



PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1936

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www.CloverleafLakes.com

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

September 2007

Cloverleaf Lakes

Protective Association

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Gibson Island trail plans are proceeding

By Joy Krubsack

The Town of Belle Plaine and Gibson Island Stewardship Committee submitted a 2007 Recreation Trails Grant application to the Wisconsin DNR. It was our dream that the grant would pay 50 percent of the costs of a boardwalk between the landward lot and the isthmus as well as signage, split-rail fencing for the lot line corners, labor and other preparations for island walkers. The project was estimated to cost \$11,500 for materials alone.

In mid-July, we unfortunately received word that our grant was not selected for funding. The town stewardship committee (an advisory group) then met on July 24 and discussed three

Fishing survey

More than 250 responses have been received from the fishing survey. See page 4 for preliminary results.

options: 1) to prioritize and move ahead with parts of the project as money is available, 2) do fund raising now to later complete the project as a whole or, 3) wait for the next year's grant cycle and try again. The stewardship committee decided to recommend that the town move ahead and prioritize the projects and complete them when funds are available. The goal of this

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Members of the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe, which contributed \$12,000 to the Gibson Island Project, hiked the island and visited the major donors plaque Aug. 7, along with Town of Belle Plaine officials. From left are Town Board members Harold Polzin and Bob Tomashek, tribe public relations manager Cassie Molkenntin, executive director Leah Miller, land manager Jack Hietpas and Town Chairman Alvin Bartz.

Bleck's artwork paints a pretty picture

Dan Bleck's skill at his hobby was on display for all to see during the Independence Day festivities, in double-barrel fashion. First, Bleck's watercolor of a sunset over Gibson Island was auctioned off at the July 6 dance. Then his family's "pirate ship" captured top honors in the Pontoon Parade the next evening.

The results, including the sale of more than 30 prints of the painting, raised \$3,239 for the lake association, according to board member Jim Aumann, who ran the silent auction and sold the prints that his son had made. Geno Johnson was the winning bidder at \$1,500 for the framed original.

"Dan Bleck utilized his architectural and artistic talents to turn this watercolor into a beautiful painting of Gibson Island," Aumann said. "He was generous enough to donate the original as well as allowing us to reproduce it to make limited-edition prints, which we sold. We generated \$3,239 for the Golf Outing's weed control projects. Thanks to Dan and to all the residents and friends who purchased this great artwork."

Bleck has a home on the east shore of Pine Lake and has been coming to Cloverleaf Lakes since 1971. He and his wife, Dode, bought the property from a relative in 1977 and vacationed here as his family grew to six children and 13 grandchildren.

Bleck is an architect who works in Libertyville, Ill., and lives in nearby Gurnee. He got his training as an artist while attending the University of Illinois and has pursued the hobby.

"The inspiration for the painting of Gibson Island was a photo my daughter took of a rowboat," he said. A previous painting of the island was auctioned off two years ago to benefit the Gibson Island Project, with Bleck's family competing among itself to buy the artwork at the silent auction.

The massive pirate ship/pontoon took a week to paint and assemble, Bleck said, with his children and grandchildren pitching in to complete the realistic boat.

—Dennis Thornton



Geno Johnson holds the watercolor of Gibson Island painted by Dan Bleck, right. Johnson was the winning bidder in a silent auction set up by Jim Aumann, left, at the July 6 CLPA dance. Below, the Bleck family's pirate ship won first place in the Pontoon Parade.



Joining the CLPA helps keep our lakes in good shape

By Bob Tomashek

I would like to make a plug for membership in the Lake Association. First I would like to thank all those loyal members that join each year.

Now I would like to talk to the non-members of our Lake Association. It does perplex me that there are so many residents of the lakes that do not join. I just cannot understand why a lake resident would not want to join and support the Lake Association. I'm sure that the \$25 fee itself does not deter people from joining, so it must be something we are doing or not doing. Unfortunately we do not know what that is.

There are more than 15,000 lakes in Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources does not have the money or people to support taking care of these 15,000 lakes and they rely on organizations such as ours to assist them in this task.

Just stop a moment and think what our lakes would be like without the Lake Association. Just the one subject — Invasive Species — should be enough to make a person want to join. We have three invasive species in our lakes and we are controlling each one. The largest invasive species to control is Eurasian Water Milfoil. If it were not for the Lake Association, our lakes today would be a very large weed bed that you could not get a boat through and your property value would be much lower than it is. Look at the clear water in the lake; it just does not happen by itself.

There is not much in this lake that happens that is not done by the Lake Association. Please give us a little of your support by joining the Lake Association. To join, fill out the form on page 6 of the newsletter and mail it in with your \$25 dues.

Thank you.

Tomashek is president of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association



Jim Aumann, right, chats with a golfer at the CLPA Outing. At left is CLPA board member Carl Bruggink.



Kurt Popp, right, checks scorecards at the Golf Outing as his son, Ryan, assists.

Popp, Aumann keys to Golf Outing success

By Kurt Popp

The golf was as hot as the weather as 23 foursomes competed July 25 during the 10th annual CLPA Golf Outing at Riverside Golf Course in Clintonville. Just five strokes separated the top seven teams.

Temperatures soared into the high 80s as 88 golfers competed for a variety of prizes.

Mike Hanson and his crew had the course in great shape as always. The course was purchased by **Al Steichen** earlier this year. Al is a great guy and easy to work with, and the event went well with no hitches. Al's generous offer to donate a year's membership with a cart brought in an extra \$500 alone. The Lake Association thanks him.

The **Chico Zeuske** team took first place with a score of 62, 10 under par. In the mixed division, the Sand Bar team took first place with 59, three under par.

The event raised more than \$6,700 and the 10 year total is now well over \$50,000. Even though the number of golfers was down slightly, I think next year will be back to where we have at least 100 golfers. Everybody from Cloverleaf Lakes is welcome and we hope to have more "Lakers" participate in the future. If you would like more information on the event, call me at 823-2355.

I would like to thank **Jim Aumann** for all the help he gives in organizing the outing. Jim donated some really nice prizes and he is always hustling to make the outing more fun and more



Joe Mass tees off during the Golf Outing.

"The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association is deeply grateful to **Kurt Popp** and **Jim Aumann** for organizing and running the Golf Outing. Over the past 10 years, they have spent countless hours, along with many volunteers, to put on this wonderful event, which is the CLPA's main fund-raiser. They have raised more than \$50,000 to help control invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Thanks!"

—*Bob Tomashek, CLPA president*

profitable. The CLPA is really fortunate to have Jim. Also helping from the board were **Carl Bruggink** and **Fran West-Tomashek**. Jim's brother, **Clay Aumann**, helped on the putting contest along with **Ed Stuebe**.

Jamie McKay, Jesse McKay, Mary Rosenfeld, Anna Rosenfeld, Mary Wetzel, Nancy Wolf, Vicki Rogers and **Becky Popp** all helped work the par three betting holes. **Steve McKay** has helped with everything for the past 10 years and we hope everybody can give him a pat on the back for all the help he provides. I also would like to thank everyone who donated prizes for all the hole events and the raffle drawings.

Our golf outing always has a lot of great prizes and anybody who buys a ticket can win. Golfers also had a chance to win \$10,000 with a hole-in-one on hole number two. **Dave Asenbrenner** has sponsored this event for 10 years and we would all like to thank him for his generous support. One year, some lucky person will put the ball in the hole and walk away with a nice check

Thanks again, and we will see you next July.

Popp and Aumann have organized all 10 annual Golf Outings. In his spare time, Popp feeds lake residents at Popp's Lake Aire.

Fishing secrets revealed (sort of) in survey

People who use the Cloverleaf Lakes are quite interested in the relative health of its fishery, whether they go fishing themselves or not.

Panfish anglers and those who describe themselves as “mixed bag” fishermen make up the vast majority of active users. In general, they say they are pleased with their catch, but they also have a laundry list of suggestions for making things even better.

Those are some of the early results from the Angler Satisfaction Survey now under way for Pine, Grass and Round Lakes.

So far, 250 surveys have been returned. About 450 were distributed in July to the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association mailing list. Nearly all of the early returns have come from that mailing.

Christopher Sampson, chairperson for the CLPA fisheries subcommittee, says the goal now is to beef up the sampling of area residents and occasional visitors. Notices have appeared in local newspapers, and fishing surveys were available at the County Y boat launch throughout August. The close date for survey returns is Sept. 21.

“The 60 or 65 percent response rate from lake residents and lake association people is excellent,” Sampson says. “People care about fishing. Even the people who checked the box ‘No, we don’t currently fish the Cloverleafs,’ often had observations to share.”

Nearly one-third of the households responding so far have placed themselves in the non-angler category. Some took the additional step of describing themselves as former anglers who gave up the activity because of failing health or busy lifestyles. A few (a very few) said they lost interest because of poor results.

For the most part, active anglers who have thus far responded rate the fishing “fair” or “good.”

Sampson says a detailed analysis will take time. The survey instrument invited people to personalize their comments and self-report their typical success rates, and also to prioritize possible goals for the fishery.

From even a quick glance at the preliminary results, however, Sampson says a few tidbits stand out:

- The dozen or two dozen respondents who are self-described “bass specialists” generally give the fishery high marks.



Three anglers try their luck off the west shore of Pine Lake.



Cole Tabbert, 13, holds a 40-inch musky he caught in Pine Lake June 12. He is the son of Kevin Tabbert, who described himself and his son as “serious musky fishermen.” The musky was released after the photo was taken. Muskies get the most attention, but panfish are the bread and butter of the Cloverleaf Lakes fishery, a survey indicates.

- No surprise: Many people love perch and walleye (Wisconsin fish-fry favorites), but wish the perch were more numerous and especially bigger, and report that walleye are an increasingly rare catch on the Cloverleafs.

- Of approximately 175 anglers who categorized themselves, 70 marked “primarily a panfish angler,” and another 50 checked “mixed bag” -- a term usually applied to fishing with a good all-purpose lure or bait appealing to gamefish and panfish alike. The remainder was split among those who typically target a specific gamefish such as bass or musky or northern pike, gamefish in general, or a combination such as bass/bluegills.

- Bluegills, many of which are kept for the table, dominate the typical catch.

Survey results and subsequent focus-group responses will be compiled and forwarded to DNR fish managers. Sampson says he believes the input will prove valuable. Many knowledgeable, long-time anglers wrote lengthy comments about the fishery, recent trends or habitat concerns. Those who rated the situation “poor” also offered extensive feedback.

Look for a detailed summary of the final survey results in the next issue of this newsletter.

There’s still time to participate

Haven’t returned the fishing survey yet? Know of an off-lakes friend who fishes the Cloverleafs on occasion but might not have been reached? Surveys may be found at

www.cloverleaflakes.com/.

Christopher Sampson, chairperson of the CLPA fisheries committee, can be reached at (920) 435-6223 or SampsonC@uwgb.edu. Updates, results and other opportunities for feedback will be posted on the CLPA website this fall.



Second place in the Pontoon Parade was the Joostens' pirate ship.



Taking third was the Celebrate Wisconsin boat by the Gorges.

Pontoons highlight holiday

A weekend of fun and frolicking climaxed the Independence Day holiday at Cloverleaf Lakes. Because July 4 fell in mid-week, the activities were held on July 6-7.

The silent auction of a watercolor painted by **Dan Bleck** (see page 2 for details) highlighted the annual dance held Friday night. Music was provided by David Sky and Cold Water Creek.

Saturday's Kiddie Parade was led by the siren-blaring Belle Plaine fire truck. More than 100 kids dressed up and decorated bikes to participate.

The massive pirate ship entered by the **Dan Bleck** family was judged the first place winner in the annual Pontoon Parade Saturday night. Second place went to the **Joostens**, with a Pirates of Grass Lake theme. Third went to the **Gorges**, with Celebrate Wisconsin. Judge was **Randy Schrieder** of radio station WTCH. A gigantic fireworks display climaxed the events Saturday evening.

Steve Joosten, chief organizer of the weekend events, had these thank yous to those who helped: "Good Humor supplies the ice cream for the Kiddie Parade. Thanks also to **Razz and Chris Dewey** for the use of the Rustic Resort for the dance; **Barry Hoskings** for setting up and distributing the ice cream at the Kiddie Parade; **Molly Joosten** for distributing and taking care of ordering trinkets for the Kiddie Parade; **Wayne and Meghan Peshek** for registering the pontoons and taking the judges out to his pontoon; **Debbie Turner** of Just T's for getting signs made for the event; **Kerry's Lakeside Salon** for advertising events on her sign; **Joe and Sandy Mass** as well as **Mel and Mary Ann Johnson** for helping at the dance."



Bruce Beyer, left, and Tom Kristof talk with Bob Tomashek, right, before leading the Kiddie Parade in the Belle Plaine fire truck.



A variety of vehicles were used by Kiddie Parade entrants.

CLPA sets meetings

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, for the 2007-2008 year, will hold monthly meetings. The board will devote alternate meetings to focus on continued implementation of our lake plan. All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Here is the meeting schedule.

The target date for the meeting is the second Tuesday of each month, but is subject to change:

- Sept. 11: Lake Planning
- Oct. 9: Business meeting
- Nov.13: Lake Planning
- Dec. 11: Business meeting
- Jan. 10, 2008: Lake Planning
- Feb. 12: Business meeting
- March 11: Lake Planning
- April 8: Business meeting
- May 13: Planning for annual meeting

Shoreland restoration in 2008 plans

About 12 shoreland properties will be restored in 2008 under plans being developed by the CLPA's Shoreland Restoration Team, headed by **Kery Kafka**.

The group is working with NES Ecological Services of Oneida to develop plans and submit a grant application to the DNR. Restoration projects will involve stopping erosion of shoreland into the lakes, planting buffer zones and restoring native vegetation.

The properties will serve as demonstration projects to show what can be done to prevent damage to the lakes, Kafka said. Signs will mark the areas so that residents could see the progress.

Scott Koehnke, DNR water management specialist, met with the committee and took a boat tour of Pine and Grass lakes in July. He pointed out good examples of shorelines that

had native plants that prevent runoff of chemicals, grass clippings and soil into the lakes. Plant roots anchor the soil, he noted.

Koehnke said DNR rules that changed in 2005 would prohibit property owners from using riprap rocks along their shorelines, as many have done in past years.

NES will work with Koehnke to determine appropriate shoreland restorations and to obtain permits, as needed, according to **James Havel** of NES.

The committee has also assembled pamphlets about shoreland and lake living issues that will be distributed to new residents in the welcoming committee's packets.

It is also collecting and making plans to share information on best practices for lake management with residents.

—Dennis Thornton

A boatload of lake residents watches as Paul Garrison of the DNR takes a paleo-core sample of the lake bottom in July. The samples of top and bottom cores will tell differences in lake bottoms over 200 years. Results are expected this fall.



CLPA Notebook

Directory coming. The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association Directory will be published and distributed this fall. It comes out every third year and goes only to members free of charge. Anyone wishing to advertise can contact CLPA board members.

Welcome to lakes.

Seven new residents have been greeted by the CLPA welcoming committee this year, according to **Bob Tomczyk**, chairman. "We replenished our packets this year with the creation of 15 new packets. We have received fantastic support from our local businesses and were able to put together some very nice packages."

Treasury: Treasurer **Fran West** reports that the CLPA has total assets of \$59,316 as of Aug. 14, with 203 members. Revenues total \$19,205 and expenses \$16,372 for 2007.

Cloverleaf calendar

(See Page 5 for CLPA meeting dates)

Sept. 1: Tri Cloverleaf Lakes triathlon, 9 a.m., Rustic Resort, registration 6:30-8:30 a.m. (See page 7 for details.)

Sept. 3: Labor Day

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

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

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

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

Dec. 10: 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. Membership is for 2007.

Benefit Cloverfest Family Run/Walk scheduled for Oct. 7

Runners and walkers are invited to bring their whole families for a trip around Cloverleaf Lakes on Sunday, Oct. 7. 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. 22 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

Tri Cloverleaf Lakes triathlon scheduled for Sept. 1

Join us for our First Annual Triathlon sponsored by the Clintonville Swim Team and Cloverleaf Protective Association.

Race time is 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 1. The triathlon will start and end at Rustic Resort. Food, prizes and awards will follow. All proceeds will benefit the Clintonville Swim Team and Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association. We are offering a relay class for families, males, females and coed teams. Registration by Aug. 30 is encouraged, but registrations will be accepted the day of the race.

Registration packet pick-up: 6:30-8:30 a.m.

Fee: \$35 (individual), \$40 (race day), \$90 (relay), \$95 (relay race day)

Awards: Trophies top three male/female in age categories: 16 and under, 17-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-over. Also relay top three.

Course: Swim 1/4 mile, Bike 9 miles, Run 3 miles.

****Relay:** (Each person needs to fill out form –send in all together)

Name _____

Address _____

Age (Race Day) _____ M F SHIRT S/M/L/XL

Phone _____

Fee Individual \$35 Relay \$90 (Checks to Clintonville Swim Club)

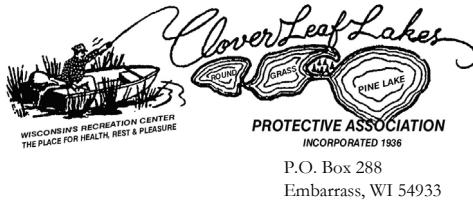
Swim _____ Bike _____ Run _____ (Relay-Please mark)

Mail To Gina Goerlinger; 72 15th St, Clintonville, WI 54929

Questions: Email: thewetzels@charter.net or Lee Wetzel 715-823-5800

Waiver: I acknowledge that prior to the completing registration process at Cloverleaf Triathlon; I will fill out a more complete waiver at that time

Signature _____



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Gibson Island plans are proceeding

Continued from page 1

decision was that citizens can start using the landward access in the near future. We will also look at possible ideas for raising funds for the future projects that are necessary. As the town's tax-deductible account continues to be available, we are thankful that some people have continued to donate to the Gibson Island account as memorials and gifts. There is \$5,200 currently in the Gibson Island account plus we would apply for the town's approximate \$4,000 from room taxes, which must be spent on tourism/recreation.

At present, an exact length and location of the boardwalk is being finalized and the building materials priced. When that information is determined, the Town Board will decide on how to go ahead with the Gibson Island boardwalk. We will call on volunteers to help build the boardwalk. This phase of the Gibson Island project will again be a community effort as volunteers put it together nail by nail.

In the meantime, there is access to the island-walking path by water, with a short pier on Pine Lake. A walking path has also been started in the landward forest area (on Cloverleaf Lakes Road). Signs for the guidelines of Gibson Island property usage have been posted and we encourage you, as Gibson Island stewards, to remind people of the island mission statement to "maintain and protect the island's natural environment and wildlife for present and future generations." If you see anyone abusing the island rules, please

speak to them if you can and/or write down their boat or car make and numbers to report to the Shawano County Sheriff's Department at 526-3111. Rules are posted at the island dock and at the landward walking trail.

If you are interesting in donating funds to the town's Gibson Island projects, please send your checks to the Belle Plaine Town Hall, N3002 Hwy. 22, Clintonville, WI 54929. Your tax-deductible checks would be greatly appreciated and should be made out to Gibson Island Stewardship Fund. If you are interested in further Gibson Island information, contact the stewardship committee members: **Fran West-Tomashek, Stan Kleiss, Dennis Thornton, Barry Anker, Dick Thurow, Nancy Green, Allen Waelchi, Alvin Bartz and Joy Krubsack.**

Krubsack chairs the town's Gibson Island Stewardship Committee.

Town gets windfall from power firm

The American Transmission Company has sent a check for \$750,000 to the Town of Belle Plaine. The company is building new electrical power lines through the town and plans a new substation on Highway 22. Town Chairman **Alvin Bartz** said the funds must be used for environmental projects. The Town Board will be deciding how to spend the money in the coming months.