



# Clear Lake Association

## Spring 2023 Newsletter

### THE LAKE IS CALLING!

Welcome back to another season at the lake! The snow is finally gone, daffodils and tulips are blooming, docks are going into the water and residents are getting their cottages ready for family and friends. Your Clear Lake Association is also preparing for the summer ahead. The annual Membership Letter was mailed early May. If for some reason you didn't receive a letter, you can print the last page of this newsletter, complete the form and mail it with your check to the address provided. Please **do not drop off checks at Town Hall**. They are not permitted to keep any money overnight that is not specifically for the Town of Clear Lake. Dues have remained the same for several years (\$30), so please join the CLA. As you read the article on page 2, you'll see some of the important projects your donations support in and around the lake.

Of course, one of the biggest goals of the CLA is to provide spectacular fireworks to celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. This year's display is scheduled for Saturday, July 1, 10:00 pm. Your positive response about the Labor Day weekend "make-up" fireworks reinforced the board's decision to hire that same provider, Pyrotecnico, from Ft. Wayne, for this summer's show. We appreciate the extra time and effort that Mandy Gleave and Kit Tyler have invested so this important lake tradition can continue.



**Clear Lake Fireworks**  
**Saturday, July 1**  
**10:00 PM**



Our board joined the Clear Lake community in grieving the sudden death of Association board member Scott Lazur late last summer. Scott cared greatly about maintaining the water quality, the sense of community and friendships that he had enjoyed growing up here. Scott's widow, Susan, and their three young sons live on South Clear Lake Drive. The Board donated to the memorial fund established for the boys at General Electric Credit Union. You will be missed, Scott.

We welcome new board member Karen DeVenney to fill Scott's unexpired term. Karen has been coming to Clear Lake since high school and is happy to return here with husband Steve as full-time residents. They moved to South Clear Lake Drive from California almost three years ago.

As always, feel free to contact me about questions, concerns, or even things that you like. Hope your summer is off to a good start.

Margaret Carlson  
Clear Lake Association President ([president@clearlakeassociation.org](mailto:president@clearlakeassociation.org))

As you may know, your Clear Lake Association provides for more than fireworks. Through your generous donations, in addition to the \$30 annual dues, the board can award contributions to various organizations that support and enhance the lake community. Every September, once we know the resources available to the Association from donations received, the board carefully considers “Request for Contribution” forms that have been submitted over the summer. In 2022, the following grants were awarded: Fremont Fire Department (\$2,000), Steuben County Underwater Rescue Team (\$1,000), Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy (\$2,500) and CLYC Tennis/Pickleball Club (\$1,000). These outreach efforts are in addition to other CLA continuing activities, such as the Buoy Project, maintaining the Free Little Library at Town Hall, and the publication of this newsletter. Thank you for supporting the Clear Lake community through **your** Association.



The CLA donation to the Fremont Fire Department will provide funding for an additional water pump (shown at left) to be installed on their new fire truck which was ordered last fall. The donation (right) to the Underwater Rescue squad will be used to purchase an additional under-cold-water suit.



Photos (left to right): Aaron Vanderpool, Assistant Fire Chief; Rita Brown, CLA Treasurer; Kasey Gannon, Manager of Steuben County Underwater Rescue Recovery Team; Mike Wicker, Full-time Fireman; Alex Harris, Steuben County Sheriff and Part-time Clear Lake Marshall.



Photo on Left: Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy requested CLA funds to help restore a four-acre wetland habitat near CR 675N. President Margaret Carlson is shown presenting a check to Conservancy President Karen Horrell on the wetlands site.

Photo on Right: Two new Pickleball Courts will be created, thanks in part to a CLA donation. Shown accepting a check are members of the Fund-raising Committee: Barb Wenger, Kathy Schenkel and Jan Matasick. Beth McCracken, CLA Recording Secretary, stands with committee member Rick Johnston. Not pictured, Committee Member Jennifer Rockhold.





## SIGNS OF SPRING

We recently posted a request on [clearlakefun.org](http://clearlakefun.org) Bulletin Board for photos that showed “Signs of Spring.” Not only is it fun to see what’s blooming around the lake, but this also gives those of us who haven’t yet returned to see what they’re missing. Jo Culbertson emailed that it’s been an unusual spring with plenty of snow and cold weather. Her photo (right) of ice on the banks of the public boat access was taken on March 20, the first day of Spring! Fortunately, the weather seems to have improved enough that other photos throughout these pages show lovely spring blooms. Here’s to warmer weather!



## PLANNING & PERSISTENCE = SAFETY

The buoys are in! Thank you to everyone who helped get them back in the water where they belong. An extra big thank you goes to Kevin and the Clear Lake Marina for allowing us to use their work boat.

The exciting news to be shared this summer is that, after two and a half years of working closely with the DNR and the Natural Resource Commission, Governor Holcomb has signed into law a “Special Boating Zone” for Clear Lake. What that means is that along Point Park Drive, the “Special Boating Zone” extends to 300 feet from shore. When this “Special Boating Zone” goes into effect on June 9<sup>th</sup>, there will be thirteen new white cylindrical buoys 50 feet from the docks. These will be labeled “Idle Speed,” meaning boats must not exceed the lowest speed necessary to maintain control. Keep in mind that all boating zones include boats and anyone or anything in tow.

**SHORE + DOCK = 50 FEET + BUOY + 50 FEET = SAFE BOATING**

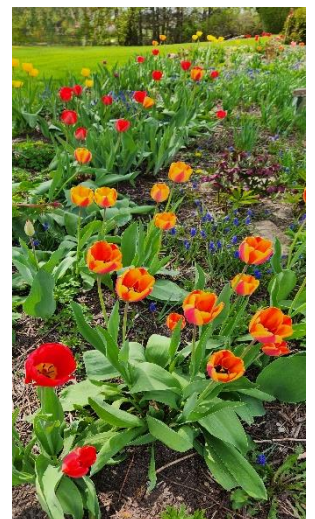
The current yellow buoys are strategically placed such that they are at least 50 feet from legal conforming docks. So, by staying 50 feet from all the buoys around the lake, boaters, and those in tow, will be in compliance with the new and the existing laws. This allows everyone on the lake to enjoy plenty of room to jump off and swim around the end of their docks.

The Clear Lake Association will now begin working on signage and a communication strategy to help everyone understand the “Special Boating Zone.” Safety at Clear Lake happens with the commitment and diligence of all lakers: family, friends, visitors, and renters.

Todd Rumsey  
Buoy Project Manager

### Photos on right:

Ann Drewek captured  
Jonquils, Pussy Willows,  
& Tulips during her walks  
along South Clear Lake  
Drive in late April.



## MARSHAL'S REPORT

Welcome home! The Clear Lake Police Department is glad to see everyone back and we are looking forward to a safe and fun summer.

The Clear Lake Police Department wants to remind all our residents of an easy phrase: "See something, say something". If you see suspicious activity or something that just does not look right, we encourage you to contact us immediately at our dispatch number (260-665-3131) or 911 in the event of an emergency. We need the help of all our residents to keep a safe and secure community. We also want to encourage our residents to be vigilant and diligent in locking doors and windows, both in your residence and in your vehicles. **Please**, do not leave your keys in your vehicle, as it presents an easy opportunity for someone to steal.



As our community fills with the coming warmer weather, increased traffic will come right along with it. The posted 25 mph speed limit is just that, a limit. There are many places throughout our community where 25 mph may be too fast when pedestrian and bicycle traffic is heavy. Please be aware of these areas and allow the lake life to slow you down and relax. Please also remember:

- When riding a bicycle, go with the flow of vehicle traffic.
- While walking, go against the flow of vehicle traffic.

Bicyclists are reminded they must obey all traffic laws, which include stopping at stop signs.

The Town has purchased two more radar-controlled speed limit signs over the winter which were installed this spring on CR 700 E. These LED signs show motorists their speed as they come toward the sign and, if they are going over the posted speed limit, the sign will remind them to slow down. The goal of the program is all about community safety.

We wish to extend a friendly reminder to check your golf cart registrations for the expiration date. The Town will be sending out reminders in the mail for registrations which will be expiring in 2023. Renewal is quick, easy, and can be completed at the Town Hall or online at the Town of Clear Lake website. If you have a new cart to register, simply stop by or call the Town Hall (260-495-9158) and we will schedule a time to have an officer come out and complete your registration and inspection. Registration forms are available at the Town Hall or at the Town of Clear Lake website. (townofclearlake.org)



I hope you have a great Spring season. We look forward to seeing you as the weather brings everyone out to enjoy this beautiful community.

Chris Emerick  
Clear Lake Town Marshal



If you have changed any contact information over the winter (email or mailing address), please inform the Town of Clear Lake or email CLA Membership Chair Rita Brown ([gogosglass@gmail.com](mailto:gogosglass@gmail.com)) to insure you continue to receive this newsletter and other important Clear Lake communications.



## **TOWN OF CLEAR LAKE UPDATES**

Thank you to all our year-round and seasonal residents for your engagement now and in the off season. You are what makes Clear Lake unique. By now you have noticed that the [townofclearlake.org](http://townofclearlake.org) website has been updated, all in an effort to make things easier to find, to navigate and to engage in Town meetings. Please consider signing up for **reachalert.com** (Be sure to select Steuben County, IN, not NY!) to stay abreast of upcoming deadlines and timely information from road closings power outages or notifications. For example, REARCH Alert recently posted the news that 2023 Clear Lake Directories are now available at Town Hall. You may pick up one inside during office hours or get one from the bottom right shelf of the Free Little Library, located at the south end of the building.

Please welcome our new Clerk-Treasurer, Nathan Striker. Nathan first came to Clear Lake when his family bought property in 1983 and currently resides on the South Shore with his girlfriend. Nathan has fond memories of fishing, waterskiing, building forts and creating some of his best times with friends at the lake. He considers this job a privilege to serve the place that is most important to him. In Nathan's spare time, he likes to hike, bike, spend time with family, friends, and his dog, as well as photographing Clear Lake. An example of his lake photos is included below. If you don't know Nathan, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself.

### **Other Notes:**

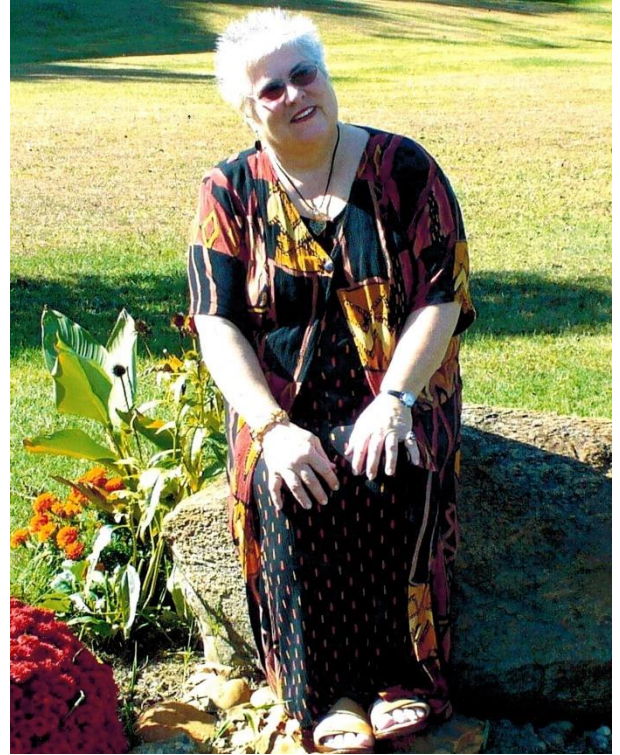
- Special thanks go to the following residents who have chosen to participate on the Road Committee:  
Bob Hill, Tim Reith, Jim Bushey and Larry Dean.
- Please call 260-665-3131 (police dispatch number) with any non-emergency, like noise, speeding or underage golf cart drivers.
- Call 911 in the event of an emergency.
- Office hours for Town Hall: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Phone: 260-495-9158

Molly Weber  
Clear Lake Town Council



## **JAN WILSON MEMORIAL FUND-RAISER FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Clear Lake Yacht Club will be collaborating with the Steuben County Special Olympics (SCSO) for the June 23 TGIF to be held at the Yacht Club. This event will be in memory of Jan Wilson (pictured at right), who served for over 45 years as Director of SCSO. Jan was also a familiar figure at CLYC, where she bartended for many years. 100% of the funds raised that evening would go directly to Steuben Co. Special Olympics. You do not have to be a CLYC member to attend, but we hope you consider joining, if you haven't already done so.



It will make things flow a lot smoother on that Friday evening if you please RSVP and pay in advance of the event. This will allow lines to move faster and ensure there is enough food for all. The cost per person is \$20. CLYC members can respond via club express on their account with the number of meals to be ordered and payment. If you aren't a member, you can make a check payable to SCSO and mail it to:

CLYC, P.O. Box 668, Fremont, IN 46737.

If you want to skip postage, you can put check and reservation number in an envelope and drop off in basket sitting on the breezeway at 822 South Clear Lake Drive.

It will be a Family Fun evening with dinner, 50/50 raffle, and, yes, we are bringing back the turtle races, too! Hope to see you there.

Molly Weber

## **CLEAR LAKE LIONS ANNUAL CHICKEN BBQ**



The first Lions Chicken Barbecue of the 2023 season will be held **SATURDAY, MAY 27**, at Clear Lake Lutheran Church Pavilion. Reservations will be accepted until the day prior, May 26. To order your chickens, please contact:

**Roger Dammeier (260-413-7480, call or text)**

**Or email: [clearlakelionsbarbq@mail.com](mailto:clearlakelionsbarbq@mail.com)**

Please pick up your reserved chicken no later than 11:30 am.

The Clear Lake Lions Club needs your help. All the income we generate through our fund-raising events goes back to the community. Last year we gave nine scholarships to Fremont High School Seniors, and contributed to Lion Leader Dogs, Indiana Eye and Tissue Bank, and Fremont Community School Backpack Program. If you would like to donate to the Lions club to help support our community, contact any Lion member, or mail a contribution to LIONS, P.O. Box 115 Fremont, IN 46737. We are actively recruiting new members, both Lions and Lionesses, to join in and help with our events. Please contact any club member for more information.

Roger Dammeier



## **THE OFFICE OF THE CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY**

**Spring is here and summer is right around the corner!** The winter was a time of enormous productivity and our staff, the Board, and committees worked year-round. We focused on two key 2023 projects—the Watershed Diagnostic Study (WDS) and the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (AVMP).

### **Watershed Diagnostic Study**

We continue to collect data on our water quality and have multi-year efforts to help keep our lakes pristine. Water samples are collected weekly and analyzed by the team at Ecosystems Connections Institute. Collecting this reliable data will help create a roadmap to work together to enhance and improve water quality.

We were honored and excited to be awarded a grant of \$59,450 by the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership for our multi-year Watershed Diagnostic Study. The grant applies to 2024 and 2025 expenses, but we still are responsible for generating over \$50,000 each year to complete the study. We need help funding 2023 and later. Why is this so important? Longtime volunteer, Don Luepke, recently said it's all about "clarity". He and other Water Quality Committee members remind us that Clear Lake's depth clarity (how far down water is clear) is on a negative trend line. **We have lost over ten feet of clarity in the past twenty years.**



Harry Teeters  
Gage Station

### **Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan**



AVMP treats an existing problem, an infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil and other invasive plants. Aquatic Enhancement & Survey was selected to complete treatment and follow up survey work this year. Updates are posted regularly on our website ([clearlakeconservancy.org](https://clearlakeconservancy.org)). Check back often as we learn more about the timeline, locations to be treated, and financial support needed to treat Eurasian watermilfoil this year.

Stay tuned for more information on the Clear Lake Watershed Diagnostic Study, and steps YOU can take to help keep Clear Lake clear.

### **Upcoming Community Events:**

#### **New this year: The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy Fun Day is scheduled for July 8!**

Join the 5K or 10K race or enjoy the 1M Fun Walk/Run for families.

There is something for everyone! Runners and walkers: go to [runsignup.com/CLTLC](https://runsignup.com/CLTLC) and sign up today!



#### **Saturday, July 8 - All Races Start & End at Clear Lake Lutheran Church Pavilion**

**7:30 AM** – Registration Opens

**8:30 AM** - 5K and 10K Run Begins

- Kids 14 and under: \$20
- Runners 15 and over: \$30 until May 31; after June 1, \$40; after July 1, \$45
- Age Groups: under 10   10-14,   15-19,   20-29,   30-39,   40-49   50-59,   60+

**9:00 AM** 1M Fun Run/Walk Begins - \$20 all ages (Children 5 and under are free.)

There will be prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy race participants will walk or run by the sparkling water, over picturesque bridges, past wetlands, open oak woodlands, and native prairies.



*What if you aren't a walker or runner?* We have more fun planned for the day! At the Lutheran Church Pavilion, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, you can participate in the Koeneman Lake Scavenger Hunt, face painting, upbeat music, eat some delicious breakfast and lunch options offered in the church parking lot by the Beached Boys Grill food truck, Baker's Acres fresh corn, Sweet Pea's Bakery or mingle with your friends and neighbors.

Join the scavenger hunt and try to spot these!

**We still need volunteers** for the fun day. To get involved, email [info@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@clearlakeconservancy.org). And if you don't want to participate in the run or the walk, your donations are welcome at <https://clearlakeconservancy.org/donate>. Thank you!

### **Other Community Events:**

Our annual meeting will be Friday, **July 28 at 4:00 pm**. Location to be determined. This is a great time to share with us. We look forward to hearing from you. For additional opportunities, see our calendar of events below and check our website often.

We have several other upcoming events and ways to get involved with us through the seasons. Mark your calendar for these community events:

**Kasota Island Clean-Up:** June 10, 9:00 am - noon

### **Knee-high Naturalists Programs:**

- Friday mornings, 10:00 – 11:30 am at Memorial Woods
- July 7, July 14, July 21 and July 28

Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab  
is returning for Knee-High  
Naturalists on July 7<sup>th</sup>!



Let's enjoy every season together in this beautiful place. Thank you for all the ways you support our mission to preserve this treasured corner of Northeast Indiana.

Karen Horrell  
President  
[clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org)





## **SPRING INTO ACTION**

Welcome Spring! Each year we share ways to prepare for the summer season in our beautiful community. We will continue our “clear” legacy only if we become a total “**Community of Stewards**” as we all do our individual part to contribute to the health of our waters.

If you choose to fertilize your lawn and do an early spring application, please remember to:

- Use only phosphorus free materials. The middle number on the bag indicates the amount of Phosphorus. This number should be zero.
- Request phosphorus free fertilizer from lawn application services.
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge as a buffer.
- Consider testing your lawn before applying fertilizer to determine what chemicals are needed.



**Of all the elements that feed into our waterways, phosphorus is the factor most responsible for accelerating algae and plant growth.**



### Other Tips for Early Spring Clean Up:

- Clean up your pet’s waste. Dog poop does not serve as a free fertilizer and it can affect our waterways.
  - Keep leaves, grass, and other yard waste out of the lake and the wetlands/swamps/channels around the lake. Wetlands are the “kidneys” of our lakes and help filter incoming water.
  - The Clear Lake Marina will dispose of old motor oil. Call for more details: (260) 495-4915.
- Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) can take care of almost any disposal need including the many sticks and branches down from the windy weather. See [www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org) for locations and hours.
  - Consider installing natural glacial rock at your water's edge to break up wave action and capture suspended sediments.

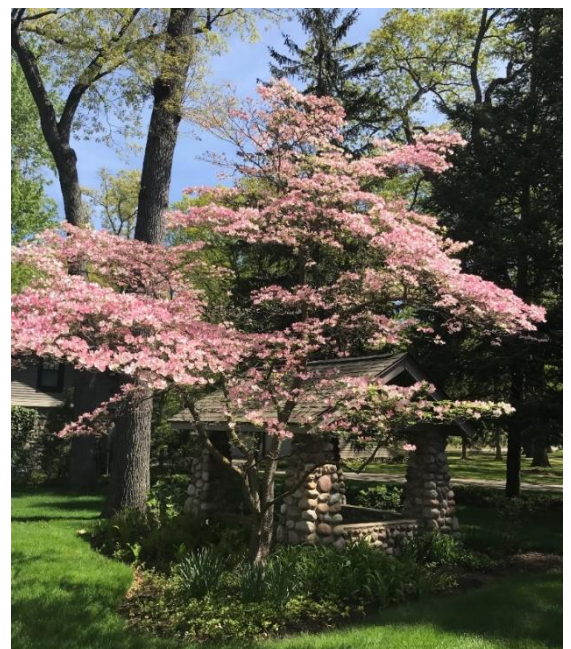
Let’s make it our goal this year to become a “Community of Stewards.” It is once again time to Spring Into Action!

### Photos above:

Top right – perennials along South Clear Lake Drive

Left – Iris on Lakeview Drive

This beautiful pink Dogwood tree on Point Park Drive (photo on right) was planted decades ago by the McNaughton family. It has been nurtured and tended to provide joy for today and the future. This is part of being “Good Stewards.”



## **CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please complete the Registration Form below and send it with your check by June 30, 2023, to:

**Clear Lake Association**

**P.O. Box 38**

**Fremont, IN 46737**

*(Please do NOT drop check & form at Town Hall.)*

Thank you for your investment in our community!

### **2023 CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

(Please PRINT clearly.)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

LAKE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLA Annual Membership **Dues**

\$ 30.00

Optional **Donations:**

Fireworks Display

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Buoy Project

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Community Projects

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total

\$ \_\_\_\_\_



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### **CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION 2023 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

|                             |                                       |                                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Margaret Carlson, President | Rita Brown, Sec./Treas.               | Beth McCracken, Recording Sec. |
| Karen DeVenney              | Mandy Gleave                          | Grant Goeglein                 |
| Barbara Rumsey              | Kit Tyler                             | Bob Webster                    |
| John Wilhelm                | Todd Rumsey, Ex-officio, Buoy Project | Conservancy Rep., Ex-officio   |

*Annual membership contributions to The Clear Lake Association provide funding for the publication and distribution of this Newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to communicate activities of the Clear Lake Association, the Town of Clear Lake, and other Clear Lake organizations to all property owners. If you would like to receive CLA Newsletter, please send your email address to: Beth McCracken, Editor ([bmccracken404@gmail.com](mailto:bmccracken404@gmail.com)) Thank you.*