



# Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Spring 2019

## President's Column: Celebrate Earth Month and Make a Difference

I'd like to invite our APCL members and partners to participate in Clear Lake's Earth Week activities scheduled during April and highlighted in our newsletter calendar. Two activities that APCL is participating in are the Trash Bash Community Clean-up and the Green Expo. Please join us for these events:

**On Earth Day, April 22, APCL members and friends are invited to help pick up trash along the shoreline, starting at 4:30 pm.** Meet at Farmer's Beach/Clausen's Cove (14998 Cedar Ave. Ventura) to receive instructions and bags. Rain date is Wed., April 24, at 4:30 pm

**On Thursday, April 25, APCL will have an informational exhibit at the Green Expo from 4-7 pm.** We invite you to stop by our booth located next to the CLEAR Project at the Surf Ballroom and learn about the projects that our Association has completed and is considering for future improvements. We will also have a drawing for a rain barrel donated by Kramer Ace Hardware in Clear Lake. Thank you for your continuing support for the protection and enhancement of Clear Lake. Your membership dues and charitable gifts to APCL directly support the projects described in this newsletter. Working together, we will continue to make a difference every day.

Happy Earth Month!

Margo Underwood, President

## McIntosh Woods Update Tammy Domonoske — Iowa DNR

The next step in the McIntosh Woods State Park Forestry Stewardship Plan, having previously introduced goat grazing and prescribed fires, is Timber Stand Improvement. A primary goal of the plan is to promote new oak tree growth within the park, but most oak species are shade intolerant, meaning seedlings need full sunlight to grow. By removing the understory of undesirable species, we open up the forest floor to the sun and give oaks a better chance to establish. Timber Stand Improvement involves hand cutting and removing undesirable or invasive shrubs and small trees that are shading out the forest floor. This work will target priority areas where native oak regeneration is probable. To assist with this step, I have reached out to the Iowa Conservation Corp which has a crew traveling around the state doing just this task. We are fortunate to have them scheduled to arrive in September for nearly two weeks thanks to donations & grants from Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake (\$2,500), Clear Lake Noon Lions & the Kinney Lindstrom Foundation. Without their support, it would be extremely difficult to continue the forest stewardship plan at McIntosh Woods State Park.



## Earth Week Events — For more information visit [earthdayclearlake.org](http://earthdayclearlake.org)

April 10-27 — Re-purpose exhibit on display at Clear Lake Art Center

April 21-27 — TrashBash Community Cleanup

April 21-27 — Interactive programs at Clear Lake Library

April 22 — APCL Shoreline Clean-Up. Meet at Farmer's Beach/Clausen's Cove Access Road at 4:30 pm

April 23 — Explorer/Photographer David Thoreson: "Eyewitness to Climate Change: Melting Ice, Rising Seas and Iowa's Water Crisis"

April 25 — Green Expo at the Surf — Be sure to check out the CLEAR Project and APCL booth!

April 27 — Free Movie at the Library

April 27 — Outdoorfest: 5k/10k, Family Fun Activities in City Park, Recycling Opportunities at One Vision, Wildlife Care Clinic

May 4 — Volunteer Day at McIntosh Woods State Park

May 14 — APCL Executive Board Meeting — 5:30 pm @ Clear Lake City Hall

June 4 — Chamber Business After Hours hosted by the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, Clear Lake Yacht Club and Clear Lake Sailing Center. 4:30 – 6:30 pm at the Clear Lake Yacht Club

*For over 70 years, the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake has been dedicated solely to the protection and enhancement of Clear Lake.*

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



The CLEAR Project was awarded a \$100,000 grant through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as part of the Urban Water Quality Initiative program. This is to help offset the cost of adding permeable pavers to two parking lots in Clear Lake the City is planning to resurface later this summer. The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake has also pledged \$5,000 towards this project as well as \$10,000 from an EPA grant previously awarded to the CLEAR Project. In total the parking lot project will cost the City approximately \$175,000. The partnerships formed between the City of Clear Lake, the CLEAR Project, and the APCL will help to offset the cost of this project and make it possible to include a demonstration of urban conservation in action in downtown Clear Lake.

## Is a Rain Garden Right for You? Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Most people living in a residential area assume that the vast majority of rainwater that lands on their lots soaks into the ground. Unfortunately, in many cases, this is not true. Urban lots contain many impervious areas such as roofs, driveways, and sidewalks. Even lawns are often compacted, which severely limits their ability to infiltrate rainwater. The result is rainwater runs off the lot and enters the nearest storm drain leading to a river or lake. This runoff contains contaminants that degrades water quality. One solution to this problem is to install a rain garden. A rain garden is a planted depression that allows runoff from impervious areas to be absorbed. Rain gardens also add beauty and wildlife habitat to your landscape while helping manage storm water more sustainably. The popularity of rain gardens is growing rapidly as over 700 have been installed in Iowa over the past couple years. Native plants are recommended for rain gardens because they don't require fertilizer and are more tolerant to Iowa's climate. Homeowners can install a rain garden themselves, or many landscaping companies also have experience installing them. The Iowa Rain Garden Manual provides detailed information on how to install a rain garden and it can be downloaded from the CLEAR Project web site: [www.clearproject.net](http://www.clearproject.net)



## So you want to capture rain water... Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

### WHAT IS RAINWATER HARVESTING?

Rainwater harvesting is the process of collecting rainwater and storing it for later use. Storage methods can range from small barrels to large underground storage tanks. The simplest way to start rainwater harvesting is to install a rain barrel next to a building that has downspouts collecting roof water. More elaborate rainwater storage systems can be installed underground in the interior of a structure connecting a building's water system. It is even possible for these larger systems to meet all non-potable and separate water uses, such as toilet flushing and laundry.

### WHY USE RAINWATER?

Rainwater is a valuable resource that is underutilized in our communities. In the past, many homes were designed to have cisterns to capture and utilize rainfall for household purposes. Today, our rooftops and yards are designed to shed rainwater runoff into the street, down the storm drain, and into streams, rather than absorbing or infiltrating it. This stormwater runoff picks up pollutants and negatively impacts water quality of our surface waters.

By harvesting our rainwater we help reduce stormwater runoff which helps decrease the amount of pollutants that run into our streams and lakes and conserve drinking water. We commonly use drinking water for our lawns and gardens during the growing season when we could be using rainwater.



### RAIN BARRELS

Rain barrels are one of the simplest conservation practices you can use to help protect Clear Lake or any neighboring stream, river, or lake. They are easy to build and install and provide many benefits to you while helping to protect water quality. Rain barrels are placed in locations that can easily catch water such as at the end of a downspout. Using downspout adaptors or flexible elbows, rain barrels are placed at the end of downspouts that are directed to the top of the rain barrel. Rain barrels will fill quickly and will require an overflow drain for excess water. The overflow drain can be a garden hose or outlet pipe pointed away from the house or connected to another barrel to increase storage capacity. For a chance to win your own rain barrel, please visit the CLEAR Project/APCL booth at the Green Expo on April 25th.