

## LEF In The Community



236 Walnut  
Lakeside, Ohio 43440

## Join LEF Today

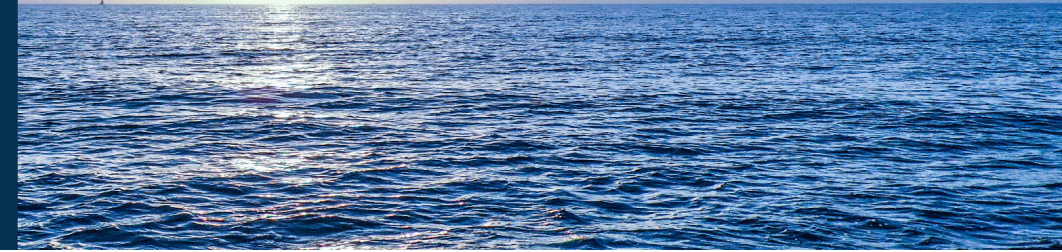
Become a member of the Lake Erie Foundation and help us restore and protect Lake Erie for generations to come. Your tax-deductible contribution will help Lake Erie Foundation work to ensure that Lake Erie's waters are safe for drinking, fishing and swimming. Your support makes our efforts for advocating, educating, supporting innovative technology development and legal defense a possibility. For more information regarding membership visit the Lake Erie Foundation website at [www.lakeeriefoundation.org](http://www.lakeeriefoundation.org) or call 419-301-3743.



FALL 2019

# LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION



## ABSOLUT®VODKA Supports LEF!

ABSOLUT®VODKA is proud to support the Lake Erie Foundation with a donation of \$10,000 in 2019!

For the second year the Lake Erie Foundation is the beneficiary of a contribution from ABSOLUT®VODKA "Skip the Straw" campaign. The Put-in-Bay participants shown below have teamed up with Absolut Ohio to make the 2019 Skip the Straw campaign a success

Straws, along with plastic cigar tips, are among the most prolific and pervasive pieces of plastic in the Great Lakes. Together, the United States and Canada discard 22 million pounds of plastic into Great Lakes waters,

according to a Rochester Institute of Technology study. Much of it comes flushed from streets, through storm drains and into the lake. Then it washes up on shore, making up about 80 percent of the litter on beaches.

Learn more about Lake Erie Foundation's "Skip the Straw" partnership and the efforts with ABSOLUT®VODKA by visiting our website at:

[www.lakeeriefoundation.org](http://www.lakeeriefoundation.org)



## Thanks to Put-in-Bay "Skip the Straw" Participants!

You can do your part and "Skip the Straw" when you visit your favorite local restaurant and bar!



**PUBLISHED BY:**

Lake Erie Foundation  
236 Walnut  
Lakeside, Ohio 43440  
419-301-3743  
www.lakeeriefoundation.org

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

President..... Jim Stouffer  
Catawba Island Club

Vice President .....Matt Fisher

Secretary ..... Lee Alexakos  
Cedar Fair  
Entertainment Company

Treasurer .....Ron Wyss

Board Member ..... Kevin Sibbring  
Lakeside Chautauqua

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Ken Alvey  
Tim Bollin  
Rick Graham  
John Lipaj  
Bill Myers  
Al Nickles  
Leonard Partin  
Rick Rennel  
Dave Spangler  
Jamie Steinemann

**BOARD ADVISORS:**

Larry Fletcher  
Keleen McDevitt-Hanway  
John Hull  
Peter Huston  
Tim Davis

**MANAGING DIRECTOR:**

Mary Margaret Lavelle

**OPERATIONS MANAGER:**

Joe Perlaky



**From the President**

There’s a proverb that states “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” This quote applies to many things in life and it certainly applies to what we do at Lake Erie Foundation. United by a common cause, we strive to create action on issues facing Lake Erie, encourage open dialogue with many partners and continue to champion the solutions that protect and preserve the waters of Lake Erie.

In response to the recent official Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) forecast issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in July, the Lake Erie Foundation is committed to working with leaders from the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Farm Bureau, key academic scientists and other stakeholders to formulate and implement practices to reduce the amount of phosphorus runoff in Lake Erie; 40% by 2025. Phosphorus is a key cause of algal blooms which can make water harmful for human consumption, and adversely affects tourism and other industry segments.

Sadly, we were not surprised by the HAB forecast for the remainder of the summer. We continue to be concerned with the potential impact this HAB forecast could have on the businesses and individuals around Lake Erie. The commitment from both the agriculture community and key stakeholders is to make significant changes through continued focus and progressive thinking. Lake Erie Foundation is dedicated to advocating for implementation of best management practices to improve the water quality. The leadership that Ohio Governor, Mike DeWine has demonstrated in prioritizing meaningful improvements of Ohio waterways, including

Lake Erie, with the H2Ohio initiative is very encouraging! The Lake Erie Foundation continues to believe there can be both clean water and profitable farming.

LEF is continuing to inform individuals on the dangers of “Project Icebreaker,” the proposed wind turbine farm to be constructed in Lake Erie off the shores of Cleveland, Ohio. We are certainly in favor of clean renewables, including wind energy. However, we are not in favor of this project as it may harm our region’s environment, ecology and is economically questionable. We believe it is our duty to ensure an Environmental Impact Statement is completed prior to the approval of this project.

Our sincerest thanks to ABSOLUT®VODKA for making a significant contribution to LEF for the second year in a row. We support their thoughtful efforts to eliminate unnecessary and excessive plastic contamination in the lake. Their “skip the straw” campaign is truly a positive step forward! You can read more about their program in this newsletter.

The Lake Erie Foundation website is a good resource for issues facing Lake Erie and is updated frequently. If you have questions regarding current issues facing the lake don’t hesitate to contact the Lake Erie Foundation.

-Jim Stouffer, Jr.  
President, Lake Erie Foundation



Jim Stouffer

**New Members & Donors**

Greg Berning	Larry Houff	Milan 1640 LTD	The Fabulous Female
Phoebe Borman	Jamestown Tavern	Paddle & Climb	Anthony & Carol Tricomi
Cleat’s Marblehead	Jax Bar, LLC	Quintana’s Barber & Dream Salon	Upper Arlington Community Foundation
Daly’s LTD	J Bistro	Red Fern Winery	Greg & Cornelia Wagener
Liliana Demma	Jim & Roberta Kreutzfeld	Bridget Sanders	Ted & Virginia Ward
Stephen Finley	Tony & Kim Lagroth	Sandusky Bay Concepts	Elaine Waterfield
James Fry	John Lipaj	Sandusky State Theatre, Inc.	Marcia Whelan
Judith Haesley	Nicole Lloyd	Schrock’s Marina	Elizabeth Williams
Tracy Harbold	Dawn Lauridsen-Long	Sherri Sorg	Cameron & Suzanne Williams
HavinFun Too, LLC	Marblehead Music Fest	Patrick Sullivan	Wellspring Holistic Health, Inc.
Charles & Cindy Herndon	Keleen McDevitt Hanway	The Boardwalk	
Walt Hess	Shaun & Darla McMackin		

**Lake Erie’s Proposed Offshore Wind Facility**

After doing extensive research on the Icebreaker Wind proposal, we have serious concerns about the Icebreaker project and siting wind turbines in Lake Erie.

The developer’s plan is to build 1,400 to 1,600 wind turbines in Lake Erie by the year 2030.

Icebreaker is not an environmentally sound project. Industrial lubricants could leak into our fresh water supply and construction would stir up toxic sediment from Cuyahoga River dredging. The millions of birds that migrate across Lake Erie would be put at risk and fish would be affected by the electromagnetic fields that surround the high voltage underwater power cables.

Follow the money. Icebreaker Windpower, Inc. is owned by Fred Olsen Renewables of Norway. They will receive the following for building Icebreaker in Lake Erie:

- \$50 million in U.S. taxpayer subsidies
- U.S. Production & Investment Tax Credits
- A real estate tax break by Cuyahoga County.
- Icebreaker will then sell their power to us for 550% more than wholesale power rates from the grid.

We urge the State of Ohio to stipulate the completion of an **Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS) as a condition of approving this project. The scrutiny of an EIS will demonstrate that Governor DeWine has taken the prudent and appropriate steps to protect Lake Erie for Ohio’s citizens.

- John Lipaj  
LEF Board Member

**Large Algal Bloom Grows in Lake Erie**

A midsummer algal bloom again is turning western Lake Erie’s waters green. While it’s predicted to become fairly severe, researchers say it could be worse.

The severity of this year’s bloom is forecast to be a 7.5 on a scale of zero to 10. Laura Johnson, director of the National Center for Water Quality Research at Heidelberg University, said that’s larger than last year, but smaller than in 2015 when a bloom exceeded the scale at 10.5. She said this year’s bloom started to form a couple weeks ago.

“It was fairly mild, not much there,” she said, “but it seems like it’s really shown up with this heat wave that came through. It’s moving around, it’s growing in some spots and not in others, or it’s starting to get mixed into the water column in different ways. Any of these things are possible.”

Johnson said the current algal bloom stretches from Maumee Bay north along the Michigan coast, and about 30 miles east along the Ohio coast to the Portage River. The bloom is expected to stay confined to the western basin and peak in September.

Algal blooms are connected to phosphorus runoff from agriculture. Given the amount of rainfall this spring, Johnson said, a much larger bloom would be expected. However, unusually wet weather last fall and into the spring reduced the amount of phosphorus fertilizer farmers were able to apply.

“If we can win one thing from how difficult this year has been for our agricultural community,” she said, “that is that we have a better understanding of how important the application of phosphorus is from one given year on what is actually happening months later, down the road.”

Johnson said the current dynamics indicate that applying nutrients below the surface is a promising practice for farmers.

“So, trying to get that phosphorus or nitrogen off of the surface of the soil and injected into the soil more, where it has more interaction and it’s in the root zones of these plants, that’s going to be effective,” she said. “That’s what this year is telling us is, is that playing around with those application rates is really important.”

Toxins in algal blooms are dangerous for people and animals, and hamper local fishing, boating and other recreational activities. Toxic blooms can be costly for cities that need to treat drinking water.

*Article Courtesy of Ohio News Connection, July 31, 2019*

View full article online: <https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2019-07-31/water/large-algal-bloom-grows-in-lake-erie/a67324-1>

**LEF Sponsors**

Thank you to our friends and sponsors who have joined our mission to preserve and protect Lake Erie.

