



# Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Winter 2018/2019

## New Board Members Elected to APCL

The APCL Board welcomed four new Board Members at its January meeting. Board Members are elected to carry out the APCL's mission of protecting and enhancing Clear Lake. Each month the Board discusses current projects as well as new project ideas to enhance the water quality in Clear Lake. The Board approves funding for projects through APCL's work with the CLEAR Project. Recent projects have included shoreline stabilization projects, water quality testing, rain gardens/bio-retention cells, and equipment to help with Ventura Marsh management. Board members assist with water quality educational events and outreach in Clear Lake and with membership activities such as the APCL Annual Picnic.

New Board Members elected:  
Carol Casey, Paul Gordon, Kirk Kraft and Todd Peterson.

Retiring Board Members include:  
Terry Hoil and Bob Swanson.

Current Board Members are:  
Margo Underwood, Deb Tesar, Tom Birdsall, Randy Cram, Mark Ebeling, Tom Ebeling, Jake Kopriva, David Knoll, Gary Laabs, Jan Lovell, John Lundberg, Charlie MacNider, Brad Price, and Tom Sawyer.

2019 APCL Officers are:  
President: Margo Underwood  
Vice-President: Kirk Kraft  
Secretary/Treasurer: Deb Tesar

The Board usually meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5 pm at Clear Lake City Hall. APCL members are always welcome to attend these meetings.

Respectfully,  
Margo Underwood — APCL President

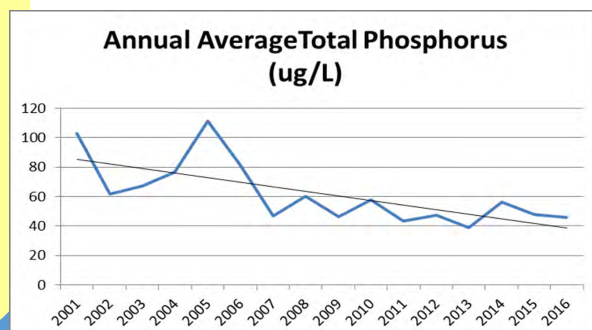
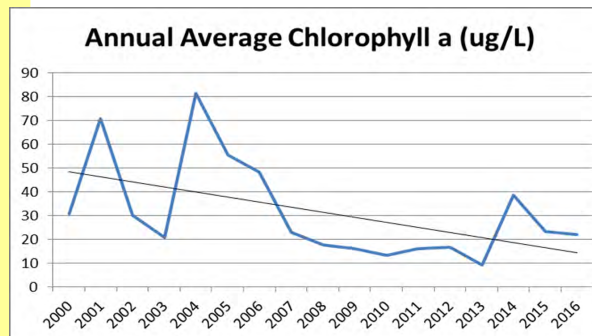
## Water Monitoring Update: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Frequent monitoring of Clear Lake's water quality has been taking place since 1998 when the Clear Lake Diagnostic & Feasibility (D&F) Study began. IDNR, Iowa State University, University Hygienic Laboratory, and CLEAR Project have all assisted with sample collection. In 2018, samples were collected twice a month from May-October from three sites on Clear Lake and one site in Ventura Marsh, funded in part by the APCL.



The water quality of Clear Lake is degraded by several pollutants that enter the lake from non-point source runoff. In 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency approved a total maximum daily load (TMDL) plan that set numeric targets for nutrient levels, algae concentrations, and water clarity. Those targets are measured by sampling for total phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll a (CHL), and Secchi depth (SD). The recent water monitoring has shown that Clear Lake has been meeting the goals that were established, which is a sign of significant water quality improvements.

In addition to in-lake water quality improvements, runoff from the Clear Lake watershed has also shown improvement. In 2010, monitoring of six main Clear Lake tributaries found 61% less phosphorus and 63% less sediment concentrations than



what was measured in the early 2000's. These results indicate that watershed conservation practices have helped significantly reduce nutrient and sediment loading to Clear Lake.

Although many of the original water quality goals are being met, it will be important to continue implementing lake and watershed practices to maintain the current level of water quality and to see greater improvement in water clarity. Continued efforts to reach bacteria loading reduction goals are also needed.

## CLEAR Project Awarded New Grant: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Having a network of partners has allowed the CLEAR Project to be so successful the past 20 years. Identifying those sources of funding and bringing together stakeholders from right here in Clear Lake, to partners around the state of Iowa, or agencies based in Washington DC has allowed us to leverage grant dollars effectively. Most recently the CLEAR Project was awarded a new grant through the Environmental Protection Agency as part of their non-point source pollution reduction program, as outlined in section 319 of the Clean Water Act. This funding program has been a primary source for some time now, with

319 funds contributing nearly \$2 million over the past 20 years. This is a program administered in Iowa by the Department of Natural Resources' Watershed Improvement Section.

In this round of funding, the CLEAR Project was awarded nearly \$100,000 to be used in 2019. The primary focus of this grant will be put towards urban practices in Clear Lake and Ventura, or shoreline stabilization around the lake. Practices such as rain gardens, soil quality restoration, and permeable pavers are just a few of the options landowners have when working

with us to protect and enhance Clear Lake. A few priority portions of the watershed are being targeted with outreach efforts to promote these practices but anyone living uphill and upstream of the lake is eligible to receive funding from the CLEAR Project. If you, or someone you know, would like to find a way they can protect our lake, please reach out by calling (641) 357-2200 or emailing [Jim@clearproject.net](mailto:Jim@clearproject.net) to schedule a time to meet and discuss how we can work together for our lake. Additional practice ideas can be found by visiting [www.clearproject.net](http://www.clearproject.net).

## Project Spotlight — Lone Tree Point Nature Area: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

In November of 2018, the CLEAR Project partnered with the Lovell family and Iowa DNR's Lakes Restoration Program to work on an iconic area for Clear Lake, the Lone Tree Point Nature Area. This second phase of shoreline restoration focused on the eastern shoreline which feels the full effect of wind and wave erosion as it faces the main body of the lake. Working with Country Landscapes and their ability to access this area with their barge, we were able to add native fieldstone along the bottom two feet of the bank, slope the area above the rock back a little bit flatter, and then seed all the disturbed area with a diverse native prairie seed mix. Shoreline stabilization protects the lake from eroding sediment, which carries phosphorous and in turn fuels algae.

Projects like this in, as well as wetland restorations such as the adjoining Sisters' Prairie, have a positive impact as the CLEAR Project and its partners work hard to restore and maintain the water quality of Clear Lake.



Before



After

## CLEAR Project Photo Drive: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

The CLEAR Project is working on updating many of its outreach and educational tools. In that effort, we are looking for new photos to include in brochures, social media outreach, and the website. If you have any photos from around Clear Lake that you are willing to share, please send them to [Jim@ClearProject.net](mailto:Jim@ClearProject.net). Pictures of families enjoying the lake, or landscape portraits from both summer and winter are needed. Please include any photo credit

information to be attached to the use of the photo. Thank you for helping to spread the message of the importance of protecting our lake for future generations.



### Upcoming Events

- March 12 — APCL Executive Board Meeting — 5:00 pm at City Hall Meeting room
- April 9 — APCL Executive Board Meeting — 5:00 pm at City Hall Meeting room
- April 25 — Green Expo — visit [earthdayclearlake.org](http://earthdayclearlake.org)
- April 27 — Earth Day Outdoorfest