



THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY
111 GECOWETS DRIVE
FREMONT, INDIANA 46737
clearlakeconservancy.org

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FORT WAYNE, IN
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CLEAR THINKING

MAY 2023 | ISSUE NO.48

*“If we take good care of the Earth, the Earth will take good care of us.
When we heal the land, we are also healed.”*

— DAVID ALLEN

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VOLUNTEER | CONTACT | DONATE

clearlakeconservancy.org
or call (260) 527-1072



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Kasota Island Cleanup
WHEN: 6/10 at 9:00 am

Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Day & Run
WHEN: 7/8 at 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

2023 Knee-high Naturalist Lineup
WHEN: Fridays in July
10:00 am – 11:30 am
at Memorial Woods
Nature Preserve

7/7 **SOARIN' HAWK
RAPTOR REHAB**
7/14 **WATER QUALITY
EDUCATION**
7/21 **GONE FISHIN'
W/ POKAGON
NATURALISTS**
7/28 **FAMILY YOGA
W/ HEIDI STARK**



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

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OUR LETTER



LAND STEWARD MADISON PARKER WITH DOWNED TREE AT THE CLNP



ISLAND VIEW NATURE PRESERVE

SEASONS ARE CHANGING AT CLEAR LAKE

Have you had enough cold, wet weather? Are the green leaves, colorful flowers and warm sun welcome sights? Yes, and Yes! Welcome back to the Lake! The Conservancy kept moving ahead through the winter, even when it wasn't easy.

After a challenging winter, the Conservancy is different, but also the same. The Conservancy's focus remains on the three priorities the entire community supports: **clear and clean water; protected land; and environmental education.** What's different? For seven years, Bridget Harrison was the familiar “face” of the Conservancy. When Bridget decided she needed to move closer to family, the 14 Board members followed the normal process. They appointed a search committee. They drafted a position statement for the Executive Director role. They publicized the position in the land trust community, at both the national and regional levels. They reviewed applications, interviewed candidates, and ultimately, chose the person who seemed to best fit the position. It didn't work out.

The Board members are restarting the search process, but pausing briefly for two key steps. First, we'll step back to review the process and decide whether the job is the same as it seemed to be when Bridget left. Second, what can we learn from the prior search? We'll keep you updated as we move ahead. We'll ask for your thoughts and opinions. This is not a shy community!

On the **clear and clean water** topic, we were honored and excited to be awarded a grant of \$59,450 by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership for our multi-year Watershed Diagnostic Study. The grant applies to 2024 and 2025 expenses, but we still are responsible for generating over \$50,000 each year to complete the study. We need help funding 2023 and later. Why is this so important? Longtime volunteer, Don Luepke, recently said it's all about “clarity.” He and other Water Quality Committee members remind us that Clear Lake's depth clarity (how far down water is clear) is on a negative trend line. We have **lost over ten feet of clarity in the past twenty years.** What can you do? Donate online or contact our knowledgeable Program Assistant Tracy Hughes at tracy.hughes@clearlakeconservancy.org for more information about making a donation.

On the **protected land** front, winter storms were fierce. Our 100+ acres sustained widespread storm damage as trees toppled from unprecedented wind, snow and ice. Thank you to our land steward between September and this May, Madison Parker, and many volunteers led by our Lands Committee who cleared the debris and reopened our trails. The work is not done. We could use your help over the summer and fall. To get involved go online or contact us at steward@clearlakeconservancy.org.

CONTINUED INSIDE

VOLUNTEER | CONTACT | DONATE clearlakeconservancy.org or call (260) 527-1072



ICE STORM TREE DAMAGE AT
MEMORIAL WOODS



FENCE DAMAGE AT MEMORIAL WOODS

CONTINUED FROM COVER: SEASONS ARE CHANGING AT CLEAR LAKE

Education? We've got it covered! See the summer calendar on the back page and on our website for Knee-high Naturalists and other events that educate both kids and adults about the incredible natural environment that we are so fortunate to share. Join us.

Finally, get your athletic shoes out of hibernation and join the **Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Run on July 8th**. Barb Wenger and her awesome event team are reviving the long-time Clear Lake tradition of the July Fun Run and expanding it to include a **Family Fun Day**. This year's event will bring the community together and raise funds for Conservancy projects and operations. Details are enclosed. Volunteers are needed.

Just like Clear Lake, the Conservancy is different but the same after a long winter. Thank you for supporting the mighty work for clear and clean water—protected land—and environmental education in this beautiful place we cherish. Together, WE are the Conservancy. See you July 8th, if not before.



Karen Horrell
President



Doug Mulvaney
Vice President



CYRUS BROWSE FULL GAGE STATION
ON SETTLERS WETLAND NP



HARRY TEETERS FULL GAGE STATION



ROUND LAKE OUTLET PARTIAL GAGE STATION



CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY FUN DAY & RUN!

Join the 5K or 10K races or enjoy the 1M Fun Run/Walk for families. Race participants will walk or run by the sparkling water, over picturesque bridges, past wetlands, open oak woodlands, and native prairies, including Conservancy properties!

WHAT IF YOU AREN'T A WALKER OR RUNNER? We have more fun planned for the day! At the Lutheran Church Pavilion, from 9:00 AM – 1 PM, you can participate in the **Koeneman Lake scavenger hunt**, learn and participate in **family friendly fun**, enjoy delicious breakfast and lunch options offered by the **Beached Boys Grill food truck**, or mingle with your friends and neighbors. There is something for everyone! All proceeds are in support of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. You can help protect and preserve the area for generations to come! We still need volunteers for the fun day. To get involved, email info@clearlakeconservancy.org or online at clearlakeconservancy.org/contact. Thank you!

– GET READY FOR THE FUN SUMMER CONSERVANCY EVENT –

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JULY 8TH

**The Clear Lake Township Land
Conservancy Fun Day & Run**
WHEN: July 8 from 8:30am – 1:00pm

WHERE: 270 Outer Drive; Races start
and end at Clear Lake Lutheran
Church Pavilion

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

5K and 10K Run
WHEN: Race starts at 8:30am

COST:
Runners 15 and over: \$30 now
(\$35 starting June 1st)

\$40 starting July 1st
(\$45 day of race)

Kids 14 and under: \$20

Age Groups:
<10, 10-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39,
40-49, 50-59, 60+

1M Fun Run/Walk
WHEN: Race starts at 9:00am

COST: \$20 all ages*
*Children 5 and under are free.



SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP TODAY!

RunSignup.com/CLTLC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mary Ann Barth

Dwight and Carol Bieberich

Ben and Charlotte Campbell

Maureen Dibble

Community Foundation of
Shelby County on behalf of
Mardie and Tom Milligan

Andrew Parkison

Paul Sauerteig

Debi and Rich Shatzer

Joe and Katie Sisley

Gregory and Cynthia Smith

Katie Talbott

Warren and Janet Ward

Molly and Brian Weber

Debbie Wymer

Maria Zeman

HONORARIUMS
Nancy and Bob Webster
H: Bridget Harrison

Pat and Dave Blakeslee
H: Bob and Nancy
Webster

MEMORIALS
The Dean Family
M: Carmen Dean-Frazer

Kathy Latz
M: Don Gant

Devon and Trey McArdle
M: Daniel Thomas Kramer

Fred Coon

The Mark S. Kramer
Family

Bonnie Brown

Mary Becker

Rick and Angie Behnfeldt
& Family

Jennifer and Eric Rockhold

Gerald M. & Carole A.
Miller Family Foundation

Carlyn Kramer Obendorfer

Karen Lewis

Linda Gusich

Devon and Trey McArdle

The Dean Family

Barbara Hendrick

Mike and Pat Franz

Stephen R Sisley

Mary Ann Barth
M: Tom Kramer

Karen Lewis

Lynn Wehrenberg
M: Bob Lewis

The Horrell Family
M: Coral Sue Lewis

Jay Ludgate
M: William Sterling Jr.

Jay Ludgate

Pam and Tom Reith

Chris Slee Family
M: Bill Thomas

Amy Jo Young & Scott
Yuengling
M: Casey B. Yuengling

**CONSERVANCY
SUSTAINERS**
Alex and Susan Connott

Susanne Cusick with
employer match from
AbbVie

Zach Dean

Essentially Clean & More

Jeff and Kathy Greer

Jack and Karen Horrell

Kathy Latz

Tim and LuAnn McArdle

Terry and Koggy Newcomb

Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer
Nielsen

Deborah and Erik Oiler

Tom and Jenny Parker

Nancy and Bob Webster

GRANT SUPPORT
Amazon Smile

Forever Improving Steuben
County Together

Indiana Department of
Natural Resources

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

PayPal Giving Fund

Thrivent Choice on behalf
of Jack and Karen Horrell
& Don and Ellen Luepke

**STEBEN COUNTY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
ENDOWMENT FUND
SUPPORT**

Anonymous

Jack and Karen Horrell

CLEAR LAKE WATERSHED

PUTTING THE CLEAR BACK IN CLEAR LAKE

Some **good news** on the water quality front: The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy received a grant to help us work toward one of our key priorities: *keeping our water quality pristine*. Below are excerpts from the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP) April 2023 news release announcing a grant studying Clear Lake. The funds are to be used in 2024 and 2025.

"A major challenge for Clear Lake is to accurately quantify and understand lake external and internal nutrient and sediment loadings. This data is essential to improve or maintain the trophic status of the lake and fish habitat.

Partnering with Ecosystems Connections Institute, MGLP will install a full water quality gage station at two major lake inflows and one partial gage station at the lake outflow. This study will provide data to improve water quality in Clear Lake and will be threaded into a forward-thinking education/outreach program to build a cultural conservation bridge that will create lasting conservation partnerships for Clear Lake watershed restoration and protection."

Stay tuned for more information on the Clear Lake Watershed Diagnostic Study, and steps we can **ALL** take to help keep Clear Lake Clear.