

WACF Education

*Nature hates
calculators.*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Lake Talk and Eats

This program is offered the first Saturday in June, July and August to provide fun learning experiences along with food. This is just a sampling of past events:

“Bug Catch” adults and kids catch lake bugs to learn what bugs can teach us about the quality of the lake water.

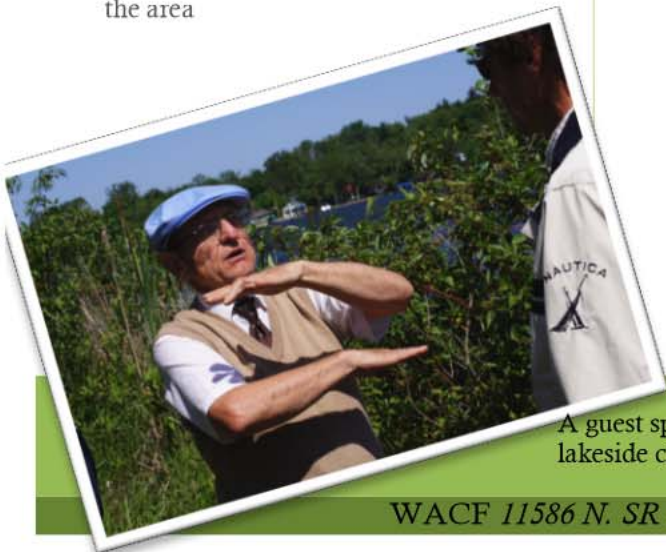
“Invasive Species” The group not only learned to identify them, but they also learned to cook with the plants they identified!

National and state wide recognized experts speak to the groups about lake management, clean water and the geography of the area



How well do you know your lake?

Because so many of the threats facing our watershed can be traced to human actions, education plays a significant role in improving and maintaining the future quality of our precious lakes. WACF’s education programs and new education center provide opportunities to further engage the community with the work WACF is doing to protect the watershed. However, the facility, property, and educational programming are not yet complete. WACF plans to improve the property by planting native grasses and wildflowers, creating self-guided trails, restoring wetlands, and controlling exotic species already present on the property. There are two walking trails complete and two more under construction.



A guest speaker explaining concepts in a lakeside class.



You can make a difference

Those who enjoy the lake water can play a role in keeping it clear and clean!

So no one on the lake likes the invasive species that clog boat motors and diminish lake swimming. We can all play a role in making sure the plants are not growing so quickly

Lawn wastes and fertilizers seep, pour and erode into lakes, causing unnatural concentrations of nutrients. These nutrients produce a super abundance of unwanted algae and rooted plants. The misuse of lawn and garden fertilizers and chemicals by homeowners is a serious problem.

- **Never use the lake as a disposal site for leaves or other yard refuse.**
- **Avoid spring fertilizing.**
- **Do not apply fertilizers adjacent to seawalls or dose to the shoreline.**
- **Leave grass clippings.**
- **Seed lawns in the fall.**
- **Use good quality grass seed.**
- **Consider not having a lawn and for establishing a greenbelt of trees and shrubs between your house and the lake.**
- **Use lake water for watering lawns.**
- **Disturb as little topsoil, shrubbery and grass as possible when doing any excavation near the lakeshore.**



Canoeing the Watershed

Every summer WACF celebrates the Wawasee Watershed with canoe trips down Turkey Creek, through ten lakes, the source of forty-three percent of Wawasee/Syracuse Lake water. If you have taken this trip you will agree that it is first class wetlands education. We see spring fed lakes and wetlands that help provide us good water. We see varying flora and fauna. Each trip is different.

We just finished our sixteenth year of canoeing nearly every summer Friday morning. Our guides and our WACF canoes take you on an unforgettable trip.

For information on how to participate in a canoe trip please call 574-457-4549.