



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

JULY 2024 | ISSUE NO.55

## GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

### ENDOWMENT FUND:

Donations invested to generate revenue and provide long-term support of an organization.

## 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

**SUMMER GUIDED HIKE**  
WHEN: Aug. 3, 10:00 am

**ILPA OCTOBER BIG DAY HIKE**  
WHEN: Oct. 12, 10am

**MACROINVERTEBRATE TESTING**  
WHEN: Sept. 11, 9:00 am

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



WILD BERGAMOT



MACRO INVERTEBRATE DAY



STRATEGIC PLANNING



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## OUR LETTER

## PLANNING FOR A CLEAR FUTURE

With the support of the community, the Conservancy has been focused on preserving and protecting this cherished corner of Northeast Indiana for over 30 years. The Conservancy has grown through the years by acquiring more land, hosting various educational events, publishing bi-monthly newsletters, working alongside larger volunteer groups, and undertaking lake-wide water quality projects and monitoring. To uphold our mission and continue this growth, our leadership meets every 3 to 5 years to strategically plan the execution of our major goals. On June 15th, ten Board Members and Executive Director, Caroline Barth, met for a Strategic Planning session to begin laying out the major goals and vision for the next 3 to 5 years.

Our mission is to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the township and watershed for future generations. With this long-term vision, our planning focused on the impact of our land and water usage within our watershed and highlighted future watershed projects to promote conservation land practices with support from potential local, state, and federal partners. This Strategic Plan will be finalized over the next few months and will be available on our website by the end of the year.

Our annual meeting will be held on July 26th at 4:00 PM at the Clear Lake Lutheran Church Pavilion. Other July programs include the Run Day, Fun Day community celebration on July 13th and our Knee-high Naturalist educational programs every Friday in July from 10:00 to 11:30 AM. We look forward to seeing all of you in the beautiful outdoors we share.



**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 Development Committee.

### DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Development Committee consists of a group of volunteers dedicated to sustainability and fundraising to ensure ongoing financial support of the Conservancy's mission. This committee takes an active role in planning and executing various fundraising projects, appeals such as the Legacy Society and events like Run Day, Fun Day.

2024 Development Committee members: Barb Wenger (Chair), Zach Dean, Carol Dresser, Bill Pepple, Claire Timmer, Tom Voigt, Nancy Webster, and Doug Mulvaney (ex-officio)

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



# FIND THE CHOICE THAT WORKS FOR YOU

We have seen time after time that our community is filled with kind and generous hearts who value the work that we do. Your support shows itself in many ways and allows us to design creative fundraisers and appeals that involve all types of Clear Lakers interested in preserving this township and watershed for future generations. Our Development Committee is excited to share the many ways to support our mission and how these methods provide sustainable support for years to come.

An **unrestricted (general) donation** is the most common type of gift which allows the Conservancy to identify and support the greatest area of need such as operational costs or project support. A **restricted donation** is a gift restricted by the donor to support a specific project or expense. One special group of supporters, **Sustainers**, provide monthly unrestricted gifts that allow for consistent coverage of operating costs. Become a valued Sustainer today by selecting a donation frequency of monthly on our donate webpage. Some retirement aged donors may find the current tax advantages of using Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to be an excellent way to benefit the Conservancy.

Our current **special appeals** include the Tribute Garden at Memorial Woods, growing the Forever Fund, and the Legacy Society. Our newly renovated **Tribute Garden** provides a special place to remember loved ones on Tribute Plaques while providing support for our ongoing land preservation work. Our permanent endowment, the **Forever Fund**, provides long-term support for upholding our mission in perpetuity. The Forever Fund is currently growing through donations and reinvestment of its investment income. The **Legacy Society**, now with 9 members, is a special group of individuals who have informed the Conservancy of a commitment to a future gift or land donation in a will, living trust, donor advised fund, or other financial account.

As a reminder, our **Legacy Society Bequest Challenge** has less than 6 months remaining. An anonymous donor has pledged a gift of \$1,000 for every new member through the end of 2024 or until the Legacy Society grows to 25 members.

With our generous community, we are fortunate to be able to offer these various methods of giving and allow donors to find the style of support that works best for them. Donate on our website or email [info@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@clearlakeconservancy.org) to learn more about any of these appeals.



## EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank our exceptional volunteers who supported the Kasota Island Cleanup Day, Tribute Garden Landscaping Project, and various trail and preserve maintenance projects this summer.

## A COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE!

This event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and volunteers. The contributions of our sponsors will extend far beyond Run Day, Fun Day by supporting our operations and programs for water quality, land conservation, and environmental education.

We especially thank the volunteers who worked so diligently to plan this event. Our Run Day, Fun Day volunteer team includes Barb Wenger, Ann DeWert, Nancy Webster, Claire Timmer, Alison Rinehart, Tom Voigt, Carol Dresser, Jenny Disser, Amy Michael and more than 60 additional volunteers during the event.

**THANK YOU TO ALL SPONSORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND ATTENDEES.**

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER TO SEE MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM RUN DAY, FUN DAY!

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Susie Compo</b>  | <b>M: Bobbie Gordon</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett | <b>HONORARIUMS</b><br><b>H: Tom Hogan</b><br>Debbie Turner           | <b>GRANT SUPPORT</b><br>Steuben County Community Foundation<br>FIST (Forever Improving Steuben County Together) Grant | <b>Nancy and Bob Webster</b>                            | <b>Terry and Koggy Newcomb</b>                          |
| <b>Kenneth Erlenbaugh</b>                                     | Kathy Latz  | Daniel and Shelli Hall   | Gerald M. & Carole A. Miller Family Foundation  | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett | <b>Deborah and Erik Oiler</b>                           |
| <b>Terry and Theresa Heckman</b>                              | <b>M: Frank Leppla</b><br>Tina Huntermark         | <b>H: Rory Kramer</b><br>Devon and Trey McArdle                      | <b>LAND MAINTENANCE</b><br>The Waterfield Foundation on behalf of Richard R., Jill, and Randy Waterfield              | Susanne Cusick with employer match from AbbVie          | <b>Tom and Jenny Parker</b>                             |
| <b>Gregory and Cynthia Smith</b>                              | <b>M: Ruth Nicolet</b><br>Evy Schlosser           | <b>H: Betty and Leo Weber</b><br>Susie Compo                         | <b>IN-KIND</b><br>Essentially Clean & More  | Zach Dean and Kevin Mangum                              | <b>Nancy and Bob Webster</b>                            |
| <b>Souers Family</b>  | <b>M: Leo Weber</b><br>Mary Ann Barth             | <b>AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT</b><br>Lucas Larson and Hannah Choo | Tyson Johnston  | Jack and Karen Horrell                                  | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |
| <b>MEMORIALS</b><br><b>M: Greg DeBrock</b><br>Tina Huntermark | Terry and Melodie Cornelius                       | <b>FOREVER FUND</b><br>Jack and Karen Horrell                        | Don Luepke  | Kathy Latz  | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |
| <b>M: Paul Federspiel</b><br>Kathy Latz                       | John and Kathy D'Ettore                           |  |   | Tim and LuAnn McArdle                                   | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |
| <b>M: Barbara Foss</b><br>Nancy Andrews & Family              | Julianne Hipskind                                 |  |   | Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen                      | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |
|   | Don and Carolyn Schenkel                          |  |   |   | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |
|   | John Wilhelm                                      |  |   |   | <b>CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS</b><br>Alex and Susan Connett |

**M:** = Memorials  
**H:** = Honorariums

\*List reflects contributions received between April 21, 2024 - June 30, 2024. Contact us if you see a mistake.



Thank you to our Sponsors!

**DIAMOND — \$5,000**

**The Horrell Family** A Special Friend of the Conservancy

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**PLATINUM — \$2,500**

**HAGERMAN** **Shawn Mullin** **Bill & Chris Geiger & Family**

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**GOLD — \$1,000**

**Aquatic Enhancement** **The Disser Family** **LBC** **Steuben County Community Foundation** **Clear Lake Community Fund**

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**SILVER — \$500**

**THE SANDY PINNACLES TEAM** **Doug Mulvaney & Jennifer Nielsen** **ALISON RHINEHART** **REGAN FERGUSON** **DeWert Family** **DON AYRES** **Jim Solomonich** **THE MILL DISTRICT** **Musson Builders** **JAY LUDGATE**

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**BRONZE — \$250**

**MILL DISTRICT** **CLEAR LAKE PUB**