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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 4, 2018

Spring Interpretive Hike to Offer Insight on Local Ecosystem

WINONA LAKE, IND. – The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams is hosting a spring interpretive hike on Saturday, May 12, at 9 a.m. The free, family-friendly events begins on the Lake City Greenway and follows Heritage Trail. Participants should meet at the Heritage Trail parking lot at the end of Boys City Dr. in Winona Lake, Ind. No registration is required.

The Lilly Center hosts interpretive hikes several times each year. The spring hike is an opportunity for community members to learn about species native to Indiana, identify local trees and plants, study birds and learn how to protect our watershed. Participants will also learn how the stream functions as part of the forest ecosystem as they walk the trail. The hike is open to participants of all ages and fitness levels.

The interpretive hike will be led by Luke Hunt, a certified master naturalist and retired secondary science educator from the Whitko school district. Hunt was also an adjunct professor at Grace College. "The hike will provide participants with instruction and explanations related to the natural features observed on the trail," said Hunt. "For our community members, an hour on the trail will arouse an increased respect for the natural world, which, in turn, will refresh our responsibility as stewards of the creation."

Participants are encouraged to dress according to weather and trail conditions. In the case of inclement weather, cancellation will be announced on the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams Facebook page and via Twitter, @CenterforLakes.

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College conducts research, provides resources, engages and educates residents, and collaborates with local organizations to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe and beautiful. To date, the Lilly Center has conducted scientific research on over 30 streams and 40 lakes. The Lilly Center is driven to create a legacy of stewardship by equipping community members, visitors and future generations to understand and enjoy the county's natural beauty. For more information, visit <u>lakes.grace.edu</u>.