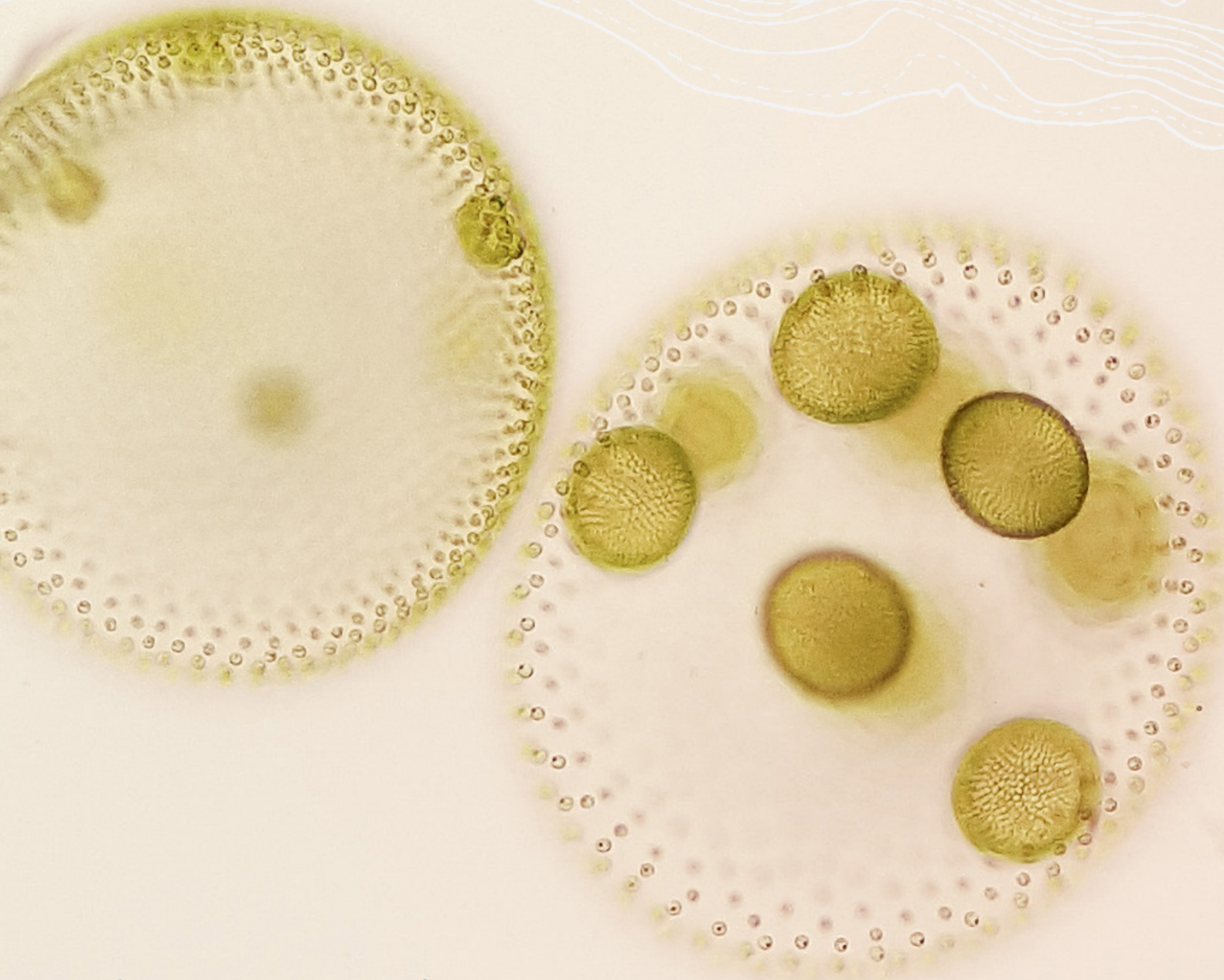


HEADWATERS

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



Luke Hunt's source of inspiration

Page 2-3

Property with a purpose

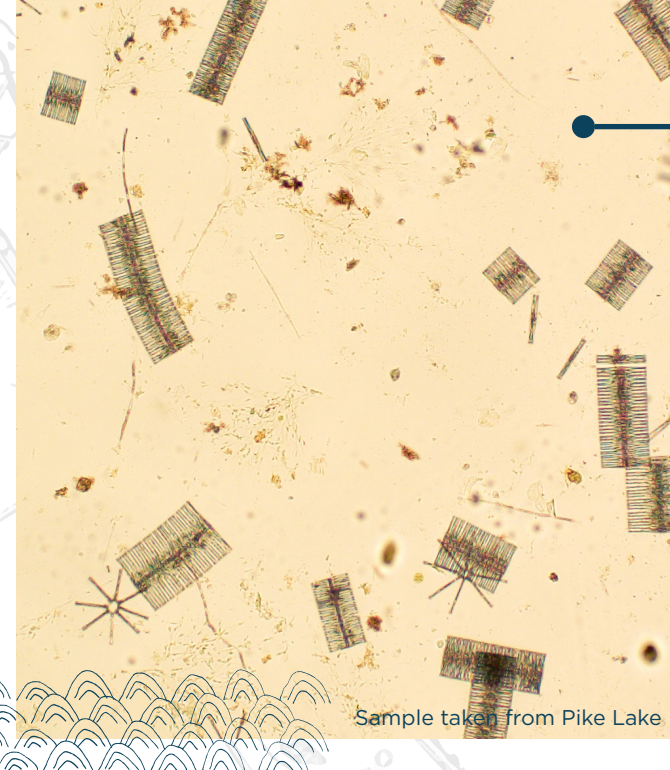
Page 4

Donor-funded, student-powered

Page 6



LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



Sample taken from Pike Lake

What am I looking at?

The cover of this newsletter features a type of green algae called a **volvox**. Volvox aren't fast-movers or interesting predators; they're just beautiful to look at. They live in large, coordinated colonies that appear completely spherical. Each sphere is one colony, and each colony has smaller spheres inside. All of the green dots on the outside are the individual volvox cells, and the smaller spheres on the inside are small developing colonies. Once the small child colonies are mature, the parent colony ruptures and releases the new volvox into the world.

The image on the left shows several types of **diatoms**. Each of the 100,000+ species has a unique shape and look, each with perfect angular geometry and symmetry. These shapes are unique because their frustules (a science word for tiny shell) are made of a mineral called silica, the same mineral that makes up sand, glass and quartz. Because silica is a mineral, the molecules line up in specific ways to make the variety of interesting shapes found on diatoms.

We captured these intricate algae using a special microscope and camera funded by our supporters! The same microscope and photography system are used weekly to count blue-green algae cells, so we can learn about blue-green algae populations in local lakes. Blue-green algae are a category that can produce toxins that are harmful to people and pets. To keep our lake residents and visitors healthy and safe, we study these toxic algae and post current toxin levels weekly on our website for 14 local lakes.

CONTENTS

- 2 Luke Hunt's source of inspiration
- 3 K-12 plans for the fall
- 4 Property with a purpose
- 5 Donor-funded, student-powered

STAFF

Dr. Nate Bosch
Director

Caitlin Yoder
Community Engagement Specialist

Alex Hall
Associate Director

Sarah Baier
Education Program Specialist

Amy Bloemendaal
Development Assistant

Adrienne Funderburg
Research Program Specialist

Abby Phinney
Public Relations Specialist

CONTACT

Email
lakes@grace.edu

Phone
574-372-5100, ext. 6445

Website
lakes.grace.edu



Luke Hunt's source of inspiration

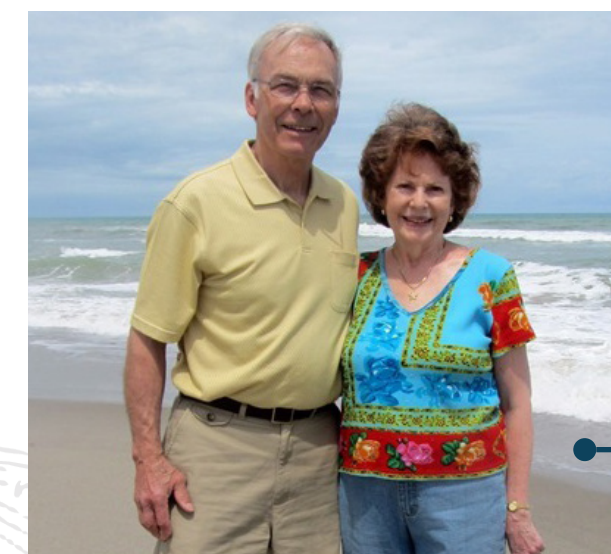
By Abby Phinney

On a remote farm in northern Wisconsin, Luke Hunt explored and experienced the outdoors from a young age. Truly "free-range," his parents taught him and his siblings how to play safely and then set them loose, unable to keep their children from the woods, rivers and fields that surrounded their home.



"We were given liberty to go out and discover. I don't think I would have allowed my children to do that, but my parents knew that I couldn't get into too much trouble," Luke smiled.

Luke soon found himself on the path to becoming a teacher. He was ultimately led to central Indiana and Grace College, where he became a part-time science professor. He taught plant, animal and environmental biology for several years. Among other lasting contributions to the college's science program, Luke expanded and developed the environmental science class, which would eventually become a cornerstone of the environmental science major.



"I added projects and hands-on research to the course curriculum," said Luke. "We created the trail behind the science complex, too." The mulched trail wraps around Beta Pond and winds through an upper woodland area. Other projects also included a dock, informational signs, and an outdoor amphitheater. "When we put in the dock, there was mud up to our waists. It was messy," Luke laughed. "We didn't see fish in there, but lots of turtles and leeches!" The class also did some work eliminating invasive species like garlic mustard and Japanese Barberry.

Above: Over the years, Luke has done taxidermy work for the science department, including this otter, which is currently used for Lilly Center K-12 field trips.
Below: Luke Hunt poses with his wife, Darlene.

In 2007, Luke was offered a new, temporary role. Buoyed by local leaders and a generous grant, Grace College was ready to launch Kosciusko Lakes & Streams. But there was a gap in leadership that needed to be filled while a permanent director was found and hired. Luke stepped in. During his time as director of what would become the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, he helped conduct the baseline lake study upon which all of our other studies are built.

The study looked at 30 local lakes. Over the summer of 2007, a small research team gathered data at numerous sites around each of the lakes. That was then analyzed and organized into a baseline study. Luke also set three education programs into motion: Lake Adventure Days, Classroom Lake Experience, and the annual Art Contest. All three remain integral

to the Lilly Center's K-12 programming. K-12 students play an essential role in the ongoing health of natural resources, a truth Luke has understood since his childhood in Wisconsin. The Lilly Center's programs make the most of the opportunity to leave an impression on young minds.

When asked what inspires him to understand creation and teach what he discovers, Luke answered simply and sincerely. "My interest in God's glorious creation began as soon as my brain had developed enough to observe and retain information," Luke said. "The Lord has blessed me with a long life, and through the years, truth and facts have been accumulating that inspire me." You build up knowledge, Luke explained. And eventually, you just have to share it. •



2021 ART CONTEST WINNERS

Every year since 2008, including this year, the Lilly Center collects artwork from local classrooms and selects the best to be in a calendar for the following year. The art contest is an opportunity for fourth-12th-grade students to apply artistic talent and showcase Kosciusko County's natural resources in unique ways. And they never disappoint! 2021 calendars featuring 25 winners will be available this fall.

ARTWORK BY HAYLEE BROWN: "DRAMATICS OF THE SKY"

VIRTUAL K-12 FIELD TRIPS

This fall, changes in local schools will impact the Lilly Center's ability to host field trips in the science complex... so we're taking many of them online and outdoors! Virtual field trip kits will be dropped off at classrooms. Students will have a live video call with a Lilly Center educator who will walk them through the activities. Outdoor natural spaces will provide new alternatives for field trips, as well!



Property with a purpose

Marylou Hipskind decided it was time to let go of her stretch of Wawasee channel shoreline. But she wanted the property to have purpose, beyond its real estate value.

Earlier this spring, Marylou Hipskind, Kay Young, Steve Snyder and Dr. Nate Bosch met at a piece of property on a Lake Wawasee channel. It was a meeting made possible by generosity and expertise, and by shared vision.

The property (a lovely green stretch of open ground, primed for a cozy lake cottage of almost any shape or size) had belonged to Marylou, but her family no longer needed it or wanted to pay for the upkeep. Rather than put it up for sale, Marylou called Dr. Bosch.

"I was delighted to be able to donate this property to further the research and outreach of the Lilly Center," Marylou said. Dr. Bosch added, "Marylou's generosity is a glimpse into the hearts of all our supporters," he said. "She believes in our mission because it's one that she and her family value, too."

Marylou determined that donating the property to the Lilly Center would be the best use of the resource. Steve Snyder, an attorney with Snyder Morgan Federoff & Kuchmay, and Kay Young, a relator with Todd Realty, jumped on board shortly after. "We believe this is a great endeavor," said Steve, and Kay agreed. "We care about the future of Lake Wawasee, and want to help the Lilly Center continue doing research on the lake," she said. Both provided their time and expertise pro-bono.

"The Lilly Center's efforts will ultimately help preserve the wonderful resource of Lake Wawasee," said Marylou. "Those who have a deep love and appreciation for the lake will get to enjoy it long into the future." •

Your gift toward the Lilly Center's work can take many forms! Contact us to learn about all your options, or suggest a new one: 574-372-5100, 6445

Marylou Hipskind, Dr. Nate Bosch, Steve Snyder and Kay Young



DONOR-FUNDED, STUDENT-POWERED

These students represent 130+ others who have all played important roles at the Lilly Center. Since its founding, the Lilly Center has relied on the hard work of our student team members. They enhance and extend the work done by regular staff.



ALIX UNDERWOOD

Alix Underwood worked on the research team and studied environmental biology. She currently works for the Peace Core Sustainable Agriculture Sector. She is also pursuing a graduate degree in environmental policy.



SACIA HANSON

Sacia is currently studying special and elementary education and working for the Lilly Center education team. She plans to take the skills she's learning into her future classroom.



JONATHAN BONTRAGER

Jonathan will study environmental biology at Grace this fall, and hopes to work for the Lilly Center. He specifically enjoys studying wildlife, like geese, and how to manage their populations.

Ready to support our students, and the impactful work they do? Visit our website: lakes.grace.edu/give or call us at 574-372-5100, ext. 6445.

UPCOMING EVENTS

More details and a list of our fall events are available on our website: lakes.grace.edu

NATIVE SHORELINE WORKSHOP

August 16, 2-3pm | RSVP required

This workshop will discuss when and how to utilize native plants on shorelines to reduce erosion, provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and create a beautiful backdrop to your lake view.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A CLEAN-UP

September 21, 1-2pm | RSVP required

Let us equip you to host a clean up for your own lake or stream! We will help you determine what kind of clean up makes the most sense for your organization, give tips for planning the event, how to run the day-of, and how to get people involved. The Lilly Center will also offer assistance through starter kits and promotion of your event.



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