



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE NO.64

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OUR LETTER



PLANNING FOR A CLEAR YEAR

As we head into the new year, we find ourselves feeling incredibly grateful for the Clear Lake Township and the community that surrounds it. 2025 was filled with habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and educational programs that strengthen bonds of the community we share. Your time, energy, and generosity are the foundation of everything we do.

We are kicking off the new year with a win. Because of you, another quarter-acre of critical wetland in the Homestead Beach subdivision off the south shore is now protected forever. Wetlands of all sizes are like “nature’s kidneys” that preserve our lakes for future generations of Clear Lakers, through water quality, soil health, and local habitat.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR 2026?

These early months of the year are filled with strategic project planning for improving our ecosystems and environment. Our water quality monitoring will continue with nutrient modeling and high-flow event tracking. Our land preserves are being prepared for native species plantings, trail improvements, public trail maps, and more. Our community events are being planned throughout the lake season to bring even more education, engagement, and fun to our local area.

HELP US SHAPE THE FUTURE

We want this to be a year of community-driven conservation. We are looking for:

- Guest Speakers: Who would you love to see at Knee-High Naturalists?
- Hands-on Help: Are you ready to join a volunteer workday in the preserves?
- Leadership Roles: Would you like to serve on a Conservancy Committee or Board?

We'd love to hear from you! Give us a call at (260) 527-1072 or email us at info@clearlakeconservancy.org.

As we look ahead, we are excited about what's to come: new goals, new events, and new opportunities to grow together as a community. We hope 2026 brings you good health, and many reasons to enjoy the Clear Lake Township with us. Thank you for being part of our journey.

With gratitude,



Caroline Barth
Executive Director



Barb Wenger
Board President



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Anonymous (4)	Alex and Susan Connell	Julianne Hipskind	Matt and Lisa Momper	Julia and John Starner
Paul and Sharon Abendroth	Terry and Melodie Cornelius	Patricia Kramer Holland	Bruce Moody	Gordon and Paula Stemen
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Balser Family	American Endowment Foundation on behalf of The Darling Family Foundation: Gary and Cheri Darling	Tracy and Chris Hughes	Joe and Sue O'Neil	John Szalanski
Scott Banfield and Beth Schroeder of Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.	Kristin and Steve DeMello	Sheila Jellison	Christopher Parke	Judy Troll
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Michael and Cecily Chandler	Harold and Cheryl Hahr	Mary McCue	Jim and Annie Skinner	HONORARIUMS
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Jeanne Coffman		Jeff Hagerman and Amanda Miller	Greg Spangler	H: Frank Densel Ron Pancake
		Griffith and Nicola Mosier		

H: Bill Geiger Laurie and Ron Sellers	M: Bonnie Kugler Warner Kugler	Bill and Kim Pepple
H: Karen Horrell Bridget Harrison & Dave Drogos	M: Margaret Lowry Andy Parkison	Elijah and Jolene Stewart
H: Todd and Barbara Rumsey Cindy Stovall	M: Jack and Karen McArdle Lupke Family Foundation	Nancy and Bob Webster
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M: Carol Berning Hazenhurst Shores Condominiums Community	M: William B Sundberg Claudia Sundberg	George and Kathy Schenkel
M: Michael Bosler Greg and Paula Bosler	M: Trinity Matt Rippe	GRANT SUPPORT Lincoln Financial Foundation Employer Match made possible by Jim Horein
M: Terry Cochran Ludgate Family	M: P.K. and Geri Ward Warren and Janet Ward	Thrivent Choice on behalf of Jack and Karen Horrell
M: Don Crapo Cat and Jim Nevin	M: Sue Williams Greg and Karen Williams	PROJECT SUPPORT The Hanna Family
M: Janice Crawford Jerry Crawford	M: Harry Winch Kathy Latz	STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORT Anonymous (2)
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M: Ed and Barb Disser Warren and Janet Ward	M: Casey Brecht Yuengling	
M: Tom Eckrich, Bill Eckrich, Tom Eckrich Jr. Sally Eckrich	M: Amy Jo Young & Scott Yuengling	
M: Tom Eckrich Jr. Mark and Mary Kay Hagerman Alan and Sue Korte	AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT Anonymous	WATERFIELD PRESERVE The Waterfield Foundation on behalf of Richard D. Waterfield and Jill Waterfield-Meyer
M: Bob & Margaret Federspiel Susan Federspiel Chase	CONSERVANCY SUSTAINERS Alex and Susan Connell	WATER QUALITY Anonymous
M: Rick Gartner Kris Gartner	Susanne Cusick with employer match from AbbVie	WATER QUALITY Joan and Jerry Rippe
M: Jim Gladieux Judy Gladieux	Zach Dean	
M: Jane Kaiser Ann and Dick DeWert	Jack and Karen Horrell	WISH LIST Anonymous
M: Ron and Linda Kane Kevin and Angela Kane	The Kramer Family at Willow Hollow	IN-KIND Essentially Clean & More
	Kathy Latz	
	Tim and LuAnn McArdle	
	Doug Mulvaney and Jennifer Nielsen	
	Terry and Koggy Newcomb	
	Tom and Jenny Parker	

H: = Honorariums
M: = Memorials





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GLOSSARY TERMS TO KNOW

WATER QUALITY: Measurements of various interacting factors determine environmental water quality. Good water quality means a lake is fishable, swimmable, and recreational.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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clearlakeconservancy.org
or call (260) 527-1072

