



# BELLE PLAINE NEWS & EVENTS

Summer 2010

## CLPA painting auction kicks off

The unveiling of an original watercolor painted by Pine Lake resident **Dan Bleck** was among the highlights of the Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association's annual meeting May 29.

The painting, donated by Bleck to the association, will be sold in a silent auction ending Sunday, July 4 at 4 p.m. during the CLPA's Cloverleaf Art by the Lake art fair at Buzz and Mac's on Cloverleaf Lake Road. Many artists and craftsmen will be exhibiting their wares at the art fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bids on the original painting can be e-mailed to [thorngb@frontiernet.net](mailto:thorngb@frontiernet.net) or called to (715) 823-9151. Full-sized prints, signed by the artist, cost \$95 and smaller prints at \$45 also can be ordered. They will be available at the art show.

The art show is one of the new events this year, sponsored by the CLPA (full schedule on page 3).

Another is the Cloverleaf Carp Capture, which is under way and will end with cash prizes awarded on June 12 at the boat landing. Board member **Dick Thurow** said more than 30 carp have

been turned in so far, with the largest weighing 30 pounds and measuring 36 inches.

Here are some other highlights of the annual meeting:

- Board members **Carl Bruggink**, **Joe Mass** and **Dick Thurow** were re-elected to three-year terms.
- Sheriff **Randy Wright** and Capt. **Tom Tuma** explained the boat safety patrols that will be present on the lakes during busy times this summer.
- Committee chairman **Russ Kafka** and **Matt Harp** of Lake and Pond Solutions said nine acres of Eurasian water milfoil and six acres of curly-leaf pondweed have been chemically treated.
- **Kery Kafka** said the shoreland restoration efforts are proceeding, with about 10 properties participating so far. Funds are available for others who are interested.
- A video by **Kris Doan** showed the wide variety of plants, animals and birds present on Gibson Island.
- Treasurer **Fran West** said the CLPA has assets of about \$67,000. Most revenues come from dues and the golf outing.



**Dan Bleck holds his watercolor painting "The Lord of Cloverleaf Lakes." The original will be sold in a silent auction ending July 4, with proceeds benefiting the lake association.**

### Inside this issue:

Town update	2
Summer fun	3
Jim Popp's motors	4
Safety first	5
Sturgeon swim	6
Golf Outing	7
Kristof honored	8

## Round Lake park shelter work starts

Site work has begun for the town's park shelter on Round Lake Drive. **Mike Nelson** and his crew have cleared dead trees and brush, as well as leveling off a parking area and hauling in the base sand for the shelter. It should be completed this summer.

Nelson will be constructing the 30- by 50-foot park shelter, which will be the centerpiece of a new park on the 10 acres the town bought from the Stieg family in 2003. The site is at the top of the hill overlooking Round Lake, adjacent to the snowmobile trail/walking path through the woods.

Residents will be able to use the shelter for family gatherings, reunions and other events when it is completed. There is no similar park land available to the public in Belle Plaine.

The property fronts on Highway Y and was purchased primarily to protect the sensitive area along the north bank of Round Lake.

Under the town's outdoor recreation plan, the site will be developed to include a parking space for boat trailers along Highway Y. Boat ramps also will be constructed at the town's boat landing.

---

# Town's farmers get an early start on summer work

By Alvin Bartz

The summer season was a few weeks early this year for area farmers. Most corn and soybeans were planted by the first days of May. Some farmers have completed the first crop of hay — usually we start about the first of June.

We will be mowing roadsides a few weeks earlier, as the grass has already headed.

Blacktop projects will be spread around the town this year. Norway Lane, Town Line, Angle, Range Line and Apple will be some of the roads. We will spend in the area of \$300,000 on these projects. We will also do some work at the intersection of County Y and Adams Beach to try to fix the drainage problem.

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association has again planned Fourth of July activities. Please be careful with fire-

## Belle Plaine chairman's message

works, especially if it is a dry summer. Every year we get complaints of the fallout from fireworks burning holes in boat lift covers.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

\* Shawano County has free access to land records on its web site: [www.co.shawano.wi.us](http://www.co.shawano.wi.us). Click on Online Services on the left side of the web page, then click on Online Land Records and GIS Public Access.

That will bring up a map of the county, which can be searched by address or parcel number. Acreage, land values and taxes are available.

---

## Belle Plaine town notebook

\* The Gibson Island boardwalk has reopened to the public after being closed during the bald eagles' nesting season. Parking is available in the lot off Cloverleaf Lake Road. A bicycle rack has been added so that bikers can secure their bikes while they walk around the island. Volunteers led by **Joy Krubsack** have cleared a second trail, going north and south, for island hikers.

\* The Town Board has voted to support spending state "community sensitive solution" funds of \$155,000 for the new Highway 22 bridge, which will be built in 2011 to replace the existing steel bridge. The funds will be spent on a pedestrian/bicycle path, decorative work and staining, and lighting. The wayside also will be renovated with a road and shoreland work. The town will pay half the cost of the sculpture "tree."

\* Summer hours for the Collection and Recycling Center on Cloverleaf Lake Road are Mondays from 8 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m.; and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Town of Belle Plaine has hired **Jim and Corey**

**Retzlaff** as the new Recycling Center caretakers. They have both previously assisted operations at the center.

\* **Sandy Polzin** won another term on the Shawano County Board in District 17, defeating **Donald Pahlow** 84-72. In District 18, the northern portion of Belle Plaine along with Richmond, **Bonnie Olson** beat incumbent **John Stezinski**, 98-72.

\* The Wolf Treatment Plant received the 2010 Laboratory of the Year Award from the DNR in the Large Registered Facility category. The wastewater treatment plant on the Wolf River treats up to 2 million gallons of wastewater a day for Shawano and several surrounding areas, including the Belle Plaine-Waukechon Utility District.

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

\* 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. Tom Kristof at 853-3937 for more information.

---

### Belle Plaine officials

Alvin Bartz, chairman

Harold Polzin, supervisor

Dennis Thornton, supervisor

Kristine Vomastic, clerk

Kay Kristof, 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:

5-7 p.m. Monday; 8:30-11 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:** 1,910

# Independence Day weekend tops schedule

**Fourth of July.** The annual Kiddie Parade, which attracts hundreds of children and parents, will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 3, on Highway Y near the boat launch. The Pontoon Parade will form up near Gibson Island at 6:30 p.m. and the decorated boats will circle the lakes. There is no specific theme for the boat parade. And at dusk, the spectacular fireworks display will be sent up by the Cloverleaf Lakes Fireworks Association. The dance has been canceled this year due to lack of participation over the past few years.

**Cloverleaf Art by the Lake:** The CLPA's new community event will be held on the lakefront at Buzz and Mac's on Cloverleaf Lake Road on Sunday, July 4. Artists will be displaying their work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Pontoon classrooms:** The several properties that have been working on shoreland restoration over the past three years will be toured on Saturday, July 24, starting at 9 a.m., at the boat landing. **James Havel** of NES Ecological Services will discuss the native plants and wildflowers planted on the properties. A half-day kayak demonstration is planned for Aug. 19, also starting at 9 a.m. at the boat landing.

**Golf Outing:** The 13th annual Cloverleaf Lakes Golf Outing will tee off at noon on Wednesday, July 28, at the Clintonville

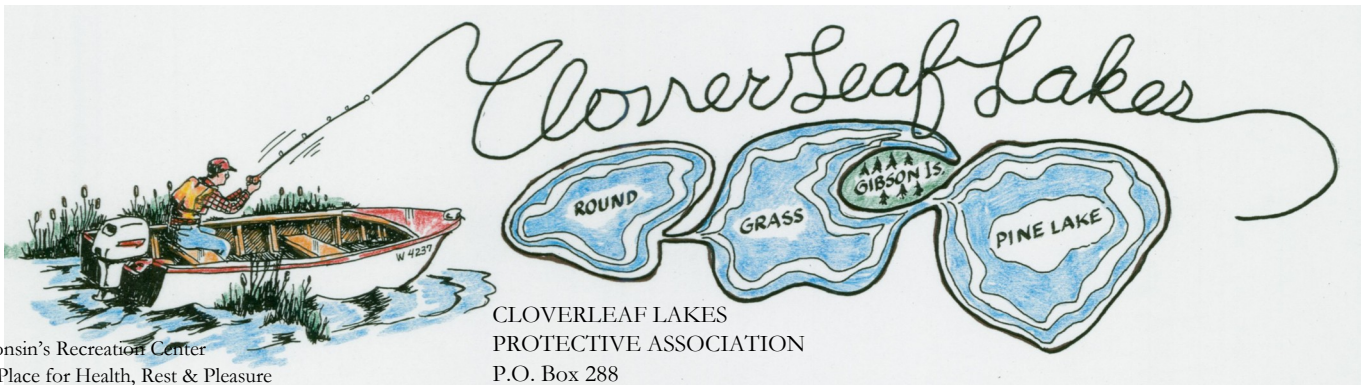


**Russ Kafka, left, checks the well water test paperwork for Janet Haskins. A total of 58 property owners submitted water tests in April. Results of the tests have been sent to the individuals. A public meeting sharing overall results of water tests in the town will take place Monday, June 14, at 9 a.m. at the Community Center, with UW-Stevens Point's Kevin Masarik. In the background are volunteers Dan Bleck and Kathy Nodolf.**

Riverside Golf Course. The entry form is on page 7.

**Triathlon:** The fourth annual Tri Cloverleaf Lakes Triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 4. More than 160 athletes participated in 2009. Contact **Mary Wetzel** for more information.

**Cloverfest Run/Walk:** This annual event, held in October, raises funds for the Fireworks Association.



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

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

[www.CloverleafLakes.com](http://www.CloverleafLakes.com)

*"Preserving our lakes for future generations"*

## **Board of Directors**

**Dennis Thornton**, President

823-9151

[thorngb@frontiernet.net](mailto:thorngb@frontiernet.net)

**Carl Bruggink**, Vice President

823-2488

[carlbruggink@frontiernet.net](mailto:carlbruggink@frontiernet.net)

**Carol Wegner**, Secretary

823-6270

[cawegner@frontiernet.net](mailto:cawegner@frontiernet.net)

**Fran West**, Treasurer

823-4059

[kfwest@frontiernet.net](mailto:kfwest@frontiernet.net)

**James Aumann**

823-5632

**Joe Mass**

823-3758

[jandsmass@frontiernet.net](mailto:jandsmass@frontiernet.net)

**Dick Thurow**



# Old boat motors propel Popp's interest

By Carol Wagner

Reprinted from the Shawano Leader with permission of Wolf River Media LLC.

Like the parts of the different boat motors he fixes and collects, there are many facets to **Jim Popp**. After retiring from the Army in 1991, Popp looked for something to do.

"It was driving me nuts," he said, "not having anything to do."

Already the owner of a home in Shawano, when Popp saw the house and lot for sale in the town of Belle Plaine, he liked the location. He bought the property on Pioneer Road in 1992.

"I got to start something," Popp said.

And start something he did. Several small buildings are now packed with boat motors in various stages of being fixed, restored, or just, literally, hanging around.

While talking, he paced back and forth in his workshop, a habit that was neither frantic nor annoying but totally in character as Popp, 71, talked about his life, beginning with his extensive collection of boat motors.

After advertising for work in the Shawano Shopper's Guide, Popp got going. Now people find him. "I always keep my eyes open," he said, "and people know I'm here."

The decision to work on boat motors was calculated. Cars took up too much room and there weren't enough motorcycles. As a member of the Antique Outboard Motor Club Inc., he learned about them by reading their monthly publications.

Some of the old motors are from 1916, but none are the classic motors which would be sought by collectors. Collectors had snatched most of them up long ago.

"They recognized what was worth something," he said.

Popp's boat motors look like undersized versions of what's available today. Back then, motors were made by several small companies, but most went out of business during the Depression. But in the late '40s, as water skiing became popular, motors got bigger and bigger.

Popp used to sell motors but now it's the other way around. He often gets older motors to repair since customers want them for keepsakes. "Now it's for parts," Popp said. "I get people from all over wanting parts."

Judging by his shelves and counters, he has parts aplenty. Sev-

eral rows of parts stacked on other parts are in one shed. Smaller parts housed in cabinets are catalogued.

Popp grew up on a farm near Zachow, attended St. Paul Lutheran School and graduated from Bonduel High School in 1957. He attended UW-Stevens Point for two years, but ran out of money. "I was at the end of the line," Popp said.

With the help of the late Rep. Melvin Laird, he got an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from the academy in 1964 and spent the next 27 years in service.

He served in Vietnam twice, flying helicopters. From 1966 to 1967, he piloted the UH1, commonly known as the Huey. Then 1970 to 1971, he flew a Cobra AH-1G, a gunship that was used to neutralize the enemy to help soldiers in the field escape.

"Every now and then when one flies over, I reminisce," Popp said.

He spent three years at the Pentagon as a staff officer in requirements where he was contracted to test new equip-

ment. His next assignment was in Idar-Oberstein, Germany, from 1982 to 1985, where he was head of the 1st Battalion sub community base of about 2,000 people. "I never had the honor of being in charge before," he said.

Then he went back to the Pentagon for the same job as before for two years.

From there he went to Minnesota, staying there from 1987 until he retired in 1991. He was the regular Army inspector general for the state.

Then he returned to Shawano, taking care of his mother, Lucille Jandt, until her death in 2001.

Besides his motors, Popp enjoys working in the kitchen. Popp likes to grill out and make pasta. He likes to make food with a southwestern flavor.

"I consider myself a pretty good cook," said Popp, who has never married.

When the weather warms up he will be spending time in the garden where he plants tomatoes and okra. He is also getting his grapevines ready, though he doesn't make wine.

"I do a variety of things," Popp said. "It's not constantly motors."



Jim Popp tends to a collection of outboard motors in Belle Plaine.

Photo by Carol Wagner

# Safety always should come first on our lakes

By Dennis Thornton

Be careful out there! That was the phrase used at the end of every police briefing on an old cops TV show.

Let me remind you of that as the busy summer season gets under way. Most families keep their lives safe and secure. But a few careless people can put themselves and others in danger.

**Boating.** The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association has arranged, for the second summer, to hire Shawano County Sheriff's Department officers on overtime to run safety patrols on our lakes. Their purpose is not to write a lot of tickets, but to issue warnings about unsafe and illegal practices, hold down the speeds and keep boaters safe. A new state law they will be reminding boaters about bans high speeds within 100 feet of shoreline as well as near other watercraft.

The lakes are for everyone, but that means anglers, speed-boats, personal watercraft, pontoon boats, paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, skiers and swimmers must share the same limited amount of water area. As speeds pick up, safety suffers.

**Fireworks.** Independence Day wouldn't be complete without the Fireworks Association's show, scheduled on Saturday, July 3. Here's what Wisconsin law says about fireworks, except for groups with a valid permit. "State law generally **prohibits** the

## CLPA president's message

sale, possession, and use of most items commonly thought of as fireworks, including firecrackers, roman candles, and bottle rockets. State law generally **allows** the sale, possession, and use of less powerful devices such as sparklers, snakes, caps, and small fountains." Of course, many people still buy and set off fireworks despite the law. A woman who lives on Pine Lake said her neighbor's amateur fireworks display last year cost her \$500 in burns to her boat roof and cover. And fireworks disturb countless nights of sleep before and after the Fourth.

**Water balloons.** A Cloverleaf Lakes tradition, shooting water balloons at the boats in the pontoon parade (and some pontoon riders shooting them at the crowd), may seem harmless. But one parade participant who wore a costume with a mask said he was fearful because he couldn't see the balloons coming. And who needs dozens of rubber balloons polluting our lakes? This is a tradition that should be brought to an end.

We all like to have fun, and enjoying a day on beautiful Cloverleaf Lakes is a dream come true. But fun can quickly turn to tragedy if safety isn't put first and foremost.

## Composting garbage creates new topsoil

By Kery Kafka

In recent years, as much as 30 percent of all household trash generated in Wisconsin consists of materials that can be composted and turned back into soil for your garden (leaves, grass clippings, vegetable scraps, etc. ). That's 300,000 tons of materials sent to landfills and incinerators each year.

These materials contribute to methane gas and leachate which pollute the air and local water supplies, and your property misses out on the wonderful, rich soil you could add, soil you have created yourself.

Create a compost pile with your material. You can start anytime of the year, you don't have to be present all times of the year, and don't have to tend to the compost very often. You can just make a pile somewhere on your property, create a woven wire or fence bin, or purchase a special plastic container to put it in. For additional information, contact a member of the Shoreline Restoration Team. We'll get you a sign that says, "This Property Composts."

For bigger loads of yard trash, the town of Belle Plaine operates a compost site on Range Line Road. It is open Saturday mornings during the spring, summer and fall.



Here's a fine kettle of fish. These are just a few of the carp removed from Cloverleaf Lakes during the Carp Capture Contest. More than 30 large carp, up to 30 pounds each, were caught as of June 1. The contest will remain open until June 12, when cash prizes will be awarded. Contact Dick Thurow at cell (414) 430-9067 or Carl Bruggink at 823-2488 or cell (920) 574-6976 to enter.

Check for lake/town news at  
[www.CloverleafLakes.com](http://www.CloverleafLakes.com)





## Sturgeon swim in Belle Plaine

Giant sturgeon swam up the Wolf River, through part of the Town of Belle Plaine, to spawn below the Shawano dam in April. At left, DNR workers and volunteers capture, measure and tag the sturgeon before onlookers, lining the river. Below, a sturgeon is held while its measurements are recorded.



## 'Bear' Richter dies

A veteran, truck driver, musician, and courthouse employee. Wayne Richter, better known as Bear, did them all. However, we all knew Bear as the friendly guy who took our trash and found our treasures. He worked for the town for 22 years. He died unexpectedly April 2 at age 58.



Whether you went to the transfer station, dump, Belle Plaine Mall, or boutique, Bear was always there. If ever you were looking for something odd, from old skis for a "shot-ski," to an old boot for a planter, you could let him know and when you came back, Bear would have it for you. He was always there, rain, shine, snow, hot, or cold, never missing a day. His hottest day ever worked was 101, coldest -25, all standing next to the big green box. Bear's size 15 shoes will be hard to fill, and he will be missed by all who knew him.

Bear's family would like to convey their extreme thank you to everyone who knew him. All the donations and expressions of sympathy were so very appreciated. They were so touched by everyone who donated (many anonymously) and attended the wake and funeral, from young children to those seasoned adults who shared stories of how Bear has touched their lives.

—By Shanda Hubertus, Long Lake



Customers sort through clothing, shoes and household goods during the Memorial Day weekend rummage sale at the Belle Plaine Community Center. The sale benefited the nIc Foundation, which is based in Belle Plaine.

Ryan Popp, right, has assumed duties as the boat monitor at the town's boat landing on County Y. He will be inspecting boats for invasive aquatic species and educating boaters as part of the Clean Boats Clean Waters program.



# Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association 13th Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Clintonville Riverside Golf Course

## FOURSOME AND SINGLES REGISTRATION FORM

Team Captain, Golfer #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address, phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Address, phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #3 \_\_\_\_\_

Address, phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Address, phone: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL GOLF FEE      Foursome      \$400.00

Single      \$100.00

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ extra dinners at \$25.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

### DONATIONS, SPONSORS

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Gift certificate \_\_\_\_\_ Raffle item \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Please return this form with checks payable to CLPA Golf Outing

**FORMAT:** 4-person Scramble. We will try to match up singles with others. (Reservations are guaranteed for the first 36 foursomes for 12 noon tee-time who return registration form and full fee payment by July 15, 2010.) All paid reservations received by July 15 will get a free T-shirt.

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

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

**CONTESTS:** Will be held for closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt, etc., on all 18 holes, also a putting contest prior to tee-off and during the 18-hole event.

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

**RAFFLE:** Tickets will be available for purchase for a host of great prizes including an autographed Packers football, 2 Packers tickets, many framed prints or paintings, guns and other hunting and sporting equipment, plus six top-line golf clubs. **SPECIAL RAFFLE** for all golfers on July 28 for an annual family golf membership at the Riverside Golf Course, sponsored by owner Al Steichen.

### **SCHEDULE:**

10-11 a.m. — Check in for all golfers

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

12 noon — Shotgun start

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

6-? — Dinner, raffles, awards

### **Mail checks to:**

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association  
P.O. Box 288  
Embarrass, WI 54933

### **OR**

CLPA Golf Outing  
c/o Jim Aumann  
W8366 Rustic Drive  
Clintonville, WI 54929  
(715) 823-5632



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

## Kristof named officer of year

Belle Plaine resident Thomas Kristof, a sergeant in the Shawano County Sheriff's Department, was one of two local officers honored as Officers of the Year by the Shawano Optimist Club in May.

The club recognized Kristof and Shawano Police Officer Tyler Thornborrow for their work and community commitment at the annual Respect for Law Week dinner.

Kristof works as a correctional officer. Sheriff Randy Wright said, "When you're talking about correctional officers, you're talking about a mini-city in that corrections division. They're constantly in contact with people a lot of us don't want to be in contact with."

Kristof also serves as lieutenant of the Shawano Area Fire Department and is a first responder. He is involved in youth baseball, softball and football.

"I enjoy my job and appreciate the nomination," said Kristof, a 17-year veteran of the sheriff's department.



**Tom Kristof holds a plaque honoring him as one of two law enforcement officers of the year. His wife, Kay, and children Kasey and Kendra joined him.**

Kristof lives on Spruce Road with his wife, Kay, who is Belle Plaine town treasurer, and children Kasey, 11, and Kendra, 7.

### Belle Plaine calendar

**June 14:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

**June 14:** Belle Plaine Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

**July 3:** Kiddie Parade, 10 a.m., boat landing.

**July 3:** Pontoon Parade, 6:30 p.m., Pine and Grass Lakes, followed by fireworks at dusk.

**July 4:** Cloverleaf Art by the Lake, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Buzz and Mac's.

**July 12:** CLPA board, 9 a.m., Community Center.

**July 12:** Town Board, 7:30 p.m., Community Center.

**July 24:** Pontoon classroom on shoreland restoration, 9 a.m., boat landing.

**July 28:** CLPA Golf Outing, noon start, Clintonville Riverside Golf Course.