



CLEAR THINKING

MARCH 2020

ISSUE No. 29

OUR MISSION

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

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Water Quality

YOU'VE GOT CONNECTIONS

We keep reading new research that confirms our gut feeling that being outdoors is good for us. Research says it's good for our physical health, our mental health, our relationships, and our productivity. Being outdoors brings us closer to the beauty, quiet, and inspiration of all forms of life—humans, trees, plants, birds, wildlife.

Feel better already? We do! The Conservancy is committed to preserving and protecting this good feeling for the people who live in and visit the Clear Lake Watershed and Township every year. We are even more committed to preserving this good life for the future generations who will follow us here.

The outdoor experiences are all connected. Protected land makes homes for native trees and plants. The trees and plants make homes for birds and wildlife and even capture carbon dioxide for cleaner air. Protected land fights erosion to keep the lakes and streams clean, clear and healthy. Clean, clear water and air give all of us life and joy, day after day and year after year.

How does the Conservancy help this happen? Through our dedicated staff and connections with people who volunteer time, effort and money to bring the Conservancy's mission to life. We are incredibly grateful for the 164 volunteers who contributed 1,387 hours to the Conservancy's work in 2019. The **2019 Annual Report** (next page) tells the story in numbers and words about the steady progress the Conservancy made last year with your help.

The Annual Report story also highlights growth as you'll read in the inside article on a newly acquired wetland. And with growth, we need volunteers and donors more than ever. We welcome new ideas, fresh energy and shared connections.

Make a personal goal—visit all the public Conservancy properties in 2020. Connect with your world and be healthier for it. Then sign up to volunteer! Thank you for all you do and will do to make this little part of our world so special now and for the future.

As our page in the 2020 Clear Lake Directory (above) states: "We don't sell Conservancy memberships—just being here makes you a member—but we need your support. It's your dollars, talent, and time that guarantee a good life we should never take for granted."

Both of us appreciate this good life and hope to connect with you outdoors and at Conservancy events as days get longer and nature shows off with its spring celebration.

Karen Horrell, President
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



A Brief Note from Your Conservancy.

Sometimes it's easy to take the good life around Clear Lake for granted.

Yet behind the scenes there's a nonstop effort to preserve our crystal-clear water, strengthen our lakeshore, protect our forests and wildlife, and restore balance to our native prairies and wetlands.

Plus, all around us, the Conservancy maintains a growing network of trails and parks — and coordinates wide-ranging educational and recreational activities, for young and old alike.

The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy manages all this with dedicated volunteers and experts from all walks of life: Farmers, teachers, nature-lovers, scientists, business people, and just plain folks.

We don't sell Conservancy memberships — just being here makes you a Member — but we need your support. It's your dollars, talent, and time that guarantee a good life we should never take for granted.



clearlakeconservancy.org - 260-527-1072

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



TOGETHER in 2019 we advanced the Conservancy's mission as we:

- Permanently protected properties covering just under 100 acres. Three properties were added: a 4-acre expansion of **Borton Wetland Nature Preserve**; a 3-acre **forested wetland** near Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Preserve; and a 3.7-acre **preserve south of 120**. Funded by 10 generous individuals and families through the Conservancy's Land Acquisition Fund, the three acquisitions protect wetlands along the Alvin Patterson and Cyrus Brouse Ditches that flow into Clear Lake.
- Made significant progress in the prairie restoration and trail building at the 46-acre **Clear Lake Nature Preserve** with the help of community volunteers, Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District, and groups from Fremont Middle School and Phi Kappa Theta fraternity at Trine University.
- Completed the three-year Kasota Shoreline Restoration Project! Bioengineered seawalls of glacial rocks, native plants, and woven fabric now encircle the **Kasota Island Nature Preserve** to slow the 3+-inch annual erosion rate of recent years.
- Designed, approved, and contracted for a landscape project for **Kasota Island Nature Preserve** during 2020-2021. Over 60 new trees and shrubs will be planted during the landscape project which was delayed during the Shoreline Restoration.
- Invested **1387 volunteer hours** in testing water quality, removing invasive plants, planting natives, trail building, land maintenance, sign installation, community education and outreach, and other Conservancy work.
- Engaged **1300 community members** in educational programs, including Knee-high Naturalists, Michindoh Aquifer briefing by Trine Professor Jeremy Rentz, Solar Farm tour at Fremont Middle School, Night Sky event for stargazing and light pollution education with local naturalist Fred Wooley, a Native Plant sale, and environmental classes and fieldwork for Fremont Middle School students and Youth Conservation Field Day and Duck Day programs at Pokagon State Park.
- Supported **financial sustainability** through SummerFest2019 at the Clear Lake Yacht Club, gathering almost 200 community members in June and netting over \$65,000 for Conservancy operations, land protection, and preservation activities.
- Expanded **staffing** as Executive Director Bridget Harrison welcomed Tracy Hughes as Program Assistant for Conservation.
- Recognized Nancy Webster for four years of leadership as Board President and welcomed new leaders Karen Horrell (President) and Dan Rippe (VP). Thirteen Board members and sixteen other volunteers supported CLTLC's mission through six committees.
- Received **gifts and donations** from 239 contributors, including generous responses to the second Annual Giving and first "Giving Tuesday", SummerFest Auction, In-kind support, and Wish List programs. THANK YOU!

Thank you for protecting the beauty and water of Clear Lake Watershed and Township in 2019 and FOREVER.

Right: Fremont Girl Scout Brownie creation from Giving Tuesday Kids program.



2019 INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORT (January 1 – December 31, 2019)

ASSETS / NET WORTH

Value of Nature Preserves	\$4,227,688
Equipment	\$ 13,593
Bank Accounts	\$ 95,390
Restricted Accounts and Endowments*	\$ <u>291,891</u>
TOTAL	\$4,628,562

*Does not include two funds totaling \$366,802 held at Steuben County Community Foundation for the benefit of Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy.

REVENUES / EXPENDITURES+:

Restricted / Unrestricted Gifts (198 donors)	\$221,268
Grants (public and private) from 6 funders	\$ 53,349
Other revenue (interest, other)	\$ 4,965
TOTAL REVENUES	\$279,582
TOTAL EXPENDITURES+	\$123,127
<u>NET REVENUES</u>	<u>\$156,455</u>

+ Under current financial accounting standards, purchases of land and permanent land improvements are shown in financial statements as capital assets and additions to capital assets, not as expenditures.

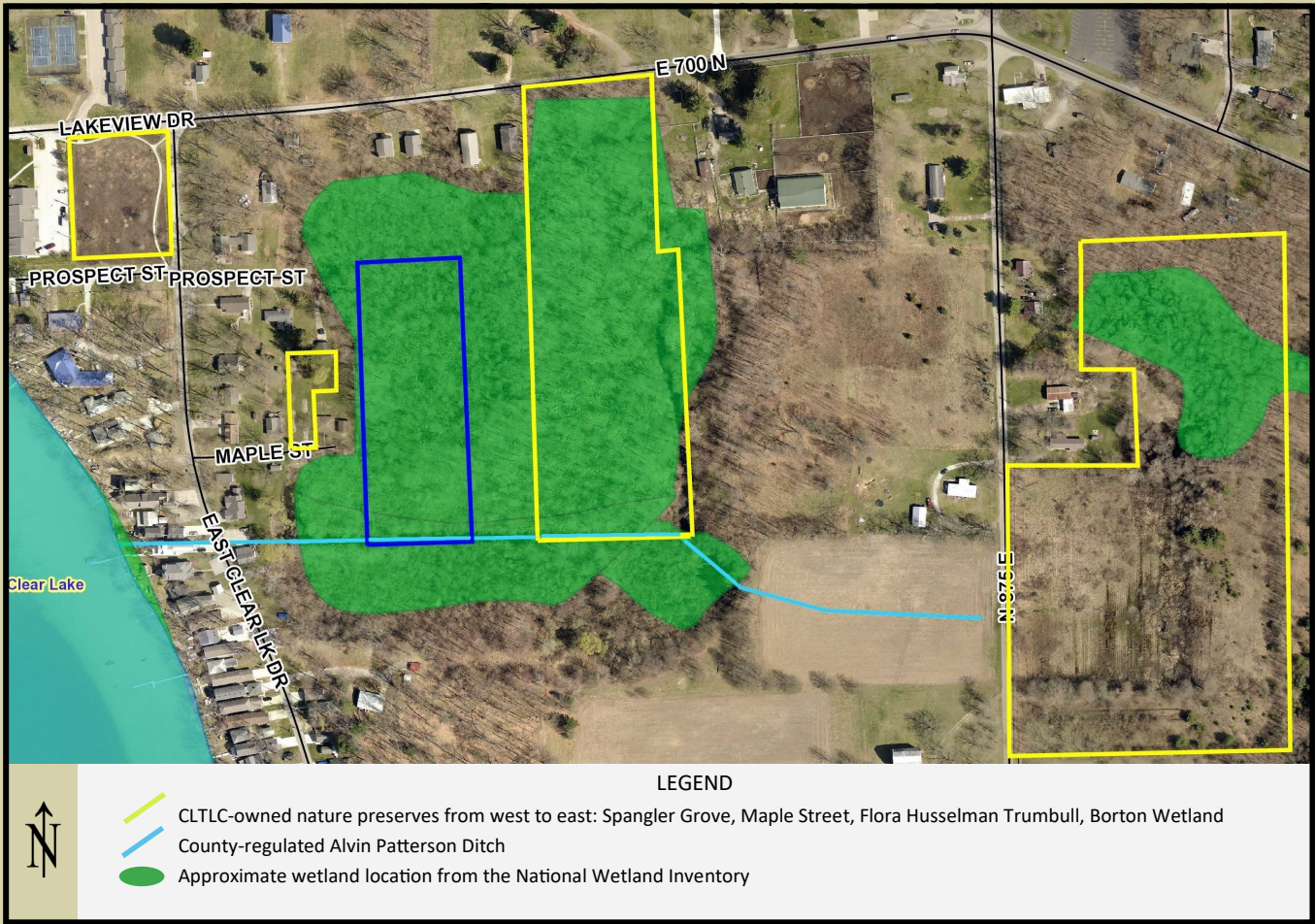
To get involved or support:

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

Natural Areas Preservation

We are thrilled to announce the addition of 3 acres to our protected properties within the Clear Lake Watershed. This project, outlined in blue, expands protection between the Maple Street Nature Preserve and the Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Preserve, outlined in yellow, to the east and west. This newly-protected property is near the Borton Wetland Nature Preserve and contains a forested wetland, indicated by the green shading, which serves to capture, slow, and filter water before entering the lake, on the east side, through the county-regulated Alvin Patterson ditch, depicted in teal.

The Lands Committee identified this parcel as an important project through our Strategic Land Conservation Plan. With the support of owner Jim Trudell and two anonymous donors, we were able to complete this project in December. Access is limited but we hope to improve that in the future for all to explore the features of this attractive preserve.



THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
SUPPORT!

Debra Hench
Thrivent Choice on behalf
of Don & Ellen Luepke
Sarah Wilson

Education:
Anonymous

Grant Support:
AmazonSmile
PayPal Giving Fund

Honorarium:
Mike Marturello
From Steuben County
Community Foundation

Memorial:
Rebecca Allison
From Chris Slee Family
Pam & Tom Reith

Judy H. Frey
From Julie Waterfield

Cynthia Rice Hogan
From Julie Waterfield

Brenda Isaac
From Barbara Hendrick
& Craig Walker

Wish List:
Anonymous

*List reflects contributions since our Jan.
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.

A few of our upcoming events!

Check our website periodically for more details and additional events.

~~Fremont Middle School Volunteer Workday at Clear Lake Nature Preserve—~~

<--Canceled

~~Friday, May 15th from 9 am to 2 pm~~

Native Plant Sale with Martha Ferguson of Riverview Native Nursery—

Saturday, May 23rd from 9 am to noon across from the CL Lutheran Church

Kasota Island Nature Preserve Annual Cleanup—

Saturday, June 13th from 9 am to noon at Kasota Island*

**Contact our office for a ride to the island.*

Knee-high Naturalists Program—

Friday, July 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st from 10 to 11:30 am at the CL Yacht Club*

**Unless noted otherwise on the flyer.*

A Day at the Farm—

Thursday, July 23rd at Moody & Crew Farm. More details to come!

Our Annual Meeting—

Friday, July 24th at 4 pm at the CL Town Hall



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

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What
native
tree
produces
acorns that
resemble
this fuzzy
hat?

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

