



**W.A.C.F.**

WAWASEE AREA CONSERVANCY FOUNDATION

# CONSERVANCY VIEWS

Summer 2020



*Celebrating the Jorgensen Amphitheater  
Aquatic Invasive Plant Management  
Join us as a Waco Pavilion Society Member*

Photo credit: Eric Van Horn

## Message from the Chairman:



**Chris Roberts**  
WACF Chairman

How blessed are we? In the midst of all the noise, confusion and uncertainty, we have this place, The Wawasee Watershed at which to retreat. How fortunate are we that so many of us "lake lovers" understand and strive to preserve the delicate ecological balance that allows this watershed to survive, even while some others are in serious trouble.

When I was in my twenties, I took all of this for granted, never giving a thought to how the lakes got here, let alone the idea that they might not be forever, what they are today. Kind of like the days

before COVID-19, when we went about our lives without masks, social distancing or quarantines. Am I suggesting that the day could come when our beloved lakes degrade to the point that we can't safely enjoy them in the manner we do now? Unfortunately, that's exactly what I'm suggesting. Not tomorrow, not next year, maybe not 20 or 30 or even 50 years from now. But someday, yes - unless we work against it now.

Many scientists agree that lakes begin to die the moment they are born. The usual pressures, natural and unnatural in the form of nutrient runoff (fertilizer, etc.) take their toll. Ultimately, eutrophication, the explosive growth of plant life, the loss of oxygen and the death of animal life combine to spell disaster.

Twenty-nine years ago, the Wawasee Property Owners Association (WPOA) reacted to this very same concern and formed The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation (WACF). We are charged with thinking about and reacting to the health of the watershed every day. Our landmark study, WINS (Wawasee Inlets Nutrient Study) is continuously monitoring what comes in and what goes out, not to mention what stays behind. Imagine undergoing a constant physical exam and being connected to monitors 24/7/365 for 3 years while you go about your daily life. Doctors would have a pretty good idea of the shape you're in, wouldn't they? Likewise, WACF will know more about these lakes than anyone ever before in all of history and that is solid information we will use to continue to make cost-effective decisions to keep the waters safe, clean and clear.

Needless to say, a necessary study of this magnitude is expensive. Please consider helping financially. We are blessed not only to have access to this place in the world but also to have you as neighbors!

## 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.

### 2019-August 2020 WACF Memorials & Honorariums

#### In Memory of:

Jane Atkins  
Ted Ben Bales  
John C. Barron  
William Beemer  
Marianne Beesley  
Richard 'Whitey' Boerger  
Tim Borne  
Mary Lou Brewer  
Wayne and Alice Brockett  
Doyle and Jo Butler  
Harold Camesasca  
Annet Lou Carroll  
Judy Christofolis  
Sandy Cobbum  
A. Hunter and Neoma Colpitts  
Kim Conrad  
Nancy Cougill  
Steve Cunnington  
Richard L. and Janet Davis  
Russ Dellen  
Gus Duehmig  
Bernice Fiechter  
Cynthia Forgey  
Stan Fox  
Jeanne Gabrielsen  
Shirley Hope Gehl  
Kay Gibson  
Barb Grant  
Larry and Rosie Griffith  
Dr. Lloyd Hagedorn  
Andrew and Laurie Hardie  
John Heidt, Jr.  
James C. Haddon, Jr.  
Patrick Hanlin  
Colleen Herdrich  
Barbara Barron Hiers  
Peggy Hipskind  
Frank Hirschman  
Dorothy Bay Hite  
Kyle Hollon  
Jill Hubbard

Linda Hubley  
Tom and Judy Hughes  
Needham Hurst  
William Hurst  
Dr. George 'Bud' Irmscher  
Jack Isenbarger  
Carole A. Jacquay  
Pat Johnson  
Robert and Rosalyn Jones  
Susann Kellogg  
Dick Kelly  
Patrick Kennedy  
Mike and Carol Kiley  
Mary L. Kiely  
Mary Koehlinger  
Albert Kramer  
Casey Kroh  
Sara Kroh  
Charles and Dorothy Lehman  
Mrs. Fred Lopp  
Dr. Vance Lopp  
Maurice and Lucille Lung  
Bob McCallum  
Bill McNagyn  
Lonnie and Thelma Meriwether  
Walter E. Miller  
Peggy Clapacs Miller  
Deceased Morrison  
Island members  
Father Glen O'Connor  
Eleanor Organ  
Don Osbourne  
Sherry Ott  
PADOROMA  
Carolyn Parmerlee  
Dr. William K. and Mary H. Patterson  
Dick Reasner  
Priscilla Rhode  
Elizabeth Robertson  
Ted Rogers

William Nathan Salin  
Sophia C. Salin  
Edward L. Sandman, Sr.  
Douglas A. Schmahl  
Bob and Lucille Searfoss  
Hilda Smith  
Terry E. Smith  
Eloy C. Stevens  
Mark Stimson  
Herbert and Donna Snyder  
Michael Surso  
Linda Tillman  
Charles Walker  
Dr. John M. Wallace  
David Warshauer  
Isabelle Westfall  
Marilyn Wilson  
Jack Wirick  
Ken Woodruff  
Matthew Wuebker

#### In Honor of:

Doug and Carolyn Anderson  
Donn Baird  
Todd and Missy Cleveland  
John and Linda Earnest,  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
Connie Harris  
Heather Harwood  
Brian and Jamie Hull  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Loose  
Thomas and Marilyn Michael  
Family, Parents  
Dave and Cindy Newcomer  
Celia Ristow marriage  
Steve and Sally Springer  
Paula and Kerry Sullivan  
Bob and Jane Wildman  
Doug and Eileen Williams  
The Wooden Boat  
Thunder Run

# Education Update

By Pam Schumm  
Education Committee Chair



This is what WACF education is all about – learning about our watershed and how to preserve it for the future by polluting less and taking care of the water. Thank you for bringing your children to the Bug Catch and Wetland

Adventures this summer. It was great to be out in nature, among people (masked of course) learning about our watershed and completing crafts for nature. It's so important for our lake residents and visitors to understand about our wonderful glacial lake, the streams that feed the lake and the life that depends upon the clean water. If you have not enjoyed one of our education opportunities, consider joining us for our Fall-Tastic Trail Walk on Oct 10 and 11 from noon – 4 pm each day. Our trails will be decorated and educational too, so bring the kids, grandkids, pooch (remember the leash and doggie bags) and enjoy a leisurely walk on

## Let's Preserve Our Nature

by Arjun in 2015

The sun is shining,  
The sky is blue.  
The birds are flying,  
And the breeze is so cool.

Mother Nature is trying her best  
To give nothing but  
beautiffulness.  
But what do we do?  
Make her a mess.

Let's make her the best  
By polluting less and less,  
And preserve her green dress  
For our kids and the rest.

our trails in the crisp air of fall. Our trails are open daily (free of charge) dawn to dusk. Come out and enjoy the fresh air while you take in the beauty of our watershed.



Until we see you again in 2021, remember to take care of our precious water and environment! Do what you can to prevent introducing invasive species into our watershed (both water and land), continue to pick up the trash that you find in and around the lake, and please be citizen conservationists.





# *the Jorgensen Amp*

Photo credit: *Larry Baumgardt*

# Amphitheater



The new WACF Jorgensen Amphitheater sits with a panoramic view of Conklin Bay Wetlands. Donors Jay and Jane Jorgensen provided this gift with the thought that WACF, the robust Education program, and our visitors could enjoy a beautiful venue that is part of our watershed and Lake Wawasee. It was through their generosity that the amphitheater was completed.





Heather Harwood  
WACF Executive Director

## Highlights from the Executive Director



Oakwood Sunrise by Larry Baumgardt

One of my favorite features of the Wawasee watershed is its location, sitting up next to the Continental Divide. What a perch, up at the top of the water source. We can see where the glaciers left behind our lakes. Protecting pristine lands is a priority for WACF. Often these untouched landscapes are as they were formed, without man's alteration or development. The watershed is half in Kosciusko County and half in Noble County covering 23,618 acres. We like to protect our pristine lands and wetlands that help protect our water quality. And keeping the lake healthy is a vital component of our economy.

WACF recently completed the **Jorgensen Amphitheater** at the Education Center (see the feature in the center fold). We plan to break ground this fall on our **Between-the-Lakes pavilion, preparing native plants, grass trails, kayak and canoe launch**. We continue to focus on our Critical Areas Study identifying **99 hot spots** in the upper watershed, along with recommended best management practices. Areas upstream in the agricultural areas will be addressed with the **Turkey Creek Tributary Phase II** project. This project is made possible through an \$80,000 grant from the IDNR LARE for Turkey Creek Tributary Erosion Control which is a cost share with WACF. **The US Fish and Wildlife Service is partnering with WACF on invasive plant removal and habitat restoration at Gordy Lake Preserve in the 10-lake chain.**

or tubes are floating in the middle of the lake. Please give them right of way and more. When you recognize a boat towing someone, slow down. When boating, stop and think, look, listen, slow down, turn away and you'll promote a safer lake environment.

As an individual, you can make a difference and reduce your impact on our valuable lake resources and have a better wake experience by following these simple guidelines:

- Start pulling skiers in deep water.
- Go tubing in the deeper center area of the lake. If wake surfing or wakeboarding avoid the bays.
- Huge wakes destroy wetlands and erode shore bottoms.
- Plane the boat: if the bow is up, the propeller is down stirring sediment.
- Make sure your boat wake is clear and not cloudy.
- Do not do "donuts" on PWCs in the bays.
- Respect buoys and protected areas, this is your lake too!



On this map, the water flows from lower right to upper left at the Syracuse dam. WACF properties in yellow.

**Boating Safety** – as responsible lake recreators and property owners we need to always be aware of safety and being responsible to our community, our passengers and other boaters. Commit to responsible boating following DNR rules including a zero tolerance for alcohol consumption as boat drivers. All friends and family should rise to a feeling of responsibility equal to the driver of the boat. If the operator is impaired, say something and do something. All boaters and drivers should know and abide by the safe boating guidelines as printed in the front of the WPOA Neighbors Book.

As our lake usage increases with activity, more people who have fallen from boards



WACF Levinson-LaBrosse Education Center Pavilion

WACF has key **volunteers** who are with us regularly and work at the Education Center or Between-the-Lakes. Our WACF volunteers are mowing, clearing trails and

## Current WACF projects –

- The Jorgensen Amphitheater
- Between-the-Lakes site development
- Addressing hot spots including Turkey Creek Tributary Phase II
- Gordy Lake Preserve invasive plant removal

removing invasive plants. You may wonder why mowing is important – it provides trail access for all to enjoy. By enlisting volunteer help WACF can actually preserve more land due to WACF not having to hire contractors or have staff mow and trim. So we thank our volunteers. WACF volunteers are also busy constructing birding stations, helping at the Center Educational events, and providing services.

### Upcoming events – Please join us:

- Saturday and Sunday October 11–12 for our annual **Falltastic Trail walk**, from noon to 4 pm. The Center's trails are decorated for fall with giant spiders and ghosts. Fun for the whole family
- Saturday October 31, join Nate Bosch and myself for an **Interpretive Walk** through the WACF Levinson-LaBrosse Education Center woods and lakefront.

The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation is celebrating its 29th year protecting the Wawasee watershed. Healthy lakes are among the most precious gifts we can leave to our children. We have the opportunity to leave this legacy to future generations – let's all try to keep it a vital and healthy place.

# Managing Aquatic Invasive Plants

By Beth Morris  
Ecology Committee Chair

This year has been a heavy weed year across northern Indiana and southern Michigan, according to DNR and the companies that do weed treatment. While the reason is unclear, the light winter with very short ice cover was a contributing factor. WACF monitors Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake for aquatic invasive plants and oversees yearly maintenance to try and keep these weeds in check. In particular, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Starry Stonewort (SSW) are big concerns.



Eurasian Watermilfoil

### Details About EWM and SSW

- Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), while invasive and a nuisance, can choke out other weeds but will not ruin fish habitat.
- In 2020, 24.5 acres were treated on Lake Wawasee and 22.16 acres were treated on Syracuse Lake using ProcellaCor, a relatively new product that doesn't eradicate EWM but is guaranteed to knock it back for 3 years.
  - In August, Aquatic Weed Control surveyed the areas recently treated with ProcellaCor and found that the treatment is working well.
  - Unfortunately ProcellaCor is more expensive than other chemicals. Last year alone WACF paid almost \$16,700 while the DNR's LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) program provided a

grant matching the first \$10,000. In addition the Syracuse Lake Association (SLA) contributed 50% of the cost share for the Syracuse Lake treatment of EWM.

- ProcellaCor is a powerful tool that is effective and safe for our lakes; however, the added cost means we will have to find alternative ways to pay for treatment.

Starry Stonewort (SSW), an algae that has no root system, forms a dense mat that can impede watercraft and swimmers. It continues to increase in our lakes while the treatment budget from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has decreased.



Starry Stonewort

As the infestation spreads to other lakes, the GLRI fixed budget is being shared across more lakes.

- There is no chemical known to kill SSW, and it is very hard to control.
- In 2020 the same acreage was treated at Syracuse Lake as 2019, but 40% fewer acres were treated on Lake Wawasee this year due to reduced funding allocation.
- Unlike EWM, SSW can actually choke out all other good aquatic plants and become so dense it can ruin fish habitat.
- SSW reproduces easily when fragmented, such as when it is chopped up by propellers and resulting fragments take hold elsewhere. It also forms clones that result from "bulbils" that look like tiny white stars. When

you squeeze a handful, you can hear a "pop."

- With the combination of SSW's continuing spread, its extremely negative impact on recreational lake use if left unchecked, and competition with other lakes for funding allocation from GLRI, it is important to look at ways to fund treatment above and beyond what we currently receive.

### We Need Your Help to Contain EWM and SSW

Aquatic invasive plants directly impact our water quality and both EWM and SSW can have devastating effects on the recreational quality and on plant and fish life in our lakes. While we cannot completely eradicate either plant, it is vital that we do everything we can to treat it to manage the spread. We are grateful to the DNR LARE Program, the GLRI and the SLA for their leadership and financial support. We also appreciate the Wawasee Property Owner's Association (WPOA) for their past support. However, we know we are reaching a critical point between continued weed growth and diminishing funds.

We are truly blessed to be a part of Lake Wawasee and Syracuse Lake, generations of families have enjoyed the recreation and rejuvenation our lakes provide. We simply cannot stay in front of these harmful invasive plants without additional help. As new scientific efforts uncover advanced treatments and as other lakes compete for the same funding, please consider making a donation so that we are best positioned to fight this battle and maintain the water quality and overall ecology of the lake. Your help is so important to this effort!



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## Join the Waco Pavilion Society

**By Bill McCully**  
*Development Committee Chair*

If you are like me, then you see reminders of wonderful memories all around you here in our beloved lake country. Just this week, there were a couple of Facebook posts about the root beer stand that sat where the Channel Marker is now. That root beer stand was my first paying job, and I would go to work there by water after driving our family boat to the public launch on Syracuse lake and walking to the high school for driver's ed. Truly magical times and evidence of a wonderful childhood!

As someone who loves the Wawasee watershed, I decided the best thing I could do was to become actively involved in making sure it is preserved to bring those same memories to our kids, their kids and so on for generations to come. I was humbled to be asked to serve on the Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation, the one organization that truly has the ability to directly affect our water quality through the acquisition of land, and taking action on that land to mitigate the effects of harmful materials that enter the lakes. As you can imagine, that requires money and the wisdom to spend it correctly.

One of the ways I support WACF is through pledging a few dollars a month resulting in a substantial annual gift. It occurred to me that is a very simple and painless way to help provide a significant contribution to help ensure our water is as clean and healthy as possible.

I am asking you to join me in this effort. We want to establish a sustaining membership society that not only helps with the financial support of the organization, but actively participates in the programs and events that WACF sponsors and celebrates in creative and fun ways while supporting the mission of the WACF.



We are calling this group the Waco Pavilion Society as a tribute to an icon of Lake Wawasee for many years. The Waco (Wawasee Amusement Company) Dance Pavilion was the scene of grand events and

world-famous artists who performed there from the early 20th century well into the 1950s.

As part of the Waco Pavilion Society membership, we are planning special events, both educational and social, that we can enjoy as a group once we are able to safely gather again to celebrate this wonderful place that we all love. We will kick off the society during the latter part of 2020 in the form of a Zoom meeting and plan for several fun and interesting events next year that are exclusive to the Waco Pavilion Society.

To join, simply pledge an annual donation minimum of at least \$1,000. This can be done in one contribution or, like me, in a monthly draw that makes budgeting and planning simple.

Please use the envelope enclosed with this newsletter or contact me at billmccully@gmail.com or info@wacf.com if you have any questions or ideas about fun events we can plan as part of the Waco Pavilion Society!

See you lakeside!

Established in 1991, The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation (WACF) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Contributions to the WACF are tax-deductible to the extent current tax law allows. Please check with your tax advisor.

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