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Thank you to these monthly donors who make an impact all year long!
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From the President — 2024 Year In Review

I am pleased to report that 2024 was another productive year for Lake Erie Foundation (LEF). We participated in numerous events throughout 2024 including the Cleveland Boat Show, Catawba Island Boat Show and many speaking and educational engagements throughout the region. We hosted our "Celebrate the Lake" event in August with over 165 attendees who enjoyed a festive evening and were updated on the initiatives that LEF is working on. We continued spreading our mission, educating and broadening our membership, and we accelerated our efforts to make a noticeable impact in preserving and protecting Lake Erie!



Addressing harmful algae blooms with H2Ohio has been an impressive initiative of Governor DeWine and his administration and LEF applauds their leadership of this pursuit. Well over 40% of the farms in Northwest Ohio have signed up for programs in H2Ohio. ODNR has launched over 150 wetlands projects that have shown good results. There are some improvements in water quality, but unfortunately not as great as initially projected. LEF believes that more focus should be directed to fields that are considered "high phosphorus" or "old phosphorus" fields. It is not likely that an appropriate proportion of fields that have signed up for H2Ohio are considered high phosphorus.

For the past two years, LEF has been promoting the need for greater focus on high phosphorus fields. We helped put together a White Paper that described recommendations to better target these high phosphorus fields. In addition, we have worked on a project that would install filters at the edge of high phosphorus fields. ODA is currently working on a project that involves these filters, ditches, and other methods to absorb the phosphorus as it runs off the field. Stay tuned as we determine the effectiveness of these projects.

LEF continues educating the public on microplastic contamination, particularly the damage of single use plastics in Lake Erie and in our landfills. This initiative is a key priority for many residents along the lake. There is a significant amount of information regarding plastics in drinking water, some of which can be confusing as it applies more to plastic contamination in the oceans. This is a long-term issue and LEF is attempting to separate and ultimately focus on the issues pertaining most to Lake Erie. Along with public education, in 2024 LEF supported Eriesponsible, a nonprofit organization that initiates and executes beach clean-ups along the shores of Lake Erie as their 2024 beach clean-up sponsor.

In closing, my sincerest thanks to all LEF members, donors and volunteers for your contributions to our critical mission. Because of your support, we continue to make a noticeable difference in preserving and protecting Lake Erie. Through knowledge, communication, and mutual respect, the mission of keeping this beautiful natural resource secure for generations to come is possible. Thank you for your help and support...all the best in the new year!



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.

Lake Erie Foundation at the 2025 Progressive Cleveland Boat Show

Lake Erie Foundation was well represented at the 2025 Progressive Cleveland Boat Show. 13 volunteers and Board members spoke to over 475 people informing them of our mission and encouraging them to eliminate the use of single use plastics. We provided biodegradable straws and utensils to introduce folks as to how easy it is to say no to single use plastics.

In addition, 90 attendees signed up for our monthly newsletter. Not receiving our emails blasts? Email mmlavelle@lakeeriefoundation.org and she'll sign you up.

Peter Huston, LEF Board member is pictured here manning the booth. Peter volunteers for every LEF event and we appreciate all his efforts!



2024 Tributes

Lake Erie Foundation Board and Staff share these gifts in memory and honor of family members, loved ones, and special people. These donations affirm the love and lasting memories created by Lake Erie to these special people.

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If there is an omission or error, we apologize and please contact Mary Margaret Lavelle at mmlavelle@lakeeriefoundation.org for corrections.

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