



CLEAR THINKING

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July 2017

Clear Lake Spirit

ISSUE No. 13

The 2017 Conservancy Spiritfest was another remarkable display of Clear Lake community spirit and generosity. A sellout-crowd of over 200 guests enjoyed a beautiful June evening at the Clear Lake Yacht Club on the 24th with tasty cocktails provided by Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps, delicious food from Sutton's and fabulous music by the Jim Steel Trio and the Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra. The Auctions-- Silent and Live--offered classic "Clear Lake themed" items and the now traditional auction drama to benefit the Conservancy's priority projects. Don Luepke's auctioneering was lively, fun and entertaining! The books are still open but we expect final accounting to net over \$30,000 for the Conservancy.

The center pages of *Clear Thinking* acknowledge our event sponsor, auction donors, bid winners and our volunteers. Thank you to all who helped us continue to build community across the Clear Lake Township population and build financial resources to complete our priority projects with this event.

The Kasota Island Restoration, Brennan Woods Trails and Operating Endowment are each long-range investments in the 13 Conservancy properties and the health of the Clear Lake Watershed. Most big projects look or seem "messy" in the middle. This is an ideal time to bring you up to date on these key initiatives since many of you spend more time here in the summer. Some of you are asking: "Remind me--what's happening at **Brennan Woods** and on **Kasota**? Remind me again--why are we doing these projects?" **See back page for Kasota Island update.**

Converting the 45 acre **Clear Lake Nature Preserve & Brennan Woods** to its former open oak woodland continuum requires a selective harvest and a prescribed fire. Timber harvesting is used as a management tool to change the light levels in the forest, to stimulate regeneration, and to change the very structure of the forest. It can be controversial, it can be hard to understand, and it can be ugly! Under the direction of a forestry consultant, over the last several months, large equipment has removed carefully selected trees from Brennan Woods and other portions of the Clear Lake Nature Preserve. When timber is harvested, bits of the tree, like the tops, remain, temporary access trails are installed, erosion occurs, and occasionally residual trees are damaged or taken out in the process. Removing these carefully selected trees will help us reach our restoration goal of opening up the canopy to allow more light to reach the forest floor. The prescribed fire earlier in the year helped to remove a thick leaf litter layer, creating more ideal growing conditions for native understory plants.

Working with our summer intern, Jonathan Moss, we are designing a hiking trail through the preserve. Our goal in creating the trail is to help protect important features of the preserve while encouraging exploration and enjoyment of this beautiful property. Let us know if you have ideas for the route and trail design!

Nancy Webster, Board President
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director

Spiritfest Sponsor



Spiritfest Auction Donors & Bidders

Lil' Boat

Grant Korte & Pam Brooks



Vail Fall Getaway

Mary Brooke & Christina Meyers

Thin Leather Wallet (4)

Daltech & Larry Schavey, Jill Merle,

Tony Gay, Troy Gamble

Birds of Clear Lake

Bruce Matasick & Kathy Shields

Succulent Planter

Don Luepke & Wendy Gamble



The Wave Necklace

Ann Gullberg & Terry Newcomb

Native American Tool Collection

Richard Oldsen & John Pritchard

Satek Winery Private Wine Tasting

Shane Christ & Jack Horrell

Drinks on the Porch

Jack and Karen Horrell & Tom Milligan

Sunset Over Clear Lake

Don Luepke & Amy Fitzenrider

Vera Bradley Hanging Organizer

Kathy Latz & Kathy Shields

Business Card Holder

Daltech & Steve DeMaio

Needlepoint Pillow

Kathy Schenkel & Karen Horrell



Make Someone's Day!

Rory Kramer and Chainsmokers & Jim Skinner

Sailboats at Kasota Island

Douglas David & Karen and Jack Horrell



Modern Home Tour

Bill and Judy Greffin & Jim and Annie Skinner

New Home Tour

Tony and Beth Gay & Alan and Sue Korte

"Water ski" Chairs

Jay Ludgate & Tony Gay, Barb and Klaus Wenger

Firsthand Harvest Experience & Farm Tour

Bruce Moody & Alan Korte

Sweet Treats from Clear Lake Friends

Baking Company

Jan Matasick, Margaret Davis, Kathy Schenkel, Cindy King & Christine Crawford

Torch Fired Enamel Bracelet

Ann Gullberg & Bruce Spangler

Week Stay at a Key West Condo

Bruce Moody & Tom and Susan Kramer, Beth and Bob Martin



To signup for our e-newsletter email: info@clearlakeconservancy.org

Volunteer Support for Spiritfest

Decorations: Joyce & Larry Schavey, Sandy Ayres

Marketing: Karen & Jack Horrell, Cindy King, Jan Matasick, Koggy & Terry Newcomb, George & Kathy Schenkel, Nancy & Bob Webster

Auction Committee: Paul Crawford, Rick Eckert, Karen & Jack Horrell, Jeanne Loughery, Nancy Webster

Set-up & Clean-up: Paul & Christine Crawford, Dave Drogos, Rick Eckert, Mary Jo Fitzenrider, Beth Gay, Bill & Chris Geiger, Karen & Jack Horrell, George Schenkel, Nancy & Bob Webster

Event Check-in: Kathy Schenkel, Koggy Newcomb, Jan Matasick

Auctioneer: Don Luepke

Photographer: Terry Newcomb



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Clear Lake Nature Preserve Restoration

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Kasota Island Project

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Memorials

Kenny Eichler
From Kathy Latz

Harold Gordon
From Kathy Latz

Joan Hagerman
From Sarah Wilson
Kathy Latz
Sue & By Dicks

Sally Hake
From Kathy Latz

Larry Kenyon
From Ed & Bonnie Kenyon

Doris "Danny" Latz
From Joe & Linda Driver
Kathy Latz

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From Kathy Latz

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From Judy Troll

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From Maria Zeman

Honorarium

Jim Skinner
From Kathy Latz

To get involved or support:

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

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Kasota Island Project Update

The history of Kasota Island was covered in our March 2016 issue of Clear Thinking and many are aware of our upcoming Kasota Island restoration project. We'd like to provide a project update and direct you to additional updates, as they become available, on our website: clearlakeconservancy.org.

Kasota Island is eroding at rate of 3-4 inches per year from wind and wave action, according to a 2016 Feasibility Study. The goal of our 3-phased restoration project is to minimize future erosion. Phase I, now complete, included engineering survey & design plans, and permit applications. After Labor Day, if our permits are granted, we plan to install a bioengineered seawall with vegetation on the north, west, and south shoreline. To give the plants an opportunity to grow, temporary protective fencing will be installed and remain in place for 6 months after installation. The remaining east shore section will be completed in the Fall of 2018.

The island is an important space for wildlife and for our community. The entire shoreline will be protected with glacial stone and multiple access points will be installed. The sandy beach areas that are exposed each summer should still remain. For more specific project details please view the project brochure and plans available on our website.

We are pleased to announce the recent grant award of \$96,000 from the Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Phase II funding is now secured with the help of generous community supporters. LARE will only cover up to \$100,000 or 1/3 of the total estimated \$300,000 cost. Phase III funding has not been fully secured.





Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
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Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
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*Spiritfest, Kasota Island,
& Brennan Woods
project updates inside!*

Email: info@clearlakeconservancy.org to receive this in your email!