

#### Our Mission

Inspire a lifetime of Great Lakes curiosity, stewardship, and passion in people of all ages

#### Many great works are yet to be done!

- Tom Kelly, ISEA Founder

As I reflect on the incredible year Inland Seas Education Association (ISEA) enjoyed, a couple of leadership books I read years ago came to mind. The books, The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell and 212°: the Extra Degree by Sam Parker, both speak to the specific point that dramatic things happen. For ISEA, 2022 was the year we reached that point.

Amazing partnerships have been developed throughout the Great Lakes region and have fueled unprecedented demand for our work. Educators, students, and organizations from Chicago to Duluth, Cleveland to Suttons Bay, and many places in between are eager to experience our unique educational programs. ISEA continues to grow in response to this demand!

2022 saw an expansion of our programming to a year-round model, the development of a plan to realize an exciting 25-year strategic vision, expanded staffing, and the purchase of Alliance, ISEA's new 105' three-masted schooner. These accomplishments will inspire hundreds of thousands of youth to learn more about themselves and their place in the Great Lakes

ecosystem while further solidifying ISEA's place as the preeminent leader of Great Lakes education.

While 2022 marked a tipping point in the life of ISEA in many respects, the things that occurred during the year were the result of many years of hard work, planning, and, most importantly, your steadfast support. Once that point has been reached, an organization can enjoy a steep upward trajectory and an extended period of astonishing accomplishments. I am looking forward to spending the exciting years on our horizon with you.

Fred Sitkins, ISEA Executive Director



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## 2022 Highlights

- © Inland Seas purchased the schooner *Alliance*, expanding its fleet to meet growing programming demand
- O Program participation has returned to pre-pandemic levels
- O Brought fall Schoolship programming to Detroit for the first time in ISEA history
- Hired: Kate Jarvi as Office Manager, Kari Seres as Deckhand Educator, and Harrison Fischer as Marketing and Communications Coordinator
- Three professional development opportunities offered, serving 55 educators
- Piloted new shoreside Watershed Exploration programs

#### **ISEA Staff**



Back Row (L to R): Ben Hale, Trisha Smrecak, Fred Sitkins, Juliana Lisuk, Harrison Fischer Front Row (L to R): Rachel Ratliff, Rebecca Hancock, Kate Jarvi, Jillian Votava, Lily Heyns, Izzy Cooper Not Pictured: Kari Seres

#### ISEA Purchases Schooner Alliance

In 2022 ISEA made the momentous decision to purchase a second schooner to expand our Schoolship fleet. The 105-foot schooner *Alliance* will sail the waters of Grand Traverse Bay starting in the summer of 2023. This acquisition was made in response to the growing demand for ISEA's programming across the Great Lakes.

There's an increased desire to give students experiential educational opportunities on the Great Lakes and organization partners are seeking access to the lakes. As demand increases for ISEA's unique programs, it has surpassed our current shipboard capacity. *Alliance* will allow us to deepen our impact by providing programming to more partners across the Great Lakes basin, while simultaneously having a larger presence throughout the sailing season at our home port in Suttons Bay.

ISEA's expansion ultimately reflects a wider recognition of the importance of education in protecting the Great Lakes. Schools, organizations, and members of the public look to ISEA for this programming, but a lack of capacity has meant many requests go unfulfilled each year. The addition of *Alliance* will allow ISEA to usher in the next generation of environmental stewards by continuing to connect them in meaningful ways with their watersheds.

The schooner Alliance was launched by Treworgy Yachts in 1995, a year after the yard launched the schooner Inland Seas. The name for this vessel will remain Alliance as we believe that it perfectly represents the partnerships and collaborations that brought about her purchase. Alliance will begin the journey back to Suttons Bay in early May. Join us for a free public arrival celebration on June 24th as Alliance is escorted into Suttons Bay by Inland Seas.





## **Expanding Connections in Detroit**

This year marked a milestone for Inland Seas Education Association. After a successful fall Schoolship season in Suttons Bay, the ISEA crew and volunteers sailed the schooner *Inland Seas* to Detroit for seven days of Schoolship programming on the Detroit River. In prior years, ISEA had only been to Detroit during the summer season. However, after recognizing a growing desire for Schoolship programming, ISEA decided to expand its commitment to bringing Great Lakes curiosity, stewardship, and passion to all parts of the Great Lakes Basin.

Partnering with U of M's Detroit River Story Lab (DRSL), a hybrid Schoolship and DRSL program was presented. This program featured plankton and seamanship stations from ISEA and presentations from the DNR's Outdoor Adventure Center, the Cranbrook Science Institute, the University of Michigan and local historians. These programs provide the opportunity for students to experience the Detroit River's ecological, cultural, and historical significance in a completely new way.

With the addition of the schooner *Alliance*, ISEA plans to bring Schoolship programming to Detroit every fall. This ensures all students, regardless of location, can have the opportunity to experience our Great Lakes in a meaningful and impactful manner.

## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

# 7,179 Total Participants Reached





33 ROV Programs 832 Participants Reached

21 Watershed
Exploration Programs
269 Participants
Reached

21 Public Programs 530 Participants Reached

Other Programs and Events 1,768 Participants Reached

## **Volunteer Impact**

The work of our volunteers is absolutely imperative to the success of Inland Seas. Without their knowledge, passion, and expertise we would not be where we are today. 2022 marked the longest program season to date, an indicator of the growth of ISEA. This year ISEA had **80 active volunteers** who gave a grand total of **5,953\* hours** to fostering the next generation of Great Lakes stewards.

## **Volunteer Award Recipients**

**Executive Director:** Lois Bahle **Friend of ISEA:** David Porter

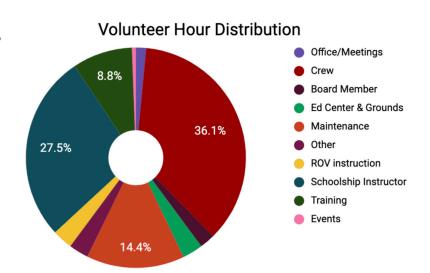
Education Director: Lee Christensen

New Volunteer: Ben Larson-Wolbrink

Teaching Excellence: Jill Egan

Volunteer of the Year: Phil Diller

Outstanding Crew: CJ Johnson



\*Actual hours are likely higher, as not all volunteers record hours or turn in time sheets.



#### 2022 Volunteers

Rob Baier Jim Bennet James Bielak Lynn Bradley Jeff Brown Jim Carson Will Chaney Rob Chapman Lee Christens Sue Chrostek Doug Coffin Pat Cole Al Edford Jill Egan Jim Egan Kim Eike Sue Erdmann Christine Flaugher Johm Fletcher Mike Foley Mike Gillette Jackie Hall Steve Hamilton Gina Harder Sal Hernandez

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Jim Prange Chris Raterink Dale Rolley Emma Rosi Zach Schab Kathy Schaeffer John Seefeld George Seifried Dan Sherburn Margaret Siegrist Michael Siegrist Frank Simkins **Brett Sinclair** Marta Slocum Dena Smith Sally Somsel Wayne Steinhour **Bob Walton** Bill Weiss Kelly Werback Richard Werback **Bob Weyand** Anthony Wright Thom Yocum Mandi Young





### 2022 Great Lakes Watershed Field Course

From August 15-18, 25 teachers traveled from Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to ISEA's campus for an immersive professional development experience. Over the course of four days, they learned how to engage students in taking action on local watershed issues. With ISEA staff and local experts, they learned about watershed science, place-based education pedagogy, and spent time together building curriculum. Throughout this school year, ISEA is supporting the educators as they apply what they learned with their students.

"When you do something project based like this that has real meaning in the world, kids want in. It has been a few years since I've done something embedded in curriculum, it makes it work so well, the kids get so excited!"

## 2022 Blog Highlights

"Throughout the summer, I've had the opportunity to connect with hundreds (maybe even thousands) of people. Now when I think of Inland Seas, I think of so much more than 5 Great Lakes. When you see a volunteer lead a group of strangers to sweat a halyard on a public day sail, or an instructor trusts a group of students with professional science equipment, or an enthusiastic 5th grader driving the boat, you realize we're all one big crew making this program work. Through what I thought was just a summer internship, I've gained so much more. Proudly, I'm part of an intergenerational community dedicated to the Great Lakes."



- Kari Seres, ISEA Deckhand Educator



"Living on a boat for three days changed my perspective on what I was capable of. It gave me a new awareness of the bore of living on land, and I will go as far as calling myself an aspiring sailor- thanks to the ISEA program."

- Hannah, Young Women in STEM Participant

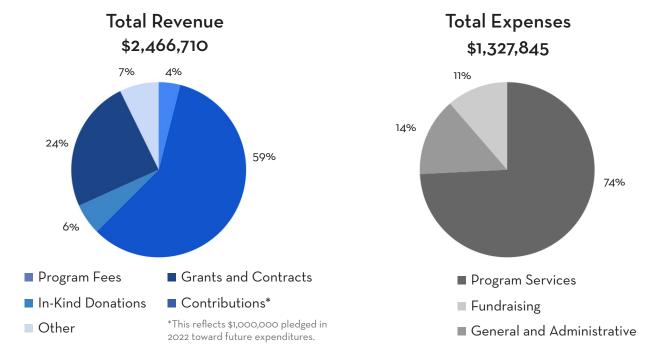
"My biological knowledge increased as I kept up with developments in the Great Lakes and I was excited to see how eagerly these youngsters absorbed the lessons learned on-board and ashore through the efforts of hundreds of volunteers from all walks of life. My scientific bent was helpful to me but I quickly found that the main factor in teaching here was simply a love for the jewels we call the Great Lakes and a desire to pass this love on to the following generations."

- Thom Yocum, ISEA Board Member



### Financial Impact

"To me, ISEA is a perfect blend of kids and adults learning about science while having fun. Using this platform to promote the stewardship of the Great Lakes is an added bonus that benefits all of us who love the lakes." -Donor Bob Nelb



### **Donor Impact**

Our ability to inspire Great Lakes curiosity, stewardship, and passion would not be possible without the continued support of our donors. We appreciate the trust in stewarding your resources to provide Great Lakes education for all.

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