

Clark Lake Newsletter

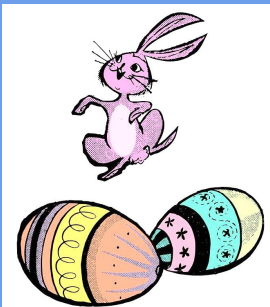
Spring, 2024

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 May, 2024.

Happy Springtime 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.

Reminder

**Board Meeting Saturday,
May 11th, 2024
8:30 AM
Jacksonport Town Hall**

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

Greetings:

This is our Spring Newsletter. What a strange winter! I hope all of you are looking forward to an early spring. All members should have received their annual dues notice and annual letter. Thank you to Terry Schneider for doing the legwork with Sir Speedy (Eric), putting stamps on 326 folded notices and taking them to the post office. Please let us know if any of them did not arrive in one piece. The CLAA Team has planned a number of events for this coming year. Please take time to read the articles and announcements in this newsletter and participate in your organization. Share it with your neighbors that are not members. I want to emphasize four main items:

The CLAA website - Clarklakewi.com, and the Clark Lake Facebook/Meta are two separate entities. The website is maintained and controlled by CLAA. The Facebook page is not part of CLAA. It is another source of information, but not controlled by CLAA. We are looking for a way to communicate Ecoli test results, swimmers itch, etc. to the lake residents in a timely manner. Posting at the beach and boat ramp helps a few.

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 – Please review and update your contact information for safety and contact information. We rely on electronic communication more and more.

CLAA needs new Board members to fill some vacancies. Please let us know before election during the Annual Meeting in July. Please review the duties of the committees on our website, clarklakewi.com. 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.

I hope everyone will have 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. I am looking forward to being able to meet in person in and around Clark Lake this next year.

Thank you for the taking the time to get involved in the betterment of Clark Lake.

Mike Brunet

Social Committee Update

The CLAA Social Committee met during the winter season to begin planning some upcoming events for the summer season. This committee's intention is to plan cost effective events that promote socialization and fun activities for those residents and friends living on Clark Lake. This committee is always open to new suggestions and welcomes new members to assist in planning and running events. A big THANK YOU to the CLAA Social Committee members who have put time and thought into organizing events for our association.



Kick-off to Summer!

Picnic at Island Fever. Later Saturday in June.
Date TBD

Independence Day Boat Parade.

July 6th, 2024 at Noon. Meet in front of the
beach.

Kayak Poker Run

Saturday, August 3, 2024 (tentative)

9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Fall Dinner

The Lodge at Leathem Smith.

Sunday, September 15, 2024

5:00 PM Cocktails...6 PM Dinner

Water Quality

Mark Weisse

2023 PFA Testing Clark Lake Contributing Area

PFA's have been in the news recently. This has led to some members wondering if Clark Lake is at risk for PFA contaminated wells, surface water or fish.

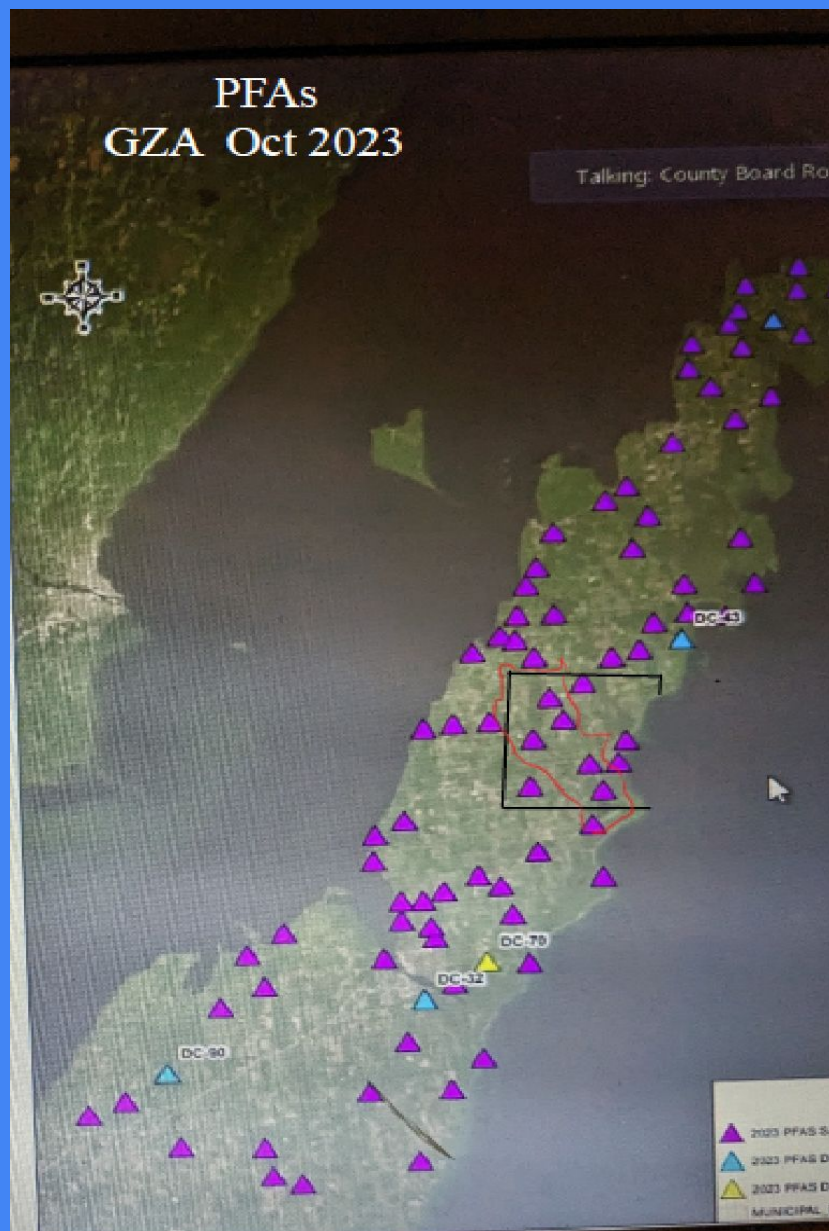
See the Feb 2023 newsletter for a discussion of fish consumption precautions. In June of 2023 we did a surface sampling of Clark Lake and the PFA levels did not raise any additional concerns with fish consumption advice or surface water ingestion.

In 2023, Door County Soil and Water received a grant for the Emergent Contaminants study. 89 wells were selected throughout the county and initial results are now available. The results can be found on the Door County Soil and Water/Groundwater web page. Many substances were included but today I am only discussing PFA's.

12 of the wells are in the Clark Lake watershed and Town of Jacksonport. Here is the 2023 county map of PFA results. The red outline is Clark Lake watershed and the black outline is the Town of Jacksonport.

As you can see all of the local wells were okay.
Please note however, the study focused on the two PFA types for which standards exist: PFOA and PFOS. As studies continue, more types may become an issue. In addition, there is some uncertainty about the acceptable risk level. As an example recently, the standard changed from 70ng/L down to 4ng/L.

Therefore, new information may lead us to do more testing in the future but right now things look okay.



AN UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL CREATES A NEW MICRO-ECOSYSTEM

By Kristin-Grady Mitchell (volunteer and committee member of WQVC)

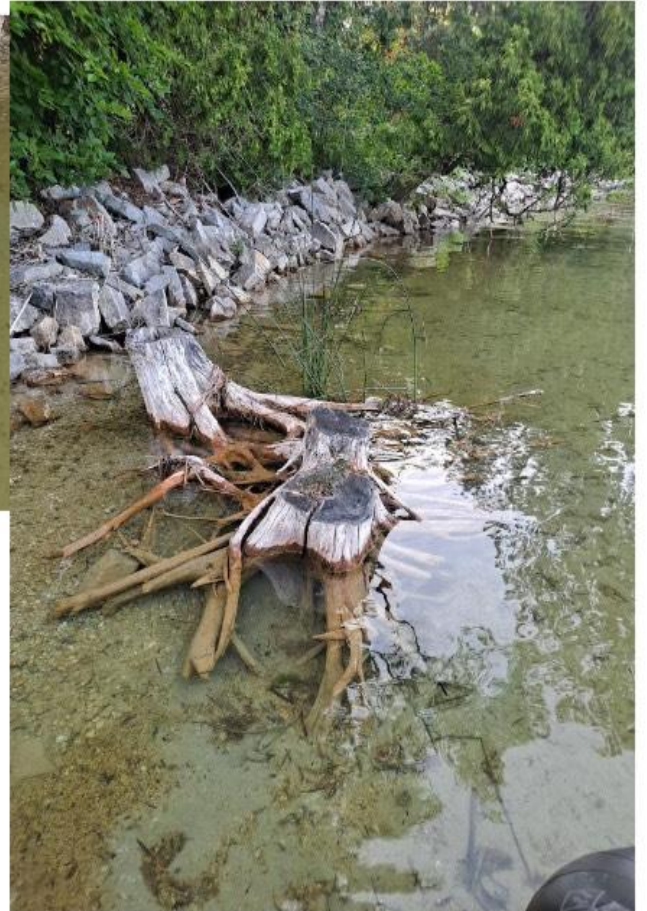
Six to seven years ago in spring, a grouping of three intertwined cedar stumps appeared on our shoreline. We moved it out of the way of our incoming pier but decided it was too heavy to remove from the water. We are so glad that we left it!



Immediately we began to see minnows use the stumps as a way to hide from other predators. Each year, the number of minnows grew and we started noticing that the three stumps began hosting small fish as well (were they breeding here?). Bass, perch, and others darted in and out of this floating raft. We were thrilled because we always wanted to participate in the fish sticks program but knew that we didn't have enough space to place one near us.

At the same time, winter storms and the ice break-up brought soil, debris, and plants to our rip-rap. Among this material, bulrush rhizomes had been dumped. By 2018 these bulrushes had grown and matured on land as you can see in the picture below. A plan began to develop with Mark Weisse to transplant these rhizomes back into the water near our floating stumps.





Finally, in the spring of 2021, Mark and I transplanted two sets of rhizomes around the roots of the three stumps, which provided ample protection from large waves and allowed the rhizome to take root (shown above). The picture to the right was taken last summer. As you can see one of the two bulrush transplants did not make it but the one that survived is growing and looks very robust.



We continue to enjoy our little ecosystem created by what washed up on our shoreline. It has continued to be a sanctuary and breeding ground for a variety of different species and last summer attracted this beautiful egret as well. I like to think that we are helping the health of Clark Lake in a small way simply by allowing this small ecosystem to thrive.



CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Broadband Update Sevastopol – March 2024

Greetings:

From Town of Sevastopol and The Pulse:

From Town of Sevastopol (2/21/24), The Town announced a project with AT and T to expand AT and T Fiber to more than 2,000 customers. Planning and Engineering to begin First Quarter 2024. Network buildout to be completed within 2 years. Estimated project cost to be \$7.4 million.

From the Pulse recently, Sevastopol was granted \$816,693 from PSC. From AT and T, check on status at ATT.com/fiber. To signup check ATT.com/notifyme.

The Town of Sevastopol Jeanne Vogel, Town Supervisor and Chair of Technical committee, has strongly encouraged Sevastopol residents to attend Town Meeting on 4/16/2024 at 6:00PM or watch on Sevastopol U Tube channel.

Mike Brunet



Be a Neighborhood Watchdog!

We are fortunate to live in a basically safe part of the world here on Clark Lake. However, in February of this past year, the CLAA was alerted by the Whitefish Dunes Park Manager that a suspicious vehicle checking out unoccupied homes in the area was spotted, and questionable footprints were discovered around staff housing near Clark Lake. Many of us have surveillance cameras in our yard and alarm systems, but it is important to take note of unusual activity in our neighborhoods because not all homes have security systems. Seasonal homes often are targets of theft so it is important to take precautions when vacating your cottages for extended periods of time. When leaving your homes let your neighbors know your travel plans and perhaps have them check your property when you are gone. Have your mail held at the post office and set lights inside and outside the house on timers. Neighbors who watch out for each other help to create a greater sense of security and reduces fear of crime. Get to know your neighbors and help each other to keep our neighborhoods safe and crime free.

CLAA Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 13,
2024
Jacksonport Town
Hall

Join the CLAA! All residents living within the radius of the lake are encouraged to join! Cost is \$25 for an annual membership. If you have new neighbors who have recently moved to the lake, please encourage them to join. Please contact Jill Carstens, Membership Committee for more information.

The Beauty of Clark Lake
During A Mild Winter



The History of Eating/Drinking Establishments in the Clark Lake Area

By Terry Schneider

Most of us enjoy a cookout, picnic, or at-home meal while residing at our cottage or home on Clark Lake. While researching the history of the area, I discovered our local dinner spots in the vicinity of Clark Lake were established long before many of us arrived here, and they come with interesting histories.



The Happy Hour in Valmy was established in the early 1900s...probably in the 1920s-1930s era. It might have been earlier because the first post office was established at Voeks Corners (known today as Valmy) in 1899. At the time, a cheese factory and store existed along with a sawmill in the vicinity of that intersection on 57. The Happy Hour was once a stage stop between Sturgeon Bay and Jacksonport that housed a barber shop, grocery store, rooming house, and a dance hall on the second floor. A fire destroyed the post office in 1903, and a fire also destroyed the original Happy Hour in the 1950s. The present building sits on the approximate site of the original building. The present location is a great place for fish and bar food.

As you head east from Valmy towards the lake you see The Hitching Post, another great place for burgers and bar food. The Hitching Post was built in the 1950s as a clubhouse for a golf course that once had existed as part of Glidden Lodge. The golf course was never very successful so lots were divided up on the land and sold off for development. In the late 50s living quarters and eventually a walk-in cooler were added to the original structure. The log structure remains pretty much unchanged. Since then, The Hitching Post has operated under various owners. A patio has been added for outside eating and live entertainment.



The Fernwood, next to the former Mr. G's is frequently mentioned in stories about Clark Lake. It was a popular dance hall in the early 1900s. During the early years the center for entertainment in this area was called The Grasshopper. Today the Fernwood Gardens Ballroom continues to operate as a banquet and events property by the Geitner family. Sadly, Mr. G's, located along Logan Creek that empties into Clark Lake, was destroyed by arson in 2022 and has now been leveled.

