

# Current Reflections

Fall/Winter 2007

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council - The voice for Northern Michigan's waters.

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**Happy Holidays!!**

## Great Lakes Algae Monitoring Results: More of a nuisance than a danger.

The Watershed Council continues to coordinate a volunteer algae monitoring program on Great Lakes' shorelines due to recurring nuisance algae blooms that are unsightly, at times foul smelling, and potentially dangerous to human health. During the summer of 2007, algae conditions were monitored on a regular basis by volunteers from Elk Rapids to Cross Village. In addition, Watershed Council staff visited monitoring sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline in early August to collect samples that were sent to the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor for analysis.

Results of algal sample analyses were similar to those of 2005: the primary culprit was *Cladophora*. *Cladophora* is a filamentous green algae that grows on the lake bottom where hard surfaces are available. Recent growths have increased due to a combination of factors including invasive zebra and quagga mussels, low lake levels, and warmer water temperatures.



Algae sampling, Good Hart, August 2007.

What else was found in the algae monitoring program? A phycologist (algae expert) may be interested to learn that samples collected contained *Spirogyra*, *Bulbochaete*, and *Amphithrix*, but most people are primarily concerned with risks to public health. Toxin-producing blue-green algae turned up in some samples, but were sparse and of types that are generally not considered a serious risk to human health in the Great Lakes area. The bigger health concern is the possibility of bacteria build-up in decaying *Cladophora* mats along the shoreline. While we do not believe that *Cladophora* is dangerous on its own, decomposing fish, insects and even birds caught up in the mats can lead to bacteria buildup. Thus, it is advised to take extra precautions and avoid ingesting water in areas where algae is accumulating.

For more information regarding results or to get involved with the Volunteer Algae Monitoring program contact Kevin at 231.347.1181 ext. 109.



## Reflections from our Director:

### Combination of local, state, and national work pivotal for effective policy



Gail Gruenwald

The Watershed Council has played a pivotal role in bolstering Michigan’s wetland and water policy for the past 23 years. Five years after the adoption of the Michigan Wetland Protection Act, the Watershed Council launched its first statewide effort to support a fledgling effort in Michigan to curb the loss of our important wetland resources. We have published books and created videos for local governments, citizens, and landowners guiding their efforts toward wetland protection and stewardship. We have reviewed and commented on dredge and fill proposals across our service area for over 20 years gaining significant hands-on experience with implementation of wetland policy. For several years we implemented Meridian Township’s wetland ordinance and have used that experience with local government to help guide our work with local planning and zoning commissions throughout the north.

Based on these experiences, the Watershed Council has been asked to participate in numerous policy setting commissions. We believe our presence has resulted in stronger wetland and water policies on both the state and local level. Currently, we are coordinating the statewide campaign to adopt stronger water use and consumption laws to prevent future devastation of our Great Lakes through water diversion outside of the Great Lakes Basin (see page 7). This work in our state capital is crucial to the long term health of Northern Michigan’s waters. The policies developed south of here have, and will continue to have, significant impacts on our local resources. Additionally, the Watershed Council has been very active working with Federal legislators, providing testimony, and participating in the Healing our Waters Coalition, among other things, to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

The Watershed Council has always seen the connection between our work in Lansing and Washington, D.C., and the health of our local lakes, streams, and wetlands. It is this combination of local, state, and national work that has made the Watershed Council so effective in the policy arena. In addition, we support all of this policy work with the sound science of our watershed protection staff thus giving even more credibility to our positions.

Much of this policy work has been made possible by your membership contributions. Your donations continue to fund this important work. Thank you helping strengthen the laws and policies that protect our water resources.

### 2007 Annual Meeting: 28 Years Strong

More than 115 members attended our 2007 Annual Meeting at the Crooked Tree Arts Center on July 18th. The 28th Annual Meeting began with a brief business meeting and concluded with our keynote speaker, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Chairman, Frank Ettawageshik. At the meeting, the Watershed Council thanked outgoing board members Denise Simon, Frank Kestler, John Rohe, and Audrey Etienne for their contributions and welcomed new board members Michael Esposito, Bill Stetson, and Trish Woollcott.



### Our Mission:

**Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council is the voice for Northern Michigan’s waters.**

**We are dedicated to protecting our lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water through respected advocacy, innovative education, technically sound water quality monitoring, and thorough research.**

**We achieve our mission by empowering others and we believe in the capacity to make a positive difference.**

**We work locally, regionally, and throughout the Great Lakes Basin to achieve our goals.**

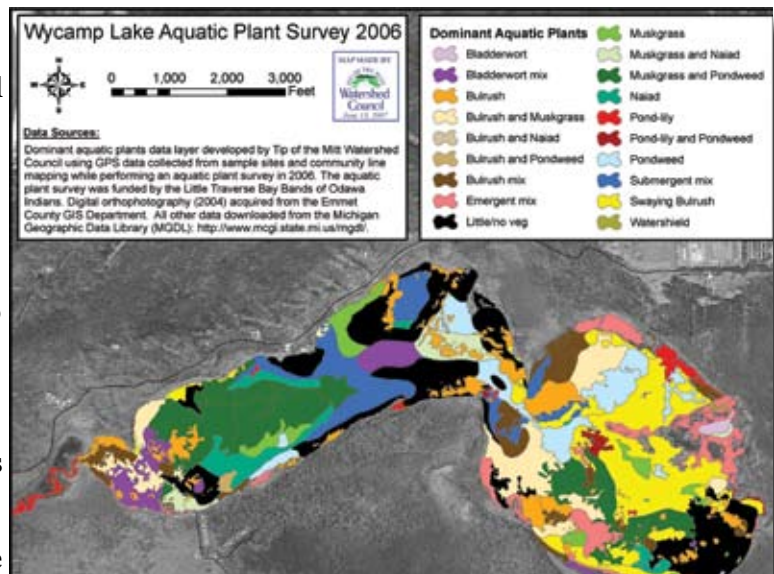
## Wycamp Lake: A biological gem

Wycamp Lake is a Northern Michigan gem, almost completely undeveloped and thriving with diverse biological productivity. With depths rarely exceeding five feet, this peaceful lake stretches just over 700 acres of Emmet County from east to west. Groundwater drains into the lake from hills to the east, once islands in the Algonquin Age some 10,000 years ago. These clean, cool waters move through Wycamp's distinct east and west basins, exiting out Wycamp Creek and into Lake Michigan less than a mile away.

Due to its shallow nature, Wycamp Lake resembles a vast wetland complex, brimming with biological activity from an incredible assemblage of waterfowl above to an impressive diversity of aquatic plants below. During the last few years the ecological significance of the lake has caught the attention of natural resource management organizations like the Watershed Council and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. In the summer of 2006, the Tribe contracted with the Watershed Council to conduct a comprehensive aquatic plant survey in order to gather more information about the lake's ecosystem.

Throughout the course of the survey, over 200 sites were sampled to document aquatic plant species and densities. In addition, GPS was used to map out dominant plant communities. Results from the survey showed an expectedly diverse aquatic plant population and dense plant growth throughout much of Wycamp Lake. Over 80% of the lake bottom had aquatic vegetation and a total of 35 plant species were documented, all of which were native to Michigan.

The aquatic plant information will be used by the Tribe's Natural Resource Department (in conjunction with other data sets collected by the Tribe and others) to improve lake management so that Wycamp Lake's biological diversity carries on and it remains a gem for generations to come.



## Successful Remedies for Restoration

As the Restoration Remedies program concluded its seasonal projects, a look back at the summer's accomplishments shows the breadth of the services offered.

- Twenty shoreline consultations were conducted advising property owners on erosion, greenbelt design, and site development strategies.
- Two lakeshore and two river sites were corrected to curb erosion, protect water quality, and enhance habitat.
- Two rain gardens were installed in Charlevoix and East Jordan as demonstration stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Now is the time to start planning next year's shoreline or streambank project. Contact Jen at ext. 112 so that your project will be included in next year's tally!

*Photos to right - top: Shoreline in need of restoration. Bottom: Same shoreline restored.*



## A Work in Progress: Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Project

### ***Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan Gets Seal of Approval!***

The Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan has been approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to meet the federal EPA watershed plan criteria. This means that the activities outlined in the plan are now eligible to be funded with grant dollars under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act.

The overarching goal of the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan is to protect and enhance the water quality and ecosystem integrity of Little Traverse Bay and its tributaries. The plan outlines nearly 100 recommendations totaling more than \$17.5 million dollars and sets the stage for work that is needed to enhance the health of the Little Traverse Bay Watershed. From restoration to education, the actions are designed to reduce or prevent non-point source pollution.

The MDEQ approval is not only good news for the Watershed Council, but for all of the project partners who have contributed considerable time and effort in developing the blueprint to protect and improve Little Traverse Bay. For more information on the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Project, please contact Valerie at ext. 111 or [valerie@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:valerie@watershedcouncil.org).

### ***Bear River Cleanup 2007 a Success!***

Over 70 volunteers and five Watershed Council staff worked to "Heal the Bear" on August 4th. Participants collected approximately 1,890 pieces of individual trash, a combined estimated 4 cubic yards of trash. Volunteers scoured the river on foot or by canoe. Items collected ranged from cigarette butts, food wrappers, bottles, and cans, to concrete blocks and a desk chair. While this is the Watershed Council's sixth Bear River Cleanup event, this is the first community cleanup to be held since 2004.

Funding for the "Healing the Bear" Bear River Cleanup 2007 was provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program- Great Lakes. Other generous contributions were made by local businesses to help make this year's cleanup a success. Please see the "Thank You" section on page 11 of this issue of "Current Reflections" for a listing of businesses who donated items to help "Heal the Bear."

### ***Petoskey High School Students Help Monitor the Bear.***

On September 24th, Watershed Council staff accompanied Tom Ochs and his students from Petoskey High School to help collect macroinvertebrates from the Bear River as part of the Watershed Council's Volunteer Stream Monitoring program. Tom and his students make up the stream monitoring team that collects samples from two sites on the Bear River. The macroinvertebrates are later identified by Watershed Council staff to assess stream health. Volunteer Stream Monitoring teams collected macroinvertebrate samples on 10 streams within four watersheds across our service area. Results from the Fall 2007 sampling period, as well as past Volunteer Stream Monitoring data, can be found on our website at [www.watershedcouncil.org/vsm.html](http://www.watershedcouncil.org/vsm.html).



*Petoskey High School students assess stream findings from the Bear River.*

### ***"Healing the Bear" Restoration Continues at River Road Sports Complex.***

The Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation awarded the Watershed Council a grant to address recreational impacts to the Bear River at the River Road Sports Complex. The Watershed Council will work with the City of Petoskey Parks and Recreation Department, Petoskey Regional Audubon Society, and Petoskey Disc Golfers to implement on-the-ground protection and enhancement techniques to protect surface waters including riparian wetlands and tributaries within the Sports Complex, and riparian habitat along the Bear River corridor. An additional goal of the project is to foster greater community awareness of water quality and watershed protection by bringing together local community groups and officials. The collaborative nature of this project will ultimately create a more comprehensive protection and enhancement effort. For more information on this project, please contact Jen Gelb at ext. 112 or [jen@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:jen@watershedcouncil.org).

## What a Treasure: Treasure Lake Charlevoix Project

### ***The Lake Charlevoix Watershed is home to two new rain gardens!***

Made possible through a Charlevoix County Community Foundation grant, the rain gardens are examples of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) and are designed to treat runoff before it enters the local stormwater systems or surface waters. The rain gardens are located in areas that receive stormwater from nearby impervious surfaces and were planted with a diverse array of native shrubs, grasses, sedges, and forbs. The plants will encourage stormwater infiltration and filter pollutants including sediments and nutrients. Helping to serve as public demonstrations, the rain gardens can be found at the Charlevoix Public Library and the East Jordan marina. Many individuals and organizations contributed to making the rain gardens a reality. (See *Thank You* section on page 11.)



*Rain garden installation at the Charlevoix Library.*

### ***Frey Foundation Funds Lake Charlevoix Stormwater Projects.***

The Watershed Council recently received funding from the Frey Foundation to support stormwater management work as part of the Treasure Lake Charlevoix (TLC) project. Watershed Council staff will work with the City of Charlevoix Department of Public Works to develop a plan to reduce inputs of nonpoint source pollution via stormwater runoff. The plan will include an impervious surface study within the city limits, identification of stormwater inflows and outfalls, determination of appropriate stormwater best management practices and locations, and development of a long-term stormwater monitoring plan.

Additionally, the Frey Foundation grant will also support work with East Jordan Iron Works (EJIW) in developing new storm drain curb inlets featuring the theme “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” and a pollution prevention message. These storm drain inlets will be made available to municipalities around Lake

Charlevoix at no extra charge. Next time you’re out for a walk, be sure to look at those storm drains and remember that only rain should go down the drain! If you would like more information about these stormwater projects, or the “Treasure Lake Charlevoix” project in general, please contact Valerie at ext. 111 or [valerie@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:valerie@watershedcouncil.org).

***Watershed Council to “Restore Stover” in 2008.*** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Program-Great Lakes has funded the Watershed Council to restore severe erosion sites on Stover Creek in the Lake Charlevoix Watershed. A minimum of two erosion sites will be restored totaling approximately 100 linear feet. The grant will also supplement the current Volunteer Stream Monitoring activities

that have been occurring on Stover Creek since fall of 2005. Volunteers will continue to monitor the water quality of Stover Creek by collecting macroinvertebrate samples, and physical and chemical data at three sites in different parts of the watershed. For more information on the activities on Stover Creek, please contact Valerie at ext. 111 or [valerie@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:valerie@watershedcouncil.org).

### ***“Sensible Shoreline Development: A Guide for Shoreline Homeowners” now available!***

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council recently completed our new publication *Sensible Shoreline Development: A Guide for Shoreline Homeowners*. The publication features examples of homes that have minimized their impact on the environment, as well as simple tips (such as utilizing native plants for landscaping) that anyone can do, whether you are building a new home on a shoreline property, or you have lived on the lake for generations. The publication can also be used by builders, contractors, architects, and landscapers to promote sensible development principles to potential clients. Funding for this publication was provided by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. If you would like a copy of this publication, please contact Valerie at ext. 111 or [valerie@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:valerie@watershedcouncil.org).



## **Victorious Again: Public Voice Demands Protection**

Citizen involvement and participation has once again protected the Great Lakes. British Petroleum was granted a permit by the Indiana Department of Environmental Quality, which would have allowed for an increase of pollutants discharged into Lake Michigan. Citizens throughout the Great Lakes spoke up in opposition. The public outcry was so successful BP backed off its plans to increase pollution into the Lake and promises to keep discharges at the current, lower levels afforded by the company's previous wastewater permit. Thanks to those who spoke up to protect the Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes.

## **Court Upholds Michigan's Ballast Water Law**

On January 1, 2007, Michigan became the first Great Lakes state to pass a law requiring shipping companies to treat ballast water to curb the introduction of invasive species into the Great Lakes. The law requires companies to get permits showing that vessels will either not discharge or will have technology onboard to treat ballast water to remove non-native species. In a tremendous victory for Michigan, Judge John Feikens dismissed a lawsuit brought by a coalition of nine shipping companies and associations challenging Michigan's authority to enact the requirements. The judge ruled that invasive species pose a serious threat to the state's environment and, therefore, Michigan has the constitutional right to protect itself from the threat.



*Courtesy Michigan Sea Grant.*

Despite the triumph of the courts decision to uphold Michigan's legislation, closing the door on invasive species introductions into the Great Lakes will take regional, or even federal, action. Governor Granholm sent letters to the governors of the Great Lakes states, as well as to the premiers of Ontario and Quebec urging them to follow Michigan's lead in protecting the Lakes from aquatic invasive species by enacting similar legislation regulating ballast water. Federally, lawmakers have two bills (H.R. 2830 and S. 1578) under consideration to prevent and control the invasion of our nation's waters. These landmark bills would set up a much needed national approach to managing ballast water. However, the bills as currently written have serious flaws. The bills would exempt discharges of pollutants in ballast water from regulation under the Clean Water Act (CWA), preempt states' ability to enforce their own laws that protect against these harmful pollutants, and allow unwarranted delays in the actual enforcement of the new discharge standards proposed in the bill. Contact your Federal legislators today and urge them to promptly advance legislation that will build upon, rather than discard the EPA's existing authority under the CWA to regulate pollution discharges from vessels, preserve the authority of states to protect their waters from the scourge of further aquatic invasive species introduction, and ensure that ballast water discharges from oceangoing vessels are effectively treated immediately.

## **Great Lakes Restoration: The Time to Act is Now**

Watershed Council staff have been actively working for many years towards large-scale, comprehensive restoration of the Great Lakes, an initiative similar to that of the Everglades. Participating in the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC), we were instrumental in the development of a restoration strategy plan outlining the steps needed to address the myriad of threats facing the Great Lakes such as invasive species, sewage contamination, and loss of habitat. However, since the historic cleanup plan was released two years, we have witnessed a lack of leadership by the US EPA and insufficient funding by Congress hindering progress to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Watershed Council staff was on-hand at the first public meeting convened since the release of the plan urging federal leaders to rededicate themselves to restoring the lakes. In coordination with partner organizations as part of the Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition, we are urging the EPA to re-engage the region by holding a series of public Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy Implementation Working Sessions. We are urging Congress to hold EPA accountable for its lack of leadership by convening oversight hearings and to pass and fund the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act. It is time for the EPA, Congress, and White House to stand up for our lakes, our economy, and our way of life. You can help by contacting your Federal legislators and urge them to take action to protect the Great Lakes today! Call Jennifer McKay at ext. 114 to get involved.

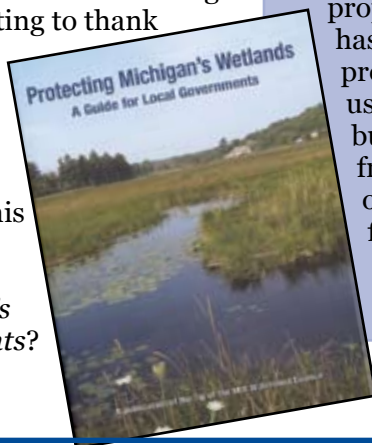
## New Release Getting Rave Reviews

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently published *Protecting Michigan's Wetlands: A Guide for Local Governments*, a handbook to aid communities seeking to protect their wetland resources. The guidebook, relevant to local governments and citizens, encourages understanding of the importance of wetlands and interest in wetland protection. It not only explains the benefits of wetlands, but also how to establish tools to protect these valuable resources.

"Grattan Township has 38 named lakes and many wetlands that border them. Several wetlands are isolated from the lakes. Our wetland's board is very committed to preserving these wetlands and also assists me in keeping an eye on activity in the community. The guidebook you have provided will be a very beneficial tool in continuing this effort," said Grattan Township Supervisor, Franklin J. Force.

Mark Knudsen, Director of the County of Ottawa Planning and Grants Department wrote, "I am writing to thank you for sending the copy of *Protecting Michigan's Wetlands: A Guide for Local Governments*. It appears to be a well-written document that will be useful in our educational efforts here in Ottawa County. Thank you again for providing this valuable resource."

To obtain a copy of *Protecting Michigan's Wetlands: A Guide for Local Governments*? Contact Grenetta at ext. 115 or [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org).



## All Bottled Up: The Nestlé Case

On July 25th, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that Nestlé's groundwater extraction illegally harmed the lakes, stream, and wetlands in Mecosta County. They upheld that the company caused unreasonable harm to the water resources off the Nestle property, and the limits imposed on the company's pumping remain in place. The limits restrict pumping as much as 75% during the low flow or drier months, based on a monitoring regime that is in place for over 20 years.

Unfortunately, the Court also limited the legal right of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) to bring a lawsuit against Nestlé under Michigan's Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) for damaging a lake and wetlands on Nestlé's own property. The Court's decision said that MCWC has standing (the right to bring the lawsuit) to protect lakes and streams that are owned or used by individuals or the group's members, but no right to bring suit to stop a polluter from destroying a lake and wetland on its own property. We believe that the ruling is flawed, and support MCWC on their recent filing to have the Court reconsider this decision.

## The Aquavist Corner (Formerly "The Local Activist Corner")

In July, we announced the winners of our Local Activist Network naming contest. Out of 26 entries, first place was awarded to John Kafer of Petoskey for "Aquavists," the new title of the network. The Aquavist network is unique because it provides a way for members to easily and efficiently share resources, communicate, and rapidly respond with united voices. Activists from our service area can stay involved and informed about local and regional issues directly affecting them. Our website includes not only state and federal resource links, but also pages devoted to Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, and Emmet counties. These local pages highlight the most recent issues our members are working on and links to helpful county connections.

**Want to join Aquavists or add a resource to our site? Contact Grenetta at ext. 115 or [grenetta@watershedcouncil.org](mailto:grenetta@watershedcouncil.org). Visit [www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavist.html](http://www.watershedcouncil.org/aquavist.html) to learn more.**



## Summer Events Photo Album

In addition to safeguarding our lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water through advocacy, monitoring, education, and outreach, we had a great time enjoying the resources we work so hard to protect. Thanks to everyone who made all of our events successful and fun!

*Lake Association Summit, May, 2007.*



*Bear River Cleanup, August 2007.*



*Andrea Preserve, July 2007.*

*Lake Skegemog, July 2007.*



*Lake Sturgeon Tour, April 2007.*

*Stutsmanville Bog Walk, June 2007.*



*Wycamp Lake, July 2007.*



*Watershed Council Staff Outing, Crooked Lake, June 2007.*



## Water is Life.

**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.**

## Welcome New Members!

Ms. Irene E. Adaline  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bell  
Mrs. Lois A. Bolan  
Kathleen Bottum  
Mr. William Bulger  
Mr. and Mrs. James C. Carroll  
James and Kathe Carter  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cherveney  
Ms. Marlene Clemenshaw  
Mrs. Virginia Crouse  
Ms. Theresa Custodio  
Mr. Kim E. Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. John E. DeMond  
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard N. Dukat  
Joseph and Michelle Fabiano  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith R. Faller  
Mr. William T. Galanek  
Ms. Bonnie Geppert  
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Goldich  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Grant  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven W. Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. John Hardy  
Mr. and Mrs. Guy W. Hershberger  
Dr. Jen Hill

Cynthia Jones  
Mr. and Mrs. James Juilleret  
Kathy Karenko  
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kasuske  
Drs. Andris Kazmers  
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Kempf  
Ms. Priscilla Kennedy  
Brad Kessel  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kessler  
Mr. and Mrs. Don J. Knerr  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kociolek  
Scott and Cynthia Langton  
Dr. Paul E. Later  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick J. Ledwidge  
Dr. Timothy Lee  
Mr. and Mrs. William Luallen  
Carmen Ludy  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lundstrom  
JoAnn Wilder and Boyd Manges  
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Mann  
Mr. and Mrs. Kent R. Manning  
Mrs. Lucy McArtor  
Thomas O. Mueller  
Bill Mulholland  
Gloria Myers

Inez Noble  
Mr. and Mrs. William Nolan  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Norcross  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D. Parker  
Dave and Jill Patterson  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Pilibosian  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Prested  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rosner  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. Runyan  
Penny Sage  
Mr. and Mrs. John Schroen  
Lea and Bud Shea  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Shear III  
Dennis Sheridan and Michele Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Winston L. Stebbins  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Steed  
Mr. Theodore Styke  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Swayze  
Megan VanLoo  
Mr. and Mrs. John Vrondran  
Mr. and Mrs. James White  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitesel  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick R. Willnow  
Mike and Colleen Wolfe

## Giving the Gift of Clean Water Just Got Easier!

You play a vital role in the future of the region's lakes, streams, wetlands, and ground water. As a member of the Watershed Council you know that our waters face new challenges each year that have the potential to negatively impact water quality – challenges such as shoreline modifications, nutrient pollution, and the threat of invasive species. Your membership helps the Watershed Council monitor, research, and take action to protect the resources we all treasure – our spectacular waters.

Now, it's even easier for you to support the Watershed Council! If you want a simple way to make an end-of-year gift, want to give past the 50% of adjusted gross income limit, are looking for a favorable opportunity to make a major gift, or are actively making gifts to the Watershed Council during the year, you may benefit from a direct IRA to charity gift. IRA charitable gifts provide a great opportunity to make a gift to your favorite charity. Under Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA 2006), an IRA owner age 70½ or older may make a direct transfer to up to \$100,000 to charity in one calendar year for both 2006 and 2007. Sec. 408(d)(8)(A). Since the IRA is not included in taxable income, it will have no impact on your regular income and other charitable gifts.

Please consult with your IRA custodian to learn more about IRA charitable gifts and how they might benefit both you and the Watershed Council.





## Special Gifts

The Watershed Council accepts memorial contributions as well as honorariums for birthdays, anniversaries, or other special occasions. All special gifts are placed in the Watershed Council's Endowment Fund unless other instructions are specified. Thank you to the following donors for their recent gifts.

### **In Memory of**

#### **Margaret Berry**

*Huffman Lake Property Owners Association*

#### **Martha Cameron**

*William and Pat Anton  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Armstrong  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bruening  
Ms. Bessie J. DeBeck  
Mr. and Mrs. William A. Fessler  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey S. Ford  
Mr. and Mrs. John Harris  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hartwig  
Mr. John O. Hastings  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Higgs  
Janet R. Johnston  
Gail Keene  
Drs. Elbert and Martha Magoon  
Mr. and Mrs. Don McIntyre  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Hal Morley  
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Nichols  
Suzanne P Nicholson  
Beline Obeid  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Kenneth Perry, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. John Quattrone  
Martha Russell  
Patricia and Susan Sand  
Margaret E Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Judson Utley  
Ms. Nancy Washburne  
Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Wilkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon H. Willett  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. David Zimmerman*

#### **Teri Craine**

*Mr. and Mrs. Jack F. Costolo*

#### **Lillian Gold**

*Mr. and Mrs. Peter August  
Coastal Institute IGERT Project  
George Loomis  
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Lowder, Jr.  
Alison J. Milliman*

#### **Maxine Hough**

*Ms. Ann Baughman*

#### **Robert J. Neunuebel**

*Mr. and Mrs. David F. Tuthill*

#### **Christopher Prusakiewicz**

*Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Diane Strzelinski*

#### **Samuel G. Shananaquet**

*Mrs. Harry C. Porter*

#### **Robert Squires**

*Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Harley  
Linda Shurtliff  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wenner  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Niemczewski*

#### **Dr. Myron Tazelaar**

*East Burt Lake Association*

### **In Memorium**

*The Watershed Council mourns the loss of **Martha Cameron**, **Catherine Curran**, and **John Jansing**, long-time members of the Watershed Council. We will miss their participation on our board and at our events and field trips, and their dedication to protecting our water resources.*



## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### 2007 "Healing the Bear" Bear River Cleanup - Thank you to:

\***Watershed Council staff and volunteers** who made the cleanup a success. \***Circuit Controls Corporation** for their generous cash donation. \***Glen's Market South** and **Wal-Mart** for cash cards. \***Johan's Pastry Shop** for four dozen donuts. \***Mancino's, Spicy Bob's Italian Express** and **Mighty Fine Pizza** for scrumptious pizzas. \***Kmart** for a gift card. \***Meyer Hardware** for rubber gloves. \***Glen's Market North** for bottled water. \***Oleson's** for ice. \***Emmet County Transfer Station** for recycling and disposing the 4 cubic yards of debris collected. \***Harbor Light Newspaper** and **Andrew Kimball** for use of the picture at the top of this page.

**Thank you to:** \***Claire Kafer, Courtney Chilcote** and **Martin Jacob**, our stellar summer interns who made significant contributions to the Policy & Advocacy and Watershed Protection teams. \***Jen Gelb** for towels. \***Marge May** for the toaster oven. \***Kilwin's of Petoskey** for candy for fundraising events. \***Kathleen Glass** for the all in one printer, fax, scanner and copier. \***Keith Lapp** for providing technical assistance to get the all in one printer up and running. \***Ryde Marine, Inc.** for repairing the hull at the bow roller and block stop on the Boston Whaler and for the use of a pontoon boat for our staff outing. \***Town & Country Cedar Homes** for the nine 4x4 cedar posts for the trellis in our parking lot. \***Meyer Hardware** for giving us a discount on the purchase of supplies to complete our parking lot trellis. \***Donald Spaulding** for the VHF Marine Transceiver. \***Richard B. Salzer** for the Air Guide Boat compass. \***Galley Gourmet** for the gift certificate. \***Sunshine Charters** for providing a discounted rate for the Great Lakes Restoration boat rides. \***American Spoon Foods** and **Julianne Tomatoes** for prizes for the winners of the Local Activist Network naming contest. \***Keep Charlevoix Beautiful** for marking approximately 80 drains with decals to discourage pollutants from entering area lakes. \* **The Charlevoix Public Library staff, Friends of the Charlevoix Public Library, Harbor Industries employees, Pat Elliot, Site Planning Development Inc., and Mr. Scholten's ninth grade seminar class at Charlevoix High School** for helping install the rain garden at the Charlevoix Public Library as part of the Day of Caring. \* The **City of East Jordan** for assistance with the installation of the rain garden. \***Alice Hill, Ann Burek, Carolyn Keller, Sharon Brown, Tillie Cone, Virginia Corpus, Virginia Stolt, Marge May, Irene Phelps, Marge Upton, and Maxine McDowell** for help with our mailings. \***William Porter** for help with boater education outreach materials. \***Gary and Anne Barfknecht** for keeping our gardens lush. \*All the **2007 algae monitors** and to **PhD. Rochelle Sturtevant from GLERL/NOAA** for algae sample analyses. \***Scott and Christine Steensma** for helping lead all of our aquatic field trips, for taking pictures and for helping with the Bear River cleanup. \***Wil Cwikiel** for offering his expertise on field trips to staff. \***Sadie Cwikiel** for her original artwork on the back cover of this newsletter.

### I wish I may, I wish I might... Watershed Council Wish List:

- Volunteers to help with building maintenance including painting, gardening, electrical, etc.



426 Bay Street, Petoskey, MI 49770  
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*Current Reflections* is published three times a year by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council for its members and friends.

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*The Watershed Council is a member of Michigan Environmental Council and Earth Share of Michigan.*



### **Giving is Delicious!**

Please join us at our Freshwater Center at 426 Bay Street in downtown Petoskey to celebrate the holidays at Petoskey's annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 7, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. We will once again be serving Scalawag's delicious whitefish chowder. You can also enjoy Scalawag's Whitefish and Chips and support Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council!

**On Wednesday, December 12th, Scalawag's will generously donate 20% of the day's sales to directly support the Watershed Council.**

The special will be running all day so be sure to visit Scalawag's at the M-119 location at the Clocktower Plaza to enjoy this delicious opportunity to support the Watershed Council!



**Together, we can make our world a better place for all of us.  
Happy Holidays from all of us at the Watershed Council!**



#### **Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council**

426 Bay Street · Petoskey, Michigan 49770

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