

Lakeside News



Lakeside Hosts 81 Students in 2010

The summer of 2010 was Lakeside Lab's 102nd season. Our 81 students came from 13 colleges and universities.

Ecology and Systematics of Diatoms was offered for the 47th time. Instructors were Mark Edlund and a new member of the faculty, Marina Potapova from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. This year's class was the first to use Lakeside's new Leica microscopes, which arrived only two days before the course began. The microscopes were made possible by grants from



Bill Norris leads his Plant Taxonomy class on a trip to Silver Lake Fen.

the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and Messengers of Healing Winds, plus contributions from several alumni. Each was equipped with a digital camera, allowing students to photograph their subjects while they worked.

Also offered this year were Ecology (Neil Bernstein), Aquatic Ecology (Ken Lang), Plant Taxonomy (Bill Norris), and the Summer Writing Festival (Jim Heynen). Animals and their Ecosystems was a new course this year, taught by Lakeside veteran Mike Lannoo.

Rounding out our 2010 offerings was the 5th annual Okoboji Entrepreneurial Institute (OEI), a non-traditional course for Lakeside Lab but the course with the largest enrollment (32 students). This intensive, week-long program trains students to start and succeed in their own businesses, through computer-simulated activities and visits with successful entrepreneurs. It is sponsored by the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, the three Regents universities, Buena Vista University, and Iowa Lakes Community College.

Summer Storm Strikes Lakeside Lab

A severe thunderstorm hit West Okoboji Lake on the night of July 17. Strong, straight-line winds damaged trees and property around much of the lake, including Lakeside Lab. Our pontoon boat, one boat hoist, and the middle portion of our dock were destroyed, and our launch was damaged. Trees and their limbs were broken all over campus, knocking out power for about 40 hours.

Fortunately, no one was injured and there was almost no damage to Lakeside's build-

ings. Our second summer session had concluded the day before and there were no students on campus.

Staff and volunteers collected several large trailer loads of limbs and branches from roads, lawns, parking lots, and the areas around buildings. Those parts of campus now look very good, but evidence of the storm will be visible for quite some time in the natural areas.



Lakeside's dock and boats looked like this after a storm on July 17.

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Public Programming Grows in 2010

By Jane Shuttleworth, Educational Coordinator

Thanks to the success of Lakeside's 2009 Centennial Celebration, more people than ever have learned about the Lab and what a wonderful resource it is for our community. 2010 was a banner year for our childhood and public programs, and we are grateful to the Friends of Lakeside Lab for generously supporting these.

Our school-year programs draw school visits not just locally but regionally, and all our summer camps had waiting lists this year. The challenge now is to meet our staffing needs as the demand for our programs increases. To that end, we have been collaborating with Area Education Agencies to offer professional development opportunities for teachers, and we then recruit these teachers to help staff summer programs and bring their students to Lakeside during the school year. This year, for example, with the support from the Patrice and Rita Leary Foundation, we offered a Kinder Nature course for early childhood educators in how to integrate nature-based learning into their curriculum, through science, art, literacy and physical education activities. Each teacher in the course then picked a nature theme and designed a four-day camp around it.

Another way to approach staff demand is to create partnerships with school districts. One of the biggest success stories is an exciting collaboration between Lakeside and the Spencer School District, in which a Spencer high school science teacher has been assigned to work with grades K -12 to develop programming for students at Lakeside. We have had shop students build and install

bluebird houses, a winter ecology class, and the entire 9th grade experience "Shakespeare at the Lake" through a day of activities combining science, history and literature. Students have conducted independent research projects, and more programs are being developed for the current school year.

The David Roger's Big Bug sculpture exhibit was a great success in 2009, so we decided to celebrate our post-centennial year with "little bugs!" The Little Bugs Treasure



Natural History Weekend was held September 10-12. Pictured here is Jean Prior, geologist and author of Iowa Landforms, interpreting glacial features of the northwest Iowa landscape.

Hunt consisted of a self-guided tour of Lab grounds replete with hidden clues and secret messages around the Lakeside campus. The Little Bugs Treasure hunt drew more than 1,000 visitors to the Lab. It was open during daylight hours from June to October. We will again offer a treasure hunt with a different theme next year, so stay tuned and visit with family and friends in 2011!



From birding to frogging, botany to bones, Lakeside's nature camps are designed to build on children's inherent sense of wonder for the natural world. In this photo Dave Conrads is demonstrating bird banding.



Reminiscences from Summer 1970

by Mark Boyce

Lakeside Lab thanks alumnus Mark Boyce for contributing the following article about his summer at Lakeside. We would like to include alumni reminiscences as a regular feature of the newsletter, so please send us your stories, too!

Forty years ago I spent the summer at Iowa Lakeside Lab, enrolled in Larry Eilers' field biology and Jean W. Wooten's plant systematics course. I believe that the summer at Lakeside Lab was the most momentous of my life. What influenced me most was seeing the passion with which faculty and students pursued their research, and observing how they spent their time. This convinced me that there could be no better life than as a naturalist, and I have never wavered in that conviction.

In addition to Eilers and Wooten, Lakeside faculty who impressed me most were parasitologist Martin Ulmer, mycologist Lois Tiffany, and limnologist Richard Bovbjerg. After a quick search on the web I've learned that Jean Wooten is an Emeritus Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, but all of the others are dead. Lois Tiffany almost convinced me to change my major at Iowa State from Fish and Wildlife Biology to Botany because I so enjoyed learning about plants that summer. Indeed, I delighted in all of the wonderful natural history and ecology that I learned at Lakeside Lab.

I clearly remember Larry Eilers puffing on his pipe while explaining the complexity-stability hypothesis, a controversial topic about which I have lectured to my population ecology course nearly every year since. In Jean Wooten's class we conducted a systematic hybridization study of *Verbena stricta* and *V. hastata* with samples collected in pastures and wetlands near the lab. I am taxing my memory to recall how we crunched all of the numbers in those days before pocket calculators—we certainly did not have any computers.

Beyond the career motivation stimulated by Lakeside Lab, however, that summer changed my life personally too. I met Jaren Evers as a classmate in Eilers' field biology course, and a

year later we were married. We were together while I pursued my MS at the University of Alaska and my PhD at Yale University. Jaren taught high school biology to help support us while I was a graduate student. After New Haven we moved together to Laramie where I had my first faculty appointment at the University of Wyoming. This love story ended when Jaren died of leukemia in 1981, but not before she gave birth to Cody who is now a radiologist in Boise, Idaho.



Mark Boyce.

I have been a staunch supporter of field stations ever since the summer of 1970. While at the University of Wyoming I spent four years as director of the UW-NPS Research Station in Grand Teton National Park. During my years as Wisconsin Distinguished Professor I paid many visits to the facility at Treehaven near Tomahawk in northern Wisconsin. And now at the University of Alberta I have served on the Meanook field station committee and plan to initiate a ruffed grouse project there next spring.

I might be ambivalent toward field stations if it hadn't been for the Lakeside Lab experience, because none of my field research has been based at a field station. But I fully appreciate how the culture of a field station can influence students, and my time at Lakeside Lab clearly set me on a career as a naturalist.

I now hold an endowed professorship as the Alberta Conservation Association Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta (www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/mark_boyce/). I am currently on sabbatical leave in the Ecology Centre at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, and in early December I will be visiting the University of Queensland's field station on Heron Island on the Great Barrier Reef.



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