

Clark Lake Newsletter

Fall, 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 by February, 2024.

Happy Holidays from the
Clark Lake Association
Board!



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

- Fire & Ice - February, 2024 (Date TBD)
- Boat Parade - July, 2024

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

Greetings Clark Lake Association Members:

This is our Late Fall Newsletter. I am writing this on Veterans Day weekend. Thank you for taking the time to interact with them, listen to them, and thank them for their service to our great country and for preserving the freedoms that a lot of us take for granted.

I was up at Clark Lake recently and things are quieting down for the winter. CLAA was busy this past season. I would like to thank the Board members and volunteers for all that they did this year: Publishing periodic newsletters to keep members informed, Printing and distributing the bi-annual membership book, provide written support to get internet broadband grants to Jacksonport and Sevastopol townships, collecting and reporting on the ramp launch donations (\$\$3,855 in 2023 compared to about \$1500 in 2018), for the nice social after the annual meeting, for the Kayak poker run and the Fall Dinner, for the physical work getting the docks and buoys in the spring and out for the winter (thanks for your dedication and years of service), for all the work that the Water Quality and Vegetation Committee work on well testing, invasive species control (Phragmites and Buckthorn to name a few) , Save Our Shoreline education and planting of native species, procuring a Propane Group rate, and many other tasks that go on in the background to keep CLAA on course.

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Continuation of...

A Message from the Clark Lake Association President

Mike Brunet

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. The Board could use three more members to complete our mission.

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.

Website – To get electronic updates and information releases, please go to bottom of ClarkLakeWI.com homepage and “subscribe now”.

Lake Safety/Fish Study – The latest from Nick Legler, WI DNR was 10/25/23, say the data from the preliminary report (Spring 2019) was still valid. If you have any fishing stories that you want to share with the DNR, please send them to Mr. Legler at Nicholas.Legler@Wisconsin.gov. 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.

At the September Board meeting, the Board re-elected the President and Secretary to serve another two-year term.

I wish everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving with friend and relatives and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 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 in person in and around Clark Lake this next year.

Mike Brunet

Volunteer Recognition at Fall Dinner Mark Weisse Honored



Mark Weisse, chair of the Water Quality and Vegetation Control Committee of the CLAA, was recently recognized at the Fall Dinner for his years of service helping to preserve the ecosystem of Clark Lake. He has been instrumental in promoting the SOS Program to help reduce the ecological impact of development around the lake by encouraging homeowners to make small improvements to their properties such as planting native plants or using rain barrels to reduce water runoff. Leslie Goulet presented Mark with a certificate for his great volunteering efforts at Clark Lake.

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FALL 2023 DOOR COUNTY

PRIVATE WELL MONITORING PROGRAM RESULTS FORUM

Curious about this year's results?

Please join us in person or virtually for the Fall 2023 Door County Well Program Results Forum! We will discuss findings of the ongoing well program. No registration is required.

Join us on December 12th at 6:00pm

This meeting will be located at Crossroads at Big Creek located at 2041 Michigan St, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

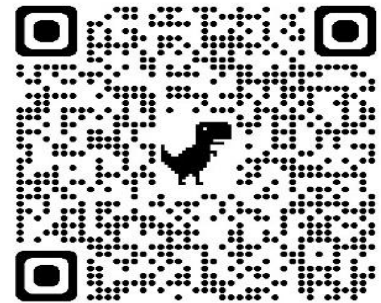
There is also a virtual option where this meeting will be recorded live for those unable to attend in person.

Link to join:

https://uwo.sh/dcwellresults_fall23

*OR open your camera on your
smartphone to scan QR code*

**Note: if joining via smartphone, you may need to have
the Zoom app installed.*



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

CLAA Ramp Donations 2023 Final Report

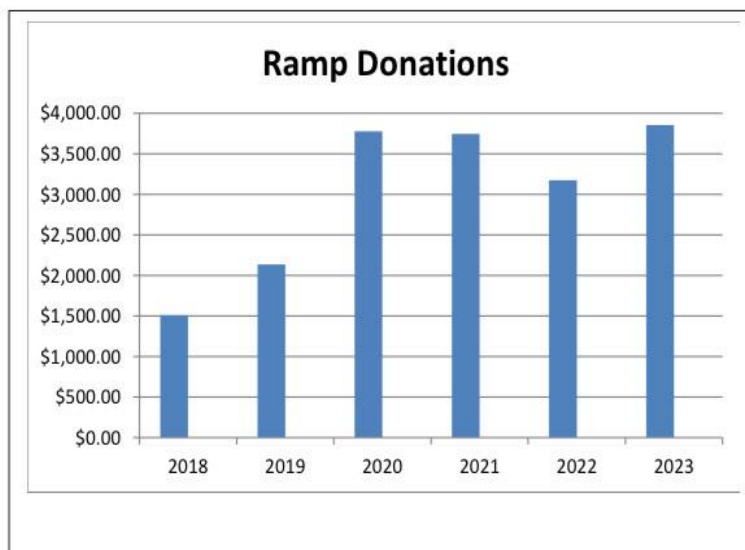
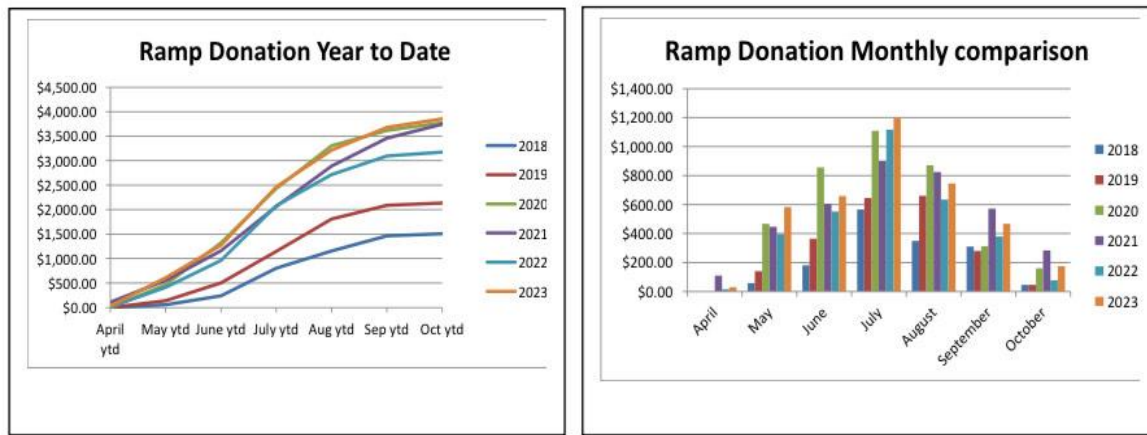
Ramp donations for 2023 hit an all-time high of **\$3,855.06**. Donations ranged between \$0 and \$20 per envelope and 22 donations (between \$5 and \$20) were deposited without an envelope.

Expenses for 2023 totaled **\$79.59** for a net contribution toward burden of **\$3775.47**

Since 2018, our first year with a donation box, collections have totaled \$18,191.57 and expenses \$420.93 for a net benefit to CLAA over this 6 years of **\$17,770.64**.

We did a study in 2018 and estimated about 1/3 of boaters made a donation. We have not done a follow up study and the increase in donations may indicate an increase in transient boaters on the lake, a greater percentage of boaters making a donation or a combination of the two.

Below are charts comparing donations by month and total year from 2018-2023.



Fall Dinner

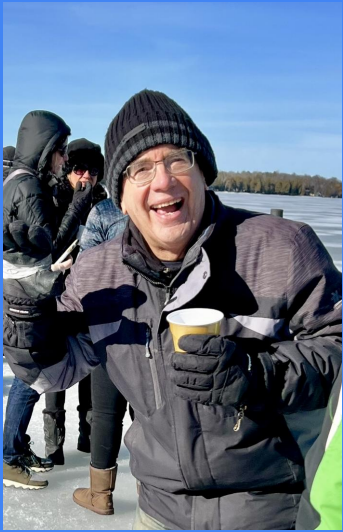
By Terry Schneider

The CLAA Social Committee is alive and well on Clark Lake. The Fall Dinner was held on September 9, 2023, at The Lodge at Leathem Smith. Cocktails were held outside at the Tiki Hut and a plated meal was served in the ballroom. Dick Martin acted as Master of Ceremonies and encouraged attendees to speak about their family history on Clark Lake. A great time was had by all. A big thank you goes to Betty VanBellinger for organizing and planning this event!



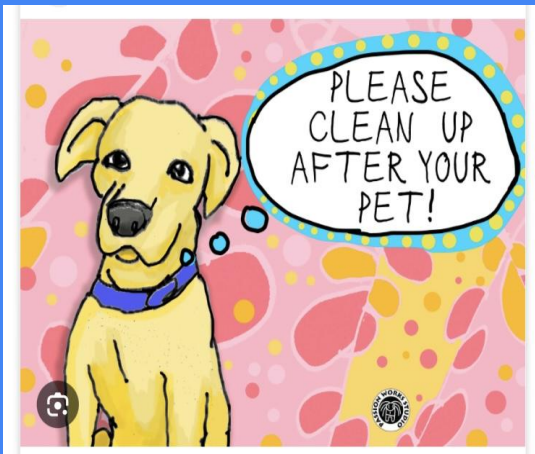
Upcoming Clark Lake Social Committee Events

By Terry Schneider



Plans are in the works for the 2nd annual “Fire and Ice” gathering on the lake for February, 2024. However, the date will be determined by ice conditions. Please watch for an announcement from the Social Committee regarding the date and place of this event.

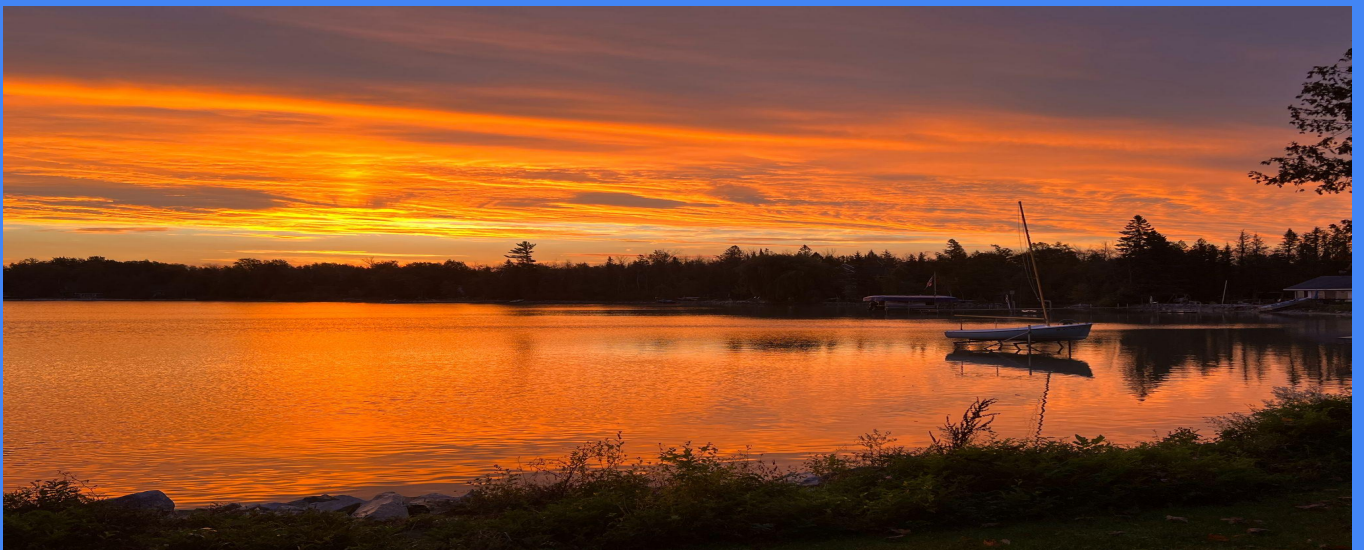
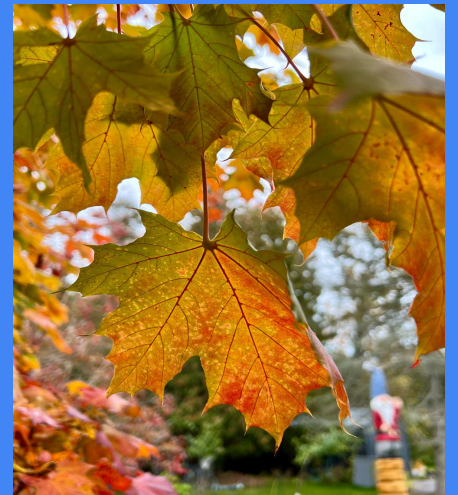
Mark your calendars for the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade....date to be determined.



I am fortunate to be a year long resident here on Clark Lake . Many of us are pet owners, and it's really nice to walk our dogs and meet new neighbors. 99.9% of the pet owners I have met on this lake are friendly, responsible pet owners. The majority of owners pick up dog waste and keep their dogs under control. Occasionally visitors forget that our roads are our sidewalks during all seasons and forget that piles left behind along the road contains bacteria and possibly parasites that can be harmful to dogs that smell it. It's also messy to step in. Please remind your visitors to carry a bag and pick up the waste!

Another issue that can be troublesome to pet owners are stray dogs that unexpectedly enter your yard. There has been a reoccurring issue regarding stray dogs on the west side of the lake. According to the Town Clerk, dogs living in the area should be registered and contained within one's property. People who do not abide by that rule should be reported to the Town Clerk. This is for the safety of both dogs and humans alike!

The Beauty of Clark Lake During The Fall





Over The River and Through The Woods

By Terry Schneider

As I sit here reminiscing about Thanksgivings of the past, I recall many memories of my youth. I remember the stories my teachers told me about the first Thanksgiving and how Pilgrims and Indians joined together to celebrate and give thanks for their harvest. In reality, those celebrations most likely were short-lived as more and more settlers located along the Atlantic Coast. How different it must have been for the native populations who lived off the land and water here along Clark Lake and the Whitefish Dunes area when the first settlers arrived in the area known today as Door County, Wisconsin.

Archeological excavations in the Whitefish Dunes State Park reveal the People of the Dunes have existed in this area for many centuries. According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources site the earliest people to reside here (100 BC- AD 300) were known as the North Bay People. Descendants of this group were the Heins Creek People (AD 500-750). Fishing was an important focus of the livelihood of these Woodland People. The Oneota arrived in the Whitefish Dunes area around AD 900 and engaged in agriculture, fishing, hunting, and gathering. Clark Lake was rich in bluegills, trout, and bass which made it ideal for native populations to fish in the lake. Eventually the Potawatomi tribe moved into the area. Excavations near the main park building uncovered fire pits in a garbage dump along with some artifacts and remnants of housing structures. The existing park site was an ideal location for a settlement. The sandy shoreline created safe landing sites for native canoes. Tall dunes offered a vantage point to watch out for unfriendly intruders. The surrounding forest held a wealth of game and necessary firewood.



By the early 1840s, John P. Clark and his brother, Issac S. Clark, began a commercial fishing operation on Whitefish Bay. The Potawatomis living along this area were living a meager life. Several hundred natives are reported to have assembled at the bay to manufacture fish oil from fish waste. By the late 1880s the fishery business declined along with maritime activity in the area. The Native American population simply assimilated into the general society of the area as the land was bought up by settlers such as John P. Clark, the man Clark Lake is named after.

Today, one can view uncovered artifacts found in the area and replicas of wigwam structures at Whitefish Dunes State Park. One of the structures was removed this past summer, but plans are in the works to rebuild another replica.

(Information for this article was obtained from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Door County Library resources, conversations with state park rangers and local historians)

