

Clark Lake Newsletter

December, 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 by February 15th, 2026.

Happy Winter!



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

Volunteers are needed to serve on committees! Join a CLAA committee today!

A Message from the Clark Lake Association President...
Tim Temby

A warm hello to all Clark Lake Association members,

My name is Tim Temby, and I'm honored to be your new Board President. One of my favorite quotes from Teddy Roosevelt is: "Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care." My family has been on Clark Lake since the 1960s, and I've been blessed to spend time here since 1978. I'm proud to be the third generation to serve the association, following my grandfather Erv and my dad Chuck Birringer. Thanks to their efforts—and those of many others—Clark Lake remains one of the true gems of Door County and Wisconsin. I care deeply about preserving it for future generations.

Before I share more about myself and our plans, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our outgoing President, Mike Brunet, who devoted six years to leading this organization with dedication and steadiness. We are grateful for his service and for the strong footing he leaves us as we move forward.

Continuation of Clark Lake Association President...

Tim Temby

My wife Lisa and I have been full-time residents since 2021, but I've been active in the association for the past decade through projects like Fish Sticks, buckthorn removal, and the bike and kayak poker runs. I also served as Treasurer for the last three years. These experiences taught me that the true strength of our organization is the passion of its members.

Sometimes that passion comes through financial support—such as Wayne and Cleta Semmerling's generous \$3,300 donation toward protecting the lake from wake-enhanced damage. More often, it's the countless hours volunteers give: Mark Weisse and Leslie Goulet maintaining water quality and vegetation control; Bob Defaut placing and removing informational buoys for many years; and the boundless energy of Dick Martin for our social events. And we remember long-time member Don Hinnenthal, who served on the Fish and Wildlife Committee and left a \$2,500 gift from his trust to continue supporting our fishery efforts.

Clark Lake remains a wonderful community and a healthy natural resource, and our association is financially strong despite recent inflation. Where we are most challenged, however, is volunteer participation. Many long-time volunteers who have carried us for years are now unable to contribute at the same level—though their passion remains.

Several committees currently lack leadership or the volunteers needed to sustain our past progress and meet future challenges. My primary goal as President is to reinvigorate volunteerism and channel our shared love for this lake into action. Over the coming year, I will be doing outreach and highlighting opportunities to get involved in areas such as fishing, water quality, lake safety, and social events.

If this message sparks even the faintest interest, I encourage you to reach out to me or any board member. We would truly appreciate your help.

Wishing you a safe and wonderful holiday season.

God Bless, Tim Temby

Social Committee Update

Fire and Ice February 2026 will be held if ice and weather conditions are favorable. Date and location of the event will be announced closer to the gathering. An email will be sent out to the membership when the date is set!

New CLAA Board Members and Officers



The July, 2025 CLAA Annual Meeting held at the Jacksonport Town Hall brought about some new faces to our Association Board. Tim Temby was elected president, replacing Mike Brunet who served our association well these last few years. Tim formerly served as treasurer of the CLAA so we know our association is in very capable hands.

Tim Temby has a very sincere interest in leading the CLAA. Tim and his family have been coming to Clark Lake since 1978. His step-dad, Chuck Birringer, has been on the lake since the 1960s. Tim has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 35 years and is the father of two daughters and two grandchildren. He has served on CLAA committees for the past 10 years and was treasurer for the past 3 years. Tim has a commitment to making Clark Lake a great place to reside and promotes environmental issues that enhance the quality of the lake. Welcome Tim!

Our new Board members come from different parts of the lake. This is good because it's important to have different perspectives since different sides of the lake experience different issues. Carol Schumacher of Butts Road is our new secretary. Carol spent much of her youth on Clark Lake and she and her family are now permanent residents on the lake. She is a teacher in the Sevastopol School District and a 4th generation family on the lake. Mark Knuth of West Shore Drive has been elected treasurer of the association. His financial background will be very helpful in his role as treasurer. John McCormick of South Lake Road is our new board member at large. John and his wife moved to the lake about a year ago and have expressed interest in becoming involved with CLAA activities. Welcome Carol, Mark and John!



Water Quality and Vegetation Committee (WQVC) - November 2025.... Mike Brunet

Greetings:

Fall/Winter is here. I have finished my terms as President moved over the to the Water Quality and Vegetation Committee (WQVC) keep their projects active to minimize Clark Lake waters and land from contaminants, invasive species (land and water). WQVC has a dedicated set of Project leaders, but to accomplish CLAA and WQVC goals, it will take a number of volunteers working with the project leaders to make it happen. Please view these topic on the Clark Lake website, clarklakewi.com or contact the project leaders if you have questions or want to volunteer.

A few of our Projects and leaders are:

Invasive Species (Phragmites – tall marsh grass with purple heads – Joe Otto, he is working with Jason Miller, Door County Invasive Species (DCIS) to map areas (land and water) in the spring/summer and apply material in the fall to kill the roots; Buckthorn – invasive tree/bushes on land on members' property - Kristin Grady-Mitchell, working with the state park personnel to identify and remove, coordinate work days and volunteers

Boat Ramp Inspections and Education to stop movement from other lakes and bodies of water to Clark Lake and from Clark Lake to other bodies of water – Jill Carstens, Spring through Fall, primarily on the weekend a few hours a day – we have training videos – great thing to do with your spouse and kids to give back to CLAA

UWO-Well Water testing (April and October) – Mark Weisse

Citizen Lake Water Sampling – Paul Schumaker and Gwenn Graboyes – great way to learn about watershed runoff into Clark Lake

Beach E-Coli monitoring during swim season – Jill Carstens – work with Jill on monitoring test reporting from the state/county testing and finding ways to get that information to people that use Clark Lake quickly

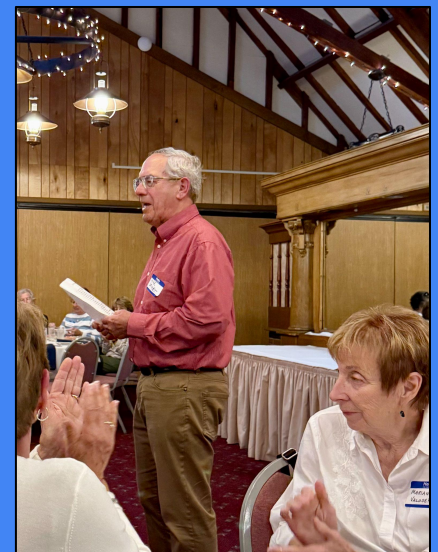
Bulrush mapping (reed beds in the water near shore-need project leader – CLAA has GPS devices, can be done from kayaks, canoes, etc. on a nice day; beds of bullrushes help us identify the health of Clark Lake.

Ridges Dock – spring and fall – Tim Temby – need manpower to put the dock in and remove it; the Ridges is our sponsor for getting grant requests for Clark Lake. CLAA need to assist them to show we are partners in keeping Clark Lake healthy for fishing, swimming and other lake activities.

Save Our Shoreline (SOS) – need project leader – this is a major project with many facets if we want to comply with state and county recommendation. this group is responsible for Shoreline evaluation, erosion controls, water retention, near shore use, etc.

2025 Fall Dinner

CLAA members gathered at the Lodge at Leathem Smith on Sunday, September 13th, 2025 for the annual Fall Dinner. It was a beautiful late summer evening...people were able to comfortably sit outside at the Tiki Bar to enjoy cocktails before gathering inside the Lodge for a delicious meal. Newly elected CLAA President Tim Temby introduced himself to those in attendance and spoke to members about the benefits of belonging to the Clark Lake Advancement Association. Thanks goes to the Social Committee members, Betty Van Bellinger and Kathy Steinmetz for organizing such an enjoyable evening!



News Around The Lake

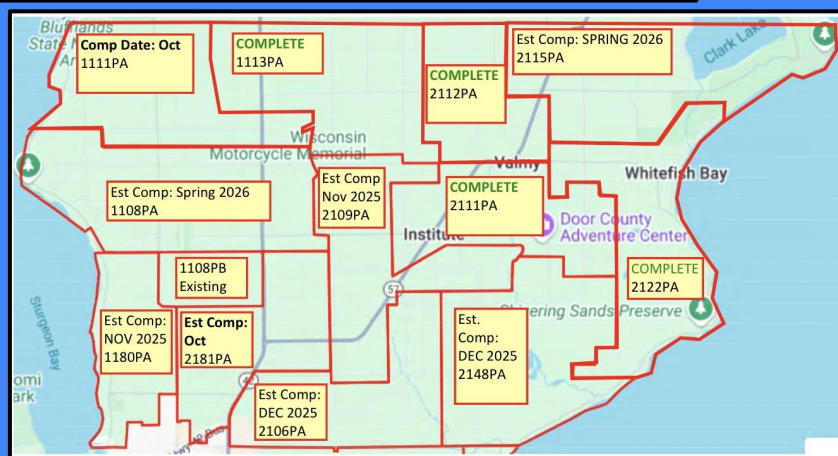
CLAA Webpage Update



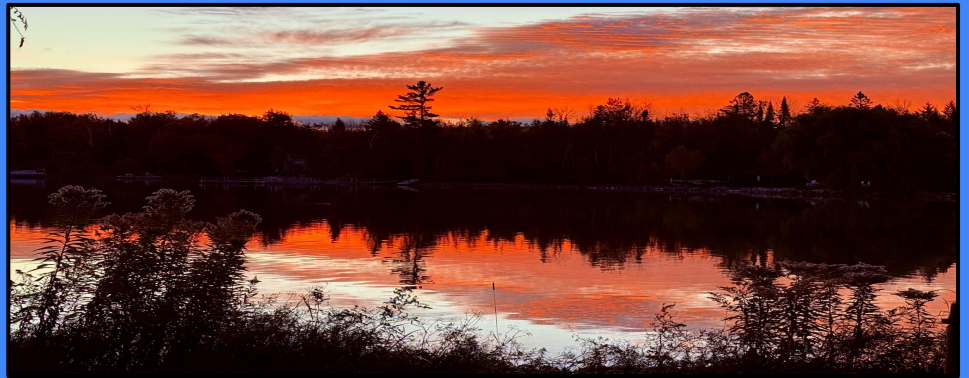
The CLAA Website is experiencing an update. Chuck Birringer has been working diligently with Town Web organization to successfully migrate our website over to a new platform. This is a work in progress, and the goal of the Board is to make it easier for the association members to navigate the site. In addition, the desired result is to make it more user friendly by adding menu options like credit card payments and improving direct communication with members through the website. This improvement should also help to improve spam delivery. Once the board has some time to review and implement some changes, the broader membership will be notified about the new site. Thank you, Chuck, for your time and efforts to improve our website.

AT&T Fiber Optics Installation in the Town of Sevastopol

Those of us in the Town of Sevastopol who struggle to receive consistent internet service are anxiously awaiting the AT&T fiber optic installation around Clark Lake. There is no specific new information regarding progress of this project around the lake to date. However, there will be a meeting on December 10th at the Town Hall to discuss work around the lake. In the meantime, AT&T Fixed Wireless will end for all its customers by mid December. AT&T Internet Air is an option to use until the fiber optics are installed and up and running around the lake. It works, but it's still slow to receive emails. However, there seem to be fewer interruptions when streaming. Inconsistent internet is the price we pay to live beside beautiful Clark Lake!



It has been a pleasant fall...beautiful color, reflections on the lake, and still waters UNTIL late November arrived and we just plunged right into winter! Sooner, rather than later this year, Clark Lake will transform into a playground for ice fisherman, cross country skiers and snowshoers, and perhaps a few snowmobiles.



The Grouchy Grouse and Anxious Deer

As a year-round resident of Clark Lake, one develops a real connection to the wildlife living around the lake. My property has sort of become a hideout for wildlife. The deer can be seen almost daily on my property because some actually live behind my mound system along the woods. I frequently see them along the lake at dusk, but as night falls they get pretty close to the house and almost at my front door. As quiet as they are, they can be a bit disruptive when my cameras ding in the middle of the night indicating someone is at my door. I sense the deer become more anxious during hunting season. I understand the need for deer hunting, but I'm happy my yard is a safe spot for them.

On the other hand....I've recently been dealing with a pesky, grouchy grouse. The bird followed me on the road when I walked the dogs, attacked my leg as I raked leaves, and tried to actually get through my front door as well as jump into the car with me. It's the oddest thing! I can't quite determine where this bird is living, but it seems to appear as soon as I walk out the door. Ruffed Grouse are common in Door County. They typically tend to be rather secretive and nest in wooded areas. They have been known to appear in yards during the fall and appear unafraid of people. These grouse are usually young and appear confused because they have been shunted off by their parents. This grouchy grouse certainly wasn't afraid of me or my dogs! Interesting, though...since the snowfall just before Thanksgiving, I haven't seen the bird! Either it has withdrawn to the depths of the woods or it has become lunch for some animal.

I'm beginning to think my yard is a refuge for all animals. Around Labor Day a stray raccoon crawled onto my front porch and didn't leave. It definitely appeared sick, so for safety reasons, I had no option but to call animal control to have it removed. I checked on the Town website and found a contact for animal removal. If you run into a similar situation and need a sick animal removed, contact your town's Animal Control Officer.



A Look Into the Past....

Hidden Hideouts on Clark Lake by Terry Schneider

One of my responsibilities as editor of this newsletter is to act as historian of Clark Lake. My family members have lived here close to 40 years, but many more families on the lake go back generations. I've interviewed numerous people since taking over this position and researched written family histories of Clark Lake residents. A few references to specific places on the lake keep popping up, but I have no specific information as to whether these places actually existed. Perhaps someone reading this article will recall one of these locations and be able to share the history of this hidden hideout on or near Clark Lake.

You've heard of a Blue Moon....we have lovely moon reflections on the lake, but is this the Blue Moon recorded in one's written history? It is possible that the Blue Moon was a tavern on the west side on Butts Road as it went down the hill to the lake. I learned there was once a small train that traveled that hill and an orchard along Loritz Road, but never a tavern. How about the Grass Hopper? Supposedly this was a dance hall that became Fernwood Gardens and eventually part of Mr. G's. What about Cat Island? There are no islands in Clark Lake. Apparently Cat Island was more of a point than an island on the east side of the lake located at the end of Weiderman Drive.

And then there is "Lost Lake"...a place I have visited several times. This is a small, shallow pond of water located in the wetlands of Whitefish Dunes State Park on the far southeast corner of Clark Lake. It is only accessible by canoe or kayak. You have to find the small streamlet that leads to the pond. This stream has a depth of about 3 feet...just deep enough to paddle your kayak through the reeds. During the middle of the summer the "lake" is loaded with lily pads. It's a quiet, hidden spot completely surrounded by trees in the state park.



Finally..."Treasure Island." This is a magical place that I would take my daughter to when she was a little girl. She was fascinated with the Disney cartoon movie, "Peter Pan." We would take the paddle boat to Treasure Island to look for crocodiles. Those crocodiles were fallen trees lying under the water along the shoreline just east of the Van Bellinger property. (However, on occasion one might have observed inflated floating green crocodiles there as props for a scavenger hunt.) The small strip of property once owned by the VFW and 4-H was never developed because of the size of the property. It is privately owned now and access to the lake over the wetland area is over a boardwalk.

It is possible that all these hidden places were just locations that existed in a child's imagination. They existed as favorite spots on the lake where children would return to for play, adventure, or just good fishing. I'm sure many residents have hidden spots on their properties that provide magical memories for their family members. All these unknown hidden spots make Clark Lake a magical place!

