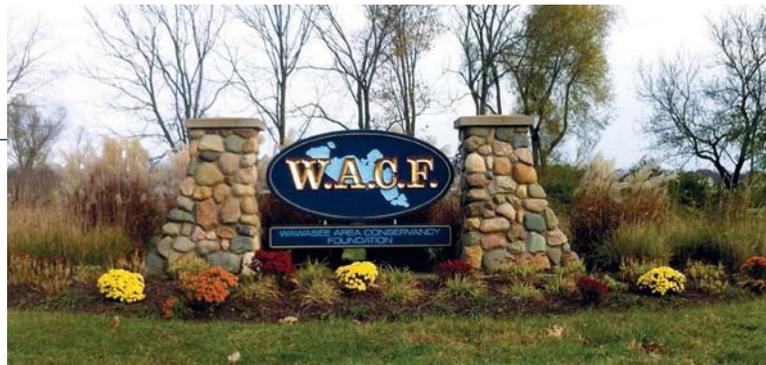


# CONSERVANCY VIEWS

Preserving Water Quality & Scenic Beauty of Our Lakes



Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation

Fall 2015



## Chairman's Letter

By Dr. Joan Szynal, WACF Chairman

**I** have been chairperson of WACF for 2 months now and have had the privilege to sit on the board for 5 years. This board consists of several subcommittees and many volunteers that work throughout the year for our watershed.

Since I have been on the board and especially during the last few years, I have tried to be a little more vocal in the community about our message and the work that this organization accomplishes. And I have continued to be very surprised at the wide range of responses I receive.

Many have no idea about the scope of our work. Others have us confused with other organizations. Some associate the organization with only land acquisition. One neighbor (who did not know I was on the board) referred to WACF as "tree huggers." So I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight...

WACF was formed in 1991 to "anticipate, search out, and solve threats to the Wawasee Area Watershed."

We have direction!! And that direction comes from a study that was performed by JFNew in 2007 and is called the Wawasee Area Watershed Management Plan. The board at that time knew we did not have the time to test the water for the next 20 years and decide what to do. They hired experts who had expertise to identify problems and formulate goals. This study is not designed for every property owner to peruse. It is over 150 pages with the addition of 16 appendices and is very technical. Often when I am having trouble falling asleep at night, I reach for the

study and my nocturnal fits are over! But the following is my attempt to review some highlights of issues that were identified.

1. High nutrient concentrations (phosphorus, nitrogen) from fertilizers, animal and human waste, soil erosion reach the lake. The excessive nutrient concentrations also promote algae growth.
2. High silt and sediment erosion reaching the lake
3. Concern regarding E.coli levels
4. Concern regarding boat traffic damaging sensitive ecological areas
5. Concern regarding exotic and invasive species
6. Lack of knowledge regarding the ecology of the lake

### A brief list of WACF Actions

1. Most property owners do not see the erosion that has occurred in the major creeks entering the lake. But it has been a major issue. WACF has partnered with several organizations to stabilize Turkey Creek and Dillon creek controlling over 40,000 tons of sediment from reaching the lake. That is a lot of sediment.
2. WACF has partnered with farmers to utilize buffer strips of land (grassy strips) to diminish excessive nutrients from reaching the creeks.
3. Worried about those invasive aquatic plants Starry stonewort and Eurasian water-milfoil?? We are too. We have attended several strategy sessions with experts from the IDNR to study the problem areas and have contributed substantial funds to treat Wawasee and Syracuse Lakes several times during the summers.

4. Planted 7,000 trees on the WACF bayshore property and 6,000 trees by Hindman Lakes Wilson Property to restore some natural vegetation to what was once farmland.
5. Developed Saturday Lake Talk and Eats programs to educate property owners about the ecology of the lake. The July bug catch programs, in particular, are a huge hit!!! WACF has also sponsored programs educating area youth about lake ecology and preservation.
6. Promotion of glacial seawalls and utilization of native plants adjacent to the water's edge
7. And we test, test, test... Test phosphorus levels, test nitrogen levels, test water clarity. Where does this stuff enter the lake? What time of year is most problematic? How does rainfall affect the test? How does boat traffic affect the data. The questions are endless but we spend time analyzing the data and formulating further studies.
8. Last but not least... Land Acquisition. Indiana is the 3rd worst state in the nation for loss of wetlands over the years due to drainage and filling... over 85%. The remaining wetlands are of critical importance to water quality. WACF has acquired 43 wetland properties totaling 821 acres with 125 acres in conservation easements. They are not acquired on a whim. They must be important wetland areas for filtering out unwanted nutrients and sediment. Each property is discussed at length for its possible impact on our mission. The decision to acquire is studied and reviewed extensively by committees and the board. These are some of our most difficult decisions as we know the funds we utilize for this purpose are not really ours, but are entrusted to us to promote the health of our lakes.

What does all this mean to you? Cleaner water, clearer water, and summer fun at the lake for years to come...



# A Thank You Note from the Executive Director

By Heather Harwood, WACF Executive Director

A big thank you to our WACF friends who donate or volunteer with their time and talents. We appreciate your support! In this issue you will read about work in the upper watershed on the new sewer system protecting water quality for the rest of us downstream. We should all thank the effort these folks at Knapp, Bause and Harper Lakes as well as the Turkey Creek Regional Sewer District on the upcoming sewer expansion on Wawasee. These projects will benefit us all and protect our water. These are today's visionaries.

WACF is continuing restoration of the wetland and trails on our Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes and Wetlands Education Center. This invasive plant removal project was made possible through a partnership with the US

Fish and Wildlife Service and the Indiana DNR.

Other projects include in-lake weed treatment. An invasive weed, Starry Stonewort (SSW) has been spreading fast in our lakes. WACF partners with the DNR on invasive weed control, and they are working toward the best solution to control this weed. Dr. Jerry Riffle has compiled some information on Starry Stonewort and can be found on the WACF website. Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) has existed in our lakes for many years and treated annually in an effort to keep it from becoming a nuisance.

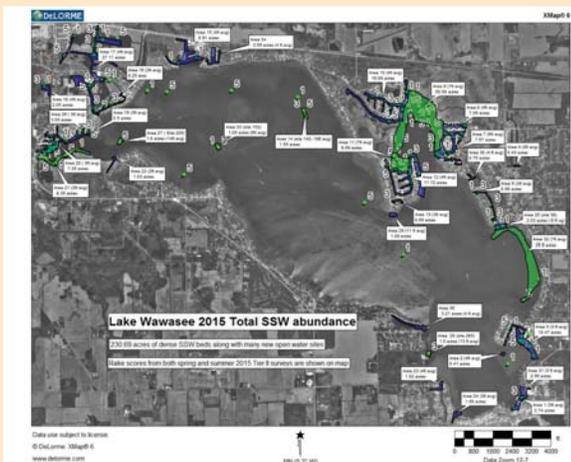
Wawasee includes 3,060 surface acres. With a maximum depth of 77 feet and an average depth of 22 feet. Syracuse Lake has 414 surface acres with a maximum

depth of 34 feet and an average depth of 13 feet. See maps below for weed survey results and treatment areas.

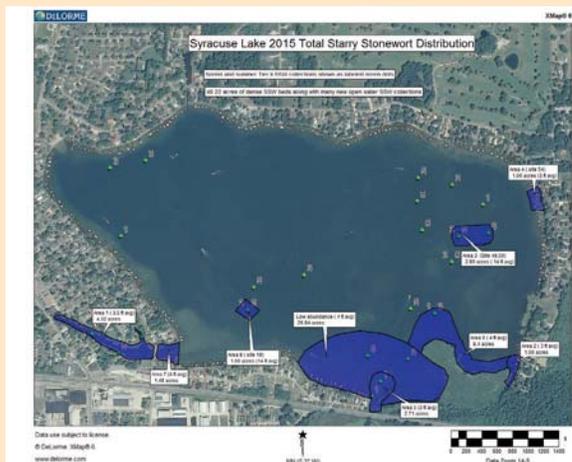
To continue with important water quality protection projects and land acquisition, WACF has received grants from the Ruth Lilly Philanthropic Foundation at the request of the Nicholas, McCutchen and Lilly families this year. WACF is humbled by the family's generosity and grateful they share a vision for the future of our watershed.

We thank the WACF founders, we thank today's visionaries and all supporters. Each with their own role in protecting our watershed. We all contribute to our future together.

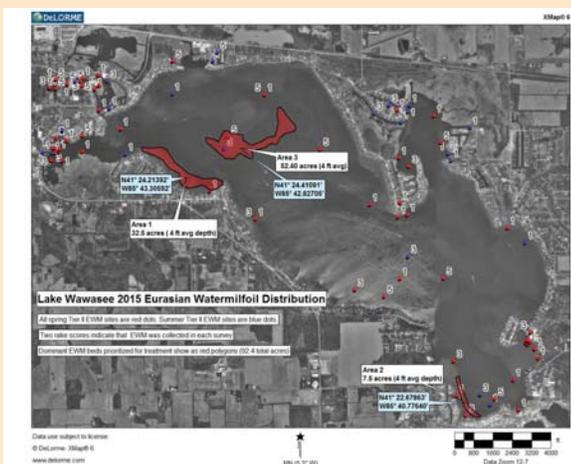
Have a safe and healthy winter!



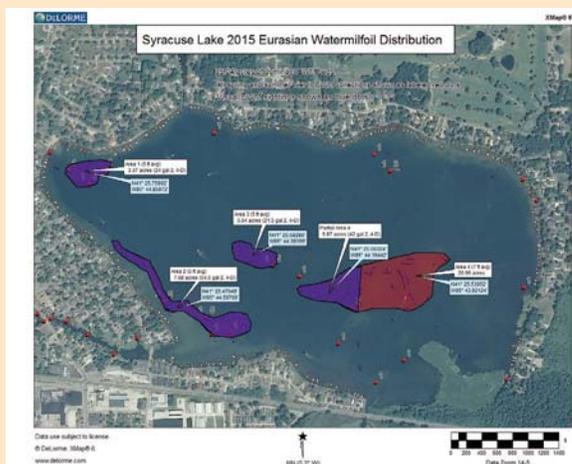
There were two Starry Stonewort (SSW) treatments on Wawasee in 2015 in July and August. There are an estimated 230.69 acres of dense SSW beds in Wawasee as of August.



There are approximately 48 acres of mapped dense SSW beds in Syracuse Lake although it is now common to most of the littoral zone of the lake. There were two SSW treatments on Syracuse Lake in 2015.



This year EWM abundance in Wawasee was low in early summer with 32 acres prior to treatment by the DNR. Areas of treatment next summer will depend upon results of a survey, permitting restrictions from the IDNR, and LARE funding availability.



A survey on Syracuse Lake July 20 showed approximately 35 acres of EWM with 20 acres approved for treatment by the DNR.



# Capital Campaign Pledges and Contributions Propel Watershed Preservation and WACF Education Programs

By Judy Shoemaker, WACF Development Officer

In 2013, the WACF launched a five-year, five million-dollar Capital Campaign focusing on four strategic areas for growth and long-term success. These are the building blocks of projects and programs allowing us to fulfill the WACF mission of preserving, protecting and enhancing the Wawasee Area Watershed now and for future generations.

THANKS to you, each and every donor, we have reached benchmarks in every area and at the halfway mark of the campaign, with much work to be done, know that success is within our reach. Everything is connected and we all play a part in making sure our water, lakes and streams remain clean and healthy.

Here's a sampling of accomplishments YOUR support has achieved —

**Watershed Projects** rely heavily on matching or co-funded grants from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Fish & Wildlife's Lakes & River Enhancement (LARE) section and other grantors to fund water testing studies, aquatic weed control and construction projects all aimed at insuring clean water. In a little more than two years, the WACF has received grants totaling more than \$146,000 for watershed projects. YOUR contributions to the WACF allowed us to match and co-fund projects in all areas of the watershed, including Dillon Creek and the Thorpe Basin.

• Dillon Creek is the second largest water source coming into our lake system. It flows through Enchanted Hills and outlets from behind Cedar Point into Wawasee Lake. The WACF LARE Grant for remediation and construction work miles upstream of that corridor helps control the sediment and erosion pollution entering the lake.



*Dillon Creek sediment and erosion control work upstream*



*Thorpe Basin sediment and erosion control for Martin Creek.*

• Thorpe Basin is a work in-progress. Controlling the sediment and erosion pollution from the agricultural, middle school, woods, and wetlands areas that flow into Lake Wawasee at Martin Creek is critical to weed control and clean water. The first phase of work was funded by a grant from the Great Lakes Commission that the WACF double-matched to provide enough funding for the size of sediment basin needed. While effective, more needs to be done. The WACF has created a coalition of parties including agricultural property owners, local residents, and the Wawasee Community School Corp., to research opportunities for successful outcomes. Additional grant funding will be needed to complete new work.

**Education** plays a significant role in improving and maintaining the quality of our water. Many of the threats facing our watershed can be traced to human actions.



*Dillon Creek embankment enhancement for sediment control*



*Thorpe Basin Construction*

The Levinson-LaBrosse Lakes & Wetlands Education Center provides opportunities to engage our community with programs and information that will help support the WACF mission. Everything is connected and everyone can have an impact on our ability to keep our water clean and safe. YOUR contributions have made it possible to improve the 40-acre Education Center site by planting native grasses and wildflowers, restoring wetlands, controlling invasive species, and improving over two miles of trails. Thanks to your support and contributions the WACF has created new education programs for our community including:

• "BUGFEST", an educational program designed for fourth graders in the Syracuse, North Webster and Milford schools. On a field trip to the WACF Education Center, students helped build a watershed, and learned how erosion, pollution, and other factors influence the quality of our water. They participated in five learning activities designed to meet curriculum guidelines for an exciting, fun day in the great outdoors.

• "Lake, Talk & Eats," now in its third year,



*BugFest 2015—4th Graders learning the science of clean water.*



*The WACF now protects 142+ acres of Syracuse Lakes Wetlands.*

features fun programs and ways local residents can help protect our watershed. Held on the first Saturday of June, July, and August, at the Ruddell Pavilion, you can learn about native plants and grasses, special landscaping and shoreline programs, or hear from the experts about our wetlands, lakes, and water. “Bug Catch” is held on the first Saturday in July when Nancy Brown, Hoosier Riverwatch trainer and aquatic bug expert, leads kids of all ages to the WACF lakefront wetlands to learn what insects and water bugs tell us about our water quality.

- “Fall-tastic Trail Walk” premiered this fall, at the height of nature’s amazing color display, with a self-guided trail walk featuring natural (and some super-natural) decorations and facts on how nature and its inhabitants prepare for winter. This is sure to become an annual tradition.

These are a few of the many new programs that YOUR contributions make possible. The WACF will continue to expand and develop programming to further engage the community and support the mission of protecting the watershed.

**Land Acquisition** relies on the Commonwealth Diagnostic Feasibility Study of 1995 that mapped and identified the wetlands and adjoining properties crucial to the WACF mission. Wetlands and endangered areas along shorelines and feeder streams are priorities for acquisition in order to protect the water quality in our lakes. To date, the WACF has completed approximately 65% of the acquisition goal. Thanks to your support and contributions, the WACF has been able to protect many key parcels in the last two years.

- In 2014, the WACF acquired 44½ acres of wetlands and wooded property along the south-east corner of Syracuse Lake. This property along with other WACF acquisitions now totals 142 acres and extends the protected Syracuse Lake Wetlands from the lake east to Warner Road.

- Acquired 2.04 acres of lakefront wetlands including 551’ of shoreline on Conklin Bay at the WACF Education Center and .04 acres on Conklin Bay at the south end of the channel along SR 13 & Harkless Drive that includes 655 feet of shoreline.

Over the entire watershed, the Conservancy has now acquired forty-three wetland properties totaling approximately 821 acres including more than 125 acres in conservation easements and deed restrictions rendering approximately 53,000 feet (10 miles) of protected shoreline.

**Building the WACF Endowment** puts a layer of stability under the WACF and ensures its strong and lasting future. The endowment fund will help us meet the on-going responsibilities we commit to when we acquire land through purchase, conservation easements, or donation. As the legal steward of the lands it protects, the WACF must ensure adequate management and protection of the land in its care... forever.

WACF’s operations including ecology, education, land management, development and other general expenses total approximately \$200,000 annually. Building the endowment fund will allow WACF to react quickly, with full expertise, to threats in the watershed and provide continuous monitoring of our water quality on a consistent basis.

**For more information on the WACF Capital Campaign or other ways you can contribute to supporting the WACF in its day-to-day mission of preserving, protecting and enhancing the Wawasee Area Watershed contact WACF Executive Director, Heather Harwood, [info@wacf.com](mailto:info@wacf.com) or Development Officer, Judy Shoemaker, [judy@wacf.com](mailto:judy@wacf.com) or call 574-457-4549 to schedule a meeting.**

*There are no passengers an  
Spaceship Earth. We are all crew.*

*— Marshall McLuhan*

Published by the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation, Inc. with information on lake and watershed projects and participants. The 23,618 acre watershed includes Knapp Lake and the 10-lake Turkey Creek chain of lakes, Papakeechee, Bonar, Syracuse, Wawasee and lakes of the Tri-County Preserve. The Foundation was formed in 1991 to anticipate, search out, and solve threats to the Wawasee Area Watershed and to its water quality. The Foundation is dedicated to enhance the watershed and works hand-in-hand with property owner groups, the State Department of Natural Resources and other governmental and civic organizations that share its concerns. The Foundation was incorporated as a 501(c) (3) corporation.



## Ecology and Education Committee Review of our work during this last season

By Diana Castell, WACF Ecology Chairperson

In June, we were very pleased to partner with Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation to sponsor a Native Plant and Healthy Shoreline Lake Talk and Eats. We were pleased to have Martha Ferguson, a native plant expert and owner of Riverview Nursery, talk about the importance of using native plants, which use less fertilizer and water and are indigenous to Northeastern Indiana. At the same time promoting plants that belong here in northern Indiana. Myers Nursery and Cardno also brought native plants for purchase. We planted our first rain garden and butterfly garden and learned to make seed bombs with milkweed seeds to plant them in our neighborhoods. Monarch butterflies only eat and lay their eggs on Milkweeds plants. These plants and butterflies need our help.



Native plants for sale!

**Our popular Bug Catch with Nancy Brown was a success with kids and their grandparents learning how important macroinvertebrates are to our lake and the cycle of aquatic life. Not sure what those critters are? Join us next summer and you can get a first hand experience.**

**In August, we learned about the ever expanding Starry Stonewort and treatment of it from Jim Donahoe. Jed Pearson, DNR fisheries specialist, talked about the on going surveys to make sure our fish are numerous and healthy.**

**Dan and Marilyn Berkey worked on water testing for the Indiana Clean Lakes program. Doug, Helen Yoder and I finished the testing. In addition, Joan Moore, Steve Coyle, Doug Yoder and I gathered water and tested for E. Coli. Our counts were the lowest we have had in several years. Keeping cows out of our upper watershed and decreasing geese and swan populations should help. With the new sewer around Knapp, Harper and Bause Lakes and south side of Wawasee, our concern with E. Coli will decrease even farther down the scale.**

**Our Ecology/Education mission is to help our lake communities make good choices to protect our water quality. With our educational efforts, we strive to inform different ways to protect and preserve our beautiful lakes. Be sure to check what ideas we will have for you in the future.**



## What is going on at WACF?

By: David Brandes, PR Chairman

Have you noticed all the activities taking place at WACF headquarters throughout the year? Beside the usual day to day activity of WACF and it's board and volunteers, many more things are happening on the grounds.

Of course in the Summer on the first Saturday of each month, WACF sponsors it's Lake Talk and Eats which feature different educational functions and lectures for young and old to learn more about our watershed and how we all work to preserve it.

In addition, we have many speakers on other days and educational functions for school age children to learn about nature and the lakes.

We have trails made through our 38 acres which are easy to negotiate and wide allowing access to all who wish to enjoy nature on a leisurely walk.

Our center building offers educational brochures on many things that affect our watershed and maps of all WACF's properties in the watershed.

Our annual meeting draws quite a crowd on the third Saturday morning of August and we offer wonderful speakers to teach everyone how to protect and enhance the watershed.

Other functions which keep the grounds busy have included the following:

- Lake Talk and Eats on first Saturday of June, July and August
- Ducks Unlimited meetings
- Indiana Naturalist class
- DNR/ Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan meetings
- Mudtastic Syracuse Parks Dept. mud race
- Falltastic WACF's fall educational walk through our trails
- Future WPOA board meetings
- WACF's many committee meetings
- Kosciusko Leadership Academy Annual Breakfast meeting
- WACF Annual Meeting and Breakfast
- Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours Event with WACF
- Trail tours

So as you can see, things are happening at WACF's headquarters.

Why not join in on any or all of our many functions and why not join one of our many Committees and volunteer to make our watershed a safer and cleaner place for all to enjoy.



## Northern Shorelines and Another Perspective...

By Bill Hess

Recently I visited some high school lake friends of mine in Northern Michigan near Traverse City. They have a summer house on Long Lake, which is fast becoming another favorite lake now after visiting there for the last 20 years. Their lake, as with most other Northern Michigan lakes, immediately stands out as being very different from the lakes in our watershed and the local area.

To me, that difference is that Michigan lakes are more natural, and ours are more recreational. And, for me personally, I enjoy both the seclusion of the northern lake country, but also have great summers being on our waters here. But what is really the difference, and why should there be one at all? Our lakes and theirs are all beautiful natural glacial lakes, lined with woods or trees, and have remarkable water quality considering it is the year 2015.

So what did I notice, and why? The main factor is that it seems that Michigan folks really identified with what they had a long time ago, and tried hard to maintain a more natural look to their lakeshores. What you see are houses built into the trees, not trees cleared from lots to put up houses. You see natural beaches and glacial stone everywhere, mainly because there really are no seawalls. And you see an overall trend for development to blend in with the shoreline.



2015 Healthy Shoreline Award Winner... photo by Larry Baumgardt

So what's my point... maybe you all think I should just go to Michigan now, and maybe stay there! Or, maybe my point is that we can try to restore some of that Early Lake Wawasee Days character down here again, as pictured in the classic Eli Lilly book of that name. I happen to like it here, and I know that you all do too.

The Healthy Shoreline Committee is continuing its efforts to promote the preservation and restoration of natural shorelines for the Syracuse Lake and Wawasee waterfronts. We encourage all property owners to consider and appreciate what they have, before they make changes to their lakefront properties. We are researching and promoting the advantages and benefits of glacial stone to restore the edge effect needed for a diverse ecology. And we encourage planting of native grasses and shrubs that reduce the need for chemicals and fertilizers to survive.

If you have interest in how you can preserve or restore your shoreline with a project, please contact us or visit our website for more information. Our vision is that our lakes 50 years from now could resemble what they were 50 years ago. Imagine that for your children's children.

### Announcing the Annual Healthy Shoreline Award...

To promote a healthier shoreline, WACF is announcing an award given each Fall to the homeowner that has modified their shoreline property with glacial rocks and native plants.

The WACF website has helpful information and a list of vendors who can assist with planning and construction. We encourage the use of "before" and "after" pictures. Please submit entries to WACF by August 15th, 2016.

This year's winner was MaryAnn Roth pier 42 who received a gift certificate to West Main Restaurant. Congratulations MaryAnn!!



## The Knapp Lake Area Sewer Construction Begins! October 2015

By Nick Stanger

It's a reality! Eight years after the WACF provided the 'seed' money to fund the start of this project, we can all celebrate the beginning of a new era of cleaner water at the head of the 10-lakes chain.

The first truckload of pipe was delivered on CR 950 W and digging began on October 26th. CSU Inc., a utility contractor out of Plainfield IN, was the low bidder and after all bids were reviewed for completeness and accuracy, CSU was awarded the construction contract for \$4.1M on September 2nd. The total cost of the project including the re-route changes, engineering costs, capitalized

interest on the BAN etc. in addition to construction is now estimated to be \$5.5M (75% grant / 25% from loans at 2%-2.125%.) Construction should be substantially complete—up to the point prior to connecting to homes - by October 2016.

After considering and evaluating several bids for administration / billing / reporting, the Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District was awarded the contract on September 9th. A special board meeting for the rate hearing was held on September 23rd for public comment and approval of the Sewer Rate Ordinance 2015-2. Cost per

month is stated in the ordinance at \$89.95 per household per month; a partial rate to cover the interim administration and debt service starting immediately will result in a monthly billing of \$26.30 per household until the sewer is done the full monthly billing begins.

Subsequently, after a long negotiation, the owner of the Harper Lake Campground decided to close it down entirely in late September; notice was given and all campsites have been since been abandoned and virtually all trailers and vehicles have been moved out as of late October.

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Joan Szynal *Chairman*  
 Terry Clapacs *Vice Chairman*  
 Heather Harwood *Executive Director*  
 Donn Baird *Treasurer*  
 Judy Shoemaker *Development Officer*  
 Jeff Herdrich *Land Management Officer*

Larry Baumgardt  
 Ronald Baumgartner  
 Daniel Berkey  
 David Brandes  
 Diana Castell  
 William Couch  
 Bart Culver

Robert Fanning  
 Jane Finch  
 William Herdrich  
 William Hess  
 Catherine Hoffman  
 Sam Leman  
 Chris Roberts

Pam Schumm  
 Nick Stanger  
 Sherry Swank  
 Doug Yoder  
 Thomas Yoder



## Student Canoe Trip



Approximately 20 students from Mrs. Hackleman's Outdoor PE Classes took a canoe trip with the WACF through the headwater lakes of Wawasee on Oct. 13. This was the culminating trip for the students who have been learning how to kayak, sail and canoe since school began in August. They put in the canoes at Knapp Lake and paddled their way through 10 lakes and Turkey Creek ending at Indian Village. Accompanying the students on the trip were Janay and Jim Bob Hackleman, Jeff Herdrich, Doug Yoder, Rick Lemberg and Pam Schumm. During the trip students perfected their canoeing skills, did a little water testing and learned about wetlands and the Wawasee watershed. Everyone had a good time despite the cold and windy conditions—the air temperature was about 55 degrees and the water about 59 degrees.

*Photos provided by Janay Hackleman—PE teacher at WHS*



## Honor and Memorialize friends and family with a special donation to WACF

### 2014–2015 WACF Memorials

Helen Alderfer	Arthur M. Gerber	Jack Olmstead
Jan Appenzeller	Patty Gotta	Donald Osborne
Joyce Austin	Andrew Hardie	Tom Osborne
Elizabeth & Charles Beck	DeFord Hite	Bobbi Penrod
Richard Boerger	Harry Schwartz	Norma Jean Schumm
Beth Bolsen	Gladyn Hayner	Dean Schwalm
G Brook & Marolyn Sefton	Walter 'Wally' Herdrich	Steve Skaggs
Raymond Butler	Tom & Judy Hughes	Virginia Smalley
Dottie Campbell	William Hurst	Dr. M. G. Smith
John & Carolla Carvey	Richard Inskip	Thomas Stephens
Dr. Robert Cottrell	Bud & Jane Irmscher	Herb Strong
Tom Cougill	Patti Jackson	Jamie Tully
John Cummins	Kathryn Judy	John Wallace
Linda Dahm	Jack Kennedy	William & Louise Warshauer
Gus Duehmig	Mike & Carol Kiley	Mary Ann Wilson
Jerry Dehner	Cheryl Kroemer	Linda Zimmerman
Sara Dugdale	Tim Kroh	Deceased Morrison Island Association Members
Jeanne Berkey Brokaw Eissman	Lloyd Kruckeberg	Katie, beloved dog of Dot Brandenberger
J. Neil (Lee) Garber	Dan List	
LaVonne & Ray Garr	Thomas Miller	
	Eleanor Long Organ	

*In Memory*

### 2014–2015 WACF Honorariums

Ron & Tami Baumgartner  
 Susie Brandes  
 David & Susie Brandes'—  
 50th Wedding Anniversary  
 Barbara Johnson  
 Donn Baird  
 Irv & Jane Deister  
 Mary Lou Hurst  
 Bob & Nancy Myers  
 Eleanor Long Organ  
 Joe Todd  
 William & Louise Warshauer  
 Nikki and Marni Guerrero, Andrew,  
 Phoebe & Quincy Long  
 Kerry & Paula Sullivan  
 Steve & Sally Springer

*Honorariums*



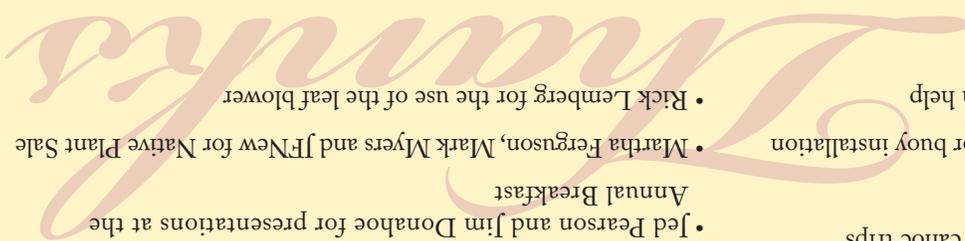
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*Preserving Water Quality*

**We're on the web!**  
**[www.wacf.com](http://www.wacf.com)**

PO Box 548, Syracuse, IN 46567  
Phone: 574.457.4549  
Fax: 574.457.4432  
E-Mail: [info@wacf.com](mailto:info@wacf.com)

*Send us your email address!*



- The Kaiser and Moore families 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 Ruddell Pavilion painting
- Eileen Cripe for the photo collage of lake wildlife
- Buyrite for leaf pick-up
- Earthwerks for amphitheater construction
- Nate Bosch for help with presentations
- Jed Pearson and Jim Donahoe for presentations at the Annual Breakfast
- Martha Ferguson, Mark Myers and JFNW for Native Plant Sale
- Rick Lemberg for the use of the leaf blower
- Nancy Brown for her partnership with WACF
- The Elkhart River Restoration Association and their partnership
- Roger Symensma, Bob Fanning, Jeff Herdich, Rob DeBeck, Doug Yoder 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 Berkeley
- Sherry Lantz, Kay Young, Pam Laker, Ken Feters, Bob Joesten Jim Alford and many more that help with canoe trips
- Roxann Arnott for sign clean-up
- Jeff and Joel Guyas, and George Hardie for buoy installation
- Laurie Hardie and Linda Baird for kitchen help

***Thank you to these special donors and volunteers:***

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