



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE NO.62

OUR LETTER



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Katy Hoehn

Nancy Webster

Bruce Matasick

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Caroline Barth
Executive Director

Tracy Hughes
Program Assistant

Joseph Bernard
Land Steward

COMMITTEES

Development

Executive

Finance

Lands

Outreach & Education

Water Quality

PASSING THE TORCH

Reflecting on the last two years, I am proud to have served the Conservancy through new opportunities and growth. When starting as President in 2023, the Board of Directors played a strong role in operations during a busy summer and Executive Director search. I stepped in at a time of transition and witnessed the development of our current active and dedicated staff.

Our Executive Director, Caroline Barth, is celebrating two years with us, committed to conservation and sustainability of our precious land and water. Accompanied by Joe Bernard, Land Steward, and Tracy Hughes, Program Assistant, our team drives the day-to-day tasks of our work here at Clear Lake. With the significant acquisition of 45 additional acres through the Waterfield Preserve and South Bridge Preserve, the protection of our natural resources remains steadfast.

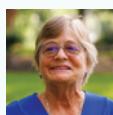
Our success is made possible because of you, the Board Members, Committee Members, volunteers and supporters of the Conservancy. As I step down, I want to thank all of you for the support you have provided the Conservancy. In passing the torch to Barb Wenger, I look forward to continuing to serve on the Board of Directors.



DOUG MULVANEY

I am honored to step into the role of President of the Board of Directors for the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy. I have been around Clear Lake most of my life for short-term and summer-long vacations. The beauty of the natural surroundings, clear water, and peaceful energy is surely something special. I first became involved with the Conservancy in 2022 when I admired the dedication this organization has placed on the conservation and preservation of this remarkable place. I believe we are fortunate to have a group committed to watch over our precious resources at Clear Lake.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on land preservation, water quality enhancement, and environmental education. Our mission to preserve and protect continues by responding to present conservation needs while building sustainable practices for the future. I am grateful for Doug Mulvaney's contributions as past president and welcome our new Board Members, Bill Hanna and Brian Weber. As President, I look forward to volunteering my time, talents, and resources to further the mission I believe in so strongly.



BARB WENGER



KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS HIGHLIGHTS

Naturalists of all ages enjoyed another season of Knee-high Naturalists this summer!

We learned how bugs use their five senses to communicate, how to know the signs of healthy water quality (including finding those tiny water bugs!), the basics of wilderness survival and safety, and all about Indiana's fish and how to catch them. With an energetic following we welcomed 56 kids with their adult chaperones over four sessions of environmental education. With an added bonus of grant funding, youth attendees were able to take the fun and the learning home with gifts at each session! From magnifying glasses and bug catchers to Gone Fishing Mad Libs and a fully stocked survival camelback, we sent our learners home ready for anything. Attendees were once again

outfitted with their very own Knee-high Naturalists T-shirt to sport all year long! Join us next July to earn your t-shirt and jump into the world of environmental education with your Clear Lake neighbors.

A big thank you to the following organizations for presenting, supporting, and hosting this year's programs!

- Elysia Rogers, ANR Educator with Purdue Extension
- Sam Drerup, Trine University
- Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Clear Lake Yacht Club
- Pokagon Nature Center
- Clear Lake Marina

SOUTH BRIDGE NATURE PRESERVE RESTORATION



The Conservancy is proud to announce a partnership with the Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District and Indiana Department of Natural Resources to restore a native prairie ecosystem within South Bridge Nature Preserve. Through this collaboration, we have secured \$12,350 of project support through the Lake and River Enhancement Program - Watershed Land Treatment Grant.

Located off Fountain Beach Dr., South Bridge contains 20-acres of retired agricultural land. With restoration goals of soil remediation, improved habitat, and nutrient retention, a native prairie planting was designed with a mix of grasses, sedges, forbs, and legumes. These deep-rooted native plants will draw water and nutrients from far below the soil surface while providing a natural corridor and habitat for pollinators and migratory birds in the area. After the planting and establishment phase is complete, a grass strip along the perimeter of the property will provide public access.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

5K WINNERS – Anna Clem & Isaac Wappes (LEFT)

10K WINNERS – Andrea Smith & Brad Schmidt (MIDDLE)

Some of our **70 Awesome Volunteers** (TOP RIGHT)

Fun Day Activities Included a Bounce House and Dunk Tank (BOTTOM RIGHT)

RUN DAY, FUN DAY FOR THE WIN

We couldn't do it without your support - our 28 sponsors, countless volunteers, and energetic participants! The **2025 Run Day, Fun Day** community celebration and fundraiser was a tremendous success. Your contributions raised over **\$43,000** to support the Conservancy's ongoing expenses of water quality monitoring, land conservation, educational programs, and operations. Thanks to your support, we can continue our work to preserve, protect, and manage our Clear Lake environment so that these summer traditions and priceless lakeside memories will continue for generations to come. Thank you for your support!

HERE IS A RECAP OF THE DAY, BY THE NUMBERS:

192 WALKERS & RUNNERS!
34 5K/10K runners **21 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER**
26 5k/10k runners **OVER THE AGE OF 55**
18 1-mile run/walkers **UNDER THE AGE OF 15**
4 **WINNER TROPHIES**

7 **DUNKEES** generated more than **\$600 IN DONATIONS**
50+ **YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN THE FUN DAY EVENTS**
70 **VOLUNTEERS** involved in the planning and implementation of this successful event
UNLIMITED SMILES & MEMORIES MADE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Anonymous

Jeff and Anne Compo

Susie Compo

The Steuben County Community Foundation on behalf of the Korte Family Fund

Joe and Sue O'Neil

Fritz and Ellen Poffenberger

MEMORIALS

M: Ronald Beecman Sarah Felger

M: Beth Bieberich Don Bieberich

M: Dan Coughlin The Kramer Family at Willow Hollow

M: Byram Dicks Katie Eckrich

M: Joan Hansbarger Janie and Mark Maley

Elizabeth Siferd and Randy Dodge

M: Robert Heller Ann and Dick DeWert

M: Eleanor Holley Marilyn Goodwin

Tim and LuAnn McArdle

Chuck and Glenda McDonnell

George and Kathy Schenkel

Ed and Mary Ellen Schmitt

Jeanne Shipp

M: Tom Kramer Daniel and Patricia Holland

M: Bonnie Kugler Katie Eckrich

M: Dan Obendorfer The Kramer Family at Willow Hollow

M: Harry Winch Sally Eckrich

Pam and Tom Reith

M: Nancy Winch Peggy and Brian White

TRIBUTE GARDEN AT MEMORIAL WOODS

T: Dudley C. Holley Jack and Karen Horrell

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Clear Lake Yacht Club

Essentially Clean & More

CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS

Alex and Susan Connett

Susanne Cusick with employer match from AbbVie

Zach Dean

Jack and Karen Horrell

The Kramer Family at Willow Hollow

Kathy Latz

Tim and LuAnn McArdle

Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen

Terry and Koggy Newcomb

Tom and Jenny Parker

Bill and Kim Pepple

Nancy and Bob Webster

GRANT SUPPORT

Gerald M. & Carole A. Miller Family Foundation

Steuben County Community Foundation

RUN DAY, FUN DAY CONTRIBUTORS

DONATIONS

Anonymous (4)

Mary Ann Barth

Beached Boys LLC

Susie Compo

Mike Coughlin

Steve and Lori Datkun

Nard Dawg

John and Kathy D'Ettorre

Dan and Pam Disser

Jon Fankhauser

The Hannas

Bridget Harrison & Dave Drogos

Pat and Katie Heublein

Lindsay and Craig Huntermark

Diane McArdle

Clay Meiers

Matt and Chrissie Miller

Bob and Megan Morris

Terry and Koggy Newcomb

Lindsey Ruszkowski

Jessica and Mitchel Sattison

Mike and Jen Short

Alec Shultz

John Szalanski

Kirk and Sarah Vashaw

Kevin and Chris Waden

Molly and Brian Weber

Nancy and Bob Webster

Wendorf Family

MEMORIALS

M: Barb and Ed Disser

M: Ruth and Ralph Herb Dave and Peggy Herb

M: Jack and Karen McArdle Bridget McArdle and Matt Place

DIAMOND SPONSOR

A Special Friend of the Conservancy

The Horrell Family

In Loving Memory of Tom Kramer

The Webster Family

PLATINUM SPONSOR

Clear Lake Association

The Hagerman Group

Shawn Mullin of Advanced Energy

GOLD SPONSOR Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.

The Clear Lake Community Fund at SCCF

Clear Lake Home Services

Bill & Chris Geiger and Family

JB Worx, LLC

Lawrence Building Corporation

SILVER SPONSOR

Don Ayres Honda

Bike & Soul

Cameron Memorial Community Hospital

DeWert Family

Ecosystems Connections Institute, LLC

Barbara Hendrick and Craig Walker

ILM Environments

Matasick Family

Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen

Alison Rhinehart - Regan Furguson Group

State Farm Nate Lauer

Steuben County Community Foundation

BRONZE SPONSOR

Etchen Lawnscapes LLC

Franz Nursery Inc.

Ace Pest Control

IN-KIND SUPPORT

Clear Lake Pub Saloon & Watering Hole

Culligan of Angola

Gauntlet Design Studio

Matt and Claire Timmer

M: = Memorials

T: = Tribute



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GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

POLLINATORS: Organisms that physically pollinate plants. Honeybees are familiar pollinators, but birds, bats, moths, butterflies, and many other insects and mammals also pollinate plants. Many plants depend on pollinators to reproduce. In return many pollinators depend on plants and/or plant pollen for their food supply.

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



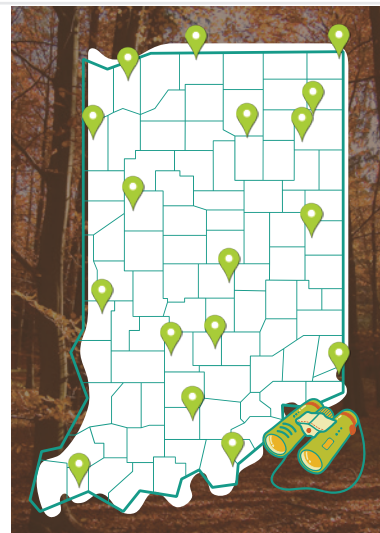
COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER BIG DAY

10.11.2025 • 9-11 A.M. LOCAL TIME

Back for a 4th year, Indiana Audubon and Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA) are hosting seventeen October Big Day hikes across Indiana. From prairie edges to forest interiors to wetlands, we will turn local walks into statewide migration data through eBird.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:
obd2025.eventbrite.com



JOIN INDIANA AUDUBON AT WATERFIELD PRESERVE
WHEN: October 11th 9:00 a.m.
with Hike Leader Bruce Matasick