

Clark Lake Newsletter

November, 2022

A Note From the Editor

Welcome to the Clark Lake Association Newsletter!

This newsletter will be issued on a quarterly basis...November, February, May, and August. The intent is to keep lake residents informed of news and events happening within the Clark Lake community. Anyone wishing to contribute a photo or an article for the next newsletter publication should submit it to Terry Schneider at Carters2052@sbcglobal.net by February 1, 2023.

Happy Holidays From the Clark Lake Association Board!



Upcoming Events from the Social Committee

- **Bonfire & Chili on the Lake - February, 2023 (Date - TBD)**
- **4th of July Boat Parade - July 4th Weekend**

A Message from the Clark Lake Association President... Mike Brunet

First of all, I want to thank those who volunteered for the Association Activities, all those who worked on the various committees, our Board of Directors and Officers and all those who made monetary donations to the Association. Without all of you we would not have had such a successful 2022. I look forward to working with all of you in 2023.

This is our first Newsletter. Please take time to read the articles and announcements in this newsletter. I personally want to welcome each of our new members and thank all of our continuing members for your support of and continued practice of preserving the health of our lake.

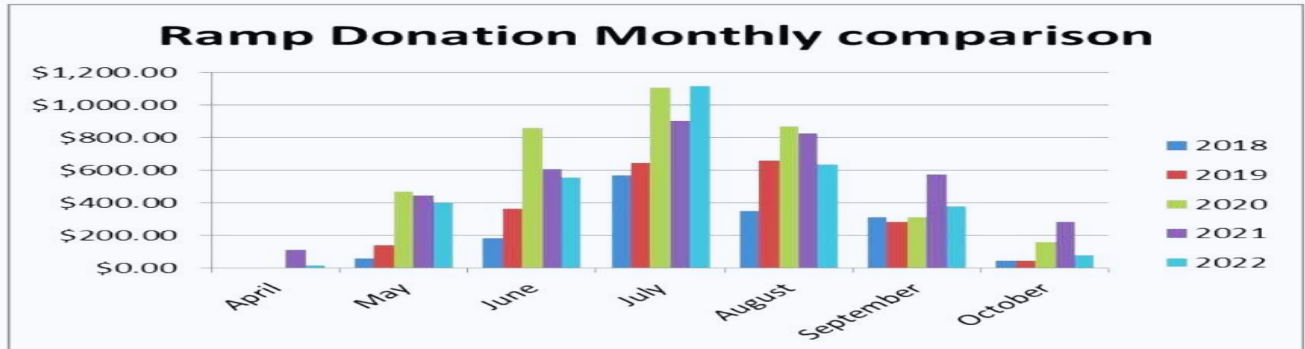
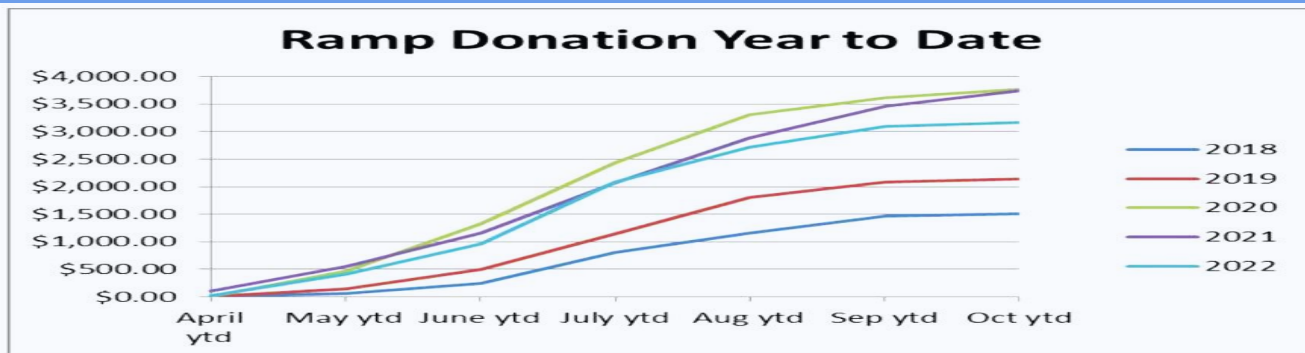
CLAA has about 220 paying members and a Board of eleven active members that are serving three-year terms. CLAA has new Board members, a new Treasurer and new Vice President. Please give them your support. CLAA, like Uncle Sam, needs you to step up and share your leadership abilities and talent to participate on the various committees. The Board members chair the various committees that preserve and protect Clark Lake and provide opportunities for members and non-members to participate in activities on and around Clark Lake and enjoy what we are blessed to have here in Door County. The Board members also plan and organize the events for you to create memories and get to know your neighbors. Board member duties are listed on our web site. CLAA welcomes newer and next generation families to be Board members and get involved with our committees. A current list of the Officers and the Board of Directors can be found on the website. Here is the link from the website URL: <https://www.clarklakewi.com/board-of-directors/>.

This summer, we have heard some residents state that the south end of the lake is filling in and were unable to "float their boats" while others have lost shoreline and trees. The lake levels are set by the DNR. The town of Sevastopol is tasked with maintaining the lake levels and keeping the dam grates clean of debris. The dam is on private property. Therefore, CLAA as an organization has no input or ability to maintain the lake levels. Gwenn Graboyes' Committee has reached out to Sevastopol and is working with the new volunteer Manager of the Dam.

The Board has planned a few events for this winter and next summer – Winter Fire and Ice, Annual Meeting July, Boat Parade July, Kayak Poker Run, and Fall Dinner September. The last two years we had to cancel most of the planned events due to COVID and lack of participation. CLAA hopes use of the website will encourage more of our membership to participate in the many Association's Activities.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Fall and Winter. For those full time lake residents, please keep an eye on your neighbors' place and notify them of power outages, storm damage, etc. I am looking forward to being able to meet in person in and around Clark Lake this next year.

CLAA Ramp 2022 Donations Total \$3173



Vandalism At The West Side Boat Launch

On October 6th, the donation and registration box on the west side ramp was found damaged and was broken into resulting in its early removal from its post this year. The estimated combined theft and loss of revenue is estimated to be about \$90.00.



Replacement West Side Registration Box

The replacement registration box for the west side ramp is now an envelope box and steel money drop box which will be ready for installation in the Spring, 2023.



Change Natural Shores Program to SOS: Save Our Shoreland

Submitted by Mark Weisse

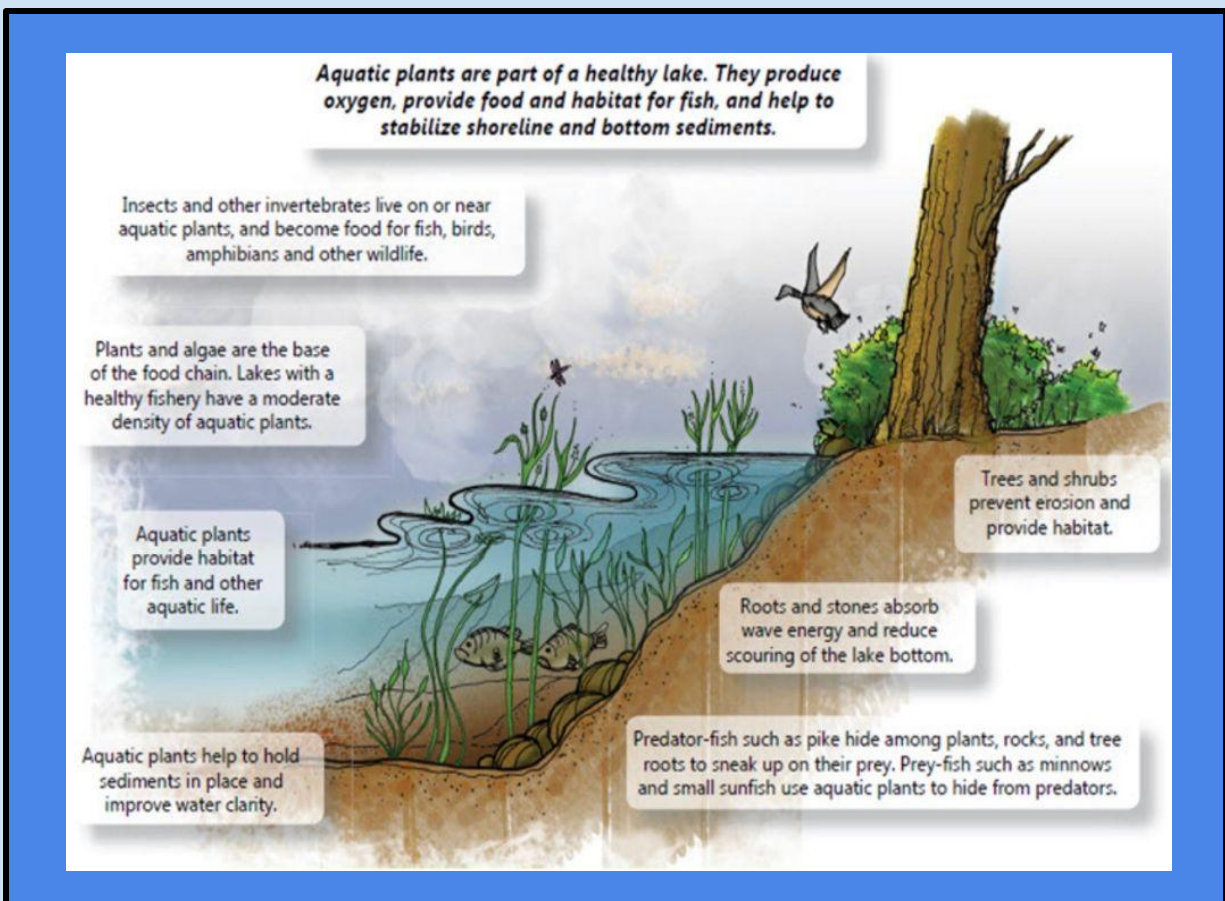
The loss of lakeshore habitat is the biggest threat to the overall health of inland lakes. This threat is a result of the cumulative effects of lakeshore development.

Wisconsin defines “shoreland” as within 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet of a river or floodplain. Almost all CLAA members meet these criteria even if not directly on the waterfront.

Owning a shoreland property and deciding how it is developed is a choice. We want our members to be knowledgeable stewards so they make choices in the best interest of Clark Lake and its shoreland.

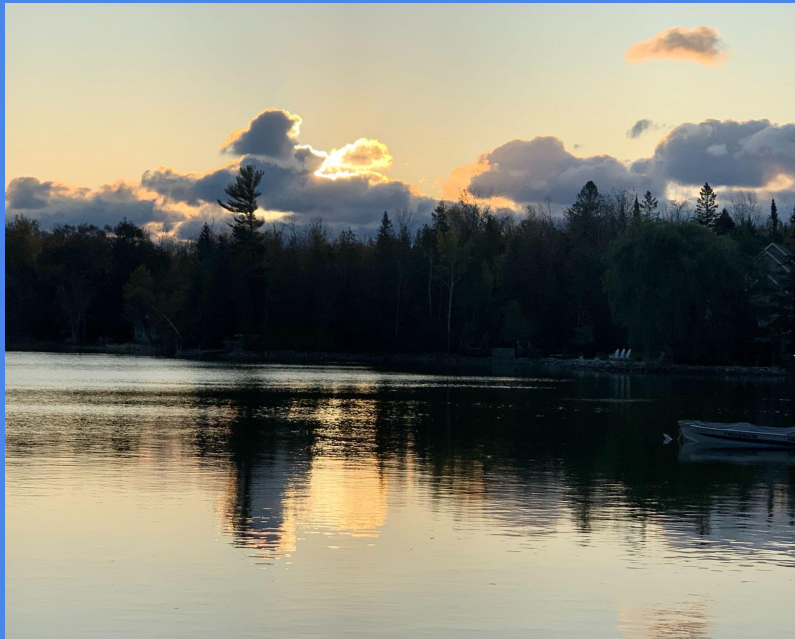
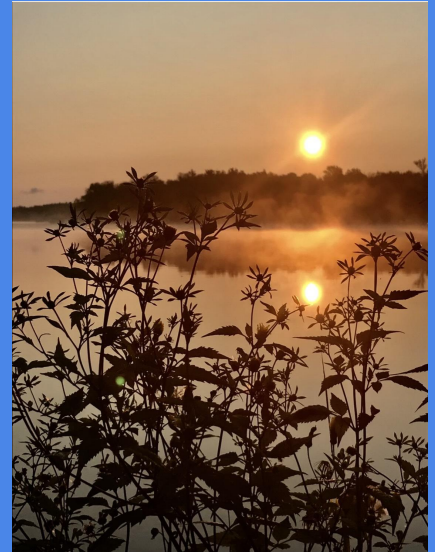
The WQVC committee started our Natural Shores educational and action program a few years ago. We adopted a list of goals for each owner and created a 5 year cycle of surveys, educational material and projects guiding members toward choices to protect water quality and habitat.

The committee is renaming this initiative **SOS: Save Our Shoreland**. We will be transitioning the website, our e-mails, Facebook posts and other educational material to include the **SOS** logo. Please give close attention to **SOS** items so you can ensure Clark Lake remains a special place.



A View From the Shore...

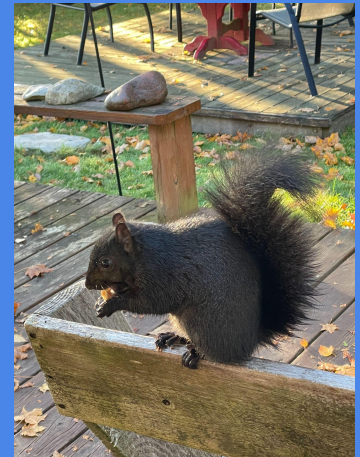
One cannot live around Clark Lake without appreciating the sunrises, sunsets, and wildlife on the lake. The peace and serenity that surrounds this lake makes Clark Lake a hidden gem in Door County.



Life Along the Shoreline...



A variety of wildlife can be seen in our yards at any given moment. The porcupine and fox need to be carefully avoided, but it's fun to feed the gray and black squirrels that roam around our cottages.



Many varieties of mushrooms and fungi can be found in the fall of the year in Whitefish Dunes State Park. Great hiking trails accessible to those living along Clark Lake makes it easy to observe and photograph the mushrooms.

Photos Submitted by Tara Meyer



Looking Back to our Past...

Clark Lake has a rich history that extends through generations of families that are still, today, living on Clark Lake. Some families have had ownership of their waterfront properties for almost a century. Gradually, though, the old quaint cottages and the fireplaces of yesteryear are being replaced by new, larger homes as many living along the lake are starting to make their Clark Lake residence a year-round home. Those families who grew up on the lake have interesting histories and stories to tell while spending their summers here. Nest O' Rest, located on Grady Road, is one of the oldest standing cottages that still remains on the lake. Perhaps you would like to share family stories and photographs as "old" Doc Grady's family has written for this newsletter.



Dave & Doris Grady

Nest O'Rest

By Kris Grady Mitchell

(with the help of Hildy Grady, Paul Grady, Beth Partain, and Wendy Gajewski)

The year is 1929. Doc Edwin Peter Grady, my grandfather and a dentist in Kewaunee Wi, has had a conversation with his doctor. As a dentist in town, Doc works five and a half days a week and is on call 24/7. His doctor feels that he needs some time off to get away and recommends that he take up a hobby. "How about golfing or fishing?" he says.. His friend Frank Nepil tells him his fishing tales about Clark Lake and Doc Grady decides to take up fishing. He buys a piece of land in the southwestern corner of Clark Lake with 200 feet of shoreline right next to Frank.

On the other side of Frank Nepil is Ephraim Broderick also with ties to Kewaunee and across the outlet John Kahlenberg from Manitowoc also owns a cottage. Generations later, we would hear stories about these old-timers and Debbie and Jamie Broderick became playmates for my brother, Paul, and me.

That year was the beginning of many summer weekends on Clark Lake for Doc and Doris. My grandmother, Doris, would pack up the car on Saturday morning and the moment Doc was done with work at noon they would travel to Clark Lake to escape the pressures of work, to fish, socialize, and relax.

Later in 1929, a simple cottage was built on cement blocks. It had three small bedrooms (just enough room for a bed), kitchen/dining area, and a front "sleeping" porch. When he wasn't fishing, my grandfather would sit on the porch and smoke his pipe while looking out over the lake. The kids in the cove would gather around him as he spun tall tales (He also liked to play practical jokes). He had many of them convinced that the watermelon seeds they spit in the water grew huge melons in the center of the lake.

The porch wasn't heated but in the main part of the cottage my grandfather's brother, Oscar Grady, constructed a fireplace. It kept the bedrooms and eating area warm on cool nights and still keeps the cottage warm today. He also built an outdoor chimney (still present today) with a place to cook over the flames. The cottage had no electricity or indoor plumbing. A shared hand pump on Grady road was used for drinking water and there was, of course, an outhouse. When I was young, it still was on the property and used occasionally. My father, David, was about 12 years old when the cottage was wired for electricity in 1944. I am sure that my grandmother was relieved but my dad said, "Now the charm of the cottage is gone." Before then, I can only imagine how difficult it was for my grandmother to plan food for the weekend and keep it cold until served, especially when they had parties or guests.

The lake was very different back then. Cows wandered down the hill from Miller's farm to graze and drink from the lake. There were many bulrushes along the shore which are gone now and there was no dam. Our cove was very shallow with sand bars and a great place for children to splash and play. My dad built a raft and sailed the seas with his dog exploring the lake. But most of all, I marvel at the pictures of Doc showing off his full stringers of large fish.

The long wooden pier sat on a concrete slab that grandpa had installed. Because the ground was marshy, he installed a wooden walkway from the cottage to the pier. He had two wooden fishing boats. One had a ten horse power motor on it and the other was a sixteen. My dad learned how to waterski behind that sixteen horsepower motor! Each spring the boats were "sunk" so the wood would swell and make them seaworthy. In later years, my brother remembers epoxying fiberglass sheets to the hulls eliminating the need to sink the boats.

Nest O'Rest (continued)

By Kris Grady Mitchell

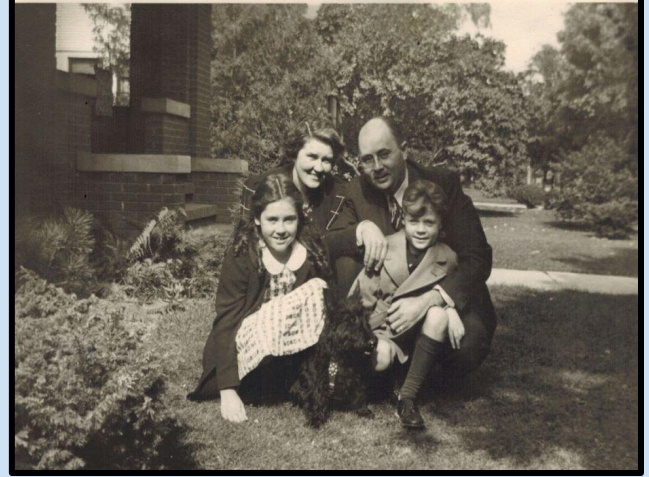
(with the help of Hildy Grady, Paul Grady, Beth Partain, and Wendy Gajewski)

Grandpa loved to fish and would coerce my cousins, Beth and Wendy, to fish with him when they were there. Although they weren't excited about getting up at 6 am, they knew that he would have candy in his pockets as a treat for them. Out on the lake, they were instructed to throw out their line saying "fishy, fishy in the brook, come and bite upon my hook." Meanwhile, he would throw out his own good luck charm, cookie jar tobacco, on either side of the boat.

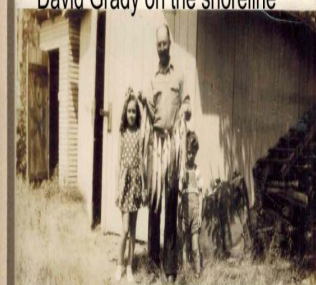
The cottage was a place of fun and rest. Back in the day, many of the cottages were given names. If you spot the cottage today, there is a sign above the door that says "NEST 'O REST." My great grandfather came to visit often and thought it the most restful place. He coined the name that has stuck to this day.

Five generations have enjoyed all that Clark Lake offers; waterskiing, swimming, playing in the water, boating, beautiful sunrises, lazy afternoons and of course fishing. The cottage continues to be our restful place where we can escape our hectic lives and gather family close. We, as the Grady descendants, are ever so grateful that Doc Grady decided to take up fishing and bought a corner of Clark Lake. He left us a legacy that we've treasured for almost a century.

Doris and Doc Grady with Nancy and David



David Grady on the shoreline



Doc Grady, Nancy and David (1930's)



Shoreline picture of Doris and kids (1930's)



David's raft

