

# Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

**Marabeth Levett joins LMEF Board** Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Fund Board President Carol Zeglis informed the board at their May meeting that Marabeth Levett had agreed to join the Board of Directors. Zeglis went on to say that Marabeth has shown a passion for the lake and its watershed for many years and will be a great addition to the board.

Marabeth and her husband Mark live in Columbus, Indiana. They recently remodeled their lake home on the east shore, known as the "Ice House" after Marabeth's family. She is currently serving a second year as LMEF's Annual Sustaining Fund Chair. In 2010 Marabeth led a very successful campaign, and we are fortunate she agreed to be chair again this year.

Also elected to new three year terms were immediate past president Mary Anna Swennumson, and members Jim Sturman and Kevin Berger. Other LMEF board members include Vice President Litt Clark, Treasurer Merritt Becker, and Council Chair Allen Chesser. This all volunteer board meets four times annually. They raise operational funds and give final approval to projects the Environmental Council consider vital to the health of Lake Maxinkuckee.



*Donations can be made anytime to LMEF, P.O. Box 187, Culver, IN 46511.*

**Don't Forget The Donuts!** Just a note to remind everyone that Mosquito Dunks, a donut shaped biological mosquito control product, are available at stores like Lowes and Culver Hardware. This product kills mosquitoes before they are old enough to bite. They are organic and can be used in fish habitats and placed in containerized standing water like flower pots, bird baths, roof gutters, rain barrels or watering troughs. They are NOT safe for children to ingest so should not be used in swimming pools or in any water that might be consumed. They work and only cost about \$10 for six. Enjoy your summer without the bites!

## 2011 Environmental Council Projects Outlined

**Update Of Our 2005 Watershed Management Plan** The first project being undertaken this year is a revision of the Lake Maxinkuckee Watershed Management Plan. The original was compiled with the help of many individuals throughout our community working in both public meetings and in smaller groups. This document is not being changed in any way, simply updated. We have worked hard since the original workbook was written. Many projects in the goals and objectives section have been completed, some have changed a bit, and a few have been set aside as being unable to be completed due to State rules in existence at this time.

We have been lucky enough to secure a grant to partially pay for the extensive water testing involved in this project from the Ralph C. Vonnegut, Jr. Foundation, via the Marshall County Community Foundation. These tests measure total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, nitrate-nitrogen, ammonia-nitrogen, chlorophyll *a*, transparency, and plankton. We are adding e-coli DNA testing at a few sites to determine the percentages in each sample that come from wildlife, waterfowl, domesticated animals and humans. This is a new service offered by a local lab and we are trying it for the first time. The project is expected to be completed by fall and the results will then be disseminated to the Department of Environmental Management and the Department of Natural Resources. It will also be posted on-line at [www.culverlmecc.com](http://www.culverlmecc.com).

## The Fish of Lake Maxinkuckee - The Report That Started It All

The Department of Natural Resources Fishery Survey was produced in 2009 by retired IDNR Fisheries Biologist (and local Culver native) Bob Robertson along with Christopher Long, Assistant Fisheries Biologist, IDNR. It outlines the types of fish found in the lake since 1965, as well as collection methods used and certain lake conditions. You can see this report in its entirety on our web site at [www.culverlmecc.com](http://www.culverlmecc.com). The fishery survey was conducted in June, 2007 as part of the IDNR management of fish populations in natural lakes. They collected 427 fish representing 22 species. Twelve species were found in the previous four general surveys (1995, 1983, 1975, 1965) that were not recorded in the 2007 survey. Relative abundance of the major species by number was: rock bass (19.7%), bluegill (18.7%), smallmouth bass (10.3%), largemouth bass (10.1%), walleye (8.2%), and yellow perch (8.0%). They are reported on the insert in this newsletter in the same order found (left to right) largest number to smallest. The last 12 fish listed, below the blue line, were not collected in 2007 but were found in the past 45 years. The first six in this batch were collected in 1995 and the final six were last found in 1965, the last year a specific type of trap was used in the collection process.

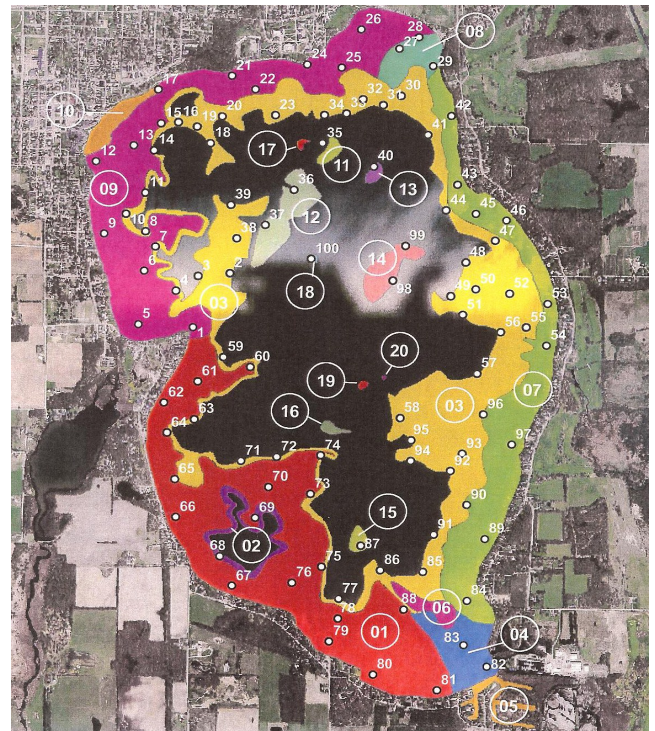
Facts on all of these fish can be found on-line using Google or any other search engine. There is an amazing amount of information on their sizes, habitats, and life spans. Look them up with your children and grandchildren and talk about all the amazing fish you find out there in the lake!

IDNR is currently studying bass tournaments that take place on local lakes, including ours. They are investigating certain breeding conditions and watching weight size of the bass caught. IDNR has been stocking Lake Max for many years with almost 200,000 walleye fingerlings. They are trying to figure out how to grow 90,000 yearling walleye so they can stock our lake with those instead, this may allow for a greater survival rate. The problem is the larger walleye take more "lake acreage" to survive, and the local places used to farm them don't have the room for such a great number. The DNR may do another full fisheries survey during 2013.

### (2011 LMEC Projects Outlined - continued)

**Update Of Aquatic Plant Management Plan** It is time to map all of the weed beds in the lake to see what is growing now and determine whether or not any invasive species are present or have become "unmanageable". This process involves a complete lake survey which includes collecting and counting plant species, and ultimately producing color coded maps showing where each weed bed is located as well as lists of the plants within each bed. This project is also being partially funded by the Vonnegut grant. The first survey took place June 7th, mapping will be done in mid August. The results will then be written up and passed along to IDEM and IDNR as well as put on-line at our website.

*To the right is a sample map from our 2005 plant Tier II survey. It shows each weed bed (designated in a separate color with large circled number) plus each place samples were taken (smaller numbers).*



**Semler/Rhodes Re-vegetation** This project was originally funded by a grant from a division of IDNR called the Lake and River Enhancement division, or LARE. It began in 2007 and consisted of using specific planting mediums to bring back shoreline, emergent, and deep emergent plants along the lakes edge. With the approval of the property owners, the project was located along three properties on the west shore near the Culver Cove. The project's intent was to see if plants that had been lost due to high turbidity in the lake could be brought back. Turbidity is promoted by the water's wave action caused by high winds and/or boat traffic. The waves hit the hard surface of the old concrete seawalls at the lake's edge and this action scours the bottom of the lake, destroying tender native plants. Seawalls like this were actually promoted by IDNR at one time, but now new ones are not allowed in any fresh water lake. The LMEC was

one of two groups who received a grant in 2007 to try re-vegetating a lake. The other group was Cardno-JFNew who tried several planting mediums in two other lakes.

After the first plantings were done in 2007, LARE and LMEC personnel recorded the results for three years. The success rate for the LMEC project was around 30% to 32%, depending on if they were shoreline plants (those sitting right at or above the shoreline), emergent (from the shoreline to about two feet deep) or deep emergent plants (two feet plus). Cardno-JFNew obtained the same success rate except for in the areas where they used concrete donuts with the plants growing inside the donut's hole. These donuts are about five inches across and moderately heavy. They are used to anchor the small plants and weight them down until they can get established. Their success rate was about 37% to 46%, again depending on the plants depth.

This year we are trying two different approaches at Lake Maxinkuckee. The approach at the Semler property involves Cardno-JFNew using re-designed donuts, grouping several of them inside a larger concrete "base" and then installing a domed screen over each base to try to prevent ducks and muskrats from eating the plants until they get established. The company will then conduct maintenance for the next two years and have guaranteed a 70% success rate. Keep your fingers crossed!

The owner of the Rhodes property is going to try his own man-made planting medium and move larger, natural plants from other areas of the lake with the permission of several other property owners. We should understand at the end of another three years what the differences are between low-cost and high-tech planting mediums. We'll let you know.

**Wetland Tours** We are planning tours of the Wilson and Maxinkuckee (Kline) wetlands for fall for Culver Academies students and the Curtiss and Maxinkuckee for Culver Community School students. These tours will include photos at each site to show how they were constructed, the original diagrams and costs, as well as archeological information found in the areas.

**Plantings At Culver Academies Outfall** LMEC member Dave Blalock, Director of Grounds at the Culver Academies, is planning to have students help plant the soil that has washed into the new outfall structure, which is located below the parade grounds at the lake's edge. This will help stabilize the soil while leaving open a small "stream" to allow rainwater to flow into the lake. The LMEC is furnishing the plants and will participate in this great little summer project.

**Sediment Trap At Curtiss Ditch** This project has slowed down a bit due to the Council's concerns about the soil type and flooding issues near the area. The Curtiss is our best tributary right now, showing little or no e-coli until right at the lake itself where it spiked just above the state minimum after heavy rains last year. This may come from those same heavy rains moving deposited sediment out of a smaller sediment trap located just east of the flow motors in the ditch at East Shore Drive and the Maxinkuckee Country Club's golf course. The type of soil found in this area actually has a consistency similar to pudding when saturated with water. If you dig it up, it needs to be placed somewhere to dry or it would simply ooze out of a truck bed. Placing it on the ground adjacent to the ditch, where the same soil exists, could mean it would "press down" on that soil and heave up the bottom of the ditch itself. This is one of the problems we are facing. We are currently looking for the solution and will let you know when we find it.

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**"This then, is the value of our public estate.** That we have set aside forever a part of the original domain. That by leaving it in its natural condition we have made the past intelligible to our and to coming generations. That we have attracted visitors from other states and shown them the beauty of our own. That we have found a measure of appreciation for the good of our day and an offset in part for some of its evils. That we have strengthened citizenship and helped create the appreciation of the soil which cannot but increase our attachment to our own (community) and to the nation. That we have tried to educate the masses of our people to look upon conservation not merely as a means of self-preservation; a practical conserving of our resources, but also as a need for the appreciation and uplift of the soul of man." *Reproduced in part from a speech made by Richard Lieber, 1923, Founder of the Indiana State Park System*

**Words to contemplate when enjoying this great lake. Please have a great summer everyone, and have fun looking for the fishes!**  
Kathy Clark, Executive Director LMEC

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# The Fish of Lake Maxinkuckee

**A friend of ours sent an email last year, asking us to consider publishing an article outlining all the fish that inhabit Lake Maxinkuckee, including pictures of each. This newsletter contains just such an insert for you and your family to enjoy.**

**One fish not making an appearance here is called a Cisco with an average length of 17". It inhabited the lake at one time but hasn't been found by IDNR since before 1965. The Cisco is on Indiana's endangered, threatened and rare species list as being "of special concern". If you find one, take a picture and then throw it back! It's precious! We'll contact IDNR and give them your photo for their records.**

**There may be other fish that don't make their presence known when IDNR does these surveys, and I'd venture a guess that a few fish we may have seen "back in the day" might not live here anymore due to natural predators or some other change in their environment, though this would be extremely rare.**



*AMOUNT OF RAINFALL IN GALLONS ADDED TO THE LAKE WITH ONE INCH OF RAIN*  
- 43,560 square feet = one acre x 1,864 acres in Lake Max. = 81,195,840 sq. ft. of lake.  
- 81,195,840 sq. ft. divided by 12" = 6,766,320 cubic feet  
- 6,766,320 cubic feet x 7.5 gallons in a cubic foot = 50,757,400 gallons with just 1" of rain!

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## Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

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Working toward the preservation of an ecologically sound Lake Maxinkuckee and it's surrounding watershed.



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