

HEADWATERS

A core publication of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams | Spring 2023

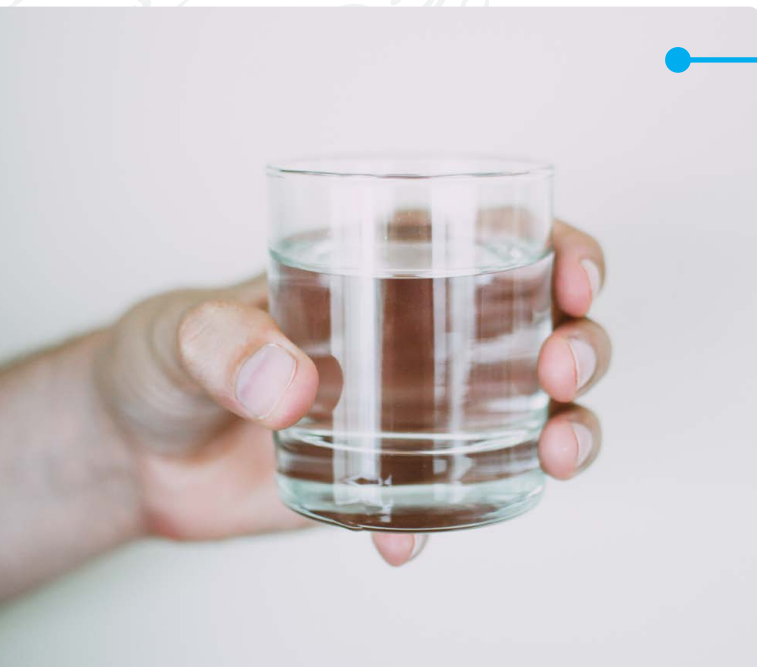
Summer activities for the
whole family
page 2

A crystal-clear vision for
Kosciusko County's lakes
pages 3-4

Keep your family safe
on the lake with toxin
notifications!
page 5



LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



SO YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT "PFAS"

If you read about human health topics in the news, you may have scrolled past a headline containing words like "forever chemicals," or the acronym "PFAS." Even if you read these articles, the topic can be confusing and concerning, especially here in lake-rich Kosciusko County.

PFAS stands for **per-** and **polyfluoroalkyl** substances, a name which describes the key chemistry of this family of man-made molecules. Their extreme stability in many conditions has earned them the name "forever chemicals." They do not naturally break down and can build up to damaging concentrations. They're also difficult to filter out and break down in lab settings.

Although PFAS has not been detected in Kosciusko County's drinking water, our research team will continue to **monitor** work by the EPA, IDEM, Indiana American Water, and others to understand PFAS as it relates to our lakes & streams. We will get new information to you as it becomes available! •

Learn more about our research on our lakes at lakes.grace.edu.

CONTENTS

- 2 Summer activities for the whole family!
- 3 A crystal-clear vision for Kosciusko County's lakes
- 5 Stay safe on the lake this summer with toxin notifications
- 5 Celebrate Amy's 10th workiversary!

Cover: Mindy Truex, Eddie Creighton, and Brandon Creighton at Crystal Lake.

STAFF

Dr. Nate Bosch
Director

Jeremy Price
Associate Director

Amy Bloemendaal
Development Assistant

Sarah Baier
Education Program Specialist

Matt Burlingame
Asst. Director of Research

Dr. Joseph Frentzel
Cell & Molecular Biologist

Jed Harvey
Research Technician

Rusty Martinez
Asst. Director of Marketing

Grace St. Clair
Lead Education Coordinator

Ariel Wagner
Education Coordinator

CONTACT

Email
lakes@grace.edu

Phone
574-372-5281

Website
lakes.grace.edu



LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**

GRACE
COLLEGE

STICK A
MAGNET
HERE!

SUMMER FUN

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

STICK A
MAGNET
HERE!



CRITTER ENCOUNTERS

Learn about the wonderful world of aquatic critters each morning through games, story time, crafts, and hands-on interactions.

June 9, 23, July 7, 21

lakes.grace.edu/events

Or scan this QR code!



Lake research and education isn't possible without the help of amazing volunteers. This summer, you can assist lake research by being a volunteer boat captain!

Make a difference on your lake today:

Email us at lakes@grace.edu



ECOTOURS

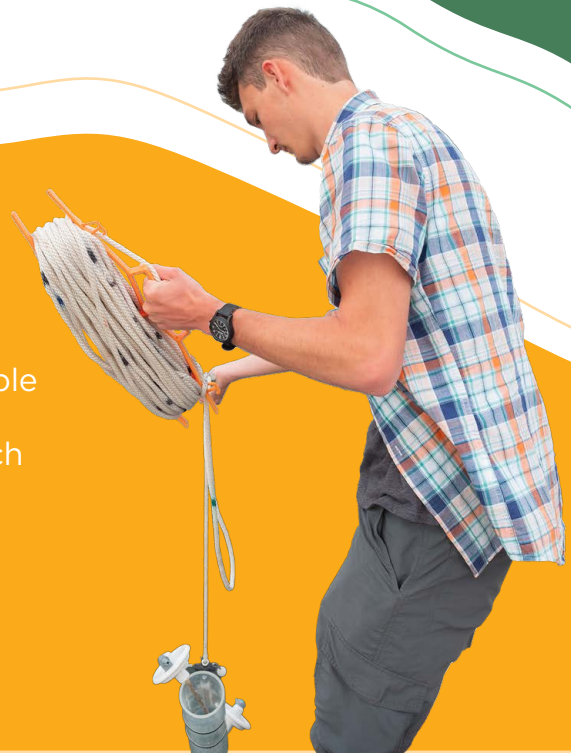
Get to know your lake on a new level! Evening ecotours are like ranger talks - but on the lake.

Ecotours are available on:

- Chapman Lake - July 10
- Lake Wawasee - July 11
- Winona Lake - July 13
- Lake Tippecanoe - July 14

Invite friends to join you on your boat this July!

lakes.grace.edu/events





ABOVE: Generations of Creightons have been part of the Kosciusko County community for over 100 years. From L-R: Dr. Nate Bosch, Mindy Truex, Eddie Creighton, Brandon Creighton.

A CRYSTAL-CLEAR VISION

Ensuring future quality leadership at the Lilly Center

As a child, Mindy Creighton, now Truex, spent many happy summer days floating on Crystal Lake with her inflatable raft, often accompanied by friends. But Mindy's family history in Kosciusko County stretches back for **six generations** before her. Her grandfather, Hobart, great-uncle Russell, and four siblings were born and raised in the Crystal Lake area during the turn of the century.

Mindy's eyes sparkle as she shares a story that Russell passed down about her grandfather Hobart, both men Creighton Brothers

co-founders and successful poultry businessmen. While harvesting ice as a young man, Hobart accidentally cut through the ice in a circle around himself! It is clear that Mindy holds great affection for her family and the lakes that are a core part of their story.

Although Mindy and her

husband, Ron, no longer live near Crystal Lake, they often visit her parents, Eddie and Louise. Eddie Creighton, now 90 years old, has lived near Crystal Lake his whole life. As a 12-year-old, he would trap muskrats and sell them in Atwood for \$2.50 apiece. Eddie recalls adults around the lake being irritated with the kids for trapping but

**Our lakes will be
around longer than
any of us.**

Mindy Truex

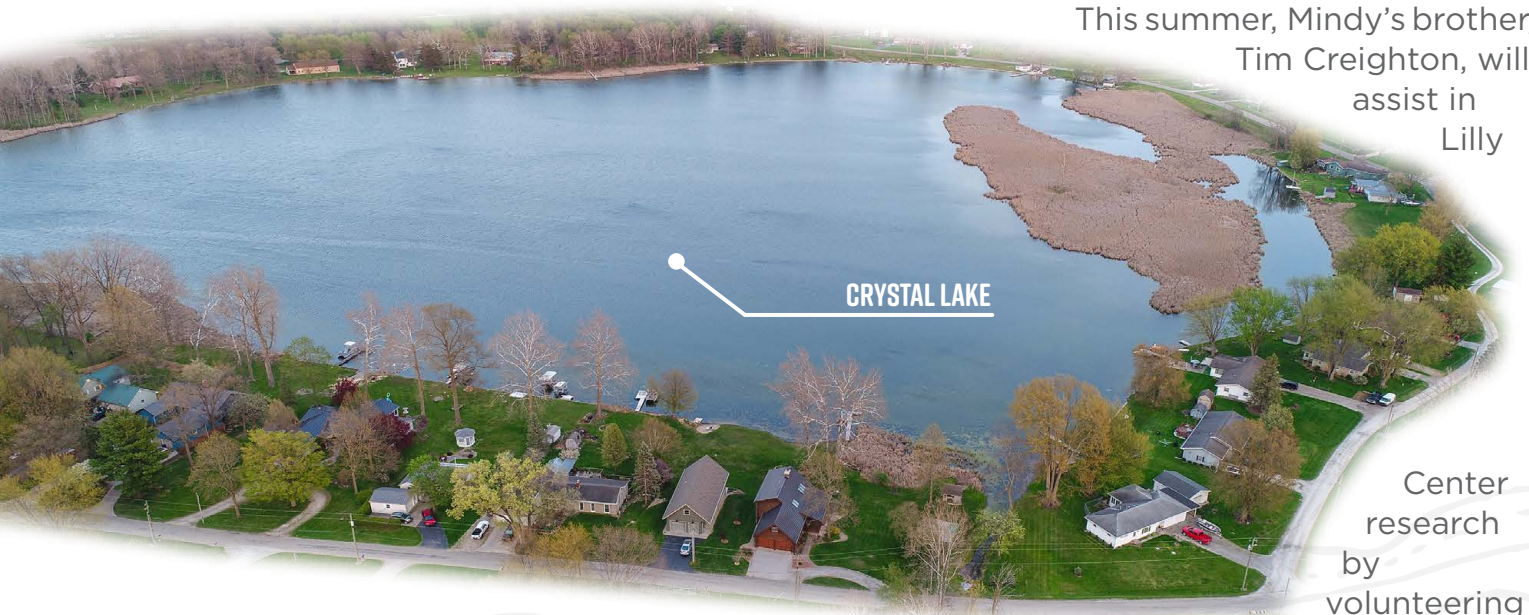
from his perspective, it was “a nice place to grow up.”

Thanks to Eddie’s family legacy and Mindy’s support as president of Creighton Brothers, Creighton Brothers chose to invest in its local lakes and streams by investing in the leadership of the Lilly Center. The Creighton

hope that through quality leadership at the Lilly Center, generations to come will enjoy all of our lakes.”

In a strategic effort to ensure the long-term health of Kosciusko County’s lakes, the Lilly Center, in partnership with the K21 Health Foundation, will conduct research

safe, and beautiful is a mission the Creighton family is passing on to those **downstream** – many cousins, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. From visiting their homes on Crystal Lake to enjoying water sports on Lake Tippecanoe, the Creighton family stories are deeply connected to the lake area. This summer, Mindy’s brother, Tim Creighton, will assist in Lilly



Brothers Endowed Directorship of the Lilly Center ensures the **stability and longevity of excellent leadership** at the Lilly Center for decades to come.

“I wish everywhere downstream could be as well cared for as the lakes and streams here,” Mindy said. “Our lakes will be around longer than any of us. We

on **45 lakes** this summer. The data from this study will help the Lilly Center’s research team study the lakes in relationship to each other and provide information on five blue-green algae toxins. Results from this study will be published in October.

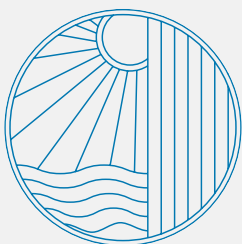
Making Kosciusko County’s waterways clean, healthy,

captain for Crystal Lake.

Clean lakes and streams **are possible** thanks to a crystal-clear vision like Mindy’s and hard-working volunteers and staff.

Find out how you can care for your lake today at **lakes.grace.edu**. •

Center research by volunteering as a boat



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 and become part of an initial group of 20 individuals or families, today:

574.372.5100, ext. 6445 | bloemea@grace.edu



Blue-green algae at peak-bloom stage

MICROCYSTIN NOTIFICATIONS

Blue-green algae is a nickname for aquatic cyanobacteria.

If ingested or left on the skin for too long, the toxin produced by blue-green algae, **microcystin**, can cause **health problems**. It's especially dangerous for animals, including dogs.

Blooms typically occur in mid-to-late summer. Blue-green algae prefer warm water and weather — and **excess nutrients**. Nutrients come from a variety of sources including storm water runoff, agriculture, and even your own property.

The Lilly Center samples **14 local lakes and seven public beaches** every summer. We gather water samples for testing in our own lab, including counting and identifying algae species. You can get **toxin updates** delivered to your inbox every week throughout the summer!

Simply scan the QR code below or go to: lakes.grace.edu/microcystin.

Thanks to the K21 Health Foundation for their support of algae toxin notifications! •

WHAT CAN I DO?

Practical tips for practical folks

- Keep yard waste out of the lake. Clippings that blow into the water or street enter the lake.
- Fertilize sparingly as excess fertilizer will run off the lawn and into the lake.
- Using native landscaping is a beautiful and low-cost solution to capturing polluted stormwater runoff.



10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Amy Bloomendaal has worked at the Lilly Center since 2013; she's one of the center's **longest-serving** staff members! Amy serves as our development assistant, curating materials for and communicating regularly with our supporters. She serves those of you who make our work possible. You

may have received a handwritten thank-you note from Amy or contacted her to RSVP for one of our summer social events. If you've received a specific gift receipt or annual giving statement, it was Amy who helped with that!

Thanks for all you do, Amy! •