

Notes *from the* FOREST

Spring 2024 Newsletter



LACAWAC'S NEWEST ADDITION: William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center

Lacawac's dream to have adequate space to host education programs for K-12 students and the public has finally come to fruition. In May the Board of Trustees and Lacawac Staff will officially open the new William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

The dream for a new space for education began in 2017 when our founder Arthur Watres' son sold the family home located in the heart of the sanctuary to Lacawac. Lacawac immediately began work on securing funding for the purchase of the home and for the renovations and construction of the new center. With the help of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Chatlos Roegner Charitable Gift

Trust, and support from donors and foundations, Lacawac was able to raise the necessary funds to develop its new education center.

In late 2022 renovations began on the existing structure and were completed by the summer of 2023. Renovations made way for The Overlook Estate Foundation Classroom, The Bonnie Yablon Conference Room, The John A. and Margaret Post Foundation Classroom, a new ADA entrance and bathroom, an education prep room and space for educational displays. Renovations also included a new roof, a solar array donated by Green Mountain Energy's Sun Club, and a new heating and

Architect's rendering of the education center prior to construction



cooling system.

Besides renovations, Lacawac created plans to construct a new 3,000 square foot addition to the center. Construction on the building began in July of last year and construction is substantially completed as of the end of March. The addition connects to the existing building by a decked surface and courtyard. The lower-level houses storage and a wet laboratory for all ages to learn about ecology with hands-on activities, modern equipment, and up-to-date resources. The upper-level or great room with its cathedral ceiling is spacious to host field trips, summer camps, educational workshops, retreats, and meetings in a comfortable and adaptable setting. A deck facing Heron Pond gives spectacular views of Lacawac and even our nesting Osprey.

Lacawac is indebted to all those who have supported the development of our new center and helped our vision become reality. We cannot wait for you to visit and see the new space!



William E. Chatlos Environmental Education Center Major Donors

Visionary Circle - \$250,000+

The Chatlos Roegner Charitable Gift Fund

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

Leader Circle - \$50,000+

Chad Reed Watres

A. Donald & Mary G. Behler Foundation

Builder Circle - \$25,000+

Green Mountain Energy Sun Club

Overlook Estate Foundation

Paul and Cindy Wackerbarth

John A. and Margaret Post Foundation

Wayne Bank

Partner Circle - \$10,000+

The Dime Bank

Jonathan D. Krist Foundation

Bonnie Yablon

John and Helen Villaume Foundation

Honesdale National Bank Foundation

Champion Circle - \$2,500 - \$5000

NBT Bank

ESSA Bank Foundation

The Watres Family Charitable Fund

Schiel Family Foundation

Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation

Dr. Susan S. Kilham

Construction Progress Photos!



Introducing Lake Wallenpaupack Community Association Shoreline Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring Program

Algae are normal and important parts of lake food webs. They produce oxygen through photosynthesis, and they are food for zooplankton that are in turn, eaten by small fish. However, sometimes algae populations grow too fast and too much. This is called a bloom. Algal blooms that negatively impact humans or the ecosystem are called harmful algal blooms, or HABs. HABs can be unsightly, smell bad, and even cause fish kills. Cyanobacteria, sometimes called blue-green algae, are a type of bacteria that are often grouped with algae. They are found in almost all lake ecosystems. When cyanobacteria bloom, we call the bloom a cyanoHAB. Some cyanobacteria can produce toxins as byproduct of their metabolism. When these cyanobacteria bloom and produce toxins, this is a toxic cyanoHAB.

ARE HABs DANGEROUS?

HABs can cause decreased water clarity, interfere with boating and recreation, or cause a bad odor or taste. However, toxic cyanoHABs can directly impact human and pet health due to the cyanotoxins they produce. There are many different cyanotoxins that can have a range of effects on humans and pets. They can affect the liver, kidney, or cause skin reactions. Some, like saxitoxin, affect the nervous system. Health consequences of cyanotoxin exposure can be acute or may manifest over the long-term. Exposure to cyanotoxins can occur by contacting or ingesting contaminated water. Spray from boats or jet skis can aerosolize water droplets, increasing exposure risk.

DO TOXIC CYANO-HABs OCCUR IN LAKE WALLENPAUPACK?

Yes. High abundances of potentially toxic cyanobacteria occur in Wallenpaupack and detectable concentrations of cyanotoxins have been measured since 2018. However, there is no comprehensive HABs monitoring or cyanotoxin testing regimen for Lake Wallenpaupack. So, while long-lasting, lake-wide cyanoHABs are common in Lake Wallenpaupack, their toxicity remains unknown.

HOW DO I KNOW IF THERE IS A CYANOHAB NEAR MY SHORELINE?

Cyano-HABs are often, although not always, visible. They can appear as scum, slicks, or streaks on the water surface or as visible particles suspended in the water. Sometimes they look like spilled paint, blobs, grass clippings, or even like pea soup. They can be green, blue-green, gray-green, or other colors. When collected in a bottle or jar, the cyanobacteria tend to float

to the surface. These are common, but not exhaustive, signs of a cyanoHAB.

There is no way to tell if a cyanoHAB is toxic just by looking at it. The only way to know if there are cyanotoxins present is to test the water for specific toxins. The best practice is "if in doubt, stay out!"

DOES PENNSYLVANIA OR ANY ENTITY MONITOR WALLENPAUPACK FOR CYANOHABs OR CYANOTOXINS?

No. There are currently no mandated testing, reporting, or toxin concentration thresholds for recreational waters in Pennsylvania. These decisions are left to individuals and lake communities. There is currently no comprehensive cyanoHABs monitoring or cyanotoxin testing program for Lake Wallenpaupack.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This program provides Wallenpaupack communities with cyanobacteria screening and cyanotoxin testing. PLEON will collect water samples from shoreline locations such as docks, boat slips, or beaches. Samples are shipped overnight to Greenwater Laboratories for screening and/or toxin analysis. Communities can customize sampling schedules and plans to suit their needs.

Members of the program receive these additional benefits:

- Measure of water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen (if sampling location allows)
- Printed information signs to post at testing locations
- Template language for communicating testing and results to community members via print, email, social media
- Educational presentation on HABs and cyanoHABs by PLEON to the community

For more information or to join the program contact Dr. Beth Norman at beth.norman@lacawac.org



Upcoming Programs

Visit Lacawac.org/programs.html for more information or to register



Yoga for Hikers

Saturday, April 13
10:00 a.m.

\$15.00 Per/Person



Morning Bird Walk

Sunday, May 5
8:30 a.m.

Free



Essentials of Outdoor Safety & Awareness Workshop

Sunday, April 14
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Free



Spring Wild Edibles

Saturday, May 11
6:00 p.m.

\$7.00 Per/person



Full Moon Hike

Tuesday, April 23
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

FREE



National Birding Day Breakfast

Saturday, April 27
8:00 a.m.

\$5.00 per/person



Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Sunday, May 12
3:00 p.m.

\$30 per person



Tour of the Historic Watres Lodge

Saturday, May 4
10:00 a.m.

Free

More information on all our programs at www.lacawac.org/programs.html



About Summer 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.

Offering
More Camp
Options in
2024

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

Scholarships are available for those who may need some financial assistance. Please visit our website for more information and the application process.



LACAWAC LUNCH & LEARN

1st Saturday of the Month at 11 am

June - November 2024

Chatlos Environmental Education Center at Lacawac Sanctuary

Engaging seminars on a wide range of topics presented by experts in their field. Join the speaker for further discussion and lunch following the seminar. Perfect for lifelong learners!

See lacawac.org/programs for list of speakers and to register

*Where Nature, Science,
History and Creativity
Meet!*

More information at
www.lacawac.org/lacawac-artists-residency.html

2024 Residencies:

May 5-11 Spring I

June 9 -15 Summer I

June 16-22 Summer II

August 4-10 Summer III



LAR
Lacawac Artists' Residency

Featuring Samples by



three hammers winery

Thursday, June 27

6-8 pm | \$45 per person



Cocktails for CONSERVATION

More information at: <https://www.lacawac.org/cocktails-for-conservation.html>

Save the Date...

LACAWAC SQUARE DANCE

Featuring Banjo Playdate with
musical guests:

Dave Husic

Happy Hollow String Band

Caller: Pete Taney

Saturday, June 22, 2024

7 pm

Join us for an evening of old-time music and dancing

No dance experience necessary!

Wine and beer cash bar

Proceeds will support Lacawac's undergraduate student internship program.

More information coming soon! Visit
lacawac.org/programs or jeffnormanbanjo.com

Fork & Cork

LACAWAC
SANCTUARY
DINNER PARTY

Indulge in a culinary extravaganza with

Chef Keegan Marchand

from



(Drinks will be crafted by Chris Cykosky, Restaurateur, and music provided by Emma Dilemma Entertainment)

Friday, June 7, 2024

6 pm Cocktails 7 pm Dinner



Chatlos Environmental Education Center

Tickets and more information at:

<https://www.lacawac.org/fork-and-cork-dinner.html>

\$130 per person

**Are you a member of a lake association tasked with
managing your community's lake?
Have questions about how to keep your lake healthy?
Concerned about water quality changes in your lake?**

Become a confident lake steward!



MAY 17-19, 2024

LACAWAC SANCTUARY

<https://www.lacawac.org/pleon-lake-school.html>

**A HANDS-ON, FIELD-BASED LAKE STEWARDSHIP COURSE BY
LAKE SCIENTISTS**

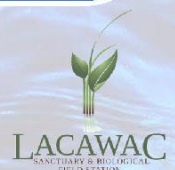
Topics include:

- Chemical & physical lake characteristics
- Lake food webs
- Algal blooms, invasive species, & other threats
- Designing & implementing a lake monitoring program



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

Photo credit: M. Kocan, 2018



walk[®] WITH a DOC

**Saturday, April 13
Starting at 9 a.m.**

Lacawac Sanctuary
94 Sanctuary Rd., Lake Ariel, PA 18436

This doctor-led group is a fun and safe place to go for a walk, learn about health, and meet new friends. The event is **FREE**, and all are welcome. **Future walks will be held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 9 a.m.**



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Questions?

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LipinskiN@TheWrightCenter.org
570.904.1123

Questions?

Craig Lukatch
craig.lukatch@lacawac.org
570.689.9494

We are a local chapter of an international 501(c)3. Learn more at walkwithadoc.org.



**For Rising 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12
Graders**

Conservation Leadership Academy

July 28 – August 2

Lake Ariel, PA



Lacawac's Conservation Leadership Academy is a summer adventure and learning experience for junior high and high school students at Lacawac Sanctuary in Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania. Students gain hands-on experience while studying and working in the lush forest and lake ecosystems of the Pocono Mountains. Camp instructors are composed of prominent scientists and conservation professionals from across the State of Pennsylvania. Room, board, and meals are included in program cost. Students will be responsible for transportation to and from the program site at the start and end of the program.

COSTS – Tiered Pricing from \$200-\$800

SCHOLARSHIPS - A limited number of need-based scholarships are available for students.



Native Garden Workday/ Meetup

Learn about Lacawac's native plant garden with Diane Tabone! Assist with garden maintenance, projects, and more!

Monday, April 15, 2024

Meet at the Visitors Center for 10:00 a.m.

Volunteer Work Day!

Spring Clean Up Day

Spring clean-up and site project help is needed. Trails need to be cleared, leaves need to be raked away from the buildings, painting projects, plus much more. All ages welcome. Snacks and drinks will be provided!

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Meet at the Visitors Center. Clean-up runs from 9 AM - NOON.

welcome

TO THE TEAM



Nichole Seul

Assistant Director of School Programs

Nichole is from Milford Pennsylvania and has been a dedicated outdoor professional for the past 8 years, working in various roles across the field. She has spent most of her career working with youth education, most recently with the Pocono Environmental Education Center and Girl Scouts of Greater New York. She has also worked closely with New York State Parks assisting with sustainable trail development, endangered species research, and providing wildland fire protection



Allison McDermott

Marketing & Social Media Specialist

Allison is a long-term resident of Lake Ariel. She graduated from Western Wayne High School in 2020 and continued her academic career at Marywood University. In May, she will graduate from Marywood with a BFA in Graphic Design. Growing up, Allison spent her summers working outdoors as a camp counselor for the Hideout. Recently, she has developed an interest in photography and is eager to explore and experiment with photographing nature.

LACAWAC STAFF

Craig Lukatch, President -
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Spring Photo Contest

April 1st – May 31st

All photos must be taken at Lacawac
Sanctuary or the Browning Beaver Meadow
Sanctuary

www.lacawac.org/spring-photo-contest.html

Image by freepik

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

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