

# Fall 2024 Newsletter



CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION

29 August 2024

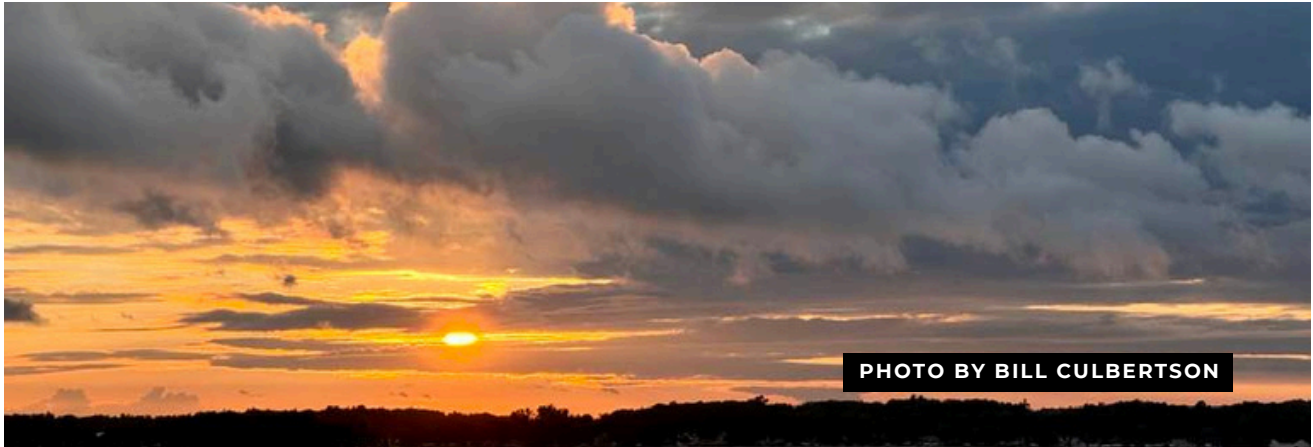


PHOTO BY BILL CULBERTSON

Another beautiful summer at Clear Lake has come and gone, and we look forward to greeting the fall season.

At the 2024 annual meeting of the Clear Lake Association Board of Directors it was announced that the terms of three of our members, Margaret Carlson, Board President, and Directors Kit Tyler, and John Wilhelm were ending. The Association's Board of Directors and Clear Lake members wish to thank Margaret, Kit, and John for their service and dedication to the Association.

Additionally, the Association's Board of Directors elected two new board members and a new President. Welcome new board members Jodie Johnston and Randy Wilhelm!

As the newly elected president, I look forward to continuing the legacy of the Clear Lake Association's mission to maintain and support projects that benefit the Clear Lake community and to inform and represent the Association members in regard to proposals and activities that impact them.

This year, the Association's Board of Directors has supported:

- The Little Free Library.
- Clear Lake representation on the Steuben County Lakes Council.
- Lake shore buoy improvements.
- Financial contributions in our community to several organizations through our annual grants project.
- The annual Fireworks show.

We thank all those that help us to achieve our mission through your annual membership and financial support. Clear Lake is a better place and a stronger community as a result.

We would ask that all lake residents consider joining the association. 2025 membership forms will be sent in April. If anyone has not received an annual membership form in the past please contact me, and I will make sure you are added to our contact information.

**Alex Connett, President**

Clear Lake Association

[president@clearlakeassociation.org](mailto:president@clearlakeassociation.org)

## In this newsletter:

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Editor's Note

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# Marshal's Report

We have had a safe summer thus far, and as the Town Marshal, I would like to thank each resident for doing their part to make this happen.

As the leaves start to turn and fall, please do not pile them up in the roadway. The roadways around the lake are narrow, and the piles create a hazard to motorists. Please place the piles at the edge of the roadway, but still in the grass area next to the road.

As Fall sets in on the lake community and things begin to slow down, I want to take a moment and remind everyone to use common sense when preparing your seasonal residence for the winter. Please refrain from making changes to your seasonal residence that make it apparent nobody is home in the off season.

For tips on how to protect your home while away on vacation or for seasonal homes, visit the National Crime Prevention Council site at [ncpc.org](https://www.ncpc.org) or simply google "tips for protecting homes while on vacation." Most of the sites I have visited have some good tips that work for seasonal residences, such as lake homes.

I would like to remind everyone who is coming to and from the lake to look for and report any suspicious activity right away. This basic level of a neighborhood watch program has proved to be very successful.

At the Clear Lake Police Department, we encourage all of our residents to remember an easy phrase: "See something, say something".

If you see suspicious activity or something that just doesn't look right, we encourage you to contact us immediately at our dispatch number of (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.

I am pleased to welcome our newest Officer, Austin Batt, to the Police Department. Austin is a full-time Deputy at the Steuben County Sheriff's Office and was a police officer in Montpelier, Ohio for a few years. Please welcome Austin if you see him.

The officers will be working varying shifts throughout the fall and winter months to help deter crime. If you see one of us out, please feel free to stop us, if nothing else just to say "hello."

I want to thank each one of you for allowing myself and the other officers to serve you.

**Chris Emerick**

Clear Lake Town Marshal

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# Town of Clear Lake Updates

Trash rates will be increasing January 1, 2025. The new rate for a single bin is \$25.89 (yes, \$1.10 increase) and \$51.78 for two bins.

If you have any questions, please call Jennifer at the Town Hall at 260-495-9158.

In addition to our two new deputies, we have hired a new Street and Sewer worker, Bob Bates. Please say hello and introduce yourselves.

Bob brings a wealth of skills that will enable him to be a true asset to our community.



## Lakeview Drive Improvement Project - starting September 9th!

**Phase I:** September 9-14th: from 7740 E 750 North to 132 Lakeview

**Phase II:** September 16-18: 132 Lakeview to 262 Lakeview

**Phase III:** September 20-26: 264 Lakeview to 8475 East 700 North

Paving is tentatively scheduled for September 27, 30 and October 1.

This schedule could be impacted by weather and other factors but the grant funding is dependent on completing the project on time.

Please do not remove or move barricades or flags marking utilities.

**Trash pick up:** If you reside in the listed area, your trash and recycle will be picked up first and early. You will need to have your trash bins out the night before (Sunday). Pick up day will remain the same day (Monday) and not change. All other residents might notice their pick up time is a bit later during this timeframe.





## Grinder Glitches

The Town of Clear Lake would like to remind you of the following:

Please don't wait until the last minute if you think something is not working as usual. Our Sewer Superintendent often hears "we noticed something was different a few days ago...".

Remember that it is easier to work on the grinders and pumps when it is daylight and it is also less bothersome for you and your neighbors.

Please also note that according to our Town Ordinance, grinders need to have a 5' clearance of any plantings and objects in all directions. There must be a clear line of sight from the road.

**Keep in mind, this is for the safety of your home!**

If you look closely at the photos on this page, you'll see that NOT all of them are in compliance. The Town will be looking at those that are out of compliance this Fall.





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# From the office of the Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy

As fall approaches, we are fortunate to have experienced yet another wonderful summer with our Clear Lake community.

Let's look at some of our highlights so far this year and learn more about what's to come.



## We enjoyed our 20th year of Knee-high Naturalists!



This annual educational program has carried on through the years thanks to the vision of Josie Kramer and Megan Morris, along with the support of Dana Buehrer, Tracy Hughes and many other volunteers and donors inspiring the environmental education of our youth.



This summer, we reached more than 140 individuals through sessions including the Dumpster Drummers, a butterfly hike, a water resources lesson, and a visit from Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl.



**12 July 2025**

**Run Day, Fun Day** on July 13 was a huge success with 64 volunteers, 109 runners, 42 walkers, and plenty of friends and family cheering alongside the race.

After the race, many enjoyed the Fun Day bounce house, dunk tank, scavenger hunt, face painting, and music.

We are extremely grateful for all sponsors and donors that came together to raise just over \$38,500 in support of our work and mission.

This community is the heart and soul of our organization, and we are honored to be able to host this annual event to celebrate and appreciate our special Clear Lake.

**Mark your calendars!** Our next Run Day, Fun Day will be held on **Saturday, July 12!**

## What's next?

With just 4 months left in 2024, the Conservancy still has plenty of projects and programs to look forward to:

- Join us this Saturday, August 31 st at 10 AM at Memorial Woods to learn about raptors in Indiana and see live educational birds with **Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehabilitation**.
- Take a hike on the **new prairie trail** through the Clear Lake Nature Preserve as the native flowers are blooming through the fall.
- Learn how to identify **macroinvertebrates** as part of our water quality testing on Wednesday, September 18 at 9 AM at the Lutheran Church Pavilion.
- Participate in the Indiana Audubon's **Big Day Hike** at Brennan Woods on October 12th at 10 AM.
- Stay tuned for a data summary from the **Watershed Diagnostic Study** as we continue this extensive water quality monitoring project.



As always, we are thankful for our dedicated volunteers that assist with our projects through the year.

Our 2024 projects have included Neighborhood Cleanup, Garlic Mustard Pulls, monthly Water Quality testing, Kasota Island Cleanup, Tribute Garden Landscaping, and trail maintenance projects.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact our office at [info@clearlakeconservancy.org](mailto:info@clearlakeconservancy.org)



**Caroline Barth**

Executive Director

[clearlakeconservancy.org](http://clearlakeconservancy.org)



Butterfly milkweed



White snakeroot



Blue mistflower



Goldenrod

### Fall Native Plants in Bloom

See if you can spot these beauties around the lake this Fall!

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# CLTLC's Fall Tips for a Healthy Lake

Fall describes exactly what we expect to happen with all of our leaves. As tempting and convenient as it might seem, we ask you to keep leaves, grass and other yard waste out of the lakes, wetlands and inlets, and out of Conservancy Preserves. If you hire individuals or a company to assist with your leaf clean up, help them understand that putting leaves in the lake is damaging.

Consider these other fall tips:

- If you (or your lawn service) apply a fall lawn fertilizer application, do so sparingly and only use non-phosphorus fertilizer (the middle number on the bag should be zero).
- Leave a strip of unfertilized lawn along the lake edge to create a buffer.
- Use the Town of Clear Lake's Leaf Pick-Up Program.
- Pick-up pet waste.

## **Ways to Dispose of “Non-Mulchable” Yard Waste**

Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) accepts “non-mulchable” yard materials such as grass clipping, leaves, and brush. No stumps or land clearing materials.

The closest site is located at CR 175 N- NW of Angola adjacent to the Steuben County Fairgrounds. Check their website at [niswmd.org](http://niswmd.org) or call 260-587-3063 for more information.

## **Used Boat Motor Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**

Clear Lake Marina will dispose of used boat motor oil. Call 260-495-4915 for details.

Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) has a program to properly dispose of residential hazardous waste materials including paint, light bulbs, batteries, and other items. Details at [niswmd.org/hazardous-waste/](http://niswmd.org/hazardous-waste/)

## **Stop the Spread of Invasive Aquatic Plant Species**

- Drain ballast water before leaving the access site.
- Thoroughly rinse all watercraft and trailers BEFORE entering and AFTER exiting any lake, river or stream.
- Dry all areas of the boat before relaunching into a new body of water.





## Summer Sports

While the world watched the Olympics unfold in Paris, Clear Lake had its own share of thrilling sports action this summer.

A highlight of the season was the first Ruble Racing Olympic and Sprint Triathlon to ever be held at Clear Lake, which brought a wave of excitement as athletes tackled swimming, biking, and running challenges on our shores.

Meanwhile, the Clear Lake Yacht Club kept the waters bustling with their annual sailing races. Seasoned sailors and eager beginners alike competed throughout the summer, filling the lake with colorful sails and the spirit of friendly rivalry.

Congratulations to all the local competitors who took on these and other challenges this year—your efforts make our community proud!



Thanks to Buoy Chair Todd Rumsey and the entire buoy team for installing and maintaining the buoys this summer.

We have had several residents who have helped to identify buoys that were damaged, missing or out of place. We appreciate these individuals and all Clear Lake residents who facilitate our work by putting in their docks in a timely manner and paying CLA membership dues.

The buoys will be removed late September and will be installed by mid May next year. Thank you to all who help keep our lake safe!





## New President Spotlight

We want to welcome the newly elected President of the Clear Lake Association, Alex Connett.

Alex visited Clear Lake for several decades before he and his wife Susan purchased a home here in 2011. Upon retiring three years ago, they embraced lake life full-time, drawn by the serenity of the water and the peaceful moments spent watching the sunrise or sunset from the end of the dock.

Beyond the natural beauty, what truly makes Clear Lake special for Alex is the warmth and friendliness of its residents, something he deeply appreciates. With his deep connection to the lake and its people, Alex is excited to lead the Clear Lake Association and help preserve the unique charm of our community.



## Fireworks

This year's fireworks were enjoyed by all, and we would like to thank "Pyrotecnico" for a great 2024 show.

We are also grateful to the Fremont Fire Department for being on standby, Guy Rogers and CLA board members for setting up, and Tyler Johnston's PPG Company for providing a great cleanup.

Mark your calendars: Next year's fireworks celebration will light up the sky on **Saturday, July 5!**

## Acknowledgment: Thank You, Beth McCracken

The Clear Lake Association Board Members would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Beth McCracken for her dedicated service as the newsletter editor over the past 8 years.

Beth's commitment, creativity, and hard work have been instrumental in keeping our community informed and connected. Her efforts have left a lasting impact, and we are truly grateful for her years of service. **Thank you, Beth!**

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## Meet the Editor: Ellie Shultz

I'm a writer, artist, photographer, and passionate environmental educator.

My home base is central Florida, where I get to spend winter and spring teaching school groups and other visitors about manatees, insects, and native ecology, but I often travel for other educational opportunities during the summer and fall.

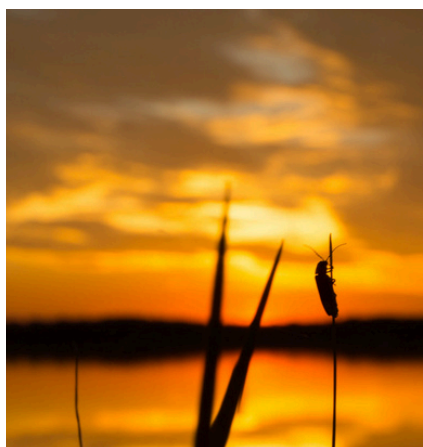


Many of my favorite childhood memories took place at Clear Lake while visiting my grandparents, George and Beth McCracken, and my annual visit(s) back are always still a highlight of my summer. I'm excited to have another opportunity to connect more deeply with the community at Clear Lake through writing this newsletter!

## Editor acknowledgements

I'd like to extend a special thanks to the following people:

- The Board Members who have all made me feel welcome in this role as newsletter editor.
- Beth McCracken, my grandmother who has handled this newsletter for almost a decade and expressed confidence in my ability to fill her shoes.
- Bill Culbertson, who submitted this edition's cover photo.
- Lori Wagner, who shared the paddle boarding photo on page 8.
- Jo Culbertson, who submitted the photo of the triathlon on page 8.
- Kirk Vashaw, who sent the photo of the sailboat race on page 8.



**Call for submissions:** If you would like to submit a photo of Clear Lake for a chance to have it featured on the cover page of the Memorial Day newsletter, please email it to Ellie at [eashultz14@gmail.com](mailto:eashultz14@gmail.com) by Friday, May 16, 2025.