

THE CLOVERLEAF CHRONICLE

News and Updates for Residents, Visitors & Friends of the Cloverleaf Lakes

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Photo courtesy of Gary Schumacher – used with permission.

Welcome to Our First Newsletter

The Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association (CLPA) is excited to share the first issue of The Cloverleaf Chronicle—a newsletter created for everyone who lives on, visits, or enjoys Pine, Grass, and Round Lakes. Our goal is to keep you informed about the health, safety, and enjoyment of our lakes while celebrating the community that surrounds them.

The CLPA was founded in 1930 and has grown into a nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to caring for and protecting our lakes. Guided by our mission to “Preserve Our Lakes for Future Generations,” we work to:

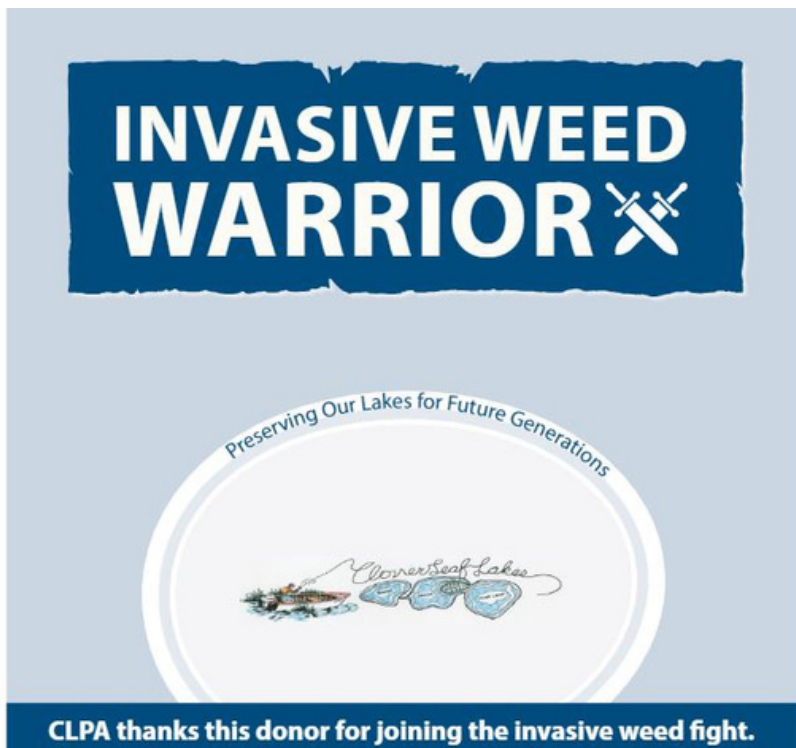
- Protect healthy lakes and native plant life
- Promote neighborhood safety and communication
- Educate the community on aquatic invasive species, water quality, recreation, fisheries, and environmental management

This newsletter is part of that effort. In each issue, you’ll find updates on lake health, safety, and projects supported by CLPA—along with ways you can get involved.

Thank you for joining us in this important work. Together, we can ensure Cloverleaf Lakes remain a place of health, rest, and enjoyment for generations to come.

INVASIVE WEED WARRIORS

An Update on Our Fight Against Aquatic Invasive Weeds



We want to provide an update on invasive weed concentrations in the lakes and share results from our consultant, Onterra, who tracks these species for us. This summary also outlines how donated funds are being managed to support ongoing containment efforts.

The percentage of invasive weeds remains below the level that qualifies for the strict standards that the DNR has for permitting chemical treatment. We will continue to utilize diver removal when and where appropriate in an attempt to contain the invasive weed beds until such point that chemical treatment is the course of action.

We do expect a resurgence in invasive weed growth and your donation is being held in a separate CLPA CD investment account dedicated specifically and only for invasive weed containment.

We thank all donors in our community for the generous donations for the health and well being of our lakes.

Fall 2025

Volume I

Starry Stonewort Monitoring

Starry stonewort (SSW) is an invasive algae already present in Cloverleaf Lakes. While it resembles a plant, SSW is actually a type of macroalgae that forms dense mats on the lake bottom. These mats can crowd out native plants, reduce fish habitat, and interfere with swimming and boating.

CLPA is partnering with the Wisconsin DNR and Onterra to monitor and track SSW in the years ahead. We are also pursuing grants to support this work, ensuring our community has the resources needed to stay proactive in protecting the health of our lakes.

Fighting Invasive Species Together



Photo courtesy of Stacy Doering – used with permission.

Help protect Cloverleaf Lakes from invasive weeds and algae:

- **Clear** plants from props, lifts, and gear
- **Avoid** driving through weed beds
- **Dispose** of weeds away from the shoreline
- **Clean, Drain, Dry** if moving between lakes

Together, these small steps keep our lakes healthy for everyone.



CLEAR WATERS

WHY OUR WATER QUALITY IS AMONG THE BEST IN WISCONSIN

If you've ever admired the clear waters of Cloverleaf Lakes, you're not alone. The strong water quality we enjoy is no accident—it reflects both the natural strengths of our lakes and the care taken to protect them.

Two key factors help explain why Cloverleaf Lakes continue to stand out for water clarity.

1. **Cloverleaf Lakes Sanitary District:** Unlike many lakes with homes on septic systems, our residents are connected to municipal sewer. This means wastewater doesn't leach into the lake, greatly reducing nutrient pollution that would otherwise feed weeds and algae.
2. **The Presence of Marl:** Marl is a natural, chalky material on the lake bottom that helps "lock away" phosphorus—the nutrient algae need to grow. With less phosphorus available, our water stays clearer, healthier, and friendlier for recreation.

How We Monitor Water Quality

CLPA volunteers monitor water quality on all three lakes – Pine, Grass, and Round – through a mix of 5 separate collections and submissions for each lake. Every spring, a full report is completed with a full analysis through UW-Stevens Point (available upon request from the CLPA). Additional clarity and algae checks take place throughout the summer.

The most important metric is total phosphorus, since higher phosphorus leads directly to more algae, murkier and less health friendly recreation conditions. Other measurements – like nitrogen, clarity (Secchi disk), chlorophyll, and minerals – provide extra context and help us spot trends over time. Samples are collected from the top six feet of the lakes, where most recreation and plant growth occurs.

What You Can Do

Everyday choices help protect our clear water:

- Avoid using lawn fertilizers near the lake (they add phosphorus)
- Respect wake hours and rules to prevent stirring up bottom sediments
- Properly dispose of leaves, pet waste, and yard debris — avoid raking or blowing them into the lake or near the shoreline
- Report any suspected violations that could threaten lake health

Thanks to good management, natural advantages, and community support, Cloverleaf Lakes remain among Wisconsin's cleanest and most enjoyable waters.

Together, we can keep them that way for generations to come.



UNDERSTANDING OUR

WATER LEVELS

Water levels are a frequent topic of conversation among lake residents—and for good reason. They affect everything from shoreline health to recreation. While conditions can fluctuate from year to year, the main factors behind those changes are well understood.

WHAT DRIVES WATER LEVELS

Rainfall & Weather

The single biggest driver is precipitation. Periods of heavy rainfall and spring snowmelt can cause rapid and significant rises in water levels. Dry spells, such as the second half of this past summer, help the lakes return to more normal levels.

Watershed & Groundwater

Because Cloverleaf Lakes are spring-fed and connected to the Embarrass River system, natural inflows and groundwater also play a role in how much water enters and leaves the lakes.

Seasonal Trends

CLPA receives regular updates on water levels. Historically, early fall represents the annual low point for Cloverleaf Lakes as rainfall decreases.

CLPA'S ROLE

CLPA does not have control over water levels, but we do monitor conditions and engage partners and community members as needed to help address any issues that may arise.

LAKE SAFETY

& Reporting Violations

A safe and respectful lake is at the heart of CLPA's mission to "preserve our lakes for future generations." While boating is one of the most popular ways to enjoy Cloverleaf Lakes, it comes with shared responsibilities to protect both people and the water.

CLPA does not enforce boating laws—we are not a policing body. Instead, our role is to educate, monitor, and support efforts that keep our lakes safe and healthy. When concerns arise, we work with residents and local authorities to make sure issues are addressed.

Boating Regulations **NEW**

A list of boating regulations for the Cloverleaf Lakes is available on the Town of Belle Plaine's website: [Boating Ordinance PDF](#).

The Town of Belle Plaine recently enacted [Ordinance No. 2025-6](#), which restricts certain artificial wake enhancement on lakes within the town. Because this ordinance aligns with the mission of the CLPA to "preserve our lakes for future generations," CLPA fully endorses Ordinance No. 2025-6.



If You See a Violation **REPORT**

Violations of any boating regulations or local ordinances should be reported directly to the **Shawano County Sheriff's Department** at **(715) 526-3111**.

CLPA encourages residents to follow this process, as law enforcement has the authority to investigate and act on reports.

Our lakes are a shared resource, and it takes all of us - working through the proper channels - to protect them for years to come



STAY CONNECTED WITH CLPA

CLPA is a volunteer-led nonprofit, and your board is here to serve the lakes and the community.

We welcome your questions, ideas, and involvement.



Facebook – Follow us for updates and photos



Monthly Meetings – Dates & times posted on cloverleafakes.com



Website – Visit us anytime at cloverleafakes.com



Contact Us – Reach out to any CLPA board member

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