



BELLE PLAINE

NEWS & EVENTS

Spring 2017

Belle Plaine farmer aids Ma Nature

When **Arnold Petersen** looks out the window of his log home, he sees a cornfield.

He also sees the hand of Mother Nature, including many trees, bees and birds, which he has helped bring to his farm through his conservation efforts.

Petersen has been working on conservation projects since he bought the property on Deer Lane in 1984. He has planted thousands of trees, built bird nests, checked the amount of nitrogen he puts on his corn and added plots of wildflowers to attract bees and butterflies. There are several government cost-sharing conservation programs available to farmers.

"You should leave the land better than you found it," Petersen said.

A tour of the 223-acre farm on a golf cart scared up a large turkey, one of dozens that frequent the area. As many as 25 deer gather at a time to graze at one of the plots he has planted for them alongside a large cornfield.

Beaver Creek runs along the east side of the farm and the Embarrass River is on its south side. Trees line both to prevent erosion into the water.

Petersen has 100 acres of tillable land, which has other conservation projects. He doesn't plow the fields, just running a disc over the corn stalks to break them up. That prevents wind erosion. And he uses a time-release fertilizer on the sandy soil to prevent leaching into the groundwater. He takes corn stalks to a lab to measure the amount of nitrogen in the plants. During the summer, Petersen raises beef cattle in a grassy pasture.

Forest covers 107 acres of his property. Petersen has planted



Arnold Petersen enjoys a spring day along the Embarrass River with his daughter's dog.

18,000 trees over the years, mostly red and white pines bought at a discount from state nurseries. The Wisconsin Forestry Act managed forestry program provides tax relief for the forest land. The trees provide a windbreak to prevent erosion and income when the mature trees are logged to thin the forest.

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CLPA annual meeting kicks off summer schedule

Members of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association will get updates on lake activities at the group's annual meeting on Saturday, May 27. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. at the picnic shelter in Round Lake Park.

A busy summer schedule peaks on Saturday, July 1, with Independence Day events. The popular Kiddie Parade will step off at 10 a.m. at the Cloverleaf Lakes boat launch on Highway Y. Later

that day, the Pontoon Parade will circle the lakes starting at 6:30 p.m. off Gibson Island.

Golfers get to join the fun when the annual Jim Aumann Golf Outing tees off at Clintonville Riverside Golf Course on Saturday, July 22.

The last big summer event is scheduled for Labor Day weekend. The 11th annual Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2.

Town roads, compost site scheduled for work

By Alvin Bartz

We recently completed our road survey. Blacktop projects will be on Wisconsin Avenue, where we will grind and pave as well as building up the shoulders where they are narrow. On Riverbank we will go from Highway 22 to Apple Road to complete that road to the Pella town line. We will do another short section that we have not selected at this time.

We are planning some drainage work at Sandy Beach, as well as on-going tree trimming on various roads.

The town's compost site is now open on Saturdays through Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Take Highway 22 to River Bend Road, then turn north on Range Line Road. The site is located on the right side of the road.

At the compost site, we need to turn the compost into a finished product in order to be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources. We can no longer let it rot away.

It will cost us about \$6,000 to grind the brush pile we have. We will have to turn the leaves weekly in order to make compost.

The DNR has suggested we not take pine needles or we should separate them. Pine needles don't compost very easily and are acidic, which results in compost that people don't want. We would like you to separate pine needles and leaves as

Belle Plaine chairman's message

best you can if you bring them to the compost site.

If you have silo plastic, dumpsters are available free of charge that are picked up at your farm. We don't want that plastic at the drop-off site.

Cardboard boxes must be broken down at the recycling center on Cloverleaf Lake Road. We have had loads as light as 800 pounds costing \$175 to haul away. Again, if you are on a garbage route, we don't want your recyclables at the drop-off site.

We are looking at providing containers for recycling as well as garbage. With recyclables placed curbside we don't have any additional charge compared to the hauling charge plus \$57 per ton cost for handling at the landfill. See page 5 for information from Harter's about what can be recycled and what they don't want in the recyclables pile.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Note: Town Board meetings will begin at 7 p.m., rather than 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month. All meetings are open to the public at the Community Center on Highway 22.

Belle Plaine town notebook

Residents will have an opportunity to review their property assessments at an Open Book session Sunday, April 23, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Belle Plaine Community Center. Those wishing to contest the assessments can appear at the Board of Review on Wednesday, May 24, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

* The Shawano Area Fire Department is seeking firefighters for its Shawano, Belle Plaine and Wescott stations. Stop at Auto Prep, 220 North Main St., next to the Shawano fire station, and see Lt. **Mark Retzlaff** for an application.

* Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It

will be open Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. starting May 3.

People with large items such as furniture, TVs or building materials are encouraged to take the items to the Shawano City Landfill. There is a small fee. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The Belle Plaine Recycling Center does not accept those items.

* Reservations are being taken for the Community Center and the Round Lake Park picnic shelter. The facilities can be rented for \$50. See the town clerk for details.

* Town clerk **Kristine Vomastic** holds regular office hours from 4 to 6 p.m. Mondays and 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturdays. Treasurer **Kay Kristof** is available at the Community Center every other Wednesday 3-5 p.m. or by appointment.

Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Kay Kristof, treasurer

Newsletter editor: Dennis Thornton



Belle Plaine Community Center

N3002 St. Hwy. 22

Clintonville, WI 54929

(715) 524-2690

Town clerk's hours:

4 to 6 p.m. Monday; 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday or by appointment

Regular Town Board meetings:

Second Monday of each month, 7 p.m.

Committees:

Planning, Zoning, Gibson Island Stewardship

Population estimate: 1,855

Catch up on lakes news at CLPA's annual meeting

By Dennis Thornton

All members and future members (dues are just \$25 a year) are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association.

The meeting begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 27, at the picnic shelter in Round Lake Park across the street from the boat landing. Get there early for complimentary coffee and donuts.

Our board members will give reports on our milfoil control plans, July 1 event schedule, welcoming committee, shoreland restoration and other lake activities.

We have invited members of our local Department of Natural Resources team to talk about the fishery, game laws and conservation programs.

Two positions on our board of directors will be on the ballot.

Our board looks forward to seeing you, hearing your suggestions and answering your questions.

* Our 2017 membership drive and fund-raising efforts are paying off. We have 179 active members signed up already. Besides the dues, additional contributions have totaled more than \$15,000 for 2017. Donations are tax-deductible and many members took advantage of the calendar to send in checks before the end of 2016.

A special shout-out to the Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club for its donation of \$500. A list of memberships and donations since the Winter newsletter can be found on page 7. If you haven't joined, please fill out the form and send it in.

* Aquatic invasive species continue to be our number one concern, shared by many residents of Wisconsin lakes.

CLPA president's message

The latest menace, not yet found in Cloverleaf Lakes, is a nasty weed called Starry Stonewort. A DNR scientist reported on efforts to control it at the recent Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point.

Stonewort, native plant in parts of Europe, has found its way into a handful of lakes in southeastern Wisconsin as well as some spots in Door County. The scary part is that nothing has been found to kill the plant without harming native plants. In fact, a month after chemical treatment, there was more Stonewort found than before treatment.

That presentation preceded a discussion of efforts to halt spread of the "super weed." Yes, that is the Eurasian Water Milfoil that has plagued our lakes for nearly two decades.

Our boat monitor program has been effective in slowing the spread of invasives. Please clean your boat and trailer after pulling it out of the water.

* If you haven't joined our shoreland restoration program, there's another chance this summer. It is almost too good to be true (but it is true).

The 10 property owners who have planted a native plant garden of 350 square feet along their shore paid just 10 percent of the cost of about \$1,000 per property. And we have professional **Lisa Reas** plan, mulch and plant the area for you.

Our Healthy Lakes grant expires at the end of 2017 so if you are interested, please contact me. And enjoy the beautiful wildflowers when you move around Pine and Grass Lakes.

Belle Plaine news

Town, area officials elected

Belle Plaine Town Board members Chairman **Alvin Bartz** and Supervisors **Harold Polzin** and **Dennis Thornton** were re-elected unopposed April 4.

Dennis Krubsack defeated **Dennis Thornton**, 63-49, for a seat on the Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District board.

A referendum to build a new elementary school in Clintonville was defeated 1,140 to 733. Incumbent **Jim Schultz** and **Kris Strauman** were elected to the Clintonville School Board.

Rummage sale set for nIc

The non-profit nIc Foundation invites everyone to its Rummage-Antique Sale-Baked Goods fundraising event at the Belle Plaine Community Center at N3002 Highway 22, on Memorial Day weekend. The fund raiser is on Friday, May 26; Saturday, May 27; and Sunday, May 28 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members of the Waupaca County Home & Community Edu-

cation Clubs will have food for sale plus soda and water on Saturday. Baked goods will be available for purchase all three days.

The nIc Foundation is seeking quality donated items for the rummage and antique sale. Donated items may be brought directly to the Belle Plaine Town Hall May 24-25, between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Call **Lynn Marcks** at 823-4829 to volunteer to help.

The nIc Foundation is established in honor and memory of murder victim **Nicolas Resch**.

Fish expert to talk April 25

The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club will host new DNR fisheries biologist **Jason Breeggemann** on Tuesday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at Butch's Archery. He will talk about a fishery survey.

Wild Ones to sell native plants

A variety of Wisconsin wildflowers, grasses and ferns will be sold for \$4.25 and up at the annual sale by Wild Ones of Shawano. Orders must be made by April 25 at (715) 526-3401. Additional plants will be available on plant pickup day May 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Shawano Heritage Park.

County, state offer cost-sharing farm programs

A variety of county, state and federal programs help farmers pay for conservation projects on their properties. **Scott Frank**, Shawano County conservationist, outlined several opportunities.

* Shawano County gets \$30,000 to \$50,000 annually from the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to help cost-share soil and water conservation practices. These can include nutrient (manure and fertilizer, soil testing) management, rotational grazing and erosion prevention. The funds can also help to properly abandon old wells or manure pits as well as fence off livestock from streams to prevent pollution. The county offers hands-on classes and computer training in nutrient management planning.

* The Department of Natural Resources offers a competitive targeted runoff management grant program to control nonpoint source pollution. This program encourages at least a seven-month capacity for manure storage so the spreading on fields doesn't occur on frozen or snow covered ground to help avoid runoff events. Belle Plaine farmer **Nate Retzlaff** is cooperating with the county and USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service on one current project to implement state agricultural performance standards. Grant awards up to \$150,000 are available for eligible projects.

* The state Farmland Preservation Program provides a tax

break of \$7.50 per acre on land that is in a Farmland Preservation zoning district. About 200 county farms (property owners) are in the program. The county conservationist checks participating farms for conservation practices including prevention of soil erosion, nutrient plans and feedlot runoff prevention. A tillage setback buffer to surface waters is also required for bank stabilization and to reduce runoff.

* Forestry programs are available, including direct tree purchases from the DNR. Shawano County has tree-planting machines that can be used for large projects.

* Waterfront property owners can participate in shoreland restoration and construction of rain gardens under a 50-percent cost-sharing program available through Shawano County. The majority of this program is in the Shawano Lake watershed. Cloverleaf Lakes has its own Healthy Lakes program under a 75 percent cost-sharing grant.

Shawano County has a 10-year land and water resource management plan, Frank said. "Our goal is promoting land use practices that maintain or improve soil, water and habitat while supporting a viable and diverse economic base."

For details on these and other conservation programs, contact Scott Frank, Land Conservation Department, at the Courthouse in Shawano. The phone is (715) 526-6766.

Petersen farm

Continued from page 1

Not all has gone smoothly. He planted dozens of trees on a sandy ridge and only a handful survived. So he planted more trees elsewhere.

Bluebird nests perch on fence posts around the property and wood duck nests are in trees along the river.

He has participated in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program through the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Arnold is truly interested in doing what is best for his property," said **Sherrie Reed**, acting district conservationist for the NRCS. "He has done a great job in balancing his farming operation while developing wildlife habitat and managing his forest at the same time."

Petersen's latest project, partially funded by a federal program, was setting up two

1 ½ acres "bee plots" or pollinator habitat areas. He plowed the areas and planted seeds of 20 types of native plants such as butterfly weed, purple coneflowers and milkweed. "I'm excited about this," he said, hoping to add a bee hive when the flowers mature. "Our bees are in trouble."

Petersen, 76, is a widower who has four daughters and five grandchildren who frequently visit the farm and enjoy Mother Nature. Sometimes they even help him with haying. When they were children, the daughters would find caterpillars and later release the Monarch butterflies that emerged.

A family wedding was held under a favorite tree a few years ago, with sons-in-law lugging 100 chairs and a piano into the field.

Petersen worked in a Johnson Controls office in Appleton before retiring and lived on Lake Winnebago, visiting the farm on weekends. He moved permanently to the farm a few years ago and loves being a full-time farmer rather than sitting around.

"There's nothing good on TV," he said.



A wood duck nest along the river.



A bluebird nest on the Petersen farm.

Recycling by curbside pickup saves tax money

The Town of Belle Plaine encourages residents to use weekly curbside garbage pickup and twice-monthly recyclables pickup.

Why?

It saves all of us some of our precious tax money that can be used for road repairs and other expenses.

By the numbers: Each load of recyclables that is hauled from the Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road costs the town \$176 to transport to the Shawano landfill. Then it costs an additional \$57 a ton to dispose of that load. Often, the large dumpsters filled with bottles and cans or paper weigh less than a ton, especially if the cardboard boxes are not broken down.

Our carrier, Harter's Fox Valley Disposal, picks up recyclables at the curb for free, saving that hauling fee and tipping fee.

If you must use the Recycling Center, it will begin summer hours May 1. Winter hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will open Wednesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. starting May 3.

People with large items such as furniture, TVs or building materials are encouraged to take the items to the Shawano City Landfill. There is a small fee. Hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The Belle Plaine Recycling Center does not accept those items.

By the way, many towns and cities charge residents an extra fee for garbage/recyclables pickup. Clintonville residents will pay \$114 a year for curbside pickup under a new contract with Harter's. Belle Plaine does not charge an extra fee for garbage pickup.

Harter's recycling guide

PLASTIC

Accept

All plastic bottles and containers
Soda, water and other drink bottles
Food and household bottles, jars and jugs
Dairy containers and lids
Produce, bakery and deli containers

Do NOT accept

No plastic bags, wrap or film

No motor oil bottles

No Styrofoam

Guidelines

Empty and rinse all bottles and containers
Remove and discard all screw caps



PAPER

Accept

Newspapers and inserts
Cardboard and paperboard
Junk mail and office paper
Milk, juice and soup cartons
Phonebooks, books, magazines and catalogs

Do NOT accept

No paper contaminated by food or grease
No tissue
No gift wrap

Guidelines

Flatten and cut cardboard larger than 2 feet by 2 feet
Place shredded paper in paper bag, secure and label

METAL AND GLASS

Accept

Aluminum bottles and cans
Steel, tin and bi-metal cans
Empty aerosol cans
Food and beverage bottles and jars

Do NOT accept

No aluminum pans or foil
No empty paint cans

Guidelines

Empty and rinse all bottles and containers
Remove and discard all screw caps



W17620 County Rd Q

Wittenberg, WI 54499

Phone: (715)253-2619

Fax: (715)253-2955

Web: www.hartersfvd.com

The play's the thing for Belle Plaine family

By Joan Sousek

The musical *Fiddler on the Roof* has many memorable songs including "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset." These and more will be performed by the Wolf River Homeschoolers (WRHS) Performing Arts Group in their upcoming production of the classic, under the direction of Town of Belle Plaine resident **Sue Kluge**.

Fiddler is the 13th WRHS musical production. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, May 12-13 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day) at 2 p.m. at Clintonville High School Auditorium. Admission is free.

This is the second time Kluge, who is Embarrass postal clerk and wife of St. Martin Lutheran Church Pastor **Kurt Kluge**, is directing the group's annual musical, and the couple's three children are in the cast. Last year, she directed *The Nifty Fifties*.

Fiddler is about a Russian village in 1905 —just before the Russian Revolution. It focuses on a poor Jewish milkman, Tevya, his wife Golde and their five daughters and shows the challenges they face through serious and funny events as their traditions are being influenced and changed by the circumstances around them.

Marie Kluge, age 14, plays Golde and **Evan**, 17, plays Fyedka, a Russian who marries daughter Chava; **Peter**, 11, has two roles as a Russian and a Jewish boy.

Time management is key for the Kluge family, especially during play rehearsals.

"We schedule as much as possible trying to get the kids to do things on their own," Sue says.

For the two older kids, Sue can set up school work, and they can do it on their own, then she can check it later. She spends more time working with Peter. They also have assigned chores to do during the day.

Kurt's office is at the parsonage and the church is nearby. His pastoral duties are many, but he helps shuttle the kids and occasionally assists with production tasks.

Parents supervise and carry out all aspects of the production. About 20 home schooling families and about 50 children are involved this year.

"It's a lot of work, but some families have been involved for a long time and know when and how to get things done and what to expect," she said.

For 2017, parents wanted to try a larger production, but finding suitable, family-friendly plays for children of many ages is challenging. *Fiddler*'s themes of family, community, faith and cultural traditions generally fit the bill.

But there are challenges, like young students taking on adult roles and understanding the setting and circumstances of their characters.

"It's fun to watch them come up with stuff, especially the older ones," she says.

Sue has enjoyed drama since she "caught the bug" in high school. She earned a theatre degree from Minnesota State University at Mankato, and in 2001, after Kurt completed seminary



The Kluge family includes, left to right, Sue, Peter and Marie in front, Evan and Kurt in back in a family photo taken at St. Martin Lutheran Church. Sue Kluge is directing *Fiddler on the Roof* with Marie, Evan and Peter in the cast.

studies, the family moved to Tracy, Minn., where she directed high school plays, and Evan was involved in a community show. In 2011, the family moved to Belle Plaine, joined WRHS, and became more involved in theatre.

"It's something I loved forever," she says. "It's just my niche."

Why is not so clear.

"I don't know if I can put my finger on it. I love watching movies, putting myself into a different situation and thinking about life from someone else's point of view. It's like when you take on a character in a play ... a new persona ... and try to bring it to life."

It's a way to engage with people outside everyday life, too.

"In theatre, you are trying to make that connection with other people whether they are like you or different than you, and that helps us reflect on ourselves and our community," she adds.

And working with children has special rewards.

"Kids are always so much fun, and have so much energy," she says.

Sue also is involved with Box in the Wood Theatre Guild which is part of the Shawano County Arts Council. Last year, she assisted **Charlene Stuewer** with the Box in the Wood production of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, and she will direct the musical, *South Pacific*, this summer at the Mielke.



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

P.O. Box 288
Embarrass, WI 54933-0288

"Preserving our lakes for future generations"

If you haven't paid your 2017 dues, please make your check for \$25 payable to Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association, fill out and clip this form, and send it to CLPA, P.O. Box 288, Embarrass, WI 54933-0288. The membership is for the calendar year 2017. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

Name: _____

Lake Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home Address (if different): _____

Dues \$ 25.00
I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Board of Directors

Pam Bruecker, treasurer (715) 823-3917 brueckerp@gmail.com	
Dennis Thornton, president (715) 823-9151 thorngb@frontiernet.net	Dave Rosenfeldt (715) 823-6604
Joe Mass, vice president (715) 823-3758 jandsmass@gmail.com	Dick Thurow (414) 430-9067
Carol Wegner, secretary (715) 823-6270 Dolphins27@charter.net	Francie West (715) 823-4059 frwestpilot@charter.net

CLPA 2017 members, donors

The following made donations to the CLPA or paid for 2017 memberships as of April 10. Members and donors who were listed in the winter newsletter are not included here.

\$500 Maple

Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club

\$250 Birch

Tim and Jane Zuck

\$175 Willow

Jeff Herold and Cindy Lillge

\$100 Pine

Rande and Patsy Eggert
Earl Peterson, Pete's Bait Shop
David and Sandra Rosenfeldt

\$50 Ash

Kenneth and Stephanie Dunlavy
Mark and Ellen Heideman
Jon and Leeanne Zimdars

Other

Dennis and Joy Krubsack
Peter Sesing

\$25 members

Donald Brandl
Sondra Dilley
Donna Dohr
Kenneth and Stephanie Dunlavy
Randy and Patsy Eggert
Shirley Fischer
Ethel Gonnering
Bruce and Sharon Greasby
Vernon and LaVonn Gross
Keith and Janet Haskins

Jerry Hauerwas
Betty Heideman
Mark and Ellen Heideman
James and Beth Karlson
Robert and Maryann Krause
Dennis and Joy Krubsack
Andy and Carol Lagatta
Jeff Herold and Cindy Lillge
Lynn and Steve Marcks
James and Sally Norder
Ron and Nancy Ostrowski
Eugene and Marilyn Plachinski

Wayne and Julie Ripp
Don and Sharon Rogalski
David and Sandra Rosenfeldt
Arlene Schabo
James and Michele Schaezner
Peter Sesing
Veryl and Virgie Sievert
James and Loretta Tesch
Warren Wanezek/Battaglia
Robert and Dorothy Warren
Dorothy White
Larry and Cynthia Volz
Jon and Leeanne Zimdars
Tim and Jane Zuck

Check for lake/town news at
www.CloverleafLakes.com and
www.BellePlaineWI.com

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



John Zierys, right, teaches his grandchildren Oliver and Meredith Pehlke to ice fish, along with Lisa Erdmann at left. The Belle Plaine Sportsman's Club invited Belle Plaine and Clintonville area youngsters to learn how to ice fish on Feb. 18. More than 50 youths attended. They were treated to free food and everyone received a prize.

Belle Plaine calendar

May 8: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center

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

May 27: CLPA annual meeting, 10 a.m., Round Lake Park shelter

June 12: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center

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

July 1: Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., started at boat launch

July 1: Pontoon Parade, 6:30 p.m. starting at Gibson Island

July 10: CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center

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

July 22: Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing, noon, Clintonville Riverside Golf Course