

## Pharmaceuticals in Our Waters

Many studies in the last ten years have detected pharmaceutical compounds in treated wastewater effluent, rivers, lakes, and ground water. According to the USGS, over 80% of waterways tested in the United States show traces of common medications such as acetaminophen, hormones, blood pressure medicine, codeine, and antibiotics. This presents a problem to the aquatic environment because pharmaceutical compounds are specifically designed to affect biological organisms. While environmental concentrations are below acutely toxic levels, the main concern is the chronic and/or synergistic effects of the “cocktail” of pharmaceuticals humans have created in the water. Chronic exposure to pharmaceuticals can feminize male fish and debilitate their capacity to reproduce.

Additionally, an Associated Press five-month investigation concluded a vast array of pharmaceuticals have been found in drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans. At current levels, pharmaceutical residues are unlikely to pose an immediate risk to human health, but the long-term consequences of individual chemicals, and combinations of chemicals, are unknown, especially as concentrations rise.

The two main sources of pharmaceuticals in the environment are excretion and disposal. Many people flush their unused medicines down the toilet or sink. Sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat all the substances contained in medications. Therefore, most of these chemicals pass through the wastewater treatment facility or they are processed through septic systems and accumulate in rivers, lakes, ground water, and aquatic organisms. Even drugs thrown in the trash can eventually leach out of landfills and wind up in our ground water.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is working throughout our service area with many partners to establish long-term programs to safely dispose of unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals. In Emmet County, there are Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-off Days on Saturdays July 24th and September 25th. Emmet County residents are encouraged to bring prescription medicines and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals to the Medicine Disposal Drop-off between 9:00 am and noon to the Emmet County Transfer Station. The Watershed Council recently received a grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation to develop a community pharmaceutical collection

program in Charlevoix County which will include a medicine drop-off collection event tentatively scheduled for September 11th at the Boyne City Road Commission Building. For residents outside of Emmet County or those unable to make these dates, there are other options for proper disposal including pharmacies participating in the Yellow Jug Old Drugs Program available on our website at [www.watershedcouncil.org](http://www.watershedcouncil.org).



**Upcoming Disposal Days**  
**Saturdays, July 24**  
**and September 25**



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

Maureen Stine,  
Development & Communications  
Director

Kristy Beyer,  
Communications Specialist

#### Policy & Advocacy Team

Grenetta Thomassey, Ph D.,  
Program Director

Jennifer McKay,  
Policy Specialist

#### Watershed Protection Team

Kevin Cronk,  
Monitoring & Research Coordinator

Jennifer Gelb,  
Restoration Ecologist

#### Board of Directors

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#### **Member of:**

Michigan Environmental Council  
and Earth Share of Michigan



Gail Gruenwald  
Executive Director

## Reflections From Our Director

The well never seems to run dry of emerging threats to our water resources. We tackle a big issue and three more are thrown at us. Several articles in this newsletter illustrate the need for the staff and volunteers at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to be nimble and responsive to what comes our way.

Our phones have been ringing off the hook with calls from concerned citizens regarding the upsurge in oil and gas leasing in Northern Michigan through a technique called “fracking.” As you will read in the Aquavist article on page 5, the interest in oil and gas exploration in our service area is at an unprecedented level raising concern about the impacts to ground and surface waters. Informational meetings have been held across the area. Watershed Council staff have engaged in extensive research and we are assisting property owners and others with the action steps needed to protect our resources.

Deep injection well placement and operation is another growing community concern. There are thousands of oil and gas wells in Michigan with the potential to be converted to deep waste injection wells. What impact will this have on our waters? We hosted a workshop to begin to educate all of us on the relevant science and policy to be able to address applications for wells in our area in an informed way. This is another example of our efforts to stay on top of emerging issues and inform the public of options for participation.

We are also addressing the issue of pharmaceuticals being found in our waters by working in partnership to host collection and disposal events and to plan for and implement a permanent collection site to remove unused drugs from our communities. You can read about this effort on page one.

Your support helps us devote the time and resources to address these growing concerns. We so greatly appreciate your willingness to provide the funds for this critical work. Thank you.

## Deep Injection Well Workshop

A workshop entitled “Understanding the Depths of Deep Injection Wells” was held at North Central Michigan College on May 20th. Deep injection wells have been in our region for a long time. In the future we expect proposals for new wells, and proposals seeking approval to change or modify the use of existing wells. Our goal was to educate the attendees about this topic. Below, Dr. William B. Harrison of Western Michigan University presents information on the Geology of Northern Lower Michigan. Other speakers included William J. L. Bates, US EPA Region 5, and Ray Vugrinovich, Office of Geological Survey, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.



(Above) Grenetta Thomassey, Program Director for the Watershed Council welcomes the attendees. (Below) The technology used in deep injection wells is discussed.





## Pigeon River Dam to Be Removed

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Pigeon River Country Association (PRCA), Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE), the Michigan Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU), and Golden Lotus, Inc., the Song of the Morning Ranch (SOMR) Dam on the Pigeon River will be removed. The dam and site is owned by Golden Lotus, Inc. The above-mentioned parties signed an interim order on April 6, 2010, resolving litigation from the June 2008 accidental release of sediment and fluctuating water levels from the dam, which resulted in a significant fish kill. The 2008 release was the dam's third noticeable failure since 1957. The SOMR currently uses the 100 year-old plus dam to generate electricity. However, the dam's aging infrastructure and sediment-filled pond limit its capacity to produce a significant supply.

The Pigeon River, a Michigan Natural River and one of the state's most treasured coldwater trout streams, is home to

wild brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Removal of the dam will result in numerous habitat benefits including fish passage to upper reaches of the Pigeon River and cooler water temperatures in the lower reaches. In addition, the natural flow of water, sediments, nutrients, and organisms will no longer be impeded.

Golden Lotus, Inc. will be responsible for mitigation costs of \$150,000 and the cost of structure removal. In addition to the dam removal, the current area of impoundment will be restored according to a restoration plan jointly developed by all the parties. Removal is expected to take place gradually over several years to minimize further impacts to the Pigeon River. PRCA, TU, MDNRE, and Golden Lotus, Inc. will continue to work together to ensure the health of the Pigeon River as this important undertaking moves forward.

## Northern Inland Lake Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee

After concerns about a walleye population drop in Mullett Lake last winter, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) helped to form an Inland Waterway Citizens Advisory Committee to increase communications between the Fisheries Division and stakeholders, including Lake Associations and tribal interests. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff Kevin Cronk and Grenetta Thomassey are also serving on this committee.

The famous Inland Waterway of our region is a lake and stream connection over 45 miles long from Pickerel Lake to Lake Huron, through Crooked Lake, the Crooked River, Burt Lake, Indian River, Mullet Lake, and the Cheboygan River. The Black River connects Black Lake with the Cheboygan River, so common fishing interests also extend into this area. Together, these fishery resources are heavily used and shared, so there is intense interest in the management of these waters. The Committee provides opportunities for MDNRE biologists and managers to meet with stakeholders and the goal is to encourage, educate, and promote science-based management of the lakes.

The committee is closely following food web changes occurring in Lake Huron and the challenges of adapting fishery management techniques to this changing ecosystem. Walleye populations are declining in several of the larger inland lakes, and studying lake profiles compiled by Kevin

at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council showed significant decreases in productivity in these waters after the introduction of the zebra mussels. There are very steep declines in total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a, while water clarity readings are increasing. These changes appear to parallel the food web changes occurring in Lake Huron, and more emphasis and resources need to be directed to these inland waters. Stay tuned! We will continue to report on the work of this committee, but if you have any questions please call Kevin or Grenetta at 231-347-1181.

### SPECIAL OFFER



## SKY IRIS

Leslie Burk, former Watershed Council Development Director, opened a lovely store in downtown Petoskey on Mitchell Street called Sky Iris. The store boasts beautiful furniture, upholstery, and unique novelties for children's and teen's rooms.

On **Monday, July 26th**, Leslie offers 5% off in-store items (no custom orders), with proceeds donated to fund programs of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. Stop in and purchase items that support our efforts to protect our waters!

# Policy Update

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## **America's Commitment to Clean Water Act:**

On April 21, Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-MN) introduced America's Commitment to Clean Water Act (ACCWA) along with Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Vern Ehlers (R-MI). The purpose of this landmark legislation is to reaffirm the ability of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to protect all of the nation's waters. This legislation restores Clean Water Act protections that were placed in doubt by U.S. Supreme Court decisions (*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 2001, and *Rapanos v. United States*, 2006) and Bush Administration guidance. Following these controversial Supreme Court decisions, over 20 million acres of wetlands and tens of thousands of miles of streams are losing protections under the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act, leaving them vulnerable to pollution and destruction.

ACCWA has the same basic goal as the Clean Water Restoration Act, legislation introduced in years past. This legislation ends confusion over how to protect our nation's waters and reaffirms safeguards that Congress originally intended and that were in place before the Supreme Court muddled the waters—nothing more, nothing less.

## **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative:**

The health of the Great Lakes is compromised by invasive species, water pollution, degraded habitat for fish and wildlife, and a legacy of toxic contaminants in our rivers and harbors. Last year, the President proposed and

Congress supported a new multi-year initiative to accelerate progress in restoring the Great Lakes. The President committed to a five-year, \$5 billion program to implement the Great Lakes restoration and protection strategy. \$475 million was provided for in FY 2010 under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and this is a strong start. However, sustained, consistent funding is needed to keep pace with the urgent threats to the Lakes, make up for years of inadequate federal investment, fulfill the President's promise, and ensure the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's long-term success. Congress must help by funding the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at the full \$475 million to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Sustained investment in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative will clean up toxic pollution; restore wetlands to improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat; and prevent and control new invasive species.

## **Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act:**

Congress also has the opportunity to propel Great Lakes restoration forward by enacting the Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act. This bill provides a permanent source of funding for essential restoration programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Great Lakes Legacy Act, enhances regional coordination, increases accountability, and ensures that restoration efforts focus on the right priorities that produce the most benefit to the Lakes and the people, businesses, and communities that depend on them.



*With your help,  
we are protecting Northern Michigan's beautiful water resources.*





{ **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. }

## Cheboygan Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands: Permit Denied

As reported in our last newsletter, the Watershed Council testified at a public hearing concerning development on a 35-acre tract of Lake Huron coastal wetlands near Duncan Bay. The applicant proposed over 10,000 cubic yards of fill to build a luxury motor coach RV park. Destruction of such a vast wetland tract would impact the health of the Cheboygan River and Lake Huron, due to vital hydrological connections.

The permit application was denied by Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE); a great example of the agency applying the statute and providing intended protection. Great Lakes coastal wetlands were not historically appreciated, but scientific advances for 40 years show that protecting these wetlands is essential, and restoration is a top priority. The federal government is spending millions, including a \$10 million grant to Central Michigan University, to restore the exact same kind of rare wetlands that this proposal would have destroyed. This denial is in keeping with wetland protection laws and supports restoration efforts by enforcing those laws. We applaud this decision, and once again, Aquavists voices made a difference! Thank you!

## Hydraulic Fracturing: What's all the fuss about???

A recent auction of state-owned mineral leases set records. Department of Natural Resources and Environment raised almost double the amount it has collected in similar auctions over 81 years, combined! In the wake of this, hundreds of property owners are being contacted to lease their mineral rights. What's going on?

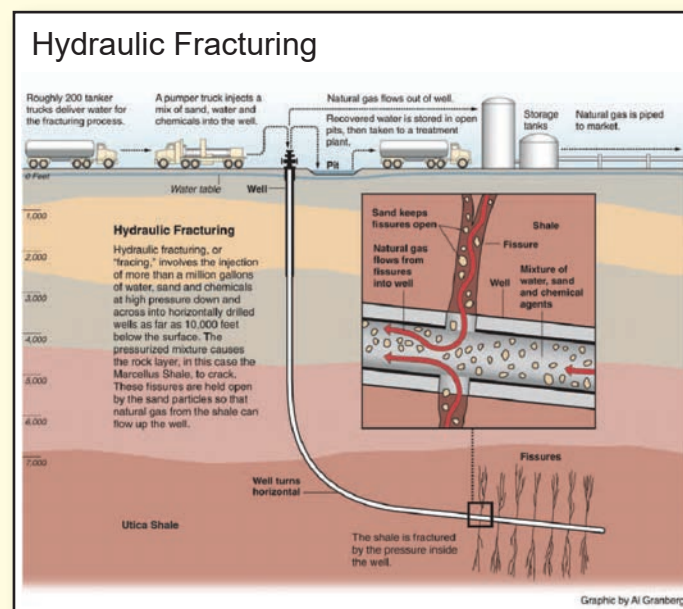
A single test well in Missaukee County resulted in what some call "significant" natural gas in the Utica Shale rock formation, creating interest from local and international energy companies. If enough leases are collected to make drilling worthwhile, a method called Hydraulic Fracturing will be used to access this very deep rock layer. Because this method of drilling has reportedly created problems for water resources in other states, we are working to understand everything our members need to know about this. Our questions concern three key elements: Where will the huge amount

of water needed for this process come from; what chemicals are added to it; and where does the wastewater go?

DNRE says they will prohibit surface water withdrawals for this drilling, so ground water will likely be the source. Millions of gallons of water are used to fracture each well. Unlike many other states, Michigan regulates water withdrawals and permits are required for new or increased withdrawals over 2 million gallons per day from ground water, and any withdrawal causing an "adverse resource impact" is prohibited.

Next, hydraulic fracturing uses hundreds of undisclosed chemicals, which are mixed with water and pumped underground, directly through aquifers, to fracture rock. While the DNRE is provided with information on the chemicals, chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing process are "undisclosed" from the public because they are considered to be trade secrets and proprietary information.

Aside from water use concerns, if you are approached about leasing, it is crucial to understand this complicated process. MSU Extension held a series of educational workshops and has a great resource of information at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/charlevoix>. We will follow this issue closely. Call Grenetta with questions or to get involved at 231-347-1181.



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

Contact Grenetta Thomassey at (231) 347-1181 ext. 118 or by email at [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org).

## Millions of Midges

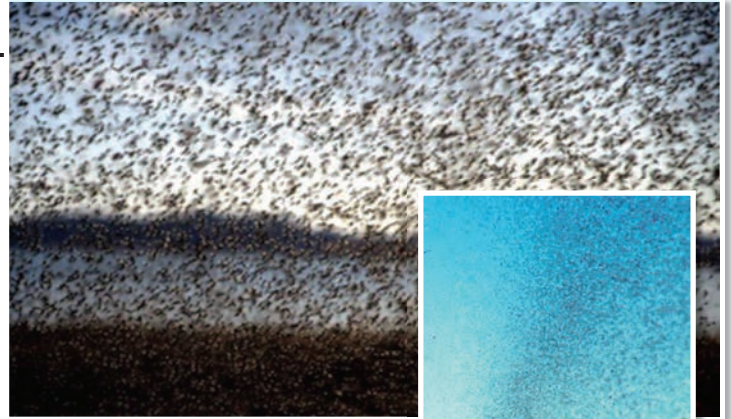
Have you ever biked or walked along the scenic Lake Michigan shoreline, mouth agape at the beauty of it all, and suddenly find yourself with a mouthful of tiny little flies? Most flies that hover in thick clouds near the shore belong to the fly family called *Chironomidae* and are commonly called “midges”. Based on all the phone calls we’ve received, 2010 has been a particularly heavy midge year, though, fortunately, *Chironomidae* do not bite or carry diseases.



Midges may be a nuisance, but they are an integral part of lake and stream ecosystems. Most of us know midges in their adult life stage, as annoying little flies that get in our hair, eyes and ears, though few would recognize their aquatic “C”-shaped worm-like larval form. The life span of adult midges is very brief, a period of a few days, but they live for several

weeks or months in the water, where they generally make up a large portion of the macroinvertebrate community... and a generous portion of the diet of small fish.

So next time you find yourself in a cloud of midges, try to forgive them and maybe even thank them for the vital role they play in our lakes, streams and wetlands.



2010 has been a particularly heavy midge year. Although *Chironomidae* don't bite, this nuisance species is an integral part of lake and stream ecosystems.

### EXTREME MIDGES

#### *Surprising facts about midges*

Among aquatic entomologists, midges are known for their dense numbers and their resilience to adverse environmental conditions. Dense clusters of midges in the tens of thousands per square meter have been documented. *Polypedilum vanderplanki* is perhaps the most famous midge species due to its ability to survive incredibly harsh conditions. Experiments with this midge have shown that it can survive at 106° C for 3 hours, 200° C for 5 minutes, -190° C (liquid air) for 77 hours, -270° C (liquid helium) for 5 minutes, immersion in pure alcohol for 7 days, and in glycerol for 67 hours. Extreme? YES! *This insect is classified as an “extremophile”.*

## Lake Association Summit 2010

On June 21st, over 45 representatives from lake associations across our four county service area joined together for our annual Lake Association Summit. It was a time of reflection on some of the large issues facing our vital water resources as well as a time for gathering information and networking.

This event was presented in partnership with the Watershed Center of Grand Traverse Bay and was partially funded by the Network of Lake Associations. A special thank you to the Petoskey Walmart for providing additional funding for this event.



*A great time for networking with other lake associations.*





# The Pulse of Water Bodies Weaken: Is Impairment Imminent?

For decades, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council has taken the pulse of lakes and streams throughout Northern Michigan, monitoring their health. The pulse for the vast majority of these water bodies is strong; water quality remains high. However, there are a few lakes and streams that show a weakening pulse; water quality degrading as the population and associated impacts increase over time. Are these lakes and streams doomed to become impaired as so many have in more populated areas of the state and country? Certainly not if we can help it!

Watershed Council staff and volunteers currently monitor over 60 lakes and streams scattered throughout the tip of the mitt. Most of our waterbodies remain healthy, vigorous; with high water quality and vibrant ecosystems. But some of our waters are not faring so well, such as Tannery Creek, Stover Creek, Spring Lake, and Bass Lake.

## What signs have we seen of water quality impairment?

Chloride monitoring provides one signal. Chloride concentrations have sky-rocketed in Spring and Bass Lakes, though they do not pose an immediate threat to aquatic organisms. Increased chloride indicates that other, more toxic substances, such as leaking fluids and metals from cars, are also washing into these lakes.

Biological diversity, or lack thereof, serves as another sign. In Tannery and Stover Creeks, volunteer monitoring data shows a disturbing lack of biological diversity, particularly of aquatic macroinvertebrates that are sensitive to pollution like mayflies and stoneflies. In fact, during the course of 6 years of monitoring near the mouth of Stover Creek, not one sensitive aquatic insect has been found!

**Why are these waters impaired?** The likely culprit is that all these water bodies are near urban areas. These urban areas have more people, roads, buildings, sidewalks, automobiles,



and waste than rural areas. This landscape development interrupts the natural hydrology, causing precipitation to wash over land instead of filtering into the ground. The stormwater runoff accrues pollutants and heats up as it moves over roofs, parking lots and the like and into adjacent lakes and streams.

**What can be done about it?** First and foremost is improving stormwater management. The Watershed Council has addressed impacts from stormwater pollution, through education and outreach and the development of stormwater management plans and installation of stormwater treatment devices. Little by little improvements are being made.

Individuals can help reduce impacts from stormwater as well. Properly maintaining your automobiles to prevent fluids from leaking, washing your car on the lawn instead of the drive, cleaning up after pets, capturing rainwater in rain barrels or rain gardens to reduce the amount of water flowing over paved surfaces, sweeping dirt into the yard to prevent it washing into stormwater drains will all help protect our waters! Call Kevin Cronk or Jen Gelb at 347-1181 for additional ideas.





## Combating Invasive Species in the Bear River Watershed

Started in early 2000, thanks to the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation's initial grant of \$6,000.00, the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council's "Healing the Bear" program has been successful restoring and protecting the Bear River. This summer the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council will undertake another restoration project on the Bear River, thanks once again to the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation's generous support. We plan to inventory the presence and extent of the invasive plants *Phragmites*, *Phragmites australis*, and purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, throughout the Bear River Watershed and to work with property owners and other partners to eradicate both plants from the area. Additionally, we will educate the public about the dangers of these invasive plants and invasive species in general. Our goal is to reduce the ecological and recreational impact of *Phragmites* and purple loosestrife on the Bear River through identification of their location and eradication.

The invasion of exotic species is one of the gravest dangers facing the Great Lakes and our Northern Michigan water resources including the Bear River. Since the 1800's, more than 180 alien species have invaded the Great Lakes ecosystem from around the world, costing us millions of dollars, and in some cases, irreparably damaging the Great Lakes ecosystem.



*Phragmites* is a perennial tall grass growing up to 15 feet high and which grows in wet areas ranging from wetlands to shorelines. There is a native variety found in Northern Michigan that lives in harmony with other plants and animals in the ecosystem. However, an invasive *Phragmites* variety has moved into the region. This plant poses a serious problem due to its tendency to grow rampantly out of control, dominate areas in which it grows, displace native plants, degrade habitat for waterfowl and animals, alter local hydrology, and become a serious nuisance to recreation and enjoyment of our waters. Purple loosestrife has gained a strong foothold in many Northern Michigan waters. It threatens native species by crowding them out and competing for water and sunlight.

We know that purple loosestrife occurs throughout the Bear River but we do not know if invasive *Phragmites* will be found. It is critical at this stage to prevent the spread of *Phragmites* into our river systems and to eradicate it and purple loosestrife where they occur. For more information contact Kevin Cronk at 347-1181, ext. 109.



Bear River



# Phragmites Inventory and Control Efforts Move Beyond the Bay

During the summer of 2009, all 10 miles of the Little Traverse Bay shoreline were surveyed to document the occurrence of invasive *Phragmites*. This invasive plant, growing densely and up to 15' high, poses a danger to native ecosystems and a nuisance for those living or recreating on our lakes and streams. Although a native variety exists in this region, the invasive type is popping up left and right, particularly along Great Lakes shorelines and roadside ditches. This year, the Watershed Council is expanding its efforts to coordinate *Phragmites* inventory and control by extending surveys north up the Emmet County shoreline and south into the Bear River watershed.

Invasive *Phragmites* is an aggressive plant that inhabits wet areas and snuffs out the competition by growing in dense, tall, monoculture stands. Beyond displacing native plants, invasive *Phragmites* reduces the variety of habitat and food available for native organisms and even alters local hydrology. Furthermore, this nuisance plant can block lake views and impede access to lakes and other water bodies. Other areas of Michigan, such as Saginaw Bay and Detroit, were invaded by the non-native *Phragmites* years ago, where it has rapidly spread and reached levels that are nearly impossible to control.

To avoid a similar scenario in Northern Michigan, the Watershed Council and many other organizations have banded together to nip this problem plant in the bud. Relative to southern Michigan, the occurrence of invasive *Phragmites* is still relatively rare in the tip of the mitt. During a 2008 survey of the entire Inland Waterway and adjacent roads, our staff and interns found hundreds of native *Phragmites* stands, but only a handful of the invasive. However, all but one of the 112 stands we found in the 2009 Little Traverse Bay survey were of the invasive type.

The Watershed Council is now coordinating control efforts throughout Emmet County and beyond. Currently, we are pushing surveys north to complete a comprehensive inventory of the Lake Michigan shoreline to Mackinaw City in time to arrange for treatment in the fall. Permit applications must be submitted by August 15, so that control efforts can be carried out in the early fall. Additionally, our staff and interns will also be comprehensively surveying the Bear River Watershed, which drains an extensive area to the south of Little Traverse Bay, including Walloon Lake. Through all of these inventory and control efforts, we hope to hold *Phragmites* at bay: Northern Michigan's waters are still relatively pristine and invasive free - we want to keep it this way!



*Phragmites* stand near Cross Village.



*Phragmites* along the Emmet County shoreline.



Intern assisting with *Phragmites* survey near Cross Village.

# WELCOME New Members

March 12, 2010 - June 7, 2010

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.

Ms. Julia Pollister Amos	Mr. and Mrs. Alphonsus F. Helner	Diane Morand
Ms. Deanna L. Arntson	Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Hensler	Kathryn Morley
Mr. Thomas C. Bailey	Mr. and Mrs. C. James Hyslop	Mr. and Mrs. William A. Morrow
Mr. Terry Conlon	Mr. John Iacoanegli	Patrick and Valissa Naganashe
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Cook, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Timothy W. Jacobs	Helen O'Toole
Mr. and Mrs. James Costello	Mr. Samuel Keany	Ms. Joyce Oblinger
Mr. P. Dean Curtis	Kiwanis Club of Indian River	Mr. and Mrs. George Parker
Jonathan and Wendy DeWys	Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Knoll	Ms. Janice M. Peploski
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Dragstedt, II	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kristin	Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence D. Piotrowski
James and Judith Eberle	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Lindgren	Karen L. Sherrard
Mr. and Mrs. Graham Edwards	Michael and Susan Linton	Mr. and Mrs. Todd Strauss
Ms. Gayle T. Gennett	Mr. and Mrs. James Little	Mr. and Mrs. Mark Tompkins
Mr. and Mrs. Thor Gilbertson	Mr. and Mrs. John Martin	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Vallee
Ms. Barbara Hanson	Mr. Jeremy McBain	Mr. Julian P. Van Winkle, III
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hardy	Ms. Jean McDonald	Joan Wadsworth
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Harris	Leslie and Dorothea McDougal	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walker, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hawley	Dr. and Mr. Michael Moquin	Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Young, Sr.

## Memorials & Honorariums

March 12, 2010 - June 7, 2010

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.

### In Honor of:

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - Jen Gelb

*Twin Lake Association - loved the restoration work on spillway*

### In Memory of:

Peter Goshia

*Gary and Lindy (Goshia) Buffington*

## Thank You VOLUNTEERS

We could not accomplish the many tasks and projects that need to be done without the help of our volunteers!

### RSVP Volunteers

Gretchen Brown	William & Ellen Massey
Sharon Brown	Marjorie E. May
Virginia Corpus	Paula Perttu
Ella Gough	Marge Upton
Karl and Marian Jurries	

### Special Project Volunteers

Claire Rasmussen - Policy Work, Event planning, Volunteer Needs Study
Sally Kraegel - Data Entry, Event planning, Editing
Volunteer Stream Monitors - who helped with the Spring Monitoring program
Ryde Marine - Boat and motor repairs
Howard Newkirk - Truck procurement

# Thank You! Your support helps us grow.



## 2010 is a Very Good Year for Major Charitable Giving!

**Says who?** The Tax Foundation, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization which monitors federal fiscal policy.

**What they say:** High-income taxpayers should make major charitable gifts in 2010 in order to take advantage of tax breaks that may be gone in 2011.

**Why 2010?** The PEP (personal exemption phase-out for higher-income individuals) and the Pease provision (3% floor on itemized deductions for high-income taxpayers) are not applicable in 2010, but are very likely to be restored in 2011 and beyond.

**When does it affect me?** After 2010, the Pease itemized floor will affect married couples with income over \$254,550 and single persons over \$203,650.

**Where do I give?** Give to your favorite charitable nonprofit organizations – like Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, who does so much for our precious waters in Northern Michigan.

## Watershed Council Staff Take a Walk on the *wild* Side



**Top Left** - Kristy Beyer, Communication Specialist, had fun working the crowd prior to the doors opening at the event. **Top Right** - Maureen Stine, Membership and Communications Director; Jennifer McKay, Policy Specialist, and Kristy Beyer are ready to hand out brochures and answer questions. **Above** - Maureen Stine, Jack Hanna, Jennifer McKay, and Kristy Beyer enjoy a parting shot at the end of a well attended show.

Jack Hanna, one of America's most beloved naturalists and adventurers, spoke at North Central Michigan College in April. His presentation drew over 1,000 people and featured some of his live exotic animals. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff members were on hand to answer questions on local wetland issues. A popular point of interest at the booth was the life size cut out of a man holding an Asian carp. People were amazed by the size of this aquatic invader.

## THANK YOU

**Leah Kilpatrick**, Explorer Guide from MDNRE Wilderness State Park, co-guided the Coastal Plants Walk with Jen Gelb on Wednesday, June 2nd. The walk kicked off our summer events calendar. We thank Leah for her time, knowledge, and enthusiasm!

**Roast & Toast** for providing delicious coffee for our events and meetings.

**North Central Michigan College** for providing booth space to the Watershed Council free of charge at the Jack Hanna presentation held in April.

**David Spieser**, from North by Nature Ecological Landscapes, for maintaining the Watershed Council's rain gardens and native landscaping. It looks beautiful.





## Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council staff participated in the "Smart Commute" week held June 7-10. Way to go team!

(Left to right) Jennifer Gelb, Kevin Cronk, and Jennifer McKay.



## Beetle Collection Day

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council led another successful *Galerucella* Beetle Collection Day in June. The beetles are a native predator to purple loosestrife and have proved to be a great way to control the spread of this invasive plant. A special thanks to all of this year's volunteers.



## Experience Lake Charlevoix



Over three hundred 6th and 7th grade students from Boyne City, Boyne Falls, East Jordan, and Charlevoix areas attended the 16th annual Experience Lake Charlevoix aboard the Beaver Islander. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council partnered with the Lake Charlevoix Association, the Beaver Island Boat Company, and a team of dedicated volunteers to provide this unique and exciting learning experience for the future stewards of Lake Charlevoix.



Visit our website for details and order form  
www.watershedcouncil.org  
or call 231-347-1181



**Rain Barrel Sale**  
**Ends Aug. 1**  
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