

Working towards the preservation of an ecologically sound Lake Maxinkuckee and its surrounding watershed

Happy Thanksgiving

Portledge - What a Lady!



I am so intrigued by the families who discovered the magic of the area over a hundred years ago, built cottages and returned year after year. I was curious as to which cottage had been in the same family the longest and was told I should talk to the family at Portledge on East Shore Drive as they are on the 6th generation!

[Read More](#)

Dan Baughman:

Lake Maxinkuckee's Citizen Scientist



Since the beginnings of Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council (LMEC), the work of dedicated volunteers has produced a wealth of information about the water quality of the lake. One of those volunteers is our own Citizen Scientist, Dan Baughman, who has been collecting data and water samples since 2008.

[Read More](#)

Adopt a Drain

Keep all leaves, limbs and debris cleared away from drains.

When there are too many leaves or limbs clogging a drain, water can't flow properly and flooding may result.

Also, material that goes into a storm drain directly connected to the lake, including leaves, grass clippings, and litter, ends up in the lake without treatment.



ClearChoicesCleanWater.org

Mini Pumpkin Volcano

Lesson: Mini pumpkin volcanoes are simple science and perfect for showing a true chemical reaction.

When an acid (vinegar) and a base (baking soda) combine, they produce a gas, carbon dioxide, which is the eruption you see. The bubbles and fizz are a telltale sign of a chemical reaction vs a physical change.

Supplies:

- Mini pumpkins
- Baking Soda
- Vinegar
- Dish soap
- Food coloring (optional)
- Spoon, funnel, measuring cup and/or measure cups
- Something to catch the mess!



Step 1
Cut out the stem area so you would have a Jack O' Lantern. Keep the opening small so that makes the eruption more interesting. Clean out the insides, but don't worry about getting all the seeds.

Step 2
Place your pumpkins on some sort of container to catch the mess. If the weather is still nice, take the experiment outside. This can get messy—but that's what makes learning fun!

Step 3
Add a few spoonfuls of baking soda to your pumpkins, then add a few drops of dish soap, and finally a few drops of food coloring (optional).

Step 4
Pour vinegar into a bowl and provide your kids with spoons, eye droppers, bottles, or small measuring cups to add the vinegar to the pumpkins. Experiment with different methods. Watch the fun!

You can repeat the process over and over with more vinegar and more baking soda. The dish soap gives the eruption a foamy appearance and you can explore different color combinations.

HAVE FUN!



MINI PUMPKIN VOLCANOS

Download and print this page for easy instructions on a fun family activity that will be sure to impress your kids!

Experiment with different amounts of baking soda and vinegar to get the best effect!

Add multiple colors to create a rainbow!

If you have already made your 2020 gift,
THANK YOU!

We are very close to reaching our goal. If you have not yet made a gift this year, won't you consider doing so?

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