



CLEAR THINKING

JULY 2018

ISSUE No. 19

2018 Board

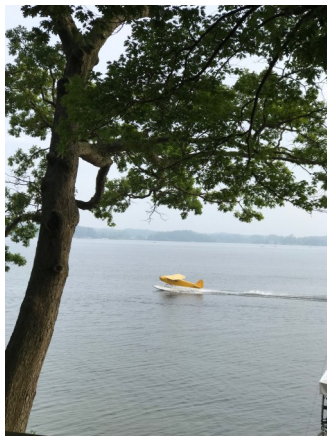
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Clearly Connected



Perspective lets us see how the pieces fit together. It tells us how far we've come and how close we are to the end of the journey. Summer 2018 is a natural time to review our progress on the Conservancy's [2016-2019 Strategic Plan](#). Each item in this issue of *Clear Thinking* relates to a commitment made in the Strategic Plan. Thanks for supporting these commitments.

Commitment—Be a confident source of information and education. The normally pristine blue water was murky brown at times this spring. All of us wondered why and some folks wondered if it was related to the Brennan Woods project. The short answer is "rain" but the questions created an opportunity for a new information resource we call ["ASK BRIDGET"](#). Bridget's short posts give everyone timely information about a "hot" conservancy topic. Let us know what you think. Mention this new resource to your friends and neighbors.

Commitment—Recognize, respect and support the connections of both landowners and the community with the Clear Lake watershed and township. Geography is the most basic connection. Our story on Board member Bill Geiger's seaplane (page 3) offers a unique perspective of Clear Lake's connection with the watershed and CLTLC's mission. Water quality (WQ) is the critical connection. WQ testing has been a key CLTLC activity for 27 years. On June 8th, almost a dozen community members received a full day of WQ training from Hoosier River Watch. Interested? Contact Bridget. We welcome and rely on volunteers.

Commitment—Sustainably manage and protect in perpetuity our properties. Phase II of the [Kasota Island Shoreline Restoration Project](#) was completed in June. Glacial stone, geo-textile fabric and native plants are now installed on the Island's northern, western, and southern shores. Temporary fencing (with signage) surrounds these shores to allow the native plants to stabilize and grow. Visitors are now using the 8 access points to enjoy the Preserve.

Phase III begins this Fall on the eastern side of the Island. The eastern side has a sharp fall-off and this Phase is the most complex part of the project to slow the 3-4 inches of erosion every year eating away at the Island. We expect to complete this key project in 2019. The project plan and regular updates appear on the Conservancy website.

Commitment—Be an effective organization governed with excellence, transparency, and accountability. We invite you to review the 2017 Annual Report (page 2) and hope you'll join us at the **Annual Meeting at Clear Lake Town Hall Friday, July 27th at 4 pm** for an update and Q&A.

We've made solid progress on the Strategic Plan but there's much more to accomplish. We value your support and hope to hear your perspective at the Annual Meeting!

Nancy Webster, Board 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.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



TOGETHER in 2017 we:

- Protected sixteen properties covering 55 acres and added one new property, Island View Nature Preserve (pictured below)
- Gathered 218 people at the Conservancy Spiritfest to build community and raise over \$38,500 after expenses for the Conservancy's work
- Partnered with Clear Lake Lutheran Church for an Ice Cream Social and Guided Tours to celebrate the re-opening of Koeneman Lake Nature Preserve
- Completed prescribed burn, selective tree harvest and created a walking trail plan for Brennan Woods in Clear Lake Nature Preserve
- Completed Phase I of Kasota Island Nature Preserve Shoreline Restoration Project and began Phase II
- With the help of more than 75 volunteers, invested 356 hours in testing water quality, removing invasive plants, assisting with education programs, event planning, and other Conservancy work
- Engaged 503 community members and students in educational programs, including guided property tours, Knee-high Naturalists, Earth Fest, Fremont Middle School programs, Moody Farms "Lake to Farm" tour, Duck Days, Steuben County Soil & Water District Youth Conservation Field Day, and Native Plant sale
- Received gifts and donations (including revenues from Spiritfest) totaling \$222,766 from 231 contributors

*Thank you for protecting the
beauty and water of Clear
Lake Township in 2017 and
forever.*



2017 INVESTMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORT (January 1 – December 31, 2017)

ASSETS / NET WORTH

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Value of Nature Preserves | \$3,896,094 |
| Bank Accounts | \$ 322,742 |
| Investments and Endowments* | \$ 23,330 |
| TOTAL | \$4,242,166 |

*Does not include two funds totaling \$320,816 held at Steuben County Community Foundation for the benefit of Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy

REVENUES / EXPENDITURES+:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Restricted / Unrestricted Gifts (231 donors) | \$222,766 |
| Grants (public and private) from 5 funders | \$ 38,824 |
| Other revenue (interest, timber sale, other) | \$ 22,301 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | \$283,891 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES+ | \$ 97,539 |
| NET REVENUES | \$186,352 |

+ Under current financial accounting standards, purchases of land and permanent land improvements are shown in financial statements as capital assets and additions to capital assets, not as expenditures.

To get involved or support:

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

Natural Areas Preservation - View from Above

CLTLC Board member Bill Geiger knows about “putting the pieces together”. He and Clear Lake friend Dan Hanson spent over 15 years finding the right parts and mechanics to rebuild the bright yellow 1941 Piper Cub Seaplane often seen flying above Clear Lake. Bill also has a firm perspective about Clear Lake’s connection with the watershed and Township.

When asked his favorite view of the Lake, he quickly responds “All of them”. Bill knows that most people think the best view of the Lake is the one from their dock, patio or boat. He likes those views, too. But, his seaplane gives him a broader perspective of Clear Lake’s beauty from the 360-degree view of almost 40 miles of surrounding wetlands, forests, fields and lakes in three states. He may have the Conservancy’s best View from Above!

From his seaplane, Bill can easily see water clarity, noting when heavy spring rains changed the normal blue to brown. His regular flyovers confirm the shrinking size of **Kasota Island**. He keeps an eye on the **Brennan Woods and Clear Lake Nature Preserve** restoration project. He tracks the flow into the Lake from recently dredged **Koeneman Lake** and the exit flow between **Round Lake** and **Mud Lake**.

Bill compares his love of aviation with his long-term CLTLC passion. Both require a long horizon, planning, patience and adaptability. He says that planning is critical before taking off on any flight, but also notes flight plans change with changing conditions, making both adaptability and planning important traits. He appreciates both the importance and time commitment for CLTLC projects like the Kasota Shoreline Restoration.

To illustrate patience, Bill tells this story. For years, he searched for the floats vital for seaplane take-offs and landings. He had almost given up when he decided to search the internet for a seaplane carving for his “Welcome to Clear Lake” sign. One post jumped out. “For Sale: 1978 Piper Cub floats”. The seaplane carving could wait. He wasted no time, bought the floats and completed the rebuilding project soon after. Never give up!

Patience and adaptability put the bright yellow Piper Cub on Clear Lake in 2017. Planning, patience, adaptability, and long-term thinking also describe the Conservancy’s mission. For Bill, the views above or on the Lake are our shared rewards from that mission. We agree.



| | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS! | James & Evelyn Bachman | SC Community Foundation | Memorial: | |
| | William & Carol Berning | Clear Lake Nature | <i>John Compo</i> | <i>Kim Lobsiger</i> |
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| | Leo & Betty Weber | Richard D. Waterfield | From Jane Kaiser | From Marie Zeman |

Check out our Upcoming Events!

Additional event details can be found online.

Knee-high Naturalist program -

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

Our Annual Meeting -

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

Aquatic Plant ID Workshop* -

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

*RSVP to ensure your space on a boat





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Fremont, Indiana 46737

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Photo credit: Judy Oxenger Johnston

Summer Visitors

In addition to the **people** who visit in the summer, **green herons** are also regular summer visitors. Green herons spend the winter in the southern U.S. regions but head north to breed and enjoy Mid-west or north central region summers. A juvenile green heron was heard and then spotted on the South Shore of Clear Lake in June. His steady loud squawks “skeow” after leaving the family nest seemed to beg someone (anyone!) to feed him.