

CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LETTER
FEBRUARY, 2003

This is a longer than normal annual letter – 2002 was a busy year for our lake association. First and foremost, thanks to all who helped in lake activities last year – the strength of our organization is reflected in the hours of volunteer time donated by lake directors and others. Here's a wrap up of 2002, an exciting year for our lake. We accomplished much in 2002, and set the stage for an even busier 2003.

2002

- The June 29 annual meeting was used to update attendees on current lake business and to present the results of the lake use survey.
- The July 27 picnic was well attended with 189 members and guests enjoying the weather, food and fellowship. Many thanks to the social committee who organized the event.
- The August 31 dinner at Andreas was attended by 28, with the September 1 golf outing attended by xx golfers.
- We stocked about 14,000 perch on two occasions in fall. Thanks to John Sawyer for his organizational and planning help and to the town of Jacksonport and Sevastopol for their partial underwriting of the cost and to those who also contributed money to accomplish this stocking. We should be seeing the perch stocked in 2001 this summer as 7-9+ inch long fish.
- Leslie Goulet made progress in collecting historical information on our lake.
- Your lake directors refined a lake use survey drafted by Tom Gass and summarized the 175 responses received. All of you who completed the survey take a bow, we had better than a 60% survey response rate. Good comments were provided, and a summary of the results was distributed to lake members at the annual meeting and to all lake members on July 8. An overview of the action plan is provided below.
 - Maintain program of voluntary slow-no-wake operation in shallow waters and improve resident and visitor awareness of program
 - Improve operation of the dam to minimize ice damage
 - Continue stocking program for 2002 and 2003 – request DNR fish survey
 - Install 2 buoys 200 feet from shore showing slow-no-wake distance from shore
 - Work with Soil & Water Conservation Department on Logan Creek buffers
 - Establish voluntary slow-no-wake period for Personal Watercraft (PWC), Jet boats, Water Skiing, and similar towing activities before 9AM and after 7PM.
 - Maintain buoys at beach – educate residents and visitors on water regulations
- I initiated a discussion with The Nature Conservancy and other stakeholders to review the Clark Lake – Logan Creek – Lost Lake watershed and discuss protection needs and strategies for that important watershed. The group met early in 2002 and as one offshoot of that meeting, a committee of your directors is working with the Door County Soil & Water Department to establish a buffer program for portions of Logan

Creek flowing through agricultural areas. When established, the vegetative buffers would prevent solids from running into the creek, and would help prevent nutrients and other pollutants from entering the lake. Expect to hear more about this effort later in 2003.

- I believe we had a safe summer season on the lake – not hearing about any serious accidents.
- The year was not without its sadness. We lost the following lake members late in 2001 or during 2002 – please take a moment to remember them in your thoughts.
 - Dr. David Grady
 - Jim Sargent
 - Fred & Marion Will
 - John Spindler
 - Cecil Hartung
 - Roger Zahn
 - George Fosmark

Please let me know if I've missed anyone who passed away during 2002, and we will identify the person at the annual meeting or in the next annual letter.

- Welcome to new owners on the lake:

Mike & Kathy Ziereis

Jan Berth

Karl & Karen Schmidt

Roger & Janice Koehn

Please introduce yourselves to these new owners and acquaint them with the lake and our association. Given the number of new homes under construction and the sale of existing homes around the lake, I suspect we'll be welcoming more new members.

2003

- We have an active slate of events for 2003 – please join us and meet your neighbors on the lake. Mark your calendars as follows.
 - **Lake Director Meetings** (May 10, June 14, July 12, August 16, and September 13) are generally held at the Jacksonport town hall at 0900, and are open to members. Please check with a lake director to confirm meeting logistics.
 - **Annual Meeting:** Join us at **10am, June 28** at the Jacksonport town hall. Please note the change in time for our annual meeting. Meeting attendance has been low for the past several meetings, so we're taking the lead of the Kangaroo Lake Association who found a short annual meeting on late Saturday morning is better attended than an evening meeting. Refreshments will be served. This meeting is your opportunity to ask questions on lake issues and find out what's happening in the area.
 - **Picnic:** Let's hope for a nice summer day on July 26 so we can enjoy the picnic at the Jacksonport Lakeside Park. Fun starts at 1100 with food served at 1200. More details to follow.
 - **Golf outing and dinner:** A golf outing is scheduled for August 31. Our social committee is reviewing interest in, possible locations and dates for a fall dinner. More details to follow.
- Our **annual lake dues** remain at \$10 per family. For those residences owned by more than one family, each family may become a member of the Association by paying the

dues, with all the attendant benefits, including free directory, free attendance at picnic, and full voting rights. Please send your dues to either Bea Bellin or me at:

- Paul Schumacher. 1937 Riverview Trail. Fredonia WI. 53021
- Bea Bellin. 5291 South Lake Road. Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235-9532
- Thanks for your support.
- Please forward changes in address, phone and ownership so we can keep the directory up to date. One directory is provided free to each family – more copies are available for \$5 each
- **Clark Lake History:** Leslie Goulet (Leslie Leline) is leading an effort to document the history of the lake by organizing pictures and memories provided by you into a document this year. Additional help would be appreciated in this effort, especially those with computer publishing skills – please contact me with names and phone numbers of volunteers and I'll connect you with Leslie.
- **Lake Survey:** See previous action items.
- **Watershed Protection:** Efforts to review Lost Lake/Logan Creek/Clark Lake watershed protection needs will continue in 2003 with interested stakeholders from Door County. The group will be reviewing the watershed and identifying threats now present along with possible approaches to provide for long term protection. Lake Association directors will work with Door County staff in a vegetative buffer program for Logan Creek.
- **Perch Stocking:** John Sawyer is requesting quotes for stocking another 22,000 or so yellow perch and is seeking the necessary DNR permit. John will be negotiating with suppliers and it appears the townships will help financially. We continue to request that DNR perform a fish survey to document fish populations. This third year of stocking should close out our stocking effort until we get an updated picture of the fish population in the lake. You can also make a difference in this effort with your donation. Please forward your contribution to Bea Bellin and identify it for this purpose. THANKS VERY MUCH for your help in this effort.
- **Education:** One of the outcomes of the lake use survey is to provide information to lake residents and visitors on safe boating and courteous use of the lake. Your board approved the following plan:
 - **Signs:** We've had large lake maps at both landings and at the beach for several years showing shallow areas and providing suggested "rules of the road". The map has been modified to highlight shallow shore areas in an attempt to keep high speed boats and jet skis from these areas. Additional "rules of the road" on safe boat and jet ski use were added to the sign, along with our new voluntary hours-of-operation limit on high speed operation. New, more permanent signs will be installed at the same three locations by this summer.
 - **Pamphlets:** A committee designed and produced copies of a color pamphlet with lake depth contours highlighted to show shallow and deeper areas of the lake. A copy of the pamphlet has been provided with this letter. Additional copies are available from either Bea Bellin or I. Volunteers will be handing this pamphlet out to visitors at the landings as part of the education effort, and will provide copies to area businesses who rent jet skis for use on Clark Lake.

A very special thanks to Carol V. and her daughter for their hard work in producing copies of the pamphlet.

- **Buoys:** We will continue to install buoys at the swim beach to prevent boats from moving under power into the swim area. In addition, we've obtained the necessary permits to install buoys at each boat landing to illustrate the 200' distance from shore. The buoys should be useful for boaters to gauge their distance to shore to ensure proper distance for high speed operation.
- **Gravel Pit: News Flash:** There is a proposal to mine gravel and sand on property about 800-1000 feet NE of the north end of Clark Lake, and about the same distance due east of Logan Creek. The proposed mine area is surrounded on three sides by wetlands. The area is likely a "recharge" area for both ground (our drinking water) and surface water. As background, Premier Concrete, Inc. (PCI), a large sand/gravel/concrete company proposes to mine sand/gravel to bedrock, below the groundwater level. PCI did not provide an environmental assessment with their permit request to estimate the impact of this operation on the quality of our drinking water, Logan Creek and Clark Lake. Despite the lack of this basic information, the Door County Resource Planning Committee approved the permit request on February 13. We are discussing this mine with groundwater experts (UW-Milwaukee and Green Bay), DNR, and other possible stakeholders (Ridges, The Nature Conservancy, other property owner associations) to solicit both technical and political help. Your board approved a plan to file an appeal of the RPC decision at the Door County Board of Adjustment by March 17th. The appeal will cost our association \$300 in filing costs – technical, political and legal work would be on a "pro-bona" basis. Philip Maples will craft our appeal around the premise that PCI should be required to perform environmental studies (by third party or DNR) to assess the impacts of this mining operation. We believe the county should base any permits/approvals of this mine on environmental studies. We urge you to sign the enclosed letter and mail it to the Door County Board of Adjustment as soon as possible to indicate your concern over this mine. We will represent the lake association at a Board of Adjustment hearing (date to be determined).
- **The Nature Conservancy:** I would like to share an opportunity with you to participate in land conservation in Door County. The Nature Conservancy has protected thousands of acres of biologically important lands in Door County, from Jackson Harbor, Mink River, North Bay, Toft Point, northern end of Kangaroo Lake, Shivering Sands, and especially important to us, the Butts property at the north end of Clark Lake. These lands were identified as important to the biologically diverse systems found on the Door Peninsula. As you may have heard, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) played an instrumental role in bringing millions of dollars in Fox River Settlement monies to the Door Peninsula for land protection. In November, 2002, TNC received notice that it would receive 2.3 million dollars for land protection of six specific tracts of land on the Door Peninsula. Recently, TNC was notified that a similar-sized settlement distribution will be made in April, 2003. TNC will be in great position to secure more of these funds for the protection of important Door County natural areas if they successfully complete projects they already are working on and identify additional land protection opportunities. TNC's new challenge is to pay for staff time and other operating costs to identify and purchase

these lands. This cost is not in the 2002-2003 TNC operating budget for the Door Peninsula, so additional funds are needed to meet this new challenge. Your consideration of a monetary gift to the The Nature Conservancy would help meet this new challenge. Gifts to TNC are tax deductible, and if stipulated, would be used exclusively to protect additional lands across the Door Peninsula. Checks should be made out to: The Nature Conservancy: Door Peninsula Project, and mailed to: TNC Door Peninsula Project office, 311 Pennsylvania street, Suite A. Sturgeon Bay, WI. 54235.

Have a safe and prosperous new year, and we look forward to seeing you on the lake and at the events.

Paul Schumacher
President, Clark Lake Association