

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WLAC Announces Fall Community Engagement and Education Events Schedule

WALLOON LAKE, Mich. — The Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy (WLAC) has announced its fall 2026 community engagement and education events schedule, offering residents, visitors, and community members opportunities to learn about the Walloon Lake watershed, explore local natural areas, and participate directly in conservation and stewardship efforts.

The fall schedule includes educational presentations, guided paddles and hikes, stream monitoring, invasive species removal workdays, and family programming. All events are free and open to the public.

“Conservation is most effective when people have opportunities to experience the places they are working to protect,” said Jon Breithaupt, Executive Director of WLAC. “Our fall schedule gives people a chance to learn from experts, get outside, and contribute directly to the health of Walloon Lake and its watershed. Whether you're interested in fisheries, native plants, wildlife, or hands-on stewardship, there is something for everyone.”

“The best way to build a stronger conservation community is to invite people to participate,” said Laura Morris, Director of Outreach and Community Engagement at WLAC. “These events are designed to be approachable, informative, and fun. You don't have to be a scientist or an experienced volunteer to join us. We want people to come curious, ask questions, meet their neighbors, and discover new ways to connect with Walloon Lake.”

Visit www.walloon.org/events for additional information.

Fall Events Schedule | [Walloon.org/events](https://walloon.org/events)

WLAC Summer Speaker Series: Choosing Native Plants for Your Garden

Tuesday, September 1 | 10:00–11:30 a.m. | The Talcott Event Venue

The WLAC Summer Speaker Series continues with Monica Gruler of Gruler Gardens, who will discuss incorporating native plants into residential landscapes. Participants will learn how native plants can support pollinators, improve soil health, and reduce runoff to benefit the Walloon Lake watershed.

Wander Walloon: Guided Wildlife Viewing Paddle

Saturday, September 12 | 9:00–11:00 a.m. | Jones Landing Township Park

Participants will explore Walloon Lake by kayak, canoe, or standup paddleboard during a guided wildlife viewing paddle near WLAC's Schoof's Creek Nature Area. The program will highlight birds, mammals, and other wildlife that depend on the lake and surrounding watershed.

WLAC Summer Speaker Series: The Walloon Lake Fishery

Tuesday, September 15 | 5:30–7:00 p.m. | The Talcott Event Venue

WLAC will welcome Heather Hettinger, Fish Biologist with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, for a presentation on the Walloon Lake fishery. The program will cover fish populations, habitat conditions, and current fisheries management efforts.

Fineout Creek Stream Monitoring

Thursday, October 1 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. | Cedar Valley Preserve

Join WLAC staff and volunteers for seasonal monitoring of Fineout Creek. Participants will help collect information about stream conditions and water quality while learning how tributary conditions can influence the health of Walloon Lake. A limited number of waders will be available for volunteers.

Schoof's Creek Stream Monitoring

Friday, October 2 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. | Fields Preserve

Volunteers will assist WLAC staff with field observations and water quality monitoring along Schoof's Creek while learning about the important role tributaries

play in the Walloon Lake watershed. A limited number of waders will be available for volunteers.

Woody Invasive Species Removal Workday

Thursday, October 15 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. | Wildwood Harbor Nature Area

Volunteers will work alongside WLAC staff to remove woody invasive species and improve wildlife habitat at Wildwood Harbor Nature Area. Participants will learn basic invasive species identification and removal techniques. No previous experience is necessary.

Wander Walloon: Guided Mushroom Foray

Saturday, October 17 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. | Wildwood Harbor Nature Area

Explore Wildwood Harbor Nature Area during a guided fall mushroom foray focused on the diverse fungi found in Northern Michigan's forests and the important ecological roles they play in healthy ecosystems.

SpOoOoky Hike

Friday, October 23 | 5:00–7:00 p.m. | Postle Farm Preserve

Families are invited to Postle Farm Preserve for a Halloween-themed evening on the trails. The event will include candy stations, a warm fire, and pumpkin painting at the preserve's historic red barn.

Wander Walloon: Guided Fall Color Hike

Sunday, October 25 | 1:00–2:30 p.m. | Postle Farm Preserve

WLAC staff will lead participants through Postle Farm Preserve during peak fall color season, highlighting the forest and natural communities that make the preserve special.

Woody Invasive Species Removal Workday

Friday, November 6 | 1:00–3:00 p.m. | Fields Preserve

Volunteers will help WLAC continue its stewardship work at Fields Preserve by removing woody invasive species and improving wildlife habitat. No previous experience is necessary.

About the Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy

The Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy (WLAC) is a nonprofit organization that exists to deliver Walloon Lake, a place where people and nature thrive, to the next generations through the power of conservation. Through land protection, water quality monitoring, stewardship, and conservation education, WLAC works to preserve the ecological integrity and natural beauty of the Walloon Lake watershed.

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