

Current Reflections

Summer 2009



Healing the Bear: The Bear River Cleanup and Beyond

In 2000, Watershed Council staff engaged several community groups with the vision of restoring and rehabilitating the Bear River, a unique water resource that links Charlevoix and Emmet Counties. Nine years later, the Bear River is healing, but is still a long way from complete recovery. To preserve the tradition of “Healing the Bear,” the Watershed Council is hosting another Bear River Cleanup this summer on Saturday, August 1 at Mineral Well Park in Petoskey.

Watershed Council staff took notice several years ago that the Bear River was ailing due to years of abuse dating back to an era when the Bear River was a “working river.” At that time the steep drop in the river provided a steady source of hydroelectric power to the growing City of Petoskey, and the Bear also served as a highway to move logs from the surrounding countryside to the mills. The impacts of this time continue to be evident today, with streambank erosion contributing sand and sediment to the river, spoiling water quality and fish spawning habitat. More recent activities have contributed trash and debris which ruin the beauty of the river. Changes to the watershed have increased the amount of polluted stormwater runoff. Because rivers carry their illnesses with them, these ailments are transferred to Petoskey’s Harbor and Little Traverse Bay.

One of the best accomplishments of the ‘Healing the Bear’ initiative is that it reacquaints area residents with this amazing resource. The Bear River Cleanup provides a great way for people of all ages to walk the banks, wade in the water, or hop in a canoe, all while helping to clean it up. Hundreds of community members have participated in past Bear River Cleanup events, removing 90 cubic yards of trash (or the equivalent of 45 pick-up truck loads!), including some large items such as bicycles, refrigerators, microwaves, wagons, and vintage signs dating back to the early 1900’s. This year will mark the seventh Bear River Cleanup hosted by the Watershed Council. Dozens of community members are expected to participate to make their contribution in healing the Bear. Combining civic pride and celebration, it is the right prescription that over time will result in long-term health for the Bear River.



We are pleased to have partnered with many funders over the years for the “Healing the Bear” program. In particular we would like to acknowledge the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation for the initial and ongoing funding for this program. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the Community Foundation board of trustees and staff members.

In addition to the Bear River Cleanup, the “Healing the Bear” program has had other accomplishments over the past nine years. Some of these include stabilizing nearly 500 linear feet of stream bank, and correcting other erosion sites at the Petoskey River Road Sports Complex Disc Golf Course, thus reducing sand and sediment contributions to the river. Four sites on the Bear River have been monitored since 2006 through the Watershed Council’s Volunteer Stream Monitoring program, with help from Petoskey High School students led by teacher Tom Ochs, as well as other Watershed Council volunteers. Monitoring results indicate a fairly diverse macroinvertebrate community, but there is room for improvement. The Watershed Council will continue to monitor these sites to gauge improvements to the health of the river. With the leadership of the Watershed Council and strong community involvement, we can continue to heal the ailments of the Bear into the future. We hope you will join us.

To participate in this year’s Bear River Cleanup, please register by calling (231) 347-1181. For more information on “Healing the Bear”, please visit www.watershedcouncil.org.



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and Earth Share of Michigan



Gail Gruenwald
Executive Director

Reflections From Our Director

Thirty years. That's how long the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has been the voice for northern Michigan's waters. We have experienced many victories and some defeats in the past 30 years in our efforts to safeguard our resources. All in all, we have witnessed increased awareness and understanding of the integral role water resources play in our quality of life and economic well being.

Some issues have plagued us for many years or decades, others are short lived with positive resolutions. In general, the quality of our lakes and streams has remained somewhat steady. One major exception to this is the enormous impact exotic invasive species have had throughout our region. This challenge continues and we expect to be fighting this battle for many years to come.

In preparation for this summer's annual meeting I have had a chance to go through all of our previous annual reports. Over the past 30 years we have employed 50 talented staff members, elected 150 volunteer Board members, been blessed by thousands of hours of volunteer time from hundreds of volunteers, and provided a productive learning experience to dozens of seasonal interns.

Our 30 years of programming has been tremendously diverse, from production of educational videos to removing dams from our rivers. I can't even begin to count the number of brochures, newsletters, and other publications we have produced and distributed nor the number of individuals we have educated and partnered with on a myriad number of topics.

The scope of our work has ranged from an individual consultation with a property owner to testifying before Congressional committees regarding national policy. The common theme for all of our work is a solid basis in science and policy. This is why we have earned the respect of a wide range of constituents and stakeholders. We keep politics out of our positions and we are able to work equally well with government officials, business interests, community groups, and citizens. I believe this is the key to successful advocacy and has resulted in a solid, effective organization and positive results for our resources.

We have helped to elevate water quality issues into mainstream dialogue and decision making. As such, Northern Michigan's lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water have a place at the table when policies are enacted and decisions are made that may impact them. Our waters have benefitted from our presence all these years and we will continue to watch out for them for many decades to come.



2008 Bear River Erosion
Project Installation

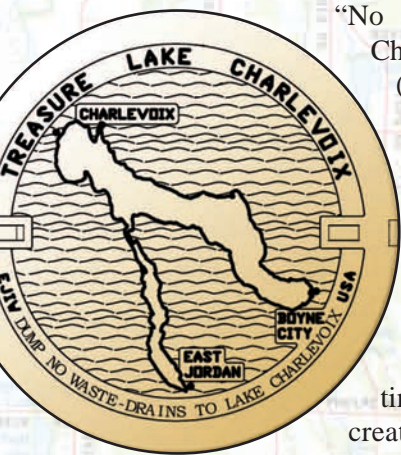
Frey Foundation Funded “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” Project Completed

The Watershed Council recently completed two projects for the “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” (TLC) program with funding provided by the Frey Foundation. Projects completed help to protect and enhance the water quality of Lake Charlevoix and its tributaries by reducing current and future polluted runoff through these education and management efforts.

Watershed Council staff worked with designers from East Jordan Iron Works (EJIW) to develop a personalized storm drain curb inlet hood and a round storm drain cover that have a pollution prevention message. The storm drain curb

inlet hood features a fish image and states

“No Dumping - Drains to Lake Charlevoix.” The storm drain cover (shown left) contains an image of Lake Charlevoix and the locations of Charlevoix, Boyne City, and East Jordan, along with the message “No Dumping-Drains to Lake Charlevoix” and “Treasure Lake Charlevoix.”



EJIW generously donated their time to develop the design and to create the die for the products. The

new curb inlet hoods and drain covers

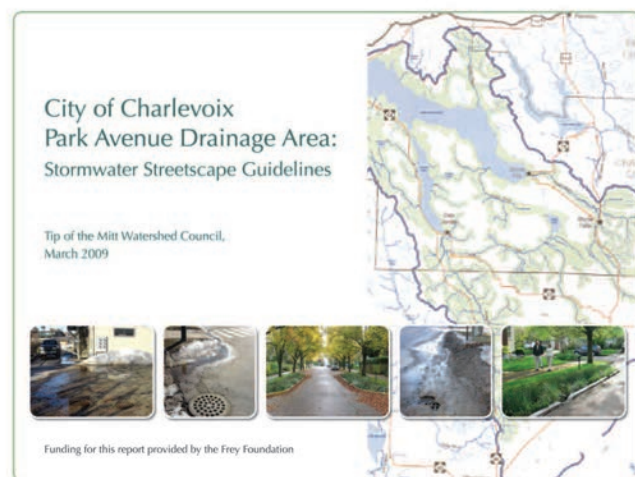
will be installed in the Lake Charlevoix municipalities beginning this summer, as street repair projects or new construction is implemented. Forty six inlet hoods and drain covers were produced with grant funds and will be provided free of charge, first come, first serve, to the municipalities around Lake Charlevoix. Once these are gone, the die created will be used to make new ones as ordered, and will be the standard design available for Lake Charlevoix. As more time passes and these products are replaced or installed with construction, more and more people in all three cities around the lake will be reminded of the “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” message.

Watershed Council staff also worked with the City of Charlevoix to develop a plan containing stormwater management recommendations and streetscape design guidelines for the drainage basin surrounding Park Avenue in downtown Charlevoix. In working with Pat Elliott, Street Superintendent for the City of Charlevoix, the Watershed Council learned of a future street renovation project planned for Park Avenue in downtown Charlevoix.

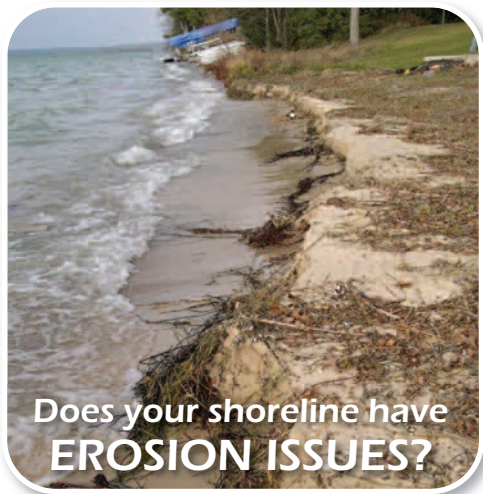
Using this opportunity to potentially improve stormwater management in the city, the Watershed Council developed a set of recommendations and streetscape guidelines that would improve the water quality of stormwater runoff from this drainage area.

Recommendations made include the installation of a water quality inlet treatment device, utilizing bioretention areas (or rain gardens) in the city right-of-ways along the street, and installing permeable pavement in the adjacent city parking lot that currently contributes sediment to the drainage basin. The Watershed Council plans to continue the good working relationship with the City of Charlevoix to implement these recommendations, and use this potential “best management practice corridor” as a model to use for other drainage basins in the city and in other municipalities around Lake Charlevoix and throughout the region.

The City of Charlevoix Park Avenue Drainage Area report is available to view at www.watershedcouncil.org under Water Resources/Inland Lakes/Lake Charlevoix. If you would like more information about these stormwater projects, or the “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” program in general, please contact Valerie at 231-347-1181 ext. 111 or valerie@watershedcouncil.org.



Now you can view and download this brochure online on the Lake Charlevoix Watershed page of our website at www.watershedcouncil.org.



Spread the Word!

The Watershed Council is seeking property owners in the Cheboygan River Watershed who are interested in restoring their eroding shorelines with bioengineering methods. The Watershed Council has funding available to assist property owners on a cost-share basis through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Great Lakes Watershed Restoration Program. Restoration must meet grant objectives including erosion control and habitat enhancement, and be completed by November 30, 2009. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please feel free to contact Jen Gelb at 231-347-1181 ext. 112 or jen@watershedcouncil.org.



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.

Thank you for your calls, emails, and letters to elected officials – they do hear your voice! We know, because they tell us, so please continue to participate. Your work helps keep our waters healthy!

Saving the Michigan Wetland Program

We are making progress: work is ongoing to find budget solutions that allow the wetland program to survive. Hit the red HOT TOPICS link from Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's website: www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavists.

More Phragmites Work Groups

For information on the Antrim group, contact Heidi Lang, Soil Erosion Officer at the Antrim County Conservation District at 231-533-8363 or email her at heidilang3@yahoo.com

For information on the Charlevoix group, check these web pages of the Charlevoix County Conservation District: www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern8355869.asp and www.charlevoixcounty.org/govern6233762.asp. Also, the Lake Charlevoix Association has undertaken an eradication program through a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. They are working with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and others to implement the program this summer. Information on that effort can be found at www.lakecharlevoixassociation.org.

For information on the Emmet group, contact Nancy Salar at 231-439-8996, or email her at nsalar@co.emmet.mi.us. If you have questions about this invasive plant, please call us or visit this page on our website: www.watershedcouncil.org and click on the "Learn" tab. Then go to Aquatic Invasive Species to find information about Phragmites.

Welcome Interns!

We are pleased to have four talented interns working with us this year: Shelby Goss, from University of Michigan, and Dan Myers, from Michigan State, are undergraduates working with the Watershed Protection Team, doing vital field work and data entry. Josh Pugh, from Alma College, is working with the Policy Team on events and issues. Bridget Brown, graduate student from Oregon State, is working with the Policy Team exclusively on the Local Zoning Gaps Analysis. Welcome to all!

New Aquavist Site

Don't forget to visit your new Aquavist Website – it is full of incredible resources, 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: www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavists you can link to recent Alerts, as well as the Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet Counties news and resource pages. For more information, contact Grenetta Thomassey, Policy Director at 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.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Five Years of Adventure: Great Times, Great People, and Great Data!

Streams are the freshwater circulation system of Northern Michigan, carrying rainwater, snowmelt, and groundwater into and out of a multitude of lakes. Often overlooked due to the region's grandiose lakes, there are literally thousands of miles of streams that dissect the landscape in the tip of the mitt. As a natural resource, these streams are invaluable.

They provide clean, abundant water to lakes, they offer seemingly endless recreational opportunities to anglers, paddlers, and others, and they provide habitat to a wide variety of wildlife.

With so many stream miles, how can one or even multiple organizations monitor and safeguard the water quality of all these important streams? The simple answer is that they can't. However, with support from the volunteer community we can cover a lot more ground (water!). With this approach in mind, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has enlisted the help of volunteers to help monitor, and thereby protect, the extensive network of magnificent streams in our backyard. Volunteer Tom Terry joined the program to monitor a stream in his backyard and had this to say about his experience: "monitoring the Boyne River with our group is fun and educational at the same time - it's an outdoor activity that actually does some good and doesn't take a huge commitment."

"monitoring the Boyne River with our group is fun and educational at the same time - it's an outdoor activity that actually does some good and doesn't take a huge commitment."

- Tom Terry
Volunteer Stream Monitor

From humble beginnings in 2004 when four individuals monitored one stream, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's Volunteer Stream Monitoring program has since burgeoned to well over 100 volunteers that are actively monitoring water quality at 27 locations on a dozen streams. Volunteers are trained by Watershed Council staff and then assigned to teams that monitor streams in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Cheboygan Counties. Teams collect a representative sample of aquatic macroinvertebrates (mayflies, stoneflies, etc) from the stream, which are later identified with the help of taxonomic experts.

The aquatic macroinvertebrate community paints a picture of stream ecosystem health. Community diversity and species sensitivity are key factors in determining water quality.

A variety of pollution-sensitive stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies portrays a healthy ecosystem with good diversity and high water quality. A sample with only pollution-tolerant aquatic worms and midges reveals a stream ecosystem that is probably under stress.

Each spring and fall, dedicated and adventurous volunteers head into the field to monitor stream water quality by collecting macroinvertebrates. Groups of volunteers have adopted streams while others mix it up, changing streams and teams with each sampling event. In general, volunteers

really enjoy the experience. "It's fun to explore places I have never been and muck about in the water and mud, and collect bugs just like when I was little, except now I have a good reason to do it," says volunteer Victoria Anderson about her involvement with the program, adding that volunteering for the program is "a way to meet people with similar interests."

Results so far? Because our watersheds are in such great shape, with little agricultural land use and even less urban development, we have found excellent water quality in most streams monitored by volunteers. Typically, volunteers find a diverse aquatic macroin-

vertebrate community that includes a number of pollution-sensitive families. However, there are a few sites where diversity has been low; usually those located in urban areas.

We now have 5 years behind us, 5 years of experience and 5 years of data, and we plan on many more. Although we have had tremendous support from the volunteer community, there is a continual need for new volunteers to maintain and expand the program. If you want to have a GREAT TIME while exploring streams in the company of other people with similar passions, please contact our program coordinator, Kevin Cronk, at kevin@watershedcouncil.org or 231-347-1181.

"It's fun to explore places I have never been and muck about in the water and mud..."

- Victoria Anderson
Volunteer Stream Monitor

Shoreline Management Update

Great Lakes water levels are on the rise. The Army Corps of Engineers reports the level of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron is 13 inches higher than a year ago. Two snowy winters have helped replenish the lakes after the level dropped two years ago to within three inches of the record low set in 1964. The level now is only about eight inches below the long-term average, and it should continue to rise three to four inches throughout spring.

Despite the rising water levels, the Watershed Council is still getting inquiries about shoreline management activities and what activities require a permit and from whom. Shoreline management activities along the Great Lakes shoreline are regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's Land and Water Management Division (DEQ) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

"De minimis" (meaning inconsequential or insignificant) vegetation removal done by hand (hand pulling, raking, or

cutting a few plants) does not require a permit. Mechanized activities and larger scale shoreline management activities require a joint permit from the DEQ and USACE. Leveling and grooming of sand and construction and maintenance of an access walkway may be authorized under a General Permit which is an expedited and cheaper permit. Mowing for control of invasive or non-native species such as Phragmites may also be authorized under a General Permit by the DEQ. For activities that do not meet the criteria for the General Permit as well as vegetation removal that is more than "de minimis", an Individual Permit is required by the regulatory agencies.

For more information, visit the Watershed Council's shoreline management webpage at www.watershedcouncil.org/water-resources/wetlands/wetland-issues/coastal-wetlands-and-great-lakes-shoreline-management or contact Jennifer McKay at 231-347-1181.

PHRAGMITES: Local Partnerships to Resist the Invasion

As you're out and about this summer, take a look around at your shorelines and roadside ditches. You may notice a tall grass that's starting to cause some big problems—a non-native subspecies of Phragmites australis. Simply known as Phragmites, this perennial grass that can grow up to 15 foot tall is one of the latest invasive species to take hold here in Northern Michigan. Phragmites, like many other invasive species, dominates plant communities where it becomes established, drowning out native species, reducing plant diversity, and therefore limiting food and habitat resources for organisms that depend on native plants.

However, this year many local organizations and individuals, including the Watershed Council, have started to resist the Phragmites invasion by working together in active partnerships. Following the lead of motivated citizens on Beaver Island fighting Phragmites on their shorelines, conservation districts have taken the initiative to organize stakeholder groups in Charlevoix, Antrim, and Emmet Counties to manage Phragmites infestations on Great Lake and inland lake shorelines. Through these supportive partnerships, lake associations have become active in developing Phragmites management programs on their lakes. Township governments have started to adopt ordinances to have police power for removing invasive Phragmites in the event property owners are not willing to cooperate. Conservation groups like the Watershed Council

are educating the public about Phragmites and providing technical assistance on non-native Phragmites identification. State of Michigan officials from the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality, as well as scientists from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, are working with local stakeholders to provide support and assistance where needed. Active partnerships to detect the presence of Phragmites early, and to respond to it quickly, will be the key to resisting the Phragmites invasion.

If you see Phragmites on your shoreline, please contact us at (231) 347-1181 or at valerie@watershedcouncil.org. Please note that permits are required to remove shoreline vegetation, including non-native Phragmites (see information above on permitting to control vegetation). More information on Phragmites can be found at www.watershedcouncil.org. Please see the "Aquavists Corner" on page 4 of this newsletter for information on other Phragmites eradication efforts throughout our region.



Weevils in Paradise

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council recently completed an aquatic plant survey on Paradise Lake in Carp Township, with interesting results. It seems that the work of a tiny bug – a weevil, to be exact – provided benefits to Paradise Lake that lasted for years.

The Watershed Council conducts aquatic plant surveys on Northern Michigan lakes to provide a better understanding of the lake ecosystem, and to determine the presence and extent of invasive species. The recently completed aquatic plant survey on Paradise Lake in Carp Township shows that weevils, small aquatic beetles, have provided great benefits to Paradise Lake by effectively controlling the growth of an aquatic invasive plant in large areas of lake for over six years.

These are not surprising results. Weevils are being used more and more in locations around the state because they are successful, cost-effective, and eliminate the need to use chemicals in our precious lakes.

From 1998 to 2000, aquatic weevils were released in Paradise Lake in an attempt to control the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). The weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) is native to many Michigan lakes. It has been found to be an excellent biological control agent. Although naturally feeding on native watermilfoils, the weevil has exotic tastes, preferring the Eurasian flavor. For several years the weevils were highly effective at controlling the growth of the invasive plant.

The aquatic plant survey confirms that the weevil stocking project met with great and enduring success. Approximately 14,000 weevils were stocked from 1998 to 2000 and all but decimated the dense EWM beds. While periodic resurgences may occur, the weevils are a safe and proven treatment method for Paradise Lake.

After the weevils were stocked, little was heard about EWM or other problematic aquatic plant growth until 2007 when a strong resurgence in EWM growth was reported. One theory on the resurgence is actually due to how successful the weevils were at controlling EWM in Paradise Lake. The weevil populations may have outgrown their food supply around 2004, overgrazed, and then experienced a population crash due to an inadequate forage base they no longer had enough watermilfoil to feed upon.

Given the initial success of the weevils, which were stocked at relatively low costs, combined with the fact that they are a completely environmentally safe and potentially long-term solution, it only makes sense to continue using the weevils to address a resurgent EWM problem for another six plus years of successful control of the invasive plant.

Weevils are being used more and more in locations around the state because they are successful, cost-effective, and eliminate the need to use chemicals in our precious lakes.

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM)...
We call it annoying.
The weevil calls it lunch.



Can Your Grass Be Greener*?



If you have a lawn there are a number of maintenance tasks you can do to make your grass greener. Like us, turf needs water, a haircut, and a good meal now and then in order to look good and be healthy. But what can really make or break a lawn is the soil beneath it. Healthy soils are alive with biological activity and balanced with nutrients essential to support turf grass. Turf gets its nourishment through its roots; roots take up nutrients available from the soil. Unfortunately, this relationship is often overlooked and under-appreciated. Greener lawn care emphasizes creating a sustainable lawn supported by healthy soils. Traditional lawn care depends on the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. Application of these materials can be effective at making grass weed-free and green, but at the expense of the long term health of the soil. Furthermore, once traditional fertilizing and other inputs begin, lawns become chemically-dependent. Greener lawn care, on the other hand, recognizes that grass is only as good as the soil it grows in.

Here are some tips to greening your grass. These tips are particularly important along one of our lakes and streams but also important where runoff enters stormwater systems:

Fertilizing:

- Choose a slow-release, organic fertilizer with protein-based ingredients like ground corn, alfalfa, cottonseed, corn gluten meal, soy, and other grains. Grass clippings or well-aged manure work well, too. Late summer is the best time to apply. Remember, these types of fertilizers work to support the soils. If you want to know exactly what nutrients are deficient, a soil test through your local Michigan State University Extension office is a good place to start. Kits are available for a nominal fee.
- Spread finished compost on your lawn, as needed, at a rate of no more than 1 cubic yard per 1,000 square feet. Lightly water immediately after applying.
- Refrain from fertilizing at least 30 feet from the shoreline of a lake or stream.
- If you choose to buy an off-the-shelf, chemical variety, use a slow-release variety and make sure it is PHOSPHOROUS-FREE. Remember, the three numbers on the label container indicate nitrogen-phosphorous-potassium. The middle number must be zero in order to be phosphorous-free. Most soils in our area are not phosphorous deficient, so phosphorous free fertilizers are effective.

MOWING:

- Keep grass cut at least 3" or higher to promote healthy root systems, shade out competing weeds, and to keep soils more moist and cool.
- Keep mower blades sharp! Dull blades tear grass and can make turf vulnerable to disease.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They break down easily and are a cheap source of nutrients.

WATERING:

- Light, frequent watering supports healthy grass. Actively growing turf only needs about .5 to 1.5 inches of water per week. Use a rain gauge to determine how much water your irrigation system distributes.

Remember, perhaps the greenest thing you can do, is to reduce your lawn area. You can allow an area to naturalize by stopping mowing, or you can actively convert it into another use like an organic vegetable garden, orchard, or woodland.



Welcome New Members

February 7, 2009 - May 22, 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. Joseph Bommarito

Dr. and Mrs. Art Budden

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Castleberry

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Edson

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Fenstermaker

Mr. and Mrs. David Fernelius

Mr. John Friedly

Jane Schneider and
Dennis Fulbright

Dwayne and Carole Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. Roger W. Howell

Ms. Kitty Janowiak

Ms. Anne Klapheke

Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Meyer

Ms. Donna Moreno

Mr. Richard P. Mueller, Jr.

Preservation Association
of Thayer Lake

Claire R. Rasmusen

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ruicci

Carol Schmier

Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Smith

Ms. Jane Stearns

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn R. Stevens

Special Gifts

February 1, 2009 - May 22, 2009

Memorials

Ida Dwan Gold's

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Carpenter

Jennifer Gelb

Emmet County MSU Extension

Julia Kazmers

Drs. Andris Kazmers

Kevin Cronk

Charlevoix Area Garden Club

Val Olink-Damstra program

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Honorariums

Annette Blalock

Ms. Joan L. Caldwell

Dave Schout

Duncan Bay Boat Club

David Lee

Ryde Marine, Inc.

Eddie Ernest

Duncan Bay Boat Club

Edward Stenger

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden Brown

Fred Meissinger

Duncan Bay Boat Club

Mary McNally Porter

Mrs. Harry C. Porter

Robert Rousseau

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden Brown

Theodore H. Smith, Jr.

East Burt Lake Association

Memorials and Honorariums are a meaningful way to celebrate the memory of a loved one or pay tribute to someone who cares about the preservation of our beautiful water resources.

Call us today to find out more about these and other giving opportunities.

Thomas K. Lowry

J.L. Buchanan

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Carruthers, IV

Karen J. Cazabon

Mr. and Mrs. David Irish

Mr. Richard S. Kulczycki

Mr. and Mrs. William and Linda Morrow

Lisa Nicol

Edward B. Palm

Petoskey Plastics Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Pinney

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell D. Rasmussen

Mr. and Mrs. William R. Wallin

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Willett

Matt and Sara Winstanley

THANK YOU Volunteers

Experience Lake Charlevoix

Ken Allen
Linda Burgert
Kris Busk
Michael Buttigieg
Nancy Cunningham
Sue and Mike Costa
Mike Dow
Susan and Ed Gansen
Marcy Knoll
Roxanne Merrick
Dan Mishler
Sarah Rigney
Tom Snow
Susan Vron dran
Paul Witting
US Coast Guard,
Charlevoix Station

2009 Native Plant Sale

David Spieser
Connie Vorenkamp
Trish Woollcott

Data Entry

Cam Carpenter

RSVP Volunteers

Ann Burek
Sharon Brown
Tillie Cone
Pearl Dally
Doris Fedus
Gretchen Gregory
Alice Hill
Carolyn Keller
Ellen Massey
Marjorie May
Maxine McDowell
Paula Pertu
Irene Phelps
Virginia Stolt
Marge Upton
Molly Walenta
Bernie Walsh

Volunteer Stream Monitors

THANK YOU...

Great Lakes Boating for magazine ad

Ryde Marine, Inc. for boat rentals for Phragmites survey

Jim and Ann Wilderom for Maxwell 700 Anchor Windlass

Merlin Dumbrille of WTCM-AM 580 for bi-weekly
interviews our staff on his Farm & Orchard Time show

Irish Boat Shop for their help coordinating "A Whale of a Sale"

Kathi Glass for hosting a gathering in Naples, Florida

Trish Woollcott for the use of her lovely photographs

Elk-Skegamog Lake Association, Pickerel-Crooked Lake Association,
Charlevoix County Community Foundation, Burt Lake Preservation
Association, Watershed Center of Grand Traverse Bay and the
Herrington-Fitch Foundation for their financial support for the
Gaps Analysis.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Environmental Services for
the use of the Ground Water Model for Experience Lake Charlevoix

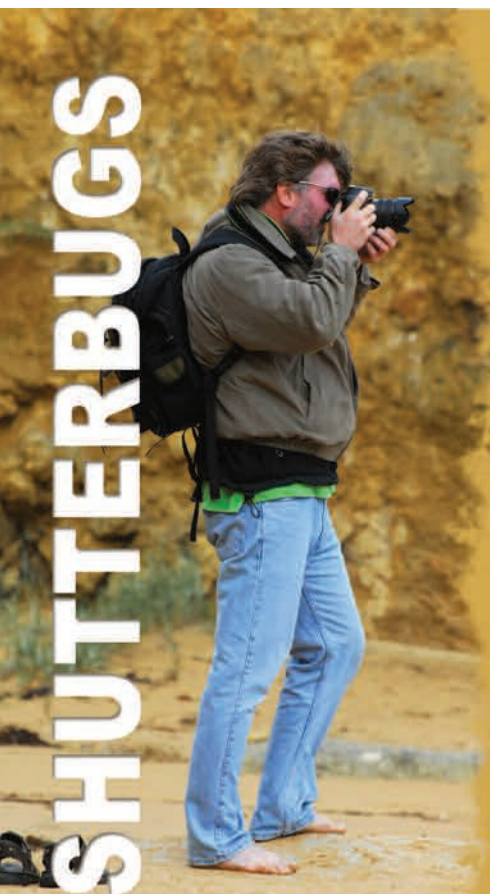
Brenda Archambo and Ann Feldhauser of Sturgeon for Tomorrow,
Dave Borgeson of the Michigan DNR Fisheries Division, and
Michigan State University graduate students for their help with the
Lake Sturgeon Tour this past spring.

Calling All Shutterbugs

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is pleased to be working in cooperation with Crooked Tree Arts Center, the Leelanau Conservancy, and the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay to create an exhibition with images taken within Northern Michigan watersheds. Crooked Tree Arts Center has established a call for entries for its 29th Annual Photography Exhibition accepting works in early January 2010 with the theme set on watershed awareness. By bringing attention to the cause of these watershed councils and focusing on the beauty as well as the fragility of the area in which we live, this exhibition hopes to honor and preserve Northern Michigan water resources that define the character of our region and the way of life for its residents.

Photographers will have a calendar year to capture all four seasons. To capture the theme of watershed awareness, photographs need not contain images of water. The 29th Annual Juried Photography Exhibition is open to all Michigan photographers 18 years or older and/or members of the Crooked Tree Arts Center. To obtain more information and an entry form, please contact Crooked Tree Arts at (231)-347-4337 or www.ctac.org. To obtain more information on the three watershed organizations and view maps that highlight the regions in the exhibition, please visit Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at www.watershedcouncil.org, the Leelanau Conservancy at www.theconservancy.com, or the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay at www.gtbbay.org.

SHUTTERBUGS



A Whale of a Sale

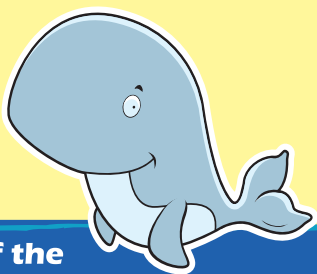
A HUGE Rummage Sale for Water Recreation Lovers!

On Friday, July 17th and Saturday, July 18th, join Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at the "Whale of A Sale", a HUGE rummage sale for water recreation lovers. The sale will be held from 9am-1pm on Friday and Saturday, rain or shine, at Irish Boat Shop Storage Buildings in Harbor Springs on Fairview Street (located behind Meyer Ace Hardware in Fairview Square off State Road).

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is accepting donated items from individuals, marinas, and suppliers. Items should be gently used, saleable and in good condition, including: fishing gear; swimming life vests, rafts and toys; water skiing equipment; diving equipment; and boats, kayaks, and canoes and related hardware, equipment, and gear. No clothing please. For boats or larger items, please contact Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's office prior to drop off.

Drop off locations include: Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council Office, Bay Street, Petoskey; Irish Boat Shop, Bay Street, Harbor Springs; and Irish Boat Shop, Stover Rd, Charlevoix. For additional collection locations or to have items picked up, please call Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council at (231)347-1181.

Friday & Saturday
July 17 & 18, 2009
9:00am - 1:00pm
Rain or Shine



Proceeds benefit Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR OUR

Wednesdays on the Water



2009 Summer Events

June 24 **Wilson Lake Canoe/Kayak Tour**
 10:00am - 1:00pm Guide: Kevin Cronk

July 1 **Paradise Lake Pontoon Tour**
 10:00am - 1:00pm Guides: Dr. Grenetta Thomassey and Kevin Cronk

July 8 **Black River Canoe/Kayak Tour**
 8:30am - 1:00pm Guide: Wil Cwikiel

July 15 **Susan Lake Canoe/Kayak Tour**
 10:00am - Noon Guide: Valerie Olinik-Damstra

July 17 & 18 **A Whale of a Sale**
 9:00am - 1:00pm **Rummage sale for water recreation lovers!**
 Irish Boat Shop Storage Building, Harbor Springs
 Proceeds benefit Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

July 21 **30th Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch**
 Noon - 2:30pm

July 22 **Tour Cambodia and the Great Tonle Sap Lake**
 Noon
 Presented by: Bhavia Wagner (formerly Carol Magee)
 Go to www.watershedcouncil.org/events for complete details about this program.

July 29 **Aquatic Invasive Species Driving Tour**
 10:00am - 2:00pm Guide: Kevin Cronk

August 1 **7th Bear River Cleanup**
 9:00am - 1:00pm A great volunteer opportunity!

August 3 **Lake Michigan Summit**
 1:00pm - 4:00pm City Hall, Harbor Springs

August 5 **Little Traverse Bay Bike Tour**
 9:00am - 1:00pm Guide: Valerie Olinik-Damstra

August 8 **Wet Paint / Fresh Ink**
 6:30pm - 8:30pm Fundraiser for Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and Little Traverse Conservancy.
 Hosted by Tvedten Fine Art, Harbor Springs
 Go to www.watershedcouncil.org/events for complete details about this event.

August 10 **Lake Michigan Summit**
 9:00am - Noon Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix

For complete details about our summer events, times and fees, please visit our website at www.watershedcouncil.org/events

Bioengineering Services

The Watershed Council offers assistance to property owners seeking help with eroding shorelines and streambanks. The Watershed Council has been advising and installing bioengineering projects since 1995. Bioengineering includes using soft, flexible materials to stabilize shorelines and streambanks, while enhancing habitat. As part of our contract services, we offer site assessments, restoration design, permit applications and project installation coordination.

Bioengineering is a great alternative to hardened shorelines such as bulkheads or seawalls because it relies on natural materials like trees, shrubs, and other deep rooting plants, rounded fieldstone, and coir (coconut fiber) logs that are staked directly along the eroding shoreline. Bioengineering methods stabilize shorelines from wave energy and ice action, yet provide habitat and have a natural look. Hardened structures can deflect and transfer wave energy, causing increased bottom scouring in front of the structure and accelerated shoreline erosion beyond its end; they offer no habitat and do not fit in with the native shoreline.

As a valuable resource on bioengineering, the Watershed Council is happy to have electronic copies available of

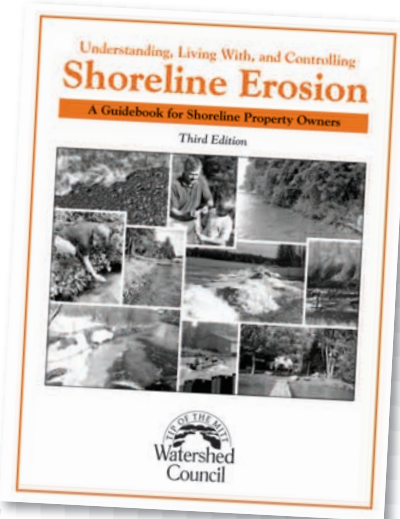
'Understanding, Living With, and Controlling Shoreline Erosion: A Guidebook for Shoreline Property Owners (Third Edition)'. To download a copy, visit www.watershedcouncil.org and look under the Publications tab located in the menu bar. Printed copies are also available for \$15 each. To speak with staff about bioengineering, please call Jen Gelb, Restoration Ecologist, at 231-347-1181 or email jen@watershedcouncil.org.

Available
as a FREE
Download
online!

Other helpful publications
are also available online.

View them in the
publications section
of our website at:

www.watershedcouncil.org



**A Special Annual Meeting
Celebrating 30 years with a Reunion!**

2009 marks Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's 30th year protecting Northern Michigan's waters. This year's annual meeting will be a celebration of our first 30 years. Come join us Tuesday, July 21, from noon to 2:30 pm at the Petoskey waterfront for a reunion of family and friends. We will start with a potluck meal followed by a short business meeting and a program of reflection on our history and accomplishments. No charge for the meeting, just bring your favorite dish to pass. We will supply the cake and beverages. An old fashioned potluck. RSVP by Friday July 17th to Sandy at (231)347-1181 or sandy@watershedcouncil.org. Come rain or shine.

Address Service Requested



The voice for Northern
Michigan waters.

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