

# HEADWATERS

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

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LILLY CENTER FOR  
**LAKES  
& STREAMS**



ABOVE: Lilly Center education coordinator Emily Anderson leads a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade class from Jefferson Elementary on a guided wetland hike.

# HIKE TO THE LARGEST KIDNEYS IN THE WORLD

The Lilly Center's theme for 2025 is "multiply." In this issue, you will read about former Lilly Center intern Eddie Gill IV and the **environmental legacy** he is passing on to the next generation in Indianapolis. You will also read about two local students who won awards for their art created under the theme "Wonders in the Water."

Each story highlights the growing need for **water-literate citizens** who understand how their daily choices impact the health of our lakes and waterways.

This spring, hundreds of K-12 students visited the Lilly Center for outdoor guided hikes to the Grace College wetlands. During the hike, students discover that there is more to a wetland than meets the eye. Like kidneys, wetlands absorb and filter runoff, trapping sediments, and remove excess nutrients from the water **before** it enters a lake.

These natural filtration systems protect our freshwater resources and are a critical part of maintaining clean, healthy, lakes for future generations. •

*At the Lilly Center, we multiply your efforts by empowering students of all ages to make their lake clean, healthy, safe, and beautiful. Turn to the next page for some easy and practical examples!*

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Cover: Eddie Gill IV, executive director of the Friends of the White River, poses for a photo at the Lilly Center.

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# SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

Summer is often just as packed with activity as it is filled with fun. Here are bite-sized ways you can engage with your lake, no matter how full your schedule. This guide will help you identify how **you can get involved** and make your lake clean, healthy, safe, and beautiful! •

- **Learn:** Low intensity but packed full of great information.
- **Equip:** Action-packed events designed for all ages.
- **Do:** Best practices that have a direct impact on your health and that of your lake.



## Lake Doctor Podcast

Expert guests dive into relevant topics like E. coli, data centers, and more!

[lakes.grace.edu/podcast](https://lakes.grace.edu/podcast)



## Lake-Friendly Wakes

Creating a wake in at least 10 ft. of water will help keep your lake healthy!



## Swamp Stomp

5-8th Graders explore a wetland and create their own wetland model.

[lakes.grace.edu/events](https://lakes.grace.edu/events)



## Lake Toxin Notifications

Keep your family and pets safe on the lake this summer.

[lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae](https://lakes.grace.edu/blue-green-algae)



## Workshop: Cyanotypes

Learn how to capture images using just paper, light, and natural objects.

[lakes.grace.edu/events](https://lakes.grace.edu/events)



## A Lake on a Diet

Nutrients found in fertilizer feed algae and weeds in your lake. Use phosphorus-free fertilizer instead!



## Critter Encounters

These family-friendly events include story time, art projects, snacks, and more!

[lakes.grace.edu/events](https://lakes.grace.edu/events)



## Locally Sourced Science

Subscribe to the Lilly Center's e-newsletter for monthly articles and fun tidbits.

[lakes.grace.edu](https://lakes.grace.edu)



Photography: Eddie Gill IV, Friends of the White River, Rusty Martinez

# Eddie Gill IV

Stewarding an environmental legacy for the next generation.

“Let’s go fishing, Grandpa!”

Many of the adventures Eddie Gill IV shared with his grandpa Gary began with these words. But, one highlight is crabbing in Australia when Eddie was about ten. With a laugh, Eddie remembers how a mud crab pinched him while they hunted for dinner.

Grandpa Gary shared his love of fishing with everyone, but Eddie shared his obsession at the early age of three. To this day, Eddie will show up at his grandpa’s house, fishing pole in hand, and the pair will head out to one of their favorite spots.

Eddie, an Indianapolis native, quickly developed an interest in marine biology. A gift for playing



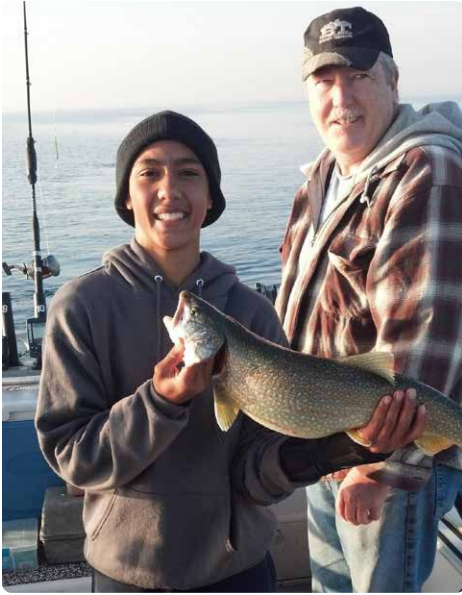
basketball led him to Grace College where he had a unique first visit. The basketball coach and the Lilly Center coordinated another student, Aaron Voirol, to take Eddie on a fishing trip on Winona Lake. Eddie recalls spending more time fishing than with the basketball team! He was entranced by the lakes and received an undergraduate degree in **environmental science** and a master’s in non-profit management.

At Grace College, he worked on several teams at the Lilly Center,

including the research, aquarium, and education teams. It was during this time that director Dr. Nate Bosch and his staff **equipped** Eddie with skills he uses to this day. It was a career before his career, according to Eddie.

Since graduating in 2022, Eddie has held several roles at Friends of the White River (FOWR) in Indianapolis, including development manager and outdoor education director. This spring, he was named as executive director.





ABOVE: Eddie & Grandpa Gary during a fishing adventure.

At FOWR, Eddie leads a passionate team dedicated to connecting central Indiana communities with the White River, working to protect, preserve, and promote this important waterway. The White River provides drinking water to much of Indianapolis and is an important economic and recreational driver in the area.

Eddie is not content simply working at a desk all day. He is deeply involved in their outdoor educational programs. From developing curriculum to leading safety briefings to rafting down the river with local students, Eddie uses the skills he learned at the Lilly Center to **teach water literacy** to his students, many of whom are from the inner city. “I’m very motivated to impact



ABOVE: Outdoor education is an important component of a rafting day.

kids who have never had the opportunity to experience the river,” Eddie said. “I love **stewarding the next generation** of environmental leaders, educating them about the environment, and growing (or beginning) a passion for the outdoors.”

The summer of 2025 promises to be the best yet for FOWR. Thanks to a partnership with Indy Parks and Fishers Parks departments, FOWR is preparing six weeks of summer camp. During the school year, a collaboration with a local school creates opportunities for the entire 6th grade cohort to raft on the river.

He loves hearing comments from rafters like, “I’ve never done anything like this before!” and, “I want to do this every day!”

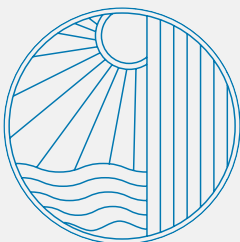


ABOVE: 6th grade students launch a raft on the White River under Eddie's expert eye.

Just as Grandpa Gary did, Eddie is passing on an **environmental legacy** to the next generation — including his two-year-old daughter, Alani.

“I want to leave this place better than how I inherited it,” Eddie said. “And I do that because I want my daughter and the rest of her generation to be able to enjoy the same natural spaces that I have enjoyed my whole life.”

Eddie uses the skills he developed at the Lilly Center every day to fulfill his mission on the White River. By investing in college students doing research and education, the Lilly Center empowers lake residents to **multiply their impact** far beyond the borders of Kosciusko County. •



## Ensure your lake legacy.

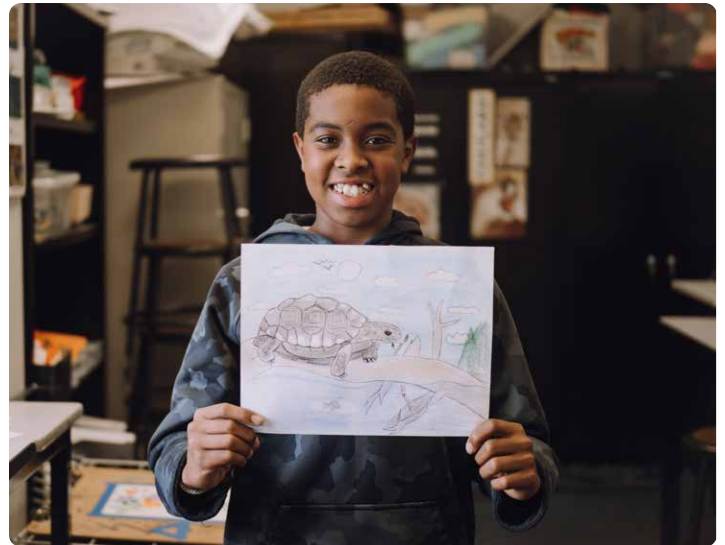
Join the Lilly Center Legacy Society by making a gift through several estate options with tax advantages. Talk to Dr. Nate Bosch about how you can join the Founders Circle and become part of an initial group of 20 members today. **Only two spots** are left: 574-372-5282 | [boschns@grace.edu](mailto:boschns@grace.edu)



ABOVE: Estelle Jaumard, 8<sup>th</sup>-grader at Lakeview Middle School.



ABOVE: Vera Mabon, 10<sup>th</sup>-grader at Whitko High School.



ABOVE: Jordan Zielasko, 6<sup>th</sup>-grader at Lakeland Christian Academy.

## WONDERS IN THE WATER

Kosciusko County K-12 artists bring local lakes and streams to life.

Vera Mabon was awarded second place in her age group at this year's Lilly Center Art Contest.

"I'm the seventh generation to live in the house that used to be my grandma's house," she said. Vera fondly remembers fishing and playing with her cousins in the creek behind that iconic house that brought her family together.

At the Lilly Center, educational programs help students **connect with the outdoors** in different ways. Indoor field trips establish knowledge about watersheds and fish. Outdoor field trips connect students to the importance of wetlands. The Art

Contest brings awareness to local waterways — no invasive species allowed!

"These animals need to be protected because they're very, very important to our ecosystems," said Estelle Jaumard, who won in her age group for the second time.

Jordan Zielasko's depiction of a turtle won second place in the 4-6<sup>th</sup>-grade category. He is determined to win first place next year!

*Visit [lakes.grace.edu](https://lakes.grace.edu) to see more award-winning artwork and learn how you can get involved.*

*Each year, the Lilly Center Art Contest invites 4th-12th grade students from across Kosciusko County to submit their creative depiction of our local waterways. Artists with winning entries receive cash prizes and the privilege of having their artwork on display in public spaces throughout the county. Scan the QR code to learn more!*

*Sponsorship opportunities are available! Call [574-372-5281](tel:574-372-5281) for more information.*

