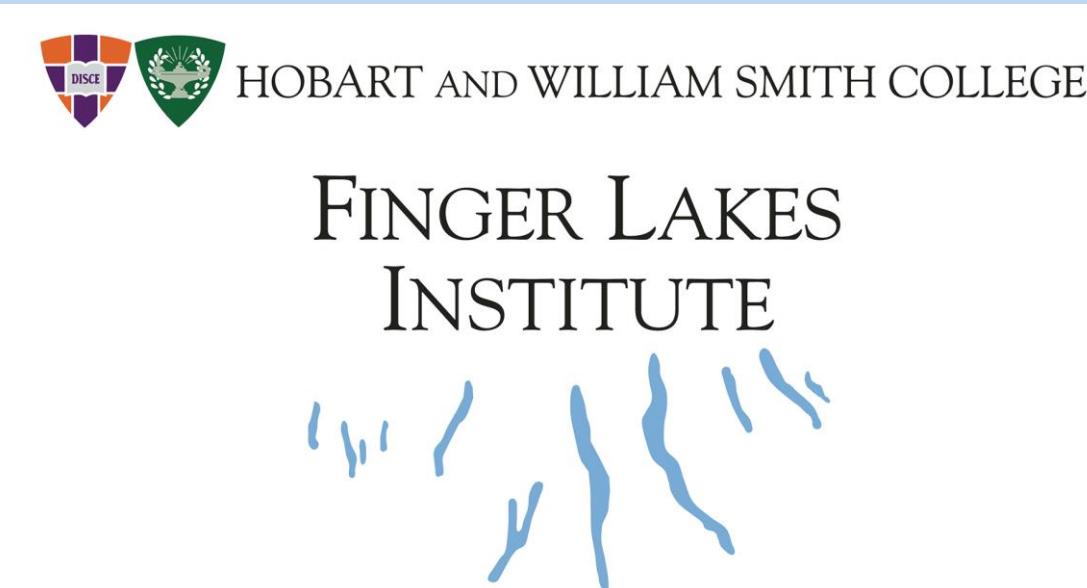


Libraries Love Lakes: A Project to Engage Library Visitors During Lakes Appreciation Month



Nadia Harvieux¹, Olenka Duncan^{2,3}, Teresa Sauer⁴, and Jen Klug⁴

¹Finger Lakes Institute, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY, USA, ²Wood Library Teen Advisory Board, Canandaigua, NY, USA

³Current address: University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, USA, ⁴Biology Department, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, USA



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Mission

Libraries Love Lakes pairs school and public libraries with lake scientists to provide collaborative programming emphasizing the importance of lakes in our everyday lives.

Approach

Libraries offer a chance to engage a wide variety of people who may have little knowledge of the ecosystem services provided by lakes. Library patrons and children attending storytime programs participated in pilot programming at two town libraries, one in New York and one in Connecticut, USA. The target audience was children ages 4-12 and their accompanying adults. Working with library staff, we

- Created book lists and displays of age-appropriate children's lake books
- Developed an informational brochure for library patrons about the Libraries Love Lakes project and the importance of lakes as a resource
- Invited all library visitors to respond to the prompt "What is your favorite thing about lakes?"
- Held a lake-focused storytime and craft activity at one library
- Shared outcomes on Facebook and Twitter using #LibrariesLoveLakes

Programming coincided with Lakes Appreciation Month – an awareness campaign sponsored by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) which promotes the importance of lakes throughout the month of July each year: <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/>

Origin

NE GLEON (Global Lake Ecological Observation Network) is a group of GLEON members from northeastern North America (<https://tinyurl.com/NEGLEON>). We focus on introducing undergraduate students to GLEON and a team approach to conducting scientific research. Libraries Love Lakes was inspired by members of the NE GLEON outreach working group who wanted to "put lakes on everyone's radar".



Pilot program was successful in engaging participants and generating social media interest



Clockwise from top left: Book Display at C.H. Booth Library. *Over and Under the Pond*, by Kate Messner read by Wood Library Children's Librarian, Mary Ferris. Olenka Duncan and two enthusiastic lake lovers. Posters at each library with children's favorite things about lakes.



Materials Created for Libraries Love Lakes



To support the Libraries Love Lakes programs at the Wood Library and C.H Booth Library, we created a brochure to help educate families and library patrons about the importance of lakes. Included in the brochure is a suggested reading list of children's books. Additionally, a selection of lake themed picture books were displayed in the children's section of the library during Lakes Appreciation Month.

Summary of children's responses to the "favorite things about our lake" prompt



Feedback from Librarians and Participants

"Our girls loved learning about lakes, making their own fish was their favorite part!" - Parent

"I think libraries are a natural partner for this program...I definitely think the program was a conversation starter between parent and child" - C.H. Booth Librarian

"The parents like the way you incorporated information about the importance of lakes with a fun experience for their children." - Wood Library Librarian

Social Media

	# of Posts & Tweets	Reach	Engagement	Likes	Comments
Libraries Love Lakes	6	6246	165	41	3



Future Plans

- Expand current summer programming
 - Partner with North American Lake Management Society to help promote
 - Create kits with books and craft supplies to distribute to libraries
- Collaborate with school libraries during the academic year
 - Tailor to local educational standards
 - Piloting research skills program with age 9-11 in November 2019
- Work with project partners to develop programming that meets regional needs
- Create a picture book highlighting diversity in lakes, scientists, and community members

Get Involved

We are expanding and are looking for more lake scientists and libraries to participate.

Join our mailing list if you'd like to get involved.

Thank you

The Libraries Love Lakes team thanks the following for their support of this project:

NE GLEON Outreach Working Group
Alanna Bennison and Nora Reilly, C.H. Booth Library
Mary Ferris, Children's Librarian at Wood Library

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NE GLEON, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Fairfield University, Wood Library, C.H. Booth Library

