



CLEAR THINKING

MAY 2018

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2018 Board

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PASSING THE TREASURE ALONG

“...if you receive a gift, you keep it alive not by clinging to it but by passing it along.”

— Parker J. Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak* (2000)

Blue Skies. Blue Water. Green trees. Yellow sunshine and daffodils. Looking much like the Conservancy logo, spring is in full view at Clear Lake! Friends and neighbors are trickling back from warm climates, hometowns and city life to begin the summer of 2018. Welcome back, Conservancy friends!

Kasota Island Nature Preserve has a different look for the summer of 2018 as we finish Phase 2 of this long-term project and set the stage for maintaining this treasured place for years to come. Here's what you'll find, along with signage (*pictured below*).

The bioengineered seawall of glacial rocks, native plants and natural canvas is the best solution for the decreasing shoreline from steady, daily wave action erosion estimated at 3-4 inches a year. Change? Yes, but the naturalized seawall is changed with the purpose of passing along Kasota Island Nature Preserve to future generations.

The sandy beaches will still be available for walking and splashing. Access points through the naturalized seawall (*pictured right*) will become second nature to us as we explore the Nature Preserve on easy to follow walking paths.

You'll also notice less brush and a more open look on the island. This allows more natural light for the native trees and plants carefully planted throughout the Preserve. The native plants will be easier to maintain and to support the birds and insects that share the Nature Preserve with us. Don't worry—the eagles should still visit the tall trees to scout good fishing opportunities! Phase 3, protection along the east shore, starts this Fall.

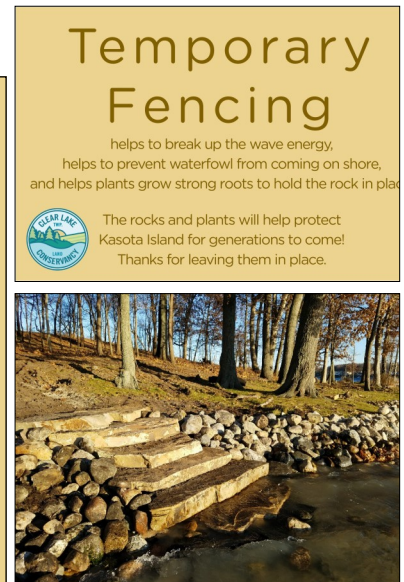
We are excited about other positive changes with the Conservancy for the summer of 2018. The Education Committee is fully formed and scheduling many opportunities for all of us to learn more about our natural environment. This summer will feature sessions on aquatic invasive plants, light pollution, trail building with the Fremont Middle School and a brand new curriculum for the Knee-high Naturalists in July.

Mark your calendars for the Conservancy Annual Meeting on July 27 to learn more about current and planned projects. The website has a list of all Conservancy Committees, Committee members and Committee charters. We encourage you to get involved with areas of interest to you. We can do even more to achieve the Conservancy's mission with more hands, expertise and brainpower.

As the quote above illustrates, we are truly fortunate with the natural gifts here in Clear Lake Township. Together we can pass these gifts along to future generations by being active stewards of the natural beauty and clear water. Financial support is always needed and welcomed. An envelope is enclosed for your gift. Enjoy our collective investment by visiting each of the Conservancy Properties this summer.

Nancy Webster, President

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 - Returning Clear Lake Nature Preserve to Prairie

At 45 acres, the Clear Lake Nature Preserve & Brennan Woods (CLNP) has the most diverse environment among the Conservancy's sixteen properties. Since 2017, CLNP has resembled a battle zone! Here's an update on our long-term goal for this beautiful property and an update on how we are getting there.

The vision is to return CLNP to its original states as open oak woodlands, an oak savanna, a prairie, wetlands and a fen. At the conclusion of the project, these diverse areas will be connected with almost two miles of hiking trails.

The [open oak woodlands phase](#) began in 2014 by removing non-native plants, trees and underbrush. These steps allow oak seedlings room and light to grow and thrive. Many native, but not desirable in an open oak woodland, hardwood trees were harvested, generating funds for the Conservancy. The [prairie and oak savanna phase](#) also began by removing trees and brush. Next, a prescribed burn was completed in 2017 on both areas to aid in the control of invasive and understory growth and to assist with oak tree regeneration. The prairie and oak savanna section of CLNP was herbicided and will be seeded this year.

These steps left fallen trees and tree tops littering the CLNP, waiting for clean-up and eventually another prescribed burn. On April 28, an army of volunteers cut brush, stacked logs and organized wood so it can be chipped and used for making trails in Brennan Woods starting this month with the Fremont 8th Grade Science class and into this summer. Many hands made great progress (*pictured below*)!

Thank You CLNP Work Day Volunteers!

Brandy Brown
Bob Burris
Dave Drogos
Bert Elliott
Brenda Elliott
Steve Fry
Gary Greene & Kids
Karen Horrell
Dee Howarth

Jackie Howarth
Bill Koester
Doug Mulvaney
Guy & Elysia
Rodgers & Kids
Kathy Schenkel
George Schenkel
Alex Stamatoglou
Tyler Stephens
Enos Swartz
Nancy Webster
John Wilhelm

There's more to accomplish, but we are well on our way to being able to plant prairie grasses later this year and move closer to our goal of re-creating the Clear Lake Prairie. Removing the brush will encourage good seed to ground contact, vital for successful germination. Thank you to the 26 volunteers who came out for this clean-up opportunity. Also, a huge round of appreciation to Gregg

& Shawn Richhart of Star Homes and Mike Stuckey of M & C Trenching for creating and donating the new parking area at the head of the CLNP trails along County Road E 675 N. The sign pictured right will greet visitors at the small parking area. For future volunteer days, check our website and Facebook page.

Clear Lake NATURE PRESERVE & Brennan Woods

Open to the Public Dawn to Dusk

Foot Traffic Only

Pets Welcome, Always on Leash, &
Cleaned up After

No Dumping, Camping, Fires,
or Hunting

Removal or Destruction of Wildlife,
Plants, or Natural Features is Prohibited



Help Us Protect This Beautiful Space!



e-Newsletter:

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

Water Quality & Environmental Education

In 2013 the Conservancy, with support from the Lake & River Enhancement grant program, completed an Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan on Clear and Round Lake. The study identified the presence and location of varying aquatic plants. Aquatic plants have many advantages and disadvantages in a freshwater lake. They serve as food sources and protective environments for macroinvertebrates, fish and waterfowl. They put oxygen into water, great for fish and macroinvertebrates, and provide long-term storage of nutrients that can otherwise create nuisance levels of certain algae.

As with most things, balance is the key—**which** aquatics and **how many** of them—with natives generally favored over non-natives.

Can you identify these aquatic plants, pictured to the right? Would you be able to report aquatic invasive plants to the Conservancy to support monitoring efforts? The Education Committee invites you to join us on **Sunday, August 5th at 1:30 pm** at Town Hall for a presentation from Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancement & Survey. We'll spend an hour inside and then take boats out for hands-on learning! Call or email the office to reserve your spot! Light refreshments will be provided.



Photos from Bugwood.org

Partner's Spotlight

Many of our accomplishments rely on successful partnerships. In this *Partner's Spotlight*, we highlight the **Town of Clear Lake**. The Town of Clear Lake was incorporated in early 1932 and remains one of the few lakes in Indiana to have taken this step. The purposes of incorporation were for self-governance and maintenance of roads, streets, bridges, street lights,

fire and sanitary protection. Preserving the natural beauty of Clear Lake has also been a long time concern for the Town.

A very public example of partnership is the Town's willingness to provide office and meeting space for the Conservancy as it added staff in 2015. The Town Hall location on Gecowets Drive is convenient and valuable for Conservancy staff, volunteers and the Clear Lake community

as the Conservancy's work continues and expands. We work cooperatively with the Town on many shared issues around land use and water quality and appreciate the Town's support of the Conservancy and its mission.



THANK YOU
TO OUR
RECENT
DONORS! *

Clear Lake Nature Preserve Restoration & Trail Building Project:

Gregg & Shawn Richhart
of Star Homes

Mike Stuckey of
M & C Trenching

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Memorial:

Janice Crawford
From Maddy Coughlin
Carlyn Obendorfer

Jeff Millan
From Scott Wehrenberg

Beth Russert

From Tom & Pam Reith,
Michele & John Butler,
Chris & Marti Slee

*List reflects contributions since our Mar. issue of *Clear Thinking*. Contact us if you see a mistake.

Bob & Nancy Webster

To get involved or support:

(260) 316-1397 • www.clearlakeconservancy.org
111 Gecowets Drive – Clear Lake • Fremont, IN 46737

A few of our upcoming events!

Additional events and details will be included in our next issue and online.

Volunteer Training Opportunity for Hoosier Riverwatch testing -

Friday, June 8th, 9 am - 4 pm at CL Town Hall. RSVP required. Call or email our office.

Knee-high Naturalist program -

Gone Fishin'!: 10 - 11:30 am on Friday, July 6th at the CL Marina

*Farm Tour: 10 - 11:30 am on Friday, July 13th at Moody & Crew Farm - 3285 N 650 E; Fremont.

Buzzing Bees: 10 - 11:30 am on Friday, July 20th at the Yacht Club

Animal Tracks & Scat: 10 - 11:30 am on Friday, 27th at the Yacht Club

*Please RSVP for this session. Call or email our office.

Our Annual Meeting -

Friday, July 27th, 4 pm at CL Town Hall

Aquatic Plant ID Workshop -

Sunday, August 5th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm at CL Town Hall





Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
111 Gecowets Drive - Clear Lake
Fremont, Indiana 46737

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



Photo credit: Cindy King

Clear Lake Visitors

Many birds visit Clear Lake throughout the year. A group of migrating **Bufflehead Ducks** was seen on the West Shore of Clear Lake in early April. Send us photos of your bird sightings!