

Clark Lake Newsletter

December, 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 February 15th, 2025.

Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!



Merry
CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR!

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

Summer Kick-Off
June 2025 - TBD

Boat Parade - July 5th

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

Greetings:

Happy November. If you are enjoying your freedom, please thank a Veteran. Elections are over, most docks, boats, and buoys are put away for the winter, the Dam should be repaired, progress is being made on the Wake Boat enhancing devices ordinances, Door County Festivals are in the books, and members are preparing for Thanksgiving. I hope that you and your family were able to squeeze in some nice Fall outings and create some family memories here in Door County. Thank you to the many volunteers that removed the docks, buoys, collected well water samples this Fall. If you see any of these volunteers, please take the time to say Thank you. While the CLAA officers and Board members are working on goals and plans for next year, we are open for suggestions and events that will provide members a chance to gather together and meet new members around Clark Lake. Our ramp donations are voluntary, but many have asked about making an annual donation and receiving an annual sticker to eliminate donations each time they launch their boats, kayaks, or canoes. CLAA has listened to them. In 2025, CLAA will be providing annual stickers.

Continuation of Clark Lake Association President... Mike Brunet

I want to emphasize three main items:

VOLUNTEER - 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.

CLAA really needs your help and participation to make these events successful. CLAA is short four Board members. CLAA needs chair persons for the Social Committee, the Fish and Wildlife Committee, and the Lake Safety and Maintenance Committee. Two other committees need someone to step up to help Mark with some of the projects that he is very passionate about – The Water Quality and Vegetation Control (WQVC) and taking care of the boat ramp donation box and reports. I give the board members credit and a big Thank You for making events happen. 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), (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.

WAKE SURF BOATS – CLAA has been working with Kangaroo Lake Association to adopt ordinances in Baileys Harbor, Jacksonport, and Sevastopol to prohibit the use of the wake enhancing devices (ballast tanks, fins, etc.) on the boats on Kangaroo Lake and Clark Lake. 31 municipalities in Wisconsin have adopted ordinances, 25 more are considering the ordinances including Baileys Harbor, Jacksonport, and Sevastopol. One of the main reasons the ordinances have been accepted is that the municipalities are protecting their lakes from the environmental and safety hazards of wake enhancing boats.

CLARK LAKE DAM – Should be repaired. Scheduled for October 2024. I do not have confirmation.

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

Mike Brunet

2024 Ramp Report

By Mark Weisse

Clark Lake West Side Boat Ramp Donations 2024

CLAA established a system to receive voluntary donations at the West side boat ramp in 2018.

These funds support all CLAA activities including buoy maintenance, informational signage at each lake access point, invasive species identification and abatement, fish sticks, maintenance of the native plant display, and educational materials and presentations to promote conscientious stewardship of both the shore and upland areas around the lake.

2024 Total donations **\$3554.97**

Operating expenses **\$339.15**

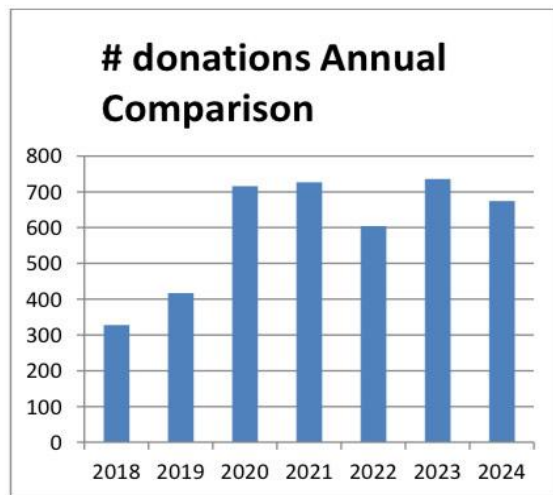
Net contribution to burden: \$3215.82

2024 Number of envelopes deposited **674**

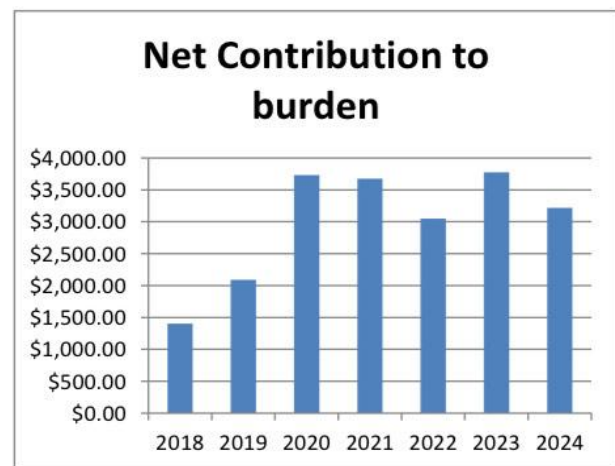
Average donation per envelope \$5.27

Range of donation per envelope \$0-\$20.

Estimated transient boats 2022.



Triple the number of donations to get an estimate of the boats visiting the lake. Note this is **over 2000** for the last several years.



Expenses this year jumped to over **\$339** compared to our average **\$80**. This reflects increased printing and supply costs for 2 years of the donation envelopes. There was also a purchase of 5 years of another item.

2024 Fall Dinner

The CLAA Social Committee closed out the 2024 Summer Season with the Annual Fall Dinner held at The Lodge at Leathem Smith on September 15th. Association members enjoyed cocktails outside at the tiki hut and ate a delicious dinner in the lodge dining area. CLAA President Mike Brunet presented Dick Martin with a gift certificate for his years of service on the Board and on the Social Committee. Our thanks goes to the Social Committee and Betty Van Bellinger for planning this annual event. A short program regarding the Clark Lake dam project was presented to those in attendance.



Social Committee News...

The CLAA Social Committee is looking for new members! If you have any ideas or interest in planning events for the 2025 Summer Season, your input is welcome! If you would like to join the committee, please contact President Mike Brunet. The existing Social Committee is looking for direction for future events. After the first of the year, the committee will be sending out a survey to the general membership. Please complete this survey to give guidance to the types of events you would like to see going on here at Clark Lake.

Hunting Season Has Come and Gone

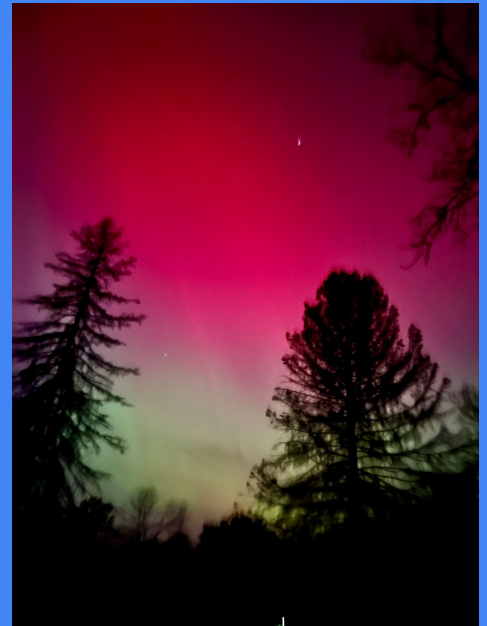
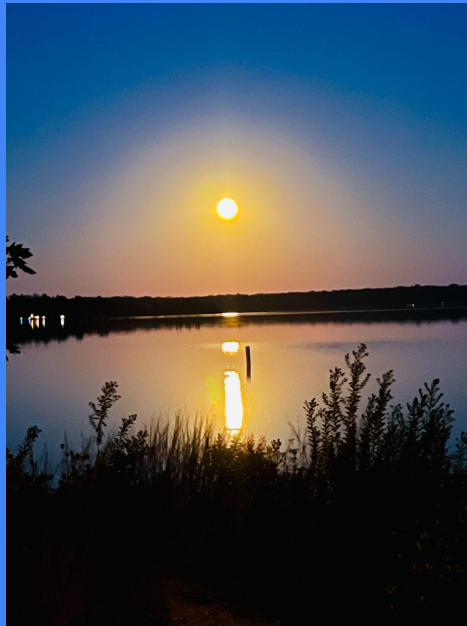
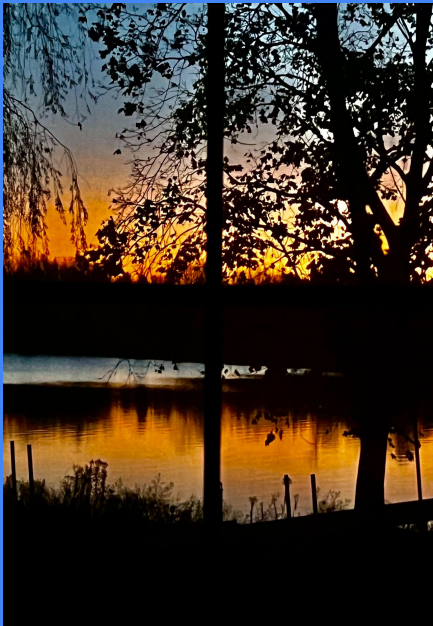


According to the Door County Pulse, deer hunters in Brown, Door, and Kewaunee Counties combined to register 5750 whitetail deer during the recent 2024 gun deer hunt. This is an increase of more than 300 over the five year average.

Those of us living in rural areas and especially along Clark Lake often hear a distant gunshot during the nine-day Wisconsin Deer Hunt. Culling the herd is part of helping to provide a balance of the food supply in nature and managing a healthy level of the deer population. Hunting helps to boost local economies and keep down the number of dead deer hit by cars along our roadways. However, it is bittersweet when our “deer friends” no longer show up for their evening drink along the shore of the lake. There is this quiet time right after hunting season has ended where the deer seem to disappear for a time. Eventually, though, they seem to regroup and reappear as the cycle of life moves on. The twins living along the Southwest shore have hopefully been spared because they sure were fun to watch. Deer bring a gentleness to our surrounding woods and shoreline as well as help to increase the biodiversity of our shoreline ecosystem.

A Season of Changing Skies

We all view Clark Lake from a different perspective. Some of us greet the day with the morning sunrise and others bid farewell to the day by watching the sun set. Both times of day bring magical skies and colorful reflections to the lake. A few lucky residents get to see both morning and evening skies from their lake property. Others with properties set back farther from the lake have the opportunity to peer into darkness and just look up and watch the moon and stars appear in the night skies. There were times this past summer that we were even surprised by the mystery of the Northern Lights! The view around Clark Lake is peaceful and serene regardless of the vantage point. We are blessed with the beauty of Mother Nature around our lake.



Beware of Thin Ice!



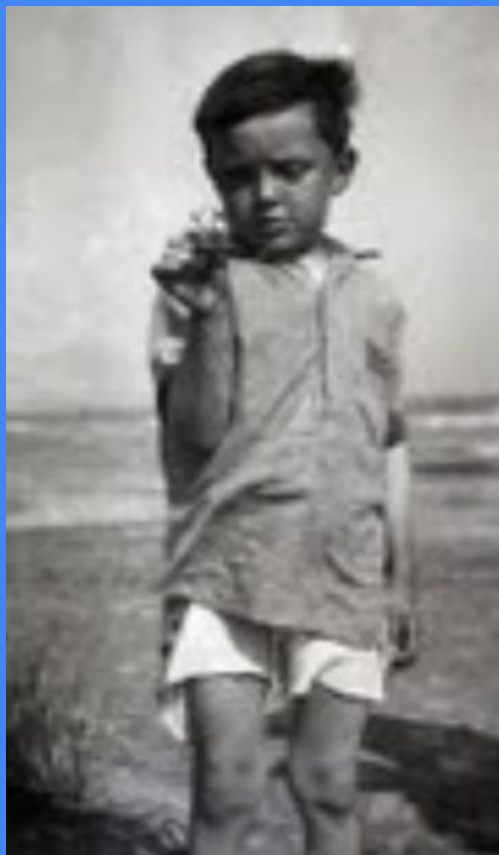
Many of us on Clark Lake were able to watch the lake freeze over as temperatures dropped at the end of the Thanksgiving weekend. What an amazing act of nature to see a simple physical change of water changing into ice! The lake suddenly becomes a playground for skaters, hockey players, cross-country skiers, ice fisherman, and snowmobilers. But, when is it actually safe to head out onto the ice?

According to the Wisconsin DNR, if the ice is less than 4 inches thick, do not walk on it. Ice should be at least 5 inches thick for snowmobiles and ATVs, and no less than 8 to 15 inches for cars and small trucks. One should look for clear ice, which is generally stronger than ice with snow on it or bubbles in it. Keep in mind that ice seldom freezes uniformly.

Safety tips when going onto the ice on the lake include carrying a cell phone, dressing warmly, and letting people know where you are going as well as letting people know when you plan to return. It is best not to be out on the frozen lake alone, but if venturing out alone, carry some buoyant safety gear. Always avoid open water, and do not go on the ice if air temperatures are above freezing. There is no such thing as 100% safe ice!

The History of Frank Butts

You cannot live around Clark Lake without ever hearing of the name Frank Butts...especially those people living on the northwest side of the lake. Owners living on that far corner of the lake cannot even get to their cottages without traveling down Butts Road, named after one of the first families to build a cottage on the lake back in 1914. The Butts property bordered Loritz Road to the west and was known as Tree Haven. The remains of the old stone and metal gate can still be seen from the road today. The following article was posted by Frank Butts's son, Steve, on the Jacksonport Historical Society website and tells the story of his father's life on Clark Lake and in Door County.



The History of Frank Butts Continued...

An only child, Frank Butts was born June 25, 1914, to a wealthy Chicago plumbing contractor and his wife Anna. Anna suffered ten pregnancies that ended in stillbirths or miscarriages in as many years, before Frank arrived in 1914. He was a cherished and protected child. At their summerhouse on the north end of Clark Lake, Frank Sr. built a special streetcar track for his son. Its rails were wooden planks with a flange on each side, enamoring Frank to street cars.

Frank graduated from the University of Chicago and received as his graduation present the streetcar and bus lines of Green Bay. He expanded lines in 1957 into Iron Mountain, Michigan and Algoma and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. In 1958, he took in another 40-mile route to Crystal Falls, Florence, and Iron River in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and was president of Wisconsin-Michigan Coaches. The rise of the private auto sent bus and streetcar lines into decline.

There are many stories to be shared between the streetcar days and his death in 1991 as he was a very unique and interesting individual.

Frank was also a great naturalist and historian and a born teacher. Frank said many times that his beautiful land in the Town of Jacksonport must be preserved for posterity. He was an avid conservationist who wanted the property to be accessible to everyone. On his deathbed in September of 1991, he sold his Logan Creek property to the Ridges Sanctuary.