



PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED 1936

P.O. BOX
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"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

September 2006

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Protective
Association**

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Summer's been great; it's time to look ahead

By **Bob Tomashek**

As everyone can see, we are getting to the end of our summer season. It really went fast. We had a great season due to a great CLPA Board and many volunteers.

We treated two different kinds of invasive water plants with controlled success. We trapped invasive rusty crayfish to eliminate and give us a picture of the scope of their population. We hired a boat monitor and have monitored the boat launch more hours this year than in the last two years. We had a great 4th of July celebration. Our golf outing fund raiser took in more dollars than ever.

The big item in our lake community and the Town of Belle Plaine's list of things done was working together to acquire the Island. It is ours now forever, to be a natural wonder on our lake. The dam is operating the way it is supposed to and, unfortunately for all

On the Web

The CLPA is going online. Look for www.CloverleafLakes.com to take shape in the coming weeks.

who would appreciate higher water, it did not rain for a long period of time.

Now getting into the next season, we have to keep working to keep things going in such a positive manner. My primary focus will be to implement the Total Lake Plan that was authored the last winter/spring season. I am working with Esther Letven and hopefully many, many volunteers will by next spring have this Plan implemented. In this effort, I will need your help and, when you are approached to give us some of your time and talents, I hope you will help.

Tomashek is president of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

Stewardship Committee plans Island use

The Gibson Island Stewardship Committee has taken the first steps towards setting up nature trails on the island while keeping it natural.

The emphasis will be on "eco-tourism," committee member Fran West-Tomashek said, meaning that the enjoyment of nature and the scenery will be emphasized, rather than a developed park setting.

Joy Krubsack will chair the committee and Dennis Thornton will be secretary, the group decided at its Aug. 22 meeting.

Plans are being drawn up for a nature trail through the landward lot from Cloverleaf Lake Road to the lake, then constructing a boardwalk through the wetlands to the isthmus. A trail will circle the 25-acre island. The plans will be submitted for a Department of Natural Re-

sources grant, with deadline May 1, and construction hopefully be completed by the fall of 2007.

Here are some recommendations the committee set for the use of the Island, subject to Town Board approval:

- Access may be limited during eagles' nesting as designated by DNR's best practices.
- Pedestrian use only. No fires, picnics or camping are permitted.
- No dogs or horses are allowed.
- Access is permitted during daylight hours.
- Access by water is permitted and a water landing area is being considered..

Foresters Dick Thurow and Allan Waelchi, both committee members, said the forest is healthy. Any dead trees and brush will remain in place, unless blocking the trails.

Follow the sun, and Carl, to find fish

By Chris Sampson

Sometimes, he's happy just to be on the water to admire the sunrise, glimpse a deer crossing the isthmus to Gibson Island, or watch an eagle circling higher for a better view of the fishing grounds.

Most mornings, though, while his Cloverleaf Lakes neighbors are still fast asleep, Carl Ruscitti is fishing.

"As soon as I can see my pier, it's time," says Ruscitti. "The scenery is absolutely gorgeous and it's so quiet. Many times I am the only boat on the water, or there might be one or two others."

He doesn't disagree when told a neighbor describes him as perhaps the Lakes' most avid fisherman. When you fish nine mornings out of 10, April through October, the reputation is deserved.

"I mostly fish for crappies," he says, "They run a little bigger than the bluegills, and they are easier to fillet when you want to keep a few for dinner. I release most of them. I won't keep a crappie that isn't over 9 or 10 inches."

Two whoppers he didn't release are mounted and displayed in his Grass Lake home. At 15 and 13 inches, their size would surprise those unaware the chain grew panfish that large. Not Carl, who also has a 44-inch muskie on the wall.

"I think more people, the last few years, are catching on to the Cloverleaf Lakes," he says. "Go past the boat landing and you see eight, 10, 15 trailers for fishing boats sometimes.

"It's good fishing. They don't jump in the boat – you have to work for them – but with bluegills, crappies, bass, northern, the occasional muskie, these are fun lakes to fish."

His advice to novices who want something bigger than pint-size panfish is to locate a spot, any spot, on Round, Grass or Pine Lake where it's roughly eight to 12 feet deep, on the weed edge, just away from the most dense growth. Let your bait flutter down and work it gently back in.

CLPA sets meetings

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, for the 2006-2007 year, will hold monthly meetings. The board will devote alternate meetings to focusing on the lake plan. All meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Here is the meeting schedule, subject to change:

August 17: Agenda - Business Subjects

September 26: Agenda - Lake Planning

October 19: Agenda - Business Subjects

November 16: Agenda - Lake Planning

December 21: Agenda - Business Subjects

January 18: Agenda - Lake Planning

February 15: Agenda - Business Subjects

March 15: Agenda - Lake Planning

April 19: Agenda - Business Subjects

May 17: Agenda - Lake Planning and Annual Meeting Planning

His tools? Light tackle, with light line (4-lb test), a small jig head (1/32 oz) and the smallest twister tails they make. Occasionally, he and his most frequent fishing partner, neighbor Lou Benevadis, will use live bait (small minnows), especially in spring, and later on, plastic worms to target bass.

Catch-and-release fishing is the height of relaxation for the former detective captain, three years retired from an eventful, 34-year career with the Milwaukee Police Department. He was there in 1981 for the arrest of Lawrence Bembenek; her sensational murder case drew national attention. He supervised countless homicide investigations, the bomb squad, high-profile organized-crime campaigns, and security details for visiting dignitaries.

In those days, the Grass Lake property was a quiet weekend retreat for him and his wife, Arlene. Today, it's a destination for the couple's great-grandchildren, ages four and two, who are learning from Grandpa. "My great-granddaughter, she's four, caught a big rock bass the other day," Carl says. "It must have been 10 or 11 inches long, and she just screamed, she was so happy. I love to see kids catch fish."

"Seriously. If anyone has young kids who want to learn, give me a call, or talk to me out on the lake. I'd be happy to share."

Just look for the guy drifting along in the 14-foot Mirrocraft (25-horse Evinrude), fishing pole in hand, enjoying the morning sun.

Sampson, who owns a cottage on Pine Lake, is director of University Communications at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



Carl Ruscitti is known for his fishing, and also for the giant giraffe that is located on his shore line.



The CLPA board of directors includes, front row from left, President Bob Tomashek, Jim Aumann, and Treasurer Fran West-Tomashek; back row, Joe Mass, Dennis Thornton, and Secretary Steve Joosten. Vice President Carl Bruggink is not pictured.

Golf Outing raises \$8,400 for CLPA

By Kurt Popp

An excellent turnout of 27 four-somes enjoyed warm weather at Clintonville's Riverside Golf Course July 26 and added about \$8,400 to the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association treasury.

After receiving an inch of badly needed rain, the course was in beautiful shape. Mike Hanson and his crew had the fairways, tees and greens in absolutely perfect playing condition. Ron Sabel does a great job coordinating the event. He is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure a great time for everyone.

We are getting more Cloverleaf Lakers playing in the outing. I would name everybody, but I probably would forget someone. It is really encouraging to see all the locals join in the festivities. The future of our golf outing depends on the local Cloverleaf Lakers. Thanks for signing up and enjoying the day.

For the second year in a row, the boys from Fremont won the competition. Mike Abraham, Jim Bidisson, Peter Lentved and Ted Van Dellen ended up in a tie with Shawano's Mike Schroeder, Bob Schroeder, Tom Martin and Mark Snyder. In a tie-breaker, the prize went to the Fremont gang. Both teams shot 57, 14 under par. Third place was also won by a tie-breaker. Mike Smith, Gary Hogberg, Tim Pavlick and Steve Doede shot 10 under par.

In the mixed division, we had another tie-breaker with the Kroenkes from Red River taking first with a 71. Joe and Sandy Mass, joined by Jill Feiler and Tom Ruecker, also finished with 71.

Mike Trewin and Jason Schmidt shared top honors in the putting contest, sponsored by Associated Bank. Dave Asenbrenner



Andy Johnson takes a mighty swing, teeing off on the fourth hole at the CLPA Outing.

of Pella Mutual, along with the Lake-Aire, sponsored the hole-in-one contest. We are trying to give away \$10,000, but apparently no one wants it. The closest shot was 14 feet. Come on, gang, we can do better. Someone please put one in the hole.

We had a lot of great hole prizes and other prizes that were raffled off. Jim Aumann was feeling pretty good about his sales ability. Then Anna Rosenfeldt and Rachel Ruch took over and, let's just say, raffle sales really jumped. Jim Aumann is a big backer of the outing since day one and his help is really appreciated. Jim is always hustling and planning, with myself, to make sure everything runs smoothly. Thanks, Jim, for everything you do.

Also helping were Lori Zueske, Annie Arnold, Vicki Jackson, Becky Popp, Jamie McKay, Steve McKay, Jasmine Wiley, Zach Bussian and Carl Bruggink.

We have to take time to thank one very special backer. Charlie Huebner of Colorado Springs, Colo., is chief of staff of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Every year he sends a cachet of great items to be raffled. This year, again, Charlie came through with some great prizes that make our outing special. His dad, Russ Huebner, and uncle, Dale Huebner, have been to every outing and we really appreciate their support.

We had a lot of prizes donated. Thanks to everyone who golfed, donated and participated in this ninth annual event. It was a record-breaker with more than \$8,400 being raised for the CLPA.

See you next year.

Popp and Aumann have organized all nine annual Golf Outings. In his spare time, Popp feeds lake residents at Popp's Lake Aire.

Monitors warn boaters about invasive species

By Mitch Lawver

My first day monitoring boats at the Cloverleaf Lakes was Saturday, June 10. It has been obvious to me from that day that most of the boater traffic on the lakes is from people living on or near the lakes. Repeat boaters are probably a good thing from the standpoint of keeping the lakes clean and free of additional invasive species. It's obvious that the word is getting out.

Throughout June, over 180 boats were recorded either entering or leaving the Lakes. Hot times for activity on the launch were around noon and again at 5 p.m. About 50 percent of the boats recorded were fishing boats, one third were pleasure boats, and pontoons and jet skis each accounted for about eight percent of the boat launch traffic during monitored hours. Horsepower of the motors entering the lakes ranged from 15 to 450. Percentages of motor types were as follows: 0-25hp: 22%, 26-50hp: 18%, 51-75hp: 19%, 76-100hp: 9%, 101-150hp: 11%, 151+hp: 21%.

Activity picked up in July, with more than 250 boats recorded. July was the month of the pleasure boater, with almost 27% of the boats having motors of 150 horsepower or more and another 18% between 100 and 150 hp. July was a hot month and with the heat comes pleasure boaters.

The big push here at the Cloverleaf Lakes is getting people to recognize when they have been in waters infested with zebra mussels. It is important for people to thoroughly clean their boats after leaving these waters especially if they are going to return to uninfested waters in less than five days. Please remind friends and relatives about invasive species prevention methods whenever appropriate. I encourage people to embrace the idea that every action counts, and that we can make a huge difference within our lakes. You can help prevent invasive species expansion.

Lawver has been working as the boat monitoring coordinator for the CLPA and Town of Belle Plaine this summer.



Tents protected guests from the hot sun at the Gibson Island dedication ceremony July 29. Front row from right: Speakers Jan Thornton, Lynne Lenius, Jean Romback-Bartels, Jim Schmidt, Stan Kleiss, Jim Aumann, Bonnie Hilgenberg, Terry Hilgenberg.

A monument honoring major donors has been placed on the old fireplace hearth on Gibson Island, visible from the channel.

Dedication celebrates Gibson Island acquisition

More than two years of hard work and community effort culminated July 29 with the dedication ceremony for Gibson Island. About 150 people braved heat and humidity to hear speakers and to see the wooden plaque and monument that honor major donors to the project. Here are some excerpts:

Alvin Bartz, town chairman: "Jeff Pagels (retired DNR staffer) said if you ever get a chance to buy that island, go for it... Every dime that was contributed was important... Man can't improve upon nature."

Jim Aumann, CLPA: "The lake association's members unanimously voted to donate \$10,000 for this project. I doubt that any town has had their people work this hard for a cause."

Jan Thornton, chair of Gibson Island Project: "A hundred years and more from now, people will understand even more than we do today, the importance of natural areas. They'll say, 'The folks back there in the early part of the 21st century got it right, and thank heavens for that.'"

State Rep. John Ainsworth: "This is how the government should work, state and local together. This is the kind of project that the Stewardship Fund was intended for... There will be no casino or motel built there; it will be a natural place to enjoy."

Jean Romback-Bartels, DNR Northeast Region Lands Leader: "This partnership went above and beyond. The community came together... For generations to come, families can come here and enjoy the natural beauty."

Lynne Lenius, former island owner: "This is a fitting memorial to Gary (her late husband). Many thanks."

Dennis Thornton, secretary of Gibson Island Project: "I'd like to credit my wife, Jan, for coming up with the original idea and then following through with all of her skills and persistence. Thanks also to our wonderful committee members, the block captains and all of the donors."

Stan Kleiss, Gibson Island Project fund raiser: "Keeping



Carol Wegner and Mitzi Thurow made eagle marshmallow/coconut/Oreo cookie desserts that were a big hit at the Gibson Island dedication luncheon.

Gibson Island a natural area will have tremendous benefits to all who fish, swim and sightsee on the beautiful Cloverleaf Lakes chain."

Bartz presented Mrs. Lenius with a sign designating the "Gary Lenius Trail," which will be placed on the island. Also dedicated were a wooden sign honoring all donors of \$1,000 or more that now hangs in the Community Center and a monument with bronze plaque, that has been placed on the island (on the old fireplace site), honoring major donors of \$10,000 or more.

Committee members **Joy Krubsack**, **Bob Tomczyk** and **Leeann Little** recognized

some volunteers who made major contributions to the project, including **Dick Kunz**, who made the Gibson Island sign; **Matt Duncan**, who created and maintained the Web site; **Ben Keigley**, who made more than 200 phone calls to potential donors; and **Kery and Russ Kafka**, who, among other things, organized a silent auction.

Following release of balloons over the island, a Dutch treat luncheon was held at Popp's Lake Aire for donors and guests.

NOTE: A limited number of souvenir dedication programs are available. Send an e-mail to thorngb@frontiernet.net or call 715 (823-9151) for information.



Dick Kunz, creator of the Gibson Island Project sign at left, is honored by Project board members Joy Krubsack and Bob Tomczyk at the dedication ceremony on July 29.

Photos by Dennis Thornton



Bike riders, at left, can't wait for the Kiddie Parade to get started on July 1. Above, Kendra and Kasey Kristof of Belle Plaine share their decorated mini-ATV.

Time to celebrate

By Ed Stuebe

A quick-hitting thunderstorm, complete with hail, put only a momentary damper on the Cloverleaf Lakes Independence Day festivities on July 1. Skies cleared and the Pontoon Parade got under way about 45 minutes behind schedule with a near-record number of boats.

The big weekend got started Friday night with a dance and silent auction that netted a profit of \$645.

We'd like to see more Lake residents and their families in attendance next year – we would like to make the dance a lake community event as well as for the general public. Those that did attend were sure having a good time. There were lots of young people there. Wouldn't it be great if we could find a project or two (or more) to get them involved?

The attendance at the Kiddie Parade was one of the largest over the years. We had 212 ice cream bars and ran out.

Following some blustery weather, our Pontoon/Boat Parade took off with 24 participants (more than in the past several years) then circled Pine and Grass Lakes. What wonderful displays some of them had. From the noise coming from a few of the boats, there were sure some happy people on board.

The winners of the Pontoon/Boat Parade judged by Jim Aumann and his guests were the following:

1st place: **Norman Kempf**, *Wisconsin Great Outdoors*

2nd place: **Dan Bleck**, *Bleck's Biergarten*

3rd Place: **Bruce Romberg**, *Keep Our Lakes Clean*

Hon. Mention: **Norman Kempf**, *Wisconsin Enjoy Outdoor Sports*

The fireworks were viewed by thousands. I know this to be true because I counted at least that many cars parked alongside



Highway Y, Adams Beach Road, Rustic Drive and Cloverleaf Lake Road. Of course, we had plenty of boats on the water as well to view the great fireworks.

Steve Joosten, who organized the July 1 events, issued these thank yous: "**Lynn Mulholland** for arranging the Kiddie parade gifts; Unilever Ice Cream arranged by **Barry Hosking**; **Rustic Resort** for the donation of the hall for the dance; **Just Ts** for signs; **Kerry's Lakeside Salon** for advertising events; **Mickster's** for freezer space for ice cream

bars; **Jim and Kathy Jesse** for the use of their pontoon for the color guard; **Joy Krubsack** for organizing the silent auction; **Howard Unrath**, **Wayne Peshek** and daughter **Megan** for handing out the numbers at the Pontoon Parade and sticking with it after the down pour! And the numerous volunteers who put in their time to help pull all the events together, thanks."



"Wisconsin—The Great Outdoors," entered by Norman Kempf, took first place in the Pontoon Parade. Photo by Dennis Krubsack

CLPA accepting bids on garage, lot

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association garage at W8645 Rustic Drive is for sale. Bids may be sent to CLPA board member Joe Mass, W8305 Cloverleaf Lake Rd., Clintonville, WI 54929 (phone 823-3758) postmarked on or before Sept. 25, with a minimum bid of \$15,000.

Included is a 75- by 200-foot lot.

The CLPA purchased the property in 1960 and built the garage in 1977. It was used for storage of lake buoys, traffic cones, boat decorations, a mosquito fogger and various other items. Storage space is now available at the Belle Plaine Community Center for these items.



The CLPA membership voted at the annual meeting to dispose of the property rather than repair the garage and continue to pay taxes and insurance.

Water levels stable; dam closed

With dry weather for much of July, water levels in Cloverleaf Lakes have remained below the 72-inch mark and the dam on Rustic Drive has been closed since June 16.

"I had five complaints about low water levels in July and August — smelly shore, unsightly weeds, trouble getting boats in, etc.," said dam operator Carl Bruggink, CLPA vice president. "There were complaints about high water levels in May, but the dam was open May 6 until June 16."

A DNR order mandates the dam be open when water levels rise above 72 inches (measured down from the top of the culvert on Highway Y.) The lowest mark Bruggink recorded was 74 3/4 inches, indicating 2 3/4 inches lower than the DNR requirement.

Bruggink measured 4.5 inches of rain in May, 1.5 inches in June, 1.9 inches in July and 2.2 inches in August, through Aug. 15.

"As far as I am aware, the water levels are well below the high water mark, likely due to the drought conditions we've had," said Scott Koehnke, DNR representative. "I have not heard anything from anyone regarding high water problems."

Bob Tomashek, CLPA president, said, "Other than the Riparian group, I have not had anyone speak in favor of lower water levels. I think most people understand that there is not much we can do about it. Unfortunately, it has not rained much and that is the only thing we could hope for. Carl does a great job with the dam."

CLPA Notebook

Officers Elected. Officers for 2006-2007 of the CLPA Board were elected at the June 15 board meeting. They are **Bob Tomashek**, president; **Carl Bruggink**, vice president; **Steve Joosten**, secretary; and **Fran West-Tomashek**, treasurer.

Membership Update.

As of mid-August, only 215 households had joined the CLPA. *Please* join today if you haven't done so. Fill in the form at the bottom of this page and send it in with your \$25 check.

Membership is a bargain!

From Treasurer Fran

West: We have a total of \$36,310 in CLPA accounts. The Golf Outing was a rousing success. Income was \$16,018 (biggest ever) with expenses of \$7,554 for a profit of \$8,464. Thanks to Golf Outing coordinators Jim Aumann and Kurt Popp for a terrific job!

Cloverleaf calendar

(Turn to Page 2 for CLPA meetings)

Sept. 2: Dunk tank, pig roast and 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association, Just Ts

Sept. 11: Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Belle Plaine Community Center.

Sept. 12: Primary election, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Belle Plaine Community Center

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

Oct. 15: Cloverfest Walk/Run around Cloverleaf Lakes, 10 a.m. (see page 7 to register).

Nov. 7: Elections, 7 a.m.-8 p.m., Community Center.

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

Join Now!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Home Address, if different _____

E-mail _____

Clip this form and send it with a check for \$25 to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, 54933.

Benefit Cloverfest Family Run/Walk scheduled for Oct. 15

Runners and walkers are invited to bring their whole families for a trip around Cloverleaf Lakes on Sunday, Oct. 15. That's the "bye week" for you Packer fans, so you won't miss the game.

The third annual Cloverfest Run/Walk will begin at 10 a.m. at Popp's Lake Aire parking lot on County Y. Pre-race registration will be from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

The \$20 fee (\$10 for children) includes a post-race cere-

mony at the Break-A-Way with free food and prizes; and drawings for gift certificates from area sponsors. Those who register the day of the race will pay \$25 (\$15 for children) so register early.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three male and female finishers in the 3.5-mile event.

An entry blank to clip and send in is below. Persons who enter by Sept. 23 are guaranteed a T-shirt.

Name: _____

Age: _____

3.5-mile Run: _____

Address: _____

Male: _____ Female: _____

3.5-mile Walk: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

T-shirt size: _____

Phone: _____

Waiver: I know that participating in a run is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter and run unless medically able and trained. I agree to abide by any decision of race officials relative to my ability to compete in the run. I assume all risks associated with participating in the event including, but not limited to, falls, contact with others, spectators and the effects of the weather including heat, rain, traffic and the conditions of the roads/course. All things being known and appreciated, by me having read the waiver and knowing these facts, I, for myself and anyone acting on my behalf, waive and release race personnel, volunteers and all sponsors and contributors, their representatives and successors from all claims and liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in the event even though the liability may rise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the person or entities named in the waiver. I grant permission to use any photos, pictures, videotapes or any records of the event for any legitimate purpose.

Signature (if under 18, parent/guardian must sign) _____

Registration fees in advance: \$20 adults, \$10 children
Fees on the day of the race: \$25 adults; \$15 children
Make checks payable to Cloverfest; send to Joe Jaskolski,
W8610 Cloverleaf Lake Rd., Clintonville, WI 54929

Proceeds will benefit the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association and Shawano County Humane Society.
Questions? Phone: 823-2976

New regulations don't affect most existing piers

A vast majority of piers in Wisconsin won't be affected by new regulations put into effect by Gov. Jim Doyle's executive order, according to the Department of Natural Resources.

But Scott Koehnke of the Shawano DNR office says some water toys, including volleyball nets, don't meet state rules.

After a compromise over pier rules passed the Senate, but failed to win approval in the Assembly, the Legislature passed the Assembly's version earlier this year. But Doyle vetoed that version and imposed the original compromise proposal.

Under Doyle's order, the removal or modification of any pier in place before Feb. 6, 2004, cannot be ordered if:

- The pier is smaller than eight feet in width.
- The pier is smaller than 200 square feet at the waterward end. If the waterward end is bigger than 300 square feet, it would still escape new regulation if it is no more than 10 feet wide.
- The structure doesn't interfere with other waterfront property owners' rights.

A pier put in place after Feb. 6, 2004, could not be ordered removed or modified if it is less than six feet wide and its

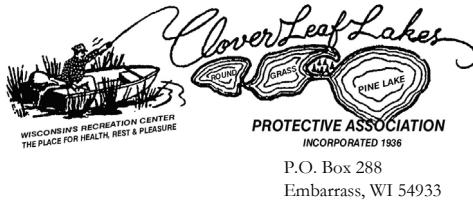
waterward end is less than eight feet wide.

Piers can cause "side effects," the DNR says. "Piers that are too long or have many boats can block other users' enjoyment of the waterway. DNR research shows that large decks on piers block growth of aquatic plants. These plants are an important food source for fish and wildlife, and prevent algae growth."

As for volleyball nets, Koehnke said they are allowed in the water in front of homes when they are in use. "Permits are not needed as long as they are being utilized. If the nets are not being utilized, they need to be removed from the waterway.

"The poles/posts/uprights that hold the net up are technically structures on the bed of a navigable waterway," he said. "Since the waterway is public property and all people have equal rights to utilize the public property, placing and leaving a volleyball net in the water is in essence a privatization of public water and citations can be issued for placement of a structure without permits."

He continued, "If a public beach or private land owner has a designated swim area that is buoyed and marked, the volleyball net would not have to be removed when not in use as long as the volleyball net was inside the swim zone."



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Shoo! Here are tips to get geese gone

By Joy Krubsack

The honking sound of a V-formation of migrating Canada geese signals an exciting time of a new season in Wisconsin. However, some Canada geese have found ways to avoid the long trip North and are staying here all summer.

As our Cloverleaf Lakes resident geese, an increasing number are finding an ideal environment for raising their young. They enjoy safe areas, temperate weather, plenty of water and an abundance of short healthy grass that is the staple of their diet. As resident geese populations increase, citizens may find that they are dealing with infected neighborhoods, lawns, destroyed natural habitats, personal danger from aggressive/protective mother geese and health risks from mass droppings in the water systems.

Many people have asked, "What can I do to keep these birds away from my front lawn?" The overwhelming answer is to not feed them or provide a safe environment that will encourage them to stay. Property owners need to think like a goose and take an inventory of how you're inviting them to be your guests. Geese like wide-open areas (like a lawn) that allow them to feel safe from predators while providing a lush food source. To interrupt the geese and their desire to stay with you for extended periods of time, check over these options:

- Shoreline landscaping: Interrupt the open vision of the water and their easy escape route by using the

planting of trees, shrubs and tall shoreline buffer-zone plants. Also curve your walking path to the water to reduce the visibility of the water escape route.

- Food.: Allow select grass areas to grow to 6 inches (15cm) and thereby reduce its nutrient value as goose food. This longer-grass area would be a good edging for the landscaped buffer area along the shore.
- Habitat: Geese usually do not like riprap shorelines, visual decoys, predator effigies, etc. With varying success, some people have also tied fishing line hazards across the yard to impede their movement. However, if you use this technique, warn your human guests in order to avoid accidental falls.
- Chemical controls: Geese usually avoid sprayed turf grass with repellents.
- Hazing: Geese usually avoid trained predators (usually dogs), random lasers, light annoyances and predator calls. Geese also run for a safe area when hazing humans run after them with a broom. This hands-on technique may be effective but many find that it gets a bit old very quickly. On the good side, the chase does entertain your neighbors.

Krubsack is a science and social studies teacher at Clintonville Middle School.

