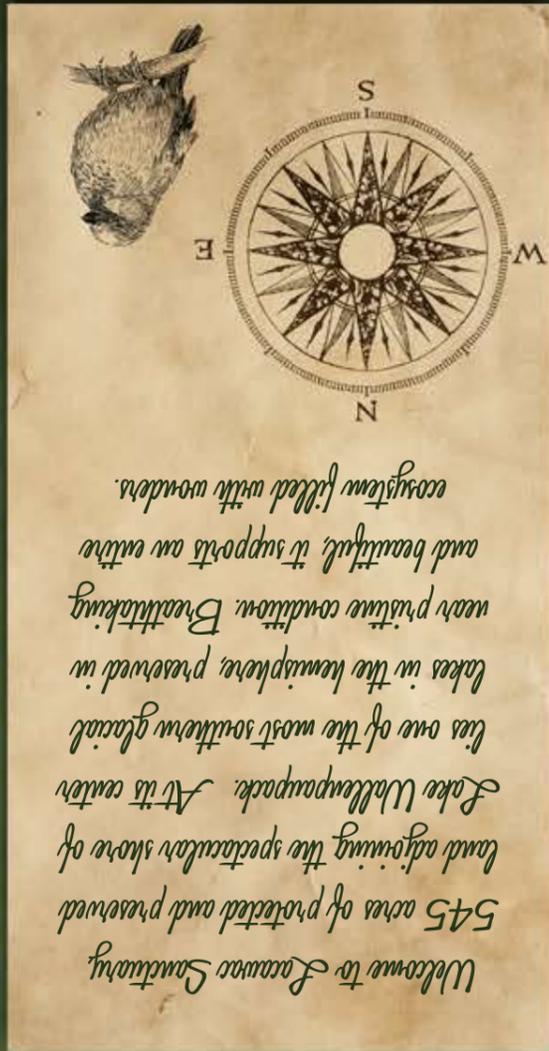




LACAWAC
SANCTUARY

Lose yourself.



545 acres of protected and preserved land adjoining the spectacular shore of Lake Wallenpaupack. At its center lies one of the most southern glacial lakes in the hemisphere, preserved in near pristine condition. Breathtaking and beautiful, it supports an entire ecosystem filled with wonders.

Find yourself.

Wagner County
POCONO MOUNTAINS, PA

94 Sanctuary Road
Lake Ariel, PA 18436
lacawac.org
570-689-9494

LACAWAC
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History

Lacawac was a part of 20,000 acres known as Wallenpaupack Manor and sold by the heirs of William Penn in 1849 to Burton Morss who had a large lumbering and tannery operation. In 1895 a portion of his holdings was sold to William Connell, a Scranton coal baron and United States Congressman. In 1903 Connell built a summer estate in the style of the great Adirondack lodges. Its central heat, indoor plumbing, gas lighting and refrigeration were state of the art.

Following Connell's death in 1909 the property was bought by Colonel Louis Watres, lawyer, State Senator, and Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania. He was involved in land acquisition and early plans for the Wallenpaupack dam and power plant.

After World War II the Colonel's grandson L. Arthur Watres and Arthur's mother Isabel E. Watres made Lacawac their permanent home. The sanctuary was created in 1966 when Arthur and his mother deeded their land to the Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation. In 1968 the U.S. Department of the Interior declared Lake Lacawac a National Natural Landmark. In 1979 the Historic Watres Lodge and Great Camp were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today Lacawac functions as a nature center, research and ecological field station and public environmental education facility.



Researchers from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia have found this lake invaluable as a field laboratory for studying the effects of environmental changes caused by natural phenomena. Shaped like a half-moon, this "ice scour" lake has two distinct habitats—an organically rich bog to the west and north and sand and rock to the east and south. The latter habitat was formed by continual wave action from prevailing northwest winds and supports only a few plants primarily cattails and golden clubs. The bog, on the other hand, is rich in plants, including round-leaved sundews, pickerel weeds, fragrant and bullhead water lilies and pitcher plants.



Lake Lacawac is "eutrophying," or aging by gradually filling in from vegetation, and is now a third smaller and only half as deep than when it was first dug out by a glacier. Thirty-five crustacean species and thirty species of aquatic plants, including eight rare plants such as floating hearts, water shield, arrow arum and Robbin's spike-rush, have been identified in the lake. On the south side of the sanctuary, a series of rocky ledges dropping 250 feet to the shores of Lake Wallenpaupack support twenty-one species of ferns and numerous mosses and lichens, as well as a mature forest. The Ledge Area affords a splendid view of Lake Wallenpaupack in the winter and makes a delightful spot for bird watching in the spring and summer, providing a view of the forest canopy.

With the shagbark hickory, black cherry, ironwood, basswood, white ash, butternut, red oak, chestnut oak, and the lichens, mosses, orchids and ferns that grow here, the diversity of this mature forest is among the best in the region. Lacawac offers one mile of undisturbed shoreline on Lake Wallenpaupack, one of Pennsylvania's largest recreational lakes. Lacawac's diverse habitat is home to an extraordinary variety of native wildlife including bears, minks, otters, foxes, ruffed grouse, flying squirrels, beavers, wild turkeys, and porcupines.



Highlights

Fifty-two-acre Lake Lacawac, the heart of the sanctuary, has been called "the southernmost unpolluted glacial lake in North America." Certainly you will not see another natural lake in the Poconos as pristine as Lake Lacawac.

