

HEADWATERS

A core publication of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams | Winter 2020



The Levinsons: Nearly 100
years on Wawasee
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lake sampling
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LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



Abby Phinney, public relations specialist

WELCOME TO HEADWATERS

EDITOR'S LETTER

Confusion is a common barrier to peace-of-mind -- it is a familiar, unwelcome feeling. But when you have all the information, it is much easier to make a strategic, clear decision.

We believe that truth applies to your lake, too.

Limnological science is often as murky as a lake on a hot summer day. Terminology like phosphorous, epilimnion and turnover require quite a bit of explanation and context. And most of us do not have time to take a crash course or join Dr. Bosch's aquatic ecology college class!

At the Lilly Center, we write articles and conduct research and teach students with **you** in mind. We want you to understand what is going on beneath the surface. That is why we strive to answer even the simplest of questions as accurately as possible. We want to illuminate the future of your lake with the best locally sourced and science-based insight.

This publication is another avenue for you to actively gain knowledge and protect your lake. It is designed to colorfully capture the Lilly Center's biggest news, as well as the stories of our supporters and partner organizations. In Headwaters, we hope to satisfy your curiosity and equip you with the tools you need to make insightful decisions for our local lake and streams habitats.

Enjoy!

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Generational Giving: The Levinsons

THE LEVINSONS STRIVE TO PASS ON MORE THAN JUST A HOUSE TO THEIR CHILDREN. WHY DO THEY PROTECT WHAT THEY LOVE?

There is a picture in the Levinson family lake house that holds special value. It shows Frank Jr. and Becky Levinson's elated children proudly holding a turtle they had just caught in Lake Wawasee. Fifty years before, a very similar turtle-hunting picture was taken of a previous generation of Levinsons, and the expressions and emotions are nearly identical. More than good genes have been passed down; a legacy begun in the 1920s is now planted in the hearts of Frank and Becky's children. "My family has been making memories on Lake Wawasee for nearly 100 years," said Frank Jr. "We want to pass on more than a house to our children. Our mentality toward the lake is that we want to take care of it, too. What's in the house doesn't mean anything unless that lake is there," Becky added.

The Levinsons have spent much time on Lake Wawasee. As a family, they would vacation on the lake every summer. In fact, they have kept many of the same neighbors for 40-60 years. Frank Jr. remembers going to the Syracuse Library as a child, checking out a stack of books, and returning to the lake house to read. "We'd stay on the lake for five-to-eight weeks," he said. "We went swimming, turtle hunting, fishing and sailing." And his children do much the same. The lake helps them form a sense of identity and develop who they are, Frank Jr. says. Nothing beats a house full of family and friends.

Perhaps paramount in their memories is time spent sailing. All generations back to Frank Sr.'s father and his brothers have enjoyed sailing small boats. "We race them on Saturdays and Sundays in the summer," said Frank Sr. "And as members of the Wawasee Yacht Club, we take our grandchildren to sailing classes." They sailed on lakes all over the Midwest... but none stand out more than Lake Wawasee. Now, Frank Jr.'s children are carrying on the tradition.

A healthy lake creates a variety of opportunities for growth, both economically and socially. For Frank Jr. and Becky, passing on their family's memories means more than just preserving the lake as a way to recreate and enjoy summer evenings. "The lake brings a sense of



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pride and involvement to the community,” Frank Jr. explained. “To continue stewarding it, we have to do what makes sense for the long-term as well as the short-term.”

If the name “Levinson” is familiar, it is likely because you have heard it in association with the history of the Lilly Center. Frank Sr. is one of the Lilly Center’s founders. When he helped launch the Lilly Center (then named Kosciusko Lakes & Streams) and hire Dr. Nate Bosch, Frank Sr. remembers being a little unsure of the program’s future. Founding an organization dedicated to the scientific research of lakes was a risk. “But it has turned into a tremendous success,” he said. He and Kristin are proud to support it.

As the Lilly Center pursues scientifically grounded research on Lake Wawasee, as well as 13 other local lakes, we do so with the health and safety of families

foremost in our mind, just as it is in the Levinsons’. “We feel that we must engage in research to make our long term efforts continuously more effective,” said Frank Sr. “And we need education so that our community can better understand and engage in this effort.”

The Lilly Center’s work on Lake Wawasee is a team effort. No one group or person is able to fully protect the lake. “The more you try to make lake health about a team rather than an individual, the more growth and buy-in you’ll see,” Frank Jr. explained. The most powerful changes are seen over time. Through dedicated and supported work, and a vision passed down generation to generation, lasting health for the lakes is on the horizon. •



DESTINATION: LAKE SCIENCE

For the 2019-20 school year, Sarah Baier, educational program specialist, set a high bar for the Lilly Center’s destination field trip program: Host 1,000 K-3rd students by the end of the school year. With close to three months left in the year, that goal will quickly be exceeded. All told, the center plans to host **62 individual classrooms** and almost **1,500 students**. That’s 1,500 young minds taught about the beauty and importance of our local lake environments! •

INCREDIBLE BATS

In January, the Lilly Center partnered with Incredible Bats to allow families to experience bats, possums and skunks up close, as well as turtles, frogs and fish from the Lilly Center. The event drew 50+ people and was part of the Lilly Center’s ongoing effort to educate the community on lake and stream habitats. •



In 2020, Lake Wawasee will be sampled every month

For the first time, the Lilly Center research team is sampling Lake Wawasee year-round thanks to a generous donation from a local supporter.

“We are excited to learn more about the seasonal changes our lakes experience,” said Adrienne Funderburg, research program specialist. “Specifically, we’re eager to see what insights this research will provide in better understanding local algae populations.”

Winter lake sampling will be conducted monthly with the same protocols as summer sampling, with added bonus of occasionally hacking through a layer of ice. More information will be available throughout the year through our blog, social media and other publications. Follow us on Facebook for pictures and stories from the field: @centerforlakes •



WHAT LIGHT WILL YEAR-ROUND SAMPLING ON WAWASEE SHED ON ALL OF OUR LAKES? THE LILLY CENTER IS GOING TO FIND OUT.

Kindness, carried on: Vance Lopp’s legacy on Lake Wawasee lasts for generations

By Dr. Nate Bosch

A legacy takes many forms. One afternoon at M the Market in Syracuse, Vance Lopp and I were enjoying our meal when a woman at the table next to ours started choking. Without a second thought, Vance leapt up and performed the Heimlich maneuver to help the woman breathe again. He made sure she was okay and then returned to our table as though nothing had happened.

That sort of intentional kindness was displayed throughout Vance’s life. Although he passed away on November 20, 2019, we will continue to celebrate his legacy. Back in 2016, Vance approached me about supporting the Lilly

VANCE LOPP DISPLAYED KINDNESS THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. HE REMAINS A CONTINUAL INSPIRATION TO PURSUE SCIENCE ON LAKE WAWASEE.

Center with an estate gift. He was the first of our supporters to do so, and his act of kindness helps establish science-based care of Lake Wawasee that will last forever. The charitable gift annuity was perfect for Vance because it provided him secure income and tax advantages and allowed him to benefit Lake Wawasee with a gift to the Lilly Center as the beneficiary.

Vance was an inspiration to me with his continual insights and encouragement; he saw the value of a science-based approach to taking care of Lake Wawasee and other local lakes. He was a great man in life, and his kindness has been passed on through the legacy he established. •

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are packing 2020 full of events! Here are the next few months at a glance. More details will be available on our website and on Facebook (@centerforlakes).

KOINONIA EXPEDITION

February 29, 6-8pm

Join the Lilly Center and Kononia to dissect real owl pellets, learn to identify a variety of owl calls, then hike through the 100 acre woods of the preserve while we send out and listen for returned owl calls!

CLEAN MARINAS WORKSHOP

March 12, 1-12pm

This IDEM Clean Marinas Lunch & Learn is for Kosciusko County marinas and boaters, those who own businesses and those who enjoy the water recreationally. Learn how to reduce the environmental impacts related to boating and protect inland waterways.

THE LAKES FESTIVAL

May 22-23

Come to the 12th-annual Lakes Festival! You can fully enjoy the water at your own pace, and try all of our water activities for free. There's something for everyone: lakesfestival.org.

FRIDAY: Bring your friends and kick off the Lakes Festival with 3 live concerts, street food and friendly competition. Limited edition hats will be given to the first 50 guests.

SATURDAY: Come back on Saturday with your family. From the parade to the workshops, there's free, educational fun for every age. Stay all the way through and enjoy dinner on the beach before fireworks.

CREEK CLEAN-UP

June 20

Alongside Center Lake Conservation Association, we're cleaning up a portion of Walnut Creek in Warsaw! Mark your calendar and follow us on Facebook for more details.

LEOPOLD EDUCATION WORKSHOP

July 16

The Lilly Center is partnering with the Leopold Education Project to showcase lessons on Land Ethics. This workshop will highlight a variety of hands-on and engaging activities that can be used with students and community groups alike. The workshop also offers 3 continuing education credits for teachers.



LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING?

We like you, too! You can give and get involved by visiting our website: lakes.grace.edu.