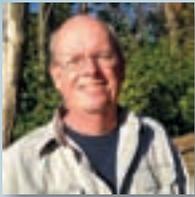


CONSERVANCY VIEWS



Preserving Water Quality & Scenic Beauty of Our Lakes

Spring 2014



Chairman's Letter

By Sam Leman, WACF Chairman

“The work goes on, the cause endures...” I think Senator Kennedy delivered this line in reference to something other than clean water, but it certainly can be applied to WACF’s mission and our efforts to preserve and enhance our watershed for today and generations to come. We continue our work to monitor the quality of our water, looking for problem areas and taking steps to correct them. We’re always alert to opportunities to protect the land adjacent to tributaries. And, we continue to develop educational programming aimed toward your understanding our efforts and how you can contribute.

Our “Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes and Wetlands Education Center” on State Road 13 is a major component of our education plans. Work continues to restore the wetland areas previously filled with waste concrete and overrun by invasive plant species. The longterm goal is to develop a trail system through these 40+ acres that includes information on the makeup of a healthy wetland and how it contributes to water quality. The north end of the property boasts hundreds of feet of lake and channel front shoreline where we hope to develop various demonstration areas and a launch for in-water activities. The Center also includes our Ruddell Pavilion which we use for WACF in-house and public gatherings, but is also available for community and private events. There are even preliminary plans for a future earth-formed “amphitheater” overlooking the Conklin Bay wetlands as a venue for a lecture series and more.

Of course, this newsletter is one of our best vehicles to inform and educate. In the following pages you’ll find; an ecological update on the quality of our water, information on our current projects to repair and enhance the watershed, suggestions on how you can improve the shoreline and landscape to benefit the lakes, and an update on our ongoing “lake talks” and canoe trips. You’ll also find an introduction to Judy Shoemaker, our new Development Officer, and an article on the importance of research by Dr. Nate Bosch, Director of Grace College’s Center for Lakes & Streams, and a valued collaborator.

To complete the quote from Senator Kennedy— “...the hope still lives, and the dream shall never die.” Let that stand true for the preservation of our beautiful watershed.

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From the desk of the *Executive Director*

By Heather Harwood, WACF Executive Director

WACF Partners & Projects: Other stuff happening:

Thank you for your support this past year. Support from the lake community helps WACF complete important projects around the lake. Some projects are highly impactful on sediment runoff into the lake, and other projects will help filter future runoff, or control weeds in the lake. It's all work toward the goal of keeping our water clean and our lake pristine. Here's what we've been working on...

Current projects:

- The next phase of the cleanup and **removal of invasive plants in the wooded wetlands** at the Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes and Wetlands Education Center will be starting this summer. The next phase is the north side of the property and includes Trail #2.

- WACF is starting construction on the **Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes and Wetlands Education Center sign** along the Center's entry driveway, and the **Eli Lilly Lifetime Founders Society** donor wall. This donor wall acknowledges the philanthropic effort of Eli Lilly and his contributions to the lake.

- **Starry Stonewort**—The Department of Natural Resources with the help of federal funds has provided another grant to Wawasee to update the Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan. The effort will be funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which makes available federal grant money to help Great Lakes states prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species.

- WACF recently hosted a **Kick-Off Meeting** to explain the **Thorpe Basin Project**. The project is designed to slow down water flowing into Martin Creek and Leeland channels to allow the sediment to filter out. The project is funded by the Great Lakes Commission.

- **Agricultural Farm Tour**—Russell Anderson will be leading another agricultural tour on his farmland this summer July 23 at 9:30 am. We will meet at Dillon Creek along County Line Road and Russell will discuss erosion control, fertilization, planting and other topics.

- **Lake Talk and Eats** the first Saturdays of June, July and August. Come and join us for a light breakfast at 9 am for some lake talk.

Our lakes have an agricultural watershed of approximately 23,600 acres and flow from the southeast through Turkey Creek and Dillon Creek, to the dam in Syracuse to the Elkhart River, to the St. Joe River, to Lake Michigan, to the St. Lawrence Seaway and Atlantic Ocean. Most natural lakes in Indiana, including lakes in our watershed, have experienced a decrease in water quality over the past 30 years. WACF is working to make a difference in our water quality, along with friends like the Elkhart River Restoration Association, the IDNR's Lake and River Enhancement, the Great Lakes Commission, WPOA, SLA, Papakeechee Protective Association, Knapp Bause Harper Lake Association, Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation, Indiana Lakes Management Society, the Partners for US Fish and Wildlife Program and the Kosciusko County Community Foundation.

These groups help protect water quality, restore habitat and educate the community on the importance of our aquatic resources.



WACF has completed over two miles of stream restorations, planted 15,000 trees, completed wetland restorations totaling approximately 10 acres, restored over 3 acres of native prairie habitat, provided wetland mitigation, and planned studies to give us guidelines on priorities. Matching funds to complete these projects have totaled over \$1 million.

Education, land protection and acquisition, and watershed improvement projects are WACF's three primary objectives. WACF has acquired thru donation, fee simple purchase, conservation easement or deed restriction 44 wetland and upland properties totaling more than 777 acres. These properties contain wetland habitat that protect water quality and provide habitat for many of Indiana's State Endangered and Threatened species. Since 1991, WACF has invested and been granted matching funds for land acquisition, habitat restoration, best management practices, and educating the general public about the importance of water quality and sound stewardship of our natural resources.

Protecting our lakes will become even more difficult as land becomes more valuable, and demands increase on the use of the lakes. Cooperation and partners are vital to protect our lakes. Fortunately for Wawasee, Syracuse Lake, Papakeechee these partners are well underway in helping to improve water quality, educating the public, and providing long term protection of sensitive areas for future generations to appreciate.



WACF is successful due to the support of volunteers and contributors. Volunteers are important part of keeping the foundation running smoothly.

Thank you to these special volunteers:

- Nancy Brown for her partnership with WACF,
- The Elkhart River Restoration Association and their partnership,
- Roger Symensma, Bob Fanning, Jeff Herdrich, Rob DeBeck, Doug Yoder and David Brandes for help at the Education Center,
- WPOA and SLA for support throughout the year,
- Russell Anderson for leading the farm tours,
- Donn Baird for Treasurer's work,
- WACF Canoe guys: Al Campbell, Betsy Roby, Doug Yoder and Dan Berkey,
- Sherry Lantz, Kay Young, Pam Laker, Ken Fetters, Bob Joesten Jim Alford and many more that help with canoe trips,
- Sandy Green for donor letters,
- Roxann Arnott for sign clean-up,
- Jeff and Joel Guyas, and George Hardie for buoy installation,
- Laurie Hardie kitchen help,
- Bob Fanning & the Land Management crew for clearing and mowing at the WACF Center,
- The Kaiser Family and David Ganz for work on the Syracuse Lake Eco-zone buoys,
- Wawasee Boat Company for Ecozone buoys at North Bay,
- Bill and Barb Coon for making the Cattail Award sculptures,
- Susie Brandes for the photography and WACF website slideshows,
- Eileen Cripe for the photo collage of lake wildlife,
- Dan Harstine for snow plowing,
- Nate Bosch for time and talent,
- Knapp, Bause, Harper Association for their work on the sewer,
- Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation for their partnership.



Roger Symensma heads Tuesday Volunteer's Day



Why is Research Important on Wawasee & Syracuse Lakes?

By Dr. Nate Bosch, PhD, Grace College Center for Lakes and Streams

Why were my students and I out on Lake Wawasee on a rainy spring day this year with 25 mph winds and near-freezing water conditions? Why have we been breaking through ice in the streams around Syracuse and Wawasee lakes biweekly even through one of the harshest winters on record and then stepping into those streams to take measurements and water samples? And why have committed volunteers from WACF been taking water clarity measurements for many years on Wawasee and Syracuse lakes?

As a lake scientist, of course I am going to say we do this because lake research is important. But I would like to take this opportunity to show you exactly why scientific research on these two lakes is important.

Research helps us identify and explain the problems facing our lakes. This allows us to create solutions that produce the most effective outcomes with the most efficient use of resources.

Scientific research on lakes has produced many victories over the years. One such example is the revelations about phosphorus. Research identified phosphorus as the main nutrient of concern in lakes and explained how it causes excess weed and algae growth. Furthermore, we now know the different types of phosphorus present in the water, which types are most useful to weeds and algae, and where these different forms come from.

Local research on your lakes has also been fruitful. Early fish research in 1926 and 1927 on Syracuse Lake identified common fish species along with their average weights and lengths in order to understand how to improve fish health and allow fish hatcheries to

be more efficient. Then in 1928, the first study looking at shoreline erosion on Lake Wawasee documented the usefulness of shoreline vegetation in our local setting.

We are carrying on this rich tradition in Kosciusko County. Our research on lake levels is identifying major lake level influences so that water can be more effectively and efficiently managed in the future. Research on blue-green algae has improved our understanding of how to better help people and pets around Syracuse Lake and Lake Wawasee stay safer and healthier in the future. Currently, we are quantifying phosphorus coming in from the four major stream inflows to Lake Wawasee to identify areas to target for phosphorus reduction in the future.

Problem solving through scientific research holds promise in the future as well. With the wealth of historical and current data, we can compare how Wawasee and Syracuse lakes are changing over time to see if they are improving. We can expand beyond our stream research to quantify all phosphorus sources coming into these two lakes and then develop "what if" scenarios to explore potential ways to reduce certain amounts of phosphorus from coming into the lakes. We can even estimate anticipated declines in weed and algae growth that would result from these phosphorus reductions.

Our center looks forward to continuing and expanding our collaboration with donors, SLA, WACF and WPOA as we utilize scientific research to help make Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake cleaner, healthier, safer and more beautiful.



Goals for a Better Watershed

By Diana Castell, Ecology/Education Chair

The ecology/education committee has been working all winter. It was a good winter to have inside work to do! We are pleased to present our new WACF brochure. It started as way to connect more personally to lake associations, such as the Leeland Addition. Look for our new green brochure for up to date ways to protect our lakes.

Our education efforts are guided by the goals from our 2007 Watershed Plan. These goals guide the types of projects that WACF will fund with the help of Lake and River Enhancement and Fish and Wildlife.

Wawasee Area Watershed Management Plan 2007

Goal 1: We want to reduce the **nutrient load** reaching Lake Wawasee by 25% over the next 10 years.

Goal 2: We want to reduce the **sediment load** to the waterbodies within the Wawasee Area Watershed by 50% over the next five years.

Goals 3: We want to reduce the concentration of **E.coli** within in the Wawsee Area Watershed waterbodies so that water within the streams and lake meets the state standard within 10 years.

Goal 4: Within five years, 50% of Landowners within the Wawasee Area Watershed will attend one **educational event** and 25% of landowners implement one water quality **improvement project**.

Goal 5: Maintain and improve the recreational setting of Wawasee Area Watershed by developing and implementing a **recreational management plan** for Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake within five years.

Years ago, as a new teacher, we learned to write goals for our students. One of the fables to encourage us went some thing like this ... if you don't know where you are going you may just be eaten along the way by the circling sharks.

If you don't know where you are going ... you might not get there at all.

This can apply to any project but when you are working ahead 5 or 10 years it is even more important to have your goals in mind.

As I revisit these goals, adjustments need to be made. For a number of years, we lacked funds to pursue some of our goals. With the help of the Elkhart River Restoration Association in partnership with the DNR Lake and River Enhancement, and the Great Lake Commission, we have received funds to complete several critical

projects. The work on Dillon Creek will decrease the sediment from entering the Enchanted Hills channels which then finds its way into Wawasee. Sediment can travel from Dillon Creek to Lake Michigan ... does not seem possible does it.

Sediment does not just make our lakes muddy but each small piece of dirt binds with phosphorus. When we add phosphorus to our lawns, most runs off, because our established lawns do not need additional phosphorus. Yes, phosphorus makes plants grow. Phosphorus in the water makes any plant grow, the good, the bad and the ugly!

Reducing sediment is critical but the lake has tons of sediment. So what do we do about that sediment ... remove it, right? Imagine a series of cranes all over the land removing tons of sediment. Don't like that image? Of course not! Let's see if we can just leave it be on the bottom of the lake. How can we do that? Don't stir it up which releases the phosphorus. Sounds easy ... everyone should row boat or canoe. Turn back the clock. What? You don't want to give up your fancy pontoon or speed boat or your wave boat that your kids love.

Of course, not.

The answer is to **Be Wake Cool**.

- Move to deep water for wakeboarding and water sports.
- Deeper water means better wake.
- Avoid the bays and shallow water.
- Plane the boat in shallow water.
- Don't make waves that harm wetland or shorelines.

These suggestions apply to any and all boats.

As we continue to gather more data about the tons of sediment we are preventing from entering our lake, we will share that data.

Lake Talk and Eats continues as we present programs to inform our lake community how to protect and enhance our beautiful lakes.





Canoeing the 10 Lakes with WACF

By Al Campbell

For the nineteenth year WACF will provide the “every Friday morning” wetlands education canoe trips, often called the Ten Lakes Canoe Trips. The first trip this year will be Friday, June 27 and go on until Labor Day. More than a few participants have called it “our family’s best day of the summer.”



It is highly advisable to make reservations well in advance. Email or call Al Campbell. His email is aldotcam@gmail.com and cell is 513-543-6997. We prefer cellphones because people are more reachable. Tell Al how many people, their names and, if children, their ages.

Typically WACF takes ten canoes down the canoe trail. In addition some people bring their own kayaks and canoes. After they contact us we send them a detailed description of the trip and what to bring.

We meet at the Fish Hatchery/Family Fishing Area on the southeast shore of Wawasee. The orientation starts sharply at 7:30 am and you can expect to be finished in the noon–12:30 time frame. You’ll be in the hands of a veteran canoe team crew: Dan Berkey, Doug Yoder, Betsy Roby, and Al Campbell.

Cost is \$5/person which is “peanuts.” But our hope and experience is that after seeing all WACF is doing to protect our water, including the purchase of miles of Turkey creek shoreline/wetlands, they will want to join the hundreds who already annually support WACF’s efforts.

You will learn the history of the lakes and also of the Indians who inhabited our watershed. We canoe Turkey creek through ten glacial lakes, five of them totally pristine



Dan Berkey, Sherry Lantz, Betsy Roby and Al Campbell

with no cottages. Turkey Creek provides 43% of Wawasee/Syracuse’s surface water. You will learn the importance of wetlands, the “kidneys” that purify our water. You will learn that our watershed has the advantage of bumping up against a Continental Divide, the St. Lawrence Divide. Water from our watershed goes to the Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean. Water in the Tippecanoe watershed (e.g. Lake Webster) goes to the Gulf of Mexico. Our canoes literally bump up against that Divide. We learn about flora and fauna and about how the glaciers created our lakes.

It is popular. If interested start making plans.



Judy Shoemaker joins WACF as Development Officer

We welcome Judy Shoemaker who joined the WACF in January as our Development Officer.

Judy brings a wealth of experience in sports and event marketing, brand management, and fundraising.

Judy began her career working for the legendary Chicago White Sox owner Bill Veeck. She was Vice-President of Marketing for NBA Properties (New York) and Director of Marketing & Promotions for the Salt

Lake Winter Olympic Games in 2002. She has worked at national marketing agencies serving both corporate and non-profit clients. Most recently, she finished a seven-year assignment with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in Indianapolis.

Judy grew up in Goshen, spending summers with her family at their lake cottage on East Shore Drive. A life-long “part-time” resident of Syracuse, Judy relocated her consulting business here as a full-time resident in 2012.



Sustainable Shorelines

By Bill Hess

Well finally, we can see our watershed waters again, and not view some kind of sub-arctic moonscape accompanied by the winds of Thor himself! It is great to see this time of year arrive, and the return of our beautiful natural aquatic environment.

That is exactly what the Shoreline Committee has been considering this winter too, how we can protect, enhance, and possibly restore a more natural aquatic environment to our most developed shorelines. In particular, this focus is directed at both Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake, as the Papakeeche shoreline is still much like the great Chief saw it 150 years ago. So is it possible to reverse time, and restore what was once considered natural? And why would we want to do that even if we could?



There are three main approaches being considered to promote and practice this concept of shoreline restoration:

- 1) Glacial stone or rock facing along an existing seawall
- 2) Planting of native aquatic species along waterfront seawalls of any kind
- 3) Landscaping waterfront property with alternative native species

Of course the logical first step would be to protect what may be in place to begin with, including natural beaches, mature trees, and the natural topography and vegetation of a shoreline. However, in a fully developed shoreline environment, restoration is more challenging.

The three methods listed above are not new concepts, and some have already been implemented. For example the North Shore of Lake Wawasee has a number of glacial seawalls already in place that were promoted by the WACF in a previous decade. But far more cement barriers surround the majority of the Lake now than ever before. The committee is attempting to complete a shoreline survey sometime this spring to inventory existing stone seawalls.

The benefits of natural shorelines have been stated before, and include restoration of aquatic habitat to support fish and other

creatures we like to see such as turtles, crawdads, mud-puppies (aka salamanders) and frogs to name a few. If you have not seen these creatures lately, then please continue reading. Creating glacial rock seawalls and planting aquatic species provide a safe haven for spawning fish and support a sustainable shoreline ecosystem.

Wave chop is also now a huge issue, pun intended. As the boat size of all types increases, so does the wake chop. The solution: get a bigger boat to get a better ride to over the bigger chop, and so it continues. Glacial stone absorbs wave energy and helps keep your own moored boats protected while docked, and you while boarding. So by enhancing your own stretch of shoreline with a natural breakwater, you are also protecting your boats and gear, and making it safer to board your boats. There may also be the hidden benefit of the calming effect on the person who observes the diminished energy of endless random waves heading to shore.

Native species and natural landscapes, used in contrast to Kentucky Bluegrass, may also be a consideration for lake property owners, and require less maintenance. However the primary benefit of natural landscapes (the use of native species, rocks, mulch etc. to create a natural environment) as a buffer strip along the shoreline is to prevent chemicals and fertilizers from direct runoff into the lake. These fertilizers work on weeds too, and encourage weed growth of invasive species and increase phosphorous levels that accumulate in the lakebed. WACF is continually monitoring the phosphorous levels in our watershed, and implementing treatment programs to stop the spread of invasive species, that pose a huge threat to the ecology of our lakes. Simply stated, prevention of this chemical pollution is the solution.

The Shoreline Committee is researching and implementing pilot projects for all three of these approaches and concepts mentioned. Please contact WACF if you are interested in learning more about the benefits and practicality of these ideas, or if you would like to "volunteer" your shorefront for a demonstration site. Who knows, maybe we can turn back time after all.

Please join us for our Healthy Shorelines Lake Talk and Eats on Saturday, August 2nd 9-11 am for a light breakfast and information on shoreline options, native plantings and how to incorporate them in your yard.

WACF Memorial Contributions through May 2014:

Raymond Butler	Jamie Tully
Dottie Campbell	John Wallace
Andrew Hardie	William and Louise
Richard Inskeep	Warshauer
Donald Osborn	

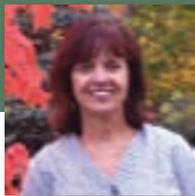
In Memory

WACF Honorarium Donations through May 2014:

Eleanor Long Organ's 100th birthday

Bob and Nancy Myers

Honorariums



Trees

Dr. Joan Szynal

When we moved to the lake 21 years ago, there was an enormous oak tree in our front yard. Our family loved that darn tree. Its limbs provided shade to our deck and home. And it was a source of great conversation and awe. A branch ran parallel to the ground and was the most perfect spot for a swing that was never created. The oak was huge and estimated to be at least 150 years old. I am sure that tree provided shade for the indians that paddled over to Odgen Island.

Over the years we attempted to be good stewards of that tree. Its sprawling branches were cabled, any sign of bug infestation was treated and we fertilized when the experts thought it would be helpful. Despite our efforts two years ago it was lost to “wind shear.” Our family was in mourning. And the character of our home was changed forever.

Unfortunately ours is not the only cottage that has lost this resource. We are losing trees to disease, building and just old age. So this article is an attempt to get us all thinking about this resource and how it should be replenished.

The purpose of WACF’s Healthy Shorelines committee is to promote the restoration of our shorelines. Protecting our existing trees and encouraging tree plantings is a vital part of this goal. Trees add beauty to our lake. Consider these points when pondering this investment:



Fall Evening on Gordy Lake

- Trees you plant remove CO₂ from the air, produce oxygen and give songbirds a home.
- Deciduous shade trees planted west of the home cut cooling costs by 15–35%. And when their leaves fall in the winter that sun streaming through your windows adds warmth to the interior of the home.
- Do you have an ash tree in your yard? If so the Emerald Ash borer is in the area and may ultimately infect your tree. Consider chemically treating the tree or consider replacing it with a maple, oak, beech or linden. There are several resources in the community that can assist you with these decisions.
- Trees provide great shade. When our oak died our front patio was a sauna after 2 pm. We transplanted a rather large oak

over the deck and chose to add a tulip tree. They grow quickly and provide beautiful flowers in the spring.

- Consider transplanting large trees via spade if possible. We brought in a large oak and two beautiful maple trees by the cottage. Their colors are breathtaking in the fall.
- Some trees can be trimmed when they get too large. We planted another maple by the lake and in time it we will “shape” the top. We have done that for years with another maple between our house and our neighbor’s.
- Consider planting a memorial flowering tree.

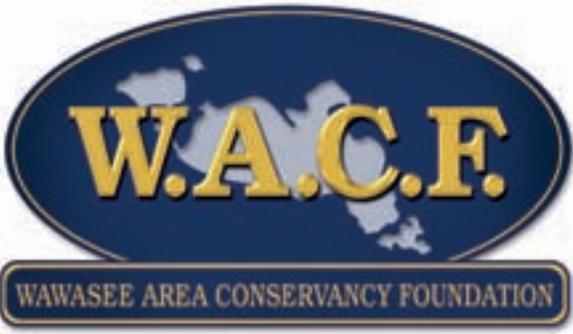
It would be difficult for me to write an article without including a thought from one of our boys. When our oldest saw the new rather large maple tree outside his window, he commented that it limited his view. So I challenged him to change his mindset and our “lake culture.” Think of those trees as “framing” our view. Do we really need to see the expanse of these lakes from every window and door of our cottages? With a little planning our homes can be graced by elegant shade and flowering trees that will only add to our lake experience.

As the saying goes ... The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

Please send us your email!

By Larry Baumgardt

In 2014 WACF will be supplementing our semi-annual printed newsletters with intermittent e-mail communication. The WACF e-letters will contain reminders of upcoming events, announcements, and notifications of any pending water quality issues. If you would like to receive these WACF e-letters, please visit our website (www.wacf.com) and place your name and e-mail address on the simple form at the bottom of the homepage. Your privacy will be respected and no one other than WACF will have access to the e-mail addresses. By using emails, WACF can get some fast feedback from you on important issues.



Preserving Water Quality

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Calendar

2014 WACF Calendar

<p>September</p> <p>Thursday, September 18, 4:30 pm Ecology / Education Committee Board meeting</p> <p>Saturday, September 20, 8 am WACF Board meeting</p> <p>October</p> <p>Thursday, October 16, 4:30 pm Ecology / Education Committee</p> <p>Friday, October 17, 1 pm Center Committee / Clean up Day</p> <p>October 18, 8 am WACF Board meeting</p>	<p>August</p> <p>Saturday, August 2, 9 am WACF Lake Talk and Eats — <i>WACF Education Center</i></p> <p>Thursday, August 7, 4:30 pm Ecology / Education Committee</p> <p>Friday, August 8, 1 pm Center Committee</p> <p>Saturday, August 9, 8 am WACF Board meeting</p> <p>Saturday August 16, 8-10 am WACF Annual Breakfast — <i>WACF Education Center</i></p> <p>Saturday, August 23, 9 am WACF Public meeting</p>
<p>June</p> <p>Saturday, June 7, 9 am WACF Lake Talk and Eats — <i>WACF Education Center</i></p> <p>June 6-14 Northern Indiana Lakes Festival — <i>Winona and Center Lake</i></p> <p>Thursday, June 12, 4:30 pm Ecology / Education Committee</p> <p>Saturday, June 14 WACF Board meeting</p> <p>Saturday, June 14 WPOA Public meeting — <i>Oakwood Resort</i></p> <p>Friday, June 20 Canoe Clean-Up trip</p> <p>Saturday, June 21 WPOA/SLA Annual Breakfast</p> <p>Friday, June 27 Canoe Trips start on Friday mornings</p> <p>Saturday, June 28, 4-10 pm Social Bonfire <i>at WACF</i></p>	<p>July</p> <p>Friday, July 4 Fireworks — <i>Syracuse Lake</i></p> <p>Saturday, July 5, 9 am WACF Lake Talk and Eats — <i>WACF Education Center</i></p>