

Okoboji Dredgings

News for Lakeside Lab Alumni and Friends



Lakeside's Newest Ventures By Jane Shuttleworth

Lakeside continues to grow in its public outreach, community collaborations, and year-round programming in ways that would amaze and please founder Thomas Macbride. As I write this article, for example, Lakeside is planning the fifth annual People's Environmental Art Project (PEAP), an event that draws about 200 people to the Lab in the dead of winter to be a part of a giant, outdoor ephemeral art project that is photographed by a plane during the Okoboji Winter Games.

PEAP, held in collaboration with the local arts organization ArtsLIVE, is but one example of the growing number of creative community partnerships in which Lakeside plays a leadership role. Lakeside has also been partnering with nearly a dozen early childhood agencies and professionals to stem the tide of what some education experts describe as "nature deficit disorder" in young children. Our group develops opportunities for children and families to explore the outdoors and trains teachers in how to integrate nature and the out-

doors into their classrooms and curriculums.

This past summer we more than doubled our nature camps from the previous year and still had enrollment waiting lists. Lakeside's school year programs are also increasing, drawing students from a nearly 60-mile radius of Lakeside. In another exciting partnership, the Spencer Community School District has dedicated a faculty member, Chris Oponski, to work with Lakeside to develop K-12 programs here. From Winter Ecology to Insect Day, Shakespeare at the Lake to American Nature Writers, these programs utilize the Lakeside campus in holistic learning that integrates natural sciences, chemistry, math, physics, literature, art, social studies, and physical education.

The success and expansion of Lakeside's programs and audiences would not be possible without the support of alums like you, and the inspiration and support of the Friends of Lakeside Lab.



Volunteers formed this giant fish for the 2011 People's Environmental Art Project.

Fall 2011

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From the Director's Desk *Lakeside Lab Regents Resource Center*

By Peter J. van der Linden

Lakeside Lab has been serving university students for 103 years. In 2006 the Board of Regents designated Lakeside a Regents Resource Center and asked us to expand the use of campus for lifelong learning. Three articles in this newsletter explain how we are fulfilling this new role.

In an article on page 1, Jane Shuttleworth reports on some of our public programs. Most of these are partnerships, because we can do so much more—and do it better—when we tap into the abilities and experience of others.

Not all our new offerings are in scientific fields. In an article on page 3, we describe the Okoboji Entrepreneurial Institute (OEI), an innovative program that has attracted much attention to the Iowa Lakes region. The young people who participate have different interests than our traditional students, and if were not OEI, they would probably never experience Lakeside Lab.

Faculty Recognized

Two members of the Lakeside faculty were recently recognized for their work. Bill Norris received the Richard and Minnie Windler Award with co-investigators Deborah Lewis and Jimmie Thompson. Mike Lannoo received the Award for Military National Resource Conservation Research.

Dr. Norris and colleagues were recognized for their paper “The Vascular Flora of Ledges State Park (Boone County, Iowa) Revisited: Revelations and Recommendations,” published in the journal *Castanea* in 2009. The paper was cited as “an unusually thorough and well-executed floristic survey.” Bill is a professor at Western New Mexico University, where he won the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award. He teaches Plant Taxonomy at Lakeside Lab.

Dr. Lannoo was honored by the National Military Fish & Wildlife Association “for his transcontinental study of amphibians and infection by the chytrid fungus, which has

Public service is another important part of our mission. In a second article on page 3, you can read about a water quality meeting held here in September. Lakeside is also involved in water quality education, monitoring, and testing. Our partners in these programs include the Okoboji Protective Association, the State Hygienic Lab, and the Friends of Lakeside Lab.

We are pleased that our community has expanded to include not only the universities but the people of Northwest Iowa. We will continue to explore new ways we can be of service to this much larger audience.



Bill Norris (right) with colleagues Deb Lewis and Jimmie Thompson.

been devastating amphibian populations worldwide.” According to the award announcement, this work will help the Department of Defense minimize the effects of the disease on amphibian populations in the lands it manages. Mike is a professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine and teaches two courses at Lakeside Lab: Conservation Biology and Animals and their Ecosystems.

Congratulations, Bill and Mike!



Creating the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

At first glance, a course in entrepreneurialism might seem an unlikely topic at Lakeside Lab. Thanks to an unusual partnership, however, we are helping to launch promising new careers in the business field.

The Okoboji Entrepreneurial Institute (OEI) is held at Lakeside every August. This intensive, week-long program offers training and practice for 32 students from five schools: the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, the University of Northern Iowa, Buena Vista University, and Iowa Lakes Community College. Admission is quite competitive, so not everyone who applies can participate.

OEI is coordinated by the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, a four-county economic development organization. Training is provided by business faculty from the partici-

pating schools and by successful entrepreneurs. Local sponsors provide the funding, and host families provide places for the students to stay.

To see a video about OEI, go to <http://www.lakesidelab.org/News.html> and click the link at the bottom of the page.



OEI Students

Lakeside Hosts Water Quality Summit

In 2008 Lakeside partnered with the State Hygienic Lab (SHL) to renovate and reopen the Bovbjerg Water Chemistry Lab in the Waitt Building. Another collaboration with the SHL this fall resulted in a Water Quality Summit that attracted participants from around Iowa.

The Summit began with a video of Iowa water quality projects, produced by Iowa City West High School student Grant Leonard. Three presentations followed, each describing successful programs in Iowa. The Iowa Great Lakes experience was reviewed by Jane Shuttleworth of Lakeside Lab and Mark Ackelson of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Steve Anderson of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship described several urban projects, and Todd Sutphin presented efforts of the Iowa Soybean Association.

Two panel discussions were held in the afternoon. Both included questions and comments from the audience.

The first panel included Shuttleworth, Ackelson, Anderson, Sutphin, and SHL/Lakeside Lab chemist Dennis Heimdal. Their discussion of "Water Quality in Iowa: What Works and

Why" was moderated by Pat Boddy of RDG Planning and Design.



The second panel explored "Water Quality in Iowa: Where Do We Go from Here?" Participating were State Senator Jeff Danielson, Bill Ehm of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Susan Heathcote of the Iowa Environmental Council, and State Senator David Johnson. The panel was moderated by Perry Beeman of the Des Moines Register.

The Summit revealed that much is being accomplished on behalf of water quality in Iowa, but great challenges lie ahead. Iowans know what measures work, and we now need to implement these over a larger portion of the state's landscapes. As might be expected, people do not necessarily agree on how to best accomplish this goal.

Lakeside and SHL staff are discussing how to follow up from the meeting. Future summits are possible, either at Lakeside or in a more central location.



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Helping Young Scientists through Scholarships

Scholarships are a great way to ensure that learning and scientific advancement will continue perpetually. Helping young people start their careers today will yield many rewards tomorrow.

Alumni and friends have endowed several scholarships with the Friends of Lakeside Lab. These include the John Clayton Kingston Diatom Fellowship, the G. Dennis Cooke Aquatic Ecology Scholarship, the Charles W. Reimer Scholarship, the Jane Goodall Scholarship, and the Parker/Gentry Scholarship. Alums can also endow scholarships through university foundations.

For more information or to discuss possibilities, please call Executive Director Peter van der Linden at 712-337-3669 ext. 5 or send him an e-mail message at peter-vanderlinden@uiowa.edu.

Support the Friends with a Year-End Gift

The Friends of Lakeside Lab provide invaluable support to Lakeside Lab. Through their contributions and volunteer work, they fund student scholarships, sponsor public programs, welcome special guests, and help us be better stewards of our facilities and natural areas.

The Friends will appreciate your contribution at any level. Becoming a member is one good way to help. The Friends are a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so gifts and dues are tax-deductible.

For membership categories and other information, visit the Friends new web site at <http://www.friendsoflakesidelab.org>.