



WAWASEE AREA CONSERVANCY FOUNDATION

# CONSERVANCY VIEWS

Fall 2018

## Message from the Chairman:

As I assume the position of WACF Chairman after three very successful years under the leadership of Joan Szynal MD, there has never been a more exciting time for WACF! The landmark ecology study described on the next page, will elevate our campaign to preserve and protect our lakes to a new level. We are thrilled to share that we will soon be announcing a large key land acquisition that will add tremendous environmental value to the 900+ acres currently protected by WACF.



**Doug Yoder**  
WACF Chairman

In addition, progress is being made to restore the Between-the-Lakes Preserve (across from the Channel Marker restaurant) with native plantings, and the Turkey Creek Tributary mitigation project will soon be underway. Here at the WACF Education Center, work is being completed on the Memory Garden and Amphitheater. They will both soon be available for use by our community. And the WACF youth education programs have never been stronger with 14 separate sessions over 22 days educating over 1,600 kids from toddlers to young adults.

We are so proud of the WACF staff, volunteers and countless community supporters who engage with our organization. We are working hard to achieve our mission of protecting and preserving the Wawasee watershed for generations to come. With all of the exciting and important WACF projects and activities comes the ever present challenge of funding. We need your help to continue making a difference! We would be most grateful if you would consider a donation in the enclosed envelope to help us continue to serve our watershed community.

Best regards,

Doug Yoder  
Chairman

## 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  
Doras Baird  
Marianne Guyton Beesley  
Hurleen Blumenthal  
Tim Borne  
Brandon Ryan Brown  
Thelma J. Brown  
Jo Butler  
Doyle Butler  
Karen Call  
Bob Carlson  
Kim and Stephen Conrad  
Mary Coyle  
David Culp Jr.  
David Culp Sr.  
Ed Dahm  
Jane Deister  
Gus Duehmig  
Stan Fox  
Bob Garver  
Ronnie Giles  
David Grandstaff  
Barbara Berkey Tully Grant  
Danny Griffith  
Beery C. Hage  
Andrew Hardie  
John Heidt  
Dick Henderson  
Frank Hirschman

Kyle Hollon  
Rosalyn Howell  
William Hurst  
Janet Joesten  
Robert and Rosalyn Jones  
Keith E. Juday  
Helen Just  
Carol Knafel  
John Knapp  
Suzanne Koschnick  
Jackie Lanford  
Charles Lantz  
Don Law  
John Leonard  
Kim Lobsiger  
Ed Long  
John Long  
Dr. George T. and  
Barbara Lukemeyer  
Maurice Lung  
Carolyn Riddell McDonald  
Robert W. Mulhall  
Nancy Myers  
Robert F. Myers  
Robert Nelson  
Marjorie Newcomer  
Patty Norman  
Don Osborne  
Sherry Ott  
Verne Petry

George and Margaret  
Poole  
Dick Reasner  
George Rhett  
Edwin Rogers  
Ian Rolland  
Douglas Schmah  
Anna Schwalm  
Dean and Wynn Schwalm  
John Smith  
John Spickelmier  
Paul Stine  
Dr. Mark Stinson  
James Thompson  
Ryan Thrapp  
Linda Tillman  
Betty Louise Tracy  
John & Kathryn Virts  
Sarah and John A. Wallace  
Doug Walls  
Malcom and Shirley  
Williams  
Jay Sheppard  
and Amanda Wilson  
Kenneth H. Woodruff  
Matthew Wuebker  
John and Marie  
Zimmerman  
Rick Zimmerman  
Deceased Morrison Island  
Association members

### Honorariums

Doug and Carolyn Anderson  
Donn Baird on Father's Day  
John Bearss  
Jerry Collins in honor of  
Jerry's birthday  
Susie Cronin's in honor of  
Susie's 90th birthday  
Irv Deister in honor of Irv's  
birthday

Jane Finch in honor of  
Jane's birthday  
Bill and Connie Harris  
Mary Lou Hurst in honor of  
Mary Lou's birthday  
Mike and Melissa Mates  
Rick and Carolyn McClure in  
honor of Rick and  
Carolyn's 40th wedding  
anniversary

Bob and Nancy Myers  
Walter Palmer in honor of  
Walter's birthday  
Paul and Linda Phillabaum  
Bob and Sandy McNary  
Pam Schumm  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Springer  
Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Sullivan  
Jim and Karen Tranter  
The Thunder Run

# Wawasee Watershed Ecological Health Study

## A comprehensive analysis of nutrient and sediment loads

Since 1991, WACF has focused on improving water quality with two primary tools: acquisition of critical properties (currently over 900 acres), and mitigation projects (over 100 completed) to limit sediment containing harmful nutrients from entering our lakes by stabilizing eroding creek banks and encouraging best farming practices. While we have made tremendous progress, we are always seeking to direct our limited resources to priority "hot spots". To that end, WACF funded a study by Wayne Stanger

(S & L Environmental Group) in late 2017 which resulted in the identification of 29 critical hot spots. All of the recommended projects involve considerable expense, and we currently have no scientific way to prioritize them.

In early 2018, our Ecology Committee, led by Beth Morris and Joan Szynal MD, began discussions with Dr. Jerry Sweeten, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies at Manchester University and president of Ecosystems Connections Institute. Over the course of several months, they designed a robust and comprehensive study to create a legacy database that will allow

us to best allocate our resources for future projects and measure long-term results.

To accomplish our goals, Dr. Sweeten and his team will place five extremely sophisticated sampling gages, one each at the five inflows (Dillon Creek, Launer Creek, Turkey Creek, Papakeechee Outflow and Martin Creek) to Lake Wawasee. Samples will also be taken at the Syracuse Lake outflow of Turkey Creek slightly past the Syracuse dam. Our approach is to conduct highly intensive daily sampling every four

hours during those months (April-June) when agricultural production is at its greatest and 75% of the annually deposited nutrients and sediment are likely entering the watershed. Samples will be picked up daily and analyzed for phosphorus, nitrogen, suspended sediment, dissolved oxygen and many other attributes. Following this peak period, samples will be taken weekly and also after the first measurable rainfall. This data-rich approach will show statistically what levels of phosphorous and nitrogen (nutrients) and sediment each tributary is contributing to our lakes.



Our testing will start in the spring of 2019 with over 2,000 samples analyzed each year. The targeted duration of the project is three years, and actionable data will become available in the first months. This scientific approach will also enhance our ability to attract government partners to participate in the funding of major mitigation projects.

In our watershed, there has never been a study conducted, or even proposed, that is as comprehensive and sophisticated as this landmark WACF study. We feel that the study is essential to direct our resources (mitigation and land acquisition) to the most urgent problem areas.







*Please show your support for WACF with a donation today*

# Project Update by the Executive Director



Heather Harwood  
WACF Executive Director



- **Amphitheater** – The concrete Amphitheater rows have been poured, and the pathway connecting the Pavilion and Amphitheater is taking shape. The Amphitheater will be ready for a gathering in the spring. Stop by our WACF Education Center and check it out.

- **Turkey Creek Tributary** – Bank erosion along the Turkey Creek Tributary has historically been a contributor of sediments downstream into Turkey Creek flowing into Wawasee and Syracuse Lakes. The volume of sediment moving downstream is evident by the large sediment deposits. This natural sediment trap is slowly reaching holding capacity, thus allowing greater volumes of sediment to continue moving further downstream during significant storm events. The most severe bank erosion was identified, and will be protected. The design focuses on reducing the stream flow velocity to protect the eroding embankments. A combination of Best Management Practices (BMPs) were designed to reduce stream velocity by 20-50%.



- **Between the Lakes** – Native seed planting on the 8-acre property on Mud Lake and Main Channel will be completed in November. This native planting restoration will include grasses, sedges and wildflowers. A new Pavilion is planned for the property along with an outlook and a kayak-launching beach, turf pathways and plenty of shoreline for fishing.



# WACF Memory Garden

The WACF Board of Directors have long considered the establishment of a location on WACF property for the scattering of cremated remains. The project was approved in 2017 and began with a site selection and the creation of a landscape plan by Heather Harwood. Dave Brandes spearheaded the project which included applying for a variance and attending the variance hearing accompanied by Robert Fanning. The WACF "Memory Garden" was partially funded in 2018 as the result of a specific bequest from the Linda Tillman estate. The Memory Garden is intended to be a final resting

place for persons for whom Lake Wawasee and its watershed held a special and often lifelong attraction.

The Memory Garden is located on the WACF Levinson/LaBrosse Education Center (one mile south of Syracuse on SR 13) property along WACF Trail #1 overlooking the Conklin Bay wetlands. The Memory Garden is planted in native flowers and grasses and features an iron sculpture of a sandhill crane taking flight from above an iron wreath of Indiana tree leaves. The sculpture was designed by Robert Fanning, constructed by Richard Lemberg and

donated by Nancy and Robert Fanning. The garden walkway, sculpture, benches, antique gates and fencing were installed by WACF volunteers including Andy Allen, Bill Herdrich, Jeff Herdrich, Doug Yoder, Robert Fanning, Dave Brandes, Rick Lemberg and others.

The ashes of loved ones may be scattered in the garden at any time and may be accomplished in any way by which the family and participants feel comfortable. Loved ones placed within the Memory Garden may be identified on a plaque located within the garden.

The plaque will be provided by WACF upon receipt of a WACF "Memory Garden" Registration Form and a voluntary donation. The Registration Form will be available on the Education Center porch or upon request to WACF. Please feel free to visit the Memory Garden with your family and friends both before and after a loved one has been placed in the garden.

Details of the protocol for the scattering of ashes in the Memory Garden may be found on our website at [www.wacf/about-us/memory-garden](http://www.wacf/about-us/memory-garden)



*Dave Brandes, Rick Lemberg, Robert Fanning & Dick Tillman*





11586 N. SR 13  
 PO Box 548  
 Syracuse, IN 46567  
 Phone: 574.457.4549  
 Email: info@wacf.com

**WACF Board of Directors,  
 Officers and Staff**

Doug Yoder  
*Chairman*  
 Chris Roberts  
*Vice Chairman*  
 Heather Harwood  
*Executive Director*  
 Donn Baird  
*Treasurer*  
 Judy Shoemaker  
*Development Officer*  
 Nancy Nelson  
*Secretary*  
 Jeff Herdrich  
*Land Management Officer*

Russell Anderson  
 Larry Baumgardt  
 Ronald Baumgartner  
 Daniel Berkey  
 Terry Clapacs  
 Bart Culver  
 Robert Fanning  
 Jane Finch  
 William Herdrich  
 William Hess  
 Catherine Hoffman  
 Jay Jorgensen  
 Bill McCully  
 Shannon McNett-Silcox  
 Beth Morris  
 Pam Schumm  
 Joan Szynal  
 Thomas Yoder

Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation  
 11586 N. SR 13, PO Box 548  
 Syracuse, IN 46567

**Return Service Requested**

NON-PROFIT  
 ORGANIZATION  
 U. S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT 8  
 SYRACUSE, IN

# Protecting and Preserving our Lakes since 1991

## Retiring Board Members



Sam Leman, David Brandes & Donn Baird  
 (Sherry Swank not pictured)

## Welcome to the Eli Lilly Donor Wall



Jay and Jane Jorgensen and Susan and David Brandes

## WACF Christmas Lights



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, Nov. 30 at 5:30. It's a great way to start the Holiday Season!

## Cattail Award Winners



Scott Fetters



Nancy Nelson

