



Lake Association News

A newsletter for the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake

Summer 2019

APCL Annual Picnic and Membership Renewal

The APCL Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 11, at 5 pm at PM Park. We invite you to join us for this informative and fun event. Please complete the picnic reservation and membership renewal form included with this newsletter and return to APCL. Picnic tickets purchased in advance will be available at the door.

We are pleased to welcome back Dr. John Downing, author of the landmark Clear Lake Diagnostic and Feasibility Study completed in 2001, as our keynote speaker for this event. Dr. Downing's remarks will focus on this community-based water quality project, the results, and what it has meant to other communities throughout the world.

Scott Grummer, IDNR Fisheries Biologist and Jim Sholly, CLEAR Project Coordinator, will also provide information about recent and future projects to improve and enhance Clear Lake's water quality and its fishery.

We look forward to seeing you on August 11!

Dr. John Downing
Picnic Keynote Speaker



Conservation Rebate Program: Jim Sholly—CLEAR Project



Starting this year, the APCL has partnered 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.



APCL Photo Board Popular at Paddlefest

Paul Gordon, APCL Board member is pictured with his two grandsons, Wes and Sam before they paddled their kayak in Paddlefest on July 27. The new photo board was a colorful spot for families to gather for pictures during this fun event. APCL and the Clear Lake Earth Day Committee purchased the photo board to use during community events.



Aquatic Vegetation: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project

Aquatic vegetation is a conversation centerpiece for Clear Lake boaters and fishermen these days. As water quality has improved over the last decade, so has the area of our lake where vegetation now calls home. While news broadcasts from around the Midwest focus on the destructive force of invasive species like Eurasian Water Milfoil or Curly-Leaf Pondweed, rest assured that Clear Lake is dominated by native species.

This month we are highlighting a common resident to our lake, Longleaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*). This native, perennial aquatic plant is common to much of the Midwest. It is rooted and typically does not grow in water more than about 5 feet deep. It has elliptical leaves that float on the top

of the water and are about 1.5 to 5 inches long. It is a very desirable plant because it provides good habitat for small fish and invertebrates, which are in turn eaten by larger fish and waterfowl. The seeds and the plant itself are eaten by many migrating species as well. Having a healthier and diverse stand of native rooted vegetation throughout Clear Lake will help prevent or slow the establishment of much more harmful invasive vegetation. It is important to know all the new invasive species laws in Iowa. Check to make sure your boat's drain plugs are removed and all loose vegetation is cleaned from your trailer

before leaving the boat ramp. The spread of invasive species hurts everyone and once they are established cannot be undone. To find out more about how you can protect Clear Lake, visit www.clearproject.net.



Project spotlight: Jim Sholly — CLEAR Project



Adding conservation to the landscape is the overarching goal of the CLEAR Project, but keeping those practices functioning correctly and maintained in a way that is socially acceptable is equally important to promoting our mission. This spring we went to work on the rain garden at the end of 7th Ave South in Clear Lake to tackle a mountain of weeds and flowers growing out of control. This project ended up being an almost complete re-do. We removed all of the existing vegetation, brought in a roto-tiller to stir up the top layer and increase drainage, and then replanted the garden before adding fresh mulch. This project was made possible thanks to the support of the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board and Lime Creek Nature Center's Monarch Mania Program. The next time you visit the nature center, be sure to thank them for their continue support of conservation and the CLEAR Project.

New 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. As you renew your APCL membership, you may purchase one or more of these flags on the enclosed membership form. It is our hope that we will see many of these flags flying proudly in the watershed.

Margo Underwood — APCL President

