Hello from LCRI.
Welcome to our 2020 newsletter. From the LCRI staff we hope this finds you in good spirits.

LCRI is active as usual working with many students and several new projects.
We continue to support Lake Champlain Sea Grant, ongoing projects and faculty research such as the climate change research data buoy on Lake Champlain. These efforts often involve the main research vessel, the R/V Gruendling, captained by Luke Myers.

LCRI research vessels supported research and teaching activities with over 75 days of field operations in 2019-20.

LCRI MILESTONE-

LCRI has exceeded $5 million in externally funded projects since 2000.
Perhaps more importantly these funds have allowed us to employ hundreds of SUNY Plattsburgh students and help them advance their careers across many disciplines.

LCRI has been involved in over $1.7 million in externally funded projects over the past 5 years. New additions include the Lake Champlain Sea Grant watershed education program and NOAA Sea Grant funding for the Lake Champlain data buoy. This year we continued our largest project the Lake Champlain Long Term Monitoring program funded by USEPA/NYDEC/Lake Champlain Basin program. Luke Myers and Tim Mihuc oversee the LTM program which hires 10+ students per year as paid research employees.

NY watershed education program

LCRI was excited to initiate the NY watershed education program in 2019 as part of the Lake Champlain Sea Grant program, a joint partnership of the University of Vermont and SUNY Plattsburgh.
Nate Trachte was hired in April 2019 as a staff educator. As the Education Specialist for Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Nate coordinates the implementation of Watershed Alliance programs throughout the New York portion of the Lake Champlain Basin. Watershed Alliance is a bi-state initiative originating in Vermont that visits with K-12 schools to offer watershed science opportunities in the classroom, in the streams, and on Lake Champlain.

Other NEWS

Sadly LCRI discovered yet another new invasive species in Lake Champlain, the fishhook waterflea (Cercopagis pengoi), first identified in 2018 by an LCRI student, Zach Cutter. Zach is now a graduate student in the MS Natural Science program working on impacts of invasive zooplankton in Lake Champlain. Several other new graduate students include Lily Delmarsh studying Lake Champlain Mysids and Heather Thompson working on the impacts of fire on insect communities in Pine Barren ecosystems.

We continue to hire our excellent undergraduates as research interns including Teresa Moran (ENV), Sam Carter (Chemistry), Christina Testa (Ecology), Luke Cutter (ENV), Khanh Linh Le (ENV) Jonathan White (Ecology) and many others in 2019-20.
To the LCRI alumni email and lets catch up:
timothy.mihuc@plattsburgh.edu

Nate Trachte with students on Lake Champlain

Students from Plattsburgh high school sampling stream invertebrates
LCRI History— timeline of major LCRI activities

1995- LCRI begins operations at SUNY Plattsburgh with renovations to Hudson Hall laboratories and purchase of equipment and research vessels. $1 million in funding for the Institute provided by NYS legislature appropriation to SUNY Plattsburgh campus.

1999- Dr. Timothy Mihuc hired as first LCRI director. Research affiliates program begins with ~50 researchers from on and off campus joining the Institute.

1999- Lake Champlain Sea Grant program begins, hiring of Mark Malchoff as LCRI New York outreach staff.

2000- LCRI joins NYDEC/USEPA Lake Champlain Basin program long term monitoring project.

2001- NSF REU project begins with LCRI support

2002- NSF CRUI Adirondack watershed integrity project begins (T. Mihuc PI). NSF award $550,000.

2003- NOAA funded MERHAB project begins. A $3 million multi-institution project led by SUNY ESF to study harmful algal blooms in the lower Great Lakes and Lake Champlain.

2006- LCRI begins a funded study of Adirondack aquatic insect biodiversity, which leads to description of several new species as part of Luke Myers Master’s research project.

2007- SUNY Plattsburgh M. S. Natural Science program begins, Tim Mihuc serves as coordinator.

2008- LCRI externally funded projects total exceeds $2.5 million since 2000.

2009- LCRI begins to operate Lake Champlain Monitoring program for NYDEC, 5 yr MOU @ $1 million

2011- LCRI begins Lake Champlain Bass tournament study with funding from NYDEC/ USEPA


2014- LCRI renews Lake Champlain Monitoring project MOU with NYDEC

2015- LCRI begins Lake Champlain Data buoy project with funding from NOAA Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

2015- LCRI completes 10th M.S. Natural Science graduate thesis project since 2002.

2018- LCRI externally funded projects total exceeds $5 million since 2000.

2018- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Sea Grant College Program grant Univ. Vermont/SUNY Plattsburgh Lake Champlain Sea Grant program National Institute status.

2019- LCRI hires new watershed program educator, Nate Trachte, for Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

2020- Mark Malchoff retires as extension staff from Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

Research Focus— Lake Champlain Data Bouy

For the fifth year a remote data buoy was deployed in 50m depth water south of Valcour Island as part of Climate change research funded by NOAA Lake Champlain Sea Grant (Dr. Eric Leibensperger, PI). Data was live streamed online for the entire season and used by hundreds of local boaters.

Did you know?

LCRI operates the research vessel the R/V Gruendling.

<<<< LCRI field trip for ENV 431/531 Freshwater Ecology in September 2020 (with social distancing)