

## Michigan's Wetlands in Jeopardy

Just as Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council celebrates our 30th birthday, Michigan's Wetland Protection Program is also marking its 30 year. However, we are not having a joyous celebration for wetlands, just yet. In February, Governor Granholm announced a plan to return Michigan's wetland protection program to the federal government during her State of the State Address. It was intended to save money – \$2.1 million – but the costs we end up with will far outweigh the mistakenly perceived benefits. This is a mistake that jeopardizes not only Michigan's natural resources, but also economic redevelopment in the state.

Healthy wetlands protect water quality. They retain or remove nutrients and pollutants, acting as "nature's kidneys." Wetlands are also "nature's nurseries," providing vital habitat to fish, wildlife, and waterfowl. Additionally, wetlands control flooding by acting as a sponge. They decrease flood peaks and safeguard downstream property owners. And wetlands not only temporarily store flood waters, they also replenish ground water supplies. Protecting and restoring wetlands is critical to Michigan, strategically located in the heart of the Great Lakes.


In 1979, the State of Michigan enacted the Wetland Protection Act, now Part 303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994 as amended). In 1984, Michigan acquired authorization to administer Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. In a misguided attempt to save money, the Governor proposed repealing the state's Wetland Protection Act and the state's ability to administer the federal Section 404 program.

**What Are The Benefits Of Keeping the State Wetland Protections Program?** For starters, we get improved resource protection. The state program regulates 95.1% of Michigan's wetlands. It also covers activities not currently regulated by the federal Section 404 program, such as wetland excavation, dredging, and some drainage activities.

The current program also gives us increased efficiency. State assumption usually reduces the need for duplicative state and federal permits. This can eliminate potentially conflicting permit decisions. It also results in increased timeliness for applicants. State permits are usually processed quicker than federal permits. For example, in Michigan, completed permit applications typically require action within 90 days (150 days if there is a hearing). Conveniently, the average permit processing time is normally less than that – approximately 60 days.

We also have improved wetland resource management with the current program. In the Michigan experience, the state agency is often more familiar with local resources and the regulated community. The state program typically offers more staff at local offices, capable of providing thorough, on-site reviews for almost all permit applications. This creates opportunities to work directly with local professionals on many different projects which can result in reducing adverse impacts to the resource. It also fosters on-going relationships and can improve certainty for the regulated community by increasing their understanding of wetland protection measures.

*Article continued on page 4 - Aquavist page.*



Are you willing  
to protect our wetlands?



426 Bay Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
(231) 347-1181  
(231) 347-5928 fax  
[www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org)

Watershed Council Staff  
Gail Gruenwald,  
Executive Director/Staff Attorney

Administrative Team  
Lynn D. Buffington,  
Business Manager

Sandy Schreck,  
Office Manager

Development/Communications  
Leslie Burk,  
Development & Communications  
Director

Kristy Beyer,  
Communications Specialist

Policy & Advocacy Team  
Grenetta Thomassey, Ph. D.,  
Policy Director

Jennifer McKay,  
Policy Specialist

Watershed Protection Team  
Kevin Cronk,  
Monitoring & Research Coordinator

Jennifer Gelb,  
Restoration Ecologist

Valerie Olinik-Damstra,  
Watershed Coordinator

Board of Directors  
Wayne Blomberg  
Norton Bretz  
Michael Buttigieg  
David Crouse, President  
Rick Dexter  
Michael Esposito  
Dean Ginther, Vice President  
John Hutto  
Tom Kennedy  
Tony Naylor, Treasurer  
Paul Nowak  
Kent Reynolds  
Bill Stetson  
Connie Vorenkamp, Secretary  
Trish Woollcott

Member of:  
Michigan Environmental Council  
and Earth Share of Michigan



Gail Gruenwald  
Executive Director

## Reflections From Our Director

Twenty five years ago when I began working at the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council there were very few other environmental or conservation organizations working to protect natural resources in northern lower Michigan. We shared an office with the Little Traverse Conservancy and we spent our early years defining our mission, service area, and programming. Since that time, the number of conservation groups has exploded. Many of those that predated the Watershed Council, primarily lake associations, have expanded their programming in recent years as well.

Several statewide and Great Lakes basin wide groups have also increased their presence in our region resulting in greater attention on important issues and, correspondingly, the potential for more confusion, duplication, and competition for limited resources.

For the last several months I have been approaching my fellow executive directors as well as area foundation staff to work with me to improve our program coordination and collaboration as well as to refine our efforts to avoid duplication and competition. I feel very strongly that there are so many community needs including those relating to natural resource protection that none of us can afford to waste a single dollar on programming that is duplicative. I feel equally strongly that without effective, proactive communication we miss valuable opportunities to work in partnership and increase the effectiveness and success of our efforts.

I am grateful that the community foundation staff members in both Emmet and Charlevoix counties are willing to host a convening of natural resource groups to begin the process of working better together. In these economic times especially, we all need to work more efficiently to maintain our effectiveness. We also owe it to all of you as community donors to use your funds wisely and to try to prevent as much as possible the multiplicity of solicitations that we all receive. My goal is that all of you will feel assured that those of us running environmental organizations are well coordinated and are not duplicating our efforts. It is then up to us to clearly convey to you our missions and work so that you can choose where to contribute your hard earned dollars.

I would also like to stress the value of multiple voices, strategies, and approaches to address the issues impacting our waters. Diverse approaches are essential as we all work together toward the common goal of preserving our natural resource heritage. This diversity combined with effective communication and coordination will ensure that our natural resources remain the center of our economy and the hub of our quality of life.



## Tackling Stormwater on Many (Water) Fronts

Spring is approaching quickly and with it will come rainy days and lots of snowmelt. Melted snow, ice, and rainwater wind their way across the landscape picking up all of the sand, salt, and other debris that has accumulated during the frigid winter months and enter waterways via storm drains or direct discharge. Polluted stormwater runoff is the leading source of nonpoint source pollution in our watersheds; carrying with it sediments, nutrients, bacteria, oil, grease, and many other substances that are found on impervious surfaces such as roads, sidewalks, and rooftops.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has worked through the years to tackle polluted stormwater on many fronts: through education and outreach, on-the-ground restoration, and policy initiatives.

While stormwater is a concern across our service area, much of our stormwater work for this past year focused in and around the Lake Charlevoix watershed. We worked with East Jordan Iron Works to develop storm drain curb inlets and manhole covers that feature an image of Lake Charlevoix and pollution prevention message. These will be featured in the municipalities of Charlevoix, Boyne City, and East Jordan and installed during new construction projects as a reminder to everyone in these communities to “Treasure Lake Charlevoix”.

We are also putting the finishing touches on a stormwater plan that was developed for the drainage basin around Park Avenue in Charlevoix. We worked with the City of Charlevoix Department of Public Works to develop stormwater management recommendations for upcoming

Polluted stormwater runoff is the leading source of nonpoint source pollution in our watersheds.

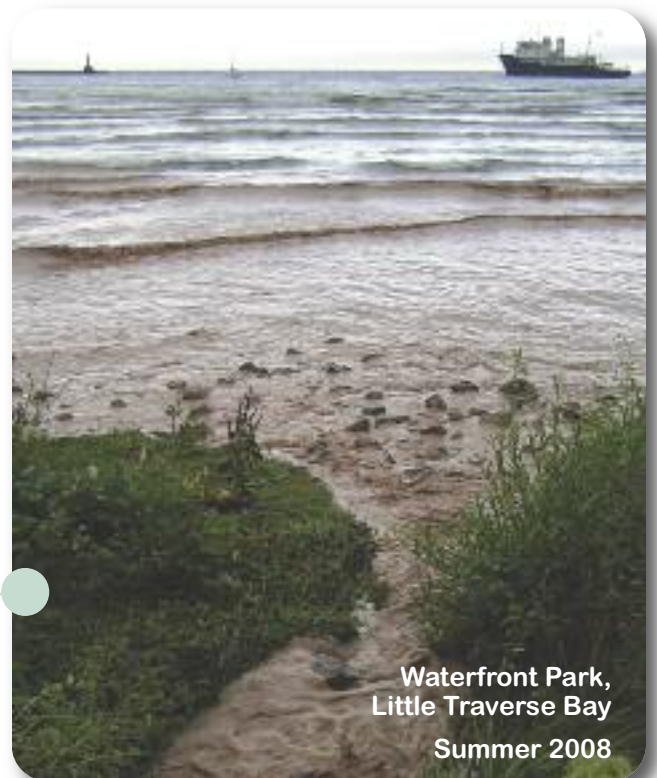
This photo, taken during a heavy rain storm in 2008, illustrates how moving water can easily collect pollutants, dirt, and sand and deposit them directly into Little Traverse Bay. The dirt and debris in this photo was carried to the bay from a road construction project that was nearly five blocks away. This proves that you don't need to be “on” the water to pollute it.

street improvements on Park Ave. The new street project will feature best management practices, utilizing low-impact development techniques where practical.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has also collaborated with Marc Seelye, Charlevoix County Soil Erosion Officer, on developing improved stormwater ordinance language for township stormwater ordinances in Charlevoix County. The revised stormwater ordinance is in review by the various townships and we will continue to work collaboratively until each township has adopted the improved ordinance.

For a broader audience across our service area we have hosted two stormwater “Lunch and Learn” meetings to educate local officials, engineers, architects, and citizens on important stormwater management techniques. Presentations were given by Unilock on permeable interlocking pavers and LiveRoof LLC on green roof systems. Both meetings were extremely well attended, and there are plans to host additional “Lunch and Learn” meetings in the upcoming year.

For more information on any of these projects, or for suggestions on topics to include in our Stormwater “Lunch and Learn” series, please contact Valerie at (231) 347-1181 or e-mail at [valerie@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:valerie@watershedcouncil.org).



Waterfront Park,  
Little Traverse Bay  
Summer 2008

## Michigan's Wetlands in Jeopardy continued from page 1

Finally, but no less important, there is potential for a loss of wetland preservation. The MDEQ has approximately 20,445 acres of wetlands held in conservation easements. With this proposed change, the MDEQ may not be able to ensure permanent preservation of these wetland easements, or wetlands currently included in pending mitigation and enforcement cases.

**What can you do?** As of this writing, it is up to the Legislature to save Michigan's Wetland Protections Program.

Please call your Michigan State Senator and Representative. Tell them that this proposal will jeopardize our water resources and create delays in permitting, putting a burden on critical economic development in Michigan. The savings from slashing wetland protections are not worth the undeniable costs. Keep the program and refine it, if needed, **DO NOT REPEAL OUR STATE WETLAND PROTECTIONS PROGRAM!**



**Aquavist** ('ä-kw-vist) noun: A member of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Local Activist Network; from Aqua - water, and Activist - one who seeks change through action.

This has been a very busy winter season for Local Activists, and 2009 does not show signs of being "easy"! That is why a network of Local Activists like you is so important!! Thanks for all your calls, emails, and letters to elected officials about these various topics – they do hear your voice, so never forget to make it heard when you are concerned about doing something to help keep our waters healthy.

Now, the latest news...

### **THREATS TO OUR MICHIGAN WETLAND PROGRAM**

To help save our wetland protections program, as reported on the cover page, you can use the excellent resource page on the Aquavist Website. If you go to: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavists/> you will see a link to a "Saving Michigan's Wetlands Protection Program" page. This page has useful information including a fact sheet, talking points, and links to the Michigan State Legislature under the "State & Federal Resources" section. There are direct links to our Up North legislators, but you can also link to the House and Senate pages to find elected officials from other areas of the state. If you need help with any of these websites, just give us a call and we can offer assistance.

### **EMMET COUNTY MASTER PLAN APPROVED**

The new Emmet County Master Plan was approved! We congratulate the county's Planning Staff for the wonderful work they did to assist citizens, Planning Commission members, and the County Commissioners during this

process. They are very pleased with the result, and they should be! Many diverse voices in the County were included and the result was an improved guideline for protecting natural resources. You can find the plan at: <http://www.co.emmet.mi.us/planzone/compmp.htm>.

### **PHRAGMITES WORK GROUP**

The Charlevoix Conservation District has done us all a big favor! They formed a group to address invasive phragmites in the Lake Charlevoix watershed to prevent the problem from becoming entrenched. Special thanks to Kelly Martin for this effort, which is inspiring similar action in other counties. Stay tuned for more information as those groups form. Meanwhile, if you have questions about this invasive plant that can devastate coast lines along our waterways, please call us at 231-347-1181 or visit this page on our website: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/learn> and look for the Phragmites page under Aquatic Invasive Species.

### **NEW AQUAVIST SITE**

Don't forget to visit your new Aquavist Website – it is full of incredible resources for you, plus news and information about the hottest topics in your county. Any time you want us to highlight something, just let us know! From this home page: <http://www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavists/> you can link to recent Alerts, as well as the Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet County news and resource pages. For more information, contact Grenetta Thomassey, policy director at [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org) or 231-347-1181 ext. 115.

**Want to join the Aquavists or add a resource to our website?**

Contact Grenetta Thomassey at (231) 347-1181 or by email at [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org).

## 2009 Policy Update

---

Tip of this Mitt Watershed Council hit the ground running in 2009 and will be calling on the Obama administration and the 111th Congress to make the Great Lakes a top priority. Our key federal priorities are: 1) Addressing Aquatic Invasive Species; 2) Restoring Protections to our Nation's Waters; and 3) Comprehensive Great Lakes Restoration Implementation.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes from ballast water discharge of oceangoing vessels remains a top legislative priority in 2009. Legislation to require the installation of ballast water treatment technology on ships and strong enforcement measures made advancements in 2008 but eventually stalled. In 2009, we will continue in the effort to finally achieve a solution to stop the influx of aquatic invasive species through ballast water discharges.

Vital protections of the Clean Water Act have recently been undermined by recent Supreme Court decisions and administrative actions. As a result, many wetlands and

streams have been stripped of protections under the Clean Water Act. The Watershed Council is advocating for enactment of the Clean Water Restoration Act. This bill would reaffirm the historical jurisdiction of the 1972 Clean Water Act and ensure all "waters of the United States" that have been covered by federal safeguards against pollution for more than 35 years retain Clean Water Act protection.

Prior to his election, Senator Obama made a highly public commitment to create and fund a \$5 billion Great Lakes Trust Fund in his term as President to jumpstart Great Lakes restoration work. A second critical piece of the Obama commitment is the placement of a new federal Great Lakes "Czar" to prioritize coordination of Federal, State, and local agencies' agendas, policies, expertise, funds, and staff. The Watershed Council will work to ensure that these commitments are met to form a solid basis for implementation of comprehensive Great Lakes protection and restoration.

## Working to Protect Our Waters

---

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been actively involved in the remediation efforts at Bay Harbor and East Park through a variety of means since the contamination came to light. We are working to ensure the protection of our Northern Michigan environment, economy, and way of life. While the public may only see a snapshot of our involvement, we have been and are highly engaged in the remediation efforts on a weekly, if not daily basis, through a multitude of actions such as:

- Reviewing all pertinent documents
- Providing comments, concerns, and recommendations on the process
- Requesting additional studies and data collection when necessary
- Participating in permit application processes
- Researching and evaluating potential remedial options
- Communicating regularly with all the involved parties
- Educating our members and the public
- Holding the involved parties accountable
- Providing assistance to other organizations and entities that wish to participate in the process
- Acting as a conduit for information exchange between those involved and the public

The regulators and stakeholders from both sides respect our involvement and include us at many levels of decision making. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, CMS, and others respond to our comments and suggestions and we see results from our involvement. Through these activities and more, the Watershed Council is working to ensure the remediation is done properly and thoroughly.

To learn about the recent activities associated with the remediation efforts, visit [www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org). Click on the "CKD Remediation at Bay Harbor and East Park" link at the bottom of our home page. For questions or more information, contact Jennifer McKay by phone at 231-347-1181 or e-mail: [jenniferm@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:jenniferm@watershedcouncil.org).



# Monitoring programs reveal “WATER QUALITY CONCERNS” in the Tip of the Mitt

Every year, thousands of hours of Tip of the Mitt Watershed staff and volunteer time are devoted to monitoring water quality of the lakes and streams in the Northern Lower Peninsula. These water quality warriors are the front line of defense; regularly getting out on the water to take its pulse, keep a watchful eye for threats to our lakes and streams, and protect our waters against degradation. Sixty-five lakes and streams in this region are monitored through programs coordinated by the Watershed Council. Through these intensive monitoring efforts, problems have been detected in certain areas. The following details a few of these Water Quality areas of concern.

## Water Quality Concern #1

### **Chloride concentration increase in area lakes.**

Data collected from most lakes in the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Comprehensive Water Quality Monitoring Program show a steady increase in chloride over the last few decades. While the chloride levels at present do not pose a threat to aquatic organisms, other pollutants associated with chlorides that are not monitored could degrade water quality. Being that chloride is a component of salt, likely sources include road runoff laden with deicing salts and septic leachate containing salts from water softeners. The real concern is that other contaminants from roads, such as lead, oil, and metals or from septic systems, such as nutrients, pharmaceuticals, and bacteria might also be reaching our waterways. We can all help reduce impacts by properly maintaining septic systems to prevent leaking and leaching of contaminants.

## Water Quality Concern #2

### **Urbanization degrades stream water quality.**

Currently, biological diversity is monitored at 27 sites on 11 streams in our Volunteer Stream Monitoring program. Results thus far show high biological diversity and the presence of many invertebrate types that are intolerant of polluted waters in most streams monitored. However, sites near the mouths of Stover and Tannery Creeks exhibit low diversity and few if any sensitive invertebrates. What do these streams have in common that might contribute to the problem? Both flow through urban areas (Charlevoix and Petoskey) that undoubtedly impact water quality. Pollutants that accumulate on roads, roofs and sidewalks, whose sources range from atmospheric deposition to leaking automobiles, wash into the stream after a rainstorm and degrade water quality. During warm months, water moving across paved and other impervious areas heats up before reaching the stream and causes “thermal pollution”, which can be deadly to sensitive organisms like trout and stoneflies that require cool waters. Fortunately, we have ways to deal with this problem, which range from vehicle maintenance

and street-sweeping (keeping pollutants out of the water) to installation of rain barrels and rain gardens, which help to reduce the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater that flows into our lakes and streams.

## Water Quality Concern #3

### **Biological productivity declining in lakes.**

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council volunteers have been monitoring water quality of lakes in the area for over 20 years. Through regular monitoring of water clarity, algal abundance, and nutrients, volunteer data provide us with a picture of a lake's biological productivity. In the 1990s, volunteer data showed a big drop in biological productivity of several lakes in the area, including Burt, Mullett, and Charlevoix which coincided with the introduction of the invasive zebra mussel. Zebra mussels filter feed upon and clear the water of free-floating algae, which are the primary producers and, essentially, the base of the food chain. By filtering out the base of the food chain, zebra mussels reduced the amount of food energy available for organisms higher up the chain, which ultimately leads to a lackluster fishery.

## Water Quality Concern #4

### **Invasive plants spreading.**

Little by little, non-native aquatic plants have invaded Northern Michigan and now have a strong hold in many of our water bodies. Monitoring activities have turned up curly-leaved pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, and Phragmites; all invasive plants. Invasive plants tend to crowd out native species, reduce the variety of natural habitats and food sources, alter hydrology, potentially degrade water quality, and can be a recreational nuisance to swimming, fishing, and boating. Curly-leaved pondweed while still uncommon, has been confirmed thus far in the Great Lakes, Lake Charlevoix, Crooked Lake and Mullett Lake. Eurasian watermilfoil is becoming more common (confirmed in these lakes: Burt, Charlevoix, Huron, Long, Michigan, Mullett, Paradise, Sixmile, Thumb, Walloon) but has been successfully controlled in several areas using a tiny native weevil that feeds on the plant. Purple loosestrife is now common throughout the region and also has a biological control agent; a beetle that has been used to successfully control growth in many areas. Native Phragmites is common throughout Northern Michigan, but the invasive type is largely limited to Great Lakes shorelines, Lake Charlevoix, and a few isolated roadside locations. While the Watershed Council and other organizations are actively involved in projects to control these invasive species, everybody can help to prevent the spread by cleaning off boats, trailers, and equipment when leaving a water body and supporting legislation to keep other invasives out of the Great Lakes region.

## Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council hosts a Native Plant Sale Fundraiser!

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is excited to announce our 2009 Northern Michigan Native Plant Sale! The sale is an opportunity to buy plants that are great for the different environmental conditions found around lakes. However, **even if you don't own waterfront property, many of the plants will do well in average landscape settings.** The sale has something to offer for everyone!

Native plants are considered those species that grew in an area before European settlement. They vary from 'wildflowers' (forbs), grasses, shrubs, trees, ferns, to ground covers. The benefits of using native plants in landscaping and restoration projects are many. They are typically lower maintenance and are more tolerant of stressful conditions such as drought and poor soils. They are also better adapted to local climatic conditions and better able to resist the effects of native insects and diseases. Native plants have a better 'fit' with the local landscape, enhance biodiversity, and offer more habitat to wildlife including birds, butterflies, and other pollinators. Lastly, native plants help preserve the local natural heritage, something we all highly value here in Northern Michigan.

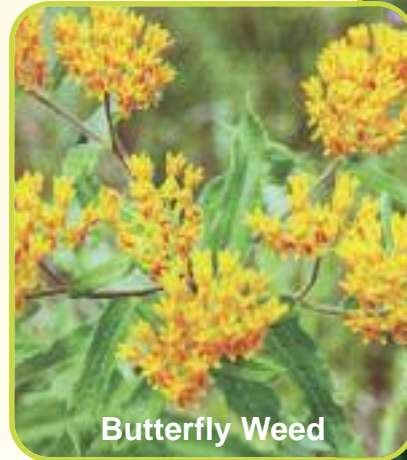
Over time, development around our lakes and streams has led to a dramatic transformation of our inland lakes' native shoreline vegetation buffers, or greenbelts. Once thick with countless species of native plants, shoreline buffers are now severely diminished around too many of our lakes. The importance of preserving our remaining shoreline buffers and restoring greenbelts relates well to our natural heritage. A greenbelt influences, in no small part, the water quality of its lake-and our lakes are our natural heritage.

Plants will be available for purchase in kits; each kit is an ensemble of plants that share the same site requirements and when planted together, result in an appealing mixture. Please look for the enclosed order form in this edition of *Current Reflections* for more details and visit [www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org) for additional information and order forms. **Pre-paid orders are due to the Watershed Council by April 15.**

Order forms and complete information about the kits available on our website [www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org)



Common Milkweed



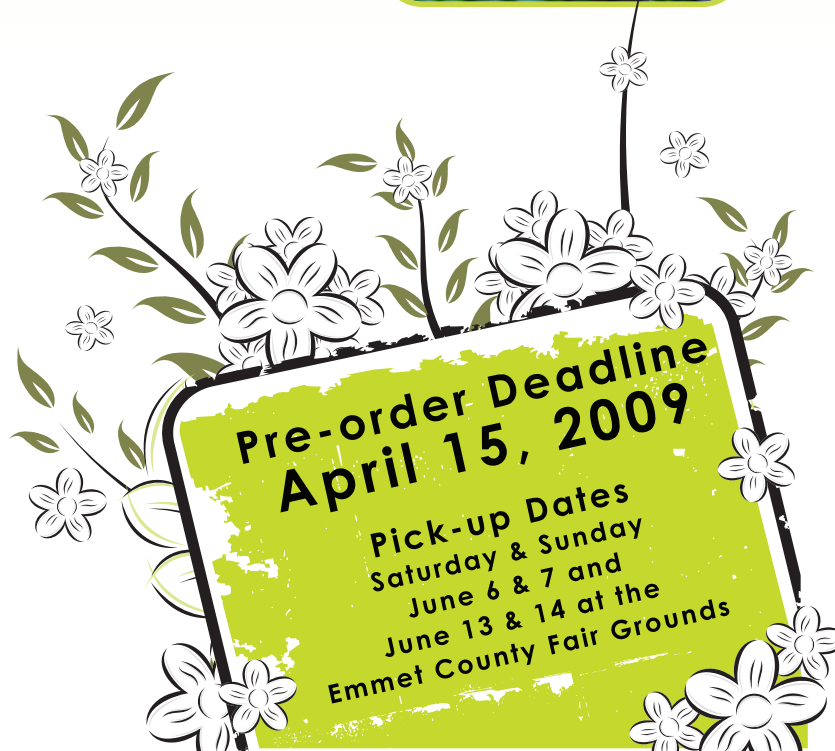
Butterfly Weed

Just in time for spring.

Plants are sold in kits. See order form for prices and complete descriptions.



Nodding Wild Onion



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

When lake associations, the University of Michigan Biological Station, and a group of concerned individuals held a kickoff meeting in 1979 to form Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, the goal was simple: to protect Northern Michigan's waters. Thirty years later, the Watershed Council's mission is still the same and we have become the lead water resource protection organization in Northern Michigan. Hard work and dedication by members, volunteers, and staff have produced a long list of accomplishments and successes year after year. Our 30th birthday as an organization marks a milestone as we celebrate the past and look forward to a promising future.

If you would like to help us honor our 30th birthday, we hope you'll join us at our **Family Reunion and Annual Meeting** scheduled for **Tuesday, July 21** along Petoskey's waterfront park overlooking beautiful Little Traverse Bay.

If you would like to commemorate our birthday, please consider an endowment gift in honor of our birthday or passing on a gift membership to your family and friends to help us provide a legacy of clean water for the next thirty years!



## Removing the Chandler Dam We Need Your Help!

Chandler Dam is a lowhead dam spillway on the upper reaches of the Black River in the Cheboygan River Watershed. This dam is currently non-functional and in disrepair. Its presence on the river is threatening the unique brook trout fishery of the Upper Black River. During times of low-flow, such as in the summer, lowhead dams degrade fisheries habitat and water quality by restricting fish passage and contribute to thermal pollution by impounding water upstream of the dam. During high-flow periods in the winter and spring the accumulated sediments and organic material upstream of the dam are flushed downstream contributing sediment pollution to the river. Much of the Upper Black River is considered a premiere fishery, unique in that it is home to only one species of trout—the prized brook trout. Removal of the dam will restore 9.5 miles of this “Blue Ribbon Trout Stream” for fish passage, as well as restore the natural stream bottom, improve sediment transport, and improve aquatic habitat.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is partially funding the removal of the Chandler Dam in part through the Inland Fisheries Grant program. However, we are still \$20,000 shy of our goal to make this project happen. **If you are interested in contributing to the Chandler Dam Removal and Restoration Project**, or would like more information, please contact Jennifer Gelb, Restoration Ecologist, at [jen@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:jen@watershedcouncil.org) or (231)347-1181. Together we can work to protect this fragile and valuable river system.



Photo: Tim Cwalinski, MDNR

## Clean Marina Program

The Michigan Clean Marina Program, developed by The Michigan Boating Industries Association, Michigan Sea Grant, and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, is helping to protect water resources by promoting environmentally sound marina and boating practices. Participants in the Clean Marina Program are doing their part to improve and maintain Michigan's waterways by reducing and eliminating releases and discharges of harmful pollutants, sediments, nutrients, general refuse, and many other things that can damage aquatic environments. Candidates who achieve Michigan Clean Marina recognition must address a comprehensive criteria for an environmentally sound operation.

With the recent designation of F. Grant Moore Municipal Marina in Boyne City and Walstrom Marine in Cheboygan as Michigan Clean Marinas, ten of the twenty-one Clean Marinas now designated are located in Northern Michigan. Other marinas in our four-county service area with designation include Walstrom Marine, Harbor Springs; Bay Harbor Co., Bay Harbor; Irish Boat Shop, Harbor Springs; Irish Boat Shop, Charlevoix; and Hammond Bay State Harbor, Cheboygan; Petoskey City Marina; Harbor Springs Municipal Marina; and Charlevoix City Marina. Dick Babcock, inspector and consultant with the Clean Marina Program comments that, "The Clean Marina Program's success in Northern Michigan is a tribute to the region's strong connection and respect for its water resources. We appreciate and applaud the help of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to spread the word about the program and the organization's efforts to increase environmental awareness among boaters, marinas and boatyards, and other waterfront stakeholders."



# Welcome New Members

October 1, 2008 - February 6, 2009

The future of our waters and our quality of life ultimately depend on what we do today to protect them. In order to continue to protect and enhance water quality in our region, the Watershed Council depends upon individual members, like you, for strength and financial support. We would like to thank all of our members for your continued support and extend a special welcome to our new members.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bacon  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Beitel  
Mr. and Mrs. Leland D. Blatt  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Book  
Mr. and Mrs. John Bubak  
Dr. and Mrs. Craig Cameron  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Chamberlin  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Chernak  
Michael and Sue Clayton  
James E. Dearing  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis T. Delaney  
Mr. James M. Dixon  
Elizabeth Domann  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dowd  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Duke  
Emil M. Fort  
George and Maiga Friess  
Arthur and Julia Gariepy  
Mr. Andrew Gordon

David and Sheila Gelman Greenblatt  
Roy Griffiths  
Sharon Gulau  
Mr. Glenn and Sidney Helmkamp  
Susan Hochbein  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Jesiek  
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Keating  
Marjorie Ziefert and Chuck Kieffer  
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Knoppe  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knox  
Susan Mohr and Ken Krentz  
Mrs. Ted Lauber  
Joseph A. Lyons  
Ned and Sandy McClurg  
Mr. George P. McDonnell  
Mr. John McMeekin  
David McVicker  
Dr. Knute Nadelhoffer  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Neumann

Mr. Thomas Noneman  
Ms. Karin Offield  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Paschall III  
Mr. James Petcoff  
Ms. Sandra Pritchard  
Ms. Emily C. Proctor  
Mr. and Mrs. Gareth Reed  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Reh  
Mr. William Ridley  
Mr. Richard E. Sambrook  
Mr. and Mrs. James Shaheen  
Mrs. Anne G. Symchych  
Mr. Roy and Carol Tassava  
Mr. James Trimpe Sr.  
Mr. Frederick J. Trudo  
William Twiddy  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Vaughan  
Dr. James B. Wessinger

# Special Gifts

October 1, 2008 - January 31, 2009

## Memorials

John H. Campbell  
*Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Richards*

Lewis E. "Hoppy" Hopkins  
*Mrs. Lewis E. Hopkins*  
*Mrs. Ted Lauber*

Ned Neff  
*Mr. and Mrs. David F. Tuthill*

Howard Pfof  
*Mrs. Ted Lauber*

Ruth P. Slough  
*Ms. Leslie Patterson DeBenedet*

## Honorariums

Linda Badaluco  
*Linda Heller*

Arthur W. Curtis III  
*Mr. Owen Curtis*

John Dolton  
*Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Dolton*

Marge May  
*Linda Heller*

Jennifer McKay  
*Kathleen S. Glass*

Jane Ramer  
*Linda Heller*



Ladyslipper

## THANK YOU Volunteers

### Mailings

Andrew Beyer  
Cody Beyer  
Virgie Corpus  
Gretchen Gregory  
Irene Phelps  
Marjorie E. May

### Publications Inventory

Andrew Beyer

### Data Entry

Cam Carpenter

## Wish List

3-4 New or gently used computers  
(Not more than 3 years old.)

## THANK YOU For your gifts

**Burt Lake Preservation Association (BLPA)** for their financial assistance toward the GAPS Analysis.

**Unilock** and **LiveRoof** for presenting at our stormwater “Lunch and Learn” series and for providing lunch.

**Roast & Toast** for providing coffee for meetings and seminars.

**David Spieser of New Savanna Landscape Company** for volunteering to help with the Native Plant Sale.

**Doug Morse and Kathy Colby** for helping catch up on a backlog of volunteer stream monitoring samples.



Photo by Peg Muzzall of Northern Express



Kristy Beyer, Communication Specialist at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and her son Cody create a prize winning snow sculpture for the Petoskey Winter Blues Festival. The fish sculpture is holding a sign that says “I’m one sunny day from being in Little Traverse Bay” and describes how important it is to prevent the pollution of stormwater run-off.



Protecting Northern Michigan Waters  
simply takes...

*Will Power*

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council’s Planned Giving is an excellent way to protect Northern Michigan’s water for future generations. Call today for a consultation and discover how easy planned giving can be.

Contact: Gail Gruenwald at (231) 347-1181  
or by e-mail [gail@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:gail@watershedcouncil.org)

## Medicine Disposal Drop-off Day

Saturday, May 2, 2009

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Emmet County Drop-Off Center  
7363 Pleasantview Road, Harbor Springs

**For more information call 231-348-0640**

No commercial or medical facilities, please. No meds stored overnight. A project of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians in cooperation with the Emmet County DPW, with funding from the United States EPA.

## May 7, 1:00-3:00pm Lake Sturgeon Walking Tour

Join the Watershed Council and Sturgeon for Tomorrow on the Black River for a walking tour in search of lake sturgeon during their spawning season. This guided tour provides a unique opportunity to hopefully observe this fascinating fish while they spawn. While we visit the spawning habitat, we will learn more about lake sturgeon biology and ecology, current lake sturgeon research, community efforts to protect spawning lake sturgeon from illegal harvest, as well as the unique features of the Black Lake Watershed. We will also have the opportunity to view the innovative streamside lake sturgeon rearing facility at Kleber Dam on the Black River. The guided tour is free, although a \$10 donation per attendee is suggested. Participants are asked to pre-register by calling (231) 347-1181 ext. 100. Meeting arrangements will be made upon registration. For more information on lake sturgeon, please visit [www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org](http://www.sturgeonfortomorrow.org).



## Great Fish. Great Cause.

Thank You **Scalawags Whitefish & Chips** for providing staff, fish, and hush puppies for the Petoskey Downtown Open House. YUMMY! It was a delicious evening enjoyed by all.

## Mark Your Calendar...

### Volunteer Opportunities

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| May 16   | Volunteer Stream Monitoring Field Day                     |
| May 31   | Volunteer Stream Monitoring Indoor Identification Session |
| August 1 | Bear River Cleanup  |

### Upcoming Events

*A complete list of upcoming events will be mailed in May.*

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 7     | Lake Sturgeon Walking Tour  |
| June 15   | Lake Association Summit   |
| July 21   | Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - Annual Meeting at the Petoskey Waterfront |
| August 3  | Lake Michigan Summit Harbor Springs   |
| August 10 | Lake Michigan Summit Charlevoix   |

### Coming this Summer

#### Wednesdays on the Water Outdoor Series

*A complete list of upcoming events will be mailed in May. This is a tentative list and is subject to change.*

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| June 24  | Wilson Lake/Upper Chain Kayak Tour  |
| July 1   | Paradise Lake Pontoon Tour  |
| July 8   | Black River Kayak Tour  |
| July 15  | Susan Lake Kayak Tour   |
| July 29  | Aquatic Invasive Species Driving Tour<br><i>This tour will explore parts of Emmet and Cheboygan counties.</i> |
| August 5 | Little Traverse Bay Bike Tour   |



# Report from the Board President

Well, March is upon us and I believe we all will welcome spring with open arms. We have had a winter reminiscent from childhood – plenty of cold, plenty of snow, with kids having a number of days off from school. I heard a lot of people complain about the weather, yet no one did anything about it!

Like the weather we also are weathering a global financial storm. While it is difficult most days to read the headlines, I do encourage you to take a stress break by reading our newsletter. In these pages you will find encouraging progress being made on many fronts in the protection of environment and the great bodies of water, both large and small, throughout Northern Michigan. This is only possible due to the commitment and work by our extraordinary staff.

I am also happy to report that Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is on strong financial ground. This has not been easy considering the great unknowns we are faced with presently. We have devoted considerable time and effort to the financial well being of the Watershed Council and it's reflective in our balance sheet. With the steady hand of Gail Gruenwald, Executive Director, and Development Director, Leslie Burk, we are moving aggressively to maintain our

membership levels and foundation contributions. For many members, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, is a top priority in your yearly planned giving and we are grateful!

We are reaching an important milestone in 2009, and that is the 30th anniversary of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council! You will read and hear more about this in the months to come.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support!

David Crouse,  
Board President

*"Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is on strong financial ground."*



Address Service Requested

426 Bay Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770



The voice for Northern Michigan waters.

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Petoskey, MI  
Permit No. 108