

The Clary Lake Clarion

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The Newsletter of the Clary Lake Association

Spring/Summer 2024



Dear Friends of Clary Lake!

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This “news” letter is going out to everyone on our mailing list in lieu of our regular “Clary Lake Clarion” newsletter which has been the norm since 2010. I was simply unable to pull together our traditional newsletter this spring as I have had too much on my plate to get everything done. So this will have to do! The sunset picture above was taken by Danny Bell May 4th.

Some of you receiving this letter are not now and perhaps never have been members of the Clary Lake Association. Now is a good time to consider joining! The CLA is a membership organization and joining us adds to our collective voice. Actually volunteering helps us work toward our goal of protecting and preserving Clary Lake, a much loved and valuable natural treasure. Whether you live or own property on the lake or not, it's your lake to share and enjoy. Help us protect Clary Lake by joining the Clary Lake Association!

One thing that has kept us busy this winter and spring was preparing for the Watershed Survey which took place this past May 4th. Many thanks to the Association volunteers who helped with the survey, and to those watershed property owners who agreed to let us include their property in the survey. We hope to have copies of the Watershed Survey Report available for review at the Annual Meeting when we'll be discussing the “next steps” of this project.

Since purchasing the Clary Lake dam 5 years ago, we've been holding all our our events and Annual Meeting there. This year we've decided to hold our Annual 2024 Membership Meeting on Saturday August 17, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the home of Gareth & Beverly Bowen at 739 Gardiner Road in Jefferson (if you plug that address into Google Maps it will drop a marker at the end of the Bowen's driveway). The Bowen home is visible from the road, way down in field that those of you who have been around a while will recognize as John Robert MacDonald's hay field. We've held Meetings there in the past, and it's a great venue. You're also welcome to come by boat and tie up at their dock. The main impetus for holding the Meeting other than at the dam this year is so we can provide Zoom access to the Meeting for our members who can't make it to the Meeting in person. Zoom requires a high speed internet connection which is unavailable at the dam property. We'll hold the Meeting rain or shine: In the event of rain we'll simply move the Meeting indoors! Otherwise we will setup some awning tents for shade and will provide chairs, water, and coffee. We'll have our traditional potluck supper after the Meeting and as we've done in recent years, we'll be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, and some veggie burgers to go with your favorite salad, casserole, side dish or desert. Don't forget to bring an appetite!

Additional information about the Annual Meeting program and how to register for the Zoom access will be emailed to everyone we have addresses for as well as posted on the Clary Lake Association website (<https://clarylake.org/>) later this summer, so keep an eye out for it.

We're also planning several events this summer including putting a float in the Whitefield 4th of July parade and a back-to-back Ice Cream Social and Marsh Paddle on Saturday July 20th starting at 10 AM at the Clary Lake dam. Back in 2019 we held a coffee klatch out on the lake and it looked like it was going to become an annual event, and then COVID happened. We're going to resurrect that event this coming August 24th out on Clary Lake, one week after the Annual Meeting. As usual, details and reminders of all events will be sent out by email and posted on our website and FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/ClaryLakeAssociation>) Included with this letter is a remittance envelope, and I encourage everyone to send in your Membership dues early! In keeping with a long standing tradition, our membership year runs from annual Meeting to annual Meeting. Dues are (still only) \$25 per Member which entitles you to vote at Association Meetings. If additional family members want to, they can also pay dues and be counted as voting members. Notice also that we no longer ask for separate Summer and Winter addresses though we still do keep multiple addresses on file, where appropriate. Please provide us with your PRIMARY mailing address and also please include email addresses for you and your family as email makes contacting you fast, free, and easy!

If traditional check writing is no longer your thing, you can use Venmo (@gsfergusson) or easily join or renew your Membership on our website using a credit card or your PayPal account. Look for the "[Sign Up or Renew Your Membership Online](#)" link under the Members main menu heading. It's never been easier to join the CLA. If you intend to pay your dues at the Meeting, please plan to arrive early. We'll have a registration desk set up by 1PM; the Business Meeting will start promptly at 2PM.

Like most membership organizations, the Clary Lake Association depends entirely on volunteers to get our important work done. Our ability to meet our goals of protecting and preserving Clary Lake depends on having enough people willing to step up and do the work. We need people to get involved and help! Please send an email to volunteer@clarylake.org and let us know how you think you could help the Clary Lake Association get it's work done. Helping out need not involve spending a lot of time, but it does require a commitment. If you're ready to get involved, reach out to us and we'll put you in touch with the right people.

Speaking of volunteers, CLA member Charlene Andersen has accepted the role of Chair of our Fundraising committee, bringing it new life and new energy! Charlene brings her extensive experience in finance to bear on a most important aspect of Association business: raising money to fund our programs and initiatives, not the least of which is dam repairs slated for next year.

Are you a good writer or do you have other graphic or editorial skills? We're looking for one or more people who are interested in helping out with our website and social media sites. Familiarity with Wordpress is a plus but not a requirement. Are you from out of town and only here on Clary Lake for a little while each summer? No problem! All work on our website and social media sites is effectively "remote" anyways, and all of our committees offer Zoom Meeting attendance and we do much of our work by email. Get involved. You'll be glad you did!

Respectfully,



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