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



The Winter That Wasn't



From the Indiana Climate INformer Newsletter:

The 2023-2024 meteorological winter (December, January, and February) has concluded, but we only experienced a couple weeks of winter-like weather.

The mean temperature was 35.8F, which was 5.3F above normal for the period. This was the second warmest winter since records began in 1895. The warmest winter on

record was 1931-1932 with an average temperature of 37.4F, an astonishing 1.6F warmer than this winter.

The Midwest had the warmest winter on record (32.7F), and it was the first time on record that the winter temperatures averaged above the freezing mark.

Precipitation, totaling 8.26 inches, finished 0.18 inches below normal in Indiana.

If you like fun facts like this, sign up for the [*Climate INformer Newsletter*](#).

Green Up Your Lawn - Not the Lake!

Just one pound of phosphorus can generate 500 pounds of wet algae!



Let's create a phosphorous free buffer all around the lake.

Take the Pledge!

Fertilizer, the wrong kind and applied improperly, can be a source of phosphorous and nitrogen runoff into the lake. This leads to excessive aquatic plant growth and algae blooms.

Take the pledge to do any or all:

- Conduct a soil test prior to applying fertilizer.
- Follow label instructions for proper use and application.
- Use only phosphorous free fertilizer on your lawn (example: 10-0-10).

Both FH Decks and Landscaping and Sellers Services use phosphorous free fertilizer. If you use either of these businesses, ***you can take the pledge!***

For DIYers, phosphorous free fertilizer is sold at the Ace Hardware in Culver.



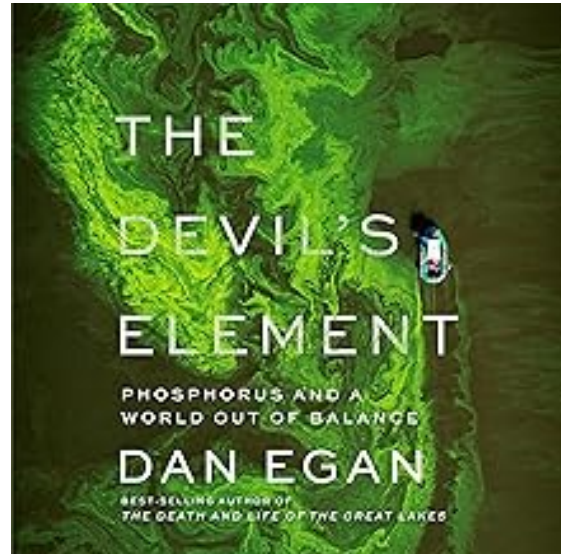
The Devil's Element

Phosphorous and a World Out of Balance
Dan Egan

Note From the Author:

This book is not intended to be the last word on phosphorous. Many in the general public might not yet be aware of the phosphorous troubles the world is headed toward because of the element's dual roles as a dangerously potent toxic algae booster and as an essential - and increasingly scarce - crop nutrient.

....this book isn't intended to provide a prescription for the phosphorous paradox. It is an introduction to it.



March Blog Articles

Green Up Your Lawn Not the Lake!

[Read Full Article](#)



Just like fertilizer makes your grass grow, when it runs off into the lake, it causes aquatic plants to grow as well.

Nitrogen Pollution Part I

[Read Full Article](#)



Through runoff, extra fertilizer is picked up by rainwater and carried to the nearest body of water. Also, during heavy rain, water moves downward

Nitrogen Pollution Part II

[Read Full Article](#)



The creation of synthetic fertilizers in the early 20th century was a turning point in human history, enabling an increase in crop yields and causing a

In mature lawns, unless a soil test indicates that the turf needs supplemental phosphorus, which is rarely the case in our area, it is best to apply lawn maintenance fertilizers. These products contain low (such as < 3%) phosphate levels. Or better yet, 0% phosphate!

through the soil, carrying pollutants with it, into the groundwater, your drinking water source.

population boom.

The overuse of nitrogen and phosphorus from those fertilizers is causing an environmental crisis, as algae blooms and oceanic "dead zones" grow in scale and frequency.



April Fool's Day

Origins of April Fool's Day

Some historians say that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools."



Historians have also linked April Fools' Day to festivals such as Hilaria (Latin for joyful), which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March by followers of the cult of Cybele.

There's also speculation that April Fools' Day was tied to the vernal equinox, or first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere, when Mother Nature fooled people with changing, unpredictable weather.

Here are a couple of clever ones to check out:

- [1957 BBC Spaghetti Tree Hoax](#)
- [Math Professor Fixes Projector Screen](#)
- [Kargo Kids](#)

It's all in good fun but be on the lookout for malicious computer scams on April 1st!

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