

Björklunden Seminars

"Vacation with a purpose"

JULY 21-26, 2024 AT BJÖRKLUNDEN



Water Cycle: A Journey around the Science and Policy of Earth's most Precious Molecule

Course Description

Water is Earth's most important resource: life requires it, communities thrive on it, and economies depend on it. Yet water quantity and quality issues are becoming more common, from Midwestern floods and Southwestern droughts to municipal water crises in Flint and elsewhere and microplastics everywhere.

In our seminar, we will explore the science and policy of this mighty molecule and how water availability, conservation, policy, and perception varies across communities, states, and countries.

While on the shore of Lake Michigan, we will discuss questions of local and global relevance: can current laws protect the Great Lakes in the future? How will Lake Michigan fish and their fisheries change as the climate does? What technologies can alleviate future water shortages? Will water stress lead to armed conflict?

Seminar participants will be fully immersed in social, economic, environmental, and ethical discussions each day as we consider our past and present relationship with water and look forward into the future.

[Register Here>>](#)

Instructor



Peter S. Levi ('01)

Levi is a 2001 graduate of Lawrence University and started his career in freshwater ecology alongside Seilheimer ('00) during Bart DeStasio's '83 limnology course.

Currently, he is the Associate Director of Inland Lakes at the Mary Griggs Burke Center for Freshwater Innovation at Northland College in Ashland, WI. His research addresses the health and integrity of freshwater ecosystems in relation to local and regional human impacts.

Prior to Northland, Levi was an Associate Professor at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, and he also studied Great Lakes tributaries while at UW-Madison and the University of Notre Dame.

Instructor



Titus Seilheimer ('00)

Seilheimer is a 2000 graduate of Lawrence where he started on a career path in aquatic science and fish ecology.

He has been a fisheries specialist with Wisconsin Sea Grant since 2012 where he leads research, outreach, and education activities around Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystems.

Seilheimer has spent more than 100 days on Lake Michigan commercial fishing boats since 2015. His past research took him to all five Great Lakes and the southern Great Plains.