



BELLE PLAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Fall 2013

Become a CLPA lake Protector

Cloverleaf Lakes residents and users now have the opportunity to support projects to protect the lakes through a new tax-deductible program called CLPA Protectors.

After more than a year of trying, the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association won the designation of 501 (c) (3) from the Internal Revenue Service. That allows contributions to the CLPA to be deducted from your federal taxes.

Hard work by Treasurer **Francie West** and the Shawano firm of Kersten Accounting led to the designation, which is for non-profit groups that are dedicated to charitable, educational, scientific, religious, literary or public safety issues. The CLPA's bylaws were amended to include those values.

CLPA Protectors

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Oak | \$1,000 | Send donations to: |
| Maple | \$500 | Cloverleaf Lakes Protective |
| Birch | \$250 | Association |
| Pine | \$100 | P.O. Box 288 |
| Ash | \$50 | Embarrass, WI 54933 |
| Membership | \$25 | (Donations are tax-deductible) |
| Business | \$100 | |

"We hope Cloverleaf Lakes lovers and users will support the mission of the CLPA to protect our lakes for future generations," said Dennis Thornton, CLPA president. "Please give consideration to the lake association when you are planning your annual giving."

The CLPA's activities range from weed control and boating safety to welcoming new residents, running the Kiddie Parade and Art Fair over the Fourth of July, and supporting environmental education.

Donors will be given recognition in the newsletter. Gifts also can be made anonymously or in honor of family members.

A mailing to lake residents with further details of the CLPA Protectors program is planned for later this year.

A new Finance Committee has been established to plan the lake association's revenues. Several board members are joined by **Russ Kafka** on the committee.



The Don and Jeanne Yeager family use a boat as a cheering section as a runner in the Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon passes by. There were 162 contestants in the seventh annual event Aug. 31.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Town update | 2 |
| New Normal level | 3 |
| Loons are a family | 4 |
| Summer fun | 5 |
| Little Free Library | 6 |
| Trees toppled | 7 |
| New Butch's | 8 |

10th Cloverfest Run/Walk set Sept. 29

By Pam Bruecker

The 10th annual Cloverfest family 3.5-mile Run/Walk will be held Sept. 29. There will be cash awards for the top three (male/female) runners ages 40 and up, and ages 16-39. Also, cash awards for top (male/female) in kids division ages 15 and under. Proceeds will go to the Cloverleaf Fireworks Fund and the Shawano County Humane Society. The start and finish is at the Rustic Resort.

Registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (15 and under) before the event; day of event it will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children. T-shirts available for those who register by Sept. 20. Call (715) 823-2704 or (715) 853-3262 to pre-register. Pre-race registration is 8 to 9:30 a.m. with the race starting at 10 a.m. Post-race ceremony is at the Rustic Resort where free food will be served and lots of great prizes and raffles will be available.

Milk is preferred at Shawano Fair stand

By Alvin Bartz

Where did the summer go?

We had a good week at the Rural Firemen stand this year at the Shawano County Fair. We shared the stand this year with the Shawano FFA Alumni. They host a number of fund-raisers and have an excellent group of young members. Our organization no longer has volunteer firefighters, so it is a good fit.

We experimented to see if flavored milk could compete if soda and beer were available. We sold out on milk every day while beer sales continue to lag.

If you didn't go to the fair, you may want to consider it next year. The race programs, musical entertainment and 4-H/FFA activities were well attended.

Another great family event took place on the third weekend of July right next door at Embarrass Fun Daze. The group did an excellent job of providing events for the whole family.

Our road projects are running behind schedule as the county

Belle Plaine chairman's message

projects in western Shawano County took longer than expected. We are looking at possibly adding a section of Rustic Drive to the list if time permits. One of the problems there is everyone drains their lots toward the road rather than the lake or marsh. This is not a good way to solve the water problems as the ground level is very close to the lake level.

I would like to again encourage people to use the curbside pickup where available for garbage and recycling. A meeting was planned to determine the future of the site at the Shawano transfer station where our garbage and recyclables from the dropoff site go. Fees there have caused many towns to use other options which continue to raise costs as volume declines.

Use caution on the roads as the harvest season approaches.

We have a few bicycle rides coming through the town, using some of our rural roads, in early fall.

Belle Plaine town notebook

* Regular hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Wednesdays from noon to 4 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents are encouraged to use the weekly house-to-house garbage pickup every Thursday provided by Harter's. Recyclables are picked up every other week. Upcoming dates for recyclables are Sept. 12 and 26, Oct. 10 and 24, Nov. 7 and 21, and Dec. 5 and 19. Residents can place the bins at the end of their driveways. The compost center on Range Line Road is open Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

* The Belle Plaine Card Club meets weekly on Thursdays at the Community Center from 9:30 a.m. until noon. All are welcome to join in the fun.

* Town Clerk **Kristine Vomastic** reminds residents that she has office hours Mondays from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Community Center. Treasurer **Heather**

Krueger has office hours from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays.

* The town is seeking more fire and emergency medical personnel. First Responders provide health care at accident scenes and to ambulance patients. The town pays for the training. Call Lt. **Daryl George** at (715) 823-3122 for more information.

Town Treasurer **Heather Krueger** has scheduled dates for property tax collection at the Community Center. Collection is planned for Dec. 27 from 1 to 6 p.m., Dec. 30 from 8 a.m. to noon and Dec. 31 from noon to 6 p.m. January dates include Jan. 6 and Jan. 13 from 8:30 to 11 a.m., Jan. 23 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Jan. 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Checks can be mailed to Krueger at W9660 River Bank Road, Clintonville 54929.

First half payments are due by Jan. 31. Second half payments should be made to the County Clerk by July 31.

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Heather Krueger, treasurer

Dennis Hoffmann, constable

Newsletter editor: Dennis Thornton



Belle Plaine Community Center

N3002 St. Hwy. 22

Clintonville, WI 54929

(715) 524-2690

Town clerk's hours:

5 to 7 p.m. Monday; 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday or by appointment

Regular Town Board meetings:

Second Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Committees:

Planning, Zoning, Gibson Island Stewardship

Population estimate: 1,855

www.BellePlaineWI.com

Adjusting to our changing lake environment

By Dennis Thornton

Once upon a time, about 1925, there were beautiful sandy beaches along the shores of Pine Lake. Lake levels were much lower than today, there were no motorboats and just a few cottages along the densely vegetated lake shore.

Those were the days, and some believe we should return to them. I've done some research and believe it isn't going to happen. The lake levels we have are what I call the "new normal."

In the 1930s, the south end of Pine Lake flowed into Matteson Creek and the marsh that once was a cranberry bog. Then in 1939, fill was added, Rustic Drive was built along the south shore of the lake and the only outlet for excess rainfall was a culvert under Rustic Drive.

We can fast-forward to 1955, when lake levels had risen to about today's mark and the lake association wanted better control than they had with the Auld Rohrer Dam, more than a mile downstream next to today's Pine Manor Health Care Center. The board asked the state for permission to build a small dam at the Rustic Drive culvert. State officials approved, saying "the construction of the roadway across the stream at Pine Lake has added to the difficulties of maintaining the normal lake level," and setting high, normal and low levels "insofar as it can be accomplished" by operation of the dam.

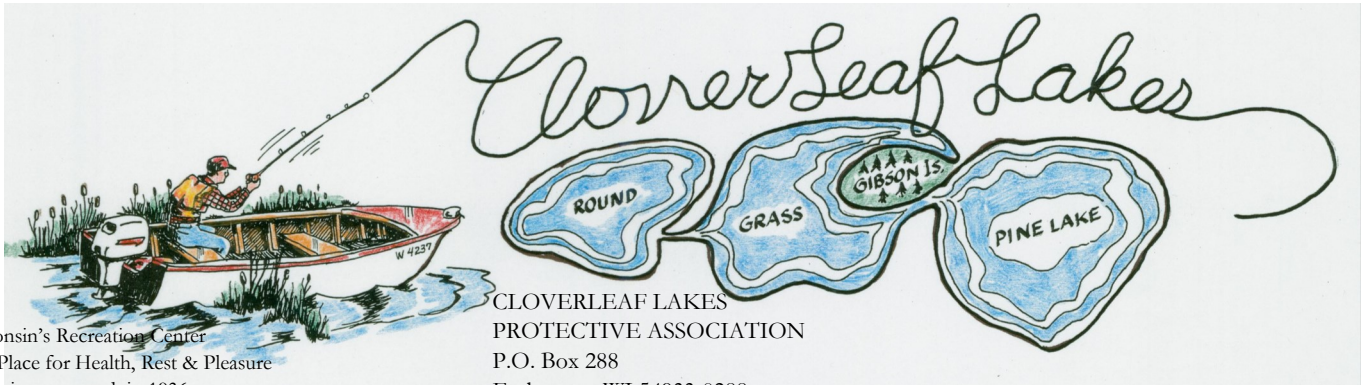
Data kept by dam operators since the 1960s shows levels fluctuate but seldom fall to the 1955 "normal" level some resi-

CLPA president's message

dents would like to see. The only time that range was reached was in the drought years of 2007 and 2008 when no water was in the channel by the Rustic Drive dam (and lots of residents were complaining they couldn't float their boats). Levels rose dramatically in 2010, 2011 and 2012 when rainfall was far above normal. Now the level is back to below the average for the last 40 years. This is what the CLPA board calls the "new normal."

Want to speed the exodus of water from our lakes when rainfall is too much? Dredging? Tried that in 2000 at a cost of \$40,000. Removal of beaver dams? It's been done many times. Lower the level of the Auld Rohrer Dam? It's been open for more than two years. None of these did much to lower water levels.

The CLPA board has decided against spending unknown dollars on solutions that may or may not work to solve a problem that we don't think exists. Most of our members are content with water levels within a few inches of the "new normal" range. When little rain falls and water levels drop, the Rustic Dam is closed. When too much rain falls, we adjust: get piers that can be raised or lowered; plant deep-rooted native plants along shorelines to prevent erosion; prevent runoff from property into the lake. Challenges of lake living often require adjusting to change, but it's well worth it because we are fortunate to live here.



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

www.CloverleafLakes.com

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"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

Cloverleaf Lakes loons are all in the family

By Joy Krubsack

Big news—a thrilling first! The Cloverleaf Lake's pair of Common Loons returned this spring and successfully raised one loon chick. It is exciting to know that the loons beat the odds that their low-to-water nest did not have the egg washed out by waves and that the predators like raccoons and eagles fortunately found other food.

The Common Loon, the only loon that nests in the lower 48 states, is protected by state and federal laws. It is estimated that Wisconsin has only about 3,131 nesting adults. Loons often pair for life but the male's selection of a good nesting area is first priority so new mates may be selected because of lake choices. Nesting periods begin in mid-to-late May through early July and it typically takes one month for the one or two eggs to hatch. Loon chicks need 10-12 weeks to learn to dive, feed and to fly. The baby loons are born swimmers but often ride on their parent's back to warm up and rest while the parents feed them. This is a vulnerable time for the chicks as they depend totally on their parent's care and protection.

Loons are not ducks! They are uniquely their own specialized birds who all produce four basic calls: wails (a call between loons that sounds like "where are you?"), tremolos (like a quavering laugh but means the loon is distressed/disturbed), yodels (male territory call) and hoot-like calls (a means of calling the loon family together). These calls differ from any other bird and provide lake residents with fantastic symphonies of mellow sounds.



A pair of Common Loons swim ahead of their baby chick in early July.

Photo by Cory Mason



A Common Loon chick, hatched on Cloverleaf Lakes, rides on its mother's back.

Photo by Cory Mason with telephoto lens

Loons have solid bones to help with their expert diving for crustaceans, plants and fishy meals unlike most other birds that have hollow bones to help in flight. However, despite their heavy design, loons can fly fast but low getting up to an estimated 70 miles per hour. The parents leave for their flights south in late August-September but leave their chick behind alone to feed and gain strength.

Please watch out for our juvenile loon because he will remain here until nearly ice freeze time before heading south. Juvenile loons usually return in three to four years to their birth lake or an area near it when they are ready to breed.

As a water user of the Cloverleaf Lakes and a loon neighbor, please don't chase loons and be careful with fishing tackle as the lines may injure the birds. Always observe loons from a distance via binoculars and camera lenses to make sure they do not feel threatened. It is recommended that you stay 200 feet away from the loons to give them the courtesy of having their safe space on the lake water.

Harassing a protected species like the Common Loon can carry a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail. If you witness violations, please call your local DNR officer with the offender's boat number to help protect our visiting loons for next year and the future.

My family and guests truly have enjoyed the family of loons and are hopeful that we will get to see them again next year. We count them as a summer blessing.

Summer fun: Parades, art and fireworks



Some of the 203 youngsters start the annual Kiddie Parade on their bicycles.



A vendor discusses her basketmaking craft with spectators at the fourth annual Art Show sponsored by the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association over the Independence Day weekend.

Jim Aumann Golf Outing benefits lakes

The inaugural Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing held at the Clintonville Riverside Golf Course Aug. 17 featured 55 golfers.

Winners in the men's division were the foursome of **Mike Fletcher, Jayson Klein, Jerry Lasch and Sam Rossy**. Mixed foursome winners were **Todd and Laurie Pamperin, Jerry Leatherberry and Tim Everard**. Women's foursome winners were **Laurie Zeuske, Linda Augustine, Patsy Eggert and Sandy Lange**.

All proceeds were donated to Cloverleaf Lakes activities, so it was split between CLPA, Cloverleaf Fireworks, and Cloverleaf Triathlon. The 2014 Golf Outing is scheduled for Aug. 16. **Bob Gross and Mike Wright** organized the event.

The event recognizes the late **Jim Aumann**, who organized the CLPA Golf Outing for 15 years. (The event was organized after the summer newsletter, which said the golf outing had been cancelled, was printed.)

Huge crowds enjoyed the traditional Independence Day weekend events at Cloverleaf Lakes.

An onlooker counted 203 children who marched or rode their bicycles in the Kiddie Parade, which was led by the Belle Plaine fire truck. They all received ice cream treats donated by **Pattie and Mike Fletcher** from the Corner Store in Embarrass and distributed by **Barry and Linda Hosking**.

The Art Fair had big crowds throughout the day and the record 32 artists/crafters reported good sales. Winners of the CLPA contests included **Eric W. Speckhard** and **Geno Johnson**, who had high bids for the opportunity to have artist **Dan Bleck** do an original watercolor of their cottage. **Peggy McMahon** had the high bid on a Packer Hall of Fame autographed photo and **Marv Letven** won the raffle for a basket of gift certificates. **Marv Letven** and **Meghan Krueger** organized the Art Fair.

Winners of the Pontoon Parade were: first place, **John Malloy** with an Irish theme; second place, the **Pierre** family with a superheroes theme; and third place, **Joe Mass** and family with a Hawaiian theme.

Steve and Molly Joosten, Katie Ganzel and **Kirk Monroe** helped with the parades.

A spectacular fireworks show by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association concluded the events.



Sandy Mass checks to see if she won a prize for hitting her drive closest to the marker during the Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing.

Long Lake has busy summer with building, bears and chickens

By Kathy Weiner

Long Lake Association had another successful annual meeting held at Imago Dei Village church camp. Re-elected were President **Kathy Weiner**, Vice President **Reg Draheim**, Treasurer **Bob Kreider**, Secretary **Brenda Gebhardt** and board members **Bill Hogan**, **Don Sedo**, **Bob Holzback**, and **Dara Stull**. A tasty potluck followed the June meeting.

A directory of lake residents was compiled and sent to each household. We were excited to add a new family to the lake who is joining us from Green Bay.

Long Lake Association held two brat fries as fund raisers – one at Econo Foods in Clintonville and another at Qualheim's Tru-Value in Shawano. Plans are to do these brat fries again next year along with a plant sale to be held at the town hall on May 16 and 17, 2014.

Our annual pontoon party was a relaxing evening. The appetizers and snacks were great. And this year there were no mosquitoes!

This is the fourth year in a row that we are having a new home built on Long Lake. As Long Lake is small and not much occurs, keeping an eye on the building process gives the evening pontoon cruisers a nice purpose for their rides.

Remember the old fashioned roadside attractions of days gone by? Long Lake has its own little chicken show. **Shanda Hubertus-Malak's** chicken coop is a "must stop" for many lake residents, their children and visitors. Not only do people go and look at the chickens but they watch the slowly developing additions to the coop and yard area.

Long Lakers have had a summer of bear sightings. We think that there are about three adults and three cubs. Every time there is a bear sighting over on Grass Lake Road, people start checking on the safety of the chickens as these chickens would make a tasty morsel for a bear.

In August there have been several sightings of a cougar. Someone on Long Lake Drive captured it on their iPhone and sent the picture to the DNR that confirmed that it was a cougar. Now this feline keeps the city people excited.



Russ Kafka stands by his Little Free Library on Rustic Drive. Passersby can borrow or swap books from the library.

Little Free Library now open

Cloverleaf Lake's first Little Free Library is now "open" across the road from **Russ and Kery Kafka's** cottage at N2645 Rustic Drive. Russ got the idea to install a library from an article he read about the movement and from its website: www.littlefreelibraries.org. It was started in Wisconsin and has now gone global with little libraries springing up in locations all over the world. Its mission is to promote literacy by building free book exchanges. With all the lake residents and visitors walking around the Lakes, Russ thought that they might enjoy having books available. The premise is simple: take a book to read, return a book to share. It's also a great way for residents to recycle books that they may have on their bookshelves.

Russ Kafka said that his was a "community effort" with advice, help in construction, and support from his sisters, **Gail and Vickie**; and lake friends **Denny Nodolf** and **Dennis Krubsack** and neighbor **Bob Putzer**. He hopes that others will join the movement so that there will be a number of free library locations around the Lakes. His advice is to be creative, to locate the structure in a visible place but away from the path of the snowplow, and to call Diggers Hotline before erecting a library.

nIc dance promotes violence prevention

The non-profit nIc Foundation will sponsor the ninth annual Dance Against Violence Oct. 25 at the Grand Meridian, 2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the Bobby Rivers Band playing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$7 at the door.

There will be raffles, silent auctions, games and a hula hoop contest.

To purchase raffle tickets, visit the Break-a-Way or Hair Connection. Ticket cost is \$5 for one ticket or \$10 for three tickets.

To volunteer for the event, contact **Lynn Marcks** at (715) 823-4829.

Proceeds support the nIc Foundation's bullying prevention programs.

Storm downs many trees, damages homes, cuts power



Mike Nelson surveys the damage from a tree that fell on a roof and driveway on Highway Y.



A car was crushed by a falling tree branch on Cloverleaf Lake Road during the storm.

A fast-moving thunderstorm Aug. 21 accompanied by high winds damaged houses and boats as dozens of trees came crashing down throughout Belle Plaine. Roads were closed temporarily and power was out at many residences for hours.

The National Weather Service said most of the damage was caused by straight-line winds that reached 90 to 100 miles per hour. Tornado warnings were issued and a funnel cloud was spotted near Bonduel. A Menominee County woman was killed when a tree fell on top of her car in Keshena.

In the Cloverleaf Lakes area, the town's Gibson Island property had many trees down blocking the isthmus and there were trees down on the town park across from Sandy Beach.

Trees were down on several roofs and boats, and at least one car was hit by a falling tree.



A row of trees crashed down on the isthmus leading to Gibson Island in the storm. The island is again open to visitors after cleanup.



Residents take prizes at fair

Belle Plaine had dozens of exhibitors at the Shawano County Fair. At left, Morgan Weinig, 10, of the Belle Plaine 4-H Club holds her pet rabbit Molasses, a Netherland Dwarf. At right, Glenn Van Der Linden showed an Irish cottage birdhouse, a decorative gourd and a St. Francis shrine entered in crafts. Glenn also took a grand championship in dairy foods with his cheese pesto blossom dip.



Belle Plaine Community Center
N3002 St. Hwy. 22
Clintonville, WI 54929

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Butch's Archery opens at new site

Butch's Archery has come a long way since **Butch Hesse** started making arrows in his basement 18 years ago. Butch and **Pam** now have new spacious quarters in the former Zachow Plumbing building on Highway 22 and Cloverleaf Lake Road, just south of the old store.

Their son **Jeff** will run winter leagues in the target gallery that occupies one end of the store while Butch sells bows and arrows as well as doing repairs for archers. They plan to add a social area with beer, soda and sandwiches for league archers.

Butch, who retired from Shawano Paper Mill two years ago, offers six lines of bows including Bowtech, Hoyt and Diamond Archery plus a line of cross-bows, arrows and accessories.

"We're a one-stop center," he said. "Any individual can walk in and walk out with what they need just one time."



Butch and Pam Hesse stand in front of a display of bows in the new Butch's Archery.

Jeff operates Custom Coating System, which coats cabs for utility and fire trucks, in an adjoining building in addition to his involvement in the family archery business.

Belle Plaine calendar

Sept. 29: Cloverfest Run/Walk, 10 a.m., Rustic Resort.

Oct. 14: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

Oct. 14: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

Nov. 11: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

Nov. 11: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

Dec. 9: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

Dec. 9: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

Jan. 13: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

Jan. 13: Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.