

Alex Edler



In 2011, while sitting at home one evening watching *River Monsters* I thought, “I really did not like my job and I should change that.” So, with the support of my wife (Rebecca) I left the workforce where my career focused on manufacturing operations and engineering to pursue my passion in geoscience and the environmental sciences. Also, since I was not going to be working we decided to start a family while I went back to school. I went back to school as a full-time student and stay at home dad for our wonderful children who are now 4 and 5 years old (Zan and Johannah). As a Veteran, the VA helped with some my schooling costs for my bachelors and graduate school at the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay (UWGB). This continues to be an absolutely rewarding time in my life where I can be a positive influence on my children while I

changed careers to a field I truly enjoy. During my free time I like to hunt, fish, manage our farmette, and escape to our cabin “up north”.

My graduate area of study focused on a localized study of drinking water aquifers along the Niagara Escarpment using radiometric and stable isotopes, water chemistry, and meteoric water data. In 2015, I started working for the Wisconsin DNR as a Hydrogeologist and since then have moved on in the DNR as a Water Supply Specialist in the Drinking Water and Groundwater Program. As a Water Supply Specialist I survey the non-transient non-community public water systems in 10 counties throughout Northeast Wisconsin. I really enjoy what I do.

My favorite professor at UWGB has to be Dr. Luczaj even though many have been very positive influences. When starting my career at UWGB I had no idea where I wanted to focus my passion for the environment. Then I went on my first of many geological field trips, watching Dr. Luczaj “bounce” around on the rocks and formations I knew that I had to look into why he was so excited about geology. His passion is infectious and guidance is supportive and fair. I have to admit that at first I thought he was a bit quirky, but I quickly learned to appreciate this and it only made me better in all aspects of my life. Learning with Dr. Luczaj has made me more engaged, driven and focused. Most importantly, I have to say that I have made a good friend and environmental colleague.

I really enjoyed my time at UWGB and have made a lot of personal and professional connections through my time spent there. I have run into UWGB Science & Technology graduates throughout the state during my travels and trainings. We seem to connect right away and always have stories to tell. The best advice that I would give would be to take time to enjoy what you are learning and make it relatable to you. If you enjoy what you do and are confident in what you know others will pick up on that and will want to be part of it too.