



CLEAR THINKING

NOVEMBER 2018

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2018 Board

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Thanksgiving

The wonderful Thanksgiving season is just ahead. It's a perfect opportunity for us to thank all of you for a 2018 of more clean water and natural beauty throughout Clear Lake Township. Future generations will, justifiably, also be thankful for the stewardship you're helping us build through the Conservancy.

Since its founding in 1991, the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy has chosen not to be a membership organization. Instead, for over 27 years, CLTLC has built its finances around donations and grants rather than a dues structure and kept virtually all of our beautiful, protected properties open to the public year-round. We have opened our workshops and educational events to all who are interested, usually without cost and welcomed all interested people to all Board meetings and the July annual meeting. We have offered limited sales of branded merchandise, but based on your suggestions, we plan to offer more items featuring our distinctive logo in coming years!

Our "members" are the hundreds of people who own homes and farms on or near Clear Lake and in the Township and Watershed. Our "members" are also the friends and family members who love to visit, the people who spend summer vacations here, the people who boat and fish on the Lake, the people who hike, bike or cross-country ski here. In other words, **all of you are members!**

We count on people who know and cherish Clear Lake, Round Lake, and the Township and Watershed where they are located for support of CLTLC and its **mission** "to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations."

Support comes in many forms. It's money, investments, in-kind donations of materials and services, land volunteers, water quality volunteers, other volunteers, bequests. Your positive reports of the Conservancy's work with neighbors and introductions to new Conservancy friends is also support.

Some people ask "Why support CLTLC? What do you get for your support?" In simplest terms, you get the joy and satisfaction of knowing that the natural beauty and clear water you have enjoyed in 2018 will still be here 50 or 100+ years from now to be enjoyed by future generations, many years after we are gone. It's being part of a larger group of good stewards working together to pay our good fortune forward.

We invite you to be a "Conservancy member" by generously supporting the Conservancy with an unrestricted cash contribution before December 31st. Your gift of \$100+ to the Conservancy is a key form of sustaining support. Your cash donation celebrates 2018 and ensures that 2019 begins with funds sufficient to sustain the basic costs at the heart of our mission—routine property stewardship for our 60+ acres of protected properties, water quality testing, staffing and fundamental office and communications costs.

To build the future, the Conservancy works daily, monthly, and annually as stewards of the land and water we protect...forever. On behalf of **those of us here now** and **those yet to come**, thank you for your support and generosity for this stewardship and for being a "member" of the Conservancy.

Warmest wishes for the holidays and a bright New Year for you and yours.

Nancy and Bridget



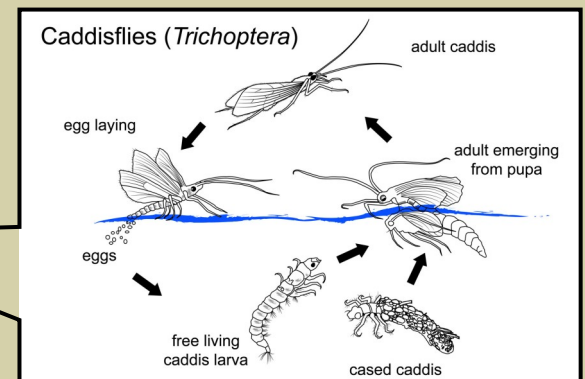
The mission of the Clear Lake Twp. Land Conservancy is to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations.

Water Quality - Bugs in the Water

The Water Quality (WQ) Committee and volunteers completed their planned 2018 ditch sampling activities with an assessment of the “bugs” living in the ditches. More specifically, the “bugs” are benthic macroinvertebrates (macros) which are animals that are big 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 we expect to see in our ditches include: mayfly nymphs, stonefly nymphs, caddisfly larvae, midge larvae, beetles, snails, worms, freshwater clams, mussels, and crayfish.

Macros are an important part of the food chain and serve as a historical indicator of pollution levels in our ditches. Different macros 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 in a stream and their presence acts as an indicator of the absence of pollutants. Pollution-tolerant macros such as midges and worms are less susceptible to changes in physical and chemical changes in a stream and their presence acts as an indicator 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 ‘Good’ in the Harry Teeters ditch and ‘Fair’ or ‘Poor’ in the remaining ditches. The last few years of sampling have reflected fewer bugs. We are investigating the possible reasons. Pictured below is a caddisfly larva. The illustration to the right depicts its life cycle.



Source: fly-fish-guide.net Illustrated by John Symonds

This sampling day takes place each year in September. Hands-on citizen science allows us to collect data to help understand our local water quality. Join us next year for our annual bug pickin’ day. We celebrate the end of our sampling season with a bug-free luncheon.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Char & Rob Ekroth
Bert & Brenda Elliott
Bruce & Jan Matasick
Terry & Koggy Newcomb
Karen & Jack Horrell

Education:
IN Native Plant & Wildflower
Society - Letha’s Fund

**Kasota Island Restoration
Project:**
FishAmerica Foundation & Bruns-
wick Public Foundation
Sunday Fun Day T-shirt sales

Water Quality
Dan Rippe

Honorarium:
Bill Greffin
From Alexandra Haag

Memorial:
Elaine Shouppe Carroll
From Karen & Jack Horrell

Bob Federspiel
From Jim & Annie Skinner

Jerry Serrick
From Bonnie Brown & Don
Crapo

Phyllis Jeanne Walker
From John & Donna Ludgate

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

To get involved or support:

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Natural Areas Preservation & Environmental Education

The Conservancy's Kasota Island Shoreline Restoration Project is gaining visibility not only in Clear Lake Township but also in northeast Indiana. The Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Steuben County Lakes Council launched their 2018 jointly-sponsored **Steuben County Life** series in mid-September at Clear Lake. The series educates a small group of interested Steuben County residents each year about the wide variety of activities available in northeast Indiana.

Almost 40 Steuben County residents met at the Clear Lake Yacht Club on a beautiful late summer day for a boat tour of the Lake and a walking tour of Kasota Island, led by CLTLC Executive Director Bridget Harrison. Surprisingly, it was the first visit to Clear Lake for several participants. We are indeed a hidden paradise for some!



Janel Meyer, SWCD Administrative Coordinator, reported that the group enjoyed learning background and facts about Clear Lake, the Conservancy, the Kasota project and even the Yacht Club. She added, "Most participants live on other lakes in the County and were interested in several distinctive characteristics of Clear Lake, including its depth, its Yacht Club and an active Land Conservancy."

Bridget explained that tours like this one are a pleasure to do since she knows the long-term value of the Shoreline Restoration project and can use the same information shared regularly with Conservancy supporters, starting with the alarming, steady erosion of 3-4 inches per year from the Kasota shoreline.

Tour participants found Kasota Island to be a place of natural beauty, even in the midst of a multi-year restoration project. Several plan to visit next summer to check on the progress. Over the winter, you can continue to visit the CLTLC website for Phase 3 updates and for more glimpses of what the "finished" results will look like as the project moves closer to completion.

We welcome the recognition of the Conservancy's work in the Steuben County Life series. Thanks to the Yacht Club for the use of the Club-house and dock and to our Conservancy supporters who volunteered boats, served as boat drivers and were terrific ambassadors for Clear Lake and the Conservancy. Programs like Steuben County Life remind us there's so much to be proud of in this "hidden corner of northeast Indiana", especially the role of the Conservancy in protecting our natural properties forever.

Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight the Clear Lake Yacht Club. The Yacht Club is often considered the "gathering place" for the Lake and surrounding community.

CLYC was founded in 1935 to promote sailing and social interaction on Clear Lake. The sailing and social interaction has been a constant for more than 70 years and the gathering place reputation

has grown in recent years through the well-attended TGIF dinners hosted throughout the summer. Activities have expanded over time to offer a ski club, tennis, pickle ball, exercise programs and live music in the Yacht Club Bar.

The club house was constructed in 1940 and modified many times. While CLYC is a membership organization, the Club has opened its facilities to many other community groups over the years, including to CLTLC. The Conservancy has hosted numerous events at CLYC, including the Knee-high Naturalists program, the 25th Anniversary Gala in 2016 and most

recently, the 2018 "Steuben County Life" tour featured elsewhere in this issue.

The Conservancy appreciates the cooperation, support and generosity of the Clear Lake Yacht Club in making its club house and facilities available for the Conservancy events and programs.



Wish List

Several friends of the Conservancy have asked for a list of items the Conservancy needs in the day-to-day work of operating our office and maintaining our properties. Thank you for the suggestion! Below is a current Wish List of items Executive Director Bridget Harrison and our Committee volunteers can put to good use.

Thank you always for your generous support of the Conservancy's work on your behalf. We'll update the list as new opportunities arise for the Wish List. Contact Bridget with questions and to make a donation.

Copy & Print Paper

Forever Stamps

Recyclable Coffee Pods

(caffeinated or decaf.) for
single cup coffeemaker

Snacks for Workdays

Laminator

Portable Microphone/Sound
System*

Post-hole Digger*
Rakes*

Enclosed Utility Trailer*

Backpack Herbicide Sprayer

Chain Saw*

Wheelbarrows*

Utility Vehicle*

Shovel*

**New or used, in good working condition*



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Special Fall Visitors

We don't often think about birds coming "south" to Clear Lake for the winter, but the **red-breasted nuthatch** is a good example of this phenomenon. Our area falls in these birds' winter range, while their breeding and year-round range is in more northern areas. Look for them from about mid-September until the beginning of May. Red-breasted nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) resemble their more common relative, the white-breasted nuthatch, but are distinguished by a cinnamon-colored breast and smaller size. They troll tree branches and trunks for spiders and insects, frequently foraging head-down on a trunk. Various birding sources describe their calls as a nasal "yank, yank, yank" or "toot, toot, toot". We are fortunate to share our world with such a steady variety of visitors, both birds and people.