

# HEADWATERS

A core publication of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams | Spring 2021

THIS FULL-GROWN  
EASTERN SCREECH OWL  
IS ABOUT 6 INCHES TALL.  
HE PREFERS TO LIVE IN THE HOLLOW  
OF TREES, PERFECTLY CAMOUFLAGED  
AMONG THE BRANCHES AND BARK.  
NATIVE OWLS LIKE THIS ONE ARE AN  
INVALUABLE PART OF OUR LOCAL  
ECOSYSTEM! MORE ON THE INSIDE  
COVER!



THE WIHEBRINK FAMILY: YOUTH  
AT ANY AGE  
*PAGE 2*

WEEKLY ALGAE TOXIN UPDATES  
*PAGE 3*

2020-21 VIRTUAL VISITS WITH  
THE LILLY CENTER  
*PAGE 4*



LILLY CENTER FOR  
**LAKES  
& STREAMS**

# EXPEDITION: OWLS



In February, the Lilly Center hosted three feathered visitors from Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab. An eastern screech owl (pictured on the cover), a great horned owl (pictured to the left), and a barred owl all made an appearance to a group of kids and their families at Koinonia Nature Preserve. Thank to Zimmer Biomet for supporting this event!

## WHY DO OWLS MATTER?

Owls are a key part of our local aquatic ecosystems - they are the top of the food chain and keep populations of other creatures in lakes, streams and wetlands in check. Owls can eat crayfish, insects, frogs, and even fish!

## HOW CAN YOU SEE AN OWL?

Start by visiting wooded areas, like the Winona Lake Trails or the Syracuse-Wawasee Trail. If you visit after dark, listen for trills and hoots to guide you to the foot of a tree where an owl may live.

If you visit during the day, look up! You can sometimes spot owls sunning themselves while taking a nap. You should also keep an eye out for owl pellets (packed full of bones, fur, and feathers) which can tell you much about an owl's diet. •

## CONTENTS

- 2 The Wihebrinks: Youth at any age
- 3 Weekly algae toxin updates
- 4 Virtual visits with the Lilly Center
- 5 Upcoming Lilly Center events

## STAFF

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Dr. Nate Bosch</b><br>Director                  | <b>Adrienne Daeger</b><br>Research Program Specialist |
| <b>Alex Hall</b><br>Associate Director             | <b>Abby Phinney</b><br>Public Relations Specialist    |
| <b>Amy Bloemendaal</b><br>Development Assistant    |   |
| <b>Sarah Baier</b><br>Education Program Specialist |   |

## CONTACT

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Email</b><br>lakes@grace.edu   | <b>Phone</b><br>574-372-5100, ext. 6445 |
| <b>Website</b><br>lakes.grace.edu |   |



The Wihebrink family (left to right: Ian, Heather, Joel and Delaney) has lived on Big Chapman Lake for four generations.



# The Wihebrinks: Youth at any age

By Abby Phinney, public relations specialist. Excerpt taken from *Your Lake, Your Story*, an upcoming Lilly Center publication available in May 2021.

The Chapman lakes bring youthfulness; and, they bring youth together: Six-year-olds can bond with their 12th-grade neighbors and siblings. Joel Wihebrink described how their now college-aged daughter will still go turtle-hunting with friends. And, Heather Wihebrink added, kids do not feel as compelled to hang out exclusively with their peers. Kids of all ages can enjoy being around each other when they are on the lake.

“Moms of kids who don’t live on the lake love for their kids to come out here,” Heather said. “Because when they’re here, they don’t grab their phones, they don’t sit and play videogames. They want to be themselves - and on the lake, they can be.”

Four generations of Wihebrinks have fallen in love with the Chapman lakes, and with the support and attentive care from organizations like the Lilly Center, Joel and Heather hope that continues long into the future. •



Blue-green algae blooms, like this one, can seem to turn the water into “pea soup,” moving along with the water and changing its tint. Sometimes cells can clump together, but will not be picked up as easily as green algae.



## Weekly algae toxin updates

EMAIL UPDATES FOR 14 LAKES AND 7 PUBLIC BEACHES FROM JUNE TO AUGUST, 2021

This summer, for the first time, the Lilly Center is offering weekly **algae toxin updates** that will help you make the best decisions for your family! Blue-green algae and the toxin it produces, microcystin, are known for causing rashes and making people, and particularly pets, sick.

When you sign up for these weekly emails, you will know what to expect from 14 local lakes and seven public beaches from June -August, 2021. Sign up here: [lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae](https://lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae).

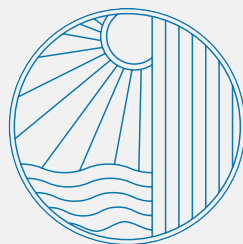
Supported by the K21 Health Foundation, the

### How can you sign up?

Visit our website to **sign up for weekly algae toxin updates:** [lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae](https://lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae)

Lilly Center samples for the microcystin toxin throughout Kosciusko County. Blue-green algae are a type of bacteria. They are natural, but can get out of balance and produce harmful toxins.

If you spot a bloom, keep people and pets away from the water, and let us know what you have noticed: [lakes@grace.edu](mailto:lakes@grace.edu).



### Ensure your lake legacy.

Join the Lilly Center Legacy Society by making a gift through a bequest. Talk to Dr. Nate Bosch or Amy Bloemendaal about how you can join the Founders Circle, an initiating group of 20 individuals or families, today:

574.372.5100, ext. 6445 | [bloemea@grace.edu](mailto:bloemea@grace.edu)

# Virtual Visits with the Lilly Center

Since last fall, the Lilly Center education team has offered Virtual Visits to schools throughout Kosciusko County. “We’re on target to reach 50 classrooms this year,” said Sarah Baier, education program specialist at the Lilly Center. Sarah has masterminded the pivot from indoor, in-person education to deliverable, virtual presentations that still pack a STEM-based punch.

Each visit is 45-60 minutes long. During the program, a Lilly Center education team member walks the class through a lesson. In one lesson, for example, students practice the scientific method while conducting experiments exploring cohesion and adhesion, two important properties of water.

The programs are well-received by teachers, who re-

port that the kids enjoy the activities and make many real world connections.

Grace St. Clair, a Grace College student studying environmental science and nonprofit management, has taught several virtual field trips. As much as she enjoys in-person teaching, Grace has found many upsides to virtual lessons. “You can be more goofy and energetic with the students because you have to keep them engaged,” she said. “I love being able to just have fun with the kids, despite COVID restrictions.”

Keeping the class’s energy up by asking questions or showing videos and having students sing or dance along



Students at Jefferson Elementary School hold up their examples of camouflaged fish, created during a Lilly Center virtual visit.

helps engage them, too. Every prompt is tied into the program’s objectives to keep the students on track.

In some cases, Grace says, the team has learned the hard way. But all in all, the Virtual Visits are a hit. “It has been a learning experience for everyone,” Grace said, “But such a fun time.”

Are you an educator, former or current? We want to connect with you! Send us questions, plan to volunteer with us, or schedule a visit for your own classroom: [lakes.grace.edu/education](https://lakes.grace.edu/education)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

More details and RSVP information for all events are available on our website: [lakes.grace.edu](https://lakes.grace.edu)

## LUNCH AND LEARN: GEESE MANAGEMENT

**April 15, 12 PM | RSVP required**

The Lilly Center is hosting a watch party for a presentation by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to discuss the issues of goose overpopulation and which management techniques are most effective. After the video, we will discuss how these issues affect us on a local level.

Lunch will be provided for free to our in-person participants. However, you can sign up for a “virtual ticket” to receive the link to the IDNR presentation to view from home!

## EXPEDITION: HERON ROOKERY

**April 20, 1 PM | RSVP required**

Did you know that Great Blue Herons make their nests way up in treetops, just like other kinds of birds? Join this expedition to see them in person! RSVP soon; spots are limited.

These groups of nests are called a rookery, and sometimes they can reach numbers of 135 nests in one location. They are amazing to see, and we want to give you the opportunity to visit one for yourself. Join Dr. Nate Bosch on one of his college labs to see the rookery first-hand.

## 2021 ECOTOURS: WAWASEE, WINONA, TIPPECANOE & CHAPMAN

**THIS SUMMER | RSVP required**

Plan to join us for a boating tour of one of these four local lakes! More details to come.



## MEET ALEX.

Alex, the Lilly Center's associate director, is a Warsaw-Winona Lake native. From days spent at Pike Lake as a child to doing a comparative study of Center, Pike and Winona Lakes during his undergraduate work at Manchester University, he and his family have been connected to local water for decades. Alex also has a master's in nonprofit management from Grace College and occasionally teaches online classes at Grace. At the Lilly Center, Alex provides leadership to the day-to-day operations, as well as managing grant proposals and reporting processes. When he's not at the office, Alex enjoys biking, running, playing soccer and spending time with close friends.



## LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING?

We like you, too! You can give and get involved by visiting our website: [lakes.grace.edu](https://lakes.grace.edu).