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Notes from the FOREST

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News from the Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation

January/February 2015

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New Consortium Member Natural Lands Trust and Bear Creek Preserve

Lacawac has been partnering with conservation organizations, including land trusts, to help support environmental issues, collaborative research and education for the public, our member institutions and ourselves.

One of our partners is Natural Lands Trust, Southeastern Pennsylvania's largest conservation organization. Each year, NLT saves thousands of acres of open space in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey and owns the region's largest system of private nature preserves.

One newer NLT preserve is the Bear Creek Preserve, a large public preserve just outside Wilkes-Barre. Bear Creek Preserve is a vast expanse of forests and steep stream valleys in the Lehigh River Watershed. The 3,412-acre preserve—larger than many state parks—provides critical habitat for a myriad of wildlife species, including black bear, coyote, and many migratory songbirds.



Highlights include 21 miles of unpaved trails. Wildlife including the birds Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Hermit Thrush, Kestrel, and Bald Eagle and animals like American mink, eastern coyote, fisher cat, bobcat, and black bear.

The main entrance to the Bear Creek Preserve is 47 Rabbit Run Lane, Bear Creek Twp, PA located along Rt 115 at Rabbit Run Lane, 2.8 miles south of Bear Creek Village and 8.5 miles north of Blakeslee.

For more information on Bear Creek Preserve please go to www.natlands.org or contact Preserve Manager, Joe Vinton at, 570-647-9175 or jvinton@natlands.org

Y.E.S. Afterschool Program

Lacawac's Y.E.S. (Youth and Environmental Sciences) Afterschool Program, a science-based enhancement program throughout Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wayne counties, is offered once a week in various enrichment and afterschool centers for approximately one to two hours based on the number of children enrolled. The program is led by trained and experienced environmental educators and naturalists who inspire and inform youth from grades kindergarten through sixth about the wonders of the natural world. One key component of Lacawac's YES program is inquiry-based and hands-on learning. Staff facilitate discovery through nontraditional methods of learning.

Y.E.S. is free of charge to program participants and child-care/afterschool centers and facilities, generously supported by The Scranton Area Foundation, First Federal Charitable Foundation, PNC Bank, M&T Bank, the Margaret Briggs Foundation, the Overlook Estate Foundation and People's Security Charitable Foundation.

For more information about our YES program or to bring this hands-on learning opportunity to an afterschool center, contact Jenna Mauder at educator@lacawac.org or 570.689.9494.

Winter and Early Spring 2015 Events and Programs

Fire and Ice Cocktail Event and Fundraiser

Thursday, January 22 6 p.m.- 8 p.m.
The Colonnade, 401 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton PA

Mix and mingle with friends and visitors while enjoying the warmth of a roaring fire, ice and vodkas at the Fire & Ice Cocktail Party and Fundraiser. Come help raise funds for Lacawac Sanctuary's K-12 Environmental & Science Education Outreach Programs in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Pike and Wayne Counties. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Attire is completely your choice.

Lacawac Sanctuary Fire & Ice Cocktail Event & Fundraiser

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door.

Come share the warmth!

Purchase Tickets: <http://lacawac-fire-and-ice.bpt.me/>

info@lacawac.org or 570.689.9494

Questions: Craig Lukatch - craig.lukatch@lacawac.org

Eagle Day

Saturday, January 24 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

PPL Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center

Join the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Lacawac Sanctuary for a free afternoon of fun for the whole family. Enjoy a presentation with live birds from Bill Streeter of Delaware Valley Raptor Center (two opportunities at 1:30pm and again at 3pm) and other fun activities to learn about eagles and other native birds—including building an eagle's nest!

*Note - you do not need to register in advance for this program.

Walkabout and wonder

Saturday, March 28 10 a.m. to noon

Meet at the Coulter Visitor's Center, Lacawac Sanctuary

Beat those winter blues by reconnecting to nature! Let our new naturalist educator, Jenna, introduce you to what she feels makes the sanctuary so special on her first guided hike at Lacawac. All ages and families are welcome on this interpretive hike to Lake Lacawac. We'll look for signs of animals and spring as we walk through the Historic Great Camp. Dress for the weather.

\$5 per person, \$10 for three. Lacawac Members are free.

Register by phone (570) 689-9494 or email info@lacawac.org.

Wee ones walk Saturday, April 18 10 a.m. to noon

Meet at the Coulter Visitor's Center, Lacawac Sanctuary

Bring your little ones, ages 3-5, for a walk outdoors with our naturalist educator Jenna. What will we hear? What will we smell? We'll use all five senses to explore our environment. This walk will conclude with a craft and a snack. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Registration is limited.

\$5 per person, \$10 for three. Register by phone (570) 689-9494 or email info@lacawac.org.

NEW K-12 PROGRAMS IN 2015

Lacawac-On-the-Go and Field Explorations for K-12 Lacawac is pleased to offer local school districts, private schools, charter schools, homeschoolers, and daycares Environmental Education programs in the classroom and field exploration opportunities at Lacawac.

At Lacawac, educational programming goes beyond curricula normally associated with a nature center. With a rich local history of Native American use, early settler development, agriculture and ecological diversity, Lacawac has a remarkable scope of elements readily at hand for diverse programs offering something for everyone, including programs for teachers, students, service groups, business leaders and community residents.

Lacawac's programs continue to educate students of all ages through hands-on, interactive outdoor activities focusing on environment & ecology. PreK through 12th grade.

Lacawac-On-the-Go Programs available to educators:

Watershed Program (grades 3-5) and **Green Living** (K-5)

School Field Trips to Lacawac:

Senses Adventure (grades K-1), **Amazing Adaptations** (grades 2-6), **Wonderful Watersheds** (grades 4-8), **Lake Advanced Ecology** (grades 9-12) **Biodiversity Basics** (5-8) and **A Green Future Discovery** (6-12).

Cost: 2 hours \$5 per student, 3 hours \$6 per student, 4 hours \$7 per student. Minimum \$60 per program. Parents and chaperones are free. Assistance may be available.

We are able to offer school programs at a reduced rate thanks to the generous support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development, Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program: Weis Markets, NBT Bank, The Dime Bank and BNY Mellon.

For more information contact Lacawac's naturalist, Jenna Mauder at 570.689.9494 or educator@lacawac.org



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Find out the latest programs and cool nature sightings at Lacawac.

Like our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/Lacawac

Welcome to Our Environmental Educators

When I was young, my Mom would tell me to “go outside and play.” I grew up in Maryland in a rural farming community right off the Chesapeake Bay. So I spent my time in the streams and woods. I had so many questions about the natural world around me. All that time spent outdoors as a curious child greatly affected me.

I began my education in the Art field but quickly took to Environmental courses. Upon graduating, there were few jobs in my field, this was early in the nature movement. I began my own art business but would close my studio during the summer and volunteer at the local nature center. After many years it led to a position that made me happy and passionate about what I was doing. I became the Environmental Education Director for Bear Creek Camp and years later the Water Education Specialist with Pennsylvania Resources Council.



Charlene Wildes

I found what I enjoy most is providing innovative, interactive, hands on programming to children as well as adults. To me, it is not just about my love of nature, but also to share that love and knowledge in hopes that others will become curious and passionate also. This has led me to currently work as the Environmental Center Coordinator for Mechanicsburg Area School District, as Nature Specialist for Lake Naomi Club as well as the Events Committee Chair and Naturalist for the North Branch Land Trust.

Today, I still spend much of my time outdoors, volunteering for the Land trust, providing programs, gardening, hiking and kayaking. The artist in me sees such incredible beauty in the natural world and the curious woman knows that nature is the ultimate teacher. There is always a continuous lesson begging me to find the answer. I am very excited to be part of this new team and looking forward to a great adventure working with the Lacawac Sanctuary.



**Jenna Wayne
Mauder**

My love for educating and all things natural started at a very young age along Lake Wallenpaupack's shoreline and neighboring forests. After graduating from East Stroudsburg University, I worked at a daycare, after-school program and substituted in Western Wayne's schools with my bachelor's for elementary education. Desiring more, I started my environmental career at Lackawanna College's Environmental Institute as a summer camp counselor and ecological educator on the Moffat Estate.

For the last 3 years, I've been the education and public outreach coordinator at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center. Responsible for scheduling events on the preserve and creating hands-on activities for visitor's to the center, I also led nature hikes, chaired the Pike-Wayne Earth

Day Festival committee for 3 years, organized Wally Lake Fest tours of the dam and power plant for over 1500 people, developed a Free Book Swap that has reused or recycled more than 13,000 books in our communities and established working relationships with many natural resource organizations within the Pike-Wayne Conservation Partnership. Together we've offered the public events like Eagle Viewing Tours, Eagle Day, the Pike-Wayne Earth Day Festival, Summer Nature Series for Kids, Science on Tap and the Recreation Series.

To Lacawac I bring a thirst for knowledge, passion for educating and love for our natural world. I enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, reading, sketching, laughing and exploring. This special, historic place thrills me and I'm looking forward to making great memories at Lacawac Sanctuary. 🌿