

# Clark Lake Newsletter

September, 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. 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](mailto:Carters2052@sbcglobal.net) by November 15, 2023.

Welcome to Fall  
from the Clark  
Lake Association  
Board!

Happy Labor Day  
To ALL Of You



Message Mark Weisse for details about becoming a  
Clark Lake Ramp Volunteer



Please sign up to be a Clark Lake Ramp Volunteer  
Educate boaters how to preserve our lake and prevent the spread of aquatic invasive  
species  
2 hour shifts are available every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer.  
*Even one shift can make a difference.*

Upcoming Events from the  
Social Committee

- Board Meeting 9/9
- Fall Dinner - 9/9
- Fire & Ice early Feb. '24

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

Greetings Clark Lake Association Members:

This is our Fall Newsletter. Please take time to read the articles and announcements in this newsletter. I want to emphasize four main items:

**Volunteer** – This is your lake. The Board serves as your representative for Clark Lake. The Board provides various activities for the health and safety of the lake and fun activities for members, their families, friends, and neighbors to enjoy the lake and its valuable surroundings. But we cannot do it alone. Please get involved and give us a few hours of your time and talent.

**Newsletter** - CLAA is looking for historical items to highlight in the Newsletter. Please share items (articles, photos, stories, etc.) with Terry. Again, this is your newsletter.

**Directory** – You should have received your BLUE Directory. If not, please contact your Board member. The online version password has changed. Please review your contact information for accuracy.

Please Contact Membership Chairperson with updates.

Continued onto the next page...

# Continuation of...

A Message from the Clark Lake Association President

Mike Brunet

Lake Safety/Fish Study – I keep sending friendly reminders To Nick Legler, DNR Biologist to complete the DNR Fish Study done Spring 2019. Also, CLAA is working on the required permits to locate an informational buoy along the south shore to mark the extent of the four ft. depth in order to protect the shore bottom. As most members are aware, the four-foot depth extends about one thousand feet out from the south shore of the lake. If all goes well, CLAA will have an anchor and buoy ready to place in the water in Spring 2024. It is reported that Kangaroo Lake has issues with fishsticks (fallen trees anchored to the shore) breaking away due to ice shove damage. If anyone observes this on Clark Lake, please contact any of the board members to get these returned and anchored so they do not cause a boating hazard. If you have trees that fall into the water, please let us know. They are fantastic for fish habitat.

CLAA has three open Board positions. Please consider committing your time and talent for a Board position. Review duties on CLAA website, [clarklakewi.com](http://clarklakewi.com). 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.

The Board has planned a Fall Dinner at the Lodge at Leathem Smith, September 9, 2023. This is a great event to socialize and meet your Clark Lake neighbors. This should be a great time to hear about some family history around the lake. At the September Board meeting, the Board will elect a President and Secretary to serve a two year term. If anyone is interested, please contact any of the board members before 9/9/23.

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Summer. For those full-time lake residents, please keep an eye on your neighbors' place and notify them of vandalism (mailboxes, mail), power outages, storm damage, etc. For those leaving Clark Lake until next Spring, we wish you safe journeys and good health. I am looking forward to being able to meet you in person and around Clark Lake this next year.

Mike Brunet

## Volunteer Recognition at Annual Meeting

By Mark Weisse

The WQVC committee recognized volunteers who have aided them and the entire CLAA organization by presenting each of them with a custom designed CLAA Volunteer hat. We hope they wear them proudly so everyone is aware of their service to our lake community.



**Volunteers included:** Chuck Birringer, Mike Brunet, Pat Canney, Jill Carstens, Frank Christensen, Bob DeFaut, Ralph Dunn, Fred Foreman, Bob Fox, Bill Gasper, Leslie Goulet, Gwenn Graboyes, Kristin Grady-Mitchell, Bill Hebal, Victoria Jansen, Varol Kalscheur, Scott Laufenberg, Richard Martin, Dale Mitchell, Christine Moe, Rick Mrozinsky, Joe Otto, Peter Ries, Terry Schneider, Paul Schumacher, Kathy Steinmetz, Tim Temby, Betty VanBellinger, Mark Weisse



# UW Oshkosh Well Water Testing Spring 2023 Clark Lake Watershed

By Mark Weisse

Jacksonport Drop off site received 47 samples, which is 24% of the total 195 Door County samples. Volunteers from CLAA and the Jacksonport Women's Club staffed this site.

The Clark Lake Contributing Area (watershed) had 24 samples analyzed

**Bacteria coliforms** 23 (96%) were bacteria free and 1(4%) had 1-10 bacteria present which can be from sampling contamination. The Door county numbers were 95% and 5%.

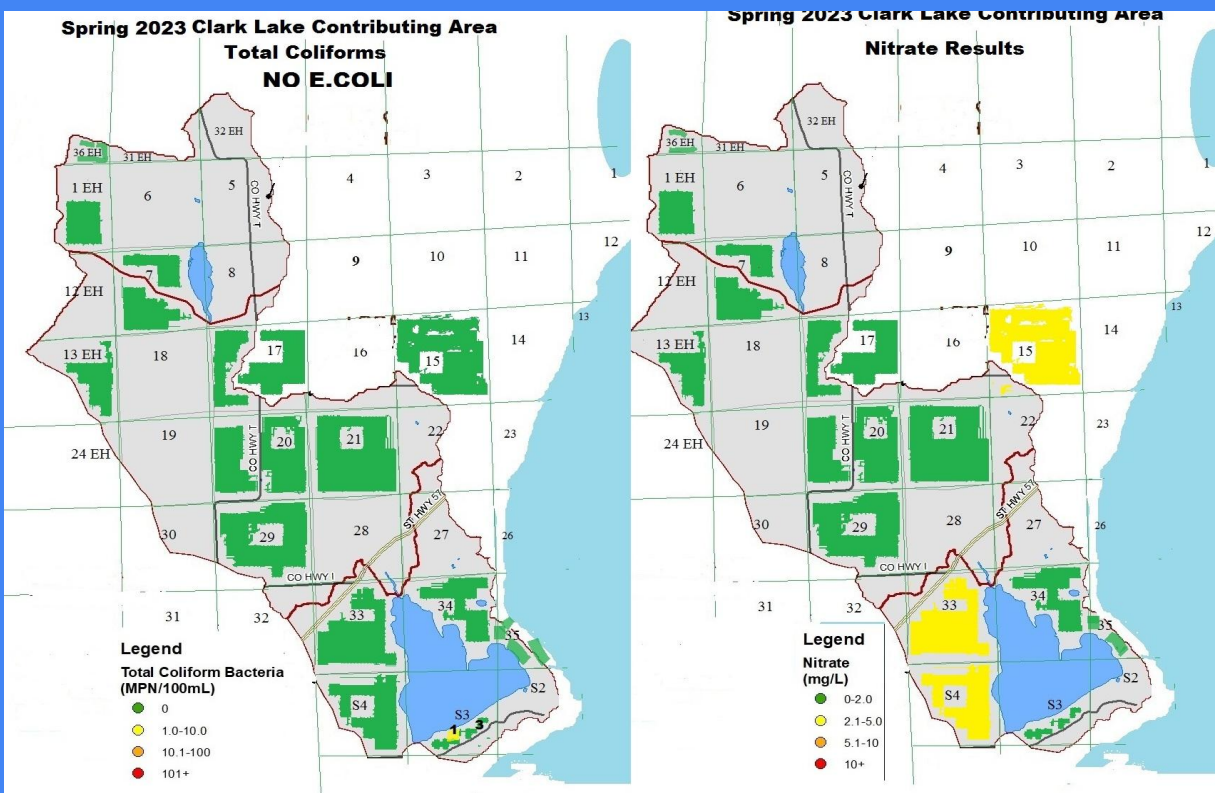
There was no **E.coli** detected in any of the samples in the Clark Lake watershed or anywhere in the county.

**Nitrate levels** were non-detectable in 79% of samples in the watershed compared to 77% for the whole county. 21% of the watershed samples had levels between 2.1-5, which is well below the danger level of 10. The SW part of the watershed is where most of these wells are located.

Overall, the results are similar to the past. Watch for the Fall sign up and contribute your data to this ongoing project.

A pdf of the Spring 2023 Door County results is available as a link on the homepage of the WQVC website . Reach the website through a link on the CLAA website WQVC Committee page.

Following are the maps showing results for each section of the watershed.



# Fall 2023 Oshkosh Water Testing

By Mark Weisse



**UWO** UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**OSHKOSH**

## FALL 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 below by September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Receive sampling kit in mail
- Attend a virtual forum to learn how to sample
- Return your kit October 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> at designated drop-off locations
- Receive your results & countywide summary of study



Registration accepted through September 22<sup>nd</sup>

RSVP online at <https://uwo.sh/doorco-wells-fall23> 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 October 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!**

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

# Bulrushes Are Good For The Lake

By Mark Weisse



Important

The aquatic plant CLAA assists in removing is phragmites. Our bulrushes are a valuable resource and every effort is made to preserve and protect them.

## What are the advantages of bulrush?

Shore stabilization: roots, breakwater if dense and mature

Fish: food, egg-laying substrate, cover young fish

Birds: food, cover for nesting

Water quality: beneficial bacteria, near shore reduce run off, turbidity

Aquatic macrophytes: bulrush beds stabilize the sediment and protect from resuspension and can improve water clarity around the lake.

## Who benefits from bulrush?

Individual land owners: shore stabilization

Everyone water quality: reduce runoff, roots house beneficial bacteria,

Fishermen: fish feed on zooplankton, hide from predators, egg laying substrate

Nature enthusiasts: variety of wildlife, plants

Lake: diversity and protection from poor gene pool

## Who might object to protecting and expanding the bulrush beds.

Boaters: more restrictions on areas for operation.

Swimmers: less open water.

Wading: feet entangled in shoots when wading

Individual landowners: more restrictions on shore/ near shore use

Culturally conditioned "messy appearance"

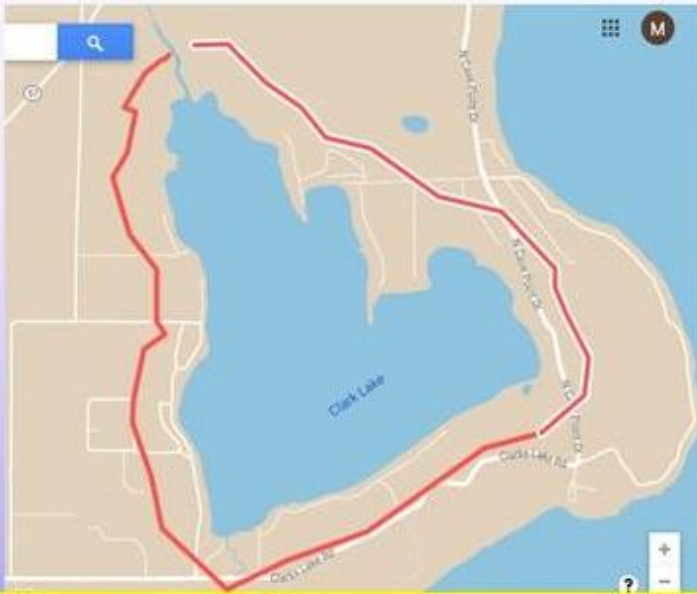
Learn more about this valuable asset at the WQVC website and follow the link to a bevy of information.

<https://sites.google.com/view/claa-water-quality-committee/home>

SOS: Save Our Shorelands is more than bulrushes and buffers  
By Mark Weisse

# Shore Uplands

What can we do?  
Reduce the workload of the buffer.



**Door County  
shoreland  
ordinance in-  
cludes up to  
1000 feet from the  
lake edge**

## *Curb Pollutants at their source*

**Safely store household toxins, avoid fertilizers, correct eroding soils and maintain your septic system.**

## *Cut Runoff*

**Reduce runoff that picks up pollutants and carries them to the water by minimizing hard surfaces.**

## *Capture & Cleanse*

**Capture and cleanse pollutant-carrying runoff before it reaches the water-with shoreland buffers, rain barrels or rain gardens.**

# SOS: Buffer Buddies

By Mark Weisse

**SOS: Buffer Buddies Clark Lake site visits and inventory of plants.**

## Give Natives a Chance everywhere on your property

Buffer Buddies is the WQVC program to facilitate choosing native plants anywhere on your property.

One question we often hear is: “How do I know if a plant is good or bad?”

We offer visits to member properties with a conservationist who teaches you how to answer this question. Everyone is welcome at these expeditions; they kick off with a short tutorial using examples at the West side demonstration project and then proceed to one or two properties for more identification and helpful tips. Meet at 3Pm on Tuesday Aug 8th and Friday Aug 11th.

Plants identified, including native and non-native and available as pdf or searchable excel file can be found by following the link on the homepage of the WQVC website.

You can access the link below to learn more on the CLAA Water Quality and Vegetation Committee website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/claa-water-quality-committee/home?authuser=0>



# CLAA Clothing Sale

By Mark Weisse

Consider purchasing an item of clothing to show your support for CLAA. This is not a fundraiser but a way to display your team spirit.

Short and long sleeve T shirts include the CLAA logo on the front and SOS logo on the back. The polo shirt and jersey jacket only have the logo on the front.

Many items are available now. Additional orders take about 2 weeks to fill. See the News and Notices section of the CLAA website that includes links to more detailed descriptions and an order form.

<https://clarklakewi.com/2023/07/17/claa-clothing-sale-announcement/>



## 2023 CLAA CLOTHING SALE ORDER NOW ONLINE



More information and link to ordering form on CLAA website

<http://www.clarklakewi.com/>



**Front**                      **Back**  
Size S,M,L,XL \$18  
Size 2XL-5XL \$20



**Front**                      **Back**  
Size S,M,L,XL \$22  
Size 2XL-5XL \$24



**Polo**  
logo only on front  
Size XS,S,M,L,XL \$27  
Size 2XL \$29  
Size 3XL-5XL \$35



**Jersey/ Jacket**  
color is gray  
logo only on front  
Size XS,S,M,L,XL \$50  
Size 2XL-4XL \$52

# West Shore Drive Is Receiving A Facelift

By Terry Schneider

County Road WD or Clarks Lake Road is in the process of being resurfaced. Road repair is presently taking place in the Town of Sevastopol from Highway 57 to West Shore Drive. After a short cure period the road will be shouldered and center lined stripped. The expected completion date will be mid September, weather permitting. Hopefully the road will be made a bit safer for cyclists and pedestrians as they travel the road to the park and around the lake.



## Please consider volunteering for the Clark Lake Association...

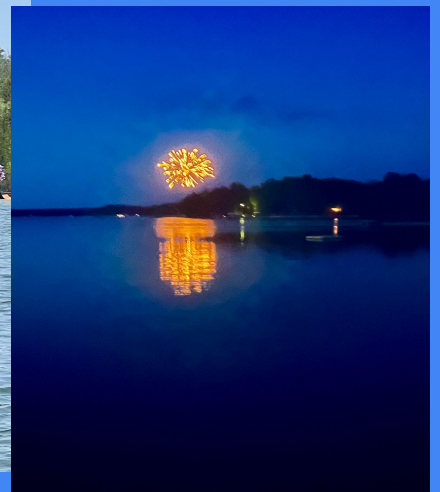
- Help put in and take out The Ridges dock
- Monitor the West Side Boat Ramp
- Assist in maintaining Bulrushes
- Help with the CLAA events on the lake

Contact: <https://clarklakewi.com/contact-us/>

# And That's A Wrap! Farewell To The Summer Of 2023!

By Terry Schneider

Docks and boats are being pulled out of the water...cool night air settles over the lake...crickets chirp...the days are getting shorter...Fall is in the air! The trees are turning a golden shade with hints of red popping out. Summer has come to an end on Clark Lake. Oh, what a beautiful summer we have had on the lake! Fireworks, the boat parade, the Kayak Poker Run, summer picnics with family and friends, and playtime on the water. We woke up to beautiful sunrises and went to bed with glistening waters under moonlit skies. And we made it through some really hot days! Here's a look back on some of the events on the lake this summer. Thanks goes out to the CLAA Social Committee for organizing the boat parade and the Kayak Run.



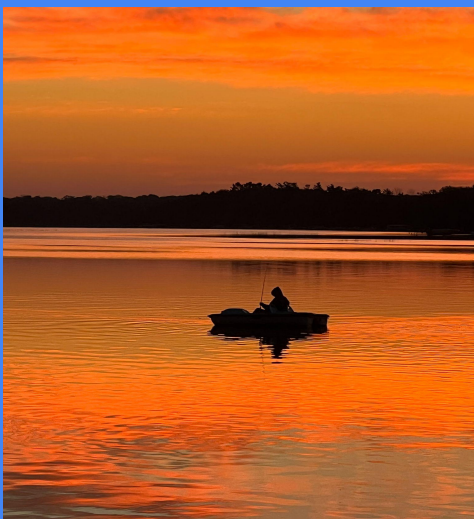
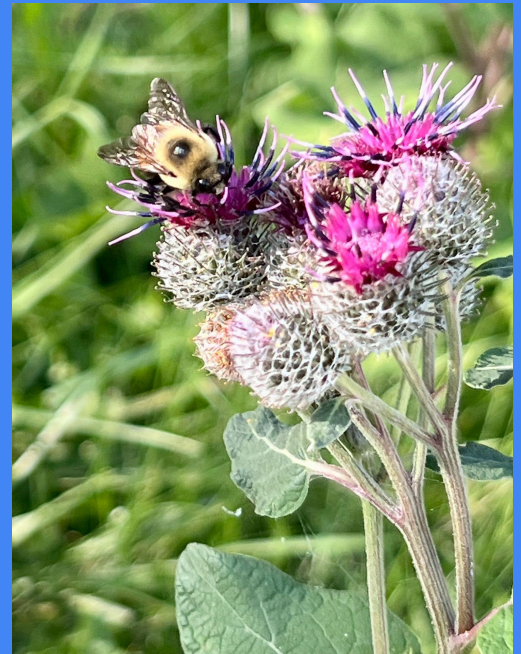
# A Flush Takes It All

By Carly Schneider Vondrak

This summer, the CLAA Social Committee organized the first Kayak Poker Run on Clark Lake. This fun event was open to all families and friends who live on the lake. We had several families participate in kayaks and a few canoes joined in on the fun too! Participants used a small waterproof bag to hold their cards they collected from several docks that had small U.S. flags attached to it to signify volunteer card stops around the lake. The goal of this event was to get the best poker hand in order to win a first, second, or third place cash prize. The first prize winner was Bill Mann who got a Straight Flush. The second place winner was Christy Skogg who got Four of a Kind in Jacks. The third place winner was Katherine Brews who got a Full House of Kings and Jacks. Congratulations to all of three winners of the first Kayak Poker Run! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the fun lake poker card race and to our volunteers who manned one of the twelve poker card stops!



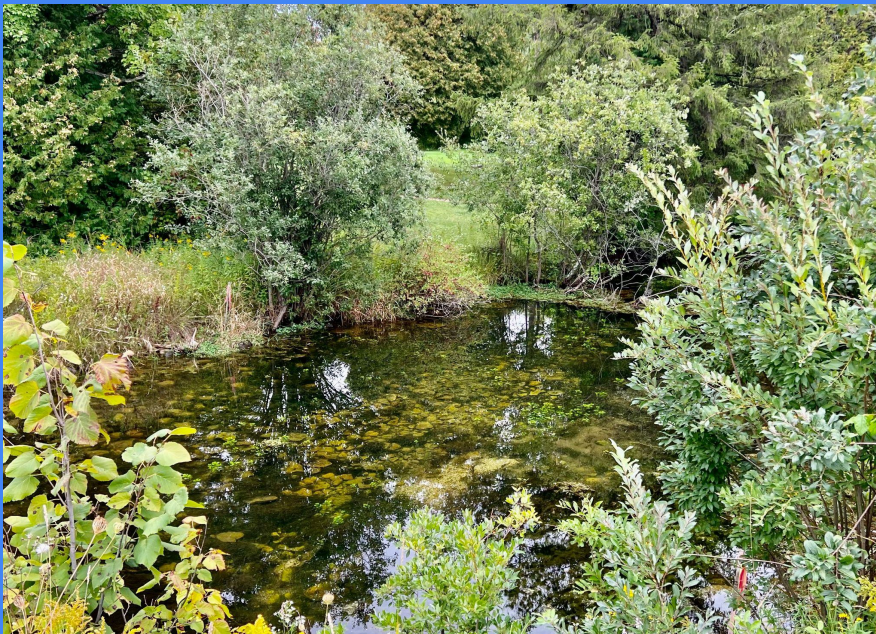
# Signs Of Fall



# The Creeks of Clark Lake

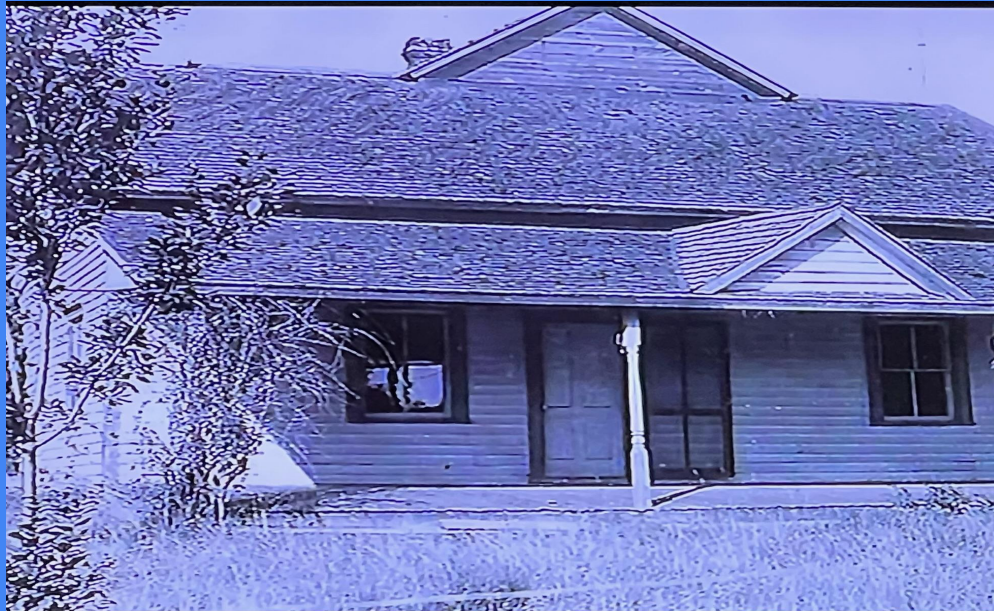
By Terry Schneider

Situated on the north shore of Clark Lake is Logan Creek...the 5.4 mile creek flows from Lost Lake and empties into Clark Lake. The land on the north side of the lake and borders Logan Creek is owned by The Ridges and was designated a State Natural Area in 2007. Whitefish Bay Creek flows from the south end of Clark Lake through Whitefish Dunes State Park and empties into Lake Michigan. Years ago when the creek water level was higher, it was possible to raft on the creek from Clark Lake to Lake Michigan.



# The Haunted Dance Hall of Clark Lake

By Terry Schneider



## Did a Haunted Dance Hall on Clark Lake Once Exist?

As the Fall approaches and early darkness descends on Door County, the spooky tales and ghostly stories creep out of dilapidated buildings and rundown houses. Door County Trolley Company has a great business focusing on the folklore of ghosts and haunted tales of the Door. The question is... is there a haunted spot here on Clark Lake that might stir the imagination of local ghost hunters?

Back in 1899, the first building on Clark Lake was constructed in the far northwest corner of the lake. The property was owned by P. Klaus. By 1914, Fred Goeks owned the property and five buildings had been constructed. These buildings were known as a dance hall, hotel, tavern, pavilion, clubhouse, and lodge. Honeymoon cottages and boats were also there to rent. Goeks Place was a popular weekend destination for the locals of the county in the early 20th century. According to an article in the May 23, 1912 Advocate, "a grand opening was held having secured the Nasewaupsee Brass Band for the occasion." By 1915, the resort was sold to Otto Dorn and Herman Woldt.

# The Haunted Dance Hall of Clark Lake (continued)

By Terry Schneider

They sold the resort to Ronald Reineking and by 1919, the resort was permanently closed. Wood from the dance hall was used as flooring in neighboring cottages. The land was sold to Frank Butts Sr. for taxes. By the 1940s Goeks Hotel was abandoned and in disrepair. Kids growing up that lived in neighboring cottages started referring to it as the “haunted house.” Parents took measures to keep their kids out of playing in the dilapidated buildings and someone even created a hanging body made of an old stovepipe to scare kids from playing in the collapsing buildings. The old building finally just crumbled and all that remains is a “ghost” of a foundation that lies behind the existing cottages belonging to the Hall/ Reis family and the Niblock/ Hutchinson family. So, to answer the question, is there a haunted spot here on Clark Lake...only the ghosts of the past really know for sure!

