MEMBER PROFILE

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The work in my research lab focuses on several major themes: 1) We are interested in understanding the role of adaptation and evolution in modulating the response of lake ecosystems to eutrophication; 2) We study the prevalence and ecological consequences of emerging contaminants (e.g., microplastics); and 3) We assess the effects of restoration and management practices on water quality.



What inspired you to get into this work?

I grew up in central Pennsylvania and spent most of my childhood near rivers and lakes. I was also always interested in chemistry. As a graduate student, I learned how much I loved teaching, especially at the undergraduate level. My current position lets me combine all of my passions: aquatic environments and teaching/mentoring students, and is a blend of field- and lab-based activities.

What body of knowledge would you like to build on?

I would like to build on the rapidly growing body of knowledge demonstrating important feedbacks between ecology and evolution. I think the implications of this line of work for lake management are currently underappreciated, but important.

If you could change one thing about the way science is done, what would it be?

Most introductory science courses that I've seen are very large lectures seemingly designed to filter out students. I would like to see more funding and opportunities for immersive experiences in science for a larger proportion of students prior to the start of their undergraduate education.

How long have you been an IAGLR member and why did you join?

I joined IAGLR in 2011. I was interested in harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes region, and I wanted to present the results of my research at the meeting.

Where will we find you at the conference?

Finger Lakes, HABs, watersheds, and wetland-related sessions.