

From the President

As we bring this past year to a close, I am pleased to have the opportunity to share a few perspectives on recent accomplishments and objectives we are pursuing moving forward. Continued advocacy, spreading our mission, and working closely with officials throughout the region contributed greatly to Lake Erie Foundation's (LEF) productivity in 2020! In particular, we were able to focus considerable attention on three areas: Icebreaker (wind turbine project on Lake Erie), Governor DeWine's H2Ohio program, and working to establish useful collateral materials to share with Lake Erie advocates. I am proud of our team as we continue to make a noticeable impact helping to preserve and protect Lake Erie for future generations.

Early on we initiated an expansive marketing campaign to educate residents throughout Northeast Ohio on the proposed wind turbine farm in Lake Erie. LEF is in favor of renewable energy! However, we believe there are many questions that must be answered by Leed-Co (the group initiating the project) regarding wind turbines being constructed in the open waters of Lake Erie directly off the coastline of Cleveland. We utilized print ads in Crain's Cleveland Business to clearly articulate the ramifications of this industrial project. We also created a video that provides detailed eye-opening information that the residents of Northeast Ohio should carefully consider before this project overwhelms the coastline. Additionally, we developed a PowerPoint that was presented to elected officials who had previously championed this project, along with an extensive social media campaign to educate and enlighten public perceptions. Ultimately, we want people to understand all of the long-term implications and outcomes that will likely impact the future of Lake Erie.

Beyond the marketing campaign to educate and create awareness of LeedCo's wind turbine project, LEF also funded and submitted an amicus brief in Federal Court, in the District of Columbia in support of a lawsuit by American Bird Conservancy and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. This lawsuit filed against the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was accepted and continues to move its way through the court. We are hopeful that a thorough Environmental Impact Study will be mandated by the court and a comprehensive analysis of associated cost to consumers and property owners will be required.

In addition, LEF recently finished a semester-long project with Case Western Reserve University students who were participating in a capstone project regarding Lake Erie water quality. This senior level project involved researching the impact of microplastics in Lake Erie and what can be done to limit single-use plastics. CWRU students helped with the creation of our plastics website page, social media posts, and key talking points for LEF board members and volunteers. They also assisted with marketing collateral that we will use at marina and boat club events at which we exhibit. LEF is grateful for the opportunity to partner with these talented students from CWRU. We were incredibly impressed by the effort, intellect and thoroughness of the team. As smaller organizations come together to support Lake Erie, relationships are everything! We look forward to partnering with this great institution again in the near future.

Most significantly for LEF, H2Ohio is the program issued by Governor DeWine to address pollution in Ohio's waterways, beginning with Lake Erie. In 2020, under the leadership of Ohio's Department of Agriculture, nearly 1.2 million acres of farmland were enrolled in vol-

untary nutrient management plans by over 2,000 farmers in Northwest Ohio alone. Along with extensive "Best Management Practices" incorporated in the H2Ohio program, these initiatives are the beginning of the long-term effort to improve water quality in Lake Erie.

LEF applauds Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor John Husted's H2Ohio policy initiatives towards the investment in safe and clean water for all Ohioans. These programs and the dedication of Governor DeWine's leadership team: Joy Mulinex (Executive Director of the Lake Erie Commission), Dorothy Pelanda (ODA Director), Mary Mertz (Director of ODNR), and Laurie Stevenson (Ohio EPA Director, will help address multiple clean water challenges including agricultural practices, wetlands restoration, and infrastructure investments essential for the future health of Lake Erie.

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) established in 1972, the state of Ohio is committed to reducing total phosphorus and dissolved reactive phosphorus by 40% by 2025. The goal for 2021 is to expand this program to an additional 10 counties in the Lake Erie Region, commencing with Nutrient Management Plans while the ODA continues to manage best practices in the original 14 counties. ODA Director Pelanda stated that first-year participation by farmers and related businesses exceeded the state agriculture department's expectations, with more than 2,000 producers and 1.1 million acres of cropland enrolled. These incentive-based programs are focused on reducing runoff of algae-forming fertilizers that originate from a variety of commercially produced fertilizer pellets and manure spread throughout farm fields.

ODNR Director Mertz commented that "Wetlands are one of the most effective and cost-efficient long-term solutions to reducing excess nutrients in our waterways". We commend the Director for this focus as we know the ODNR has been an advocate of natural infrastructure, along with the development and creation of significant wetlands throughout the state. The ODNR has invested over \$50 million in 44 wetlands projects in the past year and is working with the Lake Erie Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program as a part of the H2Ohio Water Quality Incentive Program. Sadly, it is just a matter of time before western Lake Erie experiences another significant algae bloom. LEF will continue to work with leadership throughout the academic, scientific, state and federal legislatures to ensure the necessary steps are taken towards a long-term solution.

It is amazing to imagine that it was only a few years ago that a small group of people joined forces to create Lake Erie Foundation to collaborate with others for the betterment of Lake Erie. My sincerest thanks to all LEF members, donors and board members for their contributions to our critical mission. Our efforts to fulfill our mission often require lengthy and painstaking work. We couldn't do it without you and your support, and sharing our passion to make a meaningful difference in preserving and protecting Lake Erie.



Jim Stouffer

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Join LEF Today

Become a member of Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) and help us restore and protect Lake Erie for generations to come. Your tax-deductible contribution will help LEF 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 LEF's website at www.lakeeriefoundation.org or call 419-301-3743.



LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION

The Dangers of Microplastics

This fall, Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) participated in a Capstone project with students from Case Western Reserve University. The project we focused on was "Microplastics and How Lake Erie Foundation Can Educate Individuals on the Dangers of Microplastics and Reducing Single Plastic use." The students were to define the problem and create a thoughtful and creative response to the issue. The Capstone provided active participation between the students and LEF. LEF met with the students via zoom an hour a week and communicated frequently with email.

The students did extensive research and in addition to our weekly meetings participated in a Zoom meeting with Dr. Sherri Mason from Penn State Erie, the Behrend College. Dr. Mason is a professor of chemistry and a leading researcher in freshwater plastic pollution. Her award-winning work has drawn international attention to the threats posed by microplastics.

The critical thinking and clear plan of action by the CWRU students resulted in a redesigned website page, and flyer for event use. In addition, the students created a brochure to be placed at marinas and boat clubs and use by LEF. LEF is appreciative of the opportunity to be involved in this worthwhile project.

By taking the following steps, you can help save Lake Erie, the source of drinking water for 11 million people.



Bring a reusable bag instead of using plastic grocery bags. Keep an extra one in your car so you don't forget.



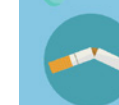
Skip the straws, they are non-recyclable.



Save and reuse takeout containers for use at home.



Use a refillable water bottle instead of plastic bottles.



Dispose of cigarettes properly, they contain plastic too.



Buy clothes made from natural fibers and shop at second hand or consignment stores.



Support non-profits like Lake Erie Foundation that are advocating for sustainable change.



Support elected officials who support regulations on single-use plastics and the harmful chemicals they contain.



Encourage your friends and loved ones to stop using single-use plastic.

A Tribute to Dave Spangler 10.21.1946 – 10.21.2020

David L. Spangler, a charter boat captain who became one of the Great Lakes region's more beloved water-quality advocates, died October 21 on the morning of his 74th birthday.

Though known for a calm and gentle demeanor, Mr. Spangler was as fiercely devoted to improving Lake Erie as anyone. His personality gave him credibility with people from both ends of the political spectrum. He took his role as a Great Lakes ambassador seriously by donating countless hours in his boat to help educate people up close about Lake Erie. He also spent hundreds of hours attending scientific seminars and public meetings across northwest Ohio, in Columbus, in Washington, and as far east in Canada as Quebec City.

Mr. Spangler was part a group of fishing-charter captains who came up with the idea eight years ago to pull water samples at a predetermined time each week, giving the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and others a much broader geographical look at changing water-quality conditions throughout the summer.

[Ohio] Gov. Mike DeWine called Mr. Spangler "a true guardian of Lake Erie and a wonderful person. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D., Ohio) said he "always appreciated talking to Mr. Spangler "whether in Washington or his boat in the middle of Lake Erie."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R., Ohio) called Mr. Spangler "a true champion of our Great Lakes." "He will be very sorely missed by many in the Great Lakes community and will be remembered for his lifelong dedication to protecting and improving our lakes," Mr. Portman said.

U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) said Mr. Spangler was "in a class all his own" and "a gentleman in the first order" who combined practical, real-life experience as a boat captain with a great understanding of science he picked up from some of the area's top researchers. "We're a better community because of him."

Mr. Spangler became a first lieutenant in the Army and served for three years, including a tour in Vietnam. He was a Purple Heart

and Bronze Star recipient. He was licensed by the Coast Guard and operated a fishing charter boat in Lake Erie's western basin for 27 years. He served on Lake Erie Center for Fresh Water's advisory board and was recently appointed to the Tourism Ohio and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission advisory boards.



Mr. Spangler served as Lake Erie Charter Boat Association vice president and became close friends with longtime president Paul Pacholski about 10 years ago. In 2014, he was the group's Captain of the Year. He and Mr. Pacholski were inseparable partners at countless events. "Dave and I fed off each other," Mr. Pacholski said. "Without question, he made me a better person and a better advocate."

Jeff Reutter, retired director of Ohio Sea Grant and OSU's Stone Laboratory, said Mr. Spangler was "everyone's 'go-to' person when seeking a speaker to present some real-world impacts of harmful algal blooms on coastal businesses and charter captains and their clientele. "All Lake Erie users and everyone who gets their drinking water from Lake Erie owe David Spangler a huge debt of gratitude. We have lost a true champion and a great person," Mr. Reutter said.

A celebration of Mr. Spangler's life will be held in the spring of 2021.

Our friend and Lake Erie Foundation Board member, Dave Spangler is remembered here in this excerpt from an article reprinted with permission of the Toledo Blade and Environmental/Energy Writer Tom Henry.

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Join our community to help protect Lake Erie and ensure a healthy lake for generations to come by becoming a Business Partner today. Information to become a business supporter can be found at our website – lakeeriefoundation.org There are 4 levels of business sponsorship - \$5,000 – Champion; \$2,500 – Protector; \$1,000 – Preserver; or \$500 - Guardian. You can make a donation at one of these levels at Lakeeriefoundation.org. For further information, please call Mary Margaret Lavelle at 419-301-3743. LEF's operating support comes from personal contributions, grants and business partnerships; we do not receive any funds from government or other entities.

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