

Lake Erie Foundation Annual Meeting

Lake Erie Foundation held its' 2023 Annual Meeting on April 20, 2023 at the Catawba Island Club. Over 45 attendees were able to hear and ask questions regarding Plastics and Microplastics, Wind Turbines in Lake Erie and Harmful Algal Blooms with presentations by Board members Matt Fisher and Dr. Chris Winslow. An important part of the meeting is the election of Directors. Per Article II Section 2, Election and Term of Lake Erie Foundation's Code of Regulations called for an election of Directors. The Directors that were up for reelection are:

- Jim Stouffer
- Lee Alexakos
- Peter Huston
- Ken Alvey
- Rick Graham
- Paul Klein

The vote was unanimous and these Board Directors will be leading and supporting the Lake Erie Foundation for the next two years. You can read about their background and love of Lake Erie on our website. Thank you to each of them for their dedication to our mission and to the success of Lake Erie Foundation in improving the health of Lake Erie.



236 Walnut Ave
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 or call 419-301-3743.



SUMMER 2023

LAKE ERIE WAVES

NEWSLETTER OF THE LAKE ERIE FOUNDATION

From the President

Summer is in full swing on Lake Erie and Lake Erie Foundation continues to address the lake's challenges and we encourage everyone be part of our ongoing efforts to protect this incredible natural resource!

We started off 2023 participating in the Progressive Cleveland Boat Show and Catawba Island Boat Show. We appreciate Lake Erie Marine Trade Association for working so diligently to host these events. Our boat show display focused on the dangers of microplastic contamination in the lake. LEF was also the recipient of over \$2,000 in donations raised at the Sandusky Wine Walk in April.

LEF has identified plastic pollution in Lake Erie as a major focus area for 2023. Several recent articles about the dangers it poses along with an informational video and tips on how you can help have been posted to our website. Visit LakeErieFoundation.org and select "Plastic Contamination" from the list of challenges under the "Lake Erie Issues" menu.

This focus on plastics 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 and collaboration we feel is necessary to adequately address the problem.

We know we must not let up on our efforts to affect the changes in agricultural practices and other actions that will result in a permanent solution. We continue to meet with entities that can help us work toward the ultimate goal of a 40% reduction in phosphorus runoff. An amendment that was initiated by LEF is currently in the H2Ohio section of the 2023/2024 State budget. This amendment relates to a pilot study that focuses on legacy phosphorous fields.

We also continue to monitor the Icebreaker wind turbine project proposed for waters off the coast of Cleveland. We're monitoring the lawsuit that is in the Federal Court in the District of Columbia and will update our supporters when new information is available. There is an overwhelming concern regarding wind turbines in Lake Erie and LEF firmly believes that at the very least, all environmental studies must be completed before the project moves forward.



Jim Stouffer

I am excited to announce that due to our financial accountability and transparency, LEF has earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. We are now designated as a "Give with Confidence" charity. More about our Four-Star Rating in this newsletter!

For the third year, our friends and longtime supporters, Clemons Boats in Sandusky, are designating LEF their charity of choice during their Customer Appreciation event Saturday, August 5th. There will be a fun-filled day of boating events followed by a party with food, entertainment and raffles. All proceeds will benefit Lake Erie Foundation. More details and tickets can be found at ClemonsBoats.com. Our sincere thanks to the generosity shown to LEF by Clemons Boats!

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. You can contact us with your comments and suggestions at info@LakeErieFoundation.org

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Lake Erie Foundation Earns 4-Star Rating on Charity Navigator

Lake Erie Foundation is proud to announce that its strong financial health and ongoing accountability and transparency has earned a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. This rating designates Lake Erie Foundation as an official "Give with Confidence" charity, indicating that our organization is using its donations effectively based on Charity Navigator's criteria. Charity Navigator is America's largest and most-utilized independent charity evaluator. Since 2001, the organization has been an unbiased and trusted source of information for more than 11 million donors annually.



Charity Navigator analyzes nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, referred to as beacons. Currently, nonprofits can earn scores for the Impact & Results, Accountability & Finance, Culture & Community, and Leadership & Adaptability beacons.

"We are delighted to provide Lake Erie Foundation with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence," said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Lake Erie Foundation is able to accomplish in the years ahead."

"Our Four-Star Charity Navigator is further validation that our members, donors, and business supporters can trust our commitment to good governance and financial health," said Jim Stouffer, President of Lake Erie Foundation. "We hope that it will introduce our work to new community members who can help us advance our mission to improve the health of Lake Erie, Ohio's greatest natural resource."

Lake Erie Foundation's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on charitynavigator.org.

New Plastic Display Opens

On May 6th, a new plastics contamination risks display was unveiled at the Maritime Museum of Sandusky. This project was made possible by generous funding from the Ottawa County Community Foundation, Cyrus Eaton Foundation, Mylander Foundation, and the Wightman Wieber Charitable Foundation. This project includes a traveling display that will be used at various community events and in schools to educate a wide audience about the dangers of plastics contamination.



Molly Sampson, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum of Sandusky, and Peter Huston, Lake Erie Foundation Board Member, were at the opening day event to give remarks and to introduce the visitors and guests to the display.

The amount of plastics, microplastics, and nano-plastics in our waters is one of the most pressing environmental issues in Lake Erie and worldwide. Lake Erie, the smallest of the Great Lakes, also has the second highest amount of plastic particles compared to the others. However, most people don't realize that Lake Erie has as much plastic, and even more in some cases, than the vast garbage patches reported in the oceans. Due to its rough and shallow waters, these plastics break down into microplastics and then nano-plastics, which are almost impossible to filter out of the water. As a result, the microplastics wind up in our drinking water, impact our health, disrupt natural food webs, and even reduce the quality, size, and reproductive capabilities of the local fish we eat.

You can make help by reducing your use of single-use plastics. So take the challenge - **Take a Stake** in the Lake! Go to our website, LakeErieFoundation.org, to learn more.

Clemons Boats is Doing it Again!

For the third year, Lake Erie Foundation is going to be the beneficiary of Clemons Boats customer appreciation day and charity event! Jason Clemons has announced that this year's will be held on August 5 at Clemons Boats.

Please support Clemons Boats and the event by buying a ticket for just \$35. They provide food, drinks, music and fun – all going to support our work. Our sincerest thanks to all at Clemons Boats for supporting Lake Erie Foundation!



Sandusky Wine Walk



We are so grateful to Nikki Lloyd at Hotel Kilbourne for organizing and hosting the Sandusky Wine Walk, which benefited Lake Erie Foundation. April 22nd marked the return of the Sandusky Wine Walk with the support of these Sandusky businesses:

Hotel Kilbourne	Vita Sandusky
Barra	Volstead Bar
Crush Wine Bar	546 Tattoo Studio
Daly's Pub	Accessories Matter, Inc.
J Bistro Downtown	Dandelion
Jack Daniel's Barrel House Saloon	Fabulous Female Boutique
Jaxbar	Firelands Adventure Tours
Moseley's Rooftop Bar	Lakelynn Design
Noble Crafts – Bar & Bottle Shop, Axes & Pins	MW Design Studio
Oh Taco	Shores & Islands Ohio
Paddle Bar	Donna Bretz, Tarot Reading
Sandusky Wine Merchant	Maritime Museum of Sandusky
The Shore House Tavern	

These outstanding businesses and community-minded business owners donated \$50 to participate and added items to two fabulous raffle baskets. Participants received a raffle ticket, the option to purchase additional tickets, and a list of participating merchants. Together they raised over \$2,000 to help save Lake Erie.

Next time you visit Sandusky, please support these businesses. Thank you, Downtown Sandusky!