

A scenic photograph of a white lighthouse with a red top, situated on a rocky shore. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm orange and yellow glow over the water. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds. The text "LAKE ERIE" is written in white, uppercase, sans-serif font, and "BREAKING WAVES" is written in a larger, bold, white, uppercase, sans-serif font, both overlaid on the image.

LAKE ERIE BREAKING WAVES



Summer Is Here on Lake Erie!

July is one of the busiest and most important months on Lake Erie.

Boaters, anglers, beachgoers, families, and visitors are enjoying the lake, while scientists and water quality experts are closely watching the conditions that shape harmful algal bloom season.

This month, we're sharing the latest 2026 HAB forecast, a new article highlighting our P-Filter Project, and an important reminder to reserve your spot for Celebrate the Lake.

● 2026 HAB Forecast: A Moderate Bloom Expected

NOAA and its research partners have released the 2026 harmful algal bloom forecast for Lake Erie's western basin.



This year's bloom is expected to be **moderate**, with a projected severity of **3.5** and a possible range of **3 to 4.5**. According to the forecast, the bloom is expected to begin in July, peak in August, and likely continue into September.

At this level, NOAA expects the bloom to remain mostly in the western basin, though wind and weather can change its size, location, and intensity. Surface scum can still create health risks, especially during calm weather, and people and pets should avoid water where scum is visible.

For LEF, the takeaway is clear: even in a moderate bloom year, Lake Erie still needs serious, long-term phosphorus reduction.

That is why our work to reduce nutrient pollution at the source remains so important.

Read the NOAA forecast here:

<https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/science-areas/habs/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/>

We're grateful to see continued attention on the Lake Erie Foundation's P-Filter Project in northwest Ohio.



Land to Lake recently published a story about the project, highlighting how new filters in Defiance County are helping capture phosphorus from farm runoff before it reaches the streams and waterways that feed Lake Erie.

This is exactly the kind of work LEF has been pushing for: practical, targeted infrastructure that addresses phosphorus before it becomes a lake-wide problem.

The P-Filter Project focuses on high-phosphorus fields, sometimes called legacy fields, where runoff can contribute a disproportionate amount of nutrients to the watershed. By installing and monitoring filters in these high-impact areas, we can better understand how this technology performs in real-world conditions and how it could be scaled across the Maumee River watershed.

This project is not just research. It is action in the ground, producing data, and helping point the way toward more effective phosphorus reduction.

Read the Land to Lake article here:

<https://landtolake.org/p-filter-project/>

Read LEF's full article on the project here:

<https://lakeeriefoundation.org/phosphorus-runoff-p-filter-project/>

Celebrate the Lake Is Sold Out

We are excited to share that individual tickets for **Celebrate the Lake 2026** are now sold out. Thank you to everyone who reserved a spot and helped make this event such a strong show of support for Lake Erie.

A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are still available for businesses, families, and supporters who want to be part of this special evening and help advance the Lake Erie Foundation's mission.

Guests will enjoy food, an open bar, live entertainment, a wine pull, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, and a short program featuring **Dr. Chris Winslow**, Director of Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab, and **Jay Martin**, Senior Engineer at Flint Run Engineering.

We are also proud to share that the **2026 President's Award** will be presented to **Hal and Diane Hawk of Crown Battery** in recognition of their leadership, generosity, and long-standing commitment to protecting Lake Erie.

While tickets are sold out, sponsorships remain a meaningful way to support the event and the year-round work of the Lake Erie Foundation.

Learn more about sponsorship opportunities here:

<https://lakeeriefoundation.org/celebrate-the-lake/>

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If you are interested in [becoming a sponsor](#) the Celebrate the Lake, please contact Mary Margaret Lavelle at mmlavelle@lakeeriefoundation.org for more information.

Plastic Pollution: Small Particles, Big Concern

Microplastics remain one of the most important emerging issues facing Lake Erie and the Great Lakes.

Recent reporting continues to show that microplastics are increasing in the Great Lakes, while regular monitoring is still limited. These small particles come from many sources, including single-use plastics, packaging, clothing fibers, and larger plastic items that break down over time.

Lake Erie provides drinking water to millions of people and supports fishing, tourism, recreation, and local economies. Reducing plastic pollution starts with everyday choices, but it also requires better monitoring, stronger public awareness, and long-term solutions.

A few simple ways to help:

- Reduce single-use plastics when possible
- Bring reusable bottles, bags, and containers
- Pick up litter near beaches, marinas, parks, and storm drains
- Support policies and programs that reduce plastic pollution at the source

Learn more about microplastics in Lake Erie:

<https://signalcleveland.org/yes-there-are-microplastics-in-lake-erie-heres-what-you-need-to-know/>

From Retired Sails to Something New: The Story of Resailor

Lake Erie Foundation is excited to welcome **Resailor** as a new Business Sponsor and a sponsor of the 2026 Celebrate the Lake event.



Resailor was founded by Susan and Gordon Perry, a husband-and-wife team whose story begins with a lifelong love of sailing.

Gordon has been sailing for decades and was once a national champion sailor. Years ago, he owned a skipper bag from a regatta that he carried for nearly 15 years. When the bag finally began to fall apart, he was genuinely disappointed to lose something that held so many memories.

That old bag stayed with him.

Years later, Gordon began experimenting with marine fabrics while trying to create a practical sunshade for the couple's sailboat. He taught himself to sew, first practicing on small pieces of denim and eventually moving on to simple bags.

Then a friend suggested that he try recreating the kind of sail bag he had once loved.

That suggestion changed everything.

Gordon began studying bag designs, working with retired sails, and learning how to use heavy-duty sewing equipment. Along the way, the Perrys connected with sailors, sailmakers, marinas, local retailers, and community organizations that had old sails and marine materials available. The project began to grow quickly.

Today, Resailor turns retired sails, canvas, and other marine fabrics into durable bags and accessories that are designed to carry both practical value and a story. Many of the materials would otherwise sit unused or eventually end up in a landfill.

Susan and Gordon see that as the heart of the business.

“We’re not just a vendor. We’re an environmental ally,” Susan shared during our conversation. “It’s about preservation, legacy, and Lake Erie pride.”

Resailor’s work extends beyond the products themselves. The company has donated bags to local children’s programs, schools, and sailing organizations. It is also developing an educational program, which introduces children to sailing, recycling, marine materials, and the importance of keeping reusable materials out of landfills.

The company’s broader vision is built around what Susan calls a circular economy. Old sails are collected, repurposed, and returned to the community in a new form. In some cases, boat owners can donate a sail and receive a finished bag in return. Marinas and sailing organizations can also participate by helping collect sails for reuse.

For Gordon, the work has become deeply personal. Susan shared that he has said making these bags fulfills him in much the same way his earlier sailing and racing years did.

That sense of full-circle purpose is what makes Resailor’s story so compelling.

The company is also committed to keeping its work local, authentic, and connected to the communities around Lake Erie. Its products can be found through select retailers and events rather than through a traditional online storefront. Susan and Gordon want people to discover not just a bag, but the story behind it.

Lake Erie Foundation is grateful to Resailor for becoming a Business Sponsor and for supporting our sold-out Celebrate the Lake event through a generous product contribution.

Their work reflects many of the values LEF cares about: protecting the water, reducing waste, strengthening local communities, and finding practical ways to create lasting change.

Thank you to Susan and Gordon Perry, and to Resailor, for supporting Lake Erie Foundation and Celebrate the Lake. One sail at a time, they are helping give old materials a new purpose.

Check them out at www.resailor.com.

Summer Safety: Check Conditions Before You Go

Lake Erie conditions can change quickly in the summer.

Before swimming, boating, paddling, or heading to the beach, please check current water quality and marine conditions. Heavy rain, wind, wave action, bacteria levels, and harmful algal bloom activity can all affect whether it is safe to be in or near the water.

Helpful resources include:

- NOAA Lake Erie HAB Forecast
- Ohio BeachGuard
- Local beach water quality updates
- National Weather Service marine and surf forecasts

As always, avoid water with visible scum, keep pets away from suspected bloom areas, and use extra caution after heavy rain or during high wave conditions.

Good News: Shoreline Restoration Investments Continue

Across the Lake Erie region, communities are continuing to invest in shoreline restoration, habitat protection, and coastal resilience.

These projects matter because a healthy lake depends on more than open water. Shorelines, wetlands, beaches, bluffs, and stream corridors all play a role in filtering runoff, protecting habitat, reducing erosion, and strengthening the connection between people and the lake.

We'll continue watching these projects and sharing updates as communities work to protect the places where land and water meet.

Tributes

In memory of **Jeffrey B. Spelman** by the Spelman Family.

"Remembering Our Brother, An Avid Fisherman, Boater and Enthusiast Of the Western Lake Erie Shores."

Thank You To Our New Business Sponsor

A special thank you to the Greater Sandusky Partnership, who recently became a Guardian of Lake Erie business sponsor *and* a bronze sponsor of Celebrate the Lake.



♥ Support the Work

Looking ahead, your support helps make long-term work possible:

Ways to Give:

- One-time or **monthly donation**
- **Become a member** or renew
- **Business sponsorship**
- **Tribute or in-memory gift**

Would you consider making a **monthly sustaining gift** of \$5, \$10, or \$25/month to support steady impact?

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