



CLEAR THINKING

JANUARY 2018

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Warm Stories From Frozen Clear Lake

Happy New Year from beautiful, snowy Clear Lake Twp.! Winter scenes are some of our favorites. Walking across the frozen lake to Kasota Island. Watching the magnificent American Bald Eagle soar through bright blue skies. Quiet hikes in our properties. Time to reflect on the good things in our lives.

As we look ahead to 2018, we note seven Conservancy features that make us smile with pride. We hope each one will warm your hearts, too. Thank you for helping make 2017 one of the best years in our 26 year history.

1. **More Protected Land.** The Conservancy now has 16 properties that will be preserved in perpetuity. On Page 2, you'll read about the recent South Shore land donation from John and Lona Pritchard. We are proud to be stewards of over 55 acres in and around Clear Lake.

2. **Financial Growth.** Generous donors in 2017 provided over \$129,000 in unrestricted operating funds. Unrestricted cash contributions are critical in meeting our mission day to day. This is especially true in these unsettled times of tax law and policy changes, including potential reductions in available grant sources. Thank you to the 116 donors who placed unrestricted confidence in the Conservancy's fundamental work around water quality, land maintenance and staff development.

3. **Here and Now.** We are excited by the 2017 progress on two active projects—the Kasota Island Shoreline Restoration and Clear Lake Nature Preserve trails and restoration. We thank the 90 donors who were motivated to designate \$51,850 in funds and in-kind contributions for these two projects so close to their hearts. Page 2 includes more details on the Kasota project. And as promised, Bridget posts regular [updates on the website](#). (Thank you for telling your neighbors....)

4. **Thinking Long Term.** Endowed (or restricted) funds provide a predictable source of income for ongoing land maintenance, land acquisition and operating costs. This is what we mean by "sustainability" and we are encouraged by endowment growth in 2017. Since 2006, the Conservancy has been the beneficiary of two such endowments. On Page 2, read about the partnership we have with the Steuben County Community Foundation for these long term investments in the Conservancy. Thank you to the donors who supported our funds.

5. **Having Fun.** Rory Kramer's 2017 auction of the Chainsmokers car was a creative and fun way to add \$2,700 to our Land Maintenance resources. We love the Clear Lake spirit and are grateful for Rory's demonstration of it for the Conservancy.

6. **Honoring Others.** Our hearts were warmed often in 2017 as thoughtful donors remembered and honored 81 of our neighbors with Memorial and Honorarium gifts to CLTLC. This issue includes Gregg and Shawn Richhart's tribute to the Clear Lake Township homeowners they have worked with over the years. We are grateful to them and to ALL the families and donors listed in our Donor List in each issue of *Clear Thinking* for making the Conservancy a beneficiary of your love and appreciation for others.

7. **Making a Legacy.** Finally, we were humbled by the generosity of two families who created ways to carry on the Conservancy's work after their deaths. Page 3 highlights a generous bequest from Danny Latz, mother of Clear Lake resident Kathy Latz and a planned bequest from Don and Ellen Luepke, long time Conservancy supporters. Gifts such as these are iconic tributes to the Conservancy's mission of preserving this special place for generations to come.

See why we love our corner of the state? We hope these warm stories inspire you to find even more ways to build a strong Conservancy for the generations who follow. The summer of 2018 will be here soon! In the meantime, enjoy the winter and stay warm.

Nancy Webster, Board Chair
Bridget Harrison, Executive Director

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

Natural Area Preservation

When asked why John and Lona decided to donate their south shore lot they replied quickly, "To inspire others to think about doing the same." In December Dr. and Mrs. Pritchard donated their property located along South Clear Lake Drive to the Conservancy. At just over a tenth of an acre in size, this land could have been home to a spacious garage. But the owners saw the value in another context. Protection, forever. The hope of the Conservancy and the owners is that others nearby and around the township will consider protecting their land, too. The property will remain free from development and John and Lona can find comfort in knowing that the **Island View Nature Preserve** will be protected as a natural, open space in perpetuity.



Many of you may have heard about or seen the convertible car customized at Clear Lake by The Chainsmokers and Rory Kramer over the summer. That and more was aired on Rory's show, *Dare to Live* on MTV. This fall, the car was auctioned off on eBay and Rory graciously donated the proceeds of the auction to support the Conservancy's Land Maintenance Endowment held at the Steuben County Community Foundation. The gift from Rory will support land maintenance projects, including our work at Kasota Island. We are grateful to Rory for the creative and fun way to support local land conservation, to Chad and Hope Korte for coordinating many of the auction details, and to the buyer of the customized car!

Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this Partner's Spotlight, we highlight the Steuben County Community Foundation (SCCF). According to SCCF's website, a group of concerned citizens created the SCCF in 1991 to offer a formalized and organized way to make charitable gifts that work to address the emerging issues and concerns of Steuben County. To this day,

its purpose is to promote and preserve the lifestyle and assets of our community for current and future generations.

The Conservancy holds two endowments at the Foundation—one established in 2006 supporting Land Maintenance and the most recent one supporting Operations. The Conservancy also received an anniversary match of \$25,000 from SCCF for the Operating Fund in 2016. Income from these Funds offers a steady flow of revenue for the Conservancy's annual budget for various key projects.

By partnering with their donors, the Foundation has helped strengthen education, support the arts, promote civic life, protect our environment, and ensure strong health and social services. We are lucky to have such an active and hardworking Community Foundation in our county!



THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS! *

Anonymous
Tom & Rita Bastress
William & Carol Berning
Mike & Pat Franz
Bill & Judy Greffin
Patricia Griest
Bridget Harrison & Dave Drogos
Jack & Karen Horrell

William Horrell
Alan & Janet LaRue
Richard & Ruthann Oldsen
Chuck Phelps
George & Kathy Schenkel
Jim & Annie Skinner
Greg & Mimi Spangler
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Education:

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Kasota Island Restoration

Project Support:

Brett & Dana Buehrer
Katy Hoehn
Steve, Jen, Hank, Lilly Landreth
Horizon Bank

Land Acquisition:

Dan & Myra Koop
Rick & Joyce Eckert

Watershed Assessment

Project:

Mary Jo Fitzenrider

Maintenance Endowment

Contributions:

Anonymous
CJ & Bea Geiger Family Fund
Rory Kramer
Don & Ellen Luepke
iMANAGE LLC

Operating Endowment

Contributions:

Jack & Karen Horrell
iMANAGE LLC

Honorariums:

Kathy Alpeter
William & Lisa Athens
Tom & Rita Bastress
Peter & Sheryl Beck
Heinz & Helga Bokel
Mary Brooke
Ron & Julie Burk
Butch & Jennifer Callison
Samantha & Calvin Champion
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Coley Rau
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James & Karen Schmidt

John Stenger
Gregory Steyer
George Strasser
Linda Tillman
Dave Von Deylen
Marty & Julie Zachrich
Jon & Janet Zachrich
Jane Zeller
Timothy & Christine Ziegler
Above list from Gregg and
Shawn Richhart of Star Homes

Clear Lake
From Dr. and Mrs. Bryon Stephens

Alan & Emma Brown
From Kathy Latz

Rick Eckert
From Jayne De Lawter

Loella Pepple
From Jane & Robert McMaster

Memorials:

John Bruick
From Bill & Chris Geiger

John Compo
From The Fitzenrider Family
Bill & Chris Geiger
Kathy Latz
Sandra Shank

Janice Crawford
From Rick & Kris Gartner
Kathy Latz

Mary Jane Millikan
From Sandra Shank

Stan Pepple
From Jane & Robert McMaster

Bob Troll
From Judy Troll

Barry Worl
From Rick & Kris Gartner
Bob & Beth Martin

Larry Zeman
From Maria Zeman

In-kind Support:

Amy Culler
Terry Newcomb
Bob & Nancy Webster

*List reflects contributions received after our Nov. 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.

Legacy gifts are created for many different reasons. For some, it is a way to ensure their memory lives on. For others, it is a way to help ensure that the Conservancy is able to continue the important work here for years to come. Last year we received a bequest from Doris "Danny" Latz, mother of Clear Lake resident Kathy Latz and received notice of a planned bequest from Don and Ellen Luepke, Clear Lake residents and long time Conservancy supporters.

The Conservancy was so pleased to receive such a gift from Danny Latz. Kathy shared that her mom chose to do this because she knows how much this lake and the community here means to Kathy. The unrestricted bequest supports the conservation work that Kathy helped to start over 26 years ago when the Conservancy was created.

Don and Ellen Luepke recently shared plans with Executive Director Bridget Harrison that implement their desire for the work of the Conservancy to continue long into the future. The Luepkes worked with their financial advisors to set up a foundation that will make a yearly gift to the Conservancy following their deaths. Their desire is to build a "Community of Stewards."

Two families created ways to carry on the Conservancy's work after their deaths. Such gifts are iconic tributes to the Conservancy's mission of preserving this special place for generations to come. We are honored and grateful for this kind of long term thinking and support.

To get involved or support:

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

111 Gecowets Drive – Clear Lake • Fremont, IN 46737

Your contribution is the heart and soul of our success!

Contact our office for information on any of the gifting options listed below.

1. General Donations - Unrestricted gifts
2. Restricted Donations - Gifts for a specific project like education, water quality, land acquisition, etc.
3. Honorariums - Gift acknowledging an individual/family or a special occasion such as weddings, anniversaries, births, birthdays, etc.
4. Memorials - Gift for a deceased family member or friend.
5. CLTLC Operating Fund (Endowment at SCCF)* - Income from the fund will be used for the day to day operations.
6. CLTLC Maintenance Fund (Endowment at SCCF)* - Income from the fund will be used to maintain our properties.
7. Bequests - CLTLC would be honored to be included in your will and/or trust.
8. Stock or other securities – Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds can be gifted to CLTLC.
9. Your IRA – Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) - Every retired person who has an IRA or other qualified plan must take an annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) each year from their plan at certain ages. This distribution is taxable at ordinary income rates; however, the IRS now allows those persons to allocate any portion of their RMD up to a maximum of \$100,000 annually to a qualified charity such as the CLTLC. See our website for downloads of forms.
10. Land or conservation easement donation - A landowner's gift of property, either as a direct gift, donating through a will, donating a remainder interest, or a conservation easement, will retain the natural qualities, scenic or ecological value, or historic significance forever. Contact us for more information.

Notes

* CLTLC Operating Fund and Maintenance Fund are endowed at the Steuben County Community Foundation and income from the fund is paid to Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy (CLTLC) annually.

Our Federal ID # is 35-1835491. Talk to your attorney, tax advisor, and us about any of the gift options.



Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
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Fremont, Indiana 46737

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Fort Wayne, IN
Permit No. 760



*Frozen Wetland at
Koeneman Lake
Nature Preserve.*