



Lake Maxinkuckee Environmental Council

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Kathy Clark

The end of fall has been exciting here at Lake Maxinkuckee. We helped Ellen Bramfeld in her effort to spread flowers all around our little corner of the world by sharing several large wildflower seed packets so she can spread seeds over the snow this winter. The snow melts and the seeds germinate, then voila - beautiful flowers for the birds and insects to enjoy next year. Who knew you could plant seeds in the winter! Great tip Ellen!

Those of you who are bird watchers should be getting ready for the big Christmas Count which is held from December 14th through January 5th this year. It is the 114th such count that was started by the Audubon Society. Go to their website at birds.audubon.org for more information on this wonderful program.

At the edge of the Mississippi Flyway, our region is a stop over for Sandhill cranes, both at DNR's Kankakee Fish and Wildlife Area and in a farmer's field just off the south-east corner of our lake. (shown above—left)

So pick someplace new this year to participate, someplace away from your house and your feeders. Pack your binoculars and a sandwich, as well as a thermos of something hot, and go out and see what birds you can find.

The second annual Lake Maxinkuckee Ice Fishing Tournament, once again sponsored by the Culver Chamber of Commerce, is to be held on February 14th and 15th. Come join in and bring the little ones as this is just a great fun adventure! Cross your fingers for ice!

The photos in our banner are from our newest LMEF Board President, Marabeth Levett. She took two of them from her east shore home, and they show just a few of the reasons we love our beautiful lake and watershed. Welcome to the helm Marabeth!

ANNUAL SUSTAINING FUND DRIVE

The original 1990 LMEF Annual Sustaining Fund Drive was held to raise money for 1991 expenses. The LMEF and LMEC decided that they were "charting a better

course for tomorrow by establishing and supervising procedures and programs that would always ensure the high standards needed to sustain great water quality, things some residents and visitors may have taken for granted. They felt then that the ultimate success of this program depended on those who believe strongly in the course of action that began when they were founded in 1982....to improve, protect and manage the water quality of Lake Maxinkuckee." (LMEC 1990 newsletter)

The budget for 1991 was set at \$50,000. Their projected costs were broken out as follows:

Wetland Projects/Maintenance	58.5%
Administrative Expenses	36.0%
Public Education	3.5%
Fundraising	2.0%

That 1991 fundraising committee was comprised of Judy and Allen Becker, acting as Chairs, as well as Carol and Bud Hillis, Betty and Jim Moss, Jo and Dick Dugger, Myra and Chet Evers, Jane McKinney, Mary Tanguy, Marcia Adams, Dan Osborn, Andy Vernum, Fred Lintner, and Bill Pippenger.

It is now twenty three years after that first annual sustaining fund drive, and we are nearing the end of our 2013 campaign. Costs have increased across the board for everything. Our budgets have been hovering around \$90,000 for the last ten years with actual annual expenses coming in just below that at between \$83,000 to \$89,000.

Final expense percentages for 2012 are as follows:

Environmental Projects/Maintenance	60%
Administrative Expenses	20%
Public Education	8%
Fundraising	12%

In 2013 we decided to dip into our funds to support the necessary research for the United States Geological Survey that will provide a baseline for the future health of Lake Maxinkuckee. We appreciate our donors whose financial support funds our annual budget, even today.

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We also received a \$10,000 grant from the Culver Educational Foundation in 2013 as well as \$10,000 grant from the Marshall County Community Foundation's Ralph C. Vonnegut Jr. Fund to help with this project for which we are very appreciative.

Safeguarding the health of you and your children is paramount to us. Protecting the property values of all who live in our community is a consequence of our work. Our mission is as clear now as it was in 1991. We must do what is required to protect the water quality of Lake Maxinkuckee and ensure its watershed is also safeguarded from direct and in-direct pollution. It is not too late to donate for 2013. We thank you for your financial support.

LAKE MAXINKUCKEE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

LMEC has been updating its 2005 watershed management plan and intends to begin publishing its successes in the spring of 2014. We will also report on the few goals that simply could not be accomplished with the current regulations that are in place today. We intend to hold a community-wide meeting in the fall of 2014 at the Depot and hope all of you will participate in helping us determine our goals for the next ten years. Our focus has broadened to allow some attention to the total watershed, where issues can greatly impact water quality. Our next watershed management plan should be completed by spring of 2015 and will include all of LMEC's recent research as well as our efforts to preserve and maintain Lake Maxinkuckee. More on this later....

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