



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

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# CLEAR THINKING

JANUARY 2024 | ISSUE NO.52

## GLOSSARY TERM: TERMS TO KNOW

**WETLAND:** An ecosystem that floods and is usually water-saturated.

- **Swamp:** A wetland area dominated by trees.
- **Marsh:** A wetland area where grasses make up most of the plant life.
- **Fen:** A grassy wetland area where water is flowing in the root zone of the plants.
- **Bog:** A wetland with wet, spongy, and poorly drained soil.

## 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

**NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP PROJECT**  
WHEN: March 22 through April 22

**SPRING WILDFLOWER HIKE**  
WHEN: April 20, 10 a.m.

**GARLIC MUSTARD PULL**  
WHEN: April 26, 10 a.m.

**MONTHLY WATER QUALITY TESTING**  
WHEN: May 3, June 7, July 5, Aug. 2, 8:30 a.m.

**NATIVE PLANT SALE WITH RIVERVIEW NATIVE NURSERY**  
WHEN: May 25

**KASOTA ISLAND CLEANUP**  
WHEN: June 8, 9 a.m. to noon

**KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS**  
WHEN: July 5, 12, 19, 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

**SUMMER WILDFLOWER HIKE**  
WHEN: Aug. 3, 10 a.m.

**RUN DAY, FUN DAY**  
WHEN: July 13

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
WHEN: July 26

**MACROINVERTABRATE DAY**  
WHEN: Sept. 11 at 9 a.m.

**BIG DAY HIKE**  
WHEN: Oct. 12, 10 a.m.

**BRENNAN WOODS HALLOWEEN TRAIL**  
WHEN: Oct. 26



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## OUR LETTER

## WELCOMING A NEW YEAR

As we step into the new year, we reflect on the past and look forward to the future. It is inspiring to see how the community and volunteers came together to sustain the Conservancy's work in a time of change. We sincerely thank every donor, volunteer, and supporter for joining us in preserving, protecting, and managing the natural environment within the Clear Lake Watershed and Township for future generations.

We had many 2023 highlights. We completed another year of the Watershed Diagnostic Study that measures the flow of nutrients, sediment, and oxygen in our precious lake environment. We conducted another round of invasive aquatic vegetation treatments and continued mapping the growth. We held the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Day & Run with help from the Clear Lake Lions Club, anonymous donors, the Horrell Family, Star Homes, and many more generous partners and volunteers. The Knee-high Naturalists program continued with presentations about hawks, clean water and soil, fishing, and yoga.

In 2024, we look forward to another year of the Watershed Diagnostic Study and sharing data and observations found in the first few years of study. We will continue mapping the aquatic vegetation profile and battling invasive vegetation threats. We are planning our 2024 Run Day, Fun Day and invite everyone to mark your calendars for July 13th. Our Knee-high Naturalists program is scheduled for each Friday in July with more information on presenters in the coming months. In addition to the larger projects and programs, we will hold many volunteer workdays and guided hikes in our protected lands around the Township.

We are so grateful to close 2023 with such progress, and we carry this optimism and excitement into 2024. Thank you for joining us, year after year. Without you, our work would not be possible.



**Caroline Barth**  
Executive Director



**Doug Mulvaney**  
President

## KNOW YOUR CONSERVANCY



This year, we will be featuring a new section of the newsletter called "Know Your Conservancy". This will explore the roles of the Board of Directors and each committee within the Conservancy.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors oversees the whole organization and currently consists of 16 volunteers. Within the Board, officer roles include the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Board is self-perpetuating and is involved in all aspects of the Conservancy including strategic planning, finances and fundraising, projects and programs, administration, and public relations.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is formed by the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and immediate past president. The Executive Committee is responsible for organizational policies, strategic planning efforts, and serves as the nominating committee for annual Board member and officer elections. The Committee can act on the behalf of the Conservancy between regular Board meetings in urgent situations but has rarely had to do so.

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

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Conner Slee

- LAND MAINTENANCE**  
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T: Jack and Marie Cochrane  
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- STEBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MAINTENANCE FUND SUPPORT**  
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- Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen

- WISH LIST**  
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- Alex and Susan Connett
- IN-KIND**  
Essentially Clean & More

H: = Honorariums  
M: = Memorials  
T: = Tribute

\*List reflects contributions received on or before December 31, 2023. Contact us if you see a mistake.