

CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LETTER. SPRING, 2004

It's SPRING!!!!. The ice went off the lake the first of April and warm weather can only be a few more weeks away. Here's a quick review of our 2003 activities and plans for 2004.

2003 Meetings & Events:

Your lake directors met five times from May through September to conduct lake business – copies of meeting minutes are available from Marc Degroot. We held our annual meeting on June 28, and had good attendance with 26 voting members and additional guests present. Business included re-election of Tom Cassidy, Chuck Davalis and Marc Degroot as continuing directors and election of B.J. Cassidy, Nancy Hutchinson and Tom Brigham as new directors. Relatively minor changes to our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were motioned and approved which allow our organization to become 501c3 tax exempt and addressed membership and voting rights at meetings. Minutes of the meeting and our revised Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are available from Marc Degroot. We held our picnic on July 26, and had 146 members and guests join us in celebrating the summer. The August 31 golf outing drew about 40 “players”, and about 39 attended our annual fall dinner. Altogether, our social events were well attended and enjoyed by all. “Thank You” to the volunteers on our Social Committee who organized and ran these events.

2004 Meetings & Events:

Our directors will meet at the Jacksonport Town Hall on May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 18 to conduct lake business. The meetings start promptly at 0900, and are open to members. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 3 at 1000 at the Jacksonport Town Hall – please join us. The picnic will be on July 24, with fun starting at 1100, and food served at 1200. More details to follow. The annual fall dinner and golf outings are scheduled for September 5, with details also to follow. Please join us at as many events as you can.

Annual dues & Directory Updates:

Dues remain at an affordable \$10 per family. Payment of dues allows membership in the Association, with attendant benefits, including free lake directory, free attendance at picnic and full voting rights. Please take this opportunity to join the Association by forwarding your dues to:

Bea Bellin. 5201 South Lake Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235 – 9532.

We're in the process of updating the Lake Directory, so please forward any changes in ownership, address, phone and e-mail address (optional) directly to Bea. Watch for your new lake directory at the July picnic.

Water Quality – education and safety:

Our effort to maintain good lake water quality includes the voluntary slow-no-wake operation in shallow water. To help educate lake users of this program, we've installed signs at both boat ramps and at the bathing beach indicating shallow areas around the lake. Pamphlets providing the same information are available at the signs, with additional copies available at our annual meeting and picnic. To promote safe use of the lake, we'll be re-installing offshore buoys at both boat ramps showing the 200 foot distance from shore, and swim buoys to identify the swimming area at the bathing beach. Please comply with state laws and regulations when you boat near these areas. Discussions continue with Door County Soil and Water and nearby farmers on installation of erosion buffers along Logan Creek. Monies available for 2003 were used prior to establishing buffer contracts with farmers –we'll try again this year.

Good news from the water sampling effort of last summer – weekly samples taken from May 21 through September 8, 2003 at the bathing beach were analyzed for e-coli bacteria. All results were considered “Good”, therefore not requiring the posting of swimming advisories as have been posted at other Door County beaches, or the closing of our beach to swimming. I understand that sampling will continue in 2004.

Fish Stocking and Survey:

Our third installment of fingerling yellow perch was stocked on August 29, 2003. Our fourth and final (for now) stocking is scheduled for later this year. Reports keep coming in that perch stocked in 2001 and 2002 are being caught, and are in the 10-12 inch size. Fish populations in Kangaroo Lake are being surveyed by DNR staff this spring, with a similar survey tentatively (budget permitting) scheduled for Clark Lake in spring, 2005. We once again need your help to pay our share (about \$1800) of 2004 stocking costs. Both townships have committed to funding 1/3 of the costs of the stocking – thanks to the efforts of John Sawyer. Please send your contribution to Bea Bellin and identify it for this purpose - Thanks very much for your continued support in this effort.

Dam Operation/Lake Level:

We met with both townships late in 2003 regarding our concerns that the dam was not being operated in accordance with DNR requirements. We proposed to both town boards that lake association volunteers operate the dam under Sevastopol supervision. Both town boards listened to our concerns that lake levels were not being properly maintained, and I believe understood that shoreline damage was occurring due to this mis-operation. However, our proposal was not accepted by the town boards since the operators of the dam need to be Sevastopol Township employees for liability protection purposes. The Town Boards did commit to operation in accordance with DNR regulations. So far, operation (with respect to lake level) in late 2003 and early 2004 has been acceptable – we will continue our monitoring effort.

Lake History:

Leslie Goulet is collecting pictures, stories and other historical memorabilia regarding early days on Clark Lake. This is the last call to search your files and forward any information to Leslie. Later this year, we will assemble a booklet with pictures and any other historical information collected.

Lost and New Members:

It is with profound sadness that we reflect on the lake association members and visitors who left us this year. First, John Redman drowned on December 20 while ice boating on the lake. John was Marise Redman's (Erdmann Drive) brother, and a frequent visitor to Clark Lake. Search and Rescue members from Jacksonport and Sturgeon Bay were unable to locate John under the ice soon enough to prevent his drowning. We will be talking with the Jacksonport fire department on how we can help them acquire necessary search and rescue equipment for ice rescues. While the lake is again open, please be very cautious at all times while on the ice.

Other lake members who left us this year are:

- Paul Clark, a founding member of our Association who was very active in lake business.
- Ted Gasper: Long time owner on South Lake Road.
- Jean Corkran: Former owner at 5547 Clark lake Drive
- Erwin Pankow
- Margaret Niblock: Long time summer resident from the NW side of the lake
- Louise Black, wife of Paul Black (deceased) left the lake to be with family in Minnesota.

Please remember them in your thoughts.

The building of new cottages and turn-over of old cottages to new owners continues at a fast pace – new lake land owners are:

- Mr/Mrs. Corbin Asbury 5377 S. Lake Road
- Donald & Sandra Monson (purchased from Carlson, 3554 Weiterman Lane)
- Kevin & Elizabeth Lonergan (purchased from Weiss, 5659 Trails End Court)
- Michael & Ann Johnson (purchased from Jelen, 5381 West Shore Drive)
- Ray & Sue Durkin (purchased from Bashaw, 5572 Clark Lake Drive)
- Patrick & Jean Conney (purchased from Martin, 5400 West Shore Drive)
- Richard & Alice Martin (purchased from Mueller, 5272 West Shore Drive)
- Tim & Lisa Temby (5682 Clark Lake Drive)

501c3 Status:

We received our 501C3 status last year from the federal and state governments, formally granting our organization tax-exempt status. Please consult with your tax preparer as to the implications of this change in status to your ability to claim donations to our organization as a tax deductible donation.

Sand & Gravel Operation

I provided an update to lake members in last years annual letter, and in a separate mailing several months later on the development of a sand and gravel operation by PCI immediately adjacent to the north end of Clark Lake. After a quick approval of the operation by Door County, we appealed the approval at the Door County Board of Adjustment. Many of you sent letters to the Board of Adjustment expressing concern over this operation, and requesting additional review prior to final approval – THANK YOU for those letters!! We met with PCI and land owner representatives, and through negotiation, came to an agreement on the operation and closure of this operation. Many of you also came to our Board of Adjustment hearing, at which time the Board accepted and approved the agreement with PCI. The site began operation last year, and your lake association directors will be monitoring operation to ensure it conforms to our agreement and to conditions of approval imposed by county permits and approvals.

Please have a safe year while enjoying the beauty of Clark Lake and Door County.

Paul Schumacher
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