



Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Winter 2021/2022

Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Update

Happy New Year!

The APCL Board welcomed new Board Member David Heath at its January Board 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 partnership with the CLEAR Project. 2021 Highlights also included education and outreach activities in the community such as hosting a Chamber Business After Hours in June, our Annual Picnic in August and an educational talk aboard the Lady of the Lake in September. An aquatic vegetation informational brochure was developed and distributed to lakeshore property owners.

In 2022, there will be more opportunities to continue enhancement and protection of the lake and area that surrounds it, such as shoreline stabilization, additional rain gardens, bio-retention cells and other practices to reduce sediment and nutrient run-off into the lake. The APCL is committed to providing direct support for such projects, as well as contributing \$15,000 annually to support the CLEAR Project, so that we can help retain a dedicated professional to prioritize and implement these projects.

2022 APCL Officers:
President: Margo Underwood
Vice-President: Kirk Kraft
Secretary/Treasurer: Deb Tesar

Retiring Board Members:
Tim Ackarman and Tom Ebeling

Current Board Members: David Heath, Tom Birdsall, Mark Ebeling, Carol Casey, Paul Gordon, Brad Price, Charlie MacNider, Jan Lovell, David Knoll, Jake Kopriva, Cerise Sissel, and Todd Peterson.

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

Margo Underwood, APCL President

As one project is wrapped up another comes online... The Property formerly owned by the Pedelty family south of Clear Lake State Park has experienced wetland restoration, prairie seeding and tree removal. The last feature to be established is an improved parking area, which should be completed in 2022.

A new project became a reality through the extremely generous gift from a local family with a deep love and appreciation for the Clear Lake area. As well as support from the APCL, CLEAR Project, Hancock SWCD, INHF and the Iowa DNR. The 70 plus acre property will be restored to deep-rooted native plants along with prairie pothole wetlands. Almost the entire property sits within the watershed of the lake and it will offer new public access to the west side of Ventura Marsh off County Road R70. The property will be known as "Dutch and Tom's Access".

Public Lands Update: TJ Herrick—Iowa DNR



For over 80 years, the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake has been dedicated solely to the protection and enhancement of Clear Lake.

New Funds Established to Support APCL

Two new funds have been established with the Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation to benefit the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake (APCL) to support activities to protect and enhance Clear Lake. The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Endowment Fund and the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Quasi-Endowment Fund will provide long-term, stable sources of income for the future of the lake.

The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Endowment Fund is professionally managed and invested to grow over time. Gifts to the endowment fund are eligible to receive a 25% state tax credit through the Endow Iowa program in addition to normal tax deductions as allowed by law. More information about Endow Iowa can be found at www.cfneia.org/endowiowa.

The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Quasi-Endowment Fund is also invested but allows increased flexibility to access funds when needed.

Gifts of cash/check and stock are accepted through the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, 3117 Greenhill Circle, Cedar Falls, IA, 50613, which is the administrative office of the Cerro Gordo County Community Foundation. Checks to the endowment fund should be made payable to the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Endowment Fund. Gifts can also be made on the Community Foundation's secure website at fund.cfneia.org/apclendowmentfund. Checks to the quasi-endowment fund should be made payable to the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Quasi-Endowment Fund. Gifts to the quasi-endowment fund can also be made online at fund.cfneia.org/apclquasifund.

Questions about giving may be directed to Terry Gaumer, affiliate development director with the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, at 319-243-1354 or tgaumer@cfneia.org or Margo Underwood, APCL President, at mlunderwood@ctel.net

Walleye Regulations Changing On Clear Lake: Scott Grummer — Iowa DNR

On January 1, 2022 the Walleye length limit was changed to a protected slot regulation. All Walleye from 17-22 inches must be immediately released. Only 1 Walleye over 22 inches may be harvest daily. The daily bag limit will remain at 3 fish. The 14 inch minimum length that anglers have been use to, since the early 1990's, is no longer in effect after January 1st.

So why the change in Walleye regulations? Clear Lake has been a broodstock source for Walleye for a number of years. The Iowa DNR building at 1203 North Shore Drive was built in 1922 for the purpose of hatching Walleye and Muskellunge. Hatchery operations occurred at this location until 1977. Water quality issues (primarily too much turbidity) and the construction of the Lake Rathbun Hatchery near Centerville, Iowa were the reasons to terminate hatchery operations at the Clear Lake. This moved all Walleye hatching operations for Iowa to Spirit Lake and Lake Rathbun. Starting in the mid 1980's, Walleye broodstock at Lake Rathbun and the Spirit Lake area lakes were insufficient to meet the number of Walleye requested for stocking in Iowa lakes. Since 1988, a temporary satellite Walleye hatchery has been operated at 1203 North Shore Drive to help supply eggs to the Lake Rathbun and Spirit Lake hatcheries. Recent trends have been declining broodstock sized (>17 inch) fish in Clear Lake.

Historically, since Clear Lake has been a satellite hatchery location, the annual average annual Walleye egg contribution has been 300 quarts of eggs. In the past decade that number has dropped to 170 quarts, mostly due to declining numbers of larger female Walleye. In the past 3 seasons of operations (2017-2019), that average fell to 100 quarts per year. No hatchery operations occurred at Clear Lake in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19.

Clear Lake, being a broodstock lake, gets a generous stocking of Walleye annually. It takes approximately 160-180 quarts of eggs to stock the requested fish for Clear Lake each year. The new Walleye regulation focuses protection on the sexually mature females. A female Walleye does not produce eggs until they are nearly 17 inches in size. The 5 inch no harvest slot (17-22 inches) then protects that mature female from harvest for 3-4 seasons. After these fish grow past the slot, then the harvest is restricted to no more than one per day greater than 22 inches.

Iowa Walleye hatcheries need 1,850 quarts of eggs or nearly 150 million hatched fry to meet current stocking requests across the state. Protected slot limits on Storm Lake and the Iowa Great Lakes (Spirit Lake, East Okoboji, and West Okoboji) have boosted mature Walleye populations on these lakes. It will take a few seasons, but this new regulation should improve Clear Lake's ability contribute eggs to this statewide effort.

