



THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY
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clearlakeconservancy.org

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CLEAR THINKING

SEPTEMBER 2022 | ISSUE NO.45



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OUR LETTER

MAKING MEMORIES & FUTURES

The joy of summer at the lake is captured in family and friend photos year after year. Our minds can clearly see toddlers floating and splashing in clear, calm waters along docks. We remember images of kids as they investigate the shallow beach at Kasota Island and run up the hill to see the other side of the island. We smile as we recall the huge grin on the face of a child who just caught his first fish or got up on her skis for the first time.

We also smile as we remember cruising in the warm afternoon July sunshine in pontoon boats while catching up with family and friends. Our phones have dozens of shots of beautiful sunsets as the sun drops to the horizon and begins to cast pink shadows. We still thrill at the memory of seeing the soaring eagle as it dove for its own fish dinner.

Many of these memories involve water. Others reflect trails on preserved land. Some recall the excitement of Knee-high Naturalists learning about nature. The Clear Lake Conservancy helps create all of these pictures. The Conservancy supports water quality, land preservation, and environmental education. It helps all of us create these memories for the future and for future generations.

The Conservancy isn't one person. It's all of us working together. Water is safe-guarded, land is preserved and stewarded, and kids and grown-ups learn to love our natural environment when we donate, volunteer, and support our small staff. Everyone in the Clear Lake community plays a part in keeping this treasure protected for today and for the future generations.

You may already know that Executive Director Bridget Harrison has made the difficult decision that she and her family will move closer to extended family in Chicago by yearend. Bridget was the Conservancy's first staff member and has been instrumental in working with the Board and volunteers to bring the Conservancy's mission to life over seven years. We are incredibly grateful and incredibly sad at the same time. Bridget, Dave, and Rosie have been valued members of our community. We will miss them all.

The Board has begun the search for a new Executive Director to continue the current progress and momentum. As Bridget has said many times, Clear Lake is a special place, and the Board will find the right person to lead the Conservancy in the next chapter of our history. Fortunately, the Conservancy is in its strongest position since it was founded thirty-one years ago.

We'll recognize Bridget later this year as she transitions key projects and makes this important move for her family. Your continued support for the Conservancy's work will be a tribute to what the Conservancy has accomplished since 1991 and especially over the past seven years with Bridget's professional leadership.

We hope your summer memories last all year long for you and your loved ones. With your help, we'll keep our focus on building memories for now and for the future.



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President

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COMMITTEES

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

✓ **OCTOBER BIG DAY**
OCT 8TH, 2022

INDIANA AUDUBON.ORG/EVENTS



We're teaming up with Indiana Audubon and Indiana Land Protection Alliance to celebrate October Big Day! Join local naturalist Fred Wooley on a birding hike at Clear Lake Nature Preserve. **Space is limited!**



JACK WEBSTER'S CATCH OF THE DAY!

MISSION STATEMENT

We preserve, protect, & manage the natural environment within the Clear Lake Watershed and Township for future generations.

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PHOTO CAPTIONS
1: Picnic in the Park: Sharing knowledge about watersheds in partnership with Fremont Public Library.
2: Art being created at the nature spray paint session at Knee-high with Fremont Elementary's Erin Seeman.
3: Doug and Larry from the Dumpster Drummers rocking out at our first Knee-high session of the summer.
4: Learning the keys to wilderness survival at Knee-high from our friends at the Soil & Water Conservation District.
5: Knee-high Naturalists touching the shell of a live turtle visiting from the Nature Center at Pokagon State Park.

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The 2022 summer season was a busy one for our Outreach and Education Committee and staff. Five Knee-high Naturalists programs and a visit to the Fremont Public Library's "Picnic in the Park" gave us the opportunity to share about recycling, trees, art, turtles, wilderness survival, and watersheds.

In its 18th season, the Knee-high Naturalists program returned to Memorial Woods for family friendly learning and fun. The season was kicked off with a lively performance by Larry and Doug from The Dumpster Drummers! Four more eventful Friday mornings were hosted thanks to our partners from Purdue Extension, Fremont Elementary, the Pokagon Nature Center, and the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District. Kids and their grownups learned about how and what to recycle, the language of trees and what it tells us, got very colorful "artist hands" (and feet!), met three special turtle friends for breakfast, and learned how to be prepared for a day in the wilderness, first aid kits and all!

A fun addition to this summer's programming was a visit to Fremont's Rocketship Park in partnership with the Fremont Public Library. The Conservancy's educational team, comprised of staff and volunteers, shared knowledge of watersheds with over 100 area youth.

Reading the newly published Conservancy book written in collaboration with last year's Fremont Elementary 2nd Graders, Little Drop's Watershed Journey, picnic visitors were taken on a journey of one waterdrop's journey through the watershed from Fremont to Lake Michigan. A handful of the 2nd grade authors were there to see their work in action!

"HANDS-ON NATURE EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL IN INSPIRING OUR LITTLEST LEARNERS TO BECOME LOVERS OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS."

We are proud of our educational outreach each summer during the school break. Free, hands-on nature education is essential in inspiring our littlest learners to become lovers of the great outdoors. We are already looking forward to planning Knee-high Naturalists for next summer! Don't hesitate to tell us what you want to learn about in 2023.

Anonymous

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*List reflects contributions received before August 31, 2022. Contact us if you see a mistake.