

# HEADWATERS

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



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LILLY CENTER FOR  
**LAKES  
& STREAMS**



ABOVE: Dr. Nate Bosch (center) poses with two students in his general ecology class at Grace College.

# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

College interns (like those featured on the cover of this issue) represent the future of lake conservation. Yet their contributions are making a meaningful impact today. Lilly Center interns dedicate thousands of hours to research, education, and collaboration under the guidance of our professional staff. Their work deepens our understanding of the challenges facing our lakes and **multiplies the momentum** needed to solve them.

The problem is clear: an **overabundance of nutrients** like phosphorus encourages weed and algae growth. Unchecked, toxin-producing algae pose a human health threat and impair recreation and economic development.

The Lilly Center is developing an action plan to activate solutions that address the root causes of excess nutrients. By allocating more resources to collaborative efforts, we can create changes that will have a **lasting impact** on lakes in Kosciusko County and the Midwest.

Stay tuned as we further develop and implement these plans this coming year!

Dr. Nate Bosch, Ph.D.  
Creighton Brothers Endowed Director  
Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

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Cover: College interns Abigail, Joel, and Tess collect samples from Big Chapman Lake this summer.

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# A Midsummer's Research Update

By Matt Burlingame, assistant director of research

Have you noticed that your lake **looks clearer** than usual?

Cooler weather in April, May, and early June kept water temperatures low. We also had less rain — only half as much as last year during April and May. This means that fewer nutrients washed into the lakes, slowing algae growth. With less algae, the water stayed clearer. Average water clarity in June was **2.2 feet deeper** than last year.

We also noticed lower levels of blue-green algae toxin levels. In June last year, microcystin

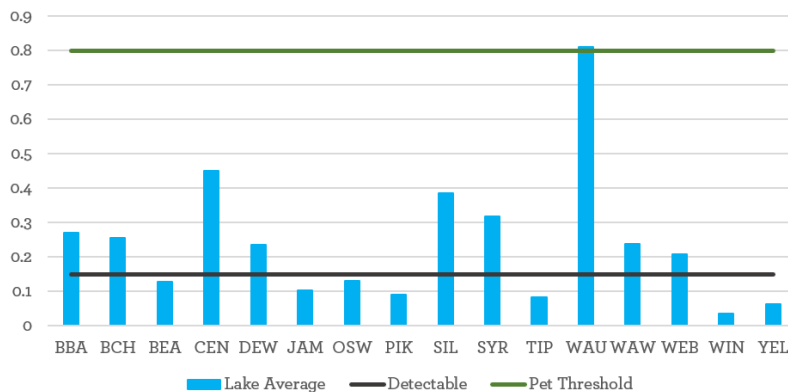
concentrations averaged **0.534 ppb** (parts per billion) compared to **0.295 ppb** this year.

But things may change quickly! June ended with heavy rain and a week of 90+ degree days. This could create optimal conditions for blue-green algae to grow, reduce water clarity, and potentially produce toxins.

The Lilly Center's researchers will compile this summer's data into **Beneath the Surface**, our annual research report. Look for the publication this fall! •

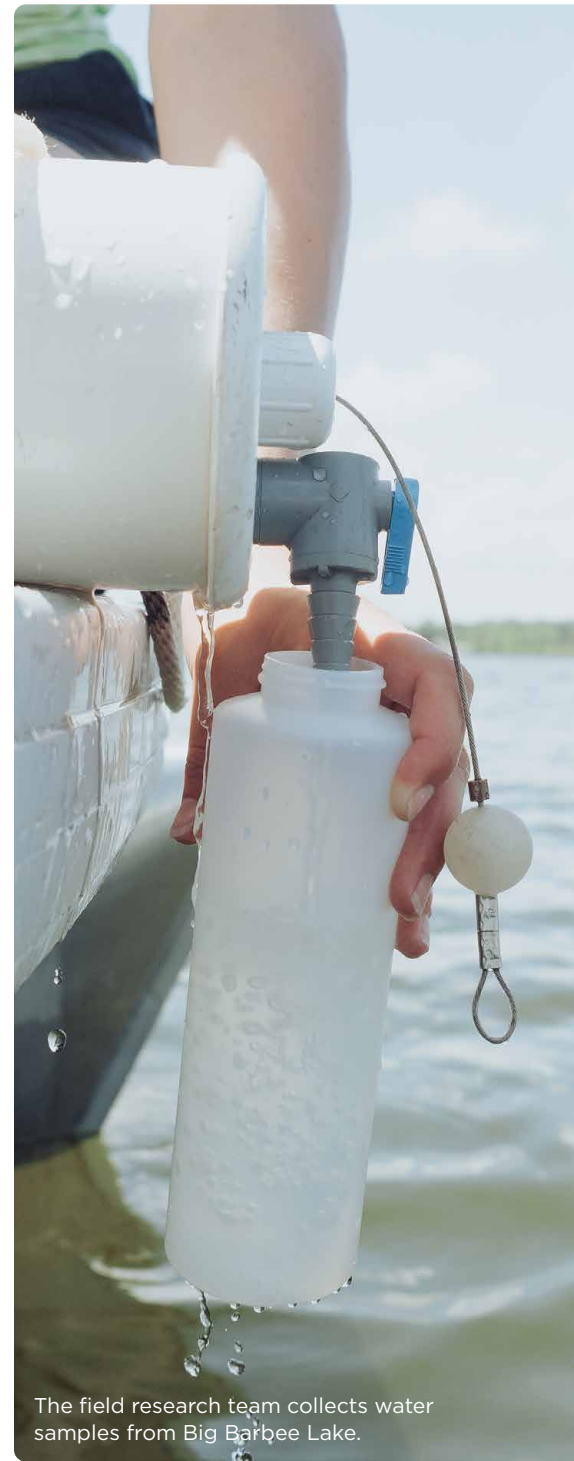
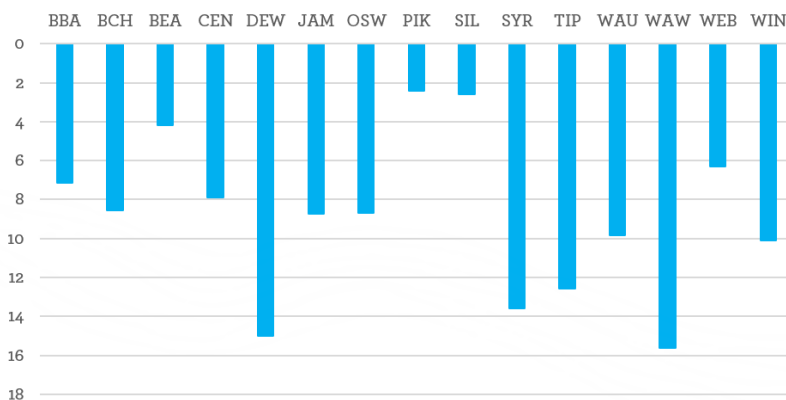
**June 2025 Microcystin Concentration**

At deepest point; in ppb



**June 2025 Water Clarity**

Organized alphabetically; measured by Secchi depth in feet



The field research team collects water samples from Big Barbee Lake.



**TO DO:**

Sign up for microcystin toxin notifications delivered to your inbox every Friday!

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



LEFT: Wayne and Denise Kubek (and Cob) in front of their home on Chapman Lake.

# KUBEK

## wayne & denise

“Plant the seed, let it grow.” Freshly returned from a diving trip in Tahiti, Wayne and Denise Kubek are busily preparing for 4th of July celebrations at their home on Big Chapman Lake. As they take a break to chat with us, their **passion for education** and getting involved in the health of

their lake becomes immediately apparent.

The Boy Scouts of America were the seed that grew Wayne’s love for the outdoors. The Boy Scouts exposed him to a world beyond his city upbringing, which led to the hobbies he enjoys to this day: pheasant hunting, diving, travel, and fishing.

Wayne has been fishing on Chapman Lake for the last 44 years. As newlyweds, the KubeKs purchased their first Osborn Landing lake home on a whim. For years, the lake was an escape from a demanding career in Illinois. Today, it remains a **gathering space** for their adult children, grandchildren, and friends.



# Things on our lake don't just happen... they need stewardship and care.

WAYNE KUBEK

Wayne and Denise got involved in water quality so they could enjoy a clean and healthy lake. Through resources provided by the Lilly Center, The Watershed Foundation, and others, the Kubeks became **local lake influencers**.

Wayne credits much of his love for the lake to Dale Bradway. He is now passed but leaves a lasting example as the "Mayor" of Osborn Landing. Dale mentored Wayne, passing on knowledge about Chapman Lake and how to benefit the neighborhood.

"Things on our lakes don't just happen," Wayne emphasizes. "Our **lakes need stewardship** and care."

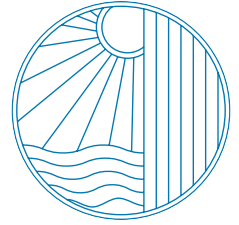
Wayne and Denise are serious about stewardship. They are creating an impactful legacy by volunteering, sharing educational materials with neighbors,

and joining the Founders Circle.

This summer, the Lilly Center celebrated the completion of the **Founders Circle** – an initial group of 21 families or individuals, like Wayne and Denise, who committed to a legacy gift often in their estates. These "seeds" planted today will have a multiplying impact for future generations.

"Our legacy through the Lilly Center is to ensure that our lakes are taken care of," Wayne said. "We want students to know that lake conservation is important. Many hands make light work – so get involved!" •

*Learn more about how you can join the Lake Legacy Society and join Wayne and Denise in making an impact on your lake by calling 574-372-5281 or emailing [lakes@grace.edu](mailto:lakes@grace.edu).*



THE  
FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Larry & Fran  
Allen

Keith & Debbie  
Busse

Eddie & Louise  
Creighton

Mark & Cindy  
Deister

Mark & Mary  
Ennes

John & Sharon  
Fallon

Norma Ferguson

Doug & Karen  
Grant

Dave & Cynthia  
Illingworth

Wayne & Denise  
Kubek

Frank & Kristin  
Levinson

Steve & Suzie  
Light

Ted & Debbie  
Lilly

Vance Lopp

Ron & Lisa  
Manahan

Jim & Judy  
Miller

Max & Sue Mock

Pete & Ginny  
Nicholas

George & Peggy  
Rapp

Dick & Lisa Teets

Randy & Deborah  
Tobias



ABOVE: Wayne, granddaughter Eleanor, and daughter Emily show off their catch!



ABOVE: Denise, granddaughters Charlotte and Elanor, and daughters Emily and Jaclyn enjoy a campfire.



# THE DOCTOR IS IN (AGAIN)

By Blake Clement, marketing assistant

Have you ever wondered how lake health impacts property values, what happens to water going down the drain, or what a bloodworm tastes like? These are all questions that are answered on the **Lake Doctor Podcast**, alongside other subjects related to lakes and streams.

The first episodes of the Lake Doctor Podcast season two are available now with new guests and a new set. Dr. Nate Bosch and co-host Suzie Light cover many topics across different episodes ranging from student education to lake resident's riparian rights. The podcast is available on Spotify, YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and our website. **The doctor is in!** •

Scan the QR code to listen to the Lake Doctor Podcast today!



Clockwise: Dr. Nate Bosch; Treleen Cox, Leesburg Elementary; Tyler Hammerle, Wessler Engineering; Steve Snyder, lawyer; Suzie Light.



## NATURE'S DAMP TREASURES

# WETLANDS

By Steve Coyle, wetlands expert

When you envision wetlands, what comes to mind? Seas of green glades or a damp swamp from the movie, Shrek?

First, let's describe wetlands:

- Areas that are **wet** all or part of the time.
- Low oxygen **soils** derived from wet conditions.
- **Vegetation** that thrives in these conditions.

When wetlands function properly, they are amazing friends to our lakes. They capture excess nutrients (like phosphorus) and sediment before they reach lakes. Wetlands also help prevent shoreline erosion and reduce flooding after a big rain.

Like our ogre friend, Shrek, perhaps wetlands are misunderstood! These ecosystems are **beautiful treasures** and important to our lake culture. •