in 2008, are renovating their shores using native plants.

"Shoreland restoration saves a lot of time and energy" that homeowners spent mowing and fertilizing their lawns, she said. It also prevents erosion, improves fishing and promotes wildlife. "It's hard to find a reason you wouldn't want a natural shoreline," Kery said. Property owners don't need to convert their entire shore to the natural look, she said. There is room for a pier and some play areas alongside the native plants.



Russ and Kery Kafka stand on the pier in front of their cottage.

The Kafkas enjoyed participating in the Lake Leaders Institute last year, joining lake residents from around the state at weekend sessions at Green Lake, Lake Tomahawk, Devils Lake and the historic Leopold cabin near Baraboo.

"There was a wealth of information," Russ said. "We had conversations with other people who were dealing with similar lake issues and challenges."

The Kafkas don't spend all their time on volunteer work. They swim daily, play golf, bicycle and canoe as well as sail on Pine Lake. If you hear bagpipes some night, that would be Kery playing.

When they're not at the lake, they're volunteering at Milwaukee's First Stage Children's Theater or Habitat for Humanity. They also enjoy traveling, including a trip to New Zealand.

They would like to spread the message about lake stewardship. "The next generation is key," Kery said. "We need to get into schools and provide educational programs."

Their next generation values Cloverleaf Lakes. A daughter, nephews and nieces frequently spend time at the family cottage.

Parades start Fourth of July off with bang

The annual Pontoon /Boat Parade, and, of course, the huge fireworks display, will highlight the Independence Day weekend.

The biggest weekend of the year kicks off Friday night, July 3, with a dance, starting at 8 p.m. at the Rustic Resort, featuring DJ **Hope Reyes**. The dance will open with music for family entertainment, with rock and country hits to follow. A 50-50 raffle will be held throughout the evening.

The Kiddie Parade will open Saturday's events, starting at 10 a.m. at the boat landing on Grass Lake. Children of all ages decorate their bikes, trikes and wagons to participate. Trinkets and

treats will be provided. The Kiddie Parade will follow the triangular route from the boat landing, south on "Y," east on Rustic Drive and west on Adams Beach Road.

Families with decorated pontoons or boats should gather at the northwest corner of Pine Lake at 6:30 p.m. for the trek around the lakes. There is no specific theme for the pontoon parade this year. Decorations are dependent on the creativity and imaginations of boat owners. Three prizes will be given for the best designs.

The climax of the fun will be the fireworks at dusk provided by **Mike Nelson** and the Lakes Fireworks Association..

Adventures in Lake Living presents summer, fall events

Saturday, June 27 ***Shoreline Planting for Protecting Our Lakes***

Learn about natural plants that thrive in our watershed. Visit CLPA shoreline demonstration sites and examine various Cloverleaf Lakes natural shorelines. 9 a.m.-noon

Sponsored by: CLPA Shoreline Restoration Committee

Saturday, July 11 ***How to Fish Our Lakes***

Get some tips on how to maximize your fishing experience on our lakes. 9 a.m. Bring your fishing gear and life jackets.

Instructors: Jim Aumann, Chris Sampson

Saturday, August 15 ***Eco-Recreation and Tour of Cloverleaf Lakes***

See demonstrations of kayaks; learn techniques for kayaking, canoeing, and sailing. Bring your own low-impact boat and ride the lakes together. 9 a.m.-noon

Saturday, September 12 ***Tour of Gibson Island***

Tour Gibson Island and learn about the wild life and ecology of the island. 9 a.m.-noon

Tour Guide: Dick Thurow

- **FIRST 3 PROGRAMS WILL START AT THE BOAT LAUNCH; GIBSON ISLAND AT CLOVERLEAF LAKE ROAD PARKING AREA**

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THESE PROGRAMS

One week or more prior to each program, call or e-mail Fran West at:
823-4059 or kfwest@frontiernet.net

Walk-ins accommodated if space permits.

In case of inclement weather, registrants will be notified of a rain date.

These free ALL programs are brought to you by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association and are open to all town residents and their guests.



A crew from Lake and Pond Solutions spreads Navigate to kill Eurasian Water Milfoil. The invasive aquatic plant has been diminished from about 70 acres to just six acres in our lakes.

Use eagle etiquette on trail

By Joy Krubsack

Fran West and Dick Thurow met with DNR Wildlife Biologist Kay Brockman-Mederas April 23 at the Gibson Island boardwalk to get a site-specific recommendation regarding opening of the boardwalk for public access. The eagles moved their nest in 2006 from Gibson Island to a private property site, which is very close to the boardwalk. Kay also factored in the height of the tree, the nest size and therefore the nesting eagle viewpoint.

The WDNR recommendation is that the Town of Belle Plaine has the boardwalk closed to public access from Feb. 1 through

June 1, provided the eagles nest at the present location. Access via the lake remains open all year for pedestrians. Upon entering the Gibson Island property, it remains important that citizens become familiar with “eagle etiquette” to visit the eagles’ area. Educating the public through the posting of “eagle etiquette” in the kiosk and additional signage along the trail will be completed ASAP by the Stewardship committee. We stress that no dogs, pets or horses go on the island property and that people walk quietly as we share the island with the eagles because the island is the safest space for nurturing of each year’s eaglets—two eaglets this year!



The 2009-2010 Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association Board of Directors includes, front from left, Joe Mass; Jim Aumann; and Fran West, treasurer. Back, Carl Bruggink, vice president; Dennis Thornton, president; Dick Thurow, and Carol Wegner, secretary.

Cloverleaf notebook

Officers: The officers of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association were elected at the June board of directors meeting. **Dennis Thornton** will serve as president, **Carl Bruggink** is vice president, **Fran West** is treasurer and **Carol Wegner** is secretary.

Carp watch: **Kris Doan**, among others, reports seeing large numbers of large carp, 24 to 30 inches, in Pine Lake. The CLPA board will check to see if any bow hunters or spearers are interested in helping to eliminate some of the rough fish.

Cloverleaf calendar

- June 27:** Pontoon classroom, natural shorelines, 9 a.m.
- July 3:** Independence Day Dance, 8 p.m., Rustic Resort
- July 4:** Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m.
- July 4:** Pontoon Parade, 6:30 p.m.
- July 4:** Fireworks, at dusk.
- July 11:** Pontoon classroom, fishing, 9 a.m.
- July 13:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.
- July 13:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Belle Plaine Community Center
- July 29:** CLPA Golf Outing, noon, Riverside Golf Course in Clintonville, followed by dinner
- Aug. 10:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m. Belle Plaine Community Center
- Aug. 15:** Pontoon classroom, eco-recreation, 9 a.m.
- Sept. 5:** Triathlon, 9 a.m., Rustic Resort.
- Sept. 12:** Gibson Island tours, 9 a.m.

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association 12th Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Clintonville Riverside Golf Course

FOURSOME AND SINGLES REGISTRATION FORM

Team Captain, Golfer #1 _____

Address, phone: _____

Golfer #2 _____

Address, phone: _____

Golfer #3 _____

Address, phone: _____

Golfer #4 _____

Address, phone: _____

TOTAL GOLF FEE Foursome \$400.00

Single \$100.00

Please reserve ____ extra dinners at \$25.00 each _____

DONATIONS, SPONSORS

Cash _____ Gift certificate _____ Raffle item _____

Hole sponsor at \$100 _____ Name and address of donor: _____
(includes free dinner ticket) _____

Please return this form with checks payable to CLPA Golf Outing

Mail checks to:

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association **OR**
P.O. Box 288
Embarrass, WI 54933
Attn: Jim Aumann

CLPA Golf Outing
c/o Kurt Popp
N2815 County Rd. Y
Clintonville, WI 54929

FORMAT: 4-person Scramble. We will try to match up singles with others. (Reservations are guaranteed for the first 36 foursomes for 12 noon tee-time who return registration form and full fee payment by July 15, 2008.) All paid reservations received by July 15 will get a free T-shirt.

INCLUDES: 18 holes of golf, 2 carts per foursome, 3 golf balls per golfer, picnic lunch and beverages, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, steak dinner after golf, cash beverage cart on the course. Non-golfers: Dinner tickets available for \$25 each.

PRIZES: One par 3 will have a \$10,000 prize for a hole-in-one. All other par 3's will also have prizes for holes-in-one.

CONTESTS: Will be held for closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc., on all 18 holes, also a putting contest

prior to tee-off and during the 18-hole event.

AWARDS: First and second top foursome finishers in each division — Men's and Mixed (couples) divisions.

RAFFLE: Tickets will be available for purchase for a host of great prizes including an autographed Packers football, 2 Packers tickets, many framed prints or paintings, guns and other hunting and sporting equipment.

SCHEDULE:

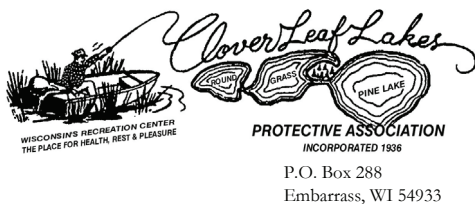
10-11 a.m. — Check in for all golfers

10:30-11:30 — Picnic lunch of brats, burgers, beverages

12 noon — Shotgun start

4:30-6 p.m. — Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

6-? — Dinner, raffles, awards



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Join Now!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Home Address, if different _____

E-mail _____

Clip and send check for \$25 to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, 54933.

Please join your lake protective association!

It is an exciting time to be involved with the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association. At \$25, there isn't a better bargain.

We are accomplishing so very much on your behalf including long range plans, task forces, and action teams for the betterment of the lakes. Also, thousands of dollars in grant funding for lake protection projects, an informative newsletter, a bi-annual membership directory, the annual meeting, the "Clean Boats Clean Waters" program, fish stocking, muskrat trapping, and setting out buoys. Other things too.

Shadows On The Wolf chapter starts in Clintonville

A new chapter of Shadows On The Wolf Inc. has been formed in the Clintonville area. Its purpose will be to raise money to fund area conservation projects, according to **Duane Killips**, who chairs the local chapter.

Merritt Sasse, another member of the chapter, said he has supported the Shadows group because it funds local projects, rather than sending its funds to a national organization. He said the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association could apply for funds in the future.

Killips said the fund-raising would begin with a banquet to be held Tuesday, Sept. 29, at the Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion. Tickets are \$65 each.

A raffle will be held, with the winners announced at the Sept. 29 event, with tickets selling for \$20 each. Prizes include a Polar Sportsman 500 ATV, and cash prizes of \$750, \$500 and \$250.

Shadows On The Wolf is headquartered in Shiocton and the group has about 460 members. Since its inception in 1992, the group has raised more than \$650,000. A long list of beneficiaries of its funds includes the Navarino Nature Center, Challenge the Outdoors, Walleyes for Kids, Walleyes for Tomorrow, DNR Trapper Education and college scholarships.