



CLEAR THINKING

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MAY 2017

Getting in the Spirit

ISSUE No. 12

"Welcome back! How was your winter?" That's how we greet each other as we gather back for the summer. We're delighted to have you back at the lake. The Conservancy had a terrific winter.

Over the winter, we finished the dredging projects, completed prescribed burns at Spangler Grove and Clear Lake Nature Preserve including Brennan Woods and continued planning for the Kasota Island Restoration and the Clear Lake Nature Preserve Trails projects. Check out the project updates [on the website](#). AND we are excited about the upcoming summer!

Community and People. Bridget was a featured speaker at Steuben County's Earth Fest in late April. Her message for the hearty spring crowd reminds us why the Conservancy's work is important for the Lake, our watershed, family and friends and future generations of Clear Laker. In short, **community conservation** is about people. It's an approach to natural resource conservation that:

- Responds to a community need (water quality, nature preservation)
- Connects people with place (Clear Lake Township)
- Connects people with people (Township and Town residents and visitors)
- Creates opportunities for involvement (many ways to volunteer and have fun!)
- Energizes the community (Spiritfest coming!)
- Provides some form of public access (walking, hiking, on the water)
- Provides lasting and meaningful impact (for Knee-high Naturalists!)

Welcome Party. So, let's gather for a "Welcome to the Lake" Party on Saturday, June 24th, 6-11:30pm. Join us at the Clear Lake Yacht Club for the *Conservancy Spiritfest*, featuring classic cocktails and hearty appetizers sponsored by Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps. We'll also have classic Clear Lake Auction items and music as we celebrate the start of summer and benefit the Conservancy's key projects. See you there! Details will follow.

Educating for the Future. The back page highlights the Summer Events Calendar. The 11th year of the Knee-high Naturalists program is set for July, this year on FRIDAYS starting July 7th. We'll have new programs and we welcome life-long Clear Laker Tracy Hughes as our Program Coordinator. Free and all are welcome!

The more mature naturalists among us can learn about (and purchase) native plants from Martha Ferguson with Riverview Native Nursery across from Clear Lake Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 28th (10-2pm). These native plants contribute to Clear Lake water quality while adding to the beauty of your property.

Community Partners. We love partnering with organizations in the Clear Lake Township community--it is appropriate that you'll read about the Clear Lake Lutheran Church (CLLC) in our regular "Partner Spotlight" feature. Join us to appreciate the Koeneman Lake improvements firsthand on Saturday, July 22 (6-8pm) with a guided Project Tour and Community Ice Cream Social. We partnered with CLLC on the project and the upcoming ice cream social. This is community conservation spirit in action!

Welcome back. Thank you for your continued support for the Conservancy as we cherish and preserve this special place together. We hope to see you often at Conservancy events in 2017!

Nancy Webster, President
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director

The mission of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy is to preserve, protect, and manage the natural environment within the watershed and township for future generations.

Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight the Clear Lake Lutheran Church (CLLC). Lutherans have had a church presence at Clear Lake since 1937, often enjoying outdoor services. The Chapel has been in its current location since 1939 and has been renovated and expanded many times since then.

The partnership between CLLC and the Conservancy began in 2000

when CLLC acquired the wooded land bordering Outer Drive and County Road 850 E. Eleven acres of the land, including Koeneman Lake, were divided off and sold to the Conservancy.

Since then, CLLC and the Conservancy have worked together as Koeneman Lake was dredged and improved in 2016 and as walking trails on CLLC property and in Koeneman Preserve have been developed. Active land steward, Bob Burris, has lined up volunteer help for surveying for boundary delineation, and works closely with

Bridget Harrison for continued trail maintenance and future trail development.

The Guided Hike and Ice Cream Social planned for Saturday, July 22 celebrates the partnership by welcoming the entire Clear Lake community to come together in this special natural setting. The Conservancy appreciates the CLLC commitment to preserving and enjoying Clear Lake's beauty and for its spirit of community.



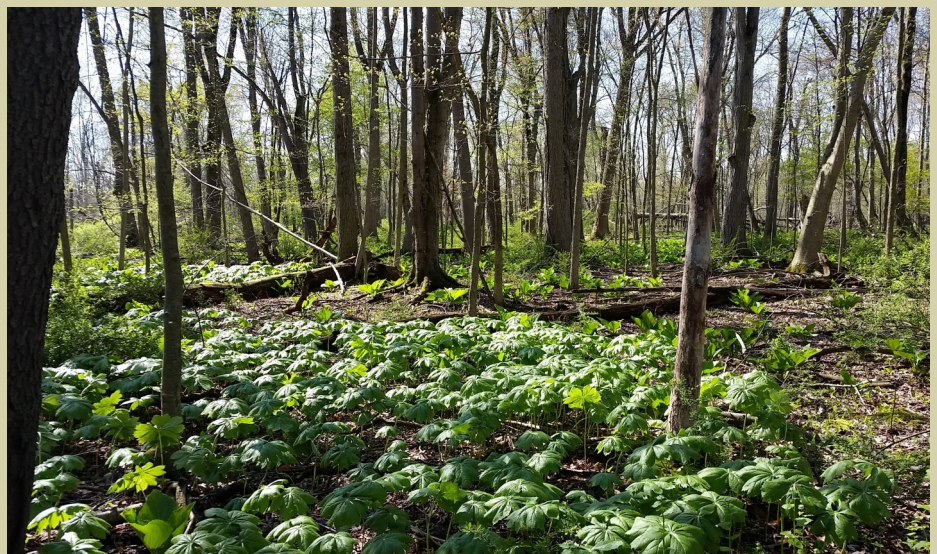
Natural Area Preservation

Wetlands are the link between the land and the water. They serve as transition zones where the flows of water, the cycling of nutrients and the energy of the sun meet to produce a unique ecosystem. Wetlands protect and improve water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitats, store floodwaters and maintain surface water flow during dry periods.

The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy acquired the 6.42 acre **Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Area** early in its corporate existence through a donation from Hubert and Yeteve Dixon in 1994. The Preserve is named for Hubert's grandmother, Flora Hussleman, and mother, Vera Trumbull.

This Nature Preserve, located on Lakeview Drive between Spangler Grove and County Road 875 East on the north side of Clear Lake, is home to a large wetland, offering an important ecosystem for plants and animals that like to get their feet wet. Fulfilling the classic definition of a wetland, this Preserve plays a valuable role in capturing and filtering water within the Clear Lake watershed.

Wear your boots when you visit and email or text Bridget photos of your favorite plants or wildlife spotted at **Flora Husselman Trumbull Nature Area - protected in perpetuity!**



Left: a Jack-in-the-Pulpit flower from Don Luepke. Above: a spring view of the preserve.

Environmental Education - Monarch Butterfly Preservation

Clear Lake has two active connections with North American efforts to increase the population of the beautiful and graceful Monarch Butterfly.



Waystation. Last summer, the Conservancy highlighted the Monarch Waystation created by Rick Eckert at the corner of Indiana 120 East and Fountain Beach Road, see [article](#). The common milkweed plants he planted are growing already and will provide critical nourishment for migrating Monarchs as summer 2017 arrives.

Cultivation. Peg Zeis is the second active Monarch connection. For the past four years, Peg has been involved in the collection of Monarch eggs and larvae and captively raising them to the point of releasing adult Monarch butterflies. "The summer and fall of 2015, I raised and released 42 Monarchs, most from eggs collected within a

mile and a half of my home at Lake Anne," she relates.

2016 was different. Her canvas produced no eggs but did locate 13 Monarch larvae, all nurtured and released as adult Monarchs. Peg believes habitat--especially habitat containing milkweed--is a significant factor.



Peg observes that all of the 2016 larvae were found on swamp milkweed in a section of natural shoreline restoration she assisted with at and around CLTLC Board member Mary Jo Fitzenrider's cottage on the northeast shore of Clear Lake. She recalls: "Many Clear Lake folk stopped to see exactly what it was I was doing at the shoreline each day and it was a great opportunity to get people excited about and more aware of the plight of the Monarch."



Naturally, Rick and Peg are supporters of the Riverview Nursery Native Plant sale on Sunday, May 28th 10am-2pm, across from the Clear Lake Lutheran Church. All of us can be part of the Monarch Watch by installing native plants, particularly common milkweed or swamp milkweed. And who doesn't enjoy welcoming Monarchs to Clear Lake Twp.?

Left: Monarch Butterfly from Peg Zeis. Above: Mary Jo releasing a monarch butterfly.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS!

*List reflects contributions received after our March issue of *Clear Thinking*. We make every effort to be as accurate as possible, please contact us if you see a mistake.

**Our Endowment Funds are held at the Steuben County Community Foundation.

Brett & Dana Buehrer
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Jim & Annie Skinner

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Jim & Annie Skinner

Sally Hake
From Pam & Tom Reith

Dr. and Mrs. W. B. Rice
From Cynthia Rice Hogan

To get involved or support:

(260) 316-1397 • www.ClearLakeConservancy.org

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Upcoming Events!

Spring Plant Sale - across from CL Lutheran Church

Sun., May 28th 10 am - 2 pm

Conservancy Spiritfest - at the Yacht Club

A Conservancy event sponsored by Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps

Sat., June 24th 6 - 11:30 pm

Knee-high Naturalist program - at the Yacht Club

Fri., July 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th 10 - 11:30 am

Ice Cream Social & Koeneman Lake Project Tour -

A CL Lutheran Church & CLTLC organized event

Sat., July 22nd 6 - 8 pm

Annual Meeting - at CL Town Hall

Fri., July 28th 4:00 pm

Check our website for more details and additional events.

Conservancy Spiritfest

Saturday, June 24th 6:00 - 11:30 pm

CL Yacht Club, \$40/ticket

Heavy hors d'oeuvres / 3 complimentary classic cocktails / auction / music

Sponsored by:



\$_____ Event Ticket(s)

\$_____ Contribution for Kasota Island Restoration Project

\$_____ Contribution for Clear Lake Nature Preserve restoration and trail building

\$_____ Contribution for Operational Sustainability

\$_____ TOTAL

Name: _____ Email: _____ Address: _____

Names of all attending: _____

*Now Taking
Reservations!*

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