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Creating a Clear Future

What an exciting year for Clear Lake and the Conservancy as we celebrate 25 years of preserving, protecting, and managing the natural environment around us!

So, first things first. Please mark your calendars for a weekend-long Conservancy celebration starting on **Saturday, August 6th through Sunday, August 7th.**

Many of you remember the legendary community involvement in 2006-2008 as we came together to raise funds for purchasing Kasota Island. Together, we raised over \$1.7 million, a preservation gift for future generations of Clear Lakers. Even better was the sheer fun of working together to celebrate the history, beauty, and friendships of Clear Lake. See page 2 for highlights of this successful collaboration.

Let's do it again as we honor 25 years of "Creating a Clear Future" by the Conservancy. On Saturday, August 6th we'll gather at the Clear Lake Yacht Club for an evening Gala of conversation, spirits, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and music. On Sunday, August 7th, we'll head to Kasota Island for a pig roast and music.

All proceeds will support planned conservation projects and will build Conservancy Maintenance and Operating Funds at the Steuben County Community Foundation.

Naturally, we need your help and your enthusiastic participation for these events! Will you lend your support for the Gala or Island Hog Roast Party Committees? Do you have ideas for auction and raffle items or business sponsorships? Contact Bridget, Nancy, or any Board member to get involved or share your ideas. We promise a fun and rewarding experience for you....and a Clear Future for the next Clear Lake generations.

In the next issue of Clear Thinking, we'll unveil the new Conservancy website and update you on other summer events. In the meantime, enjoy the coming of spring and let us know how you would like to be involved in the 25th Anniversary celebration.

Nancy Webster, President

Bridget Harrison, Executive Director



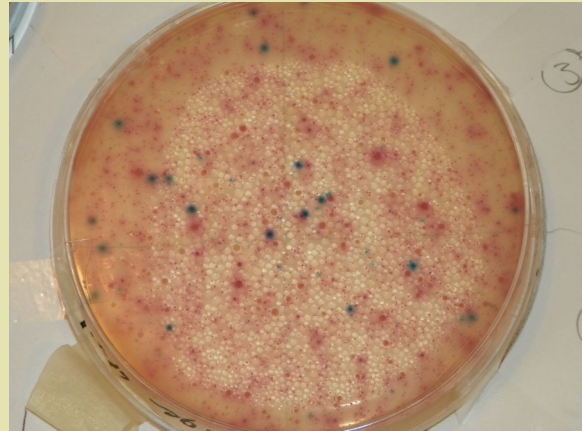
The mission of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations.

Water Quality

The Water Quality Committee and volunteers have been collecting water sampling data from the Lake and the four ditches that drain into the Lake for most of CLTLC's existence. Testing parameters include temperature, pH, nitrate, nitrite, E. coli, dissolved oxygen, ortho-phosphate, biological oxygen demand, and turbidity. This section of *Clear Thinking* will continue to explain these testing parameters.

Fecal coliform bacteria are found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, including humans, livestock, and waterfowl. While naturally present in the digestive tracts of animals, fecal coliform are rarely found in unpolluted waters. E. coli, a specific fecal coliform bacteria that we test for, can enter Clear Lake through animal waste from pets, livestock, and waterfowl, from faulty septic systems, or from livestock or manure runoff from fields. E. coli can be an indicator of fecal contamination. High levels of E. coli or other dangerous pathogens can pose a health risk to humans and pets that come in contact with contaminated water.

What can you do to help reduce E. coli inputs into Clear Lake? Clean up your pet's waste, avoid feeding waterfowl, and if you have livestock, consider implementing best management practices on your fields that reduce runoff.



After a sample is collected and incubated for 24 hours the petri dish, pictured above, is inspected for the presence of E. coli.

Natural Area Preservation



Many Clear Lakers consider Kasota Island the heart of the Clear Lake community. We agree! The island welcomes friends and visitors with shallow, sandy beaches, walking paths, and a fire pit. The sloping terrain offers beautiful trees and plants, including a few cedar trees reflecting its original name of Cedar Island.

Many of us have warm memories of hours spent with family and friends splashing in the clear water surrounding Kasota Island. Others recall picnics, weddings, concerts, annual worship services, or even a winter time destination for skiing and photography. Happily, American Bald Eagles visit Kasota from time to time too.

Kasota Island became part of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy in 2008 and we've been tasked with protecting this 2 acre jewel in perpetuity. The purchase was made possible through the fundraising and vision of countless volunteers led by co-chairs Bob Lewis and current CLTLC trustee Bill Geiger.

Between 2006 and 2008, volunteers raised the funds to purchase Kasota Island. The fundraising effort was a monumental display of community involvement with dinners, auctions, calendars, cookbooks, T-shirts, glasses, and even a Kasota Island lager! The funds remaining after the purchase equaled about \$80,000 and those funds established the Clear Lake Maintenance Fund held at the Steuben County Community Foundation. Since its creation, the fund has grown to about \$126,000 of permanently endowed money. CLTLC has access to a small percentage of the total available current capital appreciation each year for our maintenance projects.

In 2016, Kasota Island will be part of the Conservancy's 25th Anniversary celebration. Kasota has been regularly maintained since 2008 by a dedicated corps of volunteers but needs a bank stabilization project to counter steady natural and boat wave erosion. This project will be among the Conservancy's future funding needs.

e-Newsletter:

To signup for our e-newsletter email:
info@clearlakeconservancy.org

Environmental Education

Maintenance can be defined simply as the process of preserving something. In our case, maintenance means caring for our nature preserves, Clear Lake, and its watershed. Maintenance can also be referred to as restoration or stewardship.

We currently protect 15 properties and their maintenance may include invasive species removal, trash pickup, removal of trees or limbs, mowing, herbiciding, sign repair or installation, pruning, prescribed fire, shoreline stabilization, dredging, monitoring, tree planting, trail work, or seeding.

The recently formed Lands Committee will be compiling management and maintenance plans for each of our preserves. In actively maintaining our preserves we can provide important wildlife habitat, protect and enhance water quality, offer scenic and educational opportunities to the community, and protect open space, woods, and wetlands.



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS!*

Including Marilyn & Tom Lindenberg **Memorial/Honorary**: John & Nancy Westfall, Jacqueline Feil
In-kind: Mike & Pat Franz **2015 Endowment Contributions****: Anonymous, Chad & Hope Korte, CJ & Bea Geiger Family Fund, Jack & Karen Horrell, Kathy Latz

*List reflects contributions received after our January issue of *Clear Thinking*. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible, please contact us if you see a mistake.

**Our Operating Endowment & Maintenance Endowment Funds are held at the Steuben County Community Foundation.

Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight you—the volunteers of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy! In honor of Volunteer Appreciation Week, in April, we would like to thank everyone that has donated their time, talent, and effort to accomplish our mission!

Over the last two decades countless volunteer hours from many individuals have been given to support CLTLC. Volunteer commitments have ranged over the past 25 years from multi-year commitments to a single event or task. We appreciate each and every one of you and all of your time.

Our efforts are led and supported by

our 12-member volunteer board of directors that meets regularly and works closely with our legal counsel. Thank you for your wonderful guidance, commitment, and support! Additionally, volunteers actively participate on our Water Quality, Finance, Lands, and Communications Committees.

Volunteer contributions to CLTLC cover a wide array of activities, including this impressive list—folding newsletters, restoration and maintenance on our preserves, facilitating meetings, planting trees, participating on our committees, working on land projects, organizing and setting up the CLTLC office, financial oversight, editing and adding to our newsletter series, planning fundraising events, grant writing, providing legal advice, organizing educational opportunities and workshops (such as the Knee-High and Neck-High

Naturalists), taking photographs, providing leadership, advocating for CLTLC, removing a shed, and many other tasks that ensure our long-term success. We cannot thank you enough for your time and effort!

The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy relied solely on volunteers for almost 24 years. Hiring our first staff member was an exciting moment for the Conservancy but our steady progress is because of the volunteers that care so much about Clear Lake and its watershed. We truly appreciate you and thank you for your commitment to helping us preserve our corner of the state!

*Volunteers do not
necessarily have the time;
they have the heart.*

-Elizabeth Andrews

Volunteer or Donate:

(260) 316-1397 • www.ClearLakeConservancy.org

111 Gecowets Drive – Clear Lake • Fremont, IN 46737

SEVEN WAYS TO SUPPORT CLTLC

- 1) Unrestricted donation;
- 2) Honor gifts for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and births;
- 3) Sustaining gifts to CLTLC Operating fund at the Steuben County Community Foundation;
- 4) Sustaining gifts to CLTLC Maintenance fund at the Steuben County Community Foundation;
- 5) Memorial bequests for Clear Lake community members;
- 6) Gifts to specific projects such as education, dredging, land acquisition;
- 7) Include CLTLC as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

Contact us for more information on how you can support CLTLC. The success of the Conservancy depends on the tax-deductible contributions of individuals and the community.

A few of our upcoming events!

More details and additional events will be included in our next issue.

Knee-High Naturalist program -

July 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th 10-11:30am at the Yacht Club

Our Annual Meeting -

Friday, July 22nd 4:00pm at Clear Lake Town Hall

Creating a Clear Future -

Saturday, August 6th at the Yacht Club & Sunday, August 7th at Kasota Island



Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy

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Fremont, Indiana 46737



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*Celebrating
25 Years!*

Email: info@clearlakeconservancy.org to receive this in your email!
