



SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

*Since 1981, our Mission:
Working toward the preservation of an ecologically sound Lake
Maxinkuckee and its surrounding watershed*



Photo by board member Amy Henderson

What's Inside This Issue:

- Our Summer Intern
- A New President
- Data Buoy Cometh
- Research with a BANG!

Allen Chesser Memorial Summer Intern

EMILY HEIM



*Junior
Purdue University
Aquatic Sciences*

I am a junior at Purdue University studying Aquatic Sciences. I have a specific passion for teaching young children about the importance of the environment. In my free time, I love hanging out with friends, fishing, running, swimming, and occasionally reading books.

I am a lifelong Culver resident who grew up exploring the Indian trails, going tubing on Lake Maxinkuckee with childhood friends, and running along the shores. This town and this lake hold so many fond memories for me and I am grateful to have grown up in this town. This makes the opportunity to work with the LMEF this summer even more fulfilling as I have the opportunity to do outreach events and serve my community.

Some exciting projects that I will be undertaking this summer include working weekly with the Culver Youth Club and teaching the gardening club. I will also be assisting with water sampling, as well as outreach events in the community.

I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to spend the summer with the Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund expanding my knowledge and building upon my skills out in the field. I look forward to meeting all of the LMEF supporters and volunteers throughout this summer at our numerous outreach events!

Libraries Love Lakes!



LMEF partnered with Culver-Union Township Public Library to celebrate Lakes Appreciation Month!

Emily led the children in story time with lake-themed tales and crafts. She also curated a display table with lake-oriented stories for young readers to choose from.

Turnover at the Top

For nearly five years, President Debbie Palmer guided LMEF through COVID-19, a levee reconstruction, and projects too numerous to list. She and her husband Curt are retiring and looking forward to spending time with their grandkids, traveling, and staying active.

All of us at LMEF are so grateful for Debbie's consistent, hard work and having left the organization in great shape. She writes, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time leading LMEF, but I am confident I am leaving you in good hands."



Adam Thada was selected by the board to be the fifth President of LMEF. Adam holds a B.S. in Biology from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Master of Environmental Science from Taylor University, where he studied prairie restoration.

For the last ten years, he has worked in conservation and sustainability for private and non-profit organizations in Northern Indiana.

Adam resides nearby, in the Yellow River watershed, with his wife and two daughters. He is thrilled and humbled to have this opportunity to steward Lake Maxinkuckee for future generations.



"I think of turnover as the lake taking a deep breath as everything is mixed. It's like a fresh start every spring and fall."

Robert Ladwig, Hydrologist

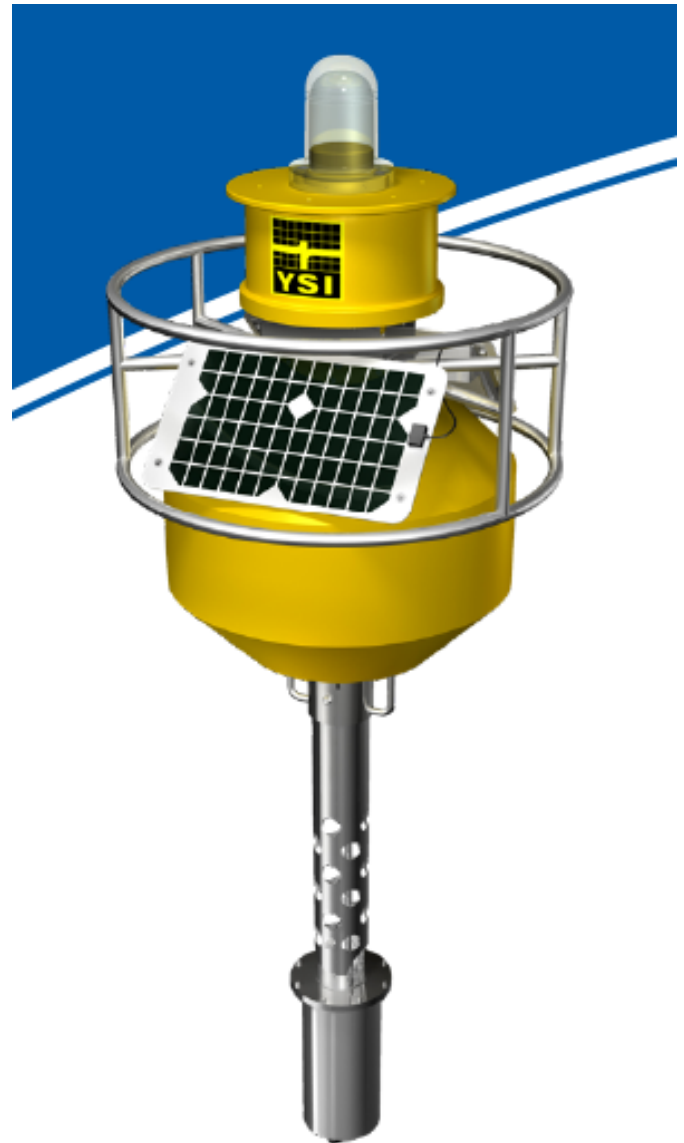
With the help of a grant from the Ralph C. Vonnegut Jr. Fund at the Marshall County Community Foundation, as well as support from our generous donor base, LMEF has purchased a data buoy from YSI!

This buoy will gather data around the clock, including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, algae, conductivity and weather.

Data will be live-streamed to a publicly available website for all to see.

Permit pending, we expect to launch the buoy this summer.

Follow our social media or sign up for our newsletters to stay tuned!



LMEF Board changes

Along with a new Intern and President, 2024 also sees the addition of a new board member, Dave Franckowiak. Dave is a long-time LMEF enthusiast, volunteer, and donor, and we are excited to welcome his energy and talent to our team.

We also said farewell this year to Mark Levett, who served on the board since 2017. We are grateful for his seven years of dedication in helping us keep Lake Maxinkuckee healthy.



FIREWORKS AND PERCHLORATES

Who doesn't love the dazzle of a good summer fireworks show?

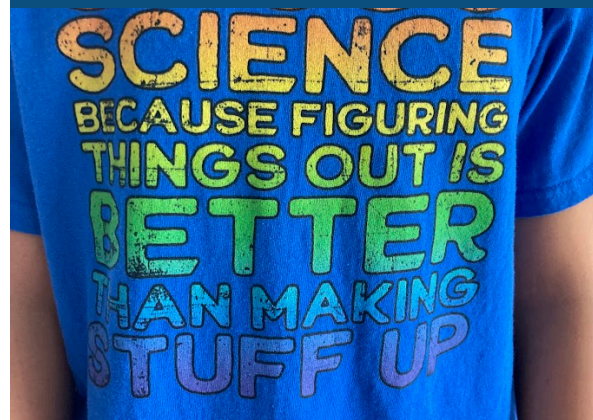
While many of us have found this summer tradition meaningful for our families, we are aware of the negative impacts from the noise and smoke. Another emerging concern is the presence of perchlorates, chlorine-containing compounds used in the manufacture of explosives like fireworks. Human exposure to high doses of perchlorate in drinking water can cause thyroid issues.



... SO, HOW CAN WE KNOW?

I like to say, "Find out before you flip out." Just because we know perchlorates are released from fireworks, it does not mean that we know their exact concentrations, impacts, and pathways through our living lake system.

LMEF participated in a research project with Texas Tech University this summer to help answer just this question. Thanks to a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, hundreds of lakes across North America were sampled a week before, immediately after, and a week after their 4th of July fireworks shows.



These data will help fill the gaps in understanding the magnitude and extent of perchlorate contamination related to fireworks.

Stay tuned for results!

A special thank you to boat captains who lent their craft for the sampling efforts:

- John Spensley
- JD Castleman
- Ryan Schaefer

Thank you for your time and experience!

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