



Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Summer 2022

APCL Update

—Margo Underwood, APCL President

The APCL hosted our Annual Member Picnic on August 14 at PM Park. Thank you to all who were able to attend this event. Our three speakers were Scott Grummer, IDNR Fisheries Biologist; John Robbins, Cerro Gordo County Planning and Zoning Administrator; and Steve Hopkins, IDNR Water Quality Improvement Coordinator.



The speakers provided educational information about future water quality funding priorities in Iowa's watersheds, a proposed ordinance to protect Clear Lake's shoreline during construction projects, and a Clear Lake fisheries update. A lively question-and-answer session followed the speakers' remarks.

We invite you to join us for *another* educational and fun opportunity on September 22 aboard the Lady of the Lake. During this evening cruise, we'll highlight projects completed during the past several years.

Tickets include dinner and the cruise and cost \$20/adult, \$10/student. Ages 5 and under are free.

To reserve your tickets, mail a check to APCL at PO Box 54, Clear Lake, IA 50428. Or, to help with headcount, RSVP by either emailing dtesar@ctel.net or calling (641) 357-8642. Whether or not you RSVP, payments will be accepted at the door.

Water Sampling and Monitoring at Clear Lake

—Emily Wollenweber, Iowa DNR Natural Resource Aide

Water sample analysis and monitoring has been a partnership between Iowa DNR Lake Restoration and the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake for many years. This long-term monitoring has helped track changes in water quality through decades of lake restoration work.

Water samples are collected at three locations in the middle of Clear Lake's east, central, and west basins, by lowering a water jug at least two feet below the surface. At each sample location, three bottles are filled, and secchi depth measurement, conductivity level, turbidity reading, and dissolved oxygen levels are taken. The three bottles are then packaged and sent to the State Hygienics Lab in Ankeny. There, the water samples are tested for total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and Chlorophyll a.



A secchi disk is an eight-inch black and white disk that is lowered into the water until it can no longer be seen to determine water clarity, or "secchi depth." A conductivity meter is used to determine the ability of electric current to pass through the water. Turbidity readings are taken by filling a small bottle and placing



it into the turbidity meter. A light shines through the water sample. The light beam is scattered by the suspended solids which measures how clear the sample is. A dissolved oxygen meter is used to take the dissolved oxygen levels just below the water surface.

According to Michelle Balmer with the Iowa DNR, "DNR's lake restoration program is incredibly grateful for the partnership between the APCL, DNR Fisheries Bureau, and local project partners to continue monitoring water quality changes within Clear Lake. Annual sampling has shown us how the lake is responding to ongoing water quality challenges, including: zebra mussels, curly leaf pondweed, shoreline erosion, and nutrient inputs to the lake."

Remember APCL When Shopping Online!

If you're an Amazon shopper, you can help support the APCL by shopping from **smile.amazon.com**, which provides the same selection of products, prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. However, when you select the APCL as your supported organization, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of qualifying items to the APCL. You can also access AmazonSmile from Amazon's mobile apps.

Upcoming Events

- September 11, 2-4 pm: Preservation Celebration, Central Gardens
- September 20, 5 pm: APCL Board Meeting, Clear Lake City Hall
- September 22, 5:30 pm Boarding; 6 pm Departure: APCL Educational Cruise aboard Lady of the Lake

Protecting Iowa Waters: Managing Curly-Leaf Pondweed

—Adapted with permission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

NOTE: To access this document online, as well as the links to the permit forms mentioned below, visit <https://www.iowadnr.gov/ais>.

What is Curly-leaf Pondweed?

Curly-leaf pondweed is an invasive, submersed aquatic plant with thick roots that grows in many Iowa lakes, ponds and streams. When in a system, it aggressively outcompetes native submersed aquatic vegetation. Native to Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, it was first collected in North America in 1841 and documented in Iowa in 1954.

Lifecycle Information

The lifecycle of curly-leaf pondweed is unique among submersed aquatic plants. Reproductive structures, called turions are brown, shaped like small pine cones, and under a half-inch in size. Turions typically germinate in the fall, when water temperatures drop below 65 degrees. The plants often go dormant in the winter. They start to grow again when temperatures increase in the spring. Curly-leaf pondweed can grow several inches per day during peak growing season in the spring. This creates problems for more beneficial native aquatic plants as it crowds out space and essential light native plants need to grow. In Iowa, curly-leaf pondweed dies back in mid to late June. The dying plants drift and accumulate on shorelines in the middle of summer.

Aquatic Plant Transportation Permits

Shoreland homeowners and commercial entities (lawn service, beach cleaning or waste hauling contractors) must have a permit to transport curly-leaf pondweed plants to an approved disposal site within an approved travel area. To find details about the approved sites for Clear Lake, Ventura, or Cerro Gordo County residents as well as the permit forms, see <https://www.iowadnr.gov/ais>.

To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species during transport to the disposal site:

- remove excess water from the aquatic plants and attached material
- secure the aquatic plants and other material in a covered trailer or closed container to ensure that plants will not fall out
- thoroughly clean all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species from the hauling equipment (e.g., trailer, pickup truck, tarp) before leaving the disposal site.

For more information, contact Jason Euchner, Aquatic Vegetation Management Biologist, DNR Fisheries Bureau, jason.euchner@dnr.iowa.gov, 515-230-4789.



APCL Activities Update

—Deb Tesar, APCL Secretary/Treasurer

The APCL has had a busy spring and early summer, having hosted a booth at the Earth Day Green Expo in late April, and co-hosting a Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours in early June, along with the Clear Lake Yacht Club and the Clear Lake Sailing Center. Early July brought the opportunity to get the APCL word out in both the Fourth of July boat parade as well as the street parade.



We have also shared more information about Clear Lake's aquatic plants via a large mailing to homeowners around the lake who were not part of last year's mailing. In addition, we worked with the Iowa DNR and CLEAR Project to help distribute new information for properly removing curlyleaf pondweed and other aquatic plants from lakeshore properties. A summary of that information can be found above.

We were thrilled to see many in attendance at our annual picnic in mid-August—thanks to those who were able to attend! In September, we plan to once again host an educational cruise aboard the Lady of the Lake. Last year's event was well-attended, with lots of great information shared by the speakers, and many attendees' questions asked and answered. We expect this year's event to be a fun and informative way to wind down the boating season.

