

Maria Lemke
Aquatic Ecologist

The Nature Conservancy of Illinois

Maria received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma, where she studied the response and recovery mechanisms of aquatic insect communities to flooding and drying disturbances. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Alabama where her research focused on population and production dynamics of wetland microcrustaceans. After moving to Illinois in 1999, Maria worked for several years at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Havana, Illinois, monitoring larval fish and zooplankton production in backwater lakes on the Illinois River. She has been with The Nature Conservancy for the last 10 years, working with partners to quantify the effectiveness of various agricultural conservation practices in the Mackinaw River watershed and conducting wetland research at Emiquon Preserve in central Illinois. Additional research activities include quantifying diversity and secondary production of aquatic invertebrates in floodplain and backwater habitats along the Illinois River.

a. Professional Preparation

University of Oklahoma	Zoology	B.S.	1988
University of Oklahoma	Zoology (Community Ecology)	M.S.	1994
University of Alabama	Biology (Aquatic Ecology)	Ph.D.	2000
Postdoctoral Institutions			
Illinois Natural History Survey	Fisheries/Aquatic Ecologist		2001-2002

b. Appointments

2002-present	Aquatic Ecologist/Program Manager	The Nature Conservancy of Illinois
2000-2006	Visiting Research Scientist	University of Illinois at Springfield
2000-2006	Adjunct Faculty	University of Illinois at Springfield
2000-2002	Aquatic Invertebrate Ecologist	Illinois Natural History Survey

c. Publications – 5 most recent

1. Lemke, A. M., K. G. Kirkham, T. T. Lindenbaum, M. E. Herbert, T. H. Tear, W. L. Perry, and J. R. Herkert. 2011. Evaluating agricultural best management practices in tile-drained subwatersheds of the Mackinaw River, Illinois, USA. *Journal of Environmental Quality* 40:1215-1228.
2. Lemke, A. M. 2010. Outreach and the adoption of conservation practices by farmers. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 65(5):124A.
3. Lemke, A. M., T. T. Lindenbaum, W. L. Perry, M. E. Herbert, T. H. Tear, and J. R. Herkert. 2010. Effects of outreach on the awareness and adoption of conservation practices by farmers in two agricultural watersheds of the Mackinaw River, Illinois. *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* 65(5):304-315.
4. Lemke, M. J., T. A. Pagioro, A. M. Lemke, and S. M. Thomaz. 2010. Diel variation related to thermal mixing in a subtropical vs. a north-temperate shallow floodplain lake. *Journal of Freshwater Ecology* 25(3):373-383.
5. Lemke, A. M., and A. C. Benke. 2009. Spatial and temporal patterns of microcrustacean assemblage structure and secondary production in a wetland ecosystem. *Freshwater Biology* 54:1406-1426.