



Notes from the FOREST



Lacawac
Sanctuary
*Field Station &
Environmental Education
Center*

Continuing to Grow into the Future

New Environmental Education Center Named

As the year ends, Lacawac is happy to announce the renovation and construction of its environmental education center for people of all ages and abilities.

The existing former home of our Lacawac's founder, Louis Arthur Watres will be renovated and converted into a center for environmental education, used for school groups, adult learning sessions, and informal educational programs. The current structure will house The Overlook Estate Foundation Classroom, The Bonnie Yablon Conference Room, a new ADA entrance and bathroom, an education prep room and space for educational displays. Renovations also include a new roof and new heating and cooling units. Funding for these renovations has been made possible through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Besides the renovations, Lacawac plans to construct a new 3000 square foot addition to the center. The lower level will feature a fully functional science lab for all ages to learn about ecology with hands-on activities, modern equipment, and up-to-date resources. The upper-level space will host field trips, educational workshops, retreats, and meetings in a comfortable and adaptable setting. A deck facing Heron Pond will give spectacular views of Lacawac and even our nesting Osprey.

On Saturday August 13th Lacawac unveiled the name of its environmental education center. The center will be named after William E. Chatlos, a generous friend and supporter of Lacawac's mission and work. Funding for the education center has been made possible through the generosity of the Chatlos Roegner Charitable Gift Fund.



From Left to Right: William (Bill) Chatlos and Trust Executive Director Milton Roegner

Lacawac's Artists' Residencies Return in 2023

Where Nature, History and Creativity Meet



Each year professional or aspiring artists are selected to spend time at Lacawac Sanctuary for either one or two weeks. During the residencies, artists are free to produce their artwork using the inspiration of the beauty that is Lacawac. Housing and limited studio space is provided.

Artists are provided:

- a comfortable room in the Historic Watres Lodge or the Icehouse Cottage
- access 545-acres which includes a glacial lake, 2 ponds, shore access to Lake Wallenpaupack, ledges natural area, and forests.
- studio/workspace in the Carriage House.

Artists provide their own transportation and take care of their meals while at Lacawac. The lodging is well equipped with cookware and dishes and all necessary kitchen amenities. Both the lodge and icehouse have wireless internet. Residents should bring a laptop if they so desire.



The cost of the residency is \$250 for one week or \$450 for two weeks. There are no hard deadlines for the submission of applications. Applications are reviewed on a rolling process. There is a \$10 application fee. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance via the e-mail provided on the application. If accepted into the program, Lacawac will provide further details on lodging.

Lacawac affirms its commitment to acceptance, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome all participants regardless of sexual orientation, color, or creed. It is our deep commitment to promote the arts to through a greater equity, sustainability, and interconnectedness. Lacawac seeks to broaden accessibility to the residency experience. We strategically integrate artistic experimentation through collaborative scientific research and works that transcend the limits of traditional disciplines and create new approaches to address the major issues of our time. Our program helps establish a more equitable world by cultivating creativity, community, and leadership.

For more information on our residency program, visit <https://www.lacawac.org/lacawac-artists-residency.html>

LACAWAC STAFF

Craig Lukatch, President - craig.lukatch@lacawac.org

Beth Norman, PhD, Director of Science and Research - beth.norman@lacawac.org

Jamie Reeger, Director of Environmental Education - jamie.reeger@lacawac.org

Gene Shultz, Environmental Educator and PiER Manager

Natalie Wasilchak, Environmental Educator and Camp Manager

Carlos Roca CPA, Financial Controller

Roy Chesseri, Maintenance Director

Casey Arnold, Facilities Manager

Summer Camps 2022: A Year in Review

This year's summer camp was a breath of fresh air for many families. The idea of their children getting out of the house and into nature, being active, and even the thought of seeing and interacting with other children was incredibly appealing. We provided eight weeks of camp, which encompassed grades pre-k through 6th. As we are not 100% out of the clear, we remained lower in numbers than years prior out of an abundance of caution.



For most of our younger campers, Creature Feature (grades pre-k - k), Interpreting Nature (grades 1-2), and Exploring Nature (grades 1-2) camp was their first experience being away from their families and interacting with other children their age. This did come with some challenges, but our children could learn, play, explore, create, and grow on personal levels throughout the week and the entire summer. Our older campers, Wilderness Adventure (grades 3-6), Eco Investigators (grades 3-4), and our Earth Expressions camp (grades 3-6), settled into the week a bit easier and enjoyed being able to speak freely, learn, and make lasting memories.

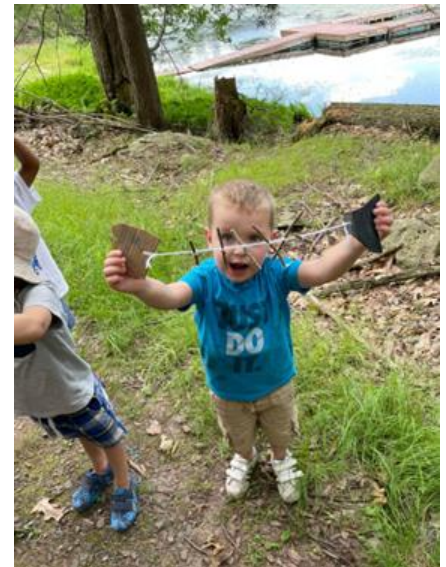
One of the camp's largest goals besides inspiring an affinity for nature is to initiate leadership skills that aid in developing a greater self by giving way to confidence, decision making, and even being able to inspire others around you. Our campers more than excelled in leadership. Besides working on personal skills, campers also enjoyed learning about nature in a safe and enthralling environment where they did not realize they were learning. Campers participated in many hands-on activities such as fishing, crafts, building shelters, canoeing, and much more.

A common and much-needed theme throughout our camps this summer was "magic spots," which have been given different names by many of our campers, such as "quiet time," "Me time," "Nature time," and even "Bird time." This time allowed our campers a special opportunity to select their spot and take time to be in nature alone. With many distractions in our children's lives, such as electronics, the hustle and bustle of life in the common city, sporting events, school, and even being home with family, this time was a rare opportunity to open to the nature around them.



All our camps have a screen-free policy. This came as a challenge with some of our younger campers (pre-k - 2nd grade) as they felt disconnected from the world they knew. However, it pushed them to build connections with the people and surroundings they had right in front of them. By the end of the week, they spoke about looking for leaves and snakes instead of iPads and computer games.

We offered four nature day camps for grades Pre-K to 6th grade, two different art and nature day camps for grades 1st to 6th. Our camps continued to thrive with many having waiting lists to attend.



We have had a ton of positive feedback. Here are a few of our parent responses!

- Our son learned about creatures and had some structured time with other children, which he doesn't really get in the summer.
- Every program at Lacawac is excellent. The summer program is particularly wonderful for kids based on the learning, size, and experiences.
- My child loves the camp and the counselors.
- Our son enjoyed learning about nature and even now over a month later continues to talk about camp. He wants to make sure we sign him up for two weeks next year.
- Lacawac is beautiful, and the counselors really have fun with the kids.

Registration for Summer Camps 2023 will open in by February next year.

Greenhouse Gas Emission Research at Lake Lacawac

By: Jenna Robinson



Did you know that lakes are biochemical hotspots on Earth? What exactly does it mean to be a biochemical hotspot? Consider this, lakes make up less than 1% of Earth's entire surface. Yet, lakes emit substantial amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), so much so that it is comparable to the amount of carbon that all the world's oceans naturally uptake from the atmosphere. Lakes are located across the globe, and they are acting like chimneys, or hotspots, funneling greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. But how? How could lakes, which make up such a small portion of Earth's surface, release such large amounts of these potent greenhouse gases? This is where the biochemical part comes in.

Lakes sit at the bottom of their watershed, so as rain and stream water run through the surrounding forest, farmland, and/or urban development, large amounts of organic material (like

leaves and sticks) is picked up and carried downstream until it ends up in the lake. These large amounts of organic matter that end up in lakes act as fuel for microbial life. These microbes consume the organic matter and biochemically convert it into inorganic forms like carbon dioxide and methane.

The Global Water Lab at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) of New York has been conducting research at Lacawac Sanctuary for several years to understand the effects of climate change on the lake's ecology, including how carbon is cycled through the lake and converted into carbon dioxide and methane. Due to climate change, the Pocono Lakes region has been seeing increases in extreme storm events and precipitation, which affects the quality and quantity of organic matter in Lake Lacawac, as well as the resulting greenhouse gas emissions. Jenna Robinson, a graduate student at RPI, has been working at Lake Lacawac to better understand how changes in climate may affect the timing and magnitude of these lake greenhouse gas emissions.

Jenna and a team of researchers from RPI visit Lake Lacawac year-round to collect measurements of organic matter and dissolved greenhouse gases from different depths within the lake. These researchers also maintain a suit of underwater sensors that measure temperature, oxygen, organic matter (among other parameters) every 15 minutes, to help understand the biochemical processes that are happening both through the water column and through time. Jenna's research has found that Lake Lacawac

has two distinct periods of dissolved greenhouse gas build-up when the lake is stratified, or separated into thermal layers, both in the summertime and in the wintertime, under-ice. This build-up of greenhouse gases in the bottom layer of the lake in the summertime has exceeded 10x the normal atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and over 500x the normal atmospheric concentration of methane.

In the wintertime, under-ice, Jenna has found deep water carbon dioxide levels of over 7x the normal atmospheric concentration and methane levels exceeding 200x normal atmospheric concentrations. During stratification or when the lake is covered in ice, these gases are trapped within Lake Lacawac. However, when the ice melts and/or the lake turns over (when stratification ends) the surface water mixes with the deep water again and these dissolved gases are released into the atmosphere.

Jenna hopes to expand her research at Lake Lacawac to further understand what drives seasonal and inter-annual variability in greenhouse gas emissions in lakes.



PLEON'S LAKE SCHOOL

MAY 19-21, 2023

An immersive, field-based course for those tasked with managing their community's lakes. Gain the conceptual knowledge, hands-on experience, and on-going support to build a water quality monitoring program on your lake and to become a confident lake steward.

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION COMING SOON
WWW.LACAWAC.ORG/PLEON

Financial and other support for the PLEON Lake School has been provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's 2022 Environmental Education Grants Program



SUPPORT US

**EVERY TIME YOU FILL
PRESCRIPTIONS OR
SHOP AT RITE AID**

 FUNDRAISING | 

Rite Aid and RX Fundraising

We are excited to announce a new fundraising opportunity that will generate funds for Lacawac and our programs! RXfundraising and Rite Aid are willing to give us back a portion of the dollars spent on prescriptions filled at Rite Aid and other qualified in-store purchasing at Rite Aid. Join us in this effort by being among the first to register to support Lacawac.

Simply register with RXfundraising and use your Rite Aid wellness+ rewards number! We will receive funds for every prescription you fill and when you shop in the store for everyday items!

Register Today: support.rxfundraising.com/LacawacSanctuaryFoundation



THE ANNUAL FUND

Annual Fund 2022



Generous donors are the foundation of our ability to fulfill our mission. Your support inspires a greater connection to the natural world by protecting, managing, and interpreting our property; provides outdoor recreational opportunities; and offers environmental education experiences.

You can help us achieve our mission by making a gift today.

Our Annual Fund is a year-round effort to raise funds necessary to support the daily operations of our organization, including the maintenance of our trails and facility.

Make your donation online at

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/annfun201/>

or mail your check to Lacawac Sanctuary, ATTN: Annual Fund, 94 Sanctuary Road, Lake Ariel PA 18436



We are so very grateful for all the support that Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation receives from individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations. This strong philanthropic culture dates to our founding when the Watres Family gifted the property to Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation establishing the nonprofit in 1966. Our donors help us expand our reach, engage students from underserved areas and incorporate real world experiences into educational curriculum. Together we deliver programs and experiences that instill the values of education, stewardship, and sustainability to the community.

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Public Support:

Contributions and Membership	\$110,326
Grants <i>(This includes capital contributions)</i>	\$281,317
Fundraising Events	\$33,982

\$425,625

Revenues:

Facility Usage	\$76,932
Program Income	\$90,637
Interest	\$205
Investment Income <i>(Gifts to the endowments. These are for restricted use only).</i>	\$109,056
Change in value of beneficial interests	\$6,306

\$283,136

TOTAL REVENUE

\$708,761

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$296,246
Supporting Services:	
Management	\$86,156
Fundraising	\$64,260

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$446,658

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

\$262,103

NET ASSETS – BEGINNING

\$5,288,513

NET ASSETS – ENDING

\$5,550,616

Financial Report 2021

This annual financial report is published by Lacawac for its members, supporters and collaborating partners. If you have questions regarding the information provided in the report contact Lacawac's President at craig.lukatch@lacawac.org

For more information on our audited financial documents visit <https://www.lacawac.org/governance.html>

Letter from our President

Dear Friends:

Everything we have in life comes from the natural world around us. Learning to protect this gift is the core focus of Lacawac Sanctuary- shaping the next generation of earth stewards and scientists.

As a community-based nonprofit, Lacawac Sanctuary relies on donations from friends to support our work and mission. Whether it is a membership donation, an annual appeal gift, support at one of our signature fundraising events, or a gift through a bequest, all funds support research, education, and preservation. All funds stay local.

The services we provide come at a cost and we are looking to increase our financial base of support to keep pace with our growing work. Wayne County is a great place in which to live, work and vacation and if we work together, we can preserve and educate all ages about the beauty of the natural world around us.

Thank you for your support!

Craig Lukatch, President

{special} **2022**
THANKS
to our sponsors

Brookfield Energy

Grimm Construction - Century 21 Select Group

Scartelli Olszewski P.C. – NBT Bank

Wayne Memorial Hospital – The Dime Bank

Pioneer Construction – Wayne Bank – LHTC Broadband

Settlers Hospitality - The French Manor – Adams Cable Service

Signal 1 Fire Equipment – Top Notch Distributors

Reinfurt Excavating – Olsommer Clarke Insurance Group

Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic – Ledgesdale Recreation Area

Spall, Rydzewski, Anderson, Lalley and Tunis – Dirlam Bros Lumber Co. – Citizens Savings Bank

Cove Haven Entertainment Resorts - PDQ Print Center – FNCB – Gresham's Chop House

Honesdale National Bank – Woodloch – RE/MAX of Lake Wallenpaupack – Dutch's Market

AM Skier Insurance – Kohanski Company PC – Overboards Restaurant

Platform Industries – Highhouse Energy – Van Gordens Furniture – Mick's Barber Shop – Murray Physical Therapy

Weichert Realtors Paupack Group/Debbie Friese – Lackawanna College (Lake Region) – Mick's Barber Shop – Case Tire Service