

# Clark Lake Newsletter

September, 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 November 15th, 2025.

## Happy Summer



Message Jill Carstens 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

Fall Dinner - Sunday, September 14th at The Lodge at Leathem Smith at 5:30 PM

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

### Greetings:

Summer is in full swing. My hope is that you are enjoying this nice weather. I am writing this after the Annual Meeting. This will be my last president's letter, because the board will elect a new president at the September meeting. I have one more year on the Board.

First, I would to welcome three new Board members: Mark Knuth (West Shore Drive), Carol Schumacher (Butts Road), and John McCormick (S. Lake Road). They will be great assets to share their time and talent.

Welcome back to Summer at Island Fever was a success. It was nice to see a great turnout and some newer members having a good time and meeting others from around Clark Lake. The weather held off for the annual boat parade. I heard that the cymbals were recovered from the lake. Thanks to Jerry Voelker's Band. We wish you well in retirement. Your Board members have been busy planning and organizing event for your family to create memories, meet other members, and have fun. The Kayak Poker Run was held on August 2nd. It was lots of fun!

## Continuation of Clark Lake Association President...

### Mike Brunet

Our Fall Dinner gathering is September 14, 2025 at Leathem Smith Lodge. This is a time to share summer stories with friends around the lake before they go their separate ways until next summer. CLAA is not large enough for local venues to book an event for a Friday or Saturday evening. Maybe you can help us change that. RSVP by 8/31/25.

While the CLAA officers and Board members are working on goals and plans the remainder of year, we are open for suggestions and events that will provide members a chance to gather together and meet new members around Clark Lake.

Boat ramp donations are voluntary and boaters have been donating launch fees and requesting annual stickers. The Towns have recognized the need for resurfacing the ramp area, it is not in the budget for 2025. Future projects include resurfacing Townline Road up to Loritz Road and the parking area on the north side as I understand future projects.

I want to emphasize four main items:

**VOLUNTEER and JOIN** - The CLAA Team works hard to plan and run a number of family events, but we need your help to make them successful. CLAA has changed a few of them, dropped some, and added some to increase your participation. I am asking the members to contact our Board members to provide feedback about why you did not attend/participate and discuss what we can do better to increase your involvement. If you have paid your dues or your neighbors have not joined, please tell them the great things we are doing and how it affects them. Annual dues have been \$25 as long as I have been here (2009). With increases in insurance, contracted help with the buoys, maintenance, printing Member Directories, the Board recommended and the members approved an increase to \$35. Dues and donations help support the following Projects: Placement and maintenance of regulatory buoys, phragmites treatment, monitoring lake and watershed status, promotion of shoreline stewardship, fish habitat enhancement, fish stocking, line painting at boat ramp, and others. Your dues also gets you Welcome to Summer event in June, subsidized Fall Dinner in September, and bi-annual Member Directory.

CLAA really needs your help and participation to make these events successful. CLAA needs chair persons for the Water Quality and Vegetation Committee, Social Committee, the Fish and Wildlife Committee. A number of members and Board Members have stepped up to chair a number of the WQVC projects, but CLAA still needs a chairperson to coordinate all these important activities. You are not required to be a Board member to chair a committee or event or volunteer on projects such as Ridges dock removal and installation, boat ramp education and inspection. Please see CLAA website ([clarklakewi.com](http://clarklakewi.com)), (not Clark Lake Facebook) for committee duties or calendar of events. But we cannot do it alone. Please get involved and give us a few hours of your time and talent.

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

**WAKE SURF BOATS** – In order to create protection for the lake and its users, both Sevastopol and Jacksonport townships must pass essentially identical ordinances that about 60 other Wisconsin Towns have done, including Baileys Harbor (for Kangaroo Lake). Sevastopol's Park and Recreation Committee voted in January 2025 to table the ordinance one year. Jacksonport, though they passed the ordinance along with Baileys Harbor for Kangaroo Lake, has been silent with respect to its position on the use of wake enhancing devices on Clark Lake. CLAA provided a requested letter to Jacksonport with five points supporting proposed ordinance banning use of wake enhancing devices.

The CLAA Board joined the Wakesports Reform Coalition with 80 member organizations to support the effort at the state level to limit these devices to 700 feet from shore, in depths greater than 30 feet, have certification of ballast tank decontamination before entering the lake, and continued support for local municipal control of the lakes. Our Clark Lake cannot protect itself from the environmental hazards known to occur from operation of artificially enhanced wake boats in waters that are too shallow and areas too close to shore. Any questions, please contact Gwenn Graboyes.

**CLARK LAKE DAM** – CLAA has been working with the Town of Sevastopol to understand and to improve the outflow of Clark Lake and Whitefish Bay Creek. One item is the undersized culvert on WD. In the interim, the boards in the dam are removed/added manually to maintain the DNR established levels and keep the water level below the fish grates. Any questions, please contact Gwenn Graboyes.

**MEMBER DIRECTORY** – The directory has been distributed to all active CLAA members. Thanks to those members that have stepped up to help us distribute them. The committee is researching ways to reduce cost of maintaining the database on the website and publishing the Directory.

I hope everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Summer. Please keep an eye on neighbors' places when they are away. Thank you for the taking the time to get involved in the betterment of Clark Lake.

Mike Brunet

# UW Oshkosh Well Water Testing Spring 2025

## Clark Lake Watershed... Mark Weisse

### UW Oshkosh Well Water Testing Spring 2025 Clark Lake Watershed

**UW Oshkosh Private owner Well water** testing has been conducted in Door County since 2019.

County wide results and copies of the final UW-O presentations are available on the Door County Soils and Water website. This is a summary of the results for the Clark Lake contributing area (watershed including Lost lake).

Overall the results are stable and no new problems were noted for our area.

**Jacksonport Drop off site** received **41 samples**, which is 19% of the total 214 Door County samples. Volunteers from both CLAA(3) and the Jacksonport Women's Club(2) staffed this site providing a total of 17 volunteer hours.

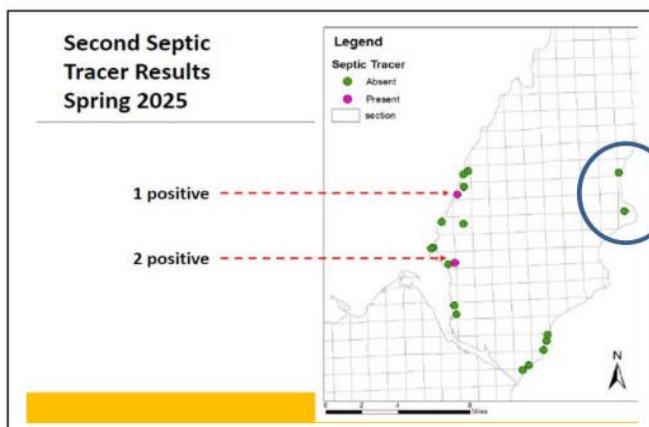
The **Clark Lake Contributing Area (watershed)** had **19 samples** analyzed from 15 sections for both coliforms, E.coli, and nitrates. 5 sections have never had a test in the UW-O program.

**Bacteria coliforms watershed:** **18samples** (95%) were bacteria free; **1 sample** (5%) had 1-10 bacteria.

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

**Nitrate levels watershed:** **17 samples** (89%) non-detectable or below 2mg/L; **2 samples** (11%) had levels between 2.1-5 and none in any of the higher ranges. No samples were in the danger range of over 10.

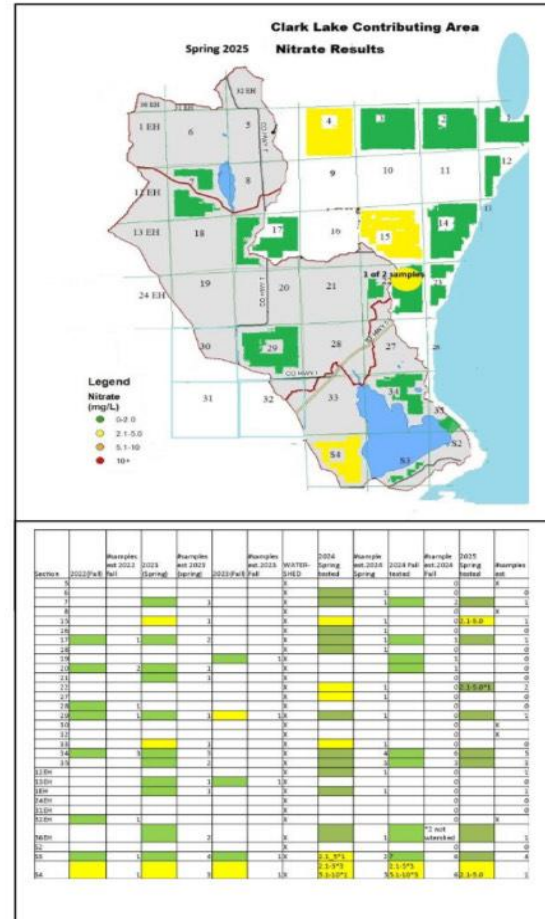
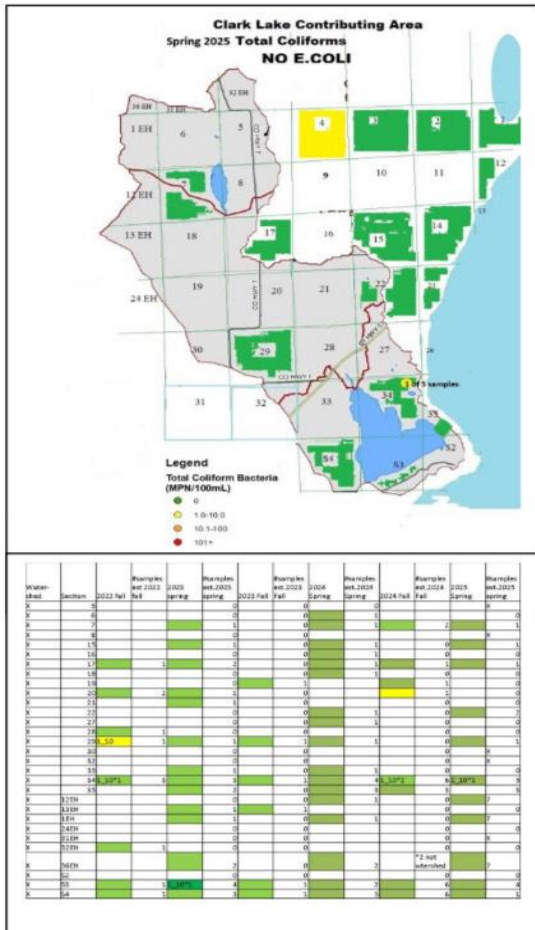
See below for Spring 2025 maps and comparison data tables between 2022 and 2025 for the Clark Lake Contributing area. (The maps also include the 2025 Jacksonport results)



As part of a new study the university selected several wells to test for substances that could indicate seepage from human septic systems. One well in section 35 was the only one tested in the Clark Lake contributing area and it was negative. An additional well in Jacksonport sections 23 also tested negative for all substances



# UW Oshkosh Well Water Testing Spring 2025 Clark Lake Watershed... Mark Weisse



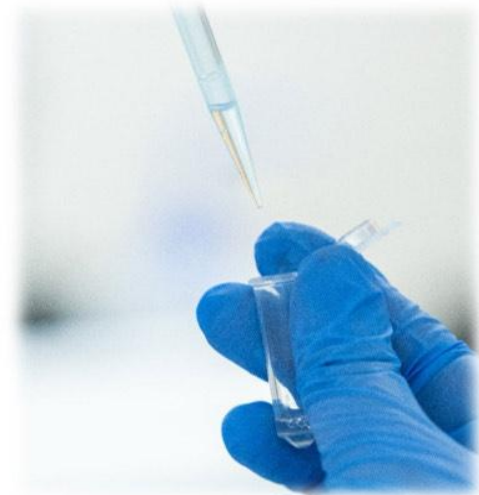
The nitrate analysis uses the following zone boundaries to distinguish the sample locations:



UW-Oshkosh now breaks down nitrate results and analysis into 6 zones ; the contributing Clark Lake Area and Jacksonport are mostly in zone 4B which has the second highest nitrate levels.

See the presentation document at the Door County Soil and Water webpage.

# Upcoming Well Testing



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

## Fall 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 October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Receive sampling kit in mail
- Attend a virtual forum to learn how to sample
- Return your kit October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at designated drop-off locations
- Receive your results & countywide summary of study

**Registration accepted through October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**RSVP online at <https://uwo.sh/doorco-wells-fall25> 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 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – mark your calendars!**

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



# Social Committee Events

The CLAA Social Committee put together an event filled summer. Their goal was to sponsor one event in or around Clark Lake from June to September. The committee had hoped to arrange a rummage sale, but they could not drum up enough interest. They hope to organize a rummage sale for late Spring 2026. So as you start bringing in things around your homes and cottages this fall, decide if you might want to get rid of things that could be placed at a rummage sale next Spring. A big thank you goes out to all our committee members who volunteer their time for the CLAA Social Committee activities. Here's a pictorial recap of 2025 Summer activities...

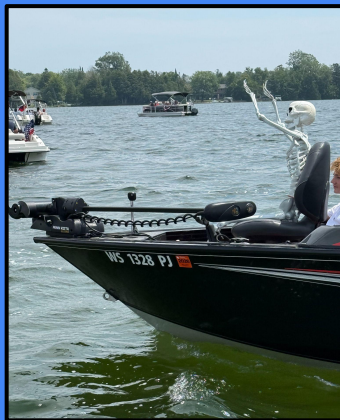
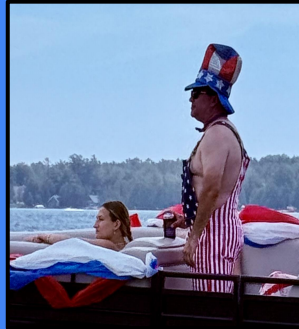


The Clark Lake Advancement Association held its 2nd Annual Kick-Off to Summer at Island Fever in Jacksonport on June 7, 2025. It turned out to be a great day...blue skies, a delicious taco bar, and a good turn out of CLAA members attending. Bob DeFaut received special recognition from CLAA President Mike Brunet for his years of service attending to annual lake projects. For years Bob placed buoys on the lake, assisted with docks at the boat launches, and tended to dam issues. Thank you, Bob, for volunteering for all these years!





The CLAA Boat Parade, celebrating the Fourth of July, was held on the 5th of July this year. A large number of boats decorated in red, white, and blue were led by the polka band, Jerry Voelker and the Jolly Gents as they traveled the circumference of the lake for this annual celebration. Many residents appeared on their docks to cheer on the boats as the parade passed by.



#### It's the End of an Era...

Long time resident on South Lake Road, Jerry Voelker, has indicated he is retiring his polka band serenade at the annual Fourth of July Boat Parade. Many of us on the lake recall the sound of polka music as Jerry and his band cruised around the lake as our parents and neighbors danced polkas on their docks as Jerry's pontoon filled with musicians passed by on a lazy Sunday afternoon. We will all miss Jerry's participation in our annual boat parade on Clark Lake.



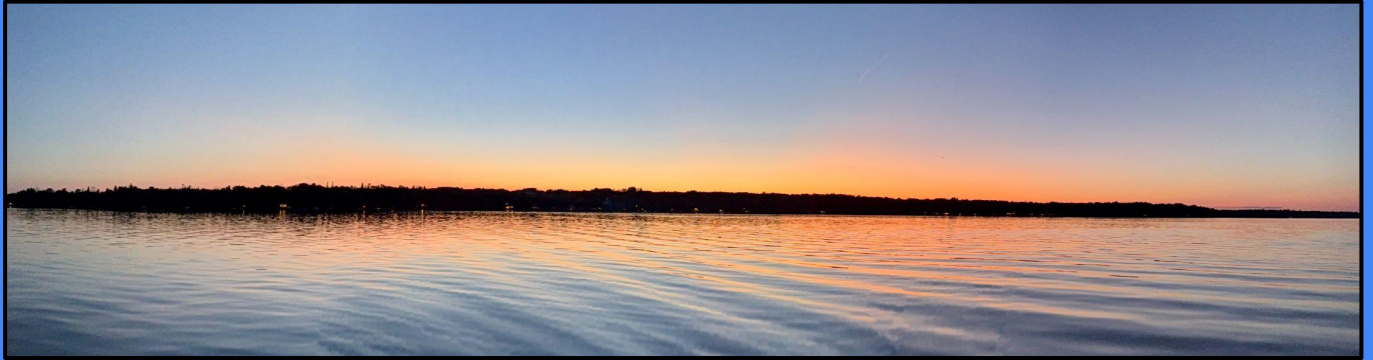


It was a picture perfect day for the 3rd Annual Kayak Poker Run on August 2nd. The water was like glass...air temperature was ideal...and the wind conditions were perfect for crossing the lake. Thanks go to the volunteers who stood on their docks and handed out cards to the kayak participants. We had several small money winners, and Kathleen Schneider won the prize money for the top poker hand.





## And That's A Wrap



It has been a warm, smoky summer here on Clark Lake...Labor Day weekend was picture perfect and many residents began removing their boats and docks during ideal weather conditions. That final pontoon boat ride for the season leaves one with a melancholy feeling knowing that along with the season changing, Clark Lake will change once again, too. How lucky we are to reside in this little "slice of Heaven!" Hope to see everyone at the Fall Dinner at The Lodge at Leathem Smith on Sunday, September 14th at 5:30 PM!



# Why We Should Care About Invasives

Clark Lake and its surrounding shoreline is not immune to invasive plant or aquatic species destroying the delicate ecosystem of the lake. Invasive shrubs and plants disrupt natural communities and ecological processes. Once aquatic invasive species enter our lake and stream habitats, the food chain for fish and native organisms can be seriously altered. In order to maintain a healthy, balanced environment in and around Clark Lake, we all must become proactive and work together to keep dangerous invasive species out of our lake area. Be on the lookout for these invasive species!



## Buckthorn

One such plant that is having an impact on the Southwest corner of Clark Lake is Buckthorn, an invasive plant that can prevent the regeneration of native plants along the shore. Large clumps of this plant will change the chemistry of the soil. As birds eat berries, plants can become widely distributed. One thing you can do if you see buckthorn on your property is to chop off branches with berries to be thrown away and disposed of before berries can drop off or be transferred by animals. The CLAA Soil and Water Committee hopes to do a survey in the Spring of 2026 to identify properties containing buckthorn and then organize a plan to rid the area of this invasive plant in the Fall of 2026.

## Phragmites

Phragmites continues to be a major threat to wetlands and areas around Clark Lake. The county and DCIST have mapped out areas where the invasive plant grows and they are doing pretty good job controlling the spread of the species. If you find Phragmites on your property, please contact Kristin Mitchell from the CLAA Soil and Water Committee. She will direct you to DCIST which has the tools you need to control Phragmites. They have tools available for people to use through their equipment loan program. (920-746-2214)

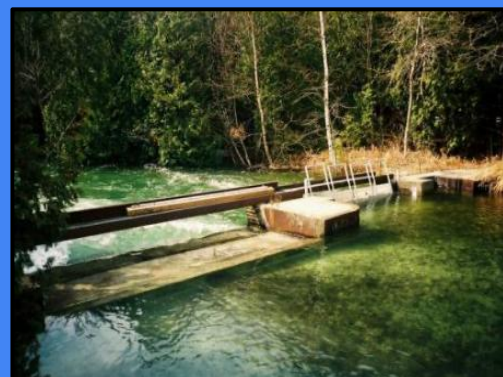


## Spiny Waterflea

The Spiny Waterflea is a predatory zooplankton that is contaminating Great Lakes waters and destroying food sources of native fishes. It was unintentionally introduced by ballast water discharged in the lakes. It is often found on fishing lines or on fish and appears in clumps that resemble gelatinous blobs with a texture of wet cotton. It is spread through the movement of water-related equipment such as Wake boats with ballast tanks that cannot be emptied completely when moving from lake to lake. The CLAA is working hard to prevent this creepy spiny Waterflea from entering Clark Lake.

## Clark Lake Dam

The Clark Lake Dam spans the mouth of Whitefish Bay Creek and regulates the flow of water between Clark Lake and Lake Michigan. It controls the lake level of Clark Lake. We, all as residents along the lake, can help to keep the dam working efficiently and keep it from clogging by helping to maintain a healthy shoreline along our property. We can pick up loose floating sticks, decaying reeds and grasses washing up on shore, and avoid placing grass clippings into the lake. Let's keep our lake clean and healthy for generations to come!



# The Legend of Clark Lake's Happy Hollow

A Look Into the Past...The Legend of Clark Lake's Happy Hollow  
(Written by Leslie GOULET...edited by Terry Schneider)



You have all heard of the "Legend of Sleepy Hollow"... but have you heard the story of "Happy Hollow" on Clark Lake? The property on West Shore Drive not too far from the west side boat launch on Clark Lake is the vacation property of Charlie and Leslie Goulet, now owned by Leslie's brother, Paul Leline. Leslie and her brother, Paul, spent summers on the Clark Lake when they were growing up.

According to Leslie's family history, her grandmother, Anna Copple was born in 1885 on the Johnson farm on County I. At the turn of the century, Anna and her family would walk down to Clark Lake to a "pavilion" known as Goeck's place they once called "the haunted house" for picnicking and fishing. Clark Lake and Fernwood Gardens were very much a part of the Johnson summer.

Anna moved down to Chicago in 1905 and married Sam Copple. They still returned to visit family and stayed in the Weiterman cottages on the east shore in Miller's Bay. In 1948 they bought their lakefront property from Rand DeFaut at what is now 5438 West Shore Drive. Copple had his brother-in-law, Jack Simon, and Ben Olson build their cottage using local cedar and many paned windows-panelling entirely of knotty pine inside and rough cedar. Many nice details like the pine trees on the shutters are reminders to the craft and care these early builders took.

The Copples spent summers at their cottage from 1950 to 1968 and dug a well— one of the few at that time— it was free-flowing and every morning Leslie would wake to the sounds of neighbors filling pails at the pipe at the corner of their cottage where her granpa had a little minnow pond and a cup on a nail for folks to get a drink---and how cold and iron-rich that well water was! Copple said it came all the way from Lake Superior -I wonder?

The cottage was much smaller then, but it had a big screen dining porch they later enclosed and a potbelly stove. Leslie's family, that is her brother Paul, her parents, Pat and Will Leline, would come up from Chicago or Glen Ellyn for two weeks in the summer. How did they all squeeze in?? Kids in the attic and two bedrooms downstairs. So, how was the cottage named "Happy Hollow?" Leslie's mother was reading her "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" on the way up in the car. Leslie came up with the name for the cottage.



## The Legend of Clark Lake's Happy Hollow

Leslie has many great memories of her grandparents...in Leslie's words, "My grandparents were great -- Nana (as we called our grandmother) was always fussing around the garden tending her phlox and my grandpa would make us little furniture, (he'd) show us how to make willow whistles, cherrystone baskets, take us fishing, tell me how Wildcat Point got its name (has anyone else heard about the eagle and the bobcat who lived in the same tree?) or stories of the Indians who used to live here. Do you remember the Indian Trail which is what we called the ridge that ran along the west shore in front of the cottages?

After my grandpa retired from Standard Oil, the Copples moved to Sturgeon Bay on 6" Ave. where our cousin now lives and our family gradually took over the cottage.. raising it on a foundation, enlarging the attic, holding tank and all. After my parents retired and moved to Clearwater FL, they spent from May to October up at the cottage and my brother and I would visit for as long as we could. Now our parents are gone and my brother who now lives in Baileys Harbor and taught biology at Sevastopol comes out to Clark Lake with his wife and kids who are almost grown. My husband and I, who were teachers in Chicago, spend as much time as possible at our favorite place in the world and hope to make it our permanent home one of these days."

