



# Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Spring 2018

## Celebrate Earth Month

As Spring reveals itself, we are all looking forward to being outdoors and enjoying all the activities associated with Clear Lake. Celebrating Earth Month is a great way for each of us to make a difference and help improve the environment where we live.

During April, many Clear Lake activities are scheduled and several events are highlighted in this month's newsletter calendar. We hope that you will plan to participate in many of these activities.

The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake will have an informational exhibit with the CLEAR Project at the Green Expo on Thursday, April 19, from 4-7 pm. We invite you to stop by our booth at the Surf Ballroom and learn about the projects that the Association has completed and is considering for future enhancements of Clear Lake's water quality. As part of the Trash Bash Community Clean-up, Association members and friends are also invited to help pick up trash along the shoreline on Friday, April 20, starting at 4:30 pm. Meet at Farmer's Beach/Clausen's Cove Access Road (14998 Cedar Ave. Ventura) to receive instructions and bags.

I want to Thank You for your Association membership and continuing support for the protection and enhancement of Clear Lake. Working together, we can continue to make a difference every day.

Happy Earth Month!  
Margo Underwood, President

## Teaching Kids Environmentalism: Brianna Sholly, Youth Services Librarian

It's never too early to get your kids excited about recycling and repurposing. While we often think of these as 'grown-up' issues, you'll be surprised how easily you can introduce the concepts to your children.

Start by taking a walk in your neighborhood and having a trash scavenger hunt. Once you start looking, it seems like you can find it everywhere. Ask your kids where it should go (either the garbage or recycling bins) instead of on the street, in the grass, or in the lake. For hands-on learning, bring some gloves and pick it up, then talk about how you're helping the wildlife by cleaning up their home!

Bring the concept home, literally, by going through your own home and finding things that can be recycled. Play a game by creating bins for paper, plastic, cans and other recyclables, then time the kids to see how quickly they can sort their items. You can use printouts of items or examples of things you have at home, like vegetable cans, shampoo bottles, newspaper and magazines, etc.

If your kids seem to grasp the concept of recycling, take it one step further and discuss how you can repurpose things in your own home too, especially items that would normally be thrown away. Old toys and outgrown clothes can be donated, mismatched game pieces can be turned into art or jewelry, puzzles with missing pieces can become crafts, and so on. There are plenty of 'upcycling' ideas out there in books or online if you aren't crafty by nature – there is something for all skill levels!

Once the conversation is started, it's easy to build on the early concepts of paper, plastic, and cans. For more ideas on ways to recycle, repurpose, or start that conversation, join us at the Clear Lake Public Library in the Children's Department (downstairs) on Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> for an Earth Day Open House. We'll have self-guided activities set up from 5:30-6:30pm designed for children aged toddler to early elementary school, accompanied by an adult. The theme is "Make Every Day Earth Day!" While you're there, check out a few books about our environment, recycling, and other topics related to Earth Day. After all, the library really is just a collection of recycled material, if you think about it.



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

April 7-28 — Re-purpose exhibit on display at Clear Lake Art Center

April 16-23 — TrashBash Community Cleanup #cltrashbash and Backyard Treasures Hunt #cltreasures

April 16 — Free Movie at the Library

April 19 — Green Expo at the Surf — Be sure to check out the CLEAR Project and APCL booth!

April 21 — Outdoorfest: 5k/10k, Steve Kwikkel Fundraiser Walk, Family Fun Activities in City Park, Recycling Opportunities at One Vision

April 23 — Story Time and Open House at Library

May 8 — APCL Executive Board Meeting

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

## Soil Quality Restoration: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Healthy soil is the key to preventing polluted runoff. As buildings and houses are built topsoil is removed and the remaining subsoil is compacted by the grading and construction activity. The owner is left with heavily compacted subsoil, usually with a high clay content and little organic matter after construction is complete.

Contrary to popular belief, lawns with good soil quality reduce the need for watering and minimize the need for

fertilizers and pesticides. Healthy turfgrass in good soil has a deeper root system that can better withstand summer dry spells and ward off pest infestations without the addition of chemicals. Yards with poor, compacted soil contribute to water quality problems due to their inability to absorb water or infiltrate it to the roots of turfgrass. Compacted soil also requires more fertilizers and pesticides, both of which could end up in runoff and



contribute to pollution in our local creek and streams.

Soil quality restoration is the process of improving soil health on new or existing lawns. It is so simple - start by reducing soil compaction through tillage or aeration and increasing organic matter content with the addition of compost. Soil quality restoration leads to healthier, more functional soils and to landscapes that can absorb more rainfall. To find out more about how you can protect Clear Lake, visit [www.clearproject.net](http://www.clearproject.net).



## Guidelines for Fertilizer Application: University of Minnesota Extension

Improper use of lawn and garden fertilizers may contribute to pollution of lakes and groundwaters. Avoiding over-application of fertilizer by following soil test guidelines as well as by practicing simple landscape maintenance techniques will help reduce potential pollution problems and protect natural resources.

1. Have your soil tested and follow soil test recommendations. Application of phosphorus fertilizer to established turf should be carefully controlled. Unless a soil test indicates a need, phosphorus fertilizer should not be applied to established turf.
2. Although phosphorus use on gardens is not restricted, a phosphorus-free fertilizer should be used on most soils.
3. Water your lawn after fertilizing, but do not allow water to run off into streets or lakes.
4. Any fertilizer spilled on roads or sidewalks should be promptly cleaned up.
5. Never apply fertilizer to frozen ground.
6. Clippings not left on the lawn, leaves, and other plant debris should be removed as soon as possible from street gutters, sidewalks, and driveways. This plant material can be composted, used in the garden as a mulch, or disposed of through appropriate community services.
7. When mowing lawns, do not direct clippings into the street or lake.
8. Aerate compacted or high thatch lawns to promote better water infiltration and reduce runoff potential.
9. For lakeshore owners, landscaping practices that would force runoff water to seep into the soil before entering the lake are suggested:
  - Leave a “buffer zone”—a strip of unmanaged grasses or natural vegetation—to grow around the shoreline. This vegetation will help prevent soil erosion from the shoreland and will also remove and retain some of the nutrients that would otherwise enter the lake.
  - Construct and maintain a modified “berm” along the shoreline. This is best described as a slight hump in the ground that would run near and parallel to the shoreline. This rise in the ground/lawn will serve as an obstacle to the rapid and direct nutrient-rich runoff into the lake.