



# Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Fall 2018

## Project spotlight: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

This summer the City of Clear Lake partnered with the APCL to rebuild a series of two bio-retention cells adjacent to the lake access at 8th Ave South in Clear Lake. This area was initially designed in the early 2000's and had since exceeded its functional capabilities, a rehab was necessary. With the APCL's help, the City was able to hire a local contractor to come in and rebuild the stormwater project from the ground up. At the same time, a new staircase was installed to get lake users safely down to the courtesy dock. This area is again functioning to protect Clear Lake from pollution rushing off of South Lakeshore Drive. The total cost for this project was around \$18,000 with the APCL contributing \$5,000 for the improvements. Informational signage will be placed at this site using CLEAR Project funds through an EPA Section 319 grant.



## APCL Partners with DNR to Improve Fish Barrier and Water Control Structure

The water control structure and fish barrier at Ventura Marsh was built around 2010 as part of the marsh renovation that included the large submersible pumps. Acting as a variable height dam, the original stoplogs were constructed of wood and were "stacked" in the structure to control the amount of water held back into Ventura Marsh.



Pictured: Deb Tesar, TJ Herrick, Margo Underwood, Jim Sholly

According to TJ Herrick, Natural Resource Biologist with DNR, "the main problem with wooden stoplogs is they have a tendency to float in the water, which can create gaps in the stack of stoplogs. This can lead to water being released from the structure when it's not planned or, during a drawdown of the marsh, water could flow backwards into the marsh. The advantage of metal stoplogs is they will not float and they will not rot over time. Made of aluminum they are not as heavy and can be easily moved. DNR staff regularly need to adjust stoplog height to accommodate management objectives".

With \$1,500 help from the APCL, the DNR had planned to replace all the stoplogs in the Ventura Marsh control structure, but with the recent spike in aluminum prices they replaced half of them. By utilizing the aluminum logs on top of the stack, they will weigh down the wooden ones below that might want to float. In-time, DNR plans to replace the remainder to alleviate any long term concerns with wood rot.

## Fall Seining with Hawkeye Community College: Scott Grummer—DNR Fisheries

A group of 17 students from Hawkeye Community College assisted the Iowa DNR with a fishery survey in September. This seining survey requires muscle to pull in a 100-meter seine at 5 locations around Clear Lake. This survey was initiated in 2007 as part of an Iowa State University research project looking at water quality and fishery composition during and following lake restoration work.

In 2018 over 7,000 fish were collected representing 16 different species. The current goal is to track changes in the Clear Lake fishery following restoration.

The Clear Lake Fishing Club purchased pizza for the students noon meal.



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

## Remember the APCL When Shopping or Giving

The season of giving will soon be upon us, and if like many folks, you plan to shop on Amazon.com, be aware your purchases can also help give back to the APCL by instead using its "sister site" of **smile.amazon.com**.

AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) is a website operated by Amazon that lets you enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to the charitable organization(s) you select. To save the step of having to select a charity, you can skip straight to the APCL's unique link at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1454412>. You may want to bookmark this link for easy access.

Perhaps you know that difficult-to-shop-for person who doesn't need any more "stuff" from Amazon or elsewhere. Remember, an APCL membership always makes a great gift, and shows your discerning good taste and support of a healthy Clear Lake! Membership rates are just \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a family, and of course larger gifts in honor of someone are always welcome as well. To give a gift membership, make your check payable to APCL, and include the mailing address of the recipient (phone and email are also appreciated). Mail both to: APCL  
PO Box 54  
Clear Lake, IA 50428.



amazon  
smile

## Don't Let Your Leaves Litter the Lake — MN Pollution Control Agency

Wherever leaves fall, they decompose and restock the soil with nutrients and organic matter. But when there is no soil to land on — such as on a street or sidewalk — the leaves and all their decomposing bits wash down the street and into the storm drain. From there they go directly into lakes and rivers where the nutrients will feed unwanted algae growth next summer. Don't "leaf" it up to someone else to solve this problem! Here's what to do with your autumn leaves so that they nourish the soil and not unwanted algae.

### Rake the leaves that have accumulated along your curb, sidewalk and alley

Several times during the fall, rake up the leaves that have accumulated along your curb and sidewalk. Street sweeping in late fall helps keep a lot of leaves from entering the water. By the time the street sweepers drive by, however, lots of decomposition and several rain storms may have occurred.



### Put leaves in your backyard compost pile

One of the best ways to use leaves (from the street or the yard) is to compost them in your backyard. If your bin isn't big enough to accommodate all your leaves, put early and late season leaves in the bin, then on your main raking weekend bring the rest to a compost or yard waste drop-off site.



### Use leaves to mulch your garden and lawn

Whole or shredded leaves can be used as mulch. Mulch benefits the soil and reduces weeds. On the lawn, use a mower to break apart the leaves so that they fall between the blades of grass. Don't let the leaf layer get too thick! In garden beds, leaves provide a protective layer of insulation for perennial gardens and shrubbery, either bagged or loose.



### Drop leaves off at a compost site

Another option is to drop off your leaves and sticks at a compost site near you. Depending on where you live, these may be called "yard waste" or "brush" drop sites. Contact your city or county for drop-off site locations, items accepted and any fees involved.



### Play in your leaf pile

Before bagging or moving the leaves, jump in them! Inhale deeply. Share your pile by leaving it on the lawn near the sidewalk for a few days with chalk note that says, "jump!" There are tons of benefits to playing outside including boosting vitality; improving vision; reducing risks of heart disease, obesity, bone problems, depression, and stress; reducing the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and more.



### APCL Update: Margo Underwood, APCL President

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the annual APCL picnic in August.

Thank you for attending and for renewing your APCL membership. I also want to welcome all of our new APCL members this year.

Our picnic speakers, Rick Cruse, Iowa Water Center Director, Scott Grummer, IDNR Fisheries Biologist, and Jim Sholly, CLEAR Project Coordinator, shared a common thread in their remarks. They emphasized the importance of establishing new and continuing partnerships with area organizations to accomplish water quality goals in the watershed. In this issue of the newsletter, we've highlighted two recently completed partnership projects to improve Clear Lake's water quality. Your membership dues and donations directly support these projects and enable APCL's continued efforts to partner with other groups to protect and enhance Clear Lake. Thank You for making a difference!

*Please join us at our November 8th Board Meeting — 5:00pm at Clear Lake City Hall*