



Lake Association News

Newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake and the CLEAR Project

LATE FALL 2014

LEAVES, GRASS CLIPPINGS AND PET WASTE

Please remember the correct way to dispose of these items. Anytime you allow these to enter the curbside of the road, you are contributing to the nutrients that enter the lake watershed or the watershed you live in. I hear a lot of people say that because they live away from the actual lakeshore that what they do doesn't affect the lake. I would like to wipe away this myth. Every street drains into some body of water and the leaves, grass clippings and pet waste all contain nutrients such as phosphorus which add to poor water quality in every body of water. Whether it is Clear Lake or rivers, creeks or streams it will all end up in the Mississippi River at some point. The Clear Lake Watershed is actually a part of the well known Cedar River Watershed (CRW). This is the watershed that caused such extreme flooding in 2008 in Cedar Rapids. You will be hearing more about our relationship with the Cedar River Watershed in the near future. Watch the newspapers and television for upcoming programs about the CRW. Take some extra time when it comes to your yard waste and instead of sweeping it into the street take it out back and make a compost container and make some great soil for the upcoming years.

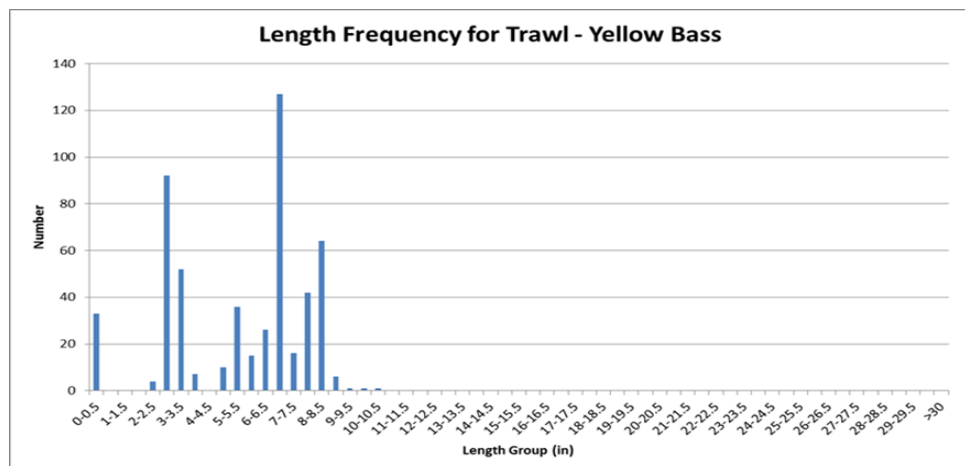
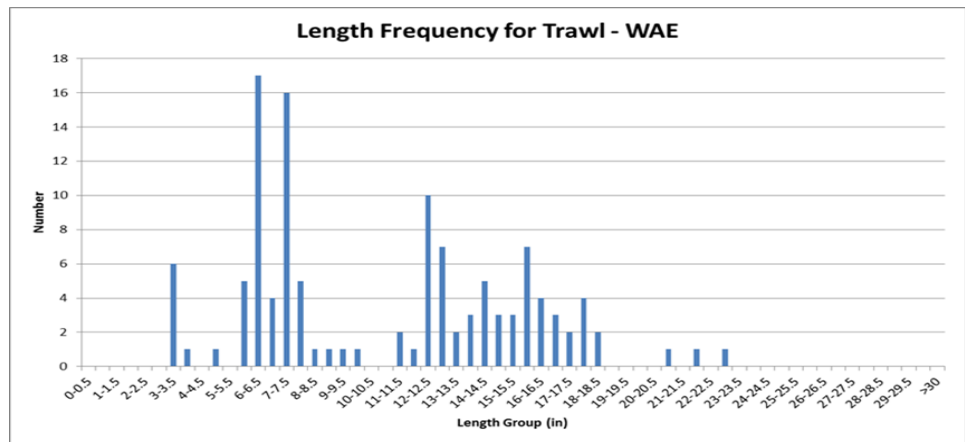
UPDATE FROM SCOTT GRUMMER IDNR FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

Well what a year we saw on Clear Lake when it came to fishing. It would be hard not to list Clear Lake as being a top fishing lake in regards to number and size as well as species.

Each fall IDNR Fisheries staff sample fish on Clear Lake with a bottom trawl. The trawl is pulled for 5 minutes using a water jet propelled boat. There are a total of 20 trawls conducted at fixed GPS coordinates throughout the basin of Clear Lake. This method of sampling provides a good indication of fish reproduction for the year plus a look at some adult fish as well. This is one of many surveys and samples collected throughout the year to assess the Clear Lake fishery



These are the length frequency graphs of walleye and yellow bass collected in this fall's trawling. Other species (those without a graph) collected in the sample include spottail shiners, bluegill, white bass, carp, yellow perch, crappie and channel catfish.



UPDATES FROM THIS PAST SUMMER SEASON...

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS BEING HELD THIS WINTER

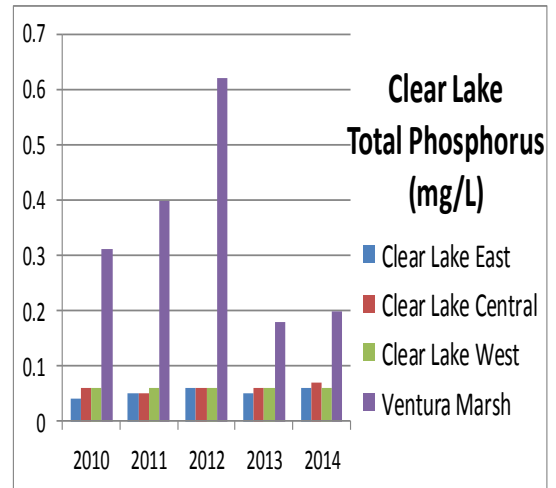
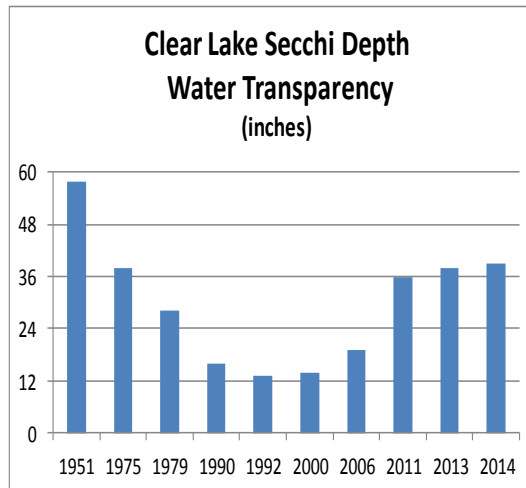
Starting in 2015 there will be programs held in the winter months for people to attend. There will be speakers talking about Native Prairies, the Cedar River Watershed, Urban Conservation and programs for kids and young adults. The importance of understanding our natural resources needs to start with our children as well as teaching adults what they can do to help. These programs and events will not only focus on people that live in the Clear Lake Watershed but will pertain to everyone. Remember everyone lives in a watershed and everybody's daily practices influence a larger body of water. Programs will be free of charge and will feature some very knowledgeable speakers. Watch your mailbox in December for information and schedule.

Just a reminder to everyone, please help us to continue the Clear Lake Watershed project and the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake's mission and renew your 2015 membership or purchase a new membership as a great Holiday gift. For as little as \$10.00 you can be part of this great project!

The end of the summer season brings about questions of how the lake fared. I can tell you by what I found on my end, with the water testing twice a month, the numbers are continuing to favorably progress. Thanks to all the conscious efforts of landowners, we are seeing nutrient levels drop and turbidity (clarity) improve. Below is a graph of the water clarity and how it has changed over the 60+ years. We are definitely making progress back to the Clear Lake of old but we are not there yet. In our watershed plan of 2011, our goal was to achieve a Secchi depth reading of 35 in. by the end of Phase I of the watershed management plan. Phase I is FY2011-2015 and the graph shows that the CLEAR project is right on target to achieve this.

Below is a graph of the total phosphorus. Our goal for Phase I is .054 mg/L and our average for all tests excluding Ventura Marsh is .06. The phosphorus goal at the end of 2030 is <.05.

The CLEAR project watershed management plan was written to show four phases of implementation. Phase I – FY2011 thru FY2015, Phase II– FY2016 thru FY2020, Phase III– FY2021 thru FY2025 and Phase IV– FY2026 thru FY 2030. The Secchi depth goal by the end of FY2030 is 59 in. which would bring the clarity back to the 1951 depth. Even though it seems like this is forever, it takes years to undo the damage. This is certainly a goal that can be accomplished because of all the positive practices that landowners and the cities of Clear Lake and Ventura have implemented.



Don't forget— if you are looking for a program for your organization or group, please consider the CLEAR Project for a presentation. 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

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