



CLEAR THINKING

JANUARY 2020

ISSUE No. 28

OUR MISSION

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

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SEEING DOUBLE

Welcome to the Twenties! And Happy New Year as the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy enters its 29th year of **preserving, protecting, and managing the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations**. This issue celebrates our generous donors, a valued partner, and a picture of amazing progress from 2010 to 2019.

Looking **ahead**, we are grateful to start the new year with funds in place to tackle our 2020 workplan. Thank you to the 79 donors, including 16 first-time donors, who contributed \$28,200 in unrestricted funds to CLTLC since our last newsletter, to put this financial foundation in place. We also recognize the 14 donors who contributed \$62,370 earmarked for specific mission activities, including the Sustainability Fund. The Clear Lake community never ceases to amaze us with its generosity and support.

Looking **back**, we are also blown away by the picture of CLTLC growth and accomplishments between 2010 and 2019. In **2010**, the picture (bottom left) begins with one conservation easement and eleven owned properties covering 55 acres. No staff. An award-winning water quality testing program. One educational program, the Knee-high Naturalists for kids.



Top left: nature preserves protected in 2010—55 acres.



Top right: nature preserves protected to date—99 acres.

The **2019** picture (top right) has almost doubled. One conservation easement and seventeen owned properties—protected forever—covering 99 acres. Two energetic and talented staff members (what an impact Bridget and Tracy make!). An even stronger WQ testing program. Educational programs reaching almost 1,000 students of all ages each year. And the Knee-high Naturalists program celebrates 15 years in 2020!

In **between**, three major conservation projects were completed: Koeneman Lake Dredging and Dam Reconstruction, Clear Lake Dredging, and the Kasota Island Shoreline Restoration. The Clear Lake Nature Preserve Trails and Restoration Project also made significant progress.

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The Conservancy was a hidden gem in 2010. Community outreach became a priority once Bridget was on board. First came a newsletter (2015) to publicize mission and activities throughout the Township. Next, CLTLC work became recognized by a colorful new logo (2015), a website (2016) and straight-shooting communications such as ASK BRIDGET (2018) and *Blue Papers* (2019). Today, CLTLC is a visible public gem.

A Strategic Plan was developed in 2016 and updated in 2019. You can read it on our website. As 2020 begins, the 13-member volunteer Board is actively engaged in achieving the mission and the strategic plan. Alone? No! Mission comes to life only with your help and the support of countless volunteers, donors and community partners. Thank you for an amazing ten years!

And there's much more to do! In 2020 we will build on the 2010-2019 progress for the future generations we serve. We hope to see you at our Workdays, in community conversations, on the properties and trails, and at educational events throughout the year. We love this community and are grateful to share the beauty of nature and water with all of you in 2020 and beyond.

Karen Horrell, President

Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight the Fremont Middle School (FMS).

FMS serves about 260 students in grades 5-8, including students from the Town and Township of Clear Lake. The philosophy of the school emphasizes "critical thinking and problem solving on a daily basis" and strives "to build relationships daily, and let actions speak louder than words." www.fcs.k12.in.us

FMS science teacher Sarah Koch and CLTLC's Bridget Harrison have built a strong educational relationship over the past couple of years that benefits both FMS science students and the Conservancy. In 2018 and 2019, Sarah and Bridget developed programs for about 80 7th and 8th graders using key parts of the FMS philosophy. First Bridget joined Sarah's classes for two classroom

presentations each year on several environmental and conservation topics using Bridget's professional background and knowledge.

The students then applied critical thinking, problem solving and creativity to design educational signs for the ecosystems in the Clear Lake Nature Preserve / Brennan Woods, using knowledge gained from Bridget's presentations. In the final step, the 80 students "let actions speak louder than words" as they traveled to Brennan Woods for two days of hands-on field work. Working with other Conservancy volunteers, they cleared

invasive species, built trails and removed bags full of trash from the nature preserve. The signs were installed in 2019.

The Conservancy's mission is to protect, preserve and manage our natural environment for future generations. These FMS students ARE our future generation and we are proud to partner with forward-looking educators like teacher Sarah Koch, principal Greg Mohler and Supt. Bill Stitt of the Fremont Community Schools to build a lifelong appreciation for our natural environment for this future generation.



To get involved or support:

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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PayPal Giving Fund

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Bob & Nancy Webster

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Waterfield Foundation on behalf of Randy, Richard R., & Jill Waterfield

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Danny & Bill Fund at SCCF

Sustainability Fund:

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Jack & Karen Horrell
William O. Horrell

Water Quality:

Jerry & Joan Rippe

Wish List:

Molly & Jeff Nagle
Matt & Claire Timmer

In-kind:

Paul Crawford
Sally Eckrich
Larry & Cindy Landmeier
Todd & Barb Rumsey

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

Stay Connected. Email info@clearlakeconservancy.org to sign up for e-news and events.



Giving Thanks for GivingTuesday

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage giving and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Every year, on GivingTuesday, millions of people across the globe (almost 60 countries) mobilize to show up, give back, and change their communities. The goal is to create a massive wave of generosity that lasts well beyond that day and touches every person on the planet.

We are delighted to share results from the day! With support from 50 individuals, we raised \$13,175 to support our day-to-day work! Additionally, we received \$17,000 earmarked for our natural areas preservation efforts. We far surpassed our goal to raise \$7,000.

As part of #GivingTuesdayKids, we partnered with Girl Scout Troop #52116 from Fremont Elementary to create unique and heartfelt thank you notes. The pictures above and below were created by the Kindergarten and 2nd Grade troop members and shared with our supporters.

Many thanks to each and every donor, social sharer/liker, and girl scout for supporting this wonderful celebration of giving! We invite you to celebrate this global day of giving with us next #GivingTuesday on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.





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

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What
native
tree
produces
these
bright,
fragrant
flowers?

Find out on our website! - Trees of Clear Lake Twp.

