

# Clark Lake Newsletter

Spring, 2026

## 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 July 15th, 2026.



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

Greetings CLAA Members,

As winter begins to loosen its grip and we look ahead to another season on Clark Lake, I wanted to share a few updates on the work of the Clark Lake Advancement Association.

In my annual letter earlier this year, I spoke about the importance of strengthening member involvement so that we can continue the work needed to protect and enhance our lake. I'm encouraged to report that we've already seen some early momentum. A couple members have stepped forward to help reinvigorate the Fish & Wildlife Committee. This may seem like a small step, but it represent important progress with much work to do.

Beginning in late March, I will also start reaching out to members individually. My goal is simple — to listen, learn what matters most to you about Clark Lake, and help connect members with areas of the Association where their interests and skills can make a difference. Our committees and projects only succeed when members share their time, ideas, and energy, and I'm hopeful these conversations will help us build stronger engagement across the Association.

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

**Board Meeting - Saturday, May 9th at 8:30 AM**  
**Fall Dinner - Saturday, September 12th at Samuelson's at White Birch Inn**  
**Social at 5 PM Dinner at 6 PM**

Continuation of Clark Lake Association President...  
Tim Temby

I also want to share a personal commitment I've made to strengthening my ability to serve in this role. I recently applied to and was accepted into the Wisconsin Lake Leaders Institute, a statewide program that develops lake association leaders through education, collaboration, and training in lake management and stewardship. As part of that effort, I will also be attending the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention this spring.

Both opportunities will allow me to learn from experts and other lake leaders across the state and bring new ideas, resources, and best practices back to Clark Lake.

Clark Lake has benefited for generations from residents who care deeply about protecting this special place. With continued engagement from our members and a shared commitment to stewardship, I'm confident we can build on that tradition for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Clark Lake Advancement Association.

With appreciation,

Tim Temby

President, CLAA

*If you have ideas, questions, or interest in getting involved, I'd welcome hearing from you.*

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

## CLARK LAKE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

### Water Quality and Vegetation Committee (WQVC) – March 2026

Greetings:

With the snow melting and the up and down weather, it seems like Spring is just around the corner. My Board terms expire in July, so now is the time to step-up and get involved with this important part of CLAA.

It has been a quiet fall and winter for the WQVC team except for the well water testing in October. Water Quality and Vegetation Committee (WQVC) wants to keep their projects active to minimize Clark Lake waters and land from contaminants, invasive species (land and water), but we cannot do these projects without the leaders and volunteers. 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 review these topics on the Clark Lake website, [clarklakewi.com](http://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 to help with property inspection/visits.

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 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, volunteers meet at Jacksonport Town Hall to collect samples dropped off by people in the area.

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 quickly that use Clark Lake

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 recommendations. This group is responsible for Shoreline evaluation, erosion controls, water retention, near shore use, etc.

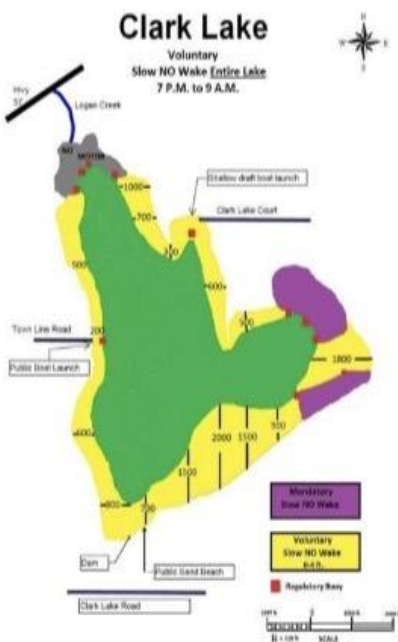
Our next scheduled meeting will be a virtual meeting on 4/13, 7:00PM. I will be out of state.

Mike Brunet

# Lake Safety and Maintenance...

By Gwenn Graboyes

The ice has melted, but there is no Goat in a Boat on our Lake yet. However, we have some things to look forward to this spring for two reasons. First we are going to get our 2026 fish survey through the DNR this spring. YAY!! The data was collected (i.e. the fish were counted in the survey) in 2020, but due to COVID and staffing, it was never collated or available for us to review. We get a fish survey every 6 years, and this year's results should be available by the end of 2026. Hopefully it will show a healthy mix of fish and guide any stocking we may want to consider.



Secondly, Tim Alberts does our buoy management with placement and removal for each boating season, repairs as needed, and chasing down errant buoys. He will be painting several that are desperately in need of a facelift and will be placing all of them by the first week in May so the North End is appropriately marked for NO MOTORS (electric or combustion) when fishing season opens. We are fortunate to have him on board to help us with this.

## DNR Buoys & ATT Update

### Good News from the DNR:

WI DNR Fisheries is conducting a comprehensive fish survey of Clark Lake this year/2026, which will likely consist of 1) early spring fyke netting, 2) immediately after this netting, we'll conduct nighttime electrofishing, 3) later spring electrofishing, and 4) fall electrofishing.

DNR staff set survey nets in Clark Lake on Sunday April 12. The flags that you mentioned, are attached to survey nets. These flags are used as an identifier and so that fisheries staff can lift nets to collect and sample captured fish.

This survey is being led by DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist Logan Sikora and DNR Fisheries Biologist Jacob Steckmesser.



### Internet Update for the Town of Sevastopol

You may have observed WPS replacing electrical poles along Clark Lake Road. These poles are the prework needed before ATT can service the Clark Lake area with fiber optic internet service. Perhaps by May or June some of us will have a new internet service available around the lake.

# Social Committee Upcoming Events

CLAA Invites All Current Members To the 3rd Annual Summer Kick-Off Party at

**ISLAND FEVER** in Jacksonport  
(Event will be held outside under a tent)

Saturday, June 13th, 2026  
12 - 3 PM

Taco Bar and Sodas  
(Included)

Cash/Credit Bar for cocktails

Please R.S.V.P. number of people attending by May 31st to:  
Kathy Steinmetz

Email: [kmsteinmetz12@gmail.com](mailto:kmsteinmetz12@gmail.com)

Phone: (414) 467-9444

## 7TH ANNUAL CLAA BOAT PARADE

Saturday, July 4th

Meet in front of the BEACH  
at 11:30 AM  
Parade begins at 12 Noon!

Decorate your boat for the 250th  
Birthday Celebration of the USA

(More information to follow closer to the event!)



CLAA 4th Annual  
Kayak Poker Run

Saturday, August 1st  
9 - 11 AM

(More information to follow closer to the event date!)



## CLAA Fall Dinner

Saturday, September 12, 2026  
Samuelson's at White Birch Inn  
Sturgeon Bay



Social at 5:00 PM  
Family Style Dinner at 6:00 PM

Details coming soon!

# Fire & Ice 2026



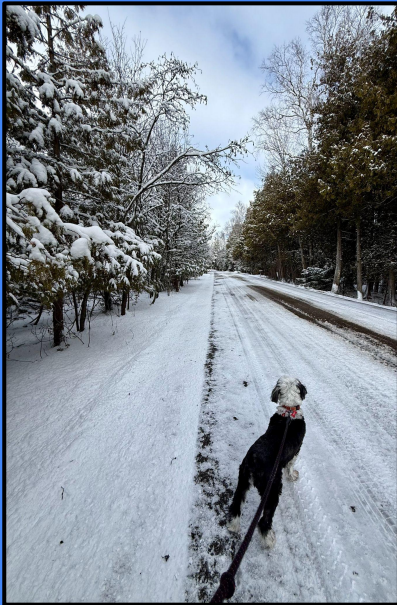
A gathering of CLAA members was held at the lakeside home of Julie Blackmore and John McCormick to celebrate Fire and Ice 2026 on Saturday, March 1st. It was a cool day, and lake ice conditions had begun to deteriorate, but it was nice enough for people to congregate and socialize outside in the yard. Those attending enjoyed delicious snacks and drinks, and some even participated in the annual "Shotski." It was a great opportunity for winter residents and weekend visitors to get out and see their neighbors! Thanks goes to Julie and John for hosting this fun winter event.



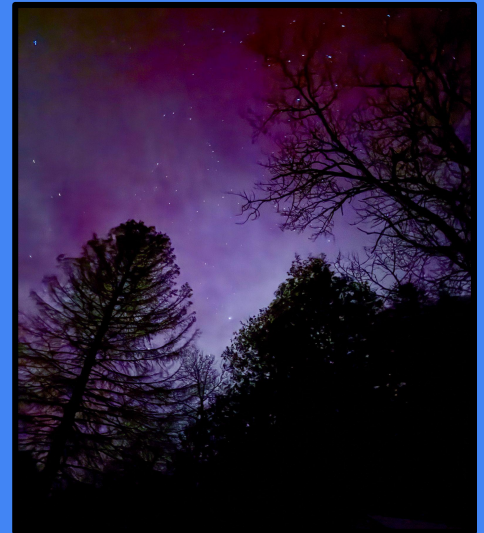
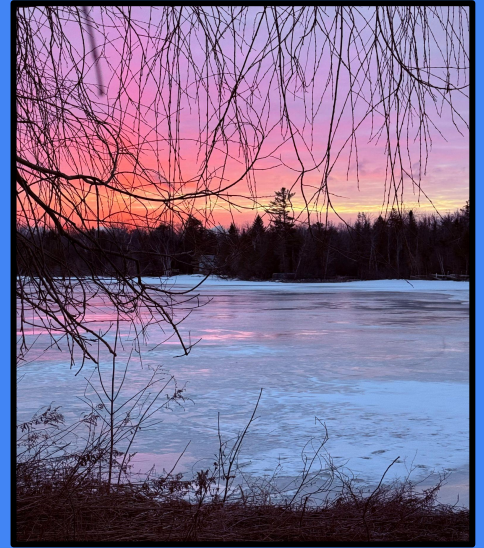
# Fire & Ice 2026



## It Was a Long, Cold, Winter...



Winter came early to Clark Lake in late 2025. It snowed around Thanksgiving, and cold air just seemed to hang around. The lake began to freeze over, and some people were brave enough to start skating and hiking on the lake. December temperatures were brutal for a few days, but then January arrived and the temperatures seemed to let up for a bit. The beginning of 2026 could have been described as being almost mild. But by the end of the month, the ice was thick enough and the Town Line Road leading to the west side boat launch extended out onto the lake. Ice shanties popped up on the north end and vehicles could be seen driving on the ice. It seemed like a pretty typical Door County winter. Days started to warm up and the lake began to open up by mid March until...



## It Was a Long, Cold, Winter...



...the worst snowstorm of the century hit the Door Peninsula for several days! Clark Lake was located in part of the bull's eye of Elsa. As the saying goes, "Beware of the Ides of March!" On the night of Thursday, March 12th, snow and high winds hit the area. Many of us woke up Friday morning to no power and wind damage to our properties. Saturday, the 14th, provided a bit of a lull, but Saturday evening the tide turned. It began with sleety snow and then transformed into a sheet of white that went on until mid afternoon on Monday. The winds roared. Snow banks and drifts piled up. Many of us struggled just to keep an open space to let out our dogs. Once the storm ended on the 16th, it took 2 to 3 days for many of us to get plowed out. Snow amounts varied a bit, but many of us measured 34-40 inches of snow that had fallen around Clark Lake. This will be a snowfall we will always remember. Fortunately warm winds and rains melted the snow within a couple weeks and the lake has thawed and the welcoming green of springtime has arrived!



# A Look at the Past...

The Logan Creek property remains a natural preserved

## Spring Awakening

The melting of the winter snow and ice brings new life to the land surrounding Clark Lake. The swampy areas overflowing with melting winter run-off and Spring rains awaken “Spring Peepers” and toads and frogs that provide night symphonies on warmer nights. Daffodils pop through the ground along with little blue irises and marsh marigolds also known as “Cow Slips.” What’s most spectacular in our immediate surroundings are the fields of white Trilliums that will soon blanket the forest floors. And those of us who drive down Loritz Road have one of the best opportunities to view these wild flowers on the Logan Creek property from mid to late May! These large white Trilliums are for viewing only, as they are protected and should never be picked. The forest floor along Loritz Road has one of the most spectacular views of springtime Trilliums in Door County.

Frank Butts, who once lived on the north side of Clark Lake and near Logan Creek, was an avid conservationist. He saw the beauty in this natural area and had the foresight to want to keep it protected and undeveloped. Upon his death in 1991, his Logan Creek property was sold to the Ridges Sanctuary, and this untouched piece of land in the Town of Jacksonport has been preserved for prosperity!

The Logan Creek property that is now part of the Ridges Sanctuary borders the north end of Clark Lake. Visitors may park off of Loritz Road and hike to the lake. The property is also accessible by canoe or kayak as the CLAA installs a dock in the springtime for hikers to tie up and explore the preserve from the lakeside. The 170 acre protected site features northern wet-mesic forests, hardwoods, and white cedar swamps. Kayakers and canoers who travel up Logan Creek may observe various bird species such as the red-eyed vireo, the rose-breasted grosbeak, and the hermit thrush. This quiet end of Clark Lake welcomes fishermen and naturalists to an undeveloped region along the lake.



Young Frank Butts, Jr.  
holding a crayfish.

