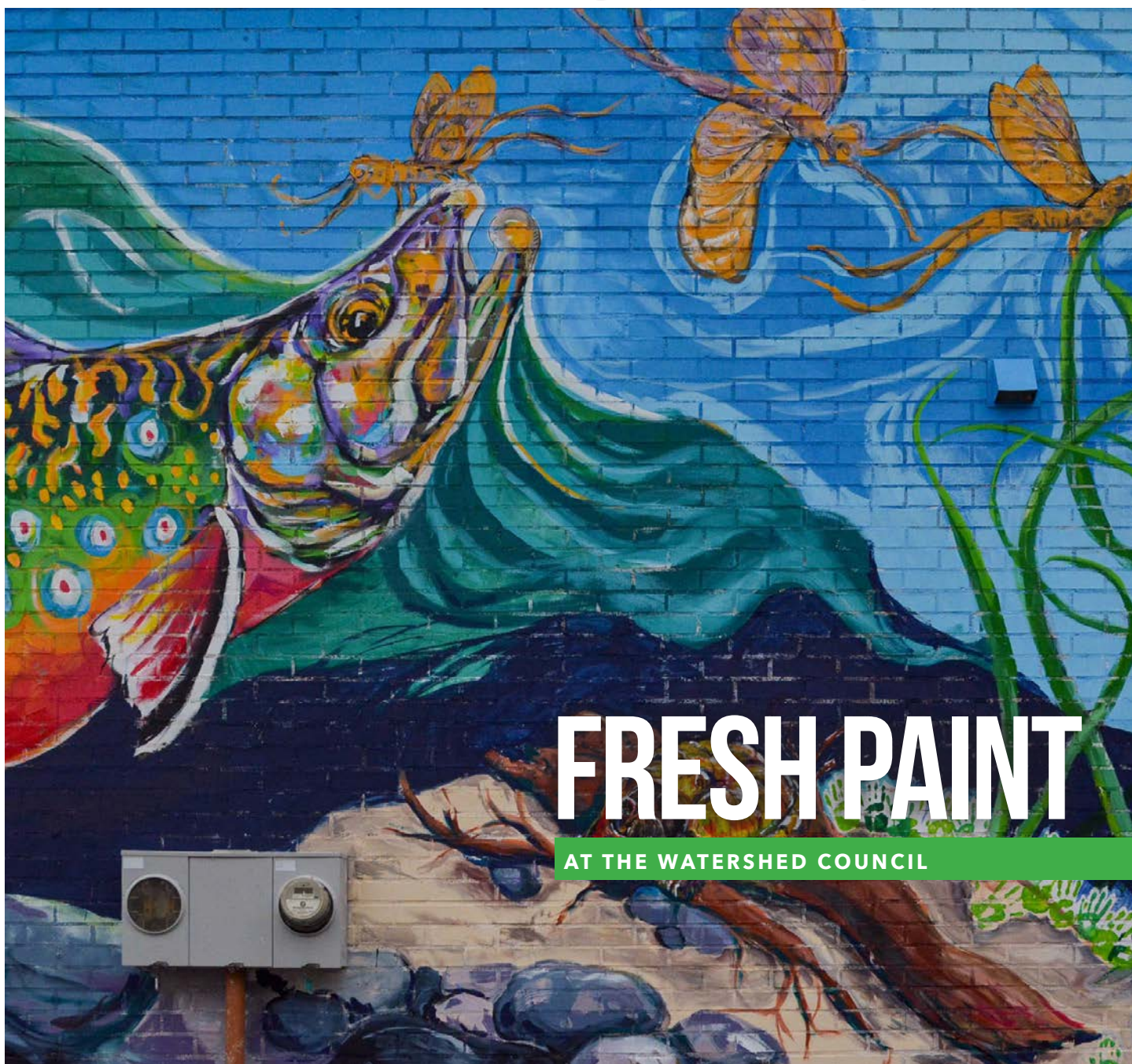


Current Reflections

A publication to inform and educate about the importance of protecting our lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater.



FRESH PAINT

AT THE WATERSHED COUNCIL

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ON THE COVER

2023 Mural Project

ARTIST: SARAH LANDSTROM

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Reflections



There are things in life that I wouldn't want to live without. Top of the list are my family, friends, and neighbors. A close second is art. My house is wall-to-wall in watercolors, oils, and photographs—mostly created by Northern Michigan artists, often of shorelines, rivers, and bays.

That's why the last four weeks have been so much fun. In full view of my second-floor Watershed Council office, I've been watching Sarah Landstrom apply broad strokes of vibrant color to the west side of our building. The mural, funded by the Oleson Foundation and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, illustrates rain gardens—an effective way to filter harmful runoff, protecting our lakes, streams, and rivers. QR codes will help those who pass by the mural learn of their value and importance.

Watershed Council staff recently gathered in front of the mural for a photo. You'll notice that our staff is full of young professionals—highly motivated and fully trained in the areas of their expertise—specialists in water quality, invasive species, shoreline restoration, environmental advocacy, and youth and community education. We all agree that this is a critical time to protect our waterways, and we are here to work toward that goal.

And there are good signs all around Northern Michigan. In late June, the Watershed Council hosted its annual Linking Lakes networking event at Camp Petosega on Pickerel Lake. Forty-four representatives from lake associations and those who love and care for our streams, rivers, and wetlands gathered to share their struggles, challenges, and successes. We heard about shoreline restorations, dam removals, septic studies, rain garden installations, native plants, and cost-sharing initiatives to make a positive impact on our most valuable resource—water.

Enjoy this issue of our newsletter, and please continue to support our efforts. And as always, you can learn more at watershedcouncil.org.

Kim Baker
Interim Manager

DIVE INTO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF WATERSHEDS WITH OUR "WATERSHEDS AT WORK" PODCAST!



Join host Kory Alaniz as he dives into the intricate workings of watersheds, shedding light on crucial environmental issues through thought-provoking discussions, and tackling subjects that matter—like watershed management, water quality, wildlife preservation, and many more.

Listen on Spotify or find them on our website!



MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
COUNCIL





A FUTURE COLORFUL AND BRIGHT

We're painting a bright future for our watershed with our newest addition—an Interactive Rain Garden Mural. Thanks to generous support from the Oleson Foundation and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, we've transformed our downtown Petoskey building into a vibrant work of art that serves as an educational resource on rain gardens and their role in protecting our waters.

Michigan artist Sarah Landstrom brought the mural to life with her distinctive style, characterized by vivid colors and fluid brushstrokes, depicting twenty native Michigan species — each with a QR code that can be scanned with your phone

camera. Unlock the secrets of each native plant, insect, fish, bird, and animal, and discover their role in rain gardens and sustaining our delicate ecosystem.

What's the buzz about rain gardens anyway? Every time it rains, water rushes off surfaces like roofs and driveways, carrying pollutants along with it — fertilizers, oils, and other contaminants. This runoff can harm nearby water quality. That's where rain gardens come in! These gardens are strategically placed in areas where water naturally flows. By capturing as much water as possible, rain gardens help slow runoff and filter out those pollutants and contaminants.

When you visit a rain garden, including the one in front of our building, you'll witness the wonders of native plants that filter water and create a haven for pollinators and other wildlife. It's like stepping into the mural itself, with ruby-throated hummingbirds and bee balm plants bringing it to life!

Visit us at 426 Bay Street, where you can view and learn about our mural by scanning the species' QR codes with your phone. A printed guide is available at our office, where you can also pick up a list of Petoskey area rain gardens for a self-guided tour.



Students lower secchi disks into Lake Charlevoix to measure water clarity.

STUDENTS EMBARK ON

AN UNFORGETTABLE LEARNING VOYAGE

After a three-year pause due to COVID-19, the Watershed Council and Lake Charlevoix Association once again joined together to host an extraordinary event: Students Experience Lake Charlevoix (SELC).

This one-of-a-kind program welcomes nearly 300 sixth graders each year from Charlevoix County schools to board the iconic *Beaver Islander* and set sail across the west bay of Lake Charlevoix—where a world of discovery awaits. On board, students are immersed in a series of experiments and activities centered around water quality, watershed protection, invasive species, and water safety.

For everyone involved, the day on the lake was an impactful learning experience. Volunteers, students, and organizers alike shared knowledge, fostered connections, and created memories that will last a lifetime.



Watershed Council intern Indira Sankaran demonstrates stormwater runoff on a watershed model.



INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACTION-TAKERS & POLICY-MAKERS

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council recognizes the importance of nurturing a new generation of stewards who will safeguard our lakes, rivers, and streams for years to come.

You've probably heard about the interns who spend their summers working with the Watershed Council. They review permits, monitor invasive species, help with volunteer stream monitoring, and attend local government meetings. But have you heard about the unsung heroes who make it possible behind-the-scenes?

MAURA BRANDI INTERNSHIP FUND

In 2015, Maura Brandi, beloved daughter of Maureen Radke and Rick Brandi, tragically lost her life in a car accident. A landscape architecture student at Michigan State University, Maura was about to embark on a fulfilling career in environmental sciences when her life was cut short.

To honor Maura's vibrant spirit and to ensure that her memory remains alive forever, Maura's family created the Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund at the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. This endowment fund provides support for the Watershed Council's internship program.

By offering financial support, the fund enables deserving college students to continue their education while gaining invaluable knowledge and hands-on experience in the field.

Maura's family extends a heartfelt invitation to join them in the initiative.



BILL WEISS

Bill Weiss, a founding member of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, also shares a passion for investing in students pursuing an education in environmental sciences. Through an annual gift to the Watershed Council from the Weiss family, Bill helps to ensure the future of our internship program.

"I think this is a great way to engage the most talented and forward-thinking minds in environmental sciences in Northern Michigan. It provides students the opportunity to apply their fresh and innovative ideas, all while building their resumes. We hope they choose to remain in our community after graduation, putting what they've learned into action right here in our own backyard."

- BILL WEISS

Having spent idyllic summers on Torch Lake, Weiss cultivated a deep connection with the woods and waters. Over the years, Weiss immersed himself in water-related pursuits, earning a degree in coastal and estuarine oceanography and serving as an employee of the Texas Water Quality Board. Additionally, he devoted his time as a volunteer for the Inland Seas School ship, affectionately earning the moniker "Dr. Bill."

It's no surprise Bill's dedication to fostering the younger generation doesn't stop with his volunteer work. Both of his sons have chosen to follow in their father's footsteps, pursuing careers in environmental science.

"We kindly ask you to join us in honoring our daughter's memory by contributing to the fund. Your gift will not only assist college students in pursuing their educational endeavors but also help us realize our vision of creating a lasting memorial in Maura's name—a testament to her passion for learning and her indomitable spirit."

- MAUREEN RADKE

Watershed Council summer intern and U-M Biological Station's 2023 CLEAR Fellow Indira Sankaran lives and takes summer classes at the scientific field station in northern Michigan. Learn more about her work and studies here.





WAYS TO SUPPORT WATERSHED COUNCIL INTERNS

Join the Brandi and Weiss families by investing in the next generation who will make a tangible impact on our waterways.

To donate to the Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund:

Make your check payable to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation - Maura Brandi MSU Internship Fund and mail it to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, PO Box 718, East Jordan, MI 49727 or donate online at c3f.org.

To designate your gift to our general internship fund:

Visit watershedcouncil.org and indicate "Internship Fund" in the tribute line of your gift. Or, send your check to the Watershed Council at 426 Bay Street, Petoskey, MI 49770 and kindly include "Internship Fund" in the memo line.

2023 SUMMER INTERNS



KAI GARCIA

Kai Garcia joined our Watershed Protection Team as an intern this summer. He is an environmental science major studying at Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan. During the school year, he can be found in class, working as a TA for a molecular biology class, researching Ypsilanti's freshwater systems, and working in leadership positions to improve campus. He enjoys hiking, fishing, volunteering, reading, and is always looking to learn new skills.



INDIRA SANKARAN

Indira Sankaran also joined our Watershed Protection Team as a summer intern. She is an ecology and environment major, with a specialization in water resource management, at the University of Michigan. During the school year, she works at the U of M food pantry, lifeguards at the rec center, and plays soccer on the intramural sports team. She also enjoys drawing, reading, hiking, and playing sports!

FROM INTERN TO STAFF MEMBER



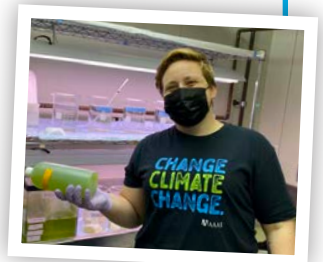
ANNA MCGLASHEN

Anna McGlashen first joined the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council team as a policy and advocacy intern the summer of 2022. After completing her M.S. in Environmental Policy at University of Michigan, Anna returned to our team this spring as Local Policy Manager.

Anna is focused on local issues that impact water quality within our four-county service area.

Want to get Anna really excited? Ask her about septic systems and how she is working to establish local ordinances to help eliminate contamination in our groundwater, rivers, and lakes from faulty septs.

When not diving headfirst into the murky waters of septic failures, Anna loves reading a good book, hanging out with her cats, and visiting local farm markets.



YOUR LOCAL POLICY MANAGER AT WORK!

On July 18, the Torch Lake Township Board unanimously voted in favor of a groundbreaking time-of-transfer septic ordinance. Making the ordinance groundbreaking and a model for other local units of government, the Torch Lake Township ordinance not only requires inspection of well and septic systems in the Township before any residential property is sold, it

incorporates additional safeguards to address septic systems that pose the greatest risk to water resources. The ordinance requires inspections of properties within 500 feet of a water body and properties that have no record of a septic permit. This will provide a more comprehensive protection program for Torch Lake and Lake Michigan addressing those septic

systems that pose the greatest risk to our water resources. The collective efforts of Watershed Council, Torch Lake Protection Alliance, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, Torch Lake Township officials, and concerned residents underscore the community's dedication to preserving Northern Michigan water resources for future generations.

RECENT CHANGES TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT...

AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY.



The Supreme Court recently issued a decision in the case of *Sackett v. EPA* regarding the Clean Water Act's application to wetlands. Unfortunately, the Court's ruling significantly narrowed protections for more than a hundred million acres of wetlands under federal law.

For more than 50 years, the Clean Water Act has aimed to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The original intent, as acknowledged by former Michigan Congressman and architect of the 1972 Clean Water Act John Dingell, was to protect all of America's waters and wetlands. However, the Supreme Court disregarded decades of precedent, statutory language, and the authors' original intent, leading to a reduction in vital wetland protections.

According to the majority opinion, the Clean Water Act now only applies to wetlands with "continuous surface connection," or a

form of interconnectivity. This decision could potentially remove protections for at least half of the nation's wetlands, disregarding the best available science and posing a significant threat to streams and wetlands that support biodiversity and human health. Wetlands play a crucial role in filtering pollutants, providing clean drinking water, absorbing excess rainfall, reducing floods, and acting as wildlife habitats.

As a consequence of this ruling, many wetlands, streams, and small bodies of water may be destroyed without regulation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Although this decision is devastating for the nation, it's important to note that Michigan's Wetlands Protection program, authorized by the EPA, remains unaffected. Michigan is one of three states operating its own wetlands permitting program under delegated federal authority. The state has

clear definitions of regulated wetlands, lakes, and streams under its laws. While Michigan may not experience the same level of loss in protections as the rest of the nation, it's essential to remember that all waters are interconnected, and the state is not immune to the decision's effects.

In light of this ruling, it is now up to Congress to act and restore the Clean Water Act, reaffirming its original purpose of safeguarding America's waters and wetlands.

Jennifer McKay

Chief Policy & Government Affairs Director

As chief policy and governmental affairs director, Jennifer leads the development, execution, and evaluation of the Watershed Council's policy work to improve water resources protection and serves to ensure that priority positions and local, state, and national advocacy outcomes are effectively achieved.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

COLLABORATION IS AT THE HEART OF OUR MISSION.

Our team of highly skilled professionals is frequently called upon by organizations and community members seeking our assistance. These partnerships encompass a wide range of support, all with a common objective: empowering our community to become even more effective in their efforts to protect water resources.

Our services include:

- » GIS Mapping
- » Greenbelt Assessments and Design
- » Inventories and Surveys
- » Monitoring Programs
- » Project and Site Plan Review
- » Shoreline and Streambank Restoration
- » Stormwater Studies and Management
- » Watershed Management Planning
- » Wetland Determination



Scan here to download a copy of our Technical Services brochure or call 231.347.1181 for more information.

SCOOP IT UP — IT'S YOUR DOODY!

Pets are always welcome at the Watershed Council. We cherish our four-legged companions!

But we ask your help in maintaining the cleanliness of our neighborhoods and waterways—for the benefit of everyone: humans and animals alike.

In our waters, pet waste can cause:



AQUATIC WEEDS



GASPING FISH



CONTAMINATED WATERS THAT ARE DANGEROUS TO SWIM IN



ALGAE

After it rains, **harmful bacteria** washes off of pet waste and enters our waterways, such as:



GIARDIA



ROUNDWORMS



SALMONELLA



PARASITES



VIRUSES

Thanks to the **Marana Webber Tost Foundation**, the Watershed Council will install a **new pet waste bag dispenser** in front of our downtown Petoskey office. Please do your part to keep our waters clean!

The US contributes 21.2 BILLION POUNDS of dog poop each year.

BAG IT!
Carry bags when you walk your dog

SCOOP IT!
Use a baggy as a glove & scoop the poop

TRASH IT!
Your tied bag belongs in the trash, not compost

UPCOMING EVENTS

WATERSHED COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, August 22
9:30 a.m. - Noon
Stafford's Perry Hotel, Reycraft Room

POD COMMUNITY COLLECTION EVENT

Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop-Off
Saturday, October 14
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
McLaren Northern Michigan Petoskey Campus - Hospital Circle off Mitchell Street

WATERSHED WEDNESDAYS



Join the Watershed Council for weekly family-friendly activities, crafts, and workshops on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. These events are free and open to the public.

August 16: Button Making
August 23: Walk in Waders Day
August 30: Fish Exhibit with Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

MOBILE BOAT (MOBO) WASHING



Aquatic invasive species can spread from one water body to the next by hitching a ride on boat hulls and trailers. Our

MOBO station uses high-pressure, heated water to wash invasive plants and animals off boats and trailers at Northern Michigan lake landings, keeping our boats clean and our waters pristine. Best of all, this service is completely free.

August 10, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.,
Douglas Lake Boat Ramp

August 11, 1 - 5 p.m.,
East Jordan Boat Ramp

August 12, Noon - 4 p.m.,
Petoskey Bayfront Park

August 18 & 19, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.,
Bridge Landing AuSable River

August 24: Walloon Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop

August 25, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.,
Jones Landing Boat Launch

August 30, Noon - 4 p.m.,
Petoskey Bayfront Park

August 31, 8 a.m.- Noon,
Douglas Lake Boat Ramp

September 7, 1 - 5 p.m., Aloha State Park

September 8, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.,
Cheboygan Forks Boat Launch

September 9, 8 a.m.- 12 p.m.,
Charlevoix Municipal Boat Ramp

September 14, 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.,
Paddle Antrim

September 15,
8 - 10 a.m.,
Paddle Antrim



CLEAN WATERS CHALLENGE 2023

We've partnered with our sponsor, Bearcub Outfitters, for the 2023 Clean Waters Challenge, August 18-20. By participating, you contribute to the protection of our waters and also get a chance to win incredible prizes.

This year, there are two ways to participate—organize your own cleanup or join us for a community cleanup at Turner Park in Cheboygan.

- 1 Participating on your own is easy! Simply spend some time cleaning up around your favorite lake, river, or stream within our service area. Don't forget to tag #CleanWatersChallenge2023 in your social media posts to qualify for the prize draw from Bearcub Outfitters.
- 2 Looking for an in-person volunteering opportunity? Join us at Turner Park in Cheboygan on Saturday, August 19, as we make a difference along the Cheboygan River banks. After the cleanup, enjoy pizza, beverages, and craft beer from Cheboygan Brewing. As a volunteer, you'll receive a special commemorative cleanup t-shirt and have a chance to win prizes from our sponsors.

Want to learn more about the event? Drop by Pennsylvania Park in Petoskey on Thursday, August 17, to grab information, supplies, and a Tillie's Tafel cinnamon roll.

Registration required.
Visit watershedcouncil.org to register and discover more details about the Clean Waters Challenge.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023)

Cheryl and Dave Bachleda
The Backlot
Jim and Mary Bandeen
Stephen R. Banks
Diana and Jeff Baribeau
Butch Bartz
James Beno
Alexandra Bernardin
Roy and Monique Bierwirth
Clifford and Carolyn Birge
Joe and Bonnie Chattaway
Linda and Robert Cichocky
Richard Clark
Sally Compere
Davis Family Fund
Betsy Davis
James Dearing

John Deremo
Kimber Dewitt
Harold N. Elrich
Michael and Cathy Emerson
Monica Farrier
Andrew H. and Eileen C. Fisher
Rick and Sue Fowler
Gerald Gadowski
Glenn H. Gustafson
Helen Johnson-Hackett and Doug Hackett
Thomas Haren
Michael Hatch
Pamela Himmelrich
Mark and Stacy Holmen
Rob and Katie Holton
Jeffrey R. Huspeni
Vicki and Carl Janssens

Abby Johnson
Emily Johnson
Bob and Lisa Jones
Steven J. Kalbfleisch
Chris and Heather Kazmierczak
Michael C. Kovaleski
Anne Shettleroe and Robert Krasofsky
Patricia H Lease
Richard Lord
Peter and Suzanne Maitheal
Robert and Carolyn Marcusse
Sally Jean Bell - Matthias
Irene McCamant
Nancy McDonald
Meredith McGehee
Tom Miller
Scott Monteith

North Central Michigan College
Tricia Petzold and Ted Paisley
Charles and Jill Patterson
David Randall
Carol and Bruce Randels
Alvin Raycraft and Joan Ring
Barbara Rohs
Salon Nouveau Vous
Kenneth M. Schoenberg
Pam Schooley
John Shade
Kenneth Shaheen
Richard A. Shapack
Dave Simcox
Sue Sisson
Fred and Susan Sittel

John and Carol Slavsky
James Sparks
Matthew and Joanne Spence
Lois Young Stenger
Jeff and Gayle Stratton
Kirk P. Swabash
Lee Tegland
Michael Tiedeck
Jerry E. Van Kuiken
Greg Vogt
W.W. Fairbairn & Sons Inc
Kenneth H. Walker
James and Angela Weber
Rick Wendland
Michael Beaulac and Katie Wolf
David J. Zagurny



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RESTORING OUR SHORES

AT CAMP PET-O-SE-GA AND TOURIST PARK!

With the help of generous donors and hard-working volunteers, the Watershed Council recently completed two bioengineering projects designed to restore shoreline function at Camp

Pet-O-Se-Ga in Alanson and Tourist Park in East Jordan. Using natural materials including more than 650 native plants, coir (coconut fiber) logs, and fieldstone, this approach is friendlier to birds, fish, turtles, amphibians, and the health of the lake than installing a seawall. The new shorelines, fortified with plants and fieldstone, will provide erosion control while remaining flexible to lake level changes and weather conditions. Over time, as it settles into balance with the lake, the fieldstone will collect sand and organic material between the small spaces. Plants will then begin creeping lake-ward to re-establish the necessary root system for stability.



To learn more about bioengineering techniques, visit watershedcouncil.org.

Funded by:

