

Clark Lake Newsletter

March, 2023

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. This issue is delayed a month due to the release of the annual letter sent out to all members. The intent of this newsletter 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 May 1, 2023.

Welcome to
Spring from the
Clark Lake
Association
Board!



Upcoming Events from the Social Committee

- **4th of July Boat Parade - July 4th Weekend - DJ with song selection input**

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

Welcome to CLAA's Spring Newsletter.

Winter started late, but we are hoping for early ice out and spring. By now members should have received the Annual Newsletter and 2023 Dues notice. Please review your contact information and pay your dues promptly. Our team is updating and publishing the CLAA membership book in 2023 (published every two years).

CLAA is your organization, since please volunteer your time and talent on one or more of the CLAA committees to meet other members and keep our lake safe and healthy.

I hope to see you on the lake.

Mike Brunet

Fire and Ice

By Terry Schneider

The first *Fire and Ice* organized by the Clark Lake Social Committee was held on Saturday, February 11th, on the frozen lake. A gathering of about 20 people enjoyed warm cider, beer, and a sunny afternoon on the Southwest corner of the lake. Sleigh rides, shotskis, and corn hole games, along with great conversations were the provided activities. A big thank you goes out to Dick Martin, Tim Temby, and Betty Bellinger and the rest of their family helpers and committee members who made this such a fun and memorable event!

**Clark Lake Advancement
Association**



Fire & Ice





Is It Safe To Eat Fish Caught In Clark Lake?

Submitted by Mark Weisse

Ice fishing is coming to a close but spring is just around the corner and another round of angling will commence. Many of us have heard about the contamination of the soil and well water in the Marinette area across the bay with PFAs and now fish with elevated levels have been identified in Green Bay tributaries. Do we need to worry about eating Clark Lake fish?

The DNR has released the 2023 update for their booklet [“Choose Wisely: A Health Guide for Eating Fish in Wisconsin”](#). There is also a site where you can [check your favorite fishing hole](#) around the state for fish consumption advice. It is well worth linking to the booklet for detailed information but let's look at the recommendations pertinent to Clark Lake.

STATEWIDE SAFE-EATING GUIDELINES FOR MOST OF WISCONSIN'S INLAND (NON-GREAT) LAKES WATERS

Species	Women under 50 and children under 15	Women over age 50 and men
Bluegill, crappies, yellow perch, sunfish, rock bass, bullheads, inland trout	1 serving per week	Unrestricted
AND		
Walleye, pike, bass, catfish, all other species not listed here	1 serving per month	1 serving per week
AND		
Musky	Do not eat	1 serving per month

Is It Safe To Eat Fish Caught In Clark Lake? (continued)

Submitted by Mark Weisse

The fish consumption advisories are based on three potential contaminants: Mercury, PCB and PFA. So far there is no evidence of PCB or PFA in Clark Lake so we should follow the advice for any inland water to protect ourselves from mercury. The health benefits of eating fish do not increase by eating more than 1 or 2 meals per week.



The dam and fish gate are not perfect in preventing Lake Michigan and Green Bay fish from entering the lake. Every year we find the occasional salmon or trout that has migrated up so if you catch any of the fish on the “exotic species list” **refer to the booklet or DNR website about Green Bay and Lake Michigan precautions before eating them.**

Clark Lake Exotic species: Yellow Perch, Rainbow Trout, Coho Salmon, Lake Whitefish, Lake Trout, Smelt





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

OSHKOSH

SPRING 2023 DOOR COUNTY PRIVATE WELL MONITORING PROGRAM

TESTING PARAMETERS

-  Total coliforms/*E. coli* (quantification)
-  Nitrate (Nitrate + nitrite as N)

Cost is only \$30*

**Discounted rate for the first 300 registrants; \$45 for those registering after the first 300 registrants.*

Optional arsenic, pH, alkalinity, hardness and iron tests available at an additional cost of \$25

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The University of WI Oshkosh has been offering discounted well water quality testing through this program since 2019. The goal of this program is to provide education about the importance of testing your well water as well as build a database of groundwater quality data in Door County.

HOW IT WORKS

- RSVP using the link or QR code provided below by March 24th
- Receive sampling kit in mail
- Attend a virtual forum to learn how to sample
- Return your kit April 28th or 29th at designated drop-off locations
- Receive your results & countywide summary of study



Registration accepted through March 24th

RSVP online at <https://uwo.sh/doorco-wells-spring23> or using the QR code

**Prepayment using a credit card is accepted when you RSVP online, otherwise mailed checks are accepted made out to UW Oshkosh. Note that sampling kits will not be mailed out until payment is received.*

Sample drop-off is April 28th & 29th – mark your calendars!

For more information, contact Carmen Ebert at eric@uwosh.edu or (920) 424-3148

"Guys" On Ice

By Terry Schneider

One might ask, "How long is the ice fishing season on Clark Lake?" Well, the answer to that is, "It depends on the thickness of the ice! The better the ice, the longer the season. The poorer the ice, the shorter the season." Unfortunately, for ice fisherman on Clark Lake this year, the really poor ice conditions have shortened the season. When you see the shanties placed on the lake, the season starts. When they are removed, the season ends. Ice fishing in Door County was once a necessity. Today fishermen dig their holes to catch bass, walleye, pike, and perch mainly for sport. Ice must be at least 4 to 6 inches thick to safely walk and fish on the lake. It needs to be 5 to 6 inches thick for vehicles such as ATVs or snowmobiles to move about on the frozen surface. Wind speeds and ice cracks can reduce safety and stability of the ice. Due to the warming temperatures this year, the favored time to ice fish on the lake has been cut short. Shanties placed on the lake had to be removed to the shore due to the strong winds and breaking ice. The one positive for the fishermen is that when the ice starts to break up and melt, Spring fishing on open waters is on the way!



The Curse of the Snowplow

By Terry Schneider

One cannot drive the back roads of Door County in the winter without seeing a few clipped mailbox posts lying alongside the road after a snowstorm. Unfortunately, it has happened on West Shore Drive along Clark Lake. It is a curse for those living along narrow roads with little shoulder area, and it is frustrating to a homeowner. If the plow wipes out your mailbox, it is not personal. The snowplow driver's goal is to make roads passable and safe to drive on. If you are a victim of a downed mailbox, you can find information at the Door County Highway Department website at <https://co.door.wi.gov/> to determine if you qualify for costs related to damaged mailboxes.



Mailbox Information

It is the County's policy to reimburse the property owner for the cost of materials only if the mailbox was installed to the specifications below that have been approved by both the county and US Postal Service. In addition, no reimbursement is provided if the damage was caused by snow, ice or slush thrown by the plow blades.

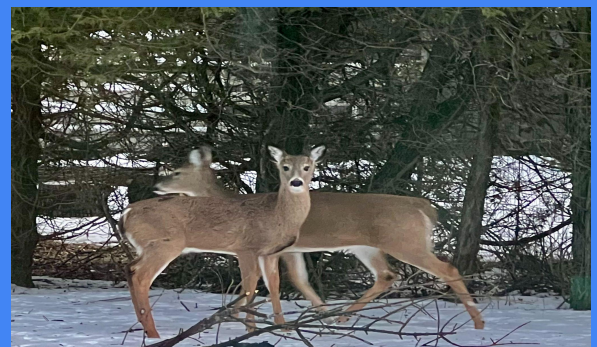
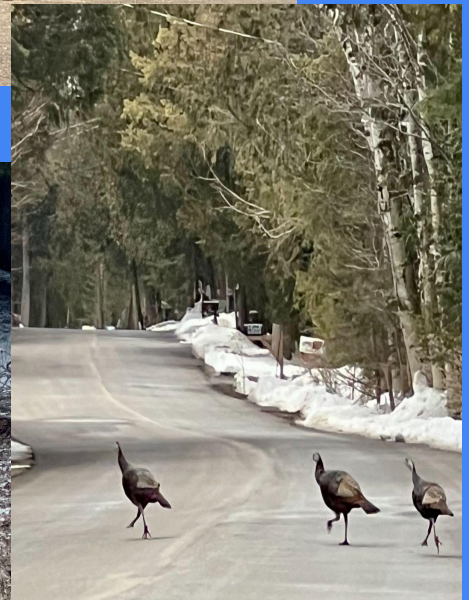
It is the County's policy that we only reimburse for damage done to mailboxes from direct contact by snow removal equipment. The county will reimburse the property owner if:

1. A Highway Department staff member confirms the damage was done by physical contact of the snow removal equipment with the mailbox and/or post that was installed to the correct specifications
2. The mailbox and post were in good condition before the damage occurred
3. The County will only reimburse the property owner for the cost of a standard U.S. Postal Service approved mailbox and post. The property owner must provide the county with a copy of their sales receipts to receive reimbursement

This information was found directly on: <https://www.co.door.wi.gov/484/Mailbox-Information>

Clark Lake...a Sanctuary for Wildlife

The solitude of winter and the lack of vegetation on trees and on the forest floor opens up spaces to observe the abundance of wildlife that inhabits the area around our beautiful Clark Lake. Clark Lake really becomes a quiet spot once the cottage home owners and visitors leave the lake for the winter season. The yearlong residents are left with the quiet sounds of nature. Surprisingly, the outside can be pretty noisy along the lake. Coyotes howl in the distance. The geese seem to honk non-stop, causing their honking to echo across the frozen lake all night. The woodpeckers hollow out trees to find their food and their pecking reverberates in the cool, crisp air. Other times, when the wind dies down, one is engulfed in complete silence. Deer move silently along the shoreline looking to drink. Wild turkeys move about scrounging for food or seeds. River otters scamper across the frozen lake, diving into open water to search for a meal. Clark Lake is certainly nature's paradise in the winter!



Looking back on our past...

History of Schumacher Home

Submitted By Paul Schumacher



Don Schumacher (dad) doing electrical work in 1947. Note lower screened-in front porch for cottage.

The area along Butts Road, far NW shore of Clark Lake, was one of the first areas on the lake to develop. The 2014 DVD entitled "Yesteryear's Clark Lake" describes early development on the lake. The Schumacher home started life in 1915 as a summer-only cottage owned by Mr. Schimmel, from Sturgeon Bay. The one and a half story high wooden structure had screened-in front porches on the first and second floor, with four small bedrooms, kitchen and living room. Like most structures built then, restroom facilities were out back. My grandfather, John Kolar, who was working on the World War II submarine program in Manitowoc, was looking for a cottage on a lake with good fishing and swimming. Grandpa and his son, Chatfield (Bud) went on a road trip, and asked at what is now Mr. G's Logan Creek Grill if a cottage on Clark Lake was available for purchase. The bartender told them of Mr. Schimmel's cottage and his interest in selling. Before long, the cottage on Butts Road was purchased.

History of Schumacher Home (continued)

Submitted By Paul Schumacher



Back of cottage in 1948, showing small attached garage. Uncle Bud, Don Schumacher and John Kolar (in background) doing foundation work.

Front of Cottage in 1948. Screened porches gone.



History of Schumacher Home (continued)

Submitted By Paul Schumacher

Early projects included putting in a pier, leveling the cottage and enjoying it. Shortly after the war, my grandfather had two sons-in-law to help with projects. The cottage was electrified, a well drilled and indoor plumbing/septic system installed. With time, my grandparents, adult children, and their families, (a total of nine grandchildren, and eight adults) enjoyed the cottage and lake. The space for the small attached garage was used to enlarge the kitchen and dining area. The carpentry work was done by Mr. Brungraber, who lived nearby. Three travel trailers were used in summer to extend the cottage capabilities. Almost everyone learned how to swim, water ski, sail and fish during those years. Some of the old-timers on the lake may even remember rock and roll music being played on the front lawn by a band, made up of four cousins (David Arens, Tom and John Kolar, and Paul Schumacher). Since time keeps on slipping into the future, my grandparents left the cottage and land to their children, my mom (Audrey), Uncle Bud and Aunt June Arens as a life-estate.

A short time later in 1990, I bought the cottage and land from the three siblings and started modernizing the cottage into a four season structure. By 2005, while planning for retirement, my wife, Deb Logerquist, and I remodeled the cottage, preserving the 1915 portion of the structure and had a new home built behind and alongside. We blended the new construction together with the original cottage, and enjoy it to this day.



South side of combined new home (Left side of photo) and original cottage (right side of photo).