



Summer 2023
Volume 6, Issue 2

The Wave Watcher

Clear Lake Historical Society Prepares for Its Annual Meeting Saturday, August 19th

The Clear Lake Historical Society Museum and Research Center has now been open for a year and we are still busy unpacking and building our exhibits and displays for people to see. Visitors this summer have come from as far as California and Illinois and as close as Des Moines and Mason City. We hope that you will join us at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 19th at 2:00 pm at our museum at 800 1st Ave. S. for an update on our location, plans for the future, some programming, refreshments and of course some time to enjoy the museum. We would love to see you and share some memories of Clear Lake with you. We hope to see you on the 19th of August. Don't forget our summer hours last through September 30th.



Current Historical Society Hours of Operation

May 1st through September 30th
Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am –
2:00 pm or by appointment.
(call 641-430-7729)

October 1st through April 30th
Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am –
2:00 pm or by appointment.
(call 641-430-7729)



State Historical Society and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Visits the Clear Lake Historical Society Museum and Research Center

On June 15, 2023, the Clear Lake Historical Society welcomed members of the Iowa State Historical Society and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to its museum and research center for a tour and discussion about ways to keep young people engaged in the study of local and Iowa history. Following time at the museum, Beth Ann Schumacher, President of the Clear Lake Historical Society and its Education Coordinator, took the group on a walking tour of downtown Clear Lake with a focus on S. 4th St. and the buildings on the east side of the street including the old Knaak and Buss building, the old Opera House and the Old Cerro Gordo State Bank which have been successfully preserved, renovated and opened for entrepreneurs. Be sure to keep watching for updates on Facebook page and our website www.facebook.com/ClearLakeHistoricalSociety for more information on preservation history.

Yes, Bison Did Roam the Shores of Clear Lake!

When one looks at the reasons for people to come to our lake we think of recreation, fun, leisure, but in the spring of 1849 when two men named Billings and Clark decided to come to our lake, it was not for leisure, it was to hunt bison and elk. Two years later, our community’s founders James Dickerson and Joseph Hewitt left their families in Strawberry Point to come to our lake for the same reason. The Native American tribes in the area were well aware of the fine hunting and fishing around and in Clear Lake. Herds were not large, but one bison could weigh up to 1,800 pounds and provide plenty of good meat for many.

On display at the Clear Lake Historical Society Museum we have some of those very bison bones discovered and collected by local DNR technician Dave Holstad near Lone Tree Point across from MacIntosh Woods State Park on August 11, 2012 when the lake level was quite low. Bones available to view include parts of the thoracic vertebrae, horn core and skull, tibia and femur. Indications are that Cerro Gordo County still had a bison population in 1857 but the last bison was seen in Iowa in 1870 in Dickinson County west of West Lake Okoboji. We invite you to check the bison bones from Clear Lake – only at the Clear Lake Historical Society.

Oh no, did you forget to renew you membership?

Even though membership in the Clear Lake Historical Society lasts for a calendar year, that is January through December, you can still renew your membership or possibly become a new member of the Clear Lake Historical Society, which is a non-profit organization. Levels of membership are listed below and your check made payable to the Clear Lake Historical Society, can be mailed to our address below. A membership form can be found on our website; the address is below.

We operate based on the devoted work of volunteers, fees collected through memberships and generous donations. We often also apply for grants to accomplish specific large projects, but membership fees cover our day-to-day costs. No one in our organization receives a paycheck. Now that we have moved into our new location at 800 1st Ave South, membership dollars become even more crucial to us.

We value our members greatly and thank those of you who have already become members of the Clear Lake Historical Society and have joined our group of dedicated volunteers of all ages who are passionate about learning, preserving and sharing Clear Lake history. If you are not a member, think about becoming one, make new friends, renew old acquaintances and help protect and preserve our community’s story. Jump in, the water is fine! ☺

Bowman (students and seniors)	\$15.00	Pilot	\$100.00
1 st Mate	\$25.00	Captain	\$250.00
Crew (family)	\$60.00	Navigator	\$1,000.00

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