

HEADWATERS

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

DOWNLOAD *BENEATH THE
SURFACE* TODAY
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HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE
LILLY CENTER THIS WINTER
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IN 2022!
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LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



FORAGING FOR EDIBLES

Have you ever walked through the woods and wondered if you could survive on what you see along the path? Before you forage for dinner, here are a few things to consider.

Foraging guidelines

1. Identify plants fully and completely. Make sure you ask a knowledgeable person or check a field guide before consuming anything you find.
2. The same plant may include both edible and toxic parts; likewise, some parts may cook well and while others may not.
3. Do not eat plants that have been recently sprayed. Regardless of where you forage, make sure to wash what you gather.

So what can you eat? Lots of things! Many berries (such as blackberries, raspberries, elderberries and gooseberries) are safe. So are nuts, including acorns, beechnuts and hazelnuts. In Indiana, you can also munch on Pawpaw, wild grapes, cattail heads, dandelion leaves, wild ginger, wild cherries, and more. •

These tips were provided by Luke Hunt, who has been a part of the Lilly Center since its founding. He is a certified master naturalist and a wealth of ecological information.

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BENEATH THE SURFACE

The Lilly Center's research team gathers thousands of data points every year. That is a lot of information! In order to make our research accessible to you, we publish *Beneath the Surface* every October. The report details what is going on in 14 local lakes from a scientific perspective — without the hard-to-understand jargon.

In it, you will find:

- Data, figures and tables, gathered during the summers of 2019-21
- Helpful, easy-to-read data analyses from our team of scientists
- Several simple ways you can help keep your lake healthy for your family

If you would like to learn more about blue-green algae (and the toxin it produces, microcystin) pages 8-9 detail our most-recent analysis, with more to come as we continue studying the species.

Next year is our 15th anniversary. We have studied blue-green algae for 10 of those years! One

of the primary lessons we have learned is that **blue-green algae toxin production varies from lake to lake**, and sometimes from place to place in a larger lake. For example, Winona Lake typically has higher algae populations and lower toxin concentrations while Lake Wawasee typically has lower algae populations and higher toxin concentrations.

BENEATH THE SURFACE IS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON OUR WEBSITE: [LAKES.GRACE.EDU/BTS](https://lakes.grace.edu/bts)

With that in mind, we wanted to enable you to make wise decisions for your family. *Beneath the Surface* is one way you can stay informed! You can also check out our website and sign up for microcystin toxin notifications, sent during our summer sampling season. •



Did you know that Lilly Center lake research continues during winter?

Sampling must go on, despite the weather.

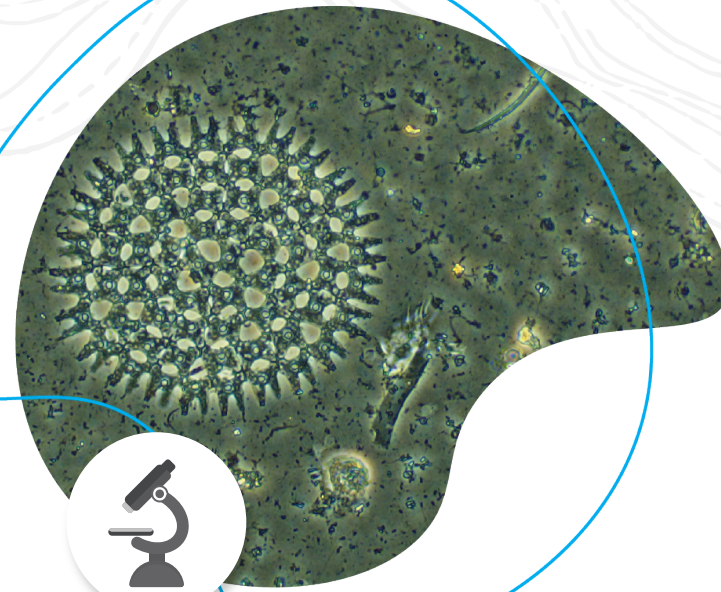
We conduct a lot of sampling! Every week during the summer, the research team samples **14 local lakes**. Every two weeks year-round, the team samples **12 important streams**. It also maintains 12 stream sensors, even during the coldest weeks of the year.

Much of our research, however, is conducted in our facility, not in the field. Throughout the year, the research team (both staff and students) manage and analyze

data, work in the lab, and compile information to write research studies.

Would you consider supporting one of these project areas?

You can give online, by mail or by phone. If you would like to see the lab or join the sampling team to see how we gather data, please reach out. We want you to fully understand the impact of your generosity! •



ALGAE COUNTING

The algae team takes water samples and turns them into microscope slides. Then, they identify, count and document what they find. If you give to algae counting and identification, you help us determine which species of blue-green algae are thriving at what times of the summer. This will make it possible to reduce lake toxin levels.

\$34,000

You can give online, by phone or by mail!

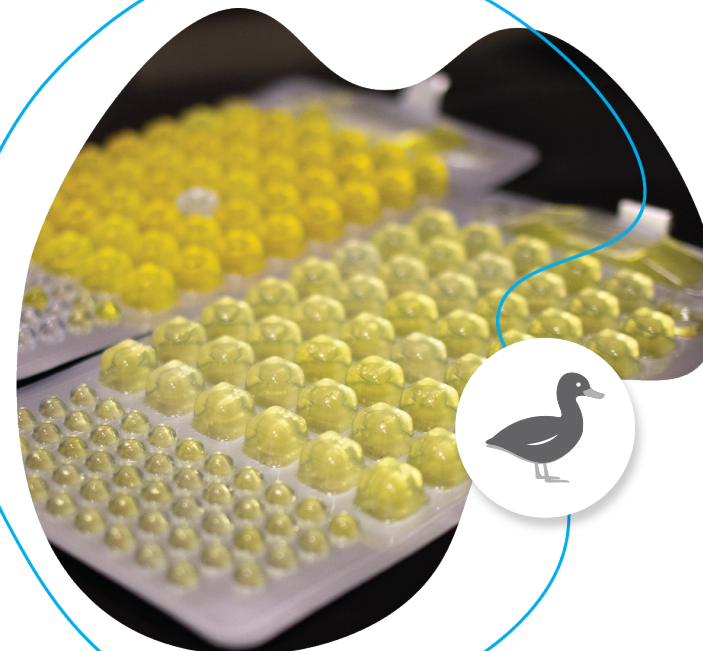
lakes.grace.edu/give | 574-372-5100, ext. 6445
1 Lancer Way, Winona Lake, IN 46590



STREAM SENSORS

We use specialized stream sensors to track how much water enters and leaves inflowing and outflowing streams, among other parameters. The 24/7 data stream fills in gaps and provides additional data for our ongoing research, such as nutrient budgets for our lakes. Your gift will be used to maintain the high-tech equipment long into the future.

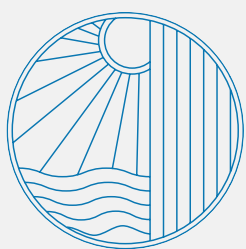
\$23,000



E. COLI

E. coli is a type of bacteria that belongs in the intestines of healthy humans and warm-blooded animals. If it enters waterways via sewage or animal waste, however, it can cause illness. We've added *E. coli* testing to our beach sampling and biweekly stream sampling schedule for Winona, the Tippecanoe chain, and Wawasee and Syracuse. Your gift will help us identify water quality issues and ways to improve those lakes!

\$15,000



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 Founder's Circle and become part of an initial group of 20 individuals or families, today: 574.372.5100, ext. 6445 | bloemea@grace.edu



Get ready to celebrate

Next year, 2022, is the **Lilly Center's 15th anniversary**. We plan to celebrate with a summer-long series of activities and giveaways — **and you are invited!** More details to come.

SIGN UP FOR OUR E-NEWSLETTER TO STAY IN THE LOOP! [LAKES.GRACE.EDU/GET-INVOLVED](https://lakes.grace.edu/get-involved)



MEET ABBY.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Abby grew up with a camera in one hand and a pen in the other. They were essential to her favorite hobbies and remain her preferred mediums. At the Lilly Center, Abby manages and creates all outbound and internal communication, such as copywriting, social media, graphic and editorial design (including this newsletter!) In their free time, Abby and her husband Ben enjoy playing board games and hosting family and friends.



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GRACE
COLLEGE

LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOING?

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