



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

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CLEAR THINKING

MARCH 2024 | ISSUE NO.53

GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

CONSERVATION EASEMENT: A voluntary legal agreement between the landowner and the government or a land trust to permanently protect a property by limiting its use and management for conservation or other environmental purposes. While the landowner retains ownership, tax advantages, the right to sell, and other privileges, the preservation of the land will continue in perpetuity.

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 - April 22

Join a township-wide cleanup effort. Contact us to claim your roadway, then report your haul to show how together, we can make a big impact on our community!



Email steward@clearlakeconservancy.org

RUN DAY, FUN DAY
WHEN: July 13th

Registration opening soon!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY!

RunSignup.com/CLTLC



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OUR LETTER



GRATEFUL FOR OUR COMMUNITY

The beginning of 2024 has been an exciting time over here at the Conservancy as our preserves continue to grow. So far this year, we have gained an additional 45 acres. We now manage 145 acres of preserved and protected land in the Clear Lake Township! These preserves, found all around the lake, will continue providing habitats, claiming excess nutrients in the soil, and filtering the watershed for generations to come. We are grateful for our partnership with the community as we work together to acquire and protect lands that positively impact our water quality at Clear Lake.

In addition to our new lands, your giving hearts were evident as we looked back at our total support in 2023. Through fundraisers, grants, and year-end giving, we more than covered our operational costs, land stewardship projects, watershed monitoring, and aquatic invasive species treatments. We thank you for your continued support through the years.

As our community continues to give to us, we want to give back to our community. Last year, the Conservancy hosted Clear Lake's annual 5K/10K run for the first time, adding a 1 mile Fun Run to the mix. We saw the community come together, cheer each other on, and celebrate in the rain at a fun filled family event. To show our gratitude again, this year's Run Day, Fun Day will be on July 13th. Come to run, celebrate, and have some fun with a DJ, food truck, bounce house, face painting, and more activities for the whole family. We hope to see you this July enjoying the festivities, meeting with friends, and making new connections within our exceptional community.



Caroline Barth
Executive Director



Doug Mulvaney
President

KNOW YOUR CONSERVANCY



Exploring the various committees and roles within the Conservancy, this month's newsletter features the Lands Committee.

LANDS COMMITTEE

The Lands Committee was established to guide the land protection efforts designed by the Board of Directors. This volunteer committee evaluates and responds to land protection opportunities that meet the criteria for permanent conservation. The committee also consults with land conservation specialists to craft land management plans to meet the unique needs of each preserve.

2024 LANDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bruce Matasick (chair), Rick Eckert, Katy Hoehn, Doug Mulvaney, and Bob Webster.

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WATERFIELD FAMILY SUPPORTS CLEAR LAKE

PHOTO CREDIT: Connor Oiler

The Conservancy is excited to announce an additional 25 acres of protected land near Koeneman Lake behind the south shore of Clear Lake.

This land, previously owned by the Clear Lake Lutheran Church, was obtained through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' Next Level Conservation Trust grant program. Generous support by Richard D. Waterfield, his son, J. Randall Waterfield, and his daughter, Jill L. Waterfield-Meyer will ensure the ongoing stewardship for this preserve.

This now expanded 37-acre preserve, filled with red maple, American elm, and black walnut trees, has been named Waterfield Preserve in honor of the long-time and generous support by Richard D. "Dick" Waterfield and family. The Waterfield family foundation has supported multiple environmental efforts in the Clear Lake area, including the Watershed Diagnostic Study, multiple land preserve acquisitions and extensions, and the Cyrus Brouse two-stage ditch project.

Dick's first days at Clear Lake were in 1958 when he was just 14 years old. He later married and had three children, spending as much time at the lake as possible. He has fond memories sailing a Hobie and an M-16 Scow, as well as being involved with the annual Clear Lake 5K/10K Run over the years. The family has purchased several properties at Clear Lake beginning in 1984 with their purchase of the Macomber cottage, now owned by Jill. These days, he travels from Fort Wayne to enjoy Friday night sunsets and cherished family time.

Jill Waterfield-Meyer, her husband Alberto, and children, Livia and Leif, live in Zurich, Switzerland. While the views in Switzerland are breathtaking, they always look forward to traveling back to this special corner of Indiana to spend some time each summer at Clear Lake.

Randall "Randy" Waterfield recalls his childhood summers split between Clear Lake and Culver Summer Camp. He, his wife Charmaine, and their four children still visit Clear Lake to visit with family and friends.

These fond memories and much-anticipated vacations are what drive Dick, Randy, and Jill to support the mission and goals of the Conservancy. They understand how land preservation promotes proper nutrient cycling in the watershed and creates positive impacts on the clarity and aquatic health of our lake. In Dick's words, "We are proud to join others in the goal of enhancing Clear Lake for generations to come."

While the expanded property has undergone a name change, the waters of Koeneman Lake will remain named for Arnold E. Koeneman, recognizing and honoring the Koeneman, Wehrenberg, and Lomont families. The Conservancy also acknowledges the support of the State of Indiana through the Next Level Conservation Trust grant program and has placed a public conservation easement on the entire Waterfield Preserve, recognizing the state's support of public access for preserved properties in our beautiful natural environment.

We hope to see many of you enjoying the trails and beauty of the Waterfield Preserve in 2024 and beyond.



MEMORIAL WOODS TRIBUTE GARDEN

The close-knit community and life-long friendships are just two examples of what makes the Clear Lake Township so special. From conversations with nearby neighbors to dinner parties on opposite shorelines, our common love for Clear Lake brings us all together. One beautiful attribute about being a member of this loving community is that you are part of this community, forever.

There are many ways to honor and remember our loved ones at Clear Lake.

There is peace in knowing that the positive impact we have in this community can extend past our lifetime, for generations to come. This can include gifts from loved ones to honor and remember our time here, donations of land to be preserved in perpetuity, or joining the Legacy Society by sharing gifts listed in wills or living trusts. In addition, we are pleased to announce the opening of the Tribute Garden at Memorial Woods as another avenue to honor loved ones.

Memorial Woods is a shaded woody preserve located at Point Park Drive that was donated in 2009 by Mike and Pat Franz in honor of the early Conservancy President, Paul Federspiel. As the name implies, this preserve provides a peaceful and calm feeling under the canopy of oak trees to reflect on the nature and love of Clear Lake we all share. Now, the preserve features a Tribute Garden comprised of large glacial stones and native plants to provide a space to recognize those we wish to honor and remember on tribute plaques. To learn more about the Tribute Garden in Memorial Woods and how to support our mission in the memory and honor of loved ones, visit clearlakeconservancy.org or call our office at (260) 527-1072.

The collective goal of protecting and preserving our land, water, and community is what drives the Conservancy in all that we do. Our connection to this place and our everlasting impact brings us together. Whether you are new to Clear Lake and the Conservancy or a long-time supporter, we are grateful to have you here with us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Susie Compo

Christian Lundy

Kathy and Tom Reifel

Nina and Adam Rettig

MEMORIALS

M: David Armstrong
Mariann Koeneman and Family

M: Marie Cochrane
Philip and Suzanne McHugh

M: David Davis
The Bachman & Otte Families

Hazenhurst Shores Condominiums

M: David Gardiner
Christoff & Christoff Attorneys

M: Ron Gecowets
Mary Lee and Jerry Gecowets

M: Tom Kramer
Bill and Jennifer Brady

M: Jim Spangler
Ann and Dick DeWert

Barbara Hendrick and Craig Walker

Greg Spangler

The John Wilhelm Family

Randy and Liza Wilhelm

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

Indiana Department of Natural Resources Next Level Conservation Trust

PayPal Giving Fund

Steuben County Community Foundation FIST Grant (Forever Improving Steuben Together) on behalf of the Carlin Park Elementary 5th Grade Class

IN-KIND

Essentially Clean & More

Tyson Johnston

M: = Memorials

LAND ACQUISITION

Richard D. Waterfield

Jill L. Waterfield-Meyer

J. Randall Waterfield

LAND MAINTENANCE

Rick and Joyce Eckert

*List reflects contributions received between January 1, 2024 - February 29, 2024. Contact us if you see a mistake.