



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

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# CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

MAY 2024 | ISSUE NO.54

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## OUR LETTER

## SPRINGING INTO SUMMER

The signs of spring are seen all around Clear Lake. The redbud and dogwood trees are blooming, the robins are singing, and the sun is shining into the evening. While we see the subtle changes of our natural surroundings, we also notice the changes in the community. We are preparing our homes for family visitors, placing our docks in the cold water, trimming the hedges and flowers in the yard, and preparing for a summer full of fun, smiles, and Clear Lake memories.

The Conservancy is all too familiar with springtime preparations. As we see the green growth of native plants returning to our preserves, we continue forest health improvement projects, invasive species removal workdays, and trail maintenance. With the spring rainfall and increased flow of water into the lake, our volunteer water quality monitors began monthly testing, and we continue Watershed Diagnostic Study sampling. As the community returns to their summer homes, we are busy behind the scenes planning for various stewardship and hiking events, our July 13 community Run Day, Fun Day event, the Knee-high Naturalists educational programs in July, and more.

In the spirit of spring cleaning, we appreciate all who volunteered their time and energy to join in our community-wide annual Neighborhood Cleanup Project. Together, we adopted 20 roadways and cleared over 15 bags of trash from the Clear Lake Township. We are grateful to be in a community filled with generous people who join us in caring for our natural environment.

While the spring preparations are repeated annually, we find ourselves renewed by the energy and excitement of the anticipated summer activities spent together with family and our wonderful community. We look forward to gathering with you this summer!



**Caroline Barth**  
Executive Director



**Doug Mulvaney**  
President

## GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

**WATERSHED:** A geographical area in which any precipitation flows to a common point, often into a body of water. As water flows through the land, the soil and vegetation within the watershed play a role in adding or removing nutrients and contaminants in the water.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**NATIVE PLANT SALE WITH RIVERVIEW NATIVE NURSERY**  
WHEN: May 25, 9:00 am to Noon

**KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS**  
WHEN: Every Friday in July, 5, 12, 19, 26 10:00 - 11:30 am



**KASOTA ISLAND CLEANUP**  
WHEN: June 8, 9:00 am to Noon

Get ready for the **DUMPSTER DRUMMERS** on July 5th at Memorial Woods!



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

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY!

RunSignup.com/CLTLC



## 2024 BOARD

**Doug Mulvaney**  
President

**Zach Dean**  
Secretary

**Barb Wenger**  
Vice President

**Tim McArdle**  
Treasurer

**Susan Connott**

**Karen Horrell**

**Bill Culbertson**

**Bruce Matasick**

**Ann DeWert**

**Terry Newcomb**

**Bill Geiger**

**Dan Rippe**

**Bill Greffin**

**Matt Timmer**

**Katy Hoehn**

**Nancy Webster**

## 2024 STAFF

**Caroline Barth**  
Executive Director

**Tracy Hughes**  
Program Assistant

## COMMITTEES

Development  
Executive  
Finance  
Lands

Outreach & Education  
Water Quality

## KNOW YOUR CONSERVANCY



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

### WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Water Quality Committee is a group of volunteers committed to monitoring and enhancing the water quality in Clear and Round Lakes. This committee guides the efforts related to water quality including water nutrient monitoring, watershed research, E. coli testing, rainfall analysis, aquatic vegetation monitoring, macroinvertebrate analysis, and more. Additionally, the Water Quality Committee may assist the Lands Committee in identifying key areas of land for watershed protection.

2024 Water Quality Committee Members: Dan Rippe (Chair), Andy Fitzenrider, Larry Lillmars, Don Luepke, Adam Petruska, Matt Rippe, Annie Skinner, Matt Timmer, Peg Zeis, and Doug Mulvaney (ex-officio)

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# OUR COMMITMENT TO WATER QUALITY:

## Water Monitoring for Informed Decision Making

With a goal of monitoring and enhancing Clear and Round Lake water quality, the Water Quality Committee guides multiple water quality and aquatic vegetation monitoring programs. These programs build scientific and comprehensive understanding of our lake and watershed conditions to guide all current and future decisions in preserving and protecting our lake. If you would like to learn more, become involved, or support these water quality projects, please contact our office.

## WATERSHED DIAGNOSTIC STUDY

To build upon the dataset of the volunteer water quality monitoring program, we partnered with Ecosystems Connections Institute (ECI) in 2021 to design the **Watershed Diagnostic Study**. The Watershed Diagnostic Study identifies the key ditches and streams flowing into Clear Lake and began collecting data in April 2022. The location and frequency of water sampling includes:

- Harry Teeters Ditch and Cyrus Browse Ditch 6 times per day from April through June and weekly from June through March.
- Round Lake Outflow daily from April through June and weekly from June through March.
- The two deepest portions of Clear Lake monthly throughout the whole year.

The water samples are analyzed for levels of phosphorous, nitrogen, nitrate, suspended sediment, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and Chlorophyll-a. Additional monitoring includes rainfall, water temperature, air temperature, air pressure, water flow rates, and water clarity. With the threat of excess nutrients leading to increased growth of plants and algae, it is imperative to understand the annual flow of nutrients into, out of, and remaining in the lake.



## VOLUNTEER WATER QUALITY MONITORING

In the early years of the Conservancy, volunteers began monitoring water quality by using testing kits to analyze temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrate, turbidity, E. coli, and more. This ongoing **Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring** created a legacy of over 3 decades committed to water quality that today's volunteers can continue. The volunteer monitoring happens monthly from May through August and the committee always welcomes new volunteers.



# THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY RUN DAY, FUN DAY SATURDAY, JULY 13TH

On Saturday, July 13th, we invite you to a community event continuing a long tradition here at Clear Lake. The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is honored to once again host the annual "Clear Lake Run," a 45-year tradition for our community. Now named "Run Day, Fun Day," we hope you'll join us for a 10K, 5K, 1M Fun Run/Walk, and Family Fun Day to celebrate our community and the beautiful history of this race.

As the Conservancy proudly takes the reins of this Clear Lake tradition, we are excited to bring a new element to the excitement with a Family Fun Day after the race concludes. On a rainy day last summer, we squeezed in lots of fun under the pavilion, and this year there will be more! Family members of all ages can participate in FREE family fun from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. Activities will include a Scavenger Hunt through the Waterfield Preserve, Carnival Bounce House, face painting, upbeat music, dunk tank, food truck, and various local vendors. We hope you'll join us as a runner, walker, spectator, or guest. Come have fun with the Clear Lake Township Community!

First organized in 1979 by a 15-year-old Kent Buehrer and his family, with generous support from the Clear Lake Lions Club, the 10K race around Clear Lake is a perfect 10,000 meters, beginning and ending by the Clear Lake Lutheran Church. During its 45-year history, the race has evolved, now including three race distances and family fun for all. In today's Run Day, Fun Day, participants can choose from the traditional 10K route all the way around Clear Lake, a 5K route that turns around at the Conservancy's Memorial Woods, or a 1M Fun Run/Walk weaving through the Conservancy's Old Town Hall Park. All three races begin and end near the Clear Lake Lutheran Church across the street from the Conservancy's Waterfield Preserve featuring Koeneman Lake. Race participants will follow the sparkling water, pass over picturesque bridges, and by wetlands, open oak woodlands, and native prairies. Many of our protected preserves will be visible on the route.

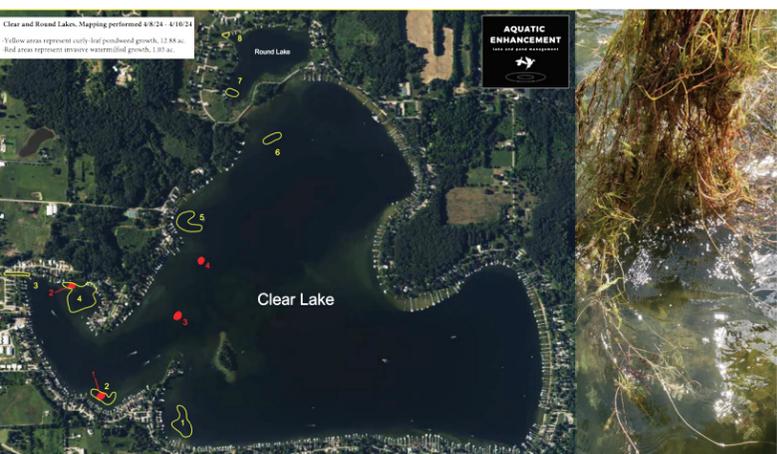
It is with much gratitude that the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy brings you this historic community event. We thank Kent Buehrer and his family for building the foundation of this awesome tradition and the Clear Lake Lions Club for their 35 years of dedication to continuing its success. We are honored to carry on this Clear Lake tradition!

Want to get involved? We still need volunteers at the Run Day, Fun Day. To volunteer on the day of the event, email [info@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@clearlakeconservancy.org). We are also seeking Event Sponsors for this community event. Contact our office for more information.

<b>5K and 10K Run</b> Race starts at 8:30am	<b>1M Fun Run/Walk</b> Race starts at 9:00am	<b>Fun Day Activities</b> from 9:30am – 12:00pm
All events take place at the <b>Community Memorial Park</b> at the <b>Clear Lake Lutheran Church</b> .		



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP TODAY!**  
RunSignup.com/CLTLC



## AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2022, with an ongoing battle of invasive aquatic vegetation and a significant threat of over 109 acres of rapidly growing invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil, the importance of aquatic vegetation monitoring became evident. All species of invasive vegetation, like Eurasian Watermilfoil, threaten the lake ecosystem by overcrowding native plants and negatively altering the food chain. The **Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan** includes consultation with the Department of Natural Resources and aquatic specialists, monitoring lake vegetation through spring and fall plant surveys, and invasive vegetation treatments when necessary, including the recent April 29 treatment to target a small remaining watermilfoil population and minimize the invasive growth through the summer season.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Chevron, an employer match on behalf of Stewart and Risa Griest**

**Karen and Steve DeVenney**

**Tom and Sheila Hogan**

**Matt and Claire Timmer**

**Debbie Wymer**

### MEMORIALS

**M: Basilda Reese Rockhold**  
Mary Lee and Jerry Gecowets

**M: Casey B. Yuengling**  
Amy Jo Young and Scott Yuengling

### TRIBUTE GARDEN AT MEMORIAL WOODS

**M: George and Peggy (Perrine) Fredrick**  
Steve and Ann Fredrick

Diane McArdle

**M: Jeff Gay**  
Anonymous

### 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**

**M: = Memorials**

\*List reflects contributions received between March 1, 2024 - April 20, 2024. Contact us if you see a mistake.