NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We've randomly selected several of our new members to introduce themselves. Below and on the next page are their stories.

Delaney Demro

M.Sc. Candidate; SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

About my work

I am currently a graduate student at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse, New York. I am pursuing a master's degree in environmental science with a concentration in coupled natural and human systems, researching under Dr. Andrea Parker and Dr. Valerie Luzadis. My thesis centers around the Community Recreational Evaluation of Environmental Quality, or CREEQ Project, and is sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This project applies a community science (or citizen science) approach to compare public perceptions and recreational usability of streams to biochemical measures of stream water quality. Using ESRI's ArcGIS Survey123, we developed a survey instrument where users report stream conditions, recreational uses, and upload photos. After receiving a survey, we performed the same assessment on location and collected water samples for analysis. We hope to validate the use of community-sourced data to inform and optimize stream monitoring efforts across the state.

Why IAGLR?

As a graduate student, I always try to explore ways to expand my professional network. Because I was presenting at this year's conference, I saw joining IAGLR as a great opportunity to connect with other freshwater researchers, enthusiasts, and advocates! I will be graduating this August and will continue on to a multidisciplinary career. I decided to study environmental science because I want to create increasingly convenient and affordable pathways for the general public to live more sustainably, whether that be through connecting with nature or reducing individual impacts. After finding a love for science and policy, my career path could take many forms, through research, consulting, or planning. Regardless, I am excited to broaden my knowledge of Great Lakes research and connect with other researchers at future conferences.



Patricia Ann Owl

Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation

About my Work



Ahnee and greetings kinaahwiiyah (everyone). I am pleased to be welcomed to this circle of research and environmental protections for the Great Lakes, IAGLR. I was introduced by a dear friend, who has helped me in so many ways. My name is Waskwo-nengi-gun-emengwonot-kwe (Woman who brings the light), and I am an Anishinaabekwe endow (Indigenous woman) Ojibwa. I've had the privilege of working closely with the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement under the Chiefs of Ontario as a senior environmental communication analyst. It was an honor to assist in restoring and protecting the waters of the Great Lakes through this contract. The agreement provided a framework for identifying binational priorities and implementing actions that improve water quality. Indigenous peoples / First Nations struggle to bring knowledge to the table in fear of disappointment of government. There I began to understand the need to connect the spirit of the water to the framework of research by sharing in Traditional Knowledge. I've been working in my home community as a tourism manager, writing curriculum for the environmental keepers and developing land-based training that incorporates Traditional Knowledge. I also am a part of the gdaakiimon (lands management) team that asserts jurisdiction over Crown land access and employs environmental protection under their natural laws in the Sagamok Anishnawbek territory in the Robinson Huron Treaty. I am very honored to work with Elders in sharing the natural law and stewardship practices of my people. Further to embracing my culture and identity, I am interested in obtaining a master's degree in environmental sustainability at the University of Waterloo. I am interested in water resources management and governance. Thank you for this opportunity to connect and bridge Indigenous views and natural law.

Why IAGLR?

I joined IAGLR not only to help advance my knowledge of current research going on in the Great Lakes, but also to interact with the IAGLR community. I hope to attend conferences and present my work to other Great Lakes scientists. IAGLR also provides many opportunities for the Anishinaebe to advance education and for me to connect spirit and science through my ambition to share my knowledge ceremonies.

IAGLR

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