

# Clark Lake Newsletter

March, 2025

## 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 May 15th, 2025.

Happy St. Patrick's  
Day



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 fun successful 2024. I look forward to working with all of you in 2025.

It has been a busy year. CLAA planned for new events to get member families involved in lake activities, shortened the Annual Meeting format, introduced a Welcome to Summer event, hired a new person to remove, repair, and install the buoys, instituted an Annual Boat Ramp Sticker (for a donation) and had the dam spillway repaired. But CLAA still has challenges. CLAA needs new Board members and committee chairpersons to plan, organize and execute activities for CLAA families. Without their dedication, CLAA cannot continue to provide events for our members. Without Board members and Officers, CLAA cannot continue to exist. CLAA needs to elect a new President and Secretary in 2025. Please consider stepping up for these positions. 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/>

Our Social committee will be sending out a survey shortly looking for input on events for 2025 that our members will participate in. Please take the time to respond to the survey.

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

May 10, 2025 - Board of  
Directors Meeting  
July 19, 2025 - Annual  
Meeting

# Continuation of Clark Lake Association President...Mike Brunet

Welcome to our new members and Clark Lake residents. For those new residents that are not members, please consider joining our Association. A good way to meet members is to volunteer on our various committees, it is a great way to meet other members. We remember those who passed away, especially Dick Egan and Don Hinnenthal. They committed their time and talent to the betterment of Clark Lake. Farewell to those that have left, we hope that you take great memories with you. Please review the list of 2024 volunteers on the website on member recognition and Volunteer Opportunities under the Member Page. Donations (including boat launch) continue to increase annually as well. The donations help us fund the many projects we have on our agenda. Again, thank you all very much.

The CLAA website (and Clark Lake Facebook/META) is becoming our main communication tool. Along with News and Notices, we are added detailed information about our existing committees and work groups, Officer and Director Duties and other training tools to be used by our members. CLAA has the option for paying dues electronically with credit cards. CLAA hopes use of the website and the bulletin board at the boat ramp will encourage more of our membership to participate in the many Association's Activities. Please use "Contact Us" on the Clark Lake Website to forward any changes to your home address, phone numbers or email addresses. In order to receive electronic notices, check "Subscribe" on the bottom of the Home page.

The schedule for the 2025 events and Board of Director Meetings (second Saturday, May thru September, 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, and 9/13) have been posted on the website and have been added to our new Calendar that will be available to current members. A number of these events are tentative due to coordination issues with establishments and shortage of workers. Go to the website and then click on the down arrow of the events button and select the event. Here is the link to the website URL:

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

CLAA suggests members make contact with members in the area of their Clark Lake home that are living year-round at Clark Lake to do a walk around to check for property damage and downed power lines.

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable 2025. I am looking forward to seeing you on and around Clark Lake.

Mike Brunet (President CLAA)

**PLEASE READ THE ANNUAL LETTER FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF COMMITTEES!**

## Social Committee Report

The CLAA Annual Letter should be arriving in your mailbox soon. If for some reason you did not receive a letter, please contact Terry Schneider at [Carters2052@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Carters2052@sbcglobal.net) for a copy. The CLAA Board is asking all members to please pay their annual dues of \$25 by April 1, 2025. Please follow directives given in the newsletter to pay these dues. If you wish to participate in the propane group pricing program, dues must be paid by April 1st. Only paid members will receive the group pricing.

The CLAA Board is actively trying to recruit new members for any of the association committees. Please consider becoming a member of a committee you would enjoy working on. Committee descriptions are listed in the annual letter. Committee participation is a rewarding experience and a great way to get to meet your lake neighbors.

### **Tentative Spring, Summer, and Fall Social Events...**

Specific times, dates, and locations will be announced when finalized by the social committee.

May...Board Meeting...5/10

June...Kickoff to Summer picnic

July...Boat Parade...7/5

July...Annual Meeting...7/19

August...Poker Run

September...Fall Dinner

There is interest in a rummage sale on the lake...discussion will take place to determine the interest and best time to organize this. The CLAA Social Committee is putting a survey together to get more input from members regarding events on the lake. Please complete this survey when you receive the email.



# Fire & Ice 2025

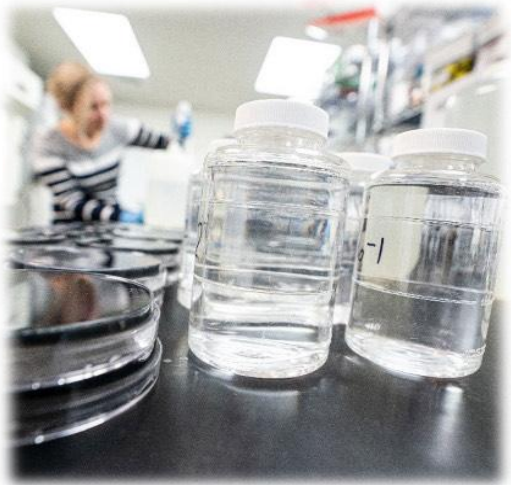
The 2025 Fire and Ice organized by the CLAA Social Committee was held on Saturday, February 1st and was hosted by Dick and Alice Martin along the shore of their home on West Shore Drive. Sleigh rides on the lake and food and drinks were shared around the bonfire. A few attendants even participated in Shot-ski! It was a great opportunity for winter residents and visitors to meet new neighbors and enjoy a cool winter day on Clark Lake. Thanks goes out to Dick Martin and Kathy Steinmetz for organizing this winter event.





# 2025 Spring Water Well Testing



By Mark Weisse



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

## Spring 2025 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 March 28<sup>th</sup>
- Receive sampling kit in mail
- Attend a virtual forum to learn how to sample
- Return your kit April 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at designated drop-off locations
- Receive your results & countywide summary of study



**Registration accepted through March 28<sup>th</sup>**

RSVP online at [uwo.sh/doorco-wells-spring25](https://uwo.sh/doorco-wells-spring25) 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 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!**

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

# 2025 Spring Water Well Testing

By Mark Weisse

Register early to get a \$15 discount. Last date to register is March 28th.

CLASS will be helping at the Jacksonport drop off site in April, see you there! Below is the information for the 2 drop off dates.

## **Sample Drop off for Well Testing at Jacksonport Town Hall -Day 1**

**Day 1:** Friday

**Date:** April 11th

**Time:** 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

## **Sample Drop Off for Well Testing at Jacksonport Town Hall -Day 2**

**Day:** Saturday

**Date:** April 12th

**Time:** 8:00 am – 10:00 am

## Cedar Trees Available for 2025!

Cedar trees will again be available for purchase this year!

These 4 year old, 3 foot, bare root seedlings are \$6.50 each but are available only as bundles of 25. Trees should be available in mid to late April.

If interested, contact Pat Canney [pcanney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pcanney@sbcglobal.net) or call 262-622-5239.

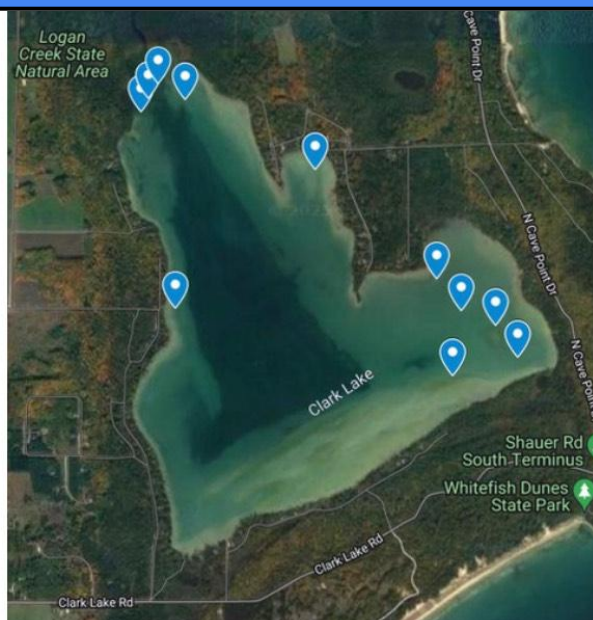


# The History of Clark Lake Buoys

## By Gwenn Graboyes

Perhaps many of you, like me, thought we have had buoys on Clark Lake “forever”. In fact, the first buoys were placed just 17 years ago, in early 2008. It was a motley crew of Paul Schumacher, Bob DeFaut, and Marc DeGroot, with occasional other volunteers. The anchors to the first buoys were sunk in the winter, after cutting holes in the ice at the prescribed GPS coordinates. There are now 11 buoys, 4 in the North End, five in the East Bay, and two marking 200-foot distance from shore at the West and East boat ramps.

We have two types of buoys on our lake – regulatory buoys which require a town ordinance to be enacted and informational buoys (DNR approval only). Boaters who fail to comply with the regulatory buoys can be ticketed and fined. In early 2008 both Jacksonport and Sevastopol townships enacted essentially identical ordinances to mark the SLOW NO WAKE areas in the two sections of East Bay where DNR sensitive areas and bulrushes exist. Both townships needed to pass the ordinances as these protected areas lie within the jurisdiction of both townships. In December 2008, the Town of Jacksonport passed the NO MOTOR ordinance for North Bay, where aquatic vegetation and fish spawning areas needed protection from motor boat destruction of the shallow bottom at the egress of Logan Creek into Clark Lake. Since instituting the NO MOTOR zone at the north end, there has been a significant 40-50% improvement in turbidity, i.e. less turbidity. In addition, we have the two informational buoys marking the 200-ft distance from the shoreline at the West and East boat ramps.



If you just need to have more information on the buoys, please check our website at <https://clarklakewi.com/ordinancespermits/>



## The History of Clark Lake Buoys (continued)

By Gwenn Graboyes

Bob DeFaut quickly became our go-to “Buoy Guy”, with annual help from assorted CLAA volunteers and friends. He handled placing, removing, repairing and occasionally retrieving lost buoys. Along with his retirement from Bay Shipbuilding, Bob decided to retire from the buoy business. Thank you Bob and your compadres for years of dedication to keeping our lake well-marked and safe for CLAA and visiting boaters.

However, we needed to find a successor, a new “Buoy Guy”. With a solid recommendation from Fred Foreman, we have been fortunate to hire Tim Alberts to assume this buoy manager position. Tim is a Door County native and a graduate of Gibraltar High School. He has served active duty in the US Marine Corps, and as we all know, “once a Marine, always a Marine”. He has worked for the town of Baileys Harbor since 2017 in multiple different roles, including most recently as Wastewater Operator, and now in Public Works and the Marina.

Tim lives in Jacksonport with his wife and beautiful daughter (sporting two “top ponies” for their Christmas picture). He is always looking for additional jobs, including dock work, house checks, care taking, landscaping, and aluminum and pontoon boat repairs. If you are interested in contacting him, please let me know and I will get you connected.

Please warmly welcome Tim when you see him out on the lake taking care of our buoys and hopefully fishing for perch with his family and friends.



## The Beauty of the Frozen Lake

The beauty of frozen Clark Lake in the winter...river offers playing on ice...brilliant sunrises reflecting off the ice...deer walking on the ice or along the shoreline...evening sunsets making the lake appear a variety of blue hues.



Photo by: Carol Schumacher



Photo by: Luke Traver

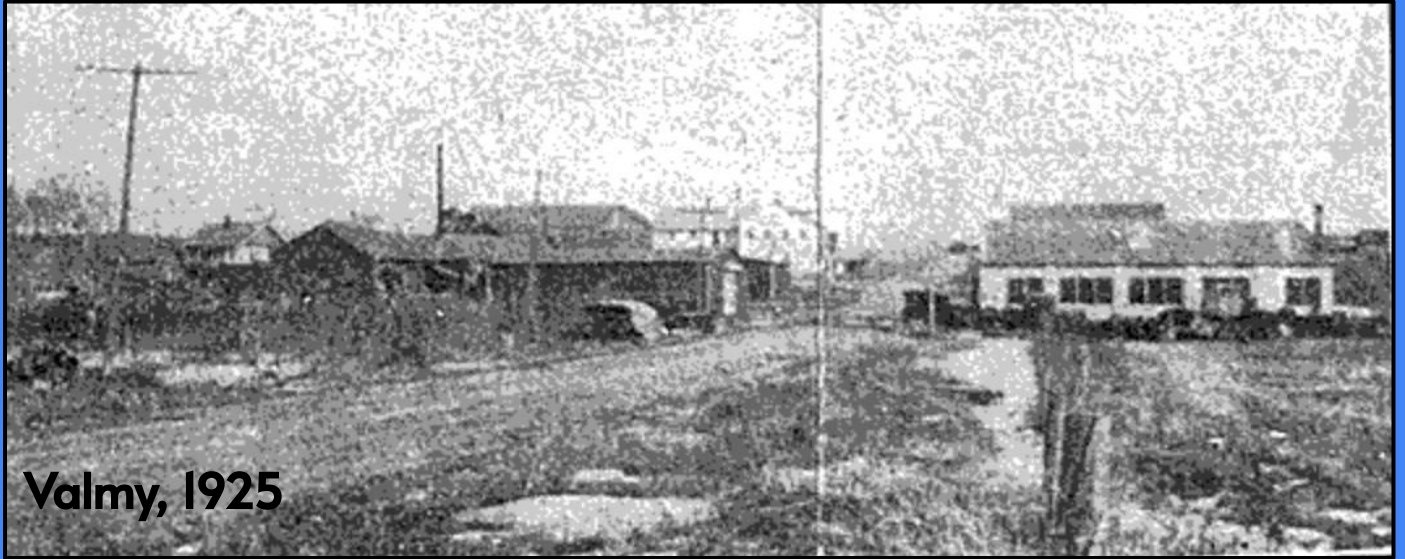
### Noisy January Nights

Winter residents on Clark Lake experienced a mild January on the lake this year. Days were much warmer than what is typical for winter days in Door County. Snowstorms and the Arctic cold really did not arrive until February. Very often Clark Lake can become a loud wind tunnel during winter storms. It was different this year during January.

Days were warmer than what is typical for winter days in Door County. Nights were below freezing so there was this constant expansion and contraction of the ice on the lake. As a result, ice groans seemed louder and more frequent this year than other years in the past. On still nights the shifting ice could be heard almost constantly...even inside the house.

Why does this happen? As ice expands and contracts, the ice begins to crack and becomes deformed. This movement creates vibrations that are carried across the surface of the frozen lake. Sound is amplified like on the surface of a drum. Because of frequencies of how sound travels, the shifting ice can almost sound like a cracking whip. Snow depth on the frozen lake can also absorb sound. These vibrating sounds create an interesting phenomenon on any frozen lake. Clark Lake is no exception.

## The Great 1928 Valmy Fire



One hundred years ago, back in March, 1925, Valmy was a sleepy little burg near Donlon's Swamp on Highway 78, now known as Highway 57. The Door County Advocate described the town to be "so small that when driving through you would be out of it before you were in it!" Back then homes there were owned by Emil Leist and George Voeks. The Barker Lumber and Fuel company branch was located there, and on the corner sat the Traveler's Inn, a hotel and general store owned by Joe Petersilka. Feldhofer Brothers Garage, the Fred Suckey hardware building, and Wagner blacksmith shop made up the rest of the buildings. The homes of Frank and Ed Felhofer were farther up the hill towards Whitefish Bay. It was a busy center with a character all its own...the days when "oxen held sway."



## The Great 1928 Valmy Fire Continued...

Everything changed in Valmy almost 100 years ago. Back in April, 1928, almost all wooden structures in the town were destroyed by a growing wind-fueled fire. An explosion of an oil stove occurred in the living quarters of the Fred Suckey Hardware store. Cartridges exploded in the store and fired off a volley of shots. A gas pump in front of the store ignited. Gusty winds caused the fire to spread. The Sturgeon Bay Fire Department was called to help save the town, but by the time they arrived, the highly combustible wood structures were all ablaze. Winds and lack of water caused the burning buildings to crumble. This Valmy fire, witnessed by over 1000 people, was one of the worst fire in Door County. Total loss estimates at the time were \$50,000 which equates to over \$750,000 today. Virtually nothing was saved. Only a couple of structures from that monster fire stand today.

Residents rebuilt parts of Valmy over the years, but unfortunately they have endured other fires in the area since 1928. Today Valmy remains a “go-to” destination for Clark Lake residents in need of gas, groceries, or drinks at the “Happy Hour.”

Source: The Door County Advocate & Green Bay Press Gazette

