

CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION END OF SUMMER, 2005

Here's an update on several important items regarding Clark Lake:

ZEBRA MUSSELS:

Previous sightings by lake residents of adult Zebra mussels in Clark Lake have been confirmed by DNR. DNR found all life stages of Zebra mussels in Clark Lake during sampling performed earlier in August. This non-native small mussel (clam) attaches to rocks, piers, boats and other solid materials in lakes, and feed by filtering large volumes of water. They are not desirable to lake ecosystems, and under the right conditions, can and will create significant water quality problems and problems even with the recreational use of the lake. Once in a Lake ecosystem, they can not be removed, so we now have a new permanent resident in the lake.

Zebra mussels more than likely found their way into Clark Lake several years ago in the bilge water or bait bucket in boats transported from either Lake Michigan or the Bay of Green Bay. Despite warning signs at the boat ramps to drain and flush boats prior to launching in Clark Lake, it appears that lake visitors have brought us a new problem. The Zebra mussel is just one of many invasive species recently brought to our Great Lakes in the ballast water of ships from Europe and Asia.

To prevent other invasives from entering our lake, we will be talking with DNR and other lake organizations to identify more effective methods of ensuring visitors and lake residents comply with DNR rules regarding proper cleaning of boats prior to launching – we will keep you informed on this effort.

CLARK LAKE WATERSHED STUDY;

We received the first installment of funding from DNR for our Clark Lake Watershed study. The study is underway, with UW Stevens Point and lake volunteers collecting samples through the summer and into fall. We applied for the second installment of funds several weeks ago, and expect to hear from DNR on those funds in several weeks. We will be holding meetings to share the results of the study and to discuss proposed potential lake management initiatives. We'll let you know when these meetings are scheduled, and would appreciate your attendance.

FISH NEWS:

Preliminary results from spring sampling failed to find large numbers of adult perch. Folks questioned whether the perch we stocked over the past 5 years survived. However, recent fish sampling news is more positive, with numerous young-of-the-year perch observed by DNR in sampling nets earlier this summer. Little perch generally equate to large adult perch in the lake

FIRE PROTECTION:

Brad Bley, Jacksonport Town Fire Chief reminds us that driveways and private roads leading to our homes should be opened up to a width of 15 feet and open to a 15 foot height to allow passage of fire protection trucks. Since this equipment is meant to help us, seems like the removal of branches and an occasional tree is a good trade off.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Your lake directors will be developing an education committee to help spread the word on how to protect the lake –for example, how to reduce the risk of Zebra mussel like invasives from entering the lake. Bob Stracka has agreed to head up this effort. Stay tuned for more details.

ANNUAL DUES & UPDATES:

If you're not already a dues-paying member, dues are at an affordable \$15 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:

Lurie Kull . 5304 West Shore Drive, Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235 .

Please forward any changes in ownership, address, phone and e-mail address (optional) directly to Lurie. We will update our website with this information.

Please have a safe year while enjoying the fall and winter beauty of Clark Lake and Door County. See you next summer....

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