NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet five of our new members who have recently joined IAGLR.

Simon Freeman

Senior in Fisheries Management, Student Research Technician, Lake Superior State University, Center for Freshwater Research and Education



About my work

Throughout my time at Lake Superior State University I received a hands-on education while in class and working several research technician positions with the Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE). In 2021 I worked in our Atlantic salmon fish hatchery, surveyed for freshwater mussels, and began my senior thesis. Now in the summer of 2022, I sampled for larval lake whitefish and cisco and zooplankton in Lake Huron. Additionally, I took part in a setline survey for lake sturgeon, and sampled for CFRE's European frog-bit project. I am very thankful for these opportunities as an undergraduate student!

Favorite part of work

I conducted my undergraduate research thesis on day versus night relations between larval lake whitefish and zooplankton in lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior. From the field, lab, and data work, to presenting and writing, this project has provided invaluable training and professional development. Thank you to my mentors at LSSU CFRE and beyond for this Great Lakes research experience!

Something else about myself

My goal has always been to stay and work in the Great Lakes region. I grew up fishing primarily in Lake Huron. I was always asking *how, what*, and *why* while on the water. Now, as I reflect on my time as an undergraduate, asking those same questions while conducting important research on the Great Lakes, I can say that there is no better time to have that goal in mind.

Richard Micka

International Wildlife Refuge Alliance

About my work



As a volunteer for the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance, it has been a rewarding experience to work with other community leaders as a friends organization for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Southeast Michigan. The late Congressman John D. Dingell Jr. was responsible for the creation of this refuge in 2001.

Favorite part of work

As chair for the International Wildlife Refuge Alliance Board of Directors the last 14 years, I have come to appreciate the generosity of the people in the Downriver (Detroit) community. They are gracious and appreciate the opportunity to be part of an outdoor experience in their backyard. Many had never had the opportunity to see this part of the Detroit River.

Something else about myself

Be sure to visit the Refuge Gateway in Trenton, Michigan. You will experience what I have as you meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff and volunteers who greet everyone with a kind word and friendly smile carrying on the tradition set by Congressman Dingell, who was a champion of all wild things on both sides of the Detroit River.

Rebecca Nixon

University of Delaware



About my work

As an environmental social scientist, my research focuses on the social dimensions of climate change, environmental justice, and coastal community resilience. I am currently working on a project with Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant focused on revitalization in Great Lakes Areas of Concern. I also get to work with and teach an outstanding group of undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Delaware.

Favorite part of work

One of my favorite parts of my work is the opportunity to collaborate with community partners and work in interdisciplinary projects. I really value learning from and working alongside a diverse team, and it is exciting to see the innovative research and outreach that comes from deep collaboration.

Something else about myself

I was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and fell in love with the outdoors through summer days on Lake Michigan and backpacking trips to the Upper Peninsula. I am incredibly grateful I get to continue to be connected to the Great Lakes through my work.