Clearly Kosciusko Podcast Series

A PODCAST THAT CELEBRATES WHAT IS UNIQUE, WHAT IS SPECIAL, WHAT IS…CLEARLY KOSCIUSKO

Powered and produced by KEDCO in partnership with J.C. Innovations LLC.

Episode 21: Jason & Liz Dewart: Home from Chicago and a heart for the lakes

o Husband and wife, Jason and Liz Dewart met in college at Purdue University (Boiler Up!). After living in Chicago for a number of years and welcoming their son, Maddox, The Dewart Family felt a calling to head back to Jason's hometown in Milford, Indiana.

o With many fond memories of growing up at the lake, and as a Wawasee Grad, Jason wanted to explore living near Lake Wawasee. But The Dewart Family found the perfect fit at Winona Lake.

o With a background in CNC machining and engineering, Liz was reluctant to leave Chicago at first, but was quickly introduced to ample manufacturing opportunities in Kosciusko County. She joined the team at Instrumental Machine & Development (IMD) which designs & manufactures orthopedic instruments.

o As a graduate from Kosciusko Leadership Academy (KLA), Liz's passion for community involvement grew immensely, and she continues to volunteer for the program. Through white paper projects completed by KLA class members, community development projects such as the K21 Splash Pad at Winona Lake Limitless Park, the Clearly Kosciusko community-wide brand, and the Winona Lake Ice Rink, have come to fruition or developed more from white paper contributions.

o In addition to spending time at the lake, Jason & Liz recommend these local spots: Paradiso Cocktail Bar, Oak & Alley, Kiyomi Japanese Cuisine, The Channel Marker, The Sleepy Owl Supper Club, Tippy Creek Winery. They emphasized the ongoing opportunities for kiddos at the local Kosciusko Community YMCA, and they enjoy spending time as a family on The Winona Lake Trails.

Are you new to the area? We'd love to see you at KEDCO's Outside the Fishbowl monthly meetup!

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Episode 22: Dan Davin - From Big City living to lake living–sunrise to sunset

- After spending most weekends in the summer on Webster Lake for the past 15 years, Dan Davin and his wife recently became "primary" residents of Kosciusko County––yay!

- The couple started an IT company 25 years ago in Chicago. And after a recent merger (April 1, 2021) with ServIT in Warsaw, Dan, his wife and several of his employees made the move from Chicago to Warsaw…and they haven't looked back. The company is now known as MRP a ServIT Company.

- Having spent 15 years at the lake, when the merger was announced, Dan shared with his employees the advantages of living in Warsaw versus Chicago. An obvious difference he shared was the 22% - 25% difference in cost of living.

- Several employees and their families made the plunge and moved to Kosciusko County. Dan shared that when walking through the warehouse every now and then he jokes with employees asking, "Do you want to thank me now?" He said the response is always "yes."

- Dan's perspective on the greatest advantages to living in Kosciusko County:

    - Lake living––you can find it all over Kosciusko County with more than 100 lakes
    - You feel safe wherever you go in the community
    - It's a laid-back atmosphere with friendly neighbors

- Dan said, "My view in Chicago was my neighbor's garage. Now my view is looking over Lake Webster and watching the sun come up. It's extremely peaceful."

- Foodies–Don't underestimate K-County's offerings. A few of Dan's nearby favorites are 26th Street Mexican Grill, Maria's (Dan recommends the skillets), Oswalt Family Bakery & Café.

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Episode 23: Nate Bosch – Diving deep into the 100+ lakes of K-County

- Nate Bosch, PH.D is the director at the [Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams](#) at [Grace College.](#)

- Unique to Kosciusko County, the mission of the Lilly Center is to make the freshwater lakes and streams clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. The organization conducts research, provides valuable resources, engages with and educates residents and businesses, and collaborates with local partners.

- Born in Holland, Michigan, Nate spent ample time around the Northern lakes. He and his family moved to the area after he accepted the director position with the Lilly Center, and they haven't looked back.

- With family living at [Winona Lake](#), and knowing his grandparents traveled from Michigan to Winona Lake for entertainment years ago, Nate and his family enjoy spending time on Winona. He was quick to add that ALL of the lakes in the county have something unique to offer– whether you're looking for good fishing spots, the best areas to swim or enjoy recreation on the lakes.

- In addition to being a great gathering place, Nate said, "Our lakes truly are remarkable for recreation."

- When asked how unique the lake landscape in Kosciusko County is, Nate said *very* unique. "We have over 100 lakes in our county, we have the biggest natural lake in Indiana [[Lake Wawasee](#)]. [Lake Tippecanoe](#) is the deepest natural lake in Indiana, and the Tippecanoe River goes right through the county and is considered one of the top 10 streams in the U.S. by the [Nature Conservancy](#)," Nate said.

- The lakes in Kosciusko County have a $300M economic impact each year.

- The lakes have a rich history. You may have heard bits about some of the 'legends of the lakes' including an alleged WWII plane sunken in Tippy Lake, and Al Capone hiding out and gambling at Lake Wawasee years ago.

- One best-kept secret is the Great Blue Heron Rookery about ¾ mile off U.S. Hwy 30 and State Road 15 behind the Kohl's store. In the spring, you'll find over 100 nests of Great Blue Heron.

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Episode 24: Kelly Mager – An entrepreneur offering connection for moms and families with 'things to do' in Kosciusko County

o   Kelly Mager, a talented woman with many hats—some including entrepreneur, wife and mother—moved to the area with her husband from New York seven years ago. The reason for coming to the Hoosier state? Warsaw, The Orthopedic Capital of the World®.

o   After starting a family and becoming a mom, Kelly found it challenging to know when and where activities for children were offered in the community. After doing some informal customer discovery with other moms, Kelly started Mini Mischief Managed. It's a resource for local families to find kid-friendly activities—primarily for kiddos between the ages of 0-5.

o   When asked about favorite things to do in the community, Kelly and her family enjoy anything outdoors from cycling on the trails and around the lakes, and visiting nearby parks and public beaches. They also visit the Warsaw Community Public Library often, and recommend checking out camps and activities offered by the parks and recreation department.

o   Kelly recommends checking out The Treehouse indoor play place, inside North Webster Church of God, along with Main Street Coffee Co. And when asked about additional spots or activities more families could enjoy, Kelly said more indoor spaces like The Treehouse would be useful for parents.

o   Be sure to check out Kelly's book "15 Ways for New Moms to Manage Stress and Stay Sane" for useful tips for easing into motherhood.

   Are you a new resident to the area? Be sure to check out Mini Mischief Managed, The Kosciusko County Visitor's Center which has great resources for both visitors and residents, and we invite you to join us at KEDCO's monthly meetup, Outside the Fishbowl.