



# CLEAR THINKING

MAY 2019

ISSUE No. 24

## OUR MISSION

is to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations.

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*Executive Director*

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## SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE

Welcome back! Water is a fundamental topic in our world. What is your favorite water memory? Maybe it's:

- 🌊 How crystal clear the Lake is first thing in the morning when you can see the bottom and darting fish.
- 🌊 The way the sun sparkles on the quiet surface of wetlands on a walk in Brennan Woods or along Lord's Wetland or Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Preserve.
- 🌊 The exhilaration of water skis or sailboats gliding over smooth water.
- 🌊 Watching colorful 4th of July Fireworks over Clear Lake with friends and family.
- 🌊 The calm pleasure of paddling a kayak along the shoreline.
- 🌊 The laughter and happy squeals of kids playing in the water.
- 🌊 Stunning sunset colors over water and landscapes in the township or the promise of another memorable day offered by a gorgeous sunrise.

All of these are among our favorite memories. We are grateful to be part of the long line of people who have sustained the work of Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy for almost three decades. Our mission is to "preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the Clear Lake Watershed and Township for future generations". Many of our memories and efforts are centered on water and sustaining it for the future.

A key part of the Conservancy's mission is environmental education. Recent developments involving the Michindoh Aquifer raise important and troubling issues about sound management of this huge body of water underlying parts of Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, including our Clear Lake Watershed.

The Conservancy's role is to offer public education about the natural environment we preserve and protect. Over the past months, we have regularly compiled public news and information on the Aquifer [here](#). We are also co-sponsoring (with the Town of Clear Lake) a community presentation by Professor Jeremy Rentz of Trine University on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Clear Lake Yacht Club. We encourage all of us to be better informed about the background, issues and possible next steps that potentially affect our underlying water source. We hope you will review the web materials and attend if you are able.

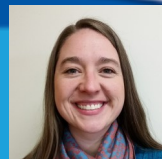
Some of our favorite memories also come from community gatherings. SummerFest ☀️ 2019 will bring us together again at the Yacht Club on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to see old friends, make new ones and raise funds to benefit and sustain the work and mission of the Conservancy.

We'll have a long list of spectacular Auction items, delicious Small Plate local cuisine by Bon Appétit, music and dancing to the Midwest Originals from Indianapolis, and the traditional fine cash bar at the Yacht Club. Make your reservations early with the form included in this newsletter and join the fun!

Sponsorships are available for community businesses and to honor your family's commitment to Clear Lake memories and future memories through the Conservancy. Sponsorship information can be [found here](#).

Thank you for your commitment to the Conservancy and your community. We are fortunate to share this special corner of Indiana now and for generations to come. We'll see you at SummerFest ☀️ 2019 on June 22<sup>nd</sup>!

Nancy Webster, President  
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



Contact: Office (260) 316-1397; [clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org); [info@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@clearlakeconservancy.org)

## Environmental Education

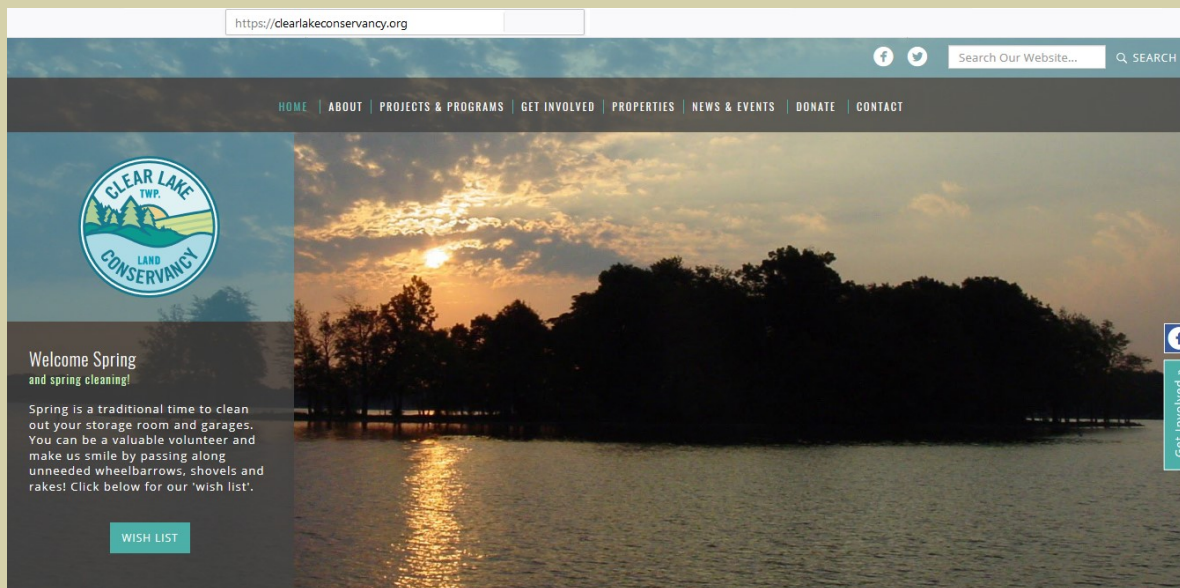
The Conservancy's Environmental Education Programs are integral to appreciating the treasure we have in the Clear Lake Watershed. We are excited to introduce two new tools for your ongoing education about the world we share.

Since the *Clear Thinking* newsletter began publication in June 2015, we've featured stories about most Conservancy properties and about Water Quality testing. We've defined terms that help us understand our natural environment (like "ditches" and "conservation easements") and celebrated our growing list of friends and donors who support the CLTLC's work.

Now there's an easier way for you to find that article or term you remember reading. A powerful but easy to use search capability has been added to the [website](#)! Can't remember when you made your last donation? Looking for the namesake of Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Preserve? Can't recall the names of the four ditches that flow into Clear Lake? Try the new search feature.

We are also making available **Blue Papers** prepared as part of our ongoing Board Education process. These concise, generally one-page papers provide excellent background for understanding Land Conservancy concepts. The first three Blue Papers are: Water Quality Testing 101, Conservancy Terms and Conservation Easements. All can be found on the Conservancy [website here](#).

Our natural environment is interesting and an integral part of our lives here. We should never stop learning! Let us know what you think about these tools and pass along any suggestions you have for other education programs. Also watch for more details on our website about the upcoming Volunteer Docent Program introduced in our March *Clear Thinking*.



**THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

Morgan Stanley on  
behalf of Erik & Debo-  
rah Oiler through the  
Benevity Community  
Impact Fund

**Land Acquisition:**  
Jim Horein

**Memorial:**  
*Jeff Gay*  
From Rick & Angie  
Behnfeldt  
Tom & Pam Reith, Tim  
& Gina Reith, and  
Michele & John Butler  
Chris Slee Family and  
Mike & Carol Slee

*Al Huntermark*  
From Melanie &  
Kim and Brian & Kristi  
Henkener  
Gretchen & Franz  
Leppla

*Kristi Kliefgan*  
From Jack & Karen

Horrell  
*Helen Shank*  
From Jay & Donna  
Ludgate  
Chris Slee Family

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

**To get involved or support:**

(260) 316-1397 • [www.clearlakeconservancy.org](http://www.clearlakeconservancy.org)  
111 Gecowets Drive – Clear Lake • Fremont, IN 46737

# A few of our upcoming events!

Check our website periodically for more details and additional events.

**Native Plant Sale with Martha Ferguson of Riverview Native Nursery -**

Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 am - noon across from the CL Lutheran Church

**Michindoh Aquifer Presentation -**

Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm at the CL Yacht Club

**Volunteer Workday with Fremont Middle School -**

Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 9 am - 2:30 pm at Brennan Woods

**SummerFest ☀️ 2019 -**

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6 - 11 pm at the CL Yacht Club

**Knee-high Naturalists Program -**

Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> (at Memorial Woods), 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 11:30 am at the CL Yacht Club

**Solar Power Event -**

Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm at Fremont Middle School

**Our Annual Meeting -**

Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm at the CL Town Hall

**Night Sky Event -**

Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> - Details to follow!



## Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight GiGi's Playhouse—Fort Wayne, who partners with us to produce handsome coffee mugs proudly bearing the CLTLC logo.



GiGi's Playhouse is a 501(c)(3) organization created in 2002 to change how the world views a diagnosis of Down Syndrome. There are over 40 loca-

tions across the U.S. of these Down Syndrome Achievement Centers serving, at no cost, individuals from infants to adults with Down Syndrome and their families.

In the Fort Wayne location, we worked with the "Hugs & Mugs" Program where adults with Down Syndrome are involved in all aspects of design, production and retail of high quality coffee mugs. The goals of this Program are to increase self-confidence, career skill knowledge, personal wellness and quality of life for the participants.

The Conservancy applauds these goals and takes great pleasure in sup-

porting GiGi's Playhouse as we proudly showcase our logo. Find out more about GiGi's at: [gigisplayhouse.org/fortwayne/](http://gigisplayhouse.org/fortwayne/).

Want one (or several) of these environmentally-friendly reusable cups for your cottage? The cups will be available for \$12 each at SummerFest ☀️ 2019 and at the Boat House Boutique (corner of County Road 675 and East Clear Lake Drive). Proceeds benefit the Conservancy!



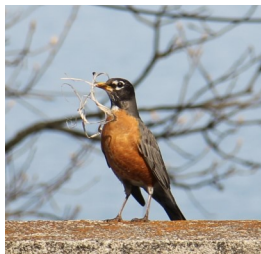
Down Syndrome Achievement Centers  
educate. inspire. believe.

Fort Wayne, IN



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

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



American Robin  
(*Turdus migratorius*)  
Photo credit:  
Judy Oxenger Johnston

## Birds of Clear Lake Twp.

What do these birds have in common?

[Find out on our website!](#)



Baltimore Oriole  
(*Icterus galbula*)  
Photo credit:  
Lorri Stump

# SummerFest ☀ 2019

Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 - 11 pm

CL Yacht Club, \$50/ticket

Local Small Plate Cuisine from Bon Appétit / Music by Indy's Midwest Originals / Silent and Live Auctions / Cash Bar

*Sponsorships Available at the Watershed Level (\$5,000), Lake Level (\$2,500), Wetland Level (\$1,000) and Stream Level (\$250).  
See Sponsor Opportunity Form on our [website!](#)*



\$\_\_\_\_\_ Event Ticket(s)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship at \_\_\_\_\_ Level (also complete and attach [Sponsor Form](#))

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution for Sustainability Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution for Land Acquisition Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution for Clear Lake Nature Preserve Project Completion

\$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

*Now Taking  
Reservations!*

I can't attend but I am enclosing a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support SummerFest and the Conservancy.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all attending: \_\_\_\_\_

**Clip and mail completed form and payment to 111 Gecowets Dr OR reserve online at [clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org).**

**Reservations needed by June 14, 2019.**