

Notes *from the* FOREST

Spring 2023 Newsletter



The Mark and Courtney Peterson Nature Preserve



At the end of last year (2022), Lacawac Sanctuary was privileged to receive a donation of 87 acres of forested land in Lackawaxen Township, Pike County from Mark and Courtney Peterson. Here is their story and how they came to select Lacawac to permanently conserve their land.

Dr. Mark Peterson grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota in a region surrounded by forests and lakes. But as a young veterinarian, Mark moved to New York City the mid-1970's to pursue his career. After living in the middle of the City for a couple of years, Mark was invited to visit a client's wooded retreat in the Northern Poconos of Pennsylvania. It was there, away from the from the hustle and bustle of the big city, that he began to truly appreciate the beauty of nature and the quiet of the forest.

During the next few years, Mark made frequent visits to his client's property, which was comprised of 1000+ acres of completely

wooded land situated along the Lackawaxen River in Pike County. Mark fell in love with the property, spending many hours wandering through the land's undeveloped forests. On his many hikes, he observed a variety of wild animals living on the land, including deer, black bears, coyotes, fox, raccoons, and opossums. Mark began to truly appreciate land conservation and how important it is to protect such undeveloped habitats needed for animals to survive and thrive.

As the years passed, Mark decided that he was ready to own a few acres of his own in Pike County. In the late 1980's, Mark told his client and now friend, that if she ever sold the property, he would be interested in purchasing some land from her. She agreed, but said she had no plans to sell. However, in the early 1990's, Mark was surprised and shocked to learn that his friend had sold her land to a developer. Thankfully, Mark would soon find out that his friend saved about 130 acres of

prime, undeveloped land for him.

After borrowing money from his family to purchase the land, Mark set out to settle into his new land setting up a rustic shanty as a get-away from city living. Over time, Mark was able to break ground and construct a house on the property in 1995.

Prior to and after his marriage to Courtney, Mark continued to purchase additional tracts of land that became available for sale adjacent to his property in Lackawaxen Township. The Peterson's felt strongly about protecting and conserving as much land as possible from development.

With an intense desire to conserve their land and after years of exploring various ways and nonprofits to protect their land from any development, Courtney and Mark unexpectedly learned of Lacawac Sanctuary through a friend. After some time discussing their needs with representatives from Lacawac, the Peterson's felt it was a right fit to have Lacawac conserve their land. When asked why they chose Lacawac, Mark and Courtney said that one of the deciding factors was Lacawac's mission of research and education. Ultimately, they felt comfortable that Lacawac would ensure their land would remain beautiful and undeveloped for all future generations.





MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN 2023

Memberships are a critical part of our success in bringing science and nature programming to people of all ages. As a member-supported organization, Lacawac Sanctuary Environmental Education Center relies on our donors to help us deliver year-round environmental education to our whole community. By renewing your membership, you are a part of inspiring a new generation of environmentally literate citizens!

Our Members help us to:

- Keep Lacawac open to the public as a community resource, free of charge;
- Offer unique science and nature programs, year-round, for all ages;
- Serve more than 3000 K-12 students each year with field trips and camps;
- Engage the best environmental educators, researchers and scientists in providing natural history programs, citizen science projects to promote environmental literacy.

Renew today:

www.lacawac.org/membership.html

Annual Membership Benefits by Level	Lifetime Circle \$1000*	Leadership Circle \$500	Sustaining \$250	Caretaker \$100	Family \$55	Individual \$35
Notes from the Forest, Lacawac's biannual e-newsletter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regular email updates with latest news, events, etc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free or discounted admission to other nature centers through ANCA (Association of Nature Center Administrators)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Invitations to member-only events such as Member Appreciation Day, Free Seasonal Nature Walks, Springtime Member Restoration Workday	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Priority registration for summer day camps	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10% discount on event rentals at Lacawac's Historic Watres Lodge and Carriage House	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Recognition on Lacawac's website	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Adopt an acre of land for one year	✓	✓	✓			
Four complimentary registrations to select fee-based programs	✓	✓				
Private nature walk for you and your friends	✓					



The Sound of History Being Repaired

By Caitlin Heaney West / The Times
Tribune

Legend says that if you listened hard enough, you could hear the Watres family chimes ring from miles away. Many years have passed since those massive chimes have truly rung, however, Lacawac Sanctuary wants to change that.

The 16 brass chimes once hung in Pen-y-Bryn, a 23-room estate on Elmhurst Boulevard in Scranton that belonged to Col. Louis A. Watres and his wife. They were one of 438 sets of chimes that the Deagan Tower Chime System of Chicago produced, according to newspaper archives.

A former lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania and the namesake of the former Scranton armory, Watres served as a soldier, lawyer, banker and street-car owner during the course of his career. He helped develop Lake Wallenpaupack in the 1920s and ran for governor twice on the Republican ticket.

But Watres also enjoyed pipe organs and chimes, going so far as to install organs in the Chamber of Commerce's former building and in Green Ridge Suburban Church. A Mason, he also had a \$30,000 set installed in the George Washington Masonic National

Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, in late 1929. Watres had served as president of the memorial association and broken the ground for the memorial in 1922.

In July 1928, Watres installed his set of Deagan chimes on his estate, where they could be played manually by keyboard or automatically using perforated paper in the style of player pianos, according to newspaper archives. They weighed more than 10,000 pounds, with the largest chime coming in at 14 feet long and more than 800 pounds. Supposedly, people could hear them ringing in East Mountain from all the way in downtown Scranton, Lukatch said.

But the music was not to last. In March 1937, Pen-y-Bryn caught fire. Although made of stone, the interior consisted of wood that the five-hour fire consumed along with many antiques and paintings. Neighbors rushed to save some of the home's valuable items, and firefighters rescued a maid from an upper floor, newspaper archives show. A report in The Tribune noted that the flames "ripped through the tile roof as if it were papier mache and forked 50 to 100 feet above the granite turret."

The city fire superintendent identified crossed wires in a third-floor partition as the cause of the fire. Watres estimated the loss at \$250,000.

While the chimes survived, the method of playing them did not. Watres died just a few months after the fire, and his family never rebuilt the home. Instead, the chimes moved to Lacawac Sanctuary, which Watres' grandson, L. Arthur Watres, established with his mother in 1966.

They remained quiet in storage until the 1990s, when the sanctuary "decided to resurrect them," Lukatch said. Aside from one cracked chime that it repaired, they remained in great shape, he said. The sanctuary installed them in a new tower and rang the chimes until an electrical problem silenced them once again.

Since then, people could ring them with a mallet but not the original strikers, Lukatch said. He then got connected with two former board members who wondered about getting the chimes working again,



which got the current fundraising project rolling.

"We thought we would assess the situation to see what needed to be done, and that's kind of why we're moving them," Lukatch said.

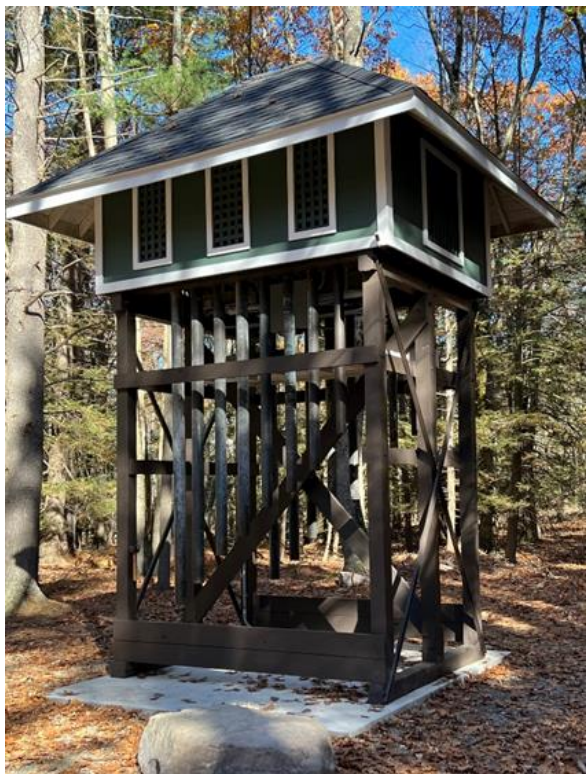
The current structure holding the chimes sat on wood, which has begun to rot. Lacawac moved them across the road from its current location and placed it on a concrete base. Lacawac also added a fresh coat of paint to the structure.

"When they were put up in the '90s, they were only meant to be there in the spot they're at temporarily just to raise awareness about the chimes," Lukatch said. "We're putting them into a permanent location."

Lukatch expects Lacawac will ring the chimes for special occasions and maybe even host concerts. They won't ring out regularly or mark the time of day because of their volume level and proximity to the sanctuary's lodge, where people stay and hold special events.

The chimes have so much history, Lukatch said, and add another component to the sanctuary.

"It was part of the (Watres) family legacy. ... It's been a longtime goal of the family to see these ring out again," he said.



Chatlos Education Center Is Going Solar Thanks to Green Mountain Energy Sun Club

Lacawac Sanctuary is taking another step toward sustainability by installing a solar array on the roof of its environmental education center building. Green Mountain Energy Sun Club donated nearly \$43,000 for this eco-friendly upgrade.

The 8.28 kW solar array will reduce the building's carbon footprint and serve as an educational tool. The new system will offset 100% of the building's energy needs.

Lacawac believes it is important to form values that foster environmental stewardship and conservation early and thus focuses much of our programming on children and families. Lacawac is currently the only environmental education center focusing on PreK-12 students and schools in Wayne County.

The estimated savings for the lifetime of the solar array system are expected to be \$47,000. The annual expected savings of \$2,300 will be used towards free environmental education programming for hundreds of K-12 students, most of whom are from low to moderate income families.



Pictured: Natalie Wasilchak, Environmental Educator Lacawac Sanctuary and Bob Craven, President of Nevarc Electric who will be completing the work.

"Lacawac is currently constructing a new environmental education center where children and educators can come together to understand, appreciate, and protect our natural resources," said Craig Lukatch, President of Lacawac. "Lacawac's education center will be a gathering place in a stunning setting for the entire community. Lacawac is grateful that Green Mountain Energy Sun Club is helping us shape the next generation of earth stewards through their donation."

Since 2002, the Green Mountain Energy Sun Club has been empowering local communities by donating nearly \$13 million to 156 nonprofit organizations across Texas and the Northeast. The Sun Club program invites its customers and employees to contribute and help support more projects that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship. This one-of-a-kind model intrinsically ties community engagement to Green Mountain employees and customers.

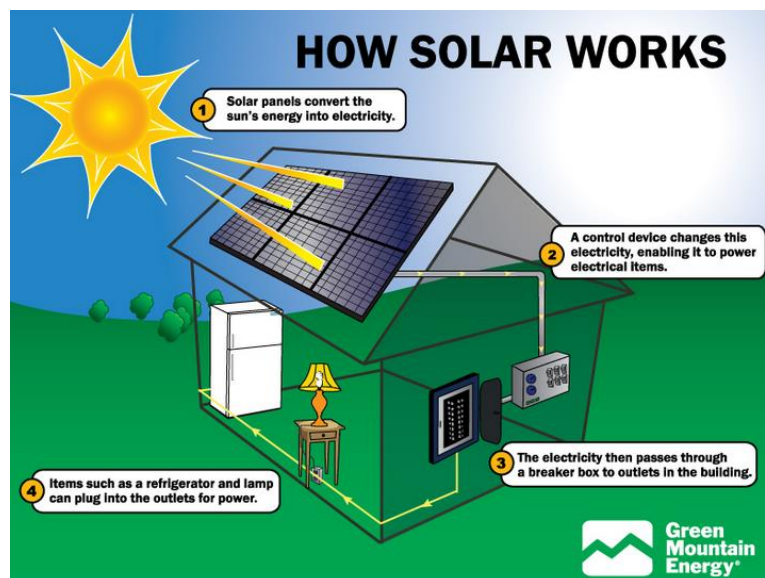
"While many nonprofit organizations are committed to clean energy, solar is one way to meet those goals, they often lack the funding to install a solar panel system," said Mark Parsons, vice president and general manager for Green Mountain Energy. "We are honored to collaborate with Lacawac Sanctuary to support these sustainable upgrades and use them to educate and inspire those thinking about switching to solar energy."

The primary goal of Lacawac's education programs is to build Earth stewardship, which is best achieved by guiding students through a variety of learning. Lacawac works with students ages five to eleven to

help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to understand the interconnections between nature and humans. For our older students, Lacawac believes that one must instill respect for nature and stewardship of the Earth, by preparing students to weigh the impacts of their own actions on the natural world and make choices that cultivate a thriving, healthy environment that supports all life.

At Lacawac, the educators teach place-based education, because of its belief direct contact with the environment is not only the best way to build a lasting connection to the natural world but is also fundamental to understanding and relating to global environmental issues.

About Green Mountain Energy Sun Club
Green Mountain Energy is changing the way power is made and advancing sustainable communities through the work of Green Mountain Energy Sun Club. Since 2002, Sun Club® has donated more than \$13 million to 156 nonprofit organizations across Texas and the Northeast. Sun Club collaborates with nonprofit organizations on projects that focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency, resource conservation, and environmental stewardship. To learn more about Green Mountain Energy and Sun Club or to apply for a Sun Club grant, visit greenmountain.com/sunclub.





ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**All Programs Require
Registration.**

More information at
lacawac.org/programs.html



Hands on with Herps Survey
Saturday, April 29th
9:00 am - \$5 per person



Wild Edibles
Wednesday, May 10th
6:30 pm - \$7 per person



Morning Paddle on Lake
Lacawac
Saturday, May 20th
9:00 am - \$10 per person



Tour of the Historic Lodge
Saturday, June 3rd
10:00 am



Tour of the Historic Lodge
Saturday, July 16th
1:00 pm



Wild Wellness Yoga
Saturday, June 17th
9:00 am - \$10 per person



Natural Basket Weaving
Thursday, July 20th
6:00 pm - \$15 per person



Evening Paddle on Lake
Lacawac
Thursday, July 13th
6:00 pm \$10 per person



Live Birds of Prey
Saturday, August 5th
10:00 am - \$5 per person

Click the link for more information or to register:
www.lacawac.org/programs.html

Are you a member of a lake association tasked with managing your community's lake?
Do you have questions about what, where, and when you should monitor to keep your lake healthy?

Are you concerned about water quality changes in your lake?

PLEON

LAKE SCHOOL

MAY 19-21, 2023

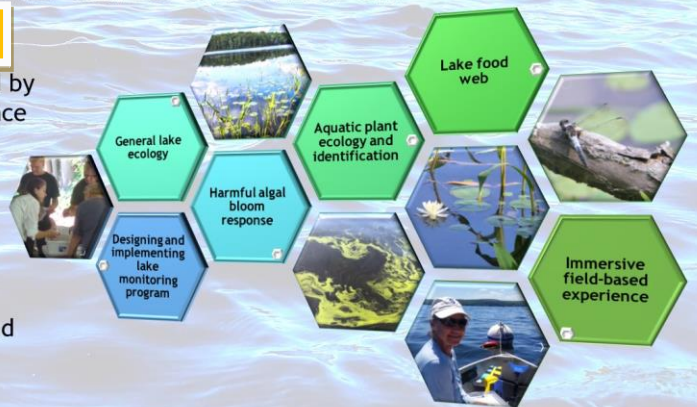
Become a confident lake steward!

For more information: www.lacawac.org/pleon-lake-school.html

Join us for an immersive, field-based lake stewardship course led by lake scientists. Learn lake ecology basics, gain hands-on experience monitoring water quality, practice interpreting data, discuss emerging threats to PA lakes, and join a network of regional lake associations facing the same challenges!

Topics include:

- Chemical and physical characteristics of lakes
- Lake food webs
- Harmful algal blooms, nutrient enrichment, invasive species, and other lake threats
- Designing and implementing a monitoring program on your lake



Registration opens on March 15, 2023. Space is limited. Visit lacawac.org for information.

Financial and other support for the PLEON Lake School has been provided by the Department of Environmental Protection's 2022 Environmental Education Grants Program. Additional support provided by Lacawac Sanctuary, Brookfield Renewable US and the National Science Foundation (DEB #175427)



SPRING VOLUNTEER DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 15

9 am – 12 NOON

(Rain Date Sunday April 16)



LACAWAC STAFF

Craig Lukatch, President -
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Sign Up at: www.lacawac.org/programs.html

**Thursday
June 29th**

6-8 pm

Lacawac's
Carriage House

\$45 per person

*A special occasion to
raise funds for our
preservation and
education mission!*

Tickets available at:

lacawac.org/cocktails-for-conservation.html

Purchase Tickets at:
www.lacawac.org/cocktails-for-conservation.html



**Cocktails for
CONSERVATION**

Evening Hike

Evening Hike

Wednesday, June 7th

6:00 pm



Register at

<https://www.lacawac.org/programs.html>

Save the Date!
Lacawac Night at the Park

Tuesday June 20th



RailRiders Vs. Buffalo Bisons

Game Time: 6:35 PM

(Gates Open at 5:35 PM)

More information on Tickets Sales Coming
Soon



BECOME A LAKE SCIENTIST

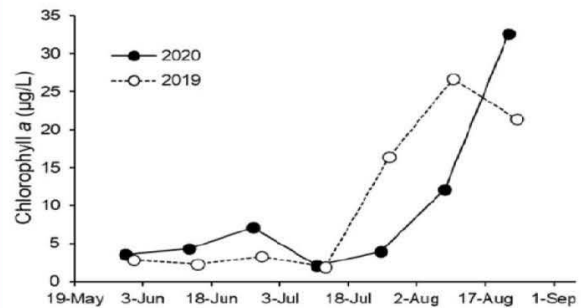
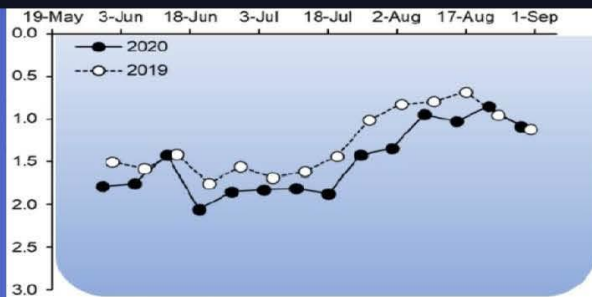
JOIN PLEON'S HANDS-ON, COMMUNITY-LED LAKE WALLEPAUPACK MONITORING PROGRAM

BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD BY MEASURING WATER QUALITY FROM YOUR WALLEPAUPACK BOAT OR DOCK

Working together, community scientists help understand how and why Wallenpaupack water quality changes over space and time.

The PLEON Wallenpaupack Community Water Quality Monitoring Program is looking for volunteers! Participating is easy:

- Attend a training workshop to learn how to collect water quality data and to receive a sampling kit
- Sample from your dock or boat once a week during the summer
- Enter your data into the mobile app
- See your data and all the results at the Fall Discussion forum



Appropriate for school-age children as well as adults. Great for science projects!

2023 training schedule:
May 26th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm
May 27th, 10 am-noon
June 3rd, 10 am to noon

Register at:
www.lacawac.org/citizen-science.html

Trainings held at Lacawac Sanctuary:
94 Sanctuary Rd, Lake Ariel PA
18436



About Camp at Lacawac Sanctuary:

Lacawac's 550-acre field station has meandering trails, open fields, lakes, and wetlands in which to explore. Experience nature through hands-on activities, artistic expression, thematic games, scientific experiments, and environmental observation. Campers will be fully immersed in our living laboratory and discover how they fit into the complex web of our diverse ecosystem. Lacawac stands true to its mission of research, education, and preservation by shaping the next generation of scientists and environmental stewards.

Camp Staff:

- Counselors have many years of experience working with children and teaching environmental education.
- All counselors, junior counselors, and interns have obtained child abuse and criminal history checks.
- A counselor to camper ratio of 1:8 is maintained and counselors are trained in first aid/CPR.
- Counselors know that exploring nature is the most effective way to instill a sense of wonder and love for the environment.

Pricing:

- All nature day camps are \$150 per week. Art camps are \$160 (Include the cost of supplies)
- Before and After Care available.
- **Discounts** are available for siblings and referring a friend.

A full listing of our Summer Camps at www.lacawac.org/summer-camps.html



CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP ACADEMY: *The Adventure Awaits*

*Residential Camp
Ages 13-17
June 18-23*

More information at:
www.lacawac.org/conservation-leadership-academy.html



A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people.

— Franklin D. Roosevelt



Trail Signage Sponsorship Program

Trail Sign Sponsorships are a perfect way to support Lacawac's mission of research, education and preservation while receiving maximum exposure in a beautiful natural setting. Thousands of people visit Lacawac each year including school groups, families, adults and children of all ages. Show your support for Lacawac's Trails to the thousands of trail users by sponsoring the production of trail signage. Not only will your support allow Lacawac to design and produce directional sign posts but you will be helping to support advocacy and access to trails for your friends, family, neighbors, and even clients. All funds will be designated for trail maintenance and ongoing upkeep. As a 501(c)3 organization, contributions to Lacawac Sanctuary are tax-deductible.

Questions? Contact Craig Lukatch, President at craig.lukatch@lacawac.org

Trailhead Signs - \$1,000 Contribution

Located at trail access points with sponsor name/logo recognition
Three signs on each trails at the access points
Additional recognition at the Coulter Visitor Center kiosk

Trails Available

- Lakefront Trail
- Osprey Trail

Trailblaze Signs - \$500 Contribution

Located at smaller trail access points with sponsor name/logo recognition
Two signs on each trail at the access points

Trails Available

- Ledges Trail
- Rhododendron Trail
- White Oak Trail
- Wild Turkey Trail
- Lake Lacawac Spur
- Maurice Broun Spur

Trail Connector/Overlook Signs - \$250 Contribution

Located at smaller trail access junctions or overlooks.
Sponsor name/logo recognition, One sign on the trail at the access point
\$250 contribution to Lacawac

Trails Available

- Carriage Trail
- Partner Ridge Trail
- Maurice Broun Overlook
- Ledges Overlook
- Lake Lacawac Boardwalk Overlook

Trail Signage Sponsorship Commitment

I would like to support Lacawac Sanctuary's Trails by sponsoring the following trail:

Enclosed is my donation of: \$1000 \$500 \$250

Name: _____

Address: _____

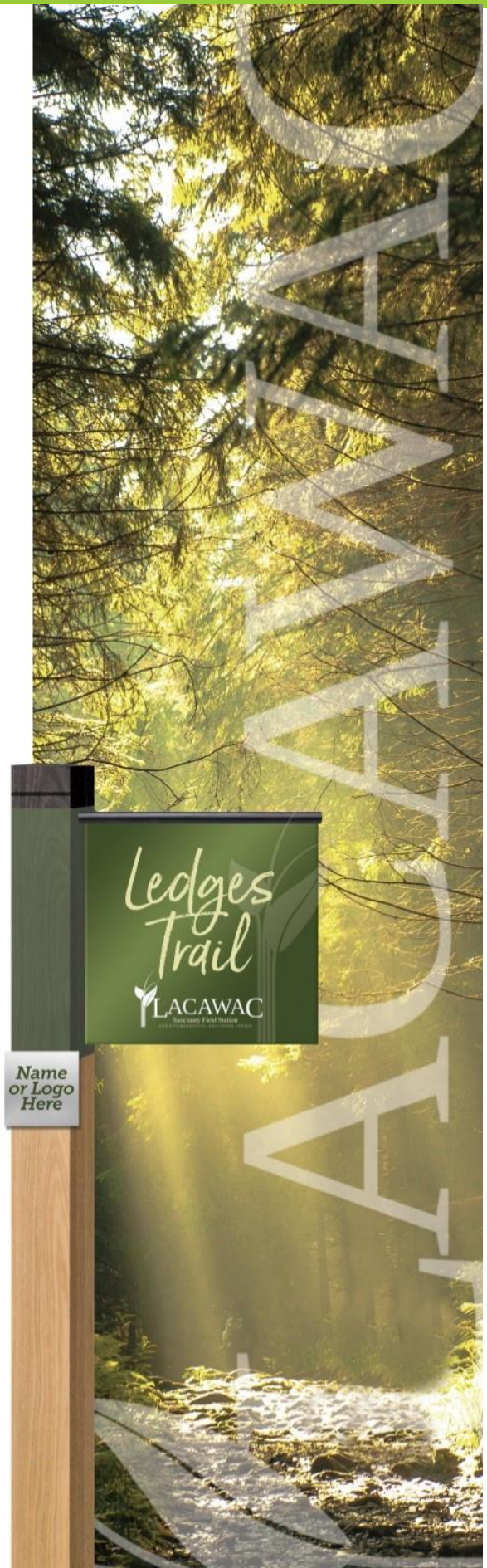
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name Listed on Trail Signage as:

(Email a hi-res version of your logo (if applicable) to craig.lukatch@lacawac.org)

Please make checks payable to Lacawac Sanctuary and return with completed form to Lacawac Sanctuary, 94 Sanctuary Road, Lake Ariel PA 18436.



More information and online credit card payment available at:
www.lacawac.org/trail-signage-program.html

THANK YOU
to all of our sponsors!

Brookfield

Renewable U.S.



Reinfurt Excavating – Paupack Fuel Oil, Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning
Wallenpaupack Veterinary Clinic – Kiley Associates – T. E. Spall & Son – Ledgedale Rec. Area
Eastern Roofing Systems– Nevarc Electric – Olsommer Clarke Insurance Group

Spall, Rydzewski, Anderson, Lalley and Tunis – Dirlam Bros Lumber Co. – Citizens Savings Bank
Cove Haven Entertainment Resorts - PDQ Print & Fulfillment Center – FNCB – Gresham’s Chop House
Honesdale National Bank – Woodloch – RE/MAX of Lake Wallenpaupack – Dutch’s Market
AM Skier Agency – Kohanski Company PC – Overboards Restaurant – Wallenpaupack Lake Estates
Mick’s Barber Shop - Woodloch

Platform Industries – Highhouse Energy – Van Gorders Furniture – Murray Physical Therapy – Nature’s Grace
Weichert Realtors Paupack Group/Debbie Friese – Lackawanna College (Lake Region) – Mick’s Barber Shop – Case Tire Service
Hessling Murray Funeral Home – Pranzo’s Auto Service – Topp Business Solutions