



CLEAR THINKING

SEPTEMBER 2020

ISSUE No. 32

OUR MISSION

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

2020 Board

Karen Horrell
President
Dan Rippe
Vice President
Bruce Matasick
Secretary
Terry Newcomb
Treasurer
Brandy Brown
Zach Dean
Brenda Elliott
Bill Geiger
Bill Greffin
Katy Hoehn
Laurie Sellers
Nancy Webster

2020 Staff

Bridget Harrison
Executive Director
Tracy Hughes
Program Assistant

Committees

Development
Executive
Finance
Lands
Outreach & Education
Water Quality

PROTECTING WHAT WE LOVE

The summer of 2020 reminded us yet again why the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is a valuable part of our community. Many people found shelter from Covid and the unsettling uncertainty of daily life by spending more time at Clear Lake this summer. People love the clear water, the trees, the nearby farms, the water activities, and simply spending time with family, friends and neighbors in the slower pace of life.

The Conservancy protects many of these things we love. It protects almost 100 acres of nature preserves—FOREVER—and has conducted water quality testing for over 10 years to help keep the water clean and clear. Pictures are worth a thousand words. We are excited to share our new video "[Protecting What We Love](#)" completed this summer by a talented team of volunteers including Dan McCoy, James Swihart, and Don Luepke. It's short—3 ½ minutes—but we hope it reminds you of all the things you love about this special place.

The summer also proves that the Conservancy is a service organization. Eurasian watermilfoil, an aggressive non-native aquatic plant, found its way to Clear Lake. Read Executive Director Bridget Harrison's "[ASK BRIDGET](#)" for the background and plan for removing this invasive plant from the lake. The Conservancy serves the entire community as a local, focused resource, "protecting what we love."

At the recent Annual Meeting, Peg Zeis was recognized for her time on the board. We value her passion for night skies and water quality. She remains active on the Water Quality Committee. Join us in welcoming Zach Dean as our newest board member. All the officers, board, staff, committee members, donors and volunteers were celebrated for working together to accomplish the Conservancy's mission for future generations.

The Conservancy needs your support to continue to be of service and to protect what we all love. Our Development Committee's article later in this Clear Thinking tells the story of how we can—and should—all support this mission annually. We encourage you to read their letter and be part of the annual giving as we plan for 2021 and beyond.

You can make a gigantic impact by becoming a Conservancy Sustainer. These key supporters make an easy online donation monthly by credit card in an amount that fits their budget. This steady stream ensures financial stability throughout the entire year, even when you can't make it to the Lake but the Conservancy work goes on. Details [here](#). Other people prefer to support specific projects like the Watershed Diagnostic Study or Eurasian watermilfoil control. Talk to Bridget if that's your passion.

This is a place to treasure and a safe haven for building strength and peace for daily life and for future generations who will need and cherish it, too. Join us with your time, talent and money. Be part of our mission as we protect what we all love. Enjoy the [video](#). Let us know what you think!

Karen Horrell, President
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



Environmental Education

While many events and gatherings were missing from our normal summer schedule this year, our educators here at the Conservancy were able to pull off a safe and entertaining Knee-high Naturalist season for our youngest community members with support from the Steuben County Disaster Response Fund, a partnership of the Steuben County Community Foundation and Steuben County United Way and an anonymous donor. On 4 Fridays in July, staff and volunteers reached over 100 community members and visitors at the Conservancy owned, Memorial Woods. This new setting provided abundant shade and space to spread out for proper social distancing.

Starting with a BOOM, we began the season with The Dumpster Drummers. This engaging group entertained all ages with a musical performance on recycled materials. Participants got to Rock Out as they learned the importance to reduce, reuse, and recycle for environmental conservation! Some participants even left energized to share the message with neighbors in private neighborhood concerts!



Attendees rock out with the Dumpster Drummers.



The Sattisons make a vulture friend at Vulture Fest.

The season continued with an in depth look into those big soaring birds we see above Clear Lake with *Vulture Fest*. Bridget Harrison shared the good, the bad, and the YUCKY of these soaring creatures with attendees. Everyone left with more knowledge of the large birds, whether they wanted to know it or not and a make and take vulture friend!

Long time educator and friend of the Conservancy, Don Luepke, was up next with our tree

themed session during this "Year of the Tree." At our *All About Oaks* session, everyone learned the reasons to love the Oak Tree and the differences between white oaks and red oaks. Together, the group planted a bur oak tree on the Memorial Woods Nature Preserve, and each family took their own bur oak home to plant.



Attendees plant a Bur Oak tree at Memorial Woods.

Paint impressions from a pine cone, a leaf, and bark



The season wrapped up with everyone tapping into

their creative sides as educator and artist, Diane McArdle, alongside staff member Tracy Hughes, led a session called *Making an Impression*. Naturalists learned to recognize the textures of nature and used these textures to make prints with paint on paper and into clay. Favorite nature materials were pinecones, leaves, and flower pistils. Perhaps you'll see a clay creation hanging on your Holiday tree this year!

Overall, it was an enjoyable year of safely gathering and educating our young naturalists. Our Knee-high programs were perfect for families to gather and learn together. It was nice to give some normalcy to our summer traditions and we look forward to another full season of Knee-high Naturalists next July! We hope you will join us!

To get involved or support:

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



To: Residents of Clear Lake Township

September 2020

NEW PLAN FORWARD.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

For nearly 30 years, residents of Clear Lake Township have been fortunate to benefit from the hard work of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy working proactively to **protect** our treasured corner of Northeast Indiana. We need your support to continue and enhance that work.

The growth of the Conservancy has been **significant** with environmental education programs, water quality preservation measures, and management of nearly 100 protected acres in the Clear Lake Township. Our fulltime director, Bridget Harrison, has been on board for five years and Tracy Hughes is now working part time for the Conservancy. Many volunteers have contributed thousands of hours to make the Conservancy a success.

When reviewing what has happened in the past, we are amazed that so much has been accomplished by so few. Many of us are completely unaware of the work done by this group. For the past five years, financial support for the Conservancy has steadily increased, but today our best estimate is that still only about 10 percent of the nearly 900 Town/Township/Watershed households contribute yearly to the mission. We can do better. **We should do better.** It is in our self-interest as owners and visitors to make sure the land, wetlands, and lakes remain healthy and pristine.

The Conservancy faces new challenges every day. Recently, a new invasive plant (Eurasian watermilfoil) was discovered in our water. We are fortunate to have an organization right here that quickly focused on the problem and prepared to deal with it. We are one of the few local lakes that have the luxury of a group dedicated to land and water conservation.

Currently, the Development Committee is working on a plan to provide a strong financial base for the Conservancy that will serve us now and into the future. We plan to establish levels of giving and publish them in the annual report (2021) much like many 501(c)(3) nonprofits. The Development Committee has established six levels of giving. They are:

Naturalist	\$100 or more;
Water Warrior	\$250 or more;
Land Lover	\$500 or more;
Star Gazer	\$1,000 or more;
Trail Blazer	\$5,000 or more; and
Soaring Eagle	\$10,000 or more

If you want to remain anonymous, your wishes will be honored. In November, you will receive the Conservancy budget and **a request** to help us during these challenging times.

We thank all our past donors for their support and invite all our Clear Lake Township neighbors to be part of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. **A donation from you will help preserve these special places we need and love.** It is the right thing to do!

Sincerely,

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE;

Nancy Webster, Chair, Barb Wenger, Zach Dean, Bill Pepple, Tom Voigt, Terry Newcomb, Tracy Hughes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Anonymous
Dwight & Carol Bieberich
Terry & Rita Brown
William & Jo Ellen Culbertson
Zach Dean & Shawn Graves
Eric S. Fankhauser
Nancy Fenton & Richard Karlsson
Andy Fitzenrider
Tim & Chelsea Flint
Chris & Tracy Hughes
Marilyn & Tom Lindenberg
Jane & Mark Maley
Terry & Koggy Newcomb
Jill Nichols
Bob & Nancy Webster

Conservancy Sustainers:

Karen & Jack Horrell

Grant Support:

American Honda Motor Co. made possible by Ryan Johnson
Danny & Bill Fund held at the Steuben County Community Foundation
PayPal Giving Fund
Steuben County Disaster Response Fund, a partnership of the Steuben County Community Foundation & Steuben County United Way

Sustainability Fund:

Karen & Jack Horrell

Watershed Diagnostic Study:

Jim & Annie Skinner

Honorarium:

Scott, Bronwyn, Lowell, Fletcher, and Margot Pepple
From Bill & Judy Greffin

The Moran & Byler Wedding
From Justin Moran

Memorial:

Fred Augspurger
From Thomas & Janice Ables
Brian & Stephanie Augspurger
James & Ellen Barr
Tom Bolyard
Cheri Buker & Charla Sheray

Kevin W., Shannon B., Shannon L. Burdick
Andrew Candor
Loretta & Gregory Childs
Steve & Kris Cobb
Debra Compagnone
Mr. & Mrs. J. Falloon
Tom & Susan Kramer
Jim & Georgia Lemberg
Jim & Pat Life
Samuel & Joan Lipscomb
Mr. & Mrs. Dave Middlesworth
Justin Middlesworth Family
Tyler & Lacey Middlesworth
David & Ann Miller
Molly & Jeffery Nagle
Jim & Cat Nevin
David Norton
Raymond & Betty Pippert
Gary Probst
Gabriel & Jeanne Shaheen
Katie & Nelson Spade
Mark Spade
The Steinacker Family
Sue & William Swift
Bob & Jan Thomas
Dayna & Bill Tucker & Family
Bev & Jack Vickerman
Richard D. Waterfield
Suzanne & William Weber
Ron & Ann Weiss
Andrew Zoda, Tony Didier, Marilyn Marschand, & Yvonne Smith

Paul Crawford

From Katy Hoehn

Michael Kellermeier & Teri Scott
Nancy and Bob Webster
John Wilhelm

Paul Federspiel

From Neil & Marcia Federspiel

Carl John Getz Jr.

From Cathy and Greg Cislak

John & Kathy D'Ettorre
David Evans
Kathy & Thom Fairchild
Darlene Hathaway
Charles & Patricia Hinders
Ben Loughery

Mark & Jeanne Loughery
Steve & Pam Rappaport
George & Kathy Schenkel
Susan Thornburg
Christine Ward
Marian & David Ward
Molly & Brian Weber

Carl John Getz Jr. & Patricia Ely Getz
From Philip & Shandon Whistler

Carl John Getz Jr., Patricia Ely Getz, & Deborah Getz Gerbers
From Warren & Janet Ward

Dr. Robert Jensen

From David & Sally Biddinger

Lisa Cline
Flaim Cupp
Roy & Mary Gilliom
Roselyn Cooperman Korff
Michael & Grace Mastrangelo
Karyn & Ernest Otani
John & Dana Schenkel Family
Bryon & Inga Stephens
Steven & Susan Stoneback
Kathleen Summers
Dolores Tomusk
Tom & Wendy Voigt
Ron & Ann Weiss

Ron "Bones" Walters

From Zach Dean & Shawn Graves
Sally Eckrich
The Schlosser Family

Klaus Wenger

From Nancy Andrews & Family
Katy Hoehn
Rick and Cathy Johnston
George & Beth McCracken

In-kind:

Deb & Thad Jones
Don Luepke
Dan McCoy
Connor Oiler
James Swihart

**List reflects contributions since our July 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.

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:

- Desk Chair
- Digital Camera
- 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:

- Boxes of Granola Bars
- Gatorade Powder
- Rakes*
- Shovels*
- Chain Saw*
- Enclosed Utility Trailer*
- Storage shed*

**New or used, in good working condition*

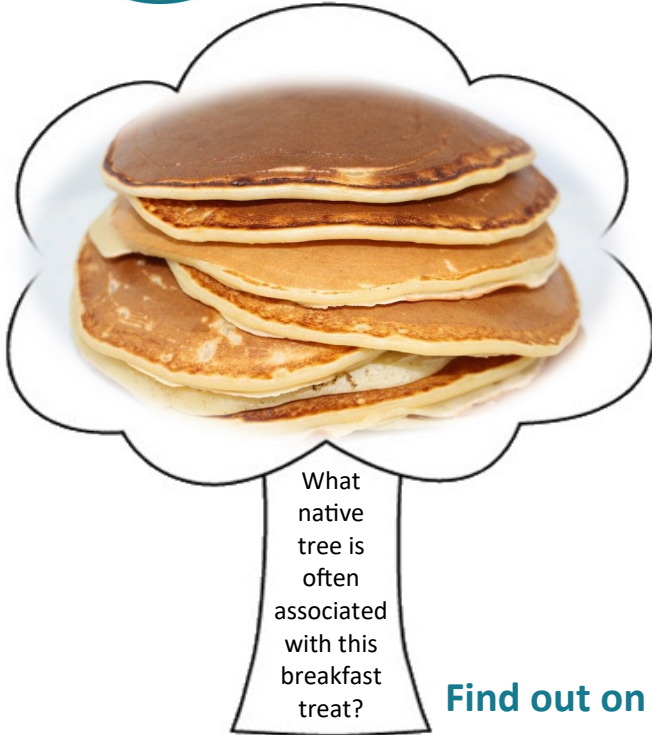
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!

- ~~AA & AAA Batteries~~
- ~~Backpack Herbicide Sprayer~~
- ~~File Organizer~~
- ~~Laminator~~
- ~~Portable Microphone/Sound System~~
- ~~Post hole digger~~
- ~~Utility Vehicle~~
- ~~Weed Eater*~~
- ~~Wheelbarrows*~~



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



What
native
tree is
often
associated
with this
breakfast
treat?

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

