



CLEAR THINKING

CLEARLAKECONSERVANCY.ORG

JANUARY 2026 | ISSUE NO.64

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Program Assistant

Joseph Bernard
Land Steward

COMMITTEES

Development

Executive

Finance

Lands

Outreach & Education

Water Quality



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Anonymous (4)

Paul and Sharon
Abendroth

Brian and Stacey Adams

Judge James W.
Bachman

Balser Family

Scott Banfield and Beth
Schroeder of Aquatic
Enhancement
& Survey, Inc.

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David and Melodye
Barron

Mike and Julie Barth

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Mike and Jill Clem

Jeanne Coffman

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Cornelius

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American Endowment
Foundation on behalf
of The Darling Family
Foundation: Gary and
Cheri Darling

Kristin and Steve
DeMello

Ann and Dick DeWert

Dan and Pam Disser

Donald and Brook
Dresser

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Marty and Jean
Erlenbaugh

Neil and Marcia
Federspiel

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Don and Virginia
Gallmeyer

Mary Lee and Jerry
Gecowets

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Tony and Tracey Gericke

Debbie Gillespie

Bettina Grandey

The Chicago Community
Foundation on behalf of
the Greffin Fund: Judy
and Bill Greffin

Jamie and Kathy Greiwe

Harold and Cheryl Hahr

Julianne Hipskind

Patricia Kramer Holland

Jack and Karen Horrell

Dee Howarth

Tracy and Chris Hughes

Sheila Jellison

John and Kathy D'Ettorre

Matthew and Kierstin
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Margaret Keck

Nathan and Nicole
Kendrick

Cindy and Steve King

Mr. and Mrs. Denis L.
Koehlinger

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Fran Rehm

Steve and Annemarie
Rhinehart

Daniel and Christine
Rippe

Robert McMaster

Dr. and Mrs. Todd
Rumsey

Ben and Amy Russert

Cole and Gemma Russert

Matt Russert and Kim
Archer

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Joe and Kathy Schenkel

Jim and Karen Schmidt

Rick Schoen

Kathy and Drent Shields

Defiance Area
Foundation on behalf
of the Shindler Family
Fund: Doug & Jennifer
Shindler, Drew & Brooke
Shindler

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Barbara Spangler

Greg Spangler

Julia and John Starner

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Judy Troll

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Valentine

Tom and Wendy Voigt

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Julie Waterfield

Molly and Brian Weber

Lynn Wehrenberg

Wendorf Family

Barb Wenger

Ken and Kathy Wertz

Randy and Liza Wilhelm

John Wilhelm

John Winch Family
Foundation

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Peg Zeis

Christine and Tim Ziegler

Brian and Amy Zientek

HONORARIUMS

H: All Clear Lake
Residents and
Lovers of the Lake
Susie Compo

H: Frank Densel
Ron Pancake

H: Bill Geiger
**Laurie and Ron
Sellers**

H: Karen Horrell
**Bridget Harrison
& Dave Drogos**

H: Todd and Barbara
Rumsey
Cindy Stovall

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Joyce Augspurger

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Condominiums
Community**

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**Greg and Paula
Bosler**

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Ludgate Family

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Jerry Crawford

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Cullis
**The Troy Foundation
on behalf of Cass and
Jane Cullis**

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**Mark and Mary Kay
Hagerman**

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**Warren and Janet
Ward**

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Bill Eckrich,
Tom Eckrich Jr.
Sally Eckrich

M: Tom Eckrich Jr.
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Hagerman
Alan and Sue Korte**

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**Susan Federspiel
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Terry Melton

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Claudia Sundberg

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Matt Rippe

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**Warren and Janet
Ward**

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**Greg and Karen
Williams**

M: Harry Winch
Kathy Latz

M: Denny Winzeler
Polly Winzeler

M: Wendell & Cora
Wood
**Bree and Ralph
Rolon, Brandon Wood**

M: Casey Brecht
Yuengling
**Amy Jo Young & Scott
Yuengling**

AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Anonymous

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

Elijah and Jolene
Stewart

Nancy and Bob Webster

FOREVER FUND

Anonymous

Tim and LuAnn McArdle

George and Kathy
Schenkel

GRANT SUPPORT

Lincoln Financial
Foundation Employer
Match made possible by
Jim Horein

Thrivent Choice on
behalf of Jack and Karen
Horrell

PROJECT SUPPORT

The Hanna Family

STEUBEN COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORT

Anonymous (2)

Bill and Chris Geiger

WATERFIELD PRESERVE

The Waterfield
Foundation on behalf of
Richard D. Waterfield
and Jill Waterfield-Meyer

WATER QUALITY

Anonymous

Joan and Jerry Rippe

WISH LIST

Anonymous

IN-KIND

Essentially Clean
& More

H: = Honorariums
M: = Memorials

LAND. WATER. LEGACY.





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FREMONT, INDIANA 46737
clearlakeconservancy.org

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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.

VOLUNTEER | CONTACT | DONATE

clearlakeconservancy.org
or call (260) 527-1072

