

# Okoboji Murmurations

*News for Lakeside Lab Alumni and Friends*



IOWA LAKESIDE  
LABORATORY

## A Buzz About the Place

The 2014 summer session at Lakeside Lab created a nice buzz around Okoboji. We hosted new faculty and courses, including John Maclean's "Fire Ecology," Paul Weihe's "Wetlands and Stream Ecology," Viktor Bovbjerg's "Epidemiology as Ecology," and Mary Harris' "Pollination Ecology." We continued our traditional classes through seasoned faculty veterans such as Neil Bernstein ("Ecology"), Sarah Spalding and Mark Edlund ("Ecology and Systematics of Diatoms"), Daryl Smith ("Prairie Ecology"), John Doershuk ("Archeology"), Kalina Manoylov ("Ecology and Systematics of Algae"), Jim Heynen ("Environmental Writing and Writers"), and Chris Filstrup ("Limnology").

In addition we hosted two Writers-in-Residence, Rachel Arndt, from the Iowa Writer's Workshop Non-fiction Program, and Corrina Carter, from the Environmental Writing program at Iowa State. We also hosted seven Artists-in-Residence, coordinated by Lisa Johnson, including Allen Morris, Benny Melton, Jacob Gorke, Cathleen Faubert, Amanda Maciuba, Aurora Green, and Paul Crow.

Lakeside's 2013 Artists-in-Residence also returned to produce "A Quarter Section of Blue" at the Pearson Lakes Art Center. This exhibition showcased the work the artists created in direct response to their time at Lakeside, and offered an opportunity for the community to experience creative views into the lake ecology.

Two noteworthy projects continue: Artist Erica Damman is creating art in direct response to an item about 'The Lost Lakes of Iowa' from "Okoboji Wetlands." Her art in-

cludes sculptures, drawings, and personal responses to lost waterways, and opportunities for community members to explore landscapes that humans have altered. Brendan Baylor continues to map the changes in native birdsong that result from human noise pollution, and he is creating an "audio map" of the lakes area.

On campus this summer, we had a full range of artists—those working in traditional media and those working at the forefront of contemporary art. Our artists offered community workshops, created installations on the campus, collaborated with the scientists, and opened their studios to our students. Many of our artists expressed interest in creating deeper, long-term relationships with the Lakeside community.

Lisa Johnson continues to work with Lakeside Lab to develop our artist's program into

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Algology students Nick Schulte (left) and David Burge (right) along with Professor Kalina Manoylov (left center) and Teaching Assistant Sarah Rushforth embark on a West-O field trip.*

Fall 2014

### Inside this issue:

<i>Research</i>	3
<i>AgroEcology Summit</i>	
<i>VIPs</i>	
<i>Lakeside Shoreline Restoration</i>	4
<i>Silent Sports Initiative</i>	
<i>Archeology Outreach</i>	5
<i>Banner Poles</i>	
<i>2nd Blanding's Turtle Found</i>	
<i>RAGBRAI Visits</i>	6
<i>Lisa Roti Steps Down</i>	
<i>Friends of Lakeside Chautauqua</i>	
<i>Outreach</i>	7
<i>2014 People's Art Project</i>	8

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*(Continued from page 1)*  
an LTER (Long-term Ecological Reflections) site, and to enhance the relationships between science and art that make for thoughtful ecological partnerships.

Our seminar speakers discussed their research interests to a packed house, with frequently over 70 Lakesiders and members of the Okoboji community present. Speakers included John Maclean on the causes and consequences of fatal wildfires, Curt Meine on his latest environmental thinking, Tony Thompson on the history of Willow Lake Farm, Viktor Bovbjerg on the link between ecology and epidemiology, Mike Mossman on the history of landscapes, Fred Janzen on the conservation biology of turtles, and Mary Harris on the fate of insect pollinators.

As a measure of activity, while the 2014 student enrollment was about the same as the 2013 enrollment, in 2013 we served slightly over 5,000 meals, while in 2014 Dianna served 8,614 meals.

*The iconic photo below of the “Bob Sallee Memorial Burn”—the prescribed burn John Maclean’s Fire Ecology class conducted around Shimek Lab on May 29th—went viral within the extended community of wildland firefighters, as it commemorated the life of the last living survivor of the Mann Gulch fire, who had passed three days before. Special thanks to Chad Loreth, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, for assisting with the course.*



*Artist-in-Residence Benny Melton’s oil painting of a perspective looking west from Cayler Prairie.*



*Willa Crow, and Tiernan, Kirsten, and Hannah Bovbjerg ecstatic after enjoying one of Dianna’s lunches.*

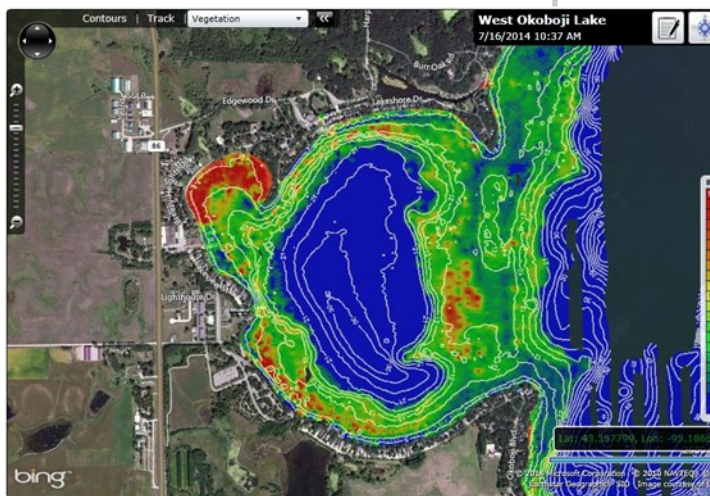


## Research

Lakeside faculty and staff conducted two major research projects in 2014. The first, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, used sonar techniques to map the vegetation in the Iowa Great Lakes. These data provide baseline measurements to assess the impacts of zebra mussel invasion. The second project was an assessment of 137 restored wetlands in the Iowa Great Lakes watershed. This project, conducted in conjunction with Iowa DNR and US Fish & Wildlife Service biologists, follows up on a similar survey done in 2012. In August, Ph D. student Rochelle Stiles presented a talk in Minneapolis on this 2012 Lakeside wetland dataset entitled “Amphibian Response to a Large-scale Habitat Restoration in the Prairie Pothole Region” co-authored with IA DNR biologists Chris LaRue and Mike Hawkins. Results include the demonstration of over 120 new breeding populations of native Northern Leopard Frogs and Eastern Tiger Salamanders occupying the restored wetlands and uplands of Okoboji.

Student researchers at Lakeside included Alaine Hippee investigating the co- evolution

of sunflowers and flies, Katrina Koppel, Leisha Neumann, Al Alder, and Pete Lannoo studying amphibians and wetlands, and Nick Schulte and David Burge studying algae and diatom assemblages.



*Newly constructed vegetation map of Miller's Bay (all the Iowa Great Lakes were mapped) produced during the cooperative survey project between the Iowa DNR and Iowa Lakeside Lab faculty and student researchers.*

## The AgroEcology Summit

On June 3rd and 4th Lakeside hosted its first AgroEcology Summit. Curt Meine, long-time conservationist and Aldo Leopold biographer; Mark Rasmussen, Director for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture; Tony Thompson of Willow Lake Farm; Suzan Erem and Paul Durrenberger representing land trusts from southeastern Iowa; Steve Brower from Burlington; Sarah Lloyd from Wisconsin; and

Kate Mendenhall from Okoboji attended. The focus was to explore ways that Lakeside can become involved in this important issue, which affects the future directions of land use in Iowa. On the 4th, Curt Meine showed his film “Green Fire” at the Pearson Arts Center, in Okoboji. One result of this summit will be to offer an AgroEcology course in 2015.

## VIPs in Attendance

In addition to our line-up of faculty, researchers, summit attendees, and seminar speakers, Lakeside hosted several scientists passing through the area, including Aldo Leopold's great-grandson, Jed Meunier and his family; Paul Errington's son, Fred, and his wife Deborah Gewertz (student of Margaret Mead); and Dave and Cheryl LeBlanc, from Ball State University; both Dave and Cheryl presented well-received seminars.

Administrators from the State Universities also visited Lakeside this past summer. University of Iowa's President Sally Mason and University of Northern Iowa's President Bill Ruud followed up on Iowa State President Steve Leath's visit by touring the campus and conferring with faculty, staff, and students. As well, University of Iowa's Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Dan Reed, visited and shared his insights into funding opportunities.



## Lakeside Shoreline Restoration

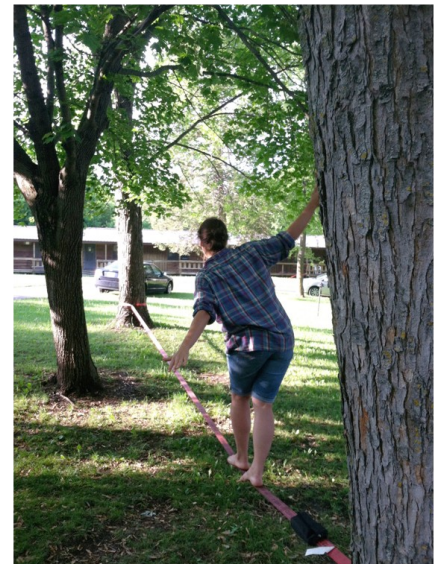
Matt Fairchild and his staff, along with the Coffee and Grounds Crew, worked all summer restoring the vegetation along a quarter mile of the north shoreline of Little Miller's Bay from Lakeside Slough west and south to the canoe dock. The restoration included planting and seeding native aquatic emergent species as well as wet-tolerant prairie species in a band about 16 m (50 ft) wide beginning at the low water mark.



*The Coffee and Grounds Crew starting seeds for the Lakeside Shoreline restoration: Don Brown, Dana Norton, Cameron Arnold, Roger Falk, Matt Fairchild, Jim Keck, and Mike Jones. Not pictured is coffee support crew Barbara Falk.*

## Silent Sports Initiative

“Work hard, play hard” has always been the philosophy at the Iowa Lakeside Lab. In her 1910 essay on student life during the first years at the Lab, Maud Adams describes the long days countered by late afternoon swim breaks, the intense evening studying diffused by quiet walks. The current rigorous immersion experience of all-day classes has to be met with an equal opportunity for students to relax when their schedules allow. It is therefore important that Lakeside take an active role in supporting the health and well being of students and faculty. Our goal is to promote and support participation in a variety of sports that provide lasting mental and physical benefits long after students have left Lakeside. Such efforts are on all the Iowa campuses (UI's LiveWell Program; ISU's Wellness Services; UNI's Wellness and Recreation Services) and it is a natural progression for Lakeside to facilitate activities that allow students to continue their healthy lifestyles while away from their home campuses. Towards this goal, Lakeside Laboratory has been presenting itself to the Okoboji community as both a leader and facilitator of “silent sports” (i.e., running, biking, kayaking, paddle boarding, slack lining, and in the winter snowshoeing and cross country ski-



*A determined student takes a break from constant studying to instead be frustrated by the slack line.*

ing). Beginning this year, we began offering summer sports options to our students. We purchased two kayaks, one paddleboard, four bicycles, and a slack line. The slack-line competition went on all summer, and winners (back-and-forth all the way without falling) were Leisha Neumann, Greta Righter, Anna Pienta, and Pete Lannoo.



## Archeology Outreach

During the first session, the University of Iowa's Archeology touring exhibition demonstrating Iowa's past set up shop at Lakeside. The team, led by Lakeside faculty and the State of Iowa's Archeologist, John Doershuk, hosted visitors for several days. The exhibit includes stone works and other artifacts from various early cultures in Iowa.



*The University of Iowa's mobile Archeology exhibit visits Okoboji.*

## Banner Poles Erected

Consistent with Lakeside's new emphasis on outdoor recreation, Matt Fairchild and his crew erected three banner posts along the bike path. The posts were built by the same firm that supplies them to Central Park, in New York City. Each consists of two banners: one of the state university flags, and an image created by well-known artist and illustrator Danette Pratt. Each of these banners features a Lakeside scene and the words "Okoboji is Alive at Lakeside Lab."



*Matt Fairchild hangs the banners on one of the new poles along the bike path.*

## Second Blanding's Turtle Found in Dickinson Co.

Blanding's Turtles are one of Iowa's most endangered vertebrates, and they are rare in Dickinson County. Adults can live to be > 100 years old, and are difficult to detect. This summer, faculty at Lakeside found the shell of only the second Blanding's Turtle known from the county at the Frieda Hafner Kettlehole (the first was also found by Lakeside faculty, at Dugout Creek).



*Blanding's Turtle remains at the Frieda Hafner Kettlehole.*



## RAGBRAI Visits Lakeside

Okoboji hosted the first overnight stay during RAGBRAI, the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, and Lakeside hosted two teams, including the State Archeologists. The consensus was that we should make this an annual event.



*View from Matt Fairchild's balcony of Team Peacock, the RAGBRAI team from Upper Iowa University, camping on the Lakeside Commons.*

## Lisa Roti Steps down

Lakeside lost a valuable asset when Lisa Roti, Campus Coordinator, stepped down at the end of August. Lisa will remain around campus supporting the Lab as she continues working for the Friends.

## Friends of Lakeside Lab Chautauqua

The Friends hosted their annual midsummer gathering on a beautiful late-June Sunday afternoon. A record number of people attended and were treated to great food, music, and talks that were described as interesting, entertaining, and not too long.



*Left: Professor Heyen pointing out amphibian photos to one of his young charges, Noah Fairchild.*

*Right: Matt, Noah, and Scarlett Fairchild enjoying some quality time.*





## Outreach

It has been another busy, thriving year for Lakeside's outreach programs. This year over fifteen hundred learners of all ages attended Lakeside's outreach programs. These included school-year programs, teacher trainings, science camps, family programs, and volunteer opportunities as well as public lectures and forums on environmental topics (see below for selected specifics). Additionally, in the dead of winter, Lakeside hosted a large-scale event—the People's Environmental Art Project. Hundreds of participants gathered on the ice on Little Miller's Bay to form the shape of a Bison head and have their image captured by a photographer flying overhead in a plane. All of these programs continue to be supported by the Friends of Lakeside Lab, Lakeside's valued partner and community support organization. In addition to extending Lakeside's education programs to include learners of all ages, these outreach programs also expand community awareness and support for Lakeside's academic and research programs.

Lakeside also facilitates Nature Connections, a collaborative of early childhood professionals dedicated to connecting children with nature. One of the many highlights from this year included recognition of the Nature Connections team for their development of a high-quality teacher-training model. "Young Investigators: Connecting Children with Nature through the Project Approach" is a three year professional development program focused on integrating nature into classrooms and curriculums using child-initiated teaching methods. The Nature Connections team has been invited to present about the training model at both the Iowa and National Association for the Education of Young Children conferences this fall. More good news: this spring, Jane Shuttleworth and the Friends of Lakeside Lab received a \$40,000 Resource Enhancement and Protection grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to support Young Investigators.

- Operated CLAMP: This year 47 volunteers collected field data and water samples for analysis at the Lab. To date, we estimate CLAMP volunteers have put in > 300 hours this summer.
- Offered at least 7 family programs: 8 Wild Wednesday programs attended by approximately 222; Self-guided Treasure hike: to date estimate 250 participants.
- Offered at least 3 public forums on environmental issues: Conservation Conversations: Lakeside's Shoreline Restoration: Citizen Science, CLAMP, and Project AWARE: Zebra Mussels. Eight weekly Lakeside Science Minute programs on KUOO—unknown audience count! NOTE: the faculty lecture series also provide this service to the community.
- Offered at least 70 hours of children's programs (camps): 10 summer camps impacting 107 students, and approximately 240 hours contact time, total.
- Writer in Residence—Corrina Carter spent five weeks at Lakeside, including one week in the Environmental Writing course. For her outreach component, she conducted two poetry reading and writing workshops as part of Habitat Camp.
- Summer Education Interns—Thanks to the Friends of Lakeside Lab for supporting two education interns and a public relations intern this summer: Sarah Rocca was our Public Relations intern, a shared position with the Okoboji Protective Association. She coordinated the Lakeside Science Minute, aired each Monday morning on KUOO. Dana Norton and Megan Cook were our two education interns this summer. Luke MacDonald, one of the SCA/Invasive Species interns, enjoyed assisting with the outreach programs when he was off the boat ramps. These interns provided creative, enthusiastic, and invaluable support for running the camps and public programs.
- Aquatic Microbiology Camp. Once again Kerry Howard and Sylvia Lee offered their dynamic, one-week camp for high schoolers. Nine students attended, learned a lot, and had a great time.

*See Pictures on the next page!*



*Photos from Jane's summer camps. Top left, Habitat Happenings at Silver Lake Fen. Right, Watery Wonders reading. Bottom left, Wild Wednesday activity. Bottom right, Tallgrass Prairie reading.*



**2014 People's Art Project: the American Bison. It's been awhile since a Bison has been seen on the ice in Okoboiji.**  
*Photo by Judy Hemphill.*







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### **New Logos and Faculty**

As we move forward, Lakeside will be developing a series of new logos. The logo that is featured on the banner of this issue was developed by Sarah Teske, daughter of Mark and Judy Wehrspann, longtime Facilities and Business Managers at Lakeside. Sarah has a graphics design business in Ames, where she lives with her husband, Tyler, and their two daughters.

### ***Support the Friends***

*The Friends of Lakeside Lab provide invaluable support to Lakeside Lab.*

*The Friends will appreciate your contribution at any level. For membership categories and other information, included directed donations, visit the Friends web site at:*

*<http://www.friendsoflakesidelab.org>.*

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