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

HELLO  
*February*

Please be nice!



**Palmer to Retire in May**

**"I am so grateful for my time at LMEF. It was truly my pleasure to get involved with the Culver community and lead such an important organization."**

My husband and I are both very much looking forward to retirement so we can travel, volunteer and spend time with our family.

The search for my replacement is underway. I am confident the outstanding work of LMEF will continue under new leadership.

See [Job Posting](#).



## 2024 Legislative Session

[Hoosier Environmental Council](#) has a nice bill tracker so you can stay on top of environmental legislation.



*What I'm watching:*

**HB 1383: Removing More Wetland Protection**

Would reduce the number of wetlands that are protected in Indiana by changing the definition of the Class III wetlands, the most protected class.

**SB 246: Wetlands Tax Break**

Provides that a parcel of land that: (1) is at least 1/2 of an acre in size; and (2) contains wetlands, as delineated by a person certified in wetland delineation; may be classified as wildlands for purposes of property tax assessment.

**SB 177: Agrivoltaics Task Force**

Agrivoltaics is a term used to describe a dual use parcel of land with solar and agriculture. Agrivoltaic projects in Indiana and other Midwestern states have successfully grown a variety of crops and grazed animals between solar panels, showing agrivoltaics has potential to produce energy and food on the same piece of land.

**HB 1305/SB 249: Major Groundwater Withdrawal Facilities**

Would require a feasibility study and permit before a facility could withdraw 10 million gallons of groundwater per day or more for commercial or industrial purposes. This is a first step forward in state water supply planning.

*Let your legislator know how you feel about these and other proposed environmental bills. Find your legislator [here](#).*

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## In Case You Missed It

### Where Do Turtles Go in the Winter?



Anyone who has spent any time on Lake Maxinkuckee in the summer knows we have a healthy turtle population.

But where do they go in the winter?

What do they eat and how do they survive?

[Read Full Article](#)

### The Lake in Winter



Most people think that there just isn't much going on in a lake during the winter months, but recent studies have shown there is actually more activity than you might think.

Trying to understand lakes using just warm weather studies is like reading just half a book: "How does the story develop?"

[Read Full Article](#)

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## Check Out Theodore Roosevelt

Roosevelt set aside almost 200 million acres—approximately five times as much land as all his predecessors combined—for national forests, reserves and wildlife refuges.

Trying to reign in the President, the House and Senate approved a measure that would block him from declaring new national forests in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the states where the outcries were the loudest. Roosevelt's opponents strategically embedded the measure in the general appropriations bill, which the President would have no choice but to approve.



**1858 - 1919**

For some reason, the appropriations bill found its way to the bottom of TR's "bills to sign" pile. Before he got to the bottom of the pile, he just happened to sign 38 executive orders, creating still more national forests totaling no less than 16 million acres. Only then did the president turn to approving the law that ended his authority in the six listed states.

It has been said that for Roosevelt, signing the "Midnight Reserves" was one of his most cherished moments.

**History of National Park Service**

"What a man does for himself, dies with him. What a man does for his community lives long after he's gone."



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