Activities During the Year 2025

(See Waconda Cultural Association Facebook, and waconda.com website)

January

State Park hosted First Day Hike, 15 people, WCA advertised
Sharon Sahfeld resigned from the WCA Board
Hwy 24 produced a magazine, WCA purchased 1/3 pg advertising

February

Equipment purchased by WCA for new playground at Cheyenne campground. Used the funds raised at Lakefest 2024. Install in February.
A grant in the amount of $3,057.00 was received from the Solomon Valley Community Foundation to assist in the pedestal for the Buffalo (Bison) Statue that was funded by the Lynn Root family in honor of Lynn's father. Funds also purchased three informational signs—two at the bison statue & one at the giant metal arrow—two cantilever patio umbrellas, and 6 smaller signs placed at color-coded metal arrows located throughout the State Park.

April The Give-to-Grow Solomon Valley Community Foundation match day event was held on April 30th in Beloit. Lucille, Annette, Ashley and Sheila hosted at the table. Activities and pictures were used at the table for guests. It was a successful day receiving donations and sharing information.
WCA board members work with State Park staff to fill the Replica pool for Spring/Summer/Fall.

May R-100 3-D archery event was held from May 16th through the 18th. Ashley and Annette each manned the Visitors Center for a part of Saturday and Sunday.
Hosted school tours for Lakeside and St. John's Schools.
Memorial Weekend- May 24, 25, 26 activities by Camping Club & Marina. WCA hosted Visitor Center.

June

Bike Across Kansas rode on Hwy 24 by Lake June 10. Randy and Sheila manned the Visitors Center.
The Bison Statute dedication was held June 21st at the Visitor Center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. Games and displays were hosted inside and outside. Speakers were Kyle Peterson from Historical Society, Trisha Smith from Maxwell Game Refuge and artist Jeff Shaw. The Lynn Root family was honored and thanked. A food truck served refreshments and buffalo burgers.

July

Lakefest was held on July 5th. Afternoon activities included corn hole and lakeside golf. Evening entertainment was provided by Henry Tice, Chey Knolls and the MotorCo Band with lead musician Kaleb Bowers. Food trucks were on site providing refreshments. Friendly Bingo was held with prizes donated by the State Park. An auction and raffles were held. The Nebraska woodcarvers created artwork to donate to the auction. At dark, fireworks were provided by Jimmy Deverman. All agreed it was the best fireworks performance ever.
This event is the annual fund raiser for the WCA. A net revenue of $6100 was raised. Two major sponsors to Lakefest are: Waconda Boats and Cunningham Fiber. Carvings made by the wood carvers are a major benefit to the event. (No project for the 2025 Lakefest funds has been designated, yet.)

October

WCA members assisted Scott and Kelly with the Ghostly Storytelling evening. Blake provided wagon rides as usual with Lydia. Mike Neihoff, Randy Dubbert & Donnie File told two stories. Lucille shared the history of the Waconda Springs to the Native Americans. Board members hosted the smore's and drink tables. Many of the 65 children wore costumes and received treats and coolers as prizes.
No Waconda Indian Festival was held this year. It will be replaced in 2027 with new events honoring the Native American history of the Springs. The year 2026 will celebrate the USA 250th birthday.

November-December

The viewfinder at the Replica was repaired. The membership year was changed to July 1-June 30th, so memberships could begin at Lakefest. From general funds, $4100 has been set aside to create the rock road to the Replica. In December, the 6 smaller, colored arrows were placed in the campgrounds and at the replica in the park, and historical signage placed next to each.