A few weeks ago I was in Indianapolis looking at new cars. My husband’s vehicle, at 290,000 miles, may not last much longer. At one of the dealers a young man asked for some contact information from me. When he realized I lived on Lake Wawasee he smiled. “I know that lake,” he said. Then he rolled up the sleeve of his shirt to reveal a tattoo that was the latitude and longitude of the lake!! After some discussion he said he was from California, but would spend a few glorious weeks every summer on Wawasee at his grandmother’s cottage. I asked if he still visited. He was noticeably saddened and said no…. it had sold a few years ago. But his goal in life was to repurchase the cottage that meant so much to him!!

What passion!! I think many of us have met individuals who share this love of the lake area. At WACF events and functions people with a passion for the area are always around us. They give freely of their time and resources. They have that “fire in their belly.” It is inspiring to be in their presence. Sometimes the energy is palpable at our events. Watching a 4 year old wade in the water with a grandparent in search of bugs. Watching a raft full of high school students paddle across the water. Visiting one of our preserved wetland properties and knowing that it is protected forever. Conversing with neighbors on our Lilly pad tour. We all have a common denominator….. a love for this area, this water.

Our goal at WACF is to preserve this resource. Our goal is to unite your neighbors and friends and educate property owners about this fragile watershed for this generation and generations in the future. So that our children and our children’s children have a love of this clean water that this young man displayed.

So please be involved and assist us in this goal. Offer your assistance at our functions. Spread the word to your neighbors about our organization. Stop by the center and take our pamphlets that describe the work we perform and hand them to friends. Give generously to this nonprofit whose entire purpose is to preserve and protect this and only this watershed.

In the preface of his book, Early Wawasee Days, Eli Lilly’s love of the area is expressed. “May the souls of the departed be enjoying the celestial pleasure of Paradise, and may those of us still on this ‘lower mundane institute’ have the great good luck to meet together with them on the other side of the river and to swap yarns about Wawasee.” May we all be able to “swap yarns” about this watershed for years to come. Thank you for your support.

Memorials & Honorariums

Memorial and honorarium gifts have a lasting impact, like the lives and achievements they recognize. All memorial and honorarium gifts are directed to the WACF Endowment Fund establishing a layer of stability under the Conservancy and ensuring it’s strong and lasting future. Interest income from the WACF Endowment fund is used for ongoing Conservancy expenses, operating costs and programs.

Memorials
Helen Alderfer
Hurleen Blumenthal
Raymond H. Butler
Karen Call
Kim Conrad
Stephen Conrad
Mary Coyle
David Culp Sr.
Ed Dahm
Gus Duehmig
Stan Fox
Bob Garver
Danny Griffith
Berry C. Hage
Andrew Hardie
Dick Henderson
Rosalyn Howell
William Hurst
Helen Just
Carol Knael
John Knapp
Jackie Lanford
John Leonard
John Long
Carolyn Riddell McDonald
Morrison Island Association
Members
Robert W. Mulhall
Robert Nelson
Marjorie Newcomer
Don Osborn
George & Margaret Poole
Dick Reasner
Ian Rolland
Douglas Schmahl
Dean & Wynn Schwalm
Jay Sheppard
John Smith
John Spickelmier
Paul Stine
Dr. Mark Stinson
James Thompson
Linda Tillman
Sarah & John Wallace
Doug Walls
Malcolm Williams
Shirley Williams

Amanda Wilson
Kenneth H. Woodruff
John & Marie Zimmerman

Honorariums
Donn Baird - Happy Father’s Day
Susie Cronin - Happy Birthday
Irwin “Irv” Deister - Happy Birthday
Jane Finch - Happy Birthday
John Heidt
Rick & Carolyn McClure - Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary
Bob & Nancy Myers
Implementation of the design for the WACF Between the Lakes Preserve has begun. Ground is being prepared for a spring seeding of native prairie grasses and wildflowers, dead and distressed trees are being removed where they present safety issues (those in unpopulated wooded area will remain for wildlife habitat), invasive plant removal continues and turf lawns and paths have been delineated. Preliminary design work has begun on the proposed pavilion and other structures to replace the existing garage.

While fleshing out the design will take years - the native prairie will take several years to become fully established - the property will continue to be the site for WACF educational programming, such as the high school freshmen rafting trips. Kayak trips around Mud Lake and it’s back channels are also being planned. When completed, we are confident this property will become a popular community asset, providing opportunities for self-guided strolls through a native park like setting as well as group activities.

Of course, this doesn't happen without community support, and to that end we want to thank Jim and Sally Hubbard for their generous gift. We hope the Hubbard's gift will inspire others to support this project and WACF's mission overall.
Responsible Boating Campaigns
The first line of defense on stirring – responsible boating: being aware of the shallow areas, and staying in deep areas while wake boarding and surfing. This has a huge impact on slowing resuspension in the lake, helping turbidity and keeping algae blooms down. Included above (Figure 1) are examples of WACF’s efforts to spread the word at local marinas, public launch ramps and refrigerator magnets.

Wawasee, Indiana’s largest natural lake (3,060 acres) has large shallow areas susceptible to stirring. Up to half of the lake’s surface area is less than 10 feet deep. We encourage deep draft boats to stay in the deep areas for wake boarding and surfing (Figure 2). Our campaign: “Be Wake Cool” (Figure 3).

Under Indiana law, a person may not operate a motorboat at a speed greater than 10 mph on a lake having less than 300 surface acres. This law is intended to provide safe boating speeds on small lakes and to protect small lakes from excessive boat wakes. However, since wakeboats operate at less than 10 mph, these small lakes will not be protected from excessive wakes or the lake bottom scouring and shoreline erosion that can occur.

We absolutely do not discourage boating – but we do encourage smart boating. By publishing the bathymetric map (Figure 4) regularly, and providing these maps as reminders, we hope to have an impact on boating awareness. Our long-term goal is to add a boating education center on site at our Levinson LaBrosse Lake & Wetland Education Center.

Deep drafting ballast boats are more and more common on Lake Wawasee and other Indiana lakes. Directing boats to the best places to wake board and surf in the lake will be key to protection of the bottom. Damage has already occurred. Prop scarring of the lake bottom is visible in aerial images (Figure 5).

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Figure 1. WACF’s signs and refrigerator magnets stressing the importance of avoiding stirring the lake bottom (and including a bathymetric on the magnet)

Figure 2. Typical surfing wave

Figure 3. ‘Be Wake Cool’ campaign by Bill Hess

Figure 4. Bathymetric map

Figure 5. Prop scarring of the lake bottom
and Re-suspension Caused by Boats

Wawasee, Indiana’s largest natural lake (3,060 acres) has large shallow areas susceptible to stirring. Up to half of the lake’s surface area is less than 10 feet deep.

botanical resource management, or for the protection of users. Wawasee and Syracuse Lakes were the first lakes in Indiana to establish ecozones. In four areas where perimeter wetlands are contiguous, WACF has special designated and regulated ecozones defined by white “Idle Only” buoys (Figure 6 & 7). These wetlands are vital to the health of our lake and a healthy sustainable fishery. These buoys are installed and removed by volunteers in the spring and the fall of each year.

As we gain more experience with wake boats, we will continue to examine and identify more options to relieve the pressure from deep drafting ballast boats and the waves they create. The WACF is committed to working together with recreational lake users and encouraging good lake stewardship. WACF completed a Carrying Capacity Study in 2007 to measure the magnitude of effect from motor boating activity. Dudiack (2004) suggested that a conservative estimate of a lakes’ motor boat carrying capacity is around 15-20 acres of usable lake area per boat. On most given days, that is easy to meet. But on a busy weekend, Wawasee and Syracuse Lakes can become over-crowded, resulting in some of these wave action and bottom scarring stresses on the lake.

**Healthy Shorelines**

Wake boarding and surfing create larger waves which, as a result, create a greater demand for shoreline protection and seawalls. WACF encourages natural shorelines and glacial stone seawalls to help break up the wave action. With every permit application for concrete seawalls around the lake, WACF contacts the applicant and explains advantages of stone seawalls and sends out our ‘Stop the Chop’ brochure on the advantages of glacial stone to absorb the wave action. Glacial stone can absorb wave action better than concrete seawalls, improving swimming areas and back wash that scrubs the bottom of the lake.
It was a busy Fall for the WACF Education Team. Twenty-five volunteers led second, third, fourth, and ninth grade students from Wawasee Community School Corporation on various field trips. Also included were Milford’s first grade students. Syracuse and North Webster first grade students will participate in field trips next spring.

The field trip season began with the Wawasee Rafting Adventure on Mud Lake and Syracuse Lake (Photo 1). Freshmen students learned about our watershed, the properties, and characteristics of our area lakes and then loaded into inflatable rafts to explore the lake and test water samples. They collected and identified native and introduced plants and algae. One hundred and eighty two students participated in the event over three days.

For three days in September, the WACF Education Center hosted over 280 Fourth graders to explore Bugs! They observed macro-invertebrates that live part of their life in the water, drank juice like a bug, ran like a bug, hunted pasta “bugs” like a bird, wrapped up a fellow student like a cocoon and even watched monarch butterflies emerge from their chrysalis! Many students got to see the monarch released at the end of the day.

Trees Tell Tales was the theme for the third grade students. They identified a tree by its feel and smell, looked at tree and plant fossils and practiced making an imprint “fossil”, looked at the variations in leaves, made a pine cone weather station and nature art. Approximately 300 students and chaperones attended Trees Tell Tales over three days.

Milford first graders wanted to move their spring field trip to the fall, so when the weather was stormy, we traveled to Milford and took our field trip to the students! Adaptations is
the theme for first graders who tested different ways animals stay warm in winter, raced to see who could find the most fruit loops in the grass (camouflage), “tasted” the difference between a monarch and viceroy butterfly (mimicry), experimented with different ways animals move, tried to pick up certain foods with different beak shapes and matched animals to their habitats.

"Its For the Birds" brought over two hundred second graders to the Center over two days in October. Students experimented with more complex beaks and various habitats than the first graders; drew bird feet with finger paint; made a bird feeder with pine cones, peanut butter, and birdseed; made a bird picture out of natural materials and pretended to be migrating geese who “flew” to Florida and back all the while honking and flying in a V formation!

Wawasee High School offers an outdoor water sports class where students learn how to sail, kayak, and canoe. At the conclusion of the class, the WACF sponsors a canoe trip on the ten lakes of the upper Wawasee watershed. This is the same WACF canoe trip available to area residents during the summer. This year 37 students completed the canoe trip, discovering the lakes and tributaries of the watershed, the flow of water from the upper watershed into Lake Wawasee and learning how WACF works to help keep our lake water clean.

Seeing the brilliant colors of fall on the 3rd annual Falltastic Trail Walk wrapped up the fall season. The WACF Education Center has three marked trails totaling about 3 miles. For the Falltastic Trail Walk, trails are decorated with fall and Halloween décor. While on Trail 2, walkers discovered fun facts about the season of fall, how organisms in our area prepare for winter, and most importantly, what happens in the lakes and wetlands during the fall, winter and spring and what it means to our lake water quality. This year eighty-five people enjoyed the walk on clear 70-degree days! We added a dog costume contest this year and McGregor Webb, owned by Deb Webb, won the prize of a new dog bone! McGregor was a cute hot dog! We also added geocaching to our property. There are nine geocaches scattered around the 40 acres of WACF Education Center. Anyone is welcome to walk the trails – not just geocachers. Trails are open dawn to dusk every day and parking is available. Look for more exciting things to be added to next year’s Falltastic Trail Walk!

Education programs are vital to the WACF. Learning about our watershed, how it works, the natural factors that impact water quality, and threats that can be traced to human actions, is the goal of our education program. Whether field trips for all ages, or programs designed for adults, the WACF is working to inspire you to join our efforts at protecting and preserving our watershed.

From January 2017 to date, our programs have reached over 2,500 individuals with information and at least one thing they can do to help. If you have not been to one of our events, we invite you to attend one soon.

The Education Team will take a short winter break while planning for spring activities. Earth Day Festival is coming April 21 so get ready for new experiences and mark your calendar! We expect more vendors and more fun!

Discover the WACF is an interactive participatory program for local service organizations, groups, and clubs offered during Feb., March, and April as an introduction to the WACF and our work. It’s a fun, participatory, interactive activity, and short program. If you’d like to schedule a date, please email education@wacf.com or info@wacf.com.
How much soil are we saving in the Wawasee Watershed?

By Heather Harwood
WACF Executive Director

WACF has been working to keep sediment out of the lakes and streams in the Wawasee watershed. Sediment erosion is a challenge worth combating because soil brings with it Phosphorus, Nitrogen, turbidity (cloudy, dirty looking water) and all the trouble that comes along with these.

Approximately 74% of the Turkey Creek watershed acreage is used for agriculture. We are seeing that lot of work has been completed to prevent sediment run-off and erosion from the fields draining to Turkey Creek. Noble and Kosciusko County NRCs and SWCD personnel, and a majority of the agricultural producers are participating in some form of soil conservation measures including reduced tillage, grassed waterways and filter strips.

Currently WACF is working on a new construction project funded through the Foundation and the Great Lakes Area Watershed. The key indicators of water quality monitored by WACF, clarity and total phosphorous, continue to show good results with clarity remaining high and phosphorous levels consistently lower in the last six years compared to the previous 25 years. Additionally, the quantity of Starry Stonewort seems to be leveling off. While there is no magic bullet to completely eradicate this pesky invasive alga, current treatments are holding it at bay. In general, our watershed is in very good shape. Thanks are due in part to the local agricultural producers, 90% of whom are using good farming practices such as filter strips at the edge of fields, cover crops in the winter, and no till practices. These approaches prevent nutrients from entering the watershed, and that is good news for controlling algae levels that can cloud our lakes.

With all of this good news, the Ecology Committee recognizes the need for continued vigilance to maintain the quality of our watershed for future generations. This year, we sponsored a study of the Ten Mile Creek watershed acreage is used for agriculture. We are seeing that lot of work has been completed to prevent sediment run-off and erosion from the fields draining to Turkey Creek. Noble and Kosciusko County NRCs and SWCD personnel, and a majority of the agricultural producers are participating in some form of soil conservation measures including reduced tillage, grassed waterways and filter strips.

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With all of this good news, the Ecology Committee recognizes the need for continued vigilance to maintain the quality of our watershed for future generations. This year, we sponsored a study of the Ten Mile Creek watershed. Our study showed that sediment run-off from 85 acres of tilled cropland includes 224.4 lbs/year or 4,448 lbs of sediment per year or 3,841 tons of sediment per year or 3,329 lbs of Phosphorus for the life span of the project and 375.3 lbs/year or 6,691 lbs of Nitrogen for the life span of the project and 375.3 lbs/year or 6,691 lbs of Nitrogen for the life span of the project.

Those are big numbers, and just one of our current projects. WACF is also pursuing a project at Martin Creek flowing from the Wawasee Middle School and surrounding agricultural area to the Leeland Quiet Harbor channels to Wawasee. The Thorpe Sediment basin upstream on Martin Creek was installed to help keep the soil from getting into the channel and lake. The Thorpe Sediment pond (CR 1000 north near the Wawasee Middle School) is funded by the Kosciusko County Community Foundation and the Great Lakes Commission. The project is estimated to save 370 lbs of soil from a proposed 500’ long, 40’ wide native grass waterway. Tree planting saves an estimated 450 lbs, and the basin constructed to intercept run-off from 85 acres of tilled cropland including existing tiles to capture and detain water from the adjacent field is estimated to save a total 680 lbs/year. Total soil savings for the life of the practices is estimated to be 4,535 tons of soil.

A $397,000 grant from the Great Lakes Commission and ERRA along with a $70,000 grant from the IDNR Lake and River Enhancement program that involves Turkey Creek Tributary in Noble County, running to the Kosciusko County Line through agricultural land. Phase I of this project alone is estimated to save 213.3 tons of sediment per year or 3,841 tons of sediment from ending up in our waters for the life span of the best management practice. That includes 187.7 lbs/year or 3,329 lbs of Phosphorus for the life span of the project and 375.3 lbs/year or 6,691 lbs of Nitrogen for the life span of the project.

Phase II along the Tributary is estimated to save 261.7 tons of sediment per year or 5,234 tons of sediment for the life span of the practice. That includes 224.4 lbs/year or 4,448 lbs of Phosphorus for the life span of the practice and 444.8 lbs per year or 8,896 lbs of Nitrogen for the life span of the practice.

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Thanks to our volunteers Roger Symensma and Denny Dailey who installed our Trail Head maps, pictured here with Heather Harwood and Jeff Herdrich.

WACF’s new Trail Head Maps are located at the start of Trails 1, 2 and 3 at our Levinson-LeBrosse Lake and Wetlands Education Center.

Mission: The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation (WACF) is a local public not-for-profit foundation dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Wawasee area watershed for present and future generations. The Wawasee Watershed covers 20,676 acres including Wawasee, Syracuse, Namar and Papasabetic lakes as well as ten lakes in the upper Turkey Creek sub-watershed.

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 the enhancement of the watershed and works hand-in-hand with presently seven 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, thus enabling it to provide tax advantages for gifts and grants. WACF depends on financial support from those who place high importance on protecting the Wawasee Watershed and keeping our lake waters clean. We thank our donors and partners for their generous and on-going support.

Contact Us
Email: info@wacf.com
Phone: 574-457-6549
Website: wacf.com
Leading the fight to protect our Watershed

Here we are once again, looking back on a summer of wonderful fun and family enjoyment at the lake. Despite floods and fires in other parts of the country and even drought conditions elsewhere, our lake region was comfortable and we all took pleasure in an environment that was clean, healthy, and favorable to various lake activities.

Of course, that’s not an accident. You don’t have to travel far to see how quickly a lake can and will deteriorate. Lake Manitou in nearby Fulton County, Indiana, and Grand Lake-St. Mary’s close to Celina, Ohio, are both strong examples of what can happen to our lakes if we don’t continue to be ever vigilant about water quality.

WACF has led the fight to protect our Wawasee Watershed for more than 25 years and is the only organization in our area that actually takes steps to remedy problems that are discovered by our own regular scientific testing.

WACF initiatives can generally be classified in one of three categories: Specific Problem Remediation, Education, and Land Acquisition. Most remediation efforts occur on or near one of the main water flows into Lake Wawasee. Martin Creek, Turkey Creek, Dillon Creek, and Ritter Branch all present challenges to water clarity. To see a list of active projects addressing those issues, please visit the WACF.com site and link to watershed projects. The current list is very impressive.

Thanks to WACF Board member, Pam Schumm, the WACF Education programs have significantly ramped up and now extend many opportunities each year for not only adult education in the area of good lake living practices, but reach deep into the local school system to provide lessons to elementary and high school students, too. You can see evidence of those programs on the WACF.com web site as well.

Land Acquisition continues to be an important priority for WACF and our Land Trust holdings now total more than 10 miles of shoreline including 49 different wetland areas consisting of 866 acres. We’ve come a long way since 1991.

All of this takes funding support and our success depends on donations from friends and neighbors around the lake area. As you think about your charitable priorities for the balance of this year, please consider a gift to WACF. All gifts are tax deductible and will be used to better this beautiful place we call home.
The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the Wawasee Area Watershed now and for future generations. How many generations of family and friends do you know who have enjoyed the natural wonder, pristine environment, and beauty of our watershed? For over 25 years, the WACF has worked to identify and correct threats to our watershed, and improve water quality so we may enjoy the lake life that our relatives discovered decades ago.

With the generous support of donors like you, WACF friends, volunteers and staff, our work continues and will benefit many generations to come. As legal stewards of the land, wetlands, and waters we protect, the WACF must ensure the organization’s ability to manage and protect these lands and waters forever.

Members of the WACF Legacy Society provide the foundation for our long-term success. The WACF recognizes donors who share the mission of the WACF by making a gift through a will, bequest, trust, annuity, insurance policy, or other financial instrument. Through thoughtful, long-term planning, members of the WACF Legacy Society are achieving personal, family, and philanthropic goals while leaving a legacy of support for the WACF that will not end after their lifetimes.

Planned gifts can also serve the donor in many important ways. For instance, a deferred gift can help minimize the tax liability of heirs. Some estate planning instruments can create a secure, annual income for donors right now, during their lifetimes. It may make sense to talk to your attorney or tax professional about the benefits of designating qualified retirement plan (IRA, 401(k)) assets to the WACF.

There are a variety of ways to include the WACF in planned-giving. As always, we advise you to seek independent financial and legal advice as you consider significant gifts. If you would like more information about including the WACF in your financial plans and becoming a member of the WACF Legacy Society, please contact WACF Executive Director, Heather Harwood, or Development Officer, Judy Shoemaker, info@wacf.com; judy@wacf.com or call 574-457-4549 to schedule a meeting.

The Herdrich family has supported the WACF since 1991 with gifts, donations, service to the Board of Directors, volunteering at events, and as Land Management Officer. Their support ensures that the value and appreciation of the Herdrich family legacy of life on Lake Wawasee continues now and for generations to come.

Pictured: Seated left to right: Jeff Herdrich, Jan Herdrich Hackleman, Chris Herdrich. Standing left to right: Bill Herdrich, Bob Herdrich. Not pictured: Joyce Herdrich Wilke.
Volunteerism

David Brandes  
WACF Board

Definition…the practice or policy of volunteering one’s time and/or talents for charitable, educational or other worthwhile activities, especially in one’s own community.

We at WACF have been asking for your help as a volunteer over the past years. Some of you have responded and helped our Foundation tackle these worthwhile projects.

Education has had 24 people step up to help our education team to teach our youth about our watershed and it’s needs. These young people will tell you about the fun they’ve had learning about our environment and how to protect it from future damage. It takes many hours of tending to these young people and our volunteers have done it with smiles on their faces.

Anyone of these adults will tell you the sheer joy they get from seeing these youths learn and take home these facts and lessons.

We have had the good luck to have some volunteers to help shoulder the load of taking care of all the property WACF has obtained over many years. Under the guidance of our land management team led by Jeff Herdrich, they have mowed, trimmed, repaired, moved, and spruced up the lands and fences of these properties.

If we didn’t have such help, we couldn’t do it all with just the few people of land management. In addition, we have been fortunate to have a few people who will step up with their special skills when we need them.

We have volunteers who help our development team with fund raising and special events. Putting on an annual meeting takes a lot of help and we can count on volunteers to step in to make it run smoothly.

We would like to thank each one of you for your help. Know that your participation is gratefully accepted with the thanks of the WACF board and fellow volunteers.

With that said, we always need more volunteers. Why not give us a call or stop and chat with any of our board members or other volunteers about helping WACF accomplish it’s never ending goal to protect and defend our watershed from influences that are always present.

We NEED YOU! Please give us your time as well as your dollars to keep our precious lakes as pristine as we can make them.
Hoosier Environmental Council and Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation Present...

Kosciusko County CAFO Workshop

Are you someone who is negatively impacted by a nearby factory farm (i.e., Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation or CAFO)? Or are you simply a concerned citizen seeking empowerment to act on behalf of Indiana’s environment?

Join the Hoosier Environmental Council’s Senior Staff Attorney and Director of Agriculture Policy, Kim Ferraro, on Saturday, December 9th from 10am-2pm in the Kiwanis Room of the Syracuse Community Center for an educational workshop on CAFOs.

When:
Saturday December 9th from 10am - 2pm

Where:
Syracuse Community Center
Kiwanis Room, 1013 N Long Drive. Syracuse, IN 46567

What:
An educational workshop on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) presented by Kim Ferraro, the Hoosier Environmental Council’s Senior Staff Attorney and Director of Agriculture Policy. Learn your rights and be empowered with the knowledge needed to protect your community, yourself, and your fellow Hoosiers against the damaging impacts of factory farms. This workshop will be focused on education, action, and building the local and statewide movement for a more sustainable food production system.

FREE light breakfast will be provided for all attendees. Please RSVP so we can better plan for food and drink

Contact HEC’s Program and Outreach Associate, Michael Popa, with questions: mpopa@hecweb.org
Several years ago, the Healthy Shorelines committee developed an informal inventory of existing seawalls and natural shorelines around the lake. The inventory also identified properties that used glacial stone as a facing along an existing concrete seawall, in attempt to dampen wave rebound, restore a more natural ecosystem, and re-establish lakebed sand along the shore.

Since then WACF has advocated this effort to re-establish sustainable, natural shorelines on at least 50% of the Lake Wawasee shoreline in 5 years. WACF has also identified local contractors who can provide lakescape design, materials delivery options, construction equipment and personnel to create these natural wonders. And we have researched sources of funding, such as grants, to help support the promotion of pilot projects.

Some property owners have taken the lead and created their own masterpieces, unique to their property and location on the lake.

WACF encourages these efforts, and tries to raise awareness by promoting them whenever we can. Possibly the best example this Summer was show cased by Tom & Patty Kelly, who completely removed their old seawall, and created a large stone seawall using boulder size stones, forming a natural breakwater along the shore.

It may be time now to actively pursue large scale projects around the lake, based on the local topography, existing seawall structures in place, and creative delivery systems available to reach our goal. In other words, develop a plan that identifies opportunities for natural shorelines. The potential projects may be in partnership with the IDNR, WPOA, Neighborhood Property Associations, Commercial operations, and individual or multiple residences collaborating together, leveraging resources and cost sharing whenever possible.

The following points are intended to be a guide in order to develop a plan for significant pilot projects in order to educate and promote the re-establishment of sustainable shorelines around the entire lake to the extent possible and economically practical.

I. Identify and Delineate Pilot Projects – using the shoreline inventory map already developed.
   - Projects would be described by category, scale, and estimated cost

II. Develop Categories of Eligible Projects
   - Residential – by property owner(s)
   - Commercial – by condominium owners, hotels, or marinas
   - Property Associations – by local associations around the lake

III. Develop Acceptable Criteria for Eligible Projects
   - Full seawall removal and replacement with glacial stone
   - Refacing existing or newly permitted seawalls with glacial stone (< 12”)
   - Refacing existing or new seawalls with glacial stone (> 12” and no size limit)
   - Wave action and ice could move smaller stones
   - Bio-engineered retention wall and use of rock, wood, core logs, and native aquatic species
   - Hillside refacing of seawalls by large glacial stone where water delivery is the only possible access
   - Sand beach restoration or recreation with poured/hauling sand by permit

IV. Develop the Best and Most Practical Options for Pilot Projects Identified
   - Use the Categories in II and the Criteria in III to identify best restoration methods and estimate costs
   - Seek sources of funding where needed to initiate these projects

The points above are simply an outline, to get us all thinking about what we would like to see, and to develop a strategy to get there. WACF recognizes the scale of this effort, and welcomes your comments and feedback over the Winter months. Please contact our Board Chair Dr. Joan Szynal at jswawasee@mchsi.com for more information. Thanks!
As autumn 2017 is upon us, so is the hunting season. WACF authorized hunters are aware of and care about the mission of WACF. All of our hunters support WACF with annual donations. They know the WACF properties are excellent habitats for many animals, including deer and turkey. The hunters assist us by keeping an eye on our properties thus allowing us and themselves to continue to be good stewards of the land. Some WACF committee members, board members and volunteers are hunters who exercise the privilege to hunt on WACF properties.

The WACF authorizes hunting on 13 of our properties. Each hunter must sign a release form to hunt the property and must abide by WACF hunting rules. Hunting is prohibited on WACF properties without permission and signed authorization. For more information call 260-215-5979 or email landmanagement@wacf.com.

Jeff Herdrich
Land Management Officer
For the last four years, we have supplemented our semi-annual printed WACF newsletters with timely digital e-news of upcoming events and critical watershed issues. We send approximately 3,500 printed newsletters to the watershed community but have only about 1,400 e-mail addresses at this time, so it is likely that many of you reading this are not currently receiving our e-mail news.

If you are not currently receiving our e-news, visit our website (www.wacf.com) and on the home page there is a “button” for e-news sign-up or you may visit our Facebook page and click the “sign-up” button in the left column. You may also just send us an e-mail at info@wacf.com and tell us that you would like to receive our e-news.

Our Facebook page will have its first birthday in December. We have about 750 followers and we would love to have a few more! Please visit our Facebook page and like us to get the very latest from WACF: https://www.facebook.com/WawaseeConservancy/
Severe storms and heavy rain like the storm on November 5th cause erosion threats to our lakes and streams.

WACF continues work on erosion control and protecting sensitive lands from threatening development or concentrated animal uses throughout the watershed to minimize damage during storm events.

photos credit: Kristin Schumm Stetz
Once again, we'll be gathering in the Ruddell Pavilion with a roaring fire and some tasty chili to light our Christmas decorations and enjoy some good fellowship. Join us on Friday, Dec. 1 at 5:30. It's a great way to start the Holiday Season!