



## About This Issue

This newsletter is for members and supporters of The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake (APCL).

The APCL will begin publishing the newsletter at least twice each year.

The newsletter will focus on the water quality of Clear Lake. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to the newsletter mailing

## Federal Funds Appropriated For Clear Lake

The U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee has approved \$100,000 in funds requested by Iowa Congressman Tom Latham for an effort to bring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers into the Clear Lake restoration efforts.

"This funding will be the first step in bringing the expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers to the important effort of restoration of Clear Lake," said Latham, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. "Clear Lake is one of Iowa's most precious natural resources. I am proud to have secured funds that will contribute to protecting it."

The funding secured by Latham will

provide for an in-depth aquatic restoration report to be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. The report is the first required step for Corps involvement in the Clear Lake initiative. The Corps and the Iowa DNR will be working together during the coming months to determine which areas of the restoration project the Corps can assist with. The Corps could potentially help fund portions of the restoration project such as lake dredging and water quality monitoring. If the Corps determines it can participate in the restoration efforts, State and local cost share will be necessary.

The appropriation was a result of local residents bringing Clear Lake water quality concerns to Congressman Latham.



The publication of this document has been funded in part by the Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake, the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship, and by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 of the Clean Water Act).

Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake  
PO Box 54  
Clear Lake, IA 50428

## Want To Make A Difference? Join I-CALL

Last year, state revenues were down 2%. Most state agencies faced across-the-board cuts of 4.7%. In last minute scrambling to “fix” the budget, the total slash to environmental programs was 27%! Water quality projects like the CLEAR Project were almost completely stripped of state funding and are now relying almost totally on federal funding. If changes are not made in the next year, many of these projects will not be able to continue. Over the last 3 years, the state of Iowa has lost 42% of environmental funding! Support for conservation and our natural environment is a core value of Iowans, yet Iowa remains one of the lowest spending states in the nation for natural resources. It is time to make our voices heard!

The Iowa Conservation Advocates' and

Leaders' Link (ICALL) is a communications tool for environmental issues. The network will inform you of conservation issues relevant to your area and provide information on how to easily contact the right policy maker at the right time with a coordinated pro-conservation message. The ICALL is used to target environmental issues of interest to you using a timely, bi-partisan, common sense approach. Once an issue is identified by the Iowa Environmental Council, I-CALL volunteers will receive an e-mail, phone message, or postal mail alert. This is a powerful tool for making the voice of environmental concerns heard. Sign up by visiting the following Web site [www.iowacall.org](http://www.iowacall.org), or call (515) 309-3152.



## Teachers' Water Quality Workshop

A two-day workshop on Clear Lake ecology and water quality was held for local teachers. The workshop was structured to provide teachers with scientific knowledge about Iowa's freshwater ecosystems through a combination of hands-on activities and multimedia presentations. The workshop offered teachers many ideas for planning lessons that will raise students' awareness of how human land use in watershed areas can impact surface and eventually ground water quality.

Activities included: collecting water samples from Clear Lake; identifying microscopic organisms through high-powered microscopes; viewing a live

demonstration on how fish avoid predation; and a presentation on fish identification by the Department of Natural Resources.



An accompanying half-day workshop for the community was held on the Saturday following the teachers' workshop. The workshop offered activities for the entire family and allowed participants to learn how various organisms interact in aquatic environments.

The workshop was organized by Phyllis Anderson, Science Consultant at AEA 2, and was conducted by representatives of the UNI Iowa Water Quality Study, the CLEAR Project and the DNR.

## Briefly... Other Lake News

### Annual Picnic

The Association for the Preservation of Clear Lake Annual Picnic was held on August 9th at the Clear Lake State Park. The picnic featured presentations by DNR Director Jeff Vonk and other DNR and CLEAR personnel. About 70 people attended the picnic this year, down slightly from the 90 that attended last year.

### Stormwater Utility Fee Feasibility Study

Clear Lake is currently conducting a stormwater utility fee feasibility study. The study will help the City determine whether or not to implement a utility fee for stormwater. If implemented, the fee would provide funding for stormwater treatments such as the filter boxes, which are currently being tested this summer. Early test results have shown a very high removal rate of contaminants from stormwater runoff by the filter boxes. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

### CLEAR Project N&P Program

The CLEAR Project has recently implemented a Nutrient and Pesticide Management Program in the Clear Lake watershed. The program is designed to last for four years and provides incentive payments for crop consulting, grid soil sampling and conservation tillage practices. The program was developed so producers could be compensated for practices that will help reduce soil erosion and nutrient loss from agricultural land in the watershed. These activities are often very costly for producers to begin on their own. Many producers in the watershed are already using some of these practices, so the incentive will also be an encouragement to continue conservation practices. Only farmland in the Clear Lake watershed is eligible for the program. The CLEAR Project has enough funding to provide the program for 2000 acres.

