



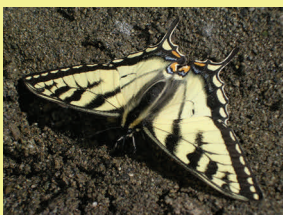
Lake Association News

Newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

SUMMER 2013

ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

What a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors and especially the CLEAR LAKE and VENTURA area. It doesn't matter what you like to take part in, this is the place. The area has numerous spots to pull over or drive into and experience the outdoors at its best. And when it you gets hot there it is... Clear Lake. You don't need a boat to experience the great fishing. Stop at a dock or grab some waders and relax. I have a Zebco 404 reel that can still catch fish so you don't need to spend a fortune to have fun and bring home dinner. Some of the most beautiful native prairie plants can be seen in the natural areas and one of the most fabulous areas is Clausen's Cove and Lonetree Point natural area. Drive to Farmers Beach and take a walk. WOW! Talk about a stress reliever- this is it! But grab a trash bag and take just a few seconds to pick up any garbage you may see. I take a small bag with me anytime I walk anywhere and if we all did just that what a difference we can make. Earth Day is great but lets make it everyday.



New CLEAR Project Coordinator - MaryJo Burkgren

I'm so pleased to represent Clear Lake as the new CLEAR Project Coordinator and I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome you have given me. I have spent the past years as the Deputy Director/ Naturalist of Mitchell County Conservation and continue to be a part of kids programs and outdoor sports. I have worked on the Cedar River Watershed as well as doing the certified water testing on the Cedar River. The economic impact of clean water is felt in areas around lakes and rivers and I look forward to continuing the practices that have been implemented in the Clear Lake area. Shoreline Stabilization and Rain Garden projects as well as pervious pavement will continue to decrease the nutrient and sediment runoff into Clear Lake. There are plenty of practices that homeowners and business owners can initiate on their own. Use phosphorus free fertilizer (the middle number on the bags need to be 0), do not rake your leaves or branches into the street (start a compost bin or area instead) and pick up your dog waste. I



would be glad to visit with anyone on different ways to make a difference. I started the lake water sampling in April thanks to the IDNR and will continue that twice a month thru September. This will enable us to monitor how the practices that have been completed help with the lake quality. Thanks to the APCL and the IDNR for funding this testing so we can continue to monitor the improvement of the lake. With these results, we can continue to show the need for monies to keep making improvements to make Clear Lake the number one tourist destination in Iowa. Having spent my entire life in the Mason City area, Clear Lake has a special place in my heart. Mom, Dad and I spent the 60's and 70's coming over and boating, camping, shopping and eating at and on Clear Lake. The memories I have are the best and when it comes to family time there is no better place to spend it then on Clear Lake or in the natural areas surrounding the Clear Lake and Ventura area. And when it comes to the people here.....They are the best!!

Aquatic Plants ID: Eurasian Watermilfoil and Zebra Mussels



Eurasian watermilfoil is a submersed aquatic plant identified by long stems with feather-like leaves arranged in whorls of four around the stem. It has difficulty becoming established in lakes with well established populations of native plants.



Zebra mussels look like small, finger nail-sized clams. The D-shaped shells have alternating light and dark bands, and the inside of the shell is white. Most are less than one inch. Females can produce up to one million eggs per summer.

It's that time of year and with the excitement of summer and spending time on our beautiful CLEAR LAKE, we need to make a reminder to ourselves that when we are done enjoying the water that we remember to clean our boats and motors. The invasive plants may look cool to some but they pose a threat to our lake and the species of fish and plants in it. Please, if you are coming from a different body of water, clean your boat before you launch it into Clear Lake and always rinse your boat off after you are done for the day on the lake. We can stop the transfer of invasive plants but only with everyone's help.

CLEAR LAKE ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROJECT(CLEAR)

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BMP FOCUS: SHORELINE STABILIZATION

This is a very important area of concern around Clear Lake. Erosion from the shoreline is a source of nutrients getting into our lake and this causes an unhealthy quality of water. There is a very good solution to this problem and it is stabilization of the shore. The homeowners on the lake have a chance to make a difference for future generations and at the same time receive monetary assistance in doing so. Through the CLEAR Project and funding from the 319 grant, there is cost share money available for lake shore homeowners to make improvements to their shorelines. This can add value to your home as well as making your place aesthetically beautiful. For information contact MaryJo.



LAKE NEWS

SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT



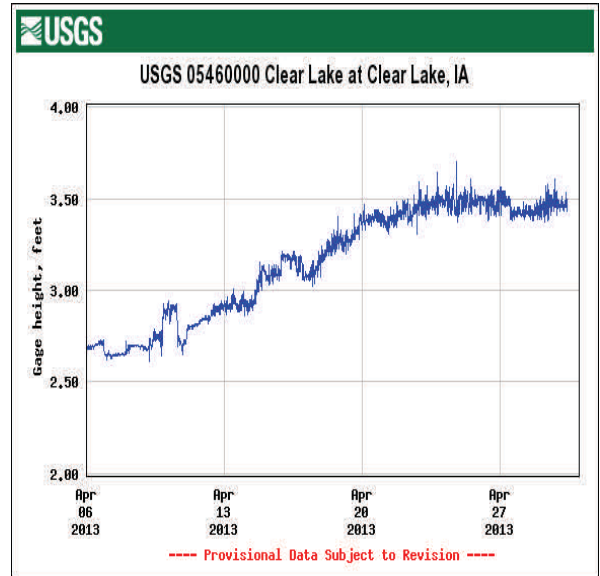
CLEAR LAKE WATER LEVEL IMPROVES IN APRIL

What a great April and May we have had in respect to the water level on Clear Lake! It has been a rainy month and everyone wants to see the sunshine but as the graph to the right shows the lake level is showing signs of rejuvenation and promise for a great recreational season. Not only does it help for people to enjoy the lake but what a difference it makes for the fish and aquatic life. Hopefully the dock concern does not resurface this summer and even though it does make repairs to shoreline projects easier with low water levels, I think most people and contractors will be happy to wait till fall and winter to do those projects.

Don't forget— if you are looking for a program for your organization or group, please consider the CLEAR Project for a presentation. There is so much information to keep current on and different cost share monies to help with specific projects around the lake as well as for properties and land in the Clear Lake Watershed. If you are interested in joining The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake or for comments, questions and information please call or email MaryJo at 641-832-7246 or maryjo@osage.net

Thanks to Scott Grummer for the picture and graph.

The practice of shoreline stabilization has been increasing in popularity and there is a good reason why. This is an 800 ft. project that was completed recently on North Shore Drive and as you can see, it is comprised of large boulders. This type of stabilization is attractive and very functional when it comes to stopping erosion into our lake. Even with the lake levels coming back up, this type of project can be done to replace crumbling concrete walls, broken brick retaining walls as well as dirt and treed shoreline. And remember the cost share!



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«First name» «Last name»
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