



CLEAR THINKING

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JULY 2016

LOVE OF CLEAR LAKE

ISSUE No. 7



We never cease to be amazed and humbled by the enthusiasm and warm emotions that just mentioning Clear Lake produces. As the Conservancy celebrates 25 years in 2016, we are mentioning Clear Lake as often as possible as we plan Creating a Clear Future events! People are responding.

An energetic group of volunteers has stepped up with exciting plans for two spectacular events on August 6th and 7th. These events represent the Clear Lake community at its best, coming together for a great cause at the Yacht Club and on Kasota Island.

We invite all in the Township to attend, learn about the Conservancy and its projects, and enjoy time with others from the Clear Lake area. **Get more details and make your reservations at clearlakeconservancy.org.**

Joyce and Larry Schavey are co-chairing the Gala / Auction Event Committee and promise we'll be well-fed (Sutton's catering) and refreshed (with special drinks and cash bar) as we take in the Project Exhibits and bid on tempting auction items (silent and live) before the Dueling Pianos show. Get a group together or meet new neighbors beginning at 6pm on the 6th at the Yacht Club!

Bill Geiger is chairing the Kasota Island party committee for Sunday's Hog Roast and music by Island Vibe (1-5pm). We hope to see **Clear Lakers of all ages** enjoy the Island, food, music and Project Exhibits highlighting plans for the Island Shoreline Protection, Clear Lake Nature Preserve Restoration & Trails, and Operating Endowment Fund expansion. Transportation to the Island will be available.

These Event Committees are supported by the Auction / Sponsorship Committee headed by Nancy Webster and Chad Korte and the Marketing Committee co-chaired by Karen and Jack Horrell. Ideas are welcomed!

Back to the Operating Endowment Fund, we are thrilled to share happy news that the Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF) recently announced a **\$25,000 Matching Grant** opportunity for new funds raised for the Conservancy's Operating or Maintenance Funds in this 25th Anniversary year! This opportunity is available to other Steuben County non-profits and funds will be matched \$1 for \$1 on a first-come, first-served basis until the available funds are used. The Operating Fund was established with SCCF in 2015 and provides a crucial and sustainable long-term source of funding for the Conservancy's mission and operations. To participate in this exciting match opportunity mention the Conservancy's Operating Endowment when contacting the Steuben County Community Foundation either online at steubenfoundation.org or by mail 1701 N Wayne St, Angola, IN 46703. Donations have begun...let's keep it going!

And there's more! In celebration of our 25 Years of Conservation, an anonymous donor has offered a **\$10,000 Unrestricted Match** for Conservancy donations received between now and the end of the year. Donations are easy through the website clearlakeconservancy.org, in person, or by mail to the Conservancy office. Help us claim this generous match, too!

Creating a Clear Future. Join us for the August events as we celebrate the past 25 years and maintain the enthusiasm and love we all have for this special corner of the state we call Clear Lake.

Nancy Webster, President
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



Water Quality

The Water Quality Committee and volunteers have been collecting water sampling data from the lake and the four ditches that drain into the lake for most of CLTLC's existence. Testing parameters include temperature, pH, nitrate, nitrite, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, orthophosphate, biological oxygen demand, and turbidity. This section of *Clear Thinking* will continue to explain these testing parameters.

Biochemical oxygen demand is a measure of the quantity of oxygen used by aerobic bacteria as they break down organic matter. Natural sources of organic matter may include plant decay and leaf fall. However, plant growth and decay may be unnaturally accelerated when nutrients (like phosphorus and nitrogen) and sunlight are overly abundant due to human influence. Surface runoff carries pet waste from streets and sidewalks; nutrients from lawn fertilizers; leaves, grass clippings, and paper from residential areas, which increase oxygen demand.

So, why does this all matter? Oxygen consumed in the decomposition process robs other aquatic organisms of the oxygen they need to live. High levels of organic matter can lead to rapid exhaustion of dissolved oxygen. A healthy, diverse lake system requires ample oxygen for the survival of fish and macroinvertebrates. What can you do to help? Reduce the amount of organic matter making its way into Clear Lake by cleaning up after your pet, properly disposing of lawn waste, and leaving a buffer along the lake when applying chemicals.

Natural Area Preservation

"What is the good of our stars and trees, our sunrise and the wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives?" - E. M. Forster

Exactly. Making beautiful locations a daily part of Clear Lake life is a core component of the Conservancy's mission. This month we spotlight a property that fits perfectly with the Conservancy's celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

Memorial Woods was donated to the Conservancy in 2009 by Mike and Pat Franz to honor one of the Conservancy's former Board Presidents, Paul Federpiel. Paul died in 2008 and would have delighted in this gift of open space in a community he loved and worked to conserve.



Located between Point Park Drive and East Clear Lake Drive, this 1.6 acre wooded park-like land was also donated by the Franz family as a way to honor the passing of a loved one. Contact Executive Director Bridget Harrison to learn more about this. The Conservancy remains grateful for this generous and accessible gift from Mike and Pat Franz.

Enjoy Memorial Woods as a part of your daily life on your next walk or bike ride and remember the lives of those before us who have shared the same love for Clear Lake.



2017 Conservancy Calendar

Take the birds of Clear Lake with you no matter where you have a "habitat" in 2017! Funds raised from the 2017 Calendar benefit the Conservancy's mission and operations.

Bridget is already receiving some classic photos from Clear Lakers as our feathered neighbors enjoy the Lake landscape and water with us. Send your photos to her at info@clearlakeconservancy.org by July 25th to be considered for a page in the 2017 CLTLC Calendar. Calendars available for purchase in August.

e-Newsletter:

To sign up for our e-newsletter email:
info@clearlakeconservancy.org

Environmental Education

Why are those pretty plants being pulled up? What's the harm to the environment at Clear Lake?

Invasive plants are bullies. They crowd out native plants more friendly to the Clear Lake landscape and water ways. Invasive plants may threaten rare and endangered species and can even change how some ecological systems function. They may hybridize with close native plant relatives. In short, they take over.

Conservationists emphasize early detection and persistent removal. The appropriate treatment is site-specific,

species-specific, and season-specific. Executive Director Bridget Harrison is happy to provide hands-on training on Conservancy properties, as illustrated by recent photos from Brennan Woods and Flora-Hussleman Trumbell Nature Preserve projects.



While there are numerous invasive plants known in Indiana, Bridget points to several troublesome plants often encountered in the CLTLC

region--dame's rocket, purple loosestrife, various honeysuckle varieties, and garlic mustard--and encourages homeowners to monitor their property regularly to catch and remove them early.

The benefit is conservation of biological diversity, natural resource management, and environmental protection of our Clear Lake land and water.

Interested in more information? The *Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest* published by the Midwest Invasive Plant Network on MIPN.org is a valuable source of photos and information on invasive plants commonly seen in our part of the U.S. Much of the information in this article comes from the Network.



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS!*

Including Bill & Chris Geiger, Rita Helmuth, Donald Bieberich, Judge James W. Bachman, Richard D. Waterfield, Harold & Cheryl Hahr, Christopher Parke, Cat Nevin, John & Susie Compo, Gerald Grandey, Dan & Myra Koop, Jeanne Coffman, the Dekko Foundation

Operating Endowment Contribution** : Bob & Nancy Webster, Karen & Jack Horrell 25th Anniversary Event Sponsor:
Wetland Level: IMANAGE LLC, Stream Level: Josie Kramer

*List reflects contributions received after our May issue of *Clear Thinking*. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible, please contact us if you see a mistake.

**Our Operating Endowment & Maintenance Endowment Funds are held at the Steuben County Community Foundation.

A few of our upcoming events!

Check our website periodically for more details and additional events.

Knee-High Naturalist program -

July 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th 10-11:30am at the Yacht Club

Our Annual Meeting -

Friday, July 29nd 4:00pm at Clear Lake Town Hall

Creating a Clear Future -

Saturday, August 6th at the Yacht Club & Sunday, August 7th at Kasota Island

PLEASE NOTE
DATE
CHANGE

To get involved or support:

(260) 316-1397 • www.ClearLakeConservancy.org

111 Gecowets Drive – Clear Lake • Fremont, IN 46737



Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
111 Gecowets Drive - Clear Lake
Fremont, Indiana 46737

Celebrating 25 years in 2016!

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Fort Wayne, IN
Permit No. 760

*Now taking online
reservations for Creating
a Clear Future events on
August 6th & 7th!
clearlakeconservancy.org*

Email: info@clearlakeconservancy.org to receive this in your email!

Reservations for 25th Anniversary Events

Creating a Clear Future

Reserve online at clearlakeconservancy.org/event-registration OR Clip, Complete, and Mail /
Hand Deliver this Form with your check to: CLTLC, 111 Gecowets Drive, Fremont, IN 46737

Name(s): _____

Email or Lake Address: _____ Phone: _____

August 6th Gala / Auction at the Yacht Club

_____ Tickets @ \$35 each (dinner and two drink tickets)

August 7th Hog Roast at Kasota Island

_____ Tickets @ \$10 each (BBQ and sides)

_____ Tickets (age 12 and under) @ \$5 each (BBQ and sides)

**RESERVATIONS
NEEDED BY:
Monday, Aug. 1st!**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Name Tags available at the Event. Transportation to the island will be available.