



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

NOVEMBER 2021 | ISSUE NO.40

OUR LETTER

COMMUNITY IN ACTION

The arrival of fall is another example of our community in action. Executive Director Bridget Harrison expands her family and the Conservancy stays on task as staff and volunteers step up. Neighbors close up cottages for the winter and help each other with jobs that need more hands or strength. We pull together for each other in this community.

One resident notices the arrival of a damaging pest that can endanger the entire community's oak trees. The Conservancy publishes an **Ask Bridget** on gypsy moths so everyone can identify and report the extent of the invasion. Many residents report an alarming increase in aquatic plants in our lakes. The Conservancy launches an aquatic invasive management assessment and will publicize the report and options and costs for treatment (beginning 2022) when the report is final. We pull together when threats appear in our community.

In 2021, we celebrated 30 years of conservation in our small community with a new story every month in a 30th Anniversary posting. What was your favorite story? Love at Clear Lake? Saving Kasota? Towering trees? All of the stories are on our website. If winter takes you away from Clear Lake, read them again wherever you are to spark summer memories. Or watch the Conservancy video, **Protecting What We Love**, to extend the summer season. We celebrate the good life as a community.

We also come together financially to support the Conservancy's work. The *Clear & Healthy* campaign this summer got us outside to enjoy our natural beauty while raising funds for our work. Many of you donated in honor of the 30th Anniversary. We now ask you to give generously one more time in 2021 when you receive the Year End Appeal letter in **mid-November** or, online for *Giving Tuesday* on **November 30th**. Your support in whatever way you choose enables us to protect the water, land, education and natural environment we all share. Our community knows that many hands lighten the load.



A community in action is a healthy and exciting place to be. Thank you for being an active community member. We are committed to work with you to keep this community a place where we come together to enjoy life and each other as we protect this stunning natural environment for future generations.

Happy Thanksgiving as we all take time this month to be grateful for the many treasures we share by being a community in action.

2021 BOARD

Karen Horrell
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Bridget Harrison
Executive Director

Tracy Hughes
Program Assistant

Elizabeth Strick
Land Steward

COMMITTEES

Development

Executive

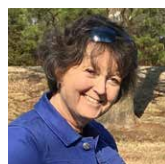
Finance

Lands

Outreach & Education

Water Quality

NEW ENGLAND ASTER BLOOMING
AT SPANGLER GROVE



Karen Horrell
President



Bridget Harrison
Executive Director

**CONSERVANCY
LOGO GEAR
AVAILABLE NOW!**

Use the QR code
to view online





WATER QUALITY

MACROINVERTEBRATES TESTING

The Water Quality Committee and volunteers finished their planned 2021 water sampling with an assessment of the “bugs” living in the Clear Lake Watershed ditches and, for the first time, in Settlers Wetland. The “bugs” in the water are actually benthic macroinvertebrates (macros). Macros are animals that are large enough (macro) to be seen with the naked eye, lack backbones (invertebrate) and live at least part of their lives in or on the bottom (benthos) of a body of water. Examples of macros expected in our ditches include dragonfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs, dobsonfly larvae, midge larvae, beetles, snails, worms, freshwater clams, mussels, and crayfish.

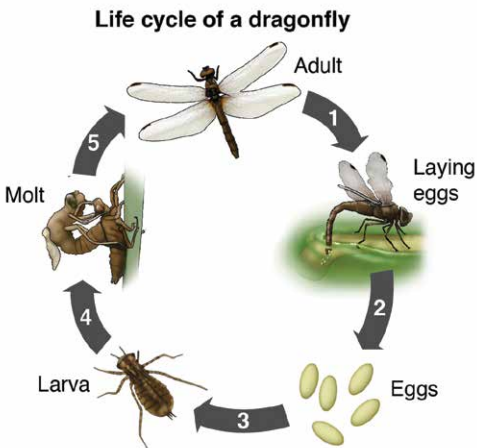
Macros play an important role in the food web feeding many birds, fish and reptiles. Macros are also indicators of water quality as they

react to pollution in different ways. Pollution-sensitive macros such as mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies are more susceptible to the effects of physical or chemical changes. Their presence indicates the absence of pollution. Pollution-tolerant macros such as midges and worms are less susceptible to physical and chemical changes in a stream indicating higher levels of pollution. When a stream becomes polluted, pollution-sensitive macros decrease in number or disappear and pollution-tolerant macros increase in variety and number.

Results from this year’s sampling produced ratings of ‘Excellent’ in the Cyrus Brouse ditch and ‘Good’, ‘Fair’ or ‘Poor’ in the remaining ditches. The last few years of sampling have reflected fewer bugs. We are investigating the possible reasons.

This sampling day takes place each year in September. Hands-on citizen science allows us to collect data to understand our local water quality. Pictured are members of the Water Quality Committee and volunteers sorting macroinvertebrates.

Join us next year for our annual bug sorting day. We celebrate the end of our sampling season with a bug-free lunch provided this year by Sonya Cramer and her family. Thank you to the Cramers for assisting in macroinvertebrates sampling and for providing such a delicious lunch!



VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES PARTICIPATE IN MACRO TESTING DAY EACH FALL. (PHOTOS: DON LUEPKE)

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make such a difference in the Clear Lake Community. On the weekend of October 8-10, 2021, eight men from Sidney, OH enjoyed a weekend at Clear Lake and made improvements to Elizabeth Hanna Nature Preserve, a Conservancy property located on the eastern side of Clear Lake.

Each fall, Tom Milligan and his friends gather to enjoy the autumn weather and contribute to a volunteerism project. This year, the men worked at Lib Hanna Preserve to tackle the removal of undesirable and invasive plant species such as Autumn Olive, Bush Honeysuckle and wild grape. The trail that runs the length of the preserve was mowed and widened for easier walking. They also trimmed branches that were hanging over the trail posing a threat to hikers.

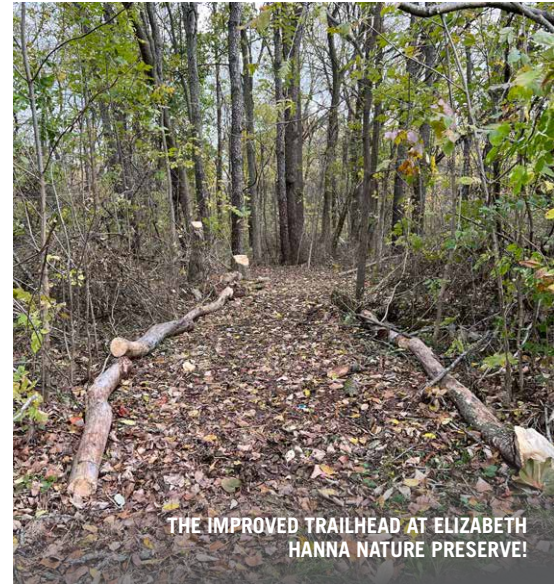
Trail maintenance, like the kind performed by Tom and his friends, helps the entire community. Creating an easily identifiable and walkable trail enables more members of the Clear Lake Township community access to the relaxing, stress-relieving benefits of nature.

Stewardship volunteerism within Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Preserves is needed every year. Annually we hold a garlic mustard pull at Flora Husselman Nature Preserve, a workday on Kasota Island and specific projects like the trail building at

“STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERISM WITHIN CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY PRESERVES IS NEEDED EVERY YEAR.”

Brennan Woods in June of this year. A round of applause from all of us to Tom, his friends and everyone who volunteered on our properties in 2021!

For more information about stewardship volunteerism, please contact Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy for opportunities.



THE IMPROVED TRAILHEAD AT ELIZABETH HANNA NATURE PRESERVE!



2021 KASOTA ISLAND CLEANUP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Wish List



Friends of the Conservancy have very generously responded to our Wish List! Thank you! Below is an updated Wish List our staff and Committee volunteers can put to good use in the day-to-day work of operating our office and maintaining our properties. Thank you always for your wonderful support of the Conservancy's work on your behalf. Contact our office with questions and to make a donation.

Office needs:

- Projector & Screen
- Copy & Print Paper
- Forever Stamps
- Recyclable Coffee Pods
- Conference Call Speaker
- Custom Envelopes

Outreach & Education needs:

- Custom Retractable Banner
- Custom Stationery

Stewardship needs:

- Waders
- Tape Measure*
- Hammer*
- Screwdriver Set*
- Latex Gloves
- Cordless Drill*
- Rakes and Shovels*
- Pitch Fork*
- Chain Saw/ Brush Saw*
- Enclosed Utility Trailer*
- Storage shed*

**New or used, in good working condition*

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!

- AA & AAA Batteries
- Digital Camera
- Backpack Herbicide Sprayer
- File Organizer
- Laminator
- Post hole digger
- Utility Vehicle
- Weed Eater*
- Wheelbarrows*
- Desk Chair

(260) 527-1072 • www.clearlakeconservancy.org • 111 Gecowets Drive Fremont, IN 46737

Carl Ekroth

Bill and Kim Pepple

Dan and Christine Rippe

Tom and Susan Kramer

The Aeschliman Family with employee match from Microsoft

Terry and Ann Melton

**CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS
Alex and Susan Connett**

Jeff and Kathy Greer with employee match from Cardinal Health

Jack and Karen Horrell

Terry and Koggy Newcomb

Deborah and Erik Oiler

Nancy and Bob Webster

**HONORARIUMS
Jack and Karen Horrell
H: Nancy and Bob Webster's 50th Anniversary**

**Sue Compo
H: All Clear Lakers**

MEMORIALS

**Tom and Susan Kramer
M: Jon Millan**

**Kathy Latz
M: Peggy Kehoe**

**GRANT SUPPORT
PayPal Giving Fund**

Amazon Smile

**LAND ACQUISITION
Jim and Jody Horein**

*List reflects contributions since our September issue of Clear Thinking. Contact us if you see a mistake.



THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY
111 GECOWETS DRIVE
FREMONT, INDIANA 46737
clearlakeconservancy.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FORT WAYNE, IN
PERMIT NO. 760

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“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.”

— JANE GOODALL

MISSION STATEMENT

We preserve, protect, & manage the natural environment within the Clear Lake Watershed and Township for future generations.

[VOLUNTEER](#) | [CONTACT](#) | [DONATE](#)

clearlakeconservancy.org
or call (260) 527-1072



COMMUNITY GIVING

Many ways to support conservation

Did you know that in addition to making a financial donation there are many ways you can support voluntary private land conservation?

A FEW OF THE MEANINGFUL WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO THE CONSERVANCY ARE COVERED ON OUR DONATE PAGE AND INCLUDE:

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG/DONATE

1. Donating gifts of stock
2. Making a donation from your traditional or Roth IRA
3. Including the Conservancy in your estate planning

If you have a question about any of these options, please reach out to Bridget Harrison, Executive Director.