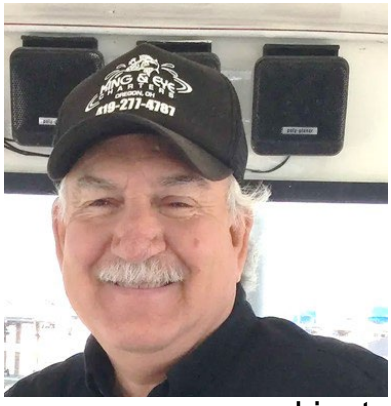
The Newsletter Voice of LECBA

the Hook
Fishing Lake Erie's Western Basin



Don McGee, your Vice President of LECBA, was born and raised in Oregon, Ohio a small lake-front town near Toledo and Maumee Bay State Park. Like many young boys his age, Don saw the wonder of fishing Lake Erie and surrounding waters catching catfish, crappie, carp, and just about anything that swam!

This early love of fishing led him to his first boat at age 14 even before he had a license to drive a car. Luckily, his friend's mom would take the boys out to the lake where they could launch the boat, then she would come back and get them after she got off work. Nice to have a driver when you weren't even old enough to drive yourself!

Fishing and hunting were the passions that sparked his interest in ecology and how all the tributaries contribute to the Lake's overall health and well-being. This interest was grown and fostered through his membership and ultimate leadership in LECBA.

By participating in Fish Ohio, Don had the pleasure of hosting two Governors on his boat, and he was voted the 2020 LECBA Captain of the Year.

Don has also been instrumental with Lake Erie water sampling and has worked with the Ohio Sea Grant taking weekly samples for analysis. He has also been involved in the telemetry tagging of Walleyes and is looking forward to the tagging of perch.

In the 1990's, he won the Charter Captain's Walleye Tournament when he fished out of Anchor's Away Marina.

On his non-fishing days, Don was a Municipal City Worker for the City of Oregon.

Says Paul Pacholski, President of LECBA, about Don McGee:

> *“Captain Don has been an integral part of the weekly water sampling for the The Ohio State University for the past five years by coordinating the captains across the Western Basin.*
>
> *He’s also my “go to” captain in the Western Basin for biological projects with the ODNR. He willingly takes out local news reporters and university academics to report and study the harmful algal blooms. He’s always steps up when it comes to the betterment of Lake Erie.*
>
> *Thank you, Don for all your work for Lake Erie.”*

Currently, Don is the working owner of King and Eye Charters out of Meinke Marina.