



## About This Issue

This newsletter is for members and supporters of The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake (APCL)

The APCL will begin publishing the newsletter at least twice each year.

The newsletter will focus on the water quality of Clear Lake. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list, please call CLEAR(357-2532)

## Local Students Pitch in to Help Clear Lake



Many of us have noticed the debris that appears on lakeshore beaches, around storm drains, and at the public accesses each spring. As one way of combating this problem, each spring a local cleanup day is held as part of the Earth Day celebration. For the past few years the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class of the Clear Lake Middle School has taken on the responsibility of removing debris that accumulates on the lakeshore. Most of the debris that ends up on the lakeshore is dead plant material. This plant material contains phosphorus, the nutrient responsible for algae blooms. In fact, a dead plant still retains all of the phosphorus it contained while it was living. If left in the lake to decompose, all of the phosphorus

that the plant took up during its life would be returned to the lake. Instead, a group of energetic 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who aren't afraid to get a little dirty, remove the debris from the lakeshore. The biodegradable materials are sent to the yard waste collection center for decomposition into beneficial compost. Ventura students also cleanup the lakeshore near Ventura as part of their annual Earth Day activities.

Another group of students this year will spend a few hours on a couple weekends cleaning up the storm drains and public approaches which often accumulate litter and leaves. The students are part of a community service program called the Silver Cord. Students who participate in Silver Cord must complete 100 hours of



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## 2002 Clear Lake Walleye Hatchery Results

For the past 15 years fisheries personnel with the Iowa DNR have operated a satellite walleye hatchery on Clear Lake. Brood stock are collected during the second or third week in April each year. Netting crews collect the spawning walleye at night on rocky shorelines. Ripe females are stripped each day and the eggs fertilized with milt from the male. Eggs are extremely fragile and are allowed to water harden for about 4 hours, prior to handling. After the egg shell hardens, the eggs are placed in plastic bags filled with water and oxygen and shipped either to Spirit Lake or Rathbun State Fish Hatcheries. Once they arrive at the hatchery they are placed in incubation jars for approximately two weeks. The eggs hatch into fry and are either stocked directly into lakes or placed in nursery ponds where they are raised to a fingerling size. Clear Lake will be stocked with 16 million fry and 40,000 eight-

inch fingerlings this year.

Clear Lake and many other natural lakes in Iowa are stocked annually with walleye, because natural reproduction is insufficient to sustain a fishable walleye population. In nature less than 1% of the eggs will survive to hatch, while in state hatcheries over 70% successfully hatch.

This year's egg-take was one of the best on record with nearly 62 million eggs harvested. Most females caught in the nets were between 3 and 5 pounds, however, some weighed as much as 11 pounds. The excellent numbers of walleye collected in the spring netting reflect what local anglers have been observing in the creel.

Fishermen on Clear Lake caught over 8,000 walleye last year, making it one of the best



*Walleye State Record: 14 lbs, 8 oz*

## Storm Water Filter Box Monitoring

This spring the City of Clear Lake and the CLEAR Project will begin monitoring the efficiency of storm water filter boxes. Storm water filter boxes were recently installed at two locations: City Beach and at the sea wall. Cerro Gordo County is also in the process of installing 6 new filter boxes on the south shore of the lake this year. The filter boxes are designed to remove contaminants like nutrients, bacteria and sediment from urban runoff. The storm water passes through the first basin where sediments are filtered, then through a second basin which removes floating contaminants, and lastly the water flows slowly through a perforated pipe into a gravel and soil medium. What makes the filter boxes especially useful for urban areas is that they are located entirely



underground so they can be installed in heavily developed areas. The storm water filter boxes, also known as infiltration trenches, cost between 50 and 75 thousand dollars each. There are more than 50 locations around the lake that could potentially benefit from the infiltration trenches. The City of Clear Lake is interested in knowing how to maximize the efficiency of these systems before more are installed. The monitoring of these systems will consist of water being sampled before it enters the system, after it has flowed through the chambers, and then after it has moved through the soil. Additionally, the amount of material deposited in the sediment collection basin will be monitored to develop a cleaning schedule. Results of the testing will be known this winter.

## Briefly... Other Lake News

### One Year Moratorium

The Cerro Gordo County Supervisors passed a one-year moratorium on any new construction or activity occurring on land used for the production, care, feeding or housing of animals. There will be exceptions for variances granted by the Board of Supervisors. The moratorium, coupled with strong public sentiment against a large egg production farm located 7 miles south of Clear Lake, led Sparboe Farms to drop plans for building the proposed facility at that location.

### Clear Lake Mirror Reporter Ads

In an effort to keep important lake-friendly messages in the public eye, the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake will publish a series of lake friendly messages in the Clear Lake Mirror Reporter. The messages will be incorporated into the existing lake level column printed every week on the front page of the paper.

### Springtime Tips

Remember to follow a few simple steps to help improve Clear Lake. For urban: Use no-phosphate lawn fertilizers, use lawn chemicals sparingly, don't mow grass clippings into streets, pick up pet waste, seed down bare soil quickly. For ag: Use conservation tillage methods, consider restoring wetlands (contact your local NRCS).

### Lake Photos Wanted

We would like to publish a Clear Lake calendar in 2003 with lake friendly tips for each month. We are looking for good photos of Clear Lake activities to be used for the calendar. Submit your photos to Tom Sawyer (1709 N Shore Dr) by September. The photographer for each selected photo will be given credit.

### Association Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic will be held at the Clear Lake State Park on August 9th. More details will be in the next issue.

