



# CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2023 | ISSUE NO.50

## OUR LETTER



## NEW BEGINNINGS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

I am honored to take over as the new President of the Board of Directors for the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. I have big shoes to fill. Karen Horrell led the Conservancy through growth, projects, and many challenges over the past four years including the pandemic and change in leadership with the resignation of our longtime Executive Director Bridget Harrison. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude.

Even though summer is winding down, there are new beginnings and opportunities that await us. As I write this, I am excited to report that the Search Committee has completed its work and the Board has hired a new executive director, Caroline Barth, who brings a strong background in soils and water quality conservation to the Conservancy. Caroline grew up in the Clear Lake community and is excited to return here beginning in September to lead our organization as she joins our new Land Steward Amy Oberlin and Program Assistant Tracy Hughes.

This is an exciting time to be taking over as Board President and I look forward to new beginnings and opportunities this coming year. Many of you do not know me and I will make every effort this year to meet as many of you as I can.

This was a year of new ideas and new events. In July, Barb Wenger, our Development Committee Chair, organized and held the first Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Day & Run event which was a great success with over 120 people participating and raising over \$58,000 for the Conservancy. This will become an annual event.

Our focus on water quality is becoming increasingly important. We have embarked on an ambitious three-year water quality study that will cost us in excess of \$225,000. However, the end goal is to identify and quantify the sources of our water quality problems which will help us apply for additional grant funding in the future to remediate the problems. We recently received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the amount of \$60,000 to help partially cover the costs. Dan Rippe and the Water Quality Committee have been hard at work with testing.

As we head into fall, we are in the process of wrapping up further property expansion that will add nearly 45 additional acres to our holdings, better allowing us to preserve, protect and manage the natural environment within our watershed.

At the July 28 Annual Meeting we added two new board members – Ann Federspiel DeWert and Matt Timmer for three-year terms. We also welcomed Nancy Webster back to an additional three-year term. As summer fades into fall, lake life will begin to slow down as kids return to school and cottages are closed until next year. However, the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy will be hard at work continuing our mission and I look forward to being a part of New Beginnings and New Opportunities.



**Doug Mulvaney**  
*President*

### 2023 BOARD

**Doug Mulvaney**  
*President*      **Zach Dean**  
*Secretary*

**Barb Wenger**  
*Vice President*      **Tim McArdle**  
*Treasurer*

**Susan Connett**      **Karen Horrell**

**Bill Culbertson**      **Bruce Matasick**

**Ann DeWert**      **Terry Newcomb**

**Bill Geiger**      **Dan Rippe**

**Bill Greffin**      **Matt Timmer**

**Katy Hoehn**      **Nancy Webster**

### 2023 STAFF

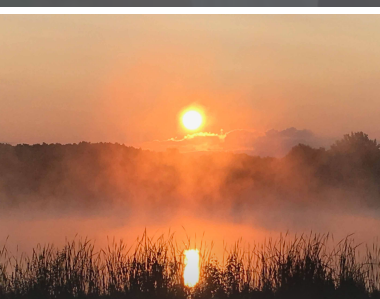
**Caroline Barth**  
*Executive Director*

**Tracy Hughes**  
*Program Assistant*

**Amy Oberlin**  
*Land Steward*

### COMMITTEES

- Development
- Executive
- Finance
- Lands
- Outreach & Education
- Water Quality





DIANE MCARDLE SHAKES HER TAIL FEATHERS AND SPREADS HER WINGS FOR A KNEE-HIGH CROWD.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR ALL

Since 2006 the Knee-high Naturalist program has been going strong here at Clear Lake. This year was no exception! With over 200 participants and 330 outreach hours on four Fridays in July, the 2023 season of Knee-high Naturalists continues to uphold our pillar of providing environmental education for generations to come.

To kick off the season, participants welcomed Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation back to our Memorial Woods property for solid education and spectacular up-close views of owls, hawks, and the great Bald Eagle, Jefferson, who even showed off his full wingspan! Along with a little fun (and good sportsmanship) from long time Knee-high volunteer, Diane McArdle, the crowd roared with laughter and the local birds chirped the news as lessons of raptor hearing, vision, wingspan, and shaking tail feathers were learned.

Educational fun continued throughout July as participants, knee-high and taller, enjoyed learning about "Clean Water and Healthy Soil" from Art Franke, expert conservationist with the National Resources Conservation Service. This clean water was obvious the following week when Knee-high Naturalists moved to the Clear Lake Marina for "Gone Fishin'" with Pokagon Naturalists. A special thank you to the Clear Lake Marina for hosting us and providing snacks and drinks! Finally, the fun was capped off with a calming session of Family Yoga with yoga teacher, Heidi Stark, of H.J. Wellness & Consulting. This was the second time Heidi joined us for this special family activity, and the second time it has been moved inside due to rain. Thank you to the Clear Lake Yacht Club for giving us a dry place to yoga that Friday morning. Let's hope next time we can have "Family Yoga in Nature" OUTSIDE!

After a very busy July in our community, it's safe to say Knee-high Naturalists continues to educate and impress residents and visitors of all ages here at Clear Lake. Plan to join us for all four Fridays in July, 2024. Planning is already underway!



LOUISA BALSER ADMIRES HER CATCH OF THE DAY!

YOGA PARTICIPANTS STAND IN TREE POSE AT THE CLEAR LAKE YACHT CLUB



# FUN DAY & RUN BY THE NUMBERS

## HERE IS A RECAP OF THE DAY, BY THE NUMBERS:

Despite a rainy morning, the July 8, 2023 Fun Run was a tremendous success, thanks to our many sponsors, volunteers, and all the participants!

Including our generous sponsor support, we raised over \$58,000 for the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy!

Contributions are the heart and soul of our success! Your commitment provides the support we need for successful water quality enhancement, natural areas preservation, and environmental education.

- 53** pre-registered **10K RUNNERS**
- 61** pre-registered **5K RUNNERS**
- 49** pre-registered **1M WALK**
- 23** pre-registered **FUN DAY**
- 27** walk-in **RUNNERS**
- 4** **TOP TROPHIES**, handcrafted by Jay Ludgate
- 67** 1st 2nd and 3rd place **MEDALS** for all age groups
- 35** **MEDALS** for youth 1-mile walkers/runners
- 15** **SCAVENGER HUNTS** completed in the pouring rain
- 30** children enjoyed the **CARNIVAL BOUNCE HOUSE**
- 30** **CHILDREN'S FACES** were painted
- 58** **BANANAS**
- 75** **TANGERINES**
- 175** **GRANOLA BARS**
- 100** **16 OZ** beer cups
- 500** **BOTTLES** of water
- 150** **FRUIT CUPS** and goodie bags
- 4** **HOURS** of great music provided by DJ Jarvis D
- 1** **GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE** donated by The Mill District: *an overnight stay in their private honeymoon suite plus breakfast at What the Fork Local Eatery in Fremont*
- 56** **VOLUNTEERS** involved in the planning and implementation of this successful event.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

- Anonymous
- Jim and Jody Horein
- Kevin Mangum
- Terry and Koggy Newcomb
- Fran Rehm
- Colleen and Brian Sweeney
- Matt and Claire Timmer

- FOREVER FUND IN HONOR OF KAREN HORRELL**
- Alex and Susan Connett
  - Zach Dean and Kevin Mangum
  - Bill and Chris Geiger
  - Katy Hoehn
  - Bruce and Jan Matasick
  - Tim and LuAnn McArdle
  - Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen

- The Russert Family**
- Nancy and Bob Webster
- Barb Wenger
- H: Karen Horrell
- MEMORIALS**
- Greg and Paula Bosler
- M: Dorothy Bosler
- Sally Eckrich
- M: Ann Brennan
- Ellen Bisson
- M: Ed & Barb Dissar

- Linda Gilliland
- M: Barb Dissar
- Jack and Karen Horrell
- Bobby and Elsa Lim
- Angie and Dan O'Neill
- M: Patricia Griest
- Margaret and Ron Carlson
- Joann Cutshall
- Sally Eckrich

- George and Kathy Schenkel
- M: Tom Kramer
- Chris Slee Family
- M: Lynn Lamming
- Rick and Angie Behnfeltd
- M: Larry Penner
- Tom and Katie Eckrich
- M: Jim Shank
- CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS**
- Alex and Susan Connett

- Susanne Cusick with employer match from AbbVie
- Zach Dean and Kevin Mangum
- Jack and Karen Horrell
- Kathy Latz
- Tim and LuAnn McArdle
- Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen
- Terry and Koggy Newcomb

- Deborah and Erik Oiler
- Tom and Jenny Parker
- Nancy and Bob Webster
- GRANT SUPPORT**
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Steuben County Community Foundation
- IN-KIND**
- Essentially Clean & More
- Clear Lake Marina
- Bill Geiger
- Marty Zachrich

- KASOTA ISLAND**  
Clear Lake Sunday Fun
- Gordon and Judie Johnson
  - Alan and Sue Korte
  - Devon and Trey McArdle

- WISH LIST**
- Anonymous
- CLTLC FUN DAY & RUN SUPPORT**
- Anonymous (2)
- Chris and Lisa Baker
- Beached Boys Grill
- The Bloebaum Family
- Bill and Jennifer Brady
- Amy Culler & Family
- Dan & Pam Dissar
- Fitzenrider Family
- Jack Gallagher
- Bill and Marie Hanna
- Bridget Harrison and Dave Drogos
- Tillie and Geoff Judge
- Bruce and Jan Matasick
- Dan and Laurie McArdle
- Tim and LuAnn McArdle

- The Pepple Family
- Ben Snyder
- Nina and Adam Rettig
- Marv and Penny Retcher
- Daniel J and Christine Rippe
- Barb Wenger
- IN-KIND EVENT SUPPORT**
- Anonymous
- Zach Dean
- Amy Michael
- Barbara Rumsey
- Matt and Claire Timmer

\*List reflects contributions received before August 25, 2023. Please contact us if you see a mistake.



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# CLEAR THINKING

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GLOSSARY TERM: **TERMS TO KNOW**

**CISCO (COREGONUS ARTEDI) ALSO NORTHERN CISCO**, Lake Herring, Tullibee): A once abundant sport fish, Cisco are sensitive to predation by non-native fish species as well as environmental degradation. The presence or absence of the species can be an indication of the state of a body of water.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

**VOLUNTEER | CONTACT | DONATE**

[clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org)  
 or call (260) 527-1072



## COMMUNITY EVENTS



**OCTOBER**  
 **BIG DAY**  
 Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023

**INDIANA AUDUBON** **ILPA**  
INDIANA LAND PROTECTION ALLIANCE

Local naturalist Fred Wooley will lead a birding hike at Clear Lake Nature Preserve. Everyone is invited!

Golden-crowned Kinglet by Ryan Sanderson



**Second Annual Big Day Hike**  
**WHEN:** Saturday 10 /14 at 9:00am  
 Led by naturalist Fred Wooley  
**WHERE:** Clear Lake Nature Preserve