

# Lake Erie Foundation Welcomes New Board Member

Lake Erie Foundation is pleased to announce Peter Huston as the most recent addition to our Board of Directors. His connection to Lake Erie comes from many years as an avid sailor, and as a resident of the Village of Put-in-Bay on South Bass Island.

Mr. Huston is a film writer, producer, and director who studied at both Ohio State University's School for Film and Boston University's School of Public Communication. He has produced and/or directed several documentaries and feature films including "WorldScape", a 13-part PBS series hosted by Walter Cronkite featuring maritime historical painter John Stobart; and the EMMY-nominated documentary "Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial". In 2010, Peter established his current company FilmAffects to pursue his passion for documentary and factual program production.

Among other affiliations, he is on the Board of Directors of the Lake Erie Island Historical Society, Past President of the Ottawa County Visitors Bureau Board, Board Member of Lake Erie Shores and Islands and he recently retired as the Director of the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce. He is currently serving as the Project Director for the Great Lakes Islands Alliance that will be holding their annual conference on South Bass later this year.



236 Walnut  
Lakeside, Ohio 43440

## 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](http://www.lakeeriefoundation.org) or call 419-301-3743.



SUMMER 2021

# LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION

## From the President

It's the best of summers on Lake Erie as many are enjoying a very busy time across the lakeshore. This year, pent-up travel demand combined with boaters putting their 2020 watercraft purchases to good use has resulted in unprecedented levels of activity on the lake. Hopefully we will also realize an increase in the number of people who want to learn about Lake Erie's challenges, and with us, become inspired be part of our ongoing efforts to protect this incredible natural resource!

It was a pleasure for Catawba Island Club and the Lake Erie Marine Trade Association to welcome upwards of 6,000 people April 30 - May 2 for the first in-person boat show on the Great Lakes in over 16 months. Dozens of boat dealers filled dock slips while a full complement of marine vendors lined the marina perimeter for three days of celebrating being able to gather together again to share the love of boating and the water.

Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) was there with a display focusing on the dangers of microplastic contamination in the lake. A new LEF seasonal employee, Emily Kelly, was joined by LEF Board volunteers to talk to visitors to our booth about the issues. We received several new members from these interactions and some strategic partnerships with other organizations were also formed. Look for Emily and the LEF booth again at the Vermilion "All Washed Up" driftwood art event on July 31, 10 am - 3 pm in Exchange Park. LEF is helping sponsor this event presented by Main Street Vermilion. More information at [MainStreetVermilion.org](http://MainStreetVermilion.org).

LEF has selected plastic pollution in the lake as a major focus area for 2021. Several recent articles about the dangers it can pose along with an informational video and tips on how you can help have been posted to our website. Visit [LakeErieFoundation.org](http://LakeErieFoundation.org) and select "Plastic Contamination" from the list of challenges under the "Lake Erie Issues menu."

This focus on plastic does not mean that LEF will reduce our attention regarding the challenges that algal blooms bring to the lake. We continue to support the H2Ohio programs of the DeWine Administration and advocate for the additional work we feel is necessary to adequately address the problem.

NOAA released their early projection for the anticipated severity of this year's algal bloom in mid-June. Their data points to a bloom likely smaller than average at less than 5 on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the most severe. Last year was about 4 and 2019 was just under 8. While it is encouraging news that the prediction is for a mild bloom this year, Lake Erie scientists indicate this is due to an unusually dry spring. The reduced snowpack and lighter than normal spring rains resulted in less nutrient runoff into our streams and ultimately Lake Erie. We therefore must not let up on our efforts to affect the changes in agricultural practices and other actions that will result in a permanent solution.



One of the sustained actions LEF Board members have been working on is to get funding for a pilot program included in the H2Ohio budget. This program will involve collecting data from a number of farms in a smaller, more defined geographic area to be able to provide a better idea of what adjustments and practices are necessary to reduce phosphorus run off for the long term. Read Matt Fisher's article in this newsletter to learn more about this important initiative.

Of note, a special thank you to our friends and long time supporters, Clemons Boats in Sandusky, for supporting LEF during their Customer Appreciation event on August 14. There will be a fun-filled day of boating events followed by a party with food, entertainment, raffles, and a chance to win a Boston Whaler 130 Super Sport! All proceeds will benefit the work of LEF. More details and tickets at [ClemonsBoats.com](http://ClemonsBoats.com).

As always, thank you to our members and donors for your support and confidence in our work. I and all of the LEF Board and staff team members will continue to work hard to be good stewards of your contributions. We're always interested in hearing from you so reach out with your comments and suggestions to [info@LakeErieFoundation.org](mailto:info@LakeErieFoundation.org).

#### PUBLISHED BY:

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## Lake Erie Foundation Continues Focus on Microplastics

By Peter Huston

I can still vividly remember the famous movie scene when a salesman whispers, "I have one word for you... plastics". It was in the 1967 movie *The Graduate*, when young Ben Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) is told, "There's a great future in plastics."

"Boy, did we blow it" wrote Wendy Reichenbach, a CAS scientist, in a recent letter to the *Columbus Dispatch*. "We're on our way to being engulfed in plastic" wrote Roger Kussow (Geochemistry PHD University of Missouri Columbia), on the accumulation of plastics in our environment. Plastics are on our minds and overwhelming our landfills. They have a useful place in our daily lives, but the over-abundance of single-use plastics is creating a rapidly approaching but avoidable environmental crisis.

Thankfully we have people like Dr. Shari Mason advising us on the critical nature of microplastics and how they are affecting every aspect of our daily lives. Dr. Mason is a professor of chemistry and a leading researcher in freshwater plastic pollution from Penn State Behrend College. As reported in our winter newsletter, last year she consulted with students from Case Western Reserve University on a project focused on educating people about the dangers of microplastics.

The work of these students and Dr. Mason was incorporated into a video that explains the challenges and what each and every one of us can do to be part of the solution. Please take some time to view the video on the LEF website: [lakeeriefoundation.org/issues/plastic-contaminations/](http://lakeeriefoundation.org/issues/plastic-contaminations/).

In the video you'll learn that we have only touched the surface on the complexity and under-told story of microplastics. It is in our drinking water and food supply, and is directly affecting our health. A recent MLive article\* pointed out that detectable levels of BFAS and other forms of plastic were measured by the EPA in seasonal rainfall.

The constant addition of these plastics to Lake Erie, whether intentional or accidental, is extremely concerning. Surveys show there is a strong public interest in curbing our reliance on single-use plastics, however data indicates we are presently only recycling about 8% of plastics.

With no current requirements of the manufacturing industry to recycle their plastic parts, devices, and containers, we are heading towards an overload in the Lake Erie biosphere.

LEF is actively involved in efforts to educate the public about this critical issue. You can learn more by visiting us at the upcoming "All Washed Up" driftwood art event on Saturday, July 31 in downtown Vermilion. More information at: [www.mainstreetvermilion.org/all-washed-up](http://www.mainstreetvermilion.org/all-washed-up).

LEF will also have an information booth at the "Shipwrecks and Scuba" symposium at Kalahari on November 13. Dr. Shari Mason will be a speaker at the event. More information at: [www.shipwrecksandscuba.com](http://www.shipwrecksandscuba.com).

Check the LEF website [LakeErieFoundation.org](http://LakeErieFoundation.org) for news of other events we will be at to continue focusing attention on microplastic dangers.

\*MLive article: <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/06/its-literally-raining-pfas-around-the-great-lakes-say-researchers.html>

## Save The Date for Clemons Boats Customer Appreciation Party on August 14th!

Lake Erie Foundation is excited to share that Clemons Boats is supporting our mission by donating all ticket sale proceeds from their annual Customer Appreciation Party. We appreciate the support of the team at this family-owned and operated business that has been providing quality boat sales and service for over 50 years!

Your \$25 ticket gets you the following:

- Blackened Walleye Appetizer (a Clemons favorite!)
- Fried Perch Dinner with full sides (chicken and pork also available) and dessert
- Open Bar with Teddy slinging cold drinks
- Live Entertainment with Jerry Zsigo
- 5 auction tickets with 100's of items to win
- 1 entry to win a 2022 Boston Whaler 130SS!
- The option to go on our river or poker run (starts at noon).

The goal is to raise at least \$20,000, and of course to have a great time! Learn more about the event and register at: [www.clemonsboats.com/customer-appreciation-rsvp](http://www.clemonsboats.com/customer-appreciation-rsvp)

## Demonstrate Your Business's Commitment to a Healthy Lake Erie by Partnering with Lake Erie Foundation

It is exciting to see businesses of all types returning to a more normal way of operating this summer. Many are directly connected to activities on Lake Erie and therefore are again providing opportunities for us to enjoy and appreciate all it has to offer. The work of Lake Erie Foundation (LEF) never lapsed during the pandemic as we steadfastly collaborated with legislators, scientists, state agencies and others to identify science-based solutions to address harmful algal blooms, plastic contamination, and other major threats to a healthy lake.

It is essential that we work together to make a difference for our lake and the 11 million citizens who rely on it for clean drinking water. Your support will help us reach out to a variety of audiences with important clean water and sustainability messages, while raising funds to support our vital efforts to protect Lake Erie for generations to come. For our partners, this relationship highlights their commitment to the environment, the community and Lake Erie.

Your company can become a business partner with LEF at the following levels:

**Champion - \$5,000; Protector - \$2,500; Preserver - \$1,000; or Guardian - \$500.** For gifts of \$2,500+, your company name will be included on our website and a link to your website will be available. Additionally, at gift levels of \$5,000+, you may include descriptive text about your company.

For more information, visit [LakeErieFoundation.org](http://LakeErieFoundation.org) or contact 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.

We look forward to working together for a healthier lake.

**LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION - FOR BUSINESS. FOR PLEASURE. FOREVER**

## Lake Erie Foundation Business Sponsors

