

HEADWATERS

A core publication of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams | Winter 2025



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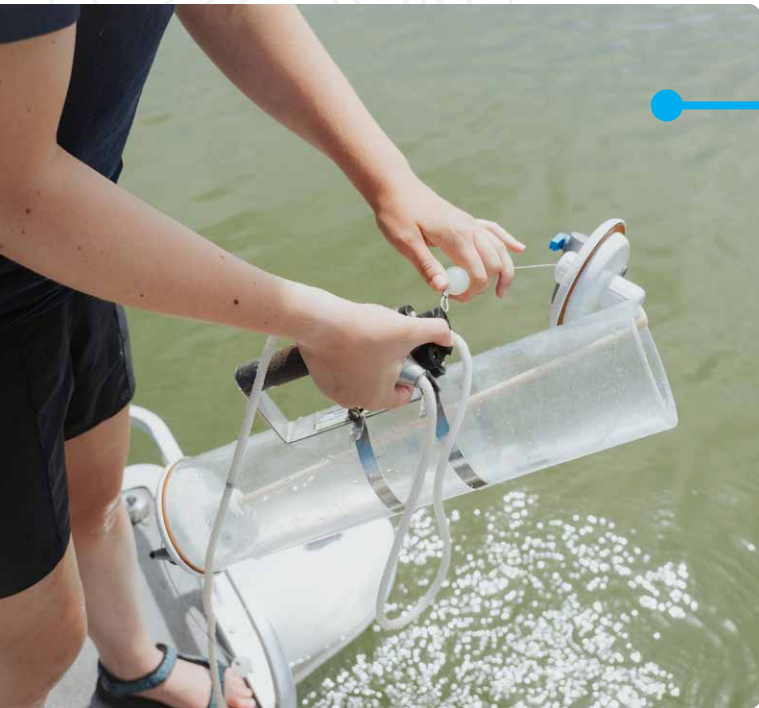
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LILLY CENTER FOR
**LAKES
& STREAMS**



LAKE SAMPLING STARTS EARLY THIS YEAR

Thanks to feedback from lake residents, we are extending our sampling season for 2025.

Since 2007, the Lilly Center has sampled an increasing number of lakes every summer to get a county-wide look at the **health of our lakes** and provide valuable services to the community.

Most recently, we added Silver Lake and Waubee Lake to study the high toxin levels at these lakes with high levels of recreation.

Feedback from lake residents made it clear that weekly summer **toxin notifications** are an important tool you depend on to enjoy the lake safely.

As a result, our field research team will begin sampling the 16 lakes ahead of Memorial Day and continue sampling until Labor Day. •

ABOVE: The field research team uses a Van Dorn sampler to collect toxin samples from the top six feet of the lake — the most common recreational depths.



You can sign up for weekly toxin notifications today and be prepared for this summer by visiting lakes.grace.edu/microcystin or scanning the QR code.

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Cover: Attendees enjoy Critter Encounter. See a full list of community events on page 6!

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ABOVE: George & Peggy Rapp spent many happy summers at Lake Wawasee with their families and friends.



GEORGE & PEGGY RAPP

Multiplying a legacy on Lake Wawasee

Dr. George Rapp and his wife, Peggy, understood the **power of multiplication**. Although their financial gifts empowered many organizations, including the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams, to do quality work, it is the Rapp's investment in young people that is changing the world.

George and Peggy met at Indiana University in the mid-1950s, both products of the Great Depression and small towns. They married in 1956; upon graduation, Peggy taught in Indianapolis elementary schools while George attended medical school.

Through his work in orthopedics, George made significant contributions by inventing a hip prosthesis and the creation of BioTechnology, eventually a division of Medtronic.

However, his primary joy during his forty years in orthopedic surgery was investing in medical residents. Education was always close to George and Peggy's hearts, whether they were hosting fellows from China in their home, educating surgeons in Kenya, or helping their neighbors learn how to care for Lake Wawasee.

For decades, the Rapps enjoyed spending time at Lake Wawasee with their two sons and eventually 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Their son, Jim, remembers, "Mom and Dad always enjoyed **sharing their love** of Wawasee with four generations of family and lifelong friends."

Their interest in Lake Wawasee's longevity jump-started after connecting with the Lilly Center and with its director, Dr. Nate

Bosch. George and Peggy began by volunteering as boat captains. During the summer, they would take Lilly Center research teams around the lake to collect water samples – often providing lunch afterward! The Rapps also hosted a social event on Lake Wawasee to inspire their neighbors to care for their lake.

"George and Peggy were **deeply passionate** about caring for their lake and the community they loved," recalls Bosch. "I remember how Peggy would effectively encourage others to get involved with the Lilly Center. Personally, my kids remember fun times swimming and watching fireworks at their house."

Since 2007, over 200 Lilly Center college interns have entered environmental fields,

including law, research, management, education, consulting, enforcement, and policy, as well as related fields like agriculture, zoos, health, and parks departments. Many of them choose to stay in northern Indiana.

George and Peggy instantly connected with this idea and chose to **multiply their investment** in college students through fellowships and scholarships. Through yearly gifts, they created opportunities for the best and brightest to attend Grace College and hone their scientific skills at the Lilly Center.

Give as much as you can, for as many people as you can.”

GEORGE RAPP

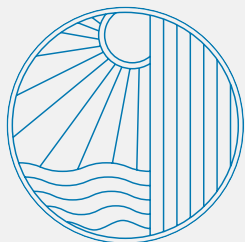
As philanthropic leaders in Indiana, the Rapps knew they also wanted to leave a legacy on Lake Wawasee. In 2019, George and Peggy joined the **Founders Circle** by making the Lilly Center a beneficiary of their estate. The

interest from their estate gift will continue to support students for years to come.

The Founders Circle is an exclusive group of the first 20 individuals or families who raise their hand and make a commitment to the long-term well-being of their lake. Only two spots remain – you are invited to make an estate commitment that **solidifies your legacy** to make Kosciusko County’s lakes and streams clean, healthy, safe, and beautiful for years to come.

Although George and Peggy have since passed, their legacy endures. Their lives of generosity and passion to multiply their gifts can be summed up in George’s famous personal motto, “Give as much as you can, in as many ways as you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as you can!” •

LEFT: Over 45 college interns work at the Lilly Center every year. Many receive scholarship and all receive fellowships for their work.



Ensure your lake legacy.

Join the Lilly Center Legacy Society by making a gift through several estate options with tax advantages. Talk to Dr. Nate Bosch about how you can join the Founders Circle and become part of an initial group of 20 members today:

574.372.5282 | boschns@grace.edu



INTRODUCING TWO YOUNG PRO- FESSIONALS

It is a privilege to welcome two **former Lilly Center college interns** to the full-time staff at the Lilly Center. Gifts by the Rapps and other like-minded supporters make it possible for **over 40 students** to develop their knowledge and expertise through hands-on work experiences in the field and in the lab every year. •



Annalieze Crawford
RESEARCH LAB COORDINATOR

During her four years as a Lilly Center intern, Anna discovered a love of algae – her favorite algae is *Volvox*. She is a 2024 Grace College graduate and former algae team lead. Anna enjoys using microscopes to identify algae in live samples from local ponds and lakes in Kosciusko County. In her role at the Lilly Center, Anna **oversees the research lab**, which includes the algae counting process, toxin analysis, and E. coli testing protocols. Originally from Ohio, Anna’s favorite place to hike is Cuyahoga National Park. She also loves her dog, two rabbits, chickens, cats, and turkeys.



Emily Anderson
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Emily loves the outdoors and developed her passion for the environment and for teaching at Grace College. Through her internship at the Lilly Center, Emily became a strong teacher and leader. In her new role at the Lilly Center as education coordinator, she will continue to **develop water literacy** in K-12 students through curriculum development and coaching college interns. Emily is an avid enthusiast of dark chocolate and coffee and enjoys hiking. She also has a lifetime goal of visiting all of the National Parks within the continental United States (she has visited ten so far).



George and Peggy Rapp planted an idea with us: a dinner celebrating our waterways.

Come splash in the creek, eat good food, and support your lakes – with your **feet in the water!**

Dinner in Cherry Creek is an exclusive, limited-seating fundraiser set in Cherry Creek.

New this year, award-winning artist **Chris Catalogna** (work at right) will create a plein-air painting that will be auctioned during Creek Dinner. •



Scan the QR code to learn about hosting a table or visit lakes.grace.edu/creekdinner.



MULTIPLY YOUR APPRECIATION

The Lilly Center offers exciting opportunities for **students ages 5-95** to interact with our amazing world and better understand our lakes and streams. Use the QR code below to see an up-to-date list of free events or RSVP:

Or visit

lakes.grace.edu/events



Lake Talk & Eats

March 1, April 5, 9-11 a.m.

Join us and the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation for a continental breakfast and selected lake conservation topics.

Quizbowl

March 11, 7-9 p.m.

Test your environmental knowledge with a team of five at the Warsaw Education Center.

Expedition: Herpetology Hike

March 15, 7-8 p.m.

Take a hike through Wildwood Nature Preserve and discover the amazing world of amphibians.

Workshop: Native vs. Invasive

March 29, 10-11:30 a.m.

How can you tell the difference between “good” plants and “bad” plants? Expert Alicia Symons has the answers.

Workshop: Planning your Native Garden

May 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

Discover tips and tricks to get the most out of your native garden all year long!

Stories & STEM

June 11, 18, 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Bring your family to the Warsaw Public Library for a nature story accompanied by a hands-on project. This event is offered weekly.

Critter Encounters

June 13, 27, July 18, 10-11:30 a.m.

Come meet aquatic critters and enjoy hands-on activities, storytime, and art projects. These events are geared toward elementary students.

Swamp Stomp

July 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Take an exploratory hike around the wetland at Grace College and enjoy hands-on activities. Grades 5-8.

Expedition: Tree ID Hike

October 4, 12-4:00 p.m.

Join Dr. Bosch and Heather Harwood, WACF executive director, on this hike and enjoy the beautiful fall colors in Kosciusko County.

Workshop: Seed Collecting

October 25, 10-11:30

Collect seeds from the Lilly Center’s native landscaping and learn how to prepare them for spring planting.