



Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Summer 2020

Boat Decontamination Station Ready to Use

Boaters visiting Clear Lake via the Tourist Park Boat Ramp will see a new addition to the parking area. Thanks to the cooperation between the APCL, Iowa DNR, and the City of Clear Lake a boat decontamination station will now be available near the front of the parking area. This station will serve as a line of defense against aquatic invasive species moving into our out of Clear Lake.

The new waterless cleaning station features several tools for boaters to utilize, including hand-held grabbing tools, squeegees, brush tools and a plug wrench. A wet/dry vacuum can be used to suck up any water remaining in the boat or bait buckets and a 90 psi blower tool is included to clean those hard-to-reach places. Instructions on the side of the station explain the use of each piece of equipment and a light tower will make sure that boaters returning after dark can easily clean, drain and dry their boat before leaving the lake.



Conservation Rebate Program: Jim Sholly—CLEAR Project



Continuing this year, the APCL is partnering with the CLEAR Project to offer a cash rebate to individuals adding conservation to the landscape around their homes. Initially, the program will reward those homeowners who choose to add a rain barrel to their gutter system or perform soil quality restoration on their yards. If this type of membership perk is well received, the APCL is considering adding additional conservation practices to the eligible list of projects in the years to come.

This new program will only be available to individuals who have an active membership in good standing with the

APCL and the practice will be installed within the watershed to Clear Lake. Members are asked to coordinate with Jim Sholly prior to starting any project, to make sure they are eligible for the program. Additional information about the program and Jim's contact information can be found by visiting www.clearproject.net.

Soil Quality Restoration is one of the most cost effective ways for a residential homeowner to protect our lake. It is a boost to soil health and increases your lawns ability to absorb rainwater. This yields a better protected lake and a healthier yard. Rain barrels can be a great way to keep your house plants, flowers, and gardens watered during dry times while conserving the amount of treated city water is being applied to our landscaping. There is no better time than now to start a conversation about how you can help protect and enhance Clear Lake.



After SQR

Without SQR

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

July 4th — Keep an eye out for the APCL Boat in the floating parade.

August 9th — APCL Annual Picnic at 5:30 at PM Park

September 22nd — Celebrate 80 Years of APCL with a cruise on Lady of the Lake

Celebrating 80 years of Protecting and Enhancing Clear Lake

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of the formation of the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake. APCL was organized in December, 1940, as a direct result of the Clear Lake Lions Club Conservation Committee and its conservation projects.

According to an article published in the Mirror-Reporter in December, 1940, "APCL had four primary goals: the establishment of the five nursery ponds, purchase of the head of the lake, control of the moss in the lake and the establishment of a new or larger state park on the lake. The officers elected to lead the new organization were: President, G.A. Bemis of Garner; Vice-President, E.H. Wagner of Mason City; and Treasurer, Emil Tobsong of Mason City. Directors included: Ira Jones, Clear Lake; Theodore Wolfram, Ventura; C.E. Barnes, Garner; and Mike Zack, Leo Berry and H.B. Farrer of Mason City."

APCL has a fascinating history and we are in the process of gathering historical photos and additional information about past projects, activities and events. If you have information to share, please contact me. We are planning to have a historical display at the APCL Annual picnic on Sunday, August 9, at 5:30 pm at PM Park. We'll be practicing social distancing at the event. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Grace Wilkinson, Iowa State University Limnologist and Ecosystem Ecologist. Watch for additional picnic and membership renewal information in July.

Thank you for your continuing support of APCL. Your memberships and donations help to support many lakeshore projects such as the new Boat-Cleaning Station at Tourist Park and the educational signage that will be installed at the new fish barrier at Lekwa Marsh. While the signage is still being developed for the fish barrier, both of

these projects are featured in this issue of the newsletter. We're looking forward to the next 80 years of protecting and enhancing Clear Lake.

Margo Underwood, APCL President



The Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce presented the North Iowa Service Award to APCL for "the protection and enhancement of North Iowa's most valuable resource—Clear Lake." Pictured here: Chamber CEO Stacy Doughan (left) and APCL President Margo Underwood (right)

Project spotlight: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Spring 2020 brought the construction of a new fish barrier between Clear Lake and Lekwa Marsh in the SE corner of the lake. This is a cooperative project between Iowa DNR Wildlife, DNR Lakes Restoration, the APCL, and the CLEAR Project several years in the making. The barrier consists of a continuous "berm" of clean natural field stone that creates a porous barrier which allows water to pass from Lekwa Marsh, but impedes the movement of fish (specifically common carp) into the marsh. If allowed access to the marsh the carp would have very suitable conditions for spawning. Beyond limiting carp recruitment, barring carp access to the marsh helps keep the marsh in a clear-water state. In a clear-water state, the marsh stays healthier, aquatic vegetation is robust and water is much better filtered prior to entry into the lake. APCL will be working with DNR and the CLEAR Project to install educational signage at this site later this summer.



APCL Flag Available to Our Members

In celebration of the 80th Birthday of the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake in 2020, the Board of Directors decided to purchase APCL flags and provide them to our members for \$15.00 each. The flag is 36" x 22" and will only be available to APCL members. If you would like to purchase one or more flags, please contact Deb Tesar or me. It is our hope that we will see many of these flags flying proudly in the watershed.

Margo Underwood — APCL President

