



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

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FORT WAYNE, IN
PERMIT NO. 760

CLEAR THINKING

MAY 2025 | ISSUE NO.60

GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

ECOSYSTEM: A complex system of plants and animals that share a common physical environment. A Balanced Ecosystem means the mix of plants and animals remains stable over time.

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

NATIVE PLANT SALE

WHEN: Saturday, May 24
9 a.m. to noon

MONTHLY WATER QUALITY TESTING

Contact our office.

KASOTA ISLAND CLEANUP

WHEN: Saturday, June 7
9 a.m. to noon

KNEE-HIGH NATURALIST

WHEN: Fridays, July 11, 18, 25,
August 1
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

RUN DAY FUN DAY

WHEN: July 12
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: July 25
4 p.m.



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

MAY 2025 | ISSUE NO.60

OUR LETTER



SETTING THE STAGE FOR SUMMER

“How quick time goes by now, compared to when you were a kid. Summer used to last forever. Now it’s twelve weeks.” — **JOHN GOODMAN**

A summer at Clear Lake might feel like a race against time, but we all strive to make the most of these 12 short weeks. Are you scheduling your activities in advance? Or do you prefer to “go with the flow”? However you manage your summer, we hope you find the time to cherish our natural spaces and support the vital conservation work that protects our land and water.

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP PROJECT

Please join us in thanking the 17 volunteers who contributed a combined 48 hours of work to clear 34 garbage bags of litter from the roadsides. We are grateful for this community that works together to keep our natural spaces clean and healthy!

EARTH DAY

Earth Day, celebrated this year on April 22, is a day that honors our natural environment and promotes the protection of our natural spaces. Thanks to 24 donors and an **Earth Day Match** by the Horrell family and an anonymous donor, just over **\$22,000** was raised in support of our mission. **Thank you!**

PARTNERSHIPS

Our local, state, and federal partnerships continue to strengthen and support our mission. Recently awarded, the **NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant** will support habitat restoration work at Borton Wetlands. The **Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant** supports another year of the Watershed Diagnostic Study for water quality. Additionally, we have partnered with the **Land Trust Alliance** and **six Land Trusts from around the country** to collaborate on water quality protection goals and strategies.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Stop by the **Native Plant Sale on May 24th from 9:00am – Noon** at the Clear Lake Lutheran Church Pavillion and refresh your landscaping with an Indiana native plant. Join us for a volunteer-led **Kasota Island Cleanup on June 7th from 9 – 11 AM** to help with land maintenance of this cherished property. Check out our **Knee-high Naturalists from 10 – 11:30 AM on July 11, 18, 25, and August 1st**.



Caroline Barth
Executive Director



Doug Mulvaney
President

STAFF

Caroline Barth
Executive Director

Tracy Hughes
Program Assistant

Joseph Bernard
Land Steward

COMMITTEES

Development

Executive

Finance

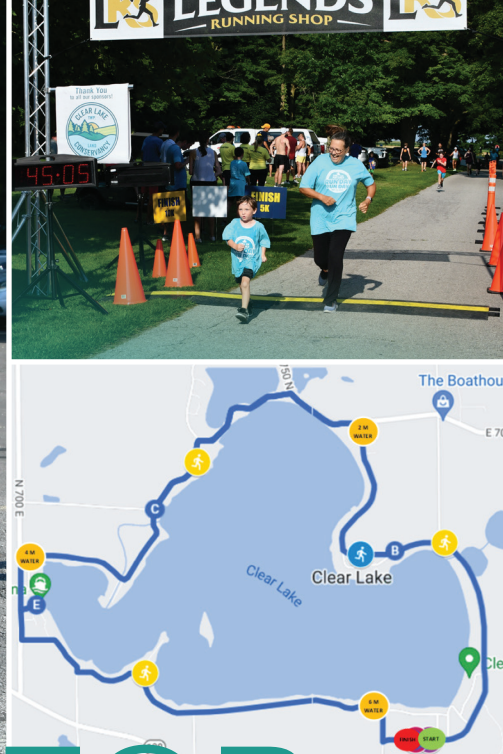
Lands

Outreach & Education

Water Quality

CINNAMON FERN AT FLORA
HUSSELMAN TRUMBULL

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



GEARING UP FOR RUN DAY, FUN DAY



Join us for one of Clear Lake's most beloved summer traditions. The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is thrilled to again host Clear Lake's annual Run Day, Fun Day on Saturday, July 12th. This is a high-energy, family-friendly event that celebrates over 45 years of racing, community spirit, and good old-fashioned fun!

10K – The original, scenic loop around Clear Lake, a perfect 10K.

5K – A shorter challenge with a turnaround at Memorial Woods.

1M FUN RUN/WALK – A family friendly relaxed stroll through beautiful Old Town Hall Park.

All races kick off and wrap up near the Clear Lake Lutheran Church — right across from our Waterfield Preserve and Koeneman Lake. Expect stunning views of sparkling water, charming bridges, lush wetlands, majestic oak woodlands, and native prairies as you move along the course. You'll even pass several of our treasured nature preserves!

FAMILY FUN DAY – BECAUSE THE FUN DOESN'T STOP AT THE FINISH LINE!

After your race (or even if you skip it), stick around for **FREE family festivities** from **9:00 to 11:30 AM**. There's something for everyone:

- Nature Scavenger Hunt in Waterfield Preserve
- Carnival Bounce House
- Face Painting
- Dunk Tank
- Beached Boys Food Truck

Whether you're a runner, walker, cheerleader, or just there for the fun, we'd love to see you and your whole crew come out and enjoy the day with your Clear Lake neighbors! We are beyond grateful to Kent Buehrer, his family, and the Clear Lake Lions Club for laying the groundwork for this incredible tradition. We're honored to carry the torch into its 46th year and beyond!

We're looking for **event sponsors** and **volunteers** to help make Run Day, Fun Day unforgettable! To sponsor or volunteer: email info@clearlakeconservancy.org or call the office at 260-527-1072.

5K and 10K Run
Race starts at 8:30am

1M Fun Run/Walk
Race starts at 9:00am

Fun Day Activities
from 9:00am – 11:30am

All events take place at the **Community Memorial Park** at the **Clear Lake Lutheran Church**.



SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP TODAY!

RunSignup.com/CLTLC

BORTON WETLANDS HABITAT RESTORATION

Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy recently was awarded \$5,000 from the NIPSCO Environmental Action Grant for restoration work at Borton Wetlands Nature Preserve. Borton Wetlands is a 12-acre nature preserve that covers two ecosystems. The north section is a 4-acre forested wetland. The south section is an 8-acre oak barrens ecosystem. A 5-year restoration project has been designed to improve and restore this functional ecosystem.

This year, staff and volunteers will focus on invasive bush honeysuckle and invasive autumn olive removal in the oak barrens area. In early winter, a variety of seeds native to Indiana will be planted with 35 different species of grasses, sedges, and forbs. By removing the invasive plants and non-native trees, the native seeds will have adequate resources to grow and establish.

Allowing various plant species to thrive improves habitat for many different animals including numerous birds, butterflies, skippers, grasshoppers, ants, and locusts. Additionally, native plant roots grow deeper into the soil to promote groundwater infiltration and buffering. Throughout the next few years, different areas of the preserve will be similarly restored allowing for a steady reestablishment process in the ecosystems.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Karen and Steve
DeVenney

The Chicago
Community
Foundation on
behalf of Clif and
Judy Fenton

Debra Hench

Andrew Parkison

Debbie Wymer

**EARTH DAY
MATCHING
FUNDS**

Anonymous Donor

The Horrell Family

**EARTH DAY
DONORS**

Kathy and David
Alpeter

Caroline Barth

Greg and Paula
Bosler

The Bushey Family

Susie Compo

Alex and Susan
Connett

Ann and Dick
DeWert

Nancy Fenton and
Rich Karlsson

Kris Gartner

Bridget Harrison
and Dave Drogos

Jim and Jody
Horein

Tracy and Chris
Hughes

The Lazurs

Devon and Trey
McArdle

Jim and Karen
Schmidt

Elizabeth Siferd
and Randy Dodge

Jim and Annie
Skinner

Nathan Striker

Dick Waterfield

Barb Wenger

Timothy and Lori
Wagner

John Wilhelm

Amy and Vic Wirtz

HONORARIUMS

H: Alex Jaramillo
Julie Barth and
Don Fleetwood

Mary Ann Barth

H: Beth Schoeder
James Toth

H: Gary Scott
Tim and Ann
Miller

H: Dick and Marni
Waterfield
Anonymous

MEMORIALS

M: Maddy Coughlin
The Kramer
Family at Willow
Hollow

M: Byram Dicks
Terry and Melodie
Cornelius

Katy Hoehn

Kathy Latz

Julie Waterfield

Randy and Liza
Wilhelm

M: Tom Eckrich Jr.
Mary Ann Barth

Susie Compo

Alex and Susan
Connett

Terry and Melodie
Cornelius

Katy Hoehn

Susan Kramer

Kathy Latz

Jay Ludgate

Devon and Trey
McArdle

Pam and Tom
Reith

George and Kathy
Schenkel

Chris Slee Family

M: Tom Eckrich Jr.
and Tom
Eckrich Sr.
Anonymous

M: Kevin Foss
Kathy Latz

M: Bonnie Kugler
Susie Compo

George and Kathy
Schenkel

Chris Slee Family

**TRIBUTE GARDEN
AT MEMORIAL
WOODS**

T: Tom Eckrich Jr.
Barb Wenger

T: Nancy Rieke
Wilhelm
John Wilhelm

Nancy and Bob
Webster

**CONSERVANCY
SUSTAINERS**
Alex and Susan
Connett

Susanne Cusick
with employer
match from AbbVie

Zach Dean

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

Bill and Kim
Pepple

Nancy and Bob
Webster

GRANT SUPPORT
Land Trust Alliance

Thrivent Choice on
behalf of Jack and
Karen Horrell

**LEGACY SOCIETY
MATCH**

Steuben County
Community
Foundation on
behalf of an
Anonymous Donor

WISH LIST
Anonymous Donor

IN-KIND
Essentially Clean
& More

Chris and Tracy
Hughes

Tim and LuAnn
McArdle

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

*List reflects contributions and pledges received between February 26, 2025 and April 29, 2025. Contact us if you see a mistake.