

Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

Summer storm slides in.

Photo by Amy DeLong, Culver & Lake Maxinkuckee Visitor Center

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The LMEF's **Marabeth Levett**, has stepped down as president of the Board of Directors. She served in this position for the past three years, leading fundraising efforts along-side various fundraising chairs and assisting LMEC in its efforts towards environmental protection. She will finish her term as a member of the board. LMEC wishes to thank her for her years of service. It was certainly my pleasure to work with her these past three years.

The LMEF is announcing a brand new slate of officers serving on its Board of Directors. First is a man whose family has lived for five generations on the east shore of Lake Maxinkuckee. **Mr. Litt Clark was elected president of the LMEF Board** this past May. Litt has worked as a floor trader with the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and is now in real estate investment. He proudly serves as a volunteer at the Teton Raptor Center in Wilson Wyoming and past civic work included serving on the Culver Academy Summer School Alumni Board as well as having a position on the Winnetka, Illinois Zoning Board of Appeals. We are pleased to have him at the helm. One interesting note on Litt's family history - his great, great, grandfather, the original owner of the east shore cottage where Litt and his family spend time today, was appointed post master of the Plymouth post office in the 1850's, that's true local history.



Mr. David Haist has joined the LMEF Board of Directors and has also been elected treasurer. Dave and his wife Sandy Cleveland Haist live full time on the south shore of Lake Maxinkuckee. Formerly a managing partner of the Fort Wayne law offices of Barnes & Thornburg, Dave joined the Do It Best Corp. as general counsel and vice president of corporate affairs in 1997 and was promoted to executive vice president and COO in 2002. Do It Best is the largest privately owned company in Indiana, with 4,100 stores in 50 states and 47 countries. Dave has served or continues to serve on a number of civic and charitable boards including Manchester College, Parkview Health and Parkview Hospital, The Honeywell Foundation, the Fort Wayne Zoological Society, and the Fort Wayne-Allen County Economic Development Alliance. We at LMEC welcome Dave to our Board of Directors, we are honored to have him with us.



Assuming the **LMEF's vice presidency is Merritt Becker**, our 2016 Fundraising Chair who is working in that position along with his wife Jill. Merritt had served as the LMEC treasurer since 2011.

Mr. Chris Kline has joined the LMEF Board of Directors as a newly seated member. Chris worked for many years as a regional director for the former J.F.New organization, an environmental management consulting firm based in Walkerton, Indiana that is now a world wide operation and known simply as Cardno. He retired from that position in 2014 and began working with the Culver Academies as a Senior Instructor - Leadership Education as well as their Director of Sustainability. Chris also served on the LMEC from 1997 through 1999. We are very happy to have him move onto our board.



One final update, **Ruth Tamminga has joined the LMEC**. She serves on Culver's Tree Commission and fills the position left open when Tammy Shaffer was elected to the Culver Town Council this past January. We were honored to have Tammy serve with the council since 2008 but are pleased she is now serving her entire community and wish her the very best. Ruth brings her family's nursery expertise and also fills our town government position, a part of our commitment to include people from every walk of life within the Lake Maxinkuckee community.

**Kathy Clark, Executive Director
Lake Maxinkuckee
Environmental Council**



Shallow Lake, Big Waves!

Written by Terry Frederick, President of WLCA

Recently there have been some concerns about wake boats appearing on lakes in our area. Wake boats are V-driven inboards with large motors and ballast tanks that can hold up to 1500 lbs. of water plus passengers. This makes them ideal for surfing on the 4ft. or higher wakes that follow behind. For this reason they should only be operated in areas of water depths of 20 ft. or more and 200 ft. from shore.

Operating in shallow depths disrupts the bottom silt and nutrients. This disruption reduces the clarity of the water and also releases phosphorus, which causes an increase in algae and weed growth.

As any boat runs deep in the water, they stir up the bottom and leave a mud trail in shallow areas. They also chop up invasive weeds that then spread to all areas of the lake. In an effort to preserve the integrity of our lakes, please follow these guidelines when boating:

- Start skiers in deep water.
- Only tube, ski, wakeboard and surf in the deeper parts of the lake.
- Idle-only speed only with no wake until 200 feet from shore.
- Make sure you are in at least 20 feet of water before opening up throttle.
- Plane your boat as quickly as possible to protect the lake bottom.
- Respect buoys and protected areas.

If we all follow these simple suggestions when boating, we will be able to preserve our beautiful lakes both now and for future generations.

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SECOND WETLAND TOUR SEPTEMBER 24TH!

Call 574-842-3686 or
email LMEC@lakemax.org
to reserve your seat today!

Due to the popularity of our tour this past June we are offering a second event.

Come with us and visit the **Wilson Wetland**, Indiana's first man-made wetland built by LMEC, The Culver Military Academy, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in the late 1980's.

Then we'll take you to the **Curtis Wetland**, an amazingly productive and beautiful wetland system built in 1992 on private property by LMEC and LARE.

Finally, you can explore the **Kline Wetland**, the largest of the Lake Maxinkuckee wetlands.

Owned by Indiana's Department of Natural Resources, managed by LMEC.

Only 20 seats are available!
Call today to 574-842-3686 or email
LMEC@lakemax.org!

This event is free! Guests will meet at the LMEC office at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday September 24th and we will have you back by noon.



Water Resource Management and Lake Maxinkuckee

- **Conserve water** by using rainfall as much as possible to water your lawn.
- **If there are drought conditions**, the water in the lake is coming from the same source as our drinking water and the water used to irrigate the farm fields around us, our underground aquifers. Please reduce your use of lake water for lawn care during these times.
- **Let the rain soak in.** Direct downspouts out into the lawn, rain gardens, and rain barrels, not into the storm sewers.
- **Native plants require less fertilizer and fewer pesticides.**
- **Verify plant materials** you bring to the lake, either for planting in the water or on land, **are NOT an invasive species** or that they are not carrying seeds of invasive plants in their roots.
- **Eliminate fertilizing**, but if you must, several low level applications in the fall are better than a single large application. Be sure to sweep any excess that may get on your sidewalks or driveways back onto the grass.
- **Do not use fertilizers containing phosphorus or potash** without first testing to make sure it is necessary. Most Indiana soil does not need phosphorus!
- **Use a mulching mower**, so that grass clippings can be returned to the soil where they will break down and add nutrients and organic matter to the soil. Keep your clippings out of the street!
- **Mow high!** Longer grass is stronger grass. It shades the soils, prevents weed seed germination, grows deeper roots, and better absorbs and filters rainfall.
- **Never throw leaves, grass clippings or other lawn refuse into the lake.** When leaves and plant clippings breakdown, they provide nutrients to aquatic plants, and can cause heavy weed growth in the lake. If you have a lawn care service, be sure to tell them NOT to blow or rake anything into the lake.

- **Allow as much aquatic vegetation around your dock or shoreline as possible.** If it is necessary to clear some vegetation, pull it by hand and dispose of it away from the lake. But please remember that shoreline vegetation is valuable to the lake.
- **Buy only the amount of insecticides and weed killers you need** to finish the job. Triple rinse containers when done. This will eliminate the need to store or dispose of unused product.
- **That foam you may see in the lake?** That is caused by dissolved organic matter acting as a surfactant holding the 'foam' together. Leaves, grass clippings equal organic matter.
- **Remember, any open drain found along a roadway is a storm drain—it drains directly into the lake.** Lakes don't like cigarette butts, oil, dirty wash water filled with cleaning chemicals, grass clippings, or just plain trash.

Pets (and Geese!)

- **Clean up after pets** to avoid runoff of nutrients and pathogens (their waste) getting into the lake.
- **Create a buffer zone with uncut grass or other vegetation if your lawn borders the lake.** Do not mow or fertilize to the water's edge. Geese are afraid to come onto lawns with high plants.
- **Put vegetable oil on goose eggs** when the mother is not on the nest, she will return and continue to sit if she thinks they are still viable, and not lay more eggs.
- **Get a dog, they can chase off the geese before they leave their droppings.** Just be sure to pick up after your dog! You don't want their waste entering the lake either!

Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

General Issues

- **Direct roof runoff into flower beds** or other vegetated areas rather than the lake or paved areas. Dirt accumulates on your roof, and when it rains, the water needs to be filtered before it enters the lake.
- **Disturb as little soil as possible** when doing any excavation and replant bare patches of ground as soon as possible to prevent erosion and run off.
- **When paving, please consider pervious paving systems.** These allow most rainwater to drain directly into the ground, thereby allowing chemicals and sediments to be filtered before entering the lake.
- **Do not release aquarium fish or plants into the lake.** They can not only survive, some species have become nuisances in lake-wide proportions. The fish can carry diseases to which our native fish have no resistance.
- **Anything going into a stormdrain goes directly into the lake!** Do not pour oil or other chemicals down storm sewers. Do not hook washing machines up to storm sewers. Disconnect downspouts from storm sewers.
- **If you must have a fire on the lake shore, remove the ashes so that they do not wash into the lake.**
- **Remove aquatic weeds and other debris that wash up along the shore** to prevent them from decaying in the lake.
- **Prevent mosquitoes from breeding by putting 'Dunks', a doughnut like product sold at most home supply stores, in any standing water sources like fountains, bird baths, or ornamental ponds.** Dunks are said to be safe for birds, pets and children.
- **Medications are increasingly becoming problematic**—please don't flush unused or expired medications down a toilet or drain as they may eventually find their way into the lake, or your drinking water.
- **Do not pour any hazardous household chemicals down the drain or on the ground!** Remember, anything on the ground may go into a storm drain and directly to the lake.

- **Never use coal tar seal-coat on your driveways or streets.** It is a potent source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) to air, soils, streams, lakes, and homes. 20 to 35 percent of seal-coat is made from coal-tar pitch, a highly toxic PAH which is considered to be a probable human carcinogen.

Boating, Fishing, and More

- **Do not dump unused bait - or your child's aquarium - into the lake.** You may be allowing an invasive species into Lake Maxinkuckee, like the Asian or Silver Carp.
- **Please use great care when fueling your boat at the marina,** always have an absorbent cloth in hand to prevent fuel from dripping into the lake. Be a member of Indiana's CLEAN MARINA Program!
- **Regularly inspect, maintain, and replace fuel hoses, pipes, and storage tanks in all watercraft.**
- **Special care should be taken when cleaning boats in the water.** Some cleaning products contain harsh chemicals like chlorine, ammonia, and phosphates that can harm fish and wildlife.
- **If something is labeled as being harmful to the user ('toxic' or 'may cause burns') it is most likely harmful to aquatic life.**
- **Avoid stirring up sediment.** Our lake has a relatively shallow bottom in many areas, deep-hulled boats designed for pulling wakeboarders, tubers, or wakesurfers should use extreme caution and only travel in deeper water, not along the buoy line.
- **Turbidity is an important factor in the quality of lake water.** It stirs up the sediment in the lakebed, re-suspending the nutrients like phosphorus which in turn feed lake weeds.
- **Slow down your watercraft,** make sure you are not speeding near a low-wake zone or near any shallow water areas. High wakes can also cause shoreline erosion.

www.lakemax.org



Brain Welch, Gary Lewallen, Don Kline, and Kathy Berindie were just a few of the 24 people who joined us for the 2016 wetland tour June 11th.

Below we see Glen Roberts, Don Kline and others listening to LMEC Chair Allen Chesser provide details on the Kline wetland.



The 2016 LMEC wetland tour went smoothly with more people signing up than we had seats for. Twenty four joined us on two buses on loan from the Culver Academy on a very warm Saturday in June. We ventured down a nicely mowed path that wound around the Wilson Wetland providing even better views of Indiana's first man-made wetland which was built in the mid 1980's by Academy people, LMEC crew and state workers. The group then moved on to the Curtis, which sits on private land mid-way down the eastern shore of the lake, hiking down from the property owner's home to the control structure. The Kline was our last stop of the morning and everyone hiked out to view the break in the levee which was caused by beavers, rainfall, and lack of freezing winter temperatures.



The LMEC wishes to thank photographer Beth Buie who supplied the photographs you see here.

YES! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council in support of its mission to protect the lake and its watershed.

Simply mail this form and your check to: LMEC, POB 187, Culver, IN 46511 OR go to the LMEC website and hit the donation button!

We thank you for your financial support!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ Add me to the LMEC newsletter mailing list!

☐ I am interested in helping on specific projects.

LMEC Supporting Levels

Fleet Admiral ☐ **(\$5,000 and above)**

Admiral's Club ☐ **(\$1,000 - \$4,999)**

Commodore's Club ☐ **(\$500 - \$999)**

Captain's Club ☐ **(\$100 - \$499)**

Ensign's Club ☐ **(Up to \$99)**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE

LAKE MAXINKUCKEE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

AND THE WORK WE DO!

DONATE TO THE LAKE MAXINKUCKEE CONSERVATION FUND

- LMCF is a land trust formed in 2011 to safe-guard the natural environment that surrounds Lake Maxinkuckee. The mission is to hold land throughout the watershed, restricting or even eliminating future development, either through receiving gifts of specific land holdings, or by being named the recipient of land development easements. This fund accepts donations of land or funds from anyone. Call 574-842-3686 to discuss.



If you weren't at Lake Maxinkuckee over the 2016 Lake Fest weekend you missed a great party!

Photo courtesy of CulverLakeFest.com

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Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

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Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund

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